



TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CPM FOCUS GROUP ON STRENGTHENING PEST OUTBREAK ALERT RESPONSE SYSTEMS

1. Background

- [1] A Development Agenda identified in the IPPC Strategic Framework (2020-2030) is entitled “Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems”. A CPM paper was prepared which proposed initial steps towards Strengthening Pest Outbreak¹ Alert and Response Systems.
- [2] The desired outcome for this Development Agenda is that a global pest alert system, with mechanisms to evaluate and communicate emerging pest risks, is in place, providing regular information to NPPOs on changes in pest status around the world. NPPOs are using this to quickly adapt their phytosanitary systems to reduce the risk of introduction and spread. In case of outbreaks, strengthened pest outbreak response systems and tools are helping countries take much more timely action against especially new incursions. NPPOs, RPPOs and the FAO have collaborated to develop and roll out a comprehensive but easy to use toolbox to support countries responding quickly and effectively. RPPOs are playing an active role to assist NPPOs and coordinate outbreak responses across their regions.
- [3] The CPM generally recognizes the long standing objectives laid out in the IPPC to promote and ensure timely communications on changing pest status and emerging threats. The new more challenging aspect for the IPPC Community, however, is developing a practical and feasible approach for assisting NPPOs or RPPOs to respond to major pest incursions or introductions. This has to be considered in the context of the Convention’s obligations and the resource and capacity constraints of NPPOs, RPPOs and the IPPC Secretariat.

2. Process

- [4] A CPM Focus Group would meet virtually and complete the tasks outlined below. The report of this meeting will include recommendations on how to Strengthen Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems and would be presented to the CPM via the SPG.

3. Composition of the FG and criteria for selection of experts

- [5] The focus group is skills and knowledge based and should be composed of:
- at least one expert from each FAO region,
 - at least one expert from an RPPO,
 - at least two experts representing entities involved in monitoring and responding to outbreaks such as the CBD, FAO, OIE, World Bank Group, World Health Organization, etc.
 - one representative from each of the Bureau, IC and SC
 - noting experts may represent more than one role
- [6] Criteria for experts, they should have combined expertise and knowledge in:
- working with outbreaks,
 - designing and managing outbreak alert systems,
 - designing and managing outbreak response systems,
 - phytosanitary systems related to pests outbreaks,
 - existing global and/or regional outbreak frameworks, and
 - addressing issues related to invasive species.

- [7] A call for experts will be made by the IPPC Secretariat and nominations will be reviewed against the above criteria. Experts will be recommended to the Bureau. The Bureau will review and select the experts.

4. Tasks

- [8] Considering the indicative budgeted action plan for Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems noted by CPM-14 (2019), the CPM Focus Group will:

- 1) *identify and review* existing material and experiences on the topic,
- 2) *discuss and agree on the* components necessary for an efficient and effective programme to Strengthen Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems, considering the pre-requisite for an effective global alert system is an effective NPPO system, including timely detection and diagnosis of new pests,
- 3) *examine* the practicalities need for such a system including legal frameworks and liability issues for the IPPC Secretariat and FAO for distributing pest alert information, and consider how legal risk can be managed,
- 4) *review and clarify* the roles of the FAO, the IPPC Secretariat, RPPOs, NPPOs, and other prominent institutions that are, or have been, involved in coordinating or supporting pest response programs, and how these entities may be positioned to work in a coordinated fashion in the future,
- 5) *establish* broad criteria for a pest to be considered in the framework of the programme (considering the RPPOs' work in this regard),
- 6) *identify* efficient methods for early identification of outbreaks and communication of alerts to NPPOs,
- 7) *identify and prioritise* the systems and tools that may be most useful to RPPOs and NPPOs who might be involved in a pest outbreak *and consider* how to efficiently establish a toolbox as a resource for NPPOs,
- 8) *review* how Contracting Parties could meet their National Reporting Obligations (NROs) in a timely manner and recommend changes to contribute to Strengthen a Pest Outbreak Alert System,
- 9) *recommend* processes NPPOs could use to rapidly engage expertise and response resources,
- 10) *consider* what tools are needed for the Pest Outbreak Alert and Response system and propose a way to present them, and if needed develop them,
- 11) *review and refine* the action plan to Strengthen Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems considering the focus group discussions and inputs from the CPM Bureau, the TC-RPPO, the SPG, the IC and the SC,
- 12) *consider and estimate* the resources required to establish and then operate a pest outbreak and alert system with components as determined in 2) above.

5. Organization of the Focus Group meeting

- [9] The IPPC Secretariat will organized the FG meeting virtually, using available virtual tools. The meeting shall be held in English.

6. References

- [10] CPM-14 (2020) Report²
- [11] IPPC Strategic Framework (2020-2030)³
- [12] FAO Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases (EMPRES)⁴
- [13] FAO Emergencies – Plant Pests and Diseases⁵

² CPM-14 (2020) Report: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/87271/>

³ IPPC Strategic Framework (2020-2030): <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/ippc-strategic-framework/>

⁴ FAO EMPRES: <http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/empres.html>

⁵ FAO Emergencies – Plant Pests and Diseases: <http://www.fao.org/emergencies/emergency-types/plant-pests-and-diseases/en/>