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**REPORT**

**IPPC VIRTUAL REGIONAL WORKSHOP**

**FOR THE NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA**

**Egypt**

**7, 8, 14 and 15 September 2020**

**IPPC Secretariat**

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1. Introduction
2. Regional workshops are organised annually by FAO and IPPC, this is to bring all representatives of the Regional National Plant Protection Organisations (RPPOs) to discuss main challenges in phytosanitary issues in the Near East and North Africa (NENA) region, and suggest ideas for managing challenges facing phytosanitary authorities in NENA countries. This regional meeting gives a special opportunity for gathering opinions of member states on the current activities of IPPC achievements.
	1. The workshop objectives were:

1. Analyzing and preparing comments on the draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) and recommendations.

4.1 Governance and Strategy (CPM, CPM Bureau)

4.2 Updates and discussions on SC updates

4.3 Updates from IC

4.4 Update on the sea containers Task Force

Sections 1, 2:

5. Discuss the substantive comments on draft standards and recommendations

5.1 Audits in the phytosanitary context

5.2 Draft 2020 Amendments to ISPM 5 (Glossary on phytosanitary terms) Focused revision of ISPM 12 (“re-export”)

5.3 Focused revision of ISPM 12 (“re-export”)

5.4 Commodity-based standards for phytosanitary measures (2019-008)

5.5 Draft CPM Recommendation: Safe provision of food and other aid to prevent the introduction of plant pests during an emergency situation (2018-026)

5.6 Assessment of CPs knowledge on IPPC and ISPMs – presenting the results of the questionnaire previously shared with the NPPOs

Section 3

6. Implementing and raising awareness in the framework of FAO/RPPOs

6.1 Regional FAO phytosanitary capacity development activities

6.2 RPPO activities

Section 4

7. Moving together from ideas to action (Facilitated session)

7.1 International Year of Plant Health Legacy

7.2 IPPC Implementation and Capacity Development Resources

7.3 IPPC PFA guide: how to support the implementation of the Convention and ISPMs

7.4 Preparation for 2021 Call for Topics: Standards and Implementation

Section 5

8. Regional issues

8.1 National Reporting Obligations

8.2 COVD-19 impact and mitigation in NENA region in Plant Protection

8.3 ePhyto

8.4 Regional strategy for sustainable management of transboundary plant pests and diseases in NENA region

8.6 Conclusion of the workshop / Date and Venue of the Next Meeting

8.7 Closing remarks

1. Opening Session
	1. Opening statement by FAO Regional Office (RNE)
2. The workshop was officially opened by Mr. Ayman Omar representing FAO Regional Office (RNE) instead of Mr. Serge Nakuzi, Mr. Omar started his word by greeting Mr. El-Attar (Egypt NPPO head), Mr. Chouibani (NEPPO head), participated RPPOs representors and all FAO and IPPC colleagues. He expressed his gratitude and thanks to the hosting country, Ministry of Agriculture of Egypt. Mr. Omar expressed his feelings towards the failure of the physical hosting of this regional workshop in Cairo (face to face), as the spread of the pandemic COVID-19, and instead it has been arranged virtually.
	1. Opening statement by MoALR of Egypt
3. Mr. Ahmed El-Attar on behave of his Excellency Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation in Egypt. El-Attar welcomed all responsible people and all participants in his speech and then he expressed his solidarity and condolences with Lebanese for the exceptional emergency situation after the explosion of Beirut port. The speech also highlighted the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH2020). El-Attar, was hoping to host the regional workshop of this year on the land of Egypt and not through remote communication platforms (virtually), had it not been for the spread of the new Corona virus epidemic Covid-19 (he wished the whole world to recover in the near future). He expressed that this Regional Workshop came to emphasize on the importance of the IYPH where it increases the awareness of plant health issues for its economic and environmental implications, as well as the important role of the gentlemen of agricultural quarantine inspectors and researchers in this field.
	1. Near East Plant Protection Organisation (NEPPO)
4. Mr. Mekky welcomed participants and thanked the Egyptian host for this workshop. He highlighted the COVID-19 and Falll Armyworm invasion in the region. Since these issues reflects the necessity for utilization of ePhyto and improve the capacity within REPPOs. Harmonizing the collaboration and coordination for surveillance of invasive species to the region. Thanked all whom made this regional workshop to succeed.
	1. Welcome remarks by co-organizer – FAO RNE
5. Mr. Thaer welcomed all responsible and participants. He indicated that such workshops are arranged annually, and this year will be virtually because of COVID-19. He stressed the importance of coordination and collaboration between NPPOs of the region. He made an example of the unprecedented spread of desert locus swarms in the last 25 years. Indicated another important example such as Fall armyworm, red palm weevil, and fruit flies. He revealed about the welling of the World Bank to support the NENA region for controlling and containing the spread of Xylella fastidiosa in the region. Several meetings conducted between the regional office of FAO - RNE and world bank to make this come true. He indicated for strategic framework to be carried out in the region including assistance for producing certified plant propagation materials, improving the remote-sensing and establishment of early forecasting programs and improving the coordination in terms of experience and information exchange between contracting parties.
	1. Opening statement by IPPC Secretariat
6. A recorded statement by Mr. Jingyuan Xia - IPPC Secretary – expressing his gratitude to all for the active participation and promotion of the IYPH in 2020, he valued the plant and its impact in our life. He also pointed out that protecting plant health is fundamental for reaching the UN sustainable development goals for 2030. Mr. Xia shed the light to the damage that plants cause and the loose of billions of dollars as an impact. He pointed out that IPPC community has been working for decades in setting and implementing international standards for phytosanitary measures to protect plants from pests and diseases. Ms. Ketevan welcomed the participants and wished them fruitful discussions.
	1. Election of the Chairperson and Rapporteur
7. Mr. Ahmed El-Attar- Head of Egyptian Plant Quarantine (Egypt NPPO), was elected as Chairperson of the workshop and Mr. Nader ElBadry – Standard Committee (SC-7) member (Egypt NPPO)- was elected as rapporteur of the workshop.
8. Participants adopted the agenda of the workshop presented by the Chair.
9. Section 1: Updates on governance and strategic issues
	1. Governance and Strategy (CPM, CPM Bureau)
10. Mr.Ayman Gemeel presented this work and showed the structure of the IPPC, the impact of COVID-19 in cancelling face-to-face meetings and then CPM gathered virtually.
	1. Update from SC
11. Mr.Nader ElBadry delivered the presentation and explored the conclusion of Standard Committee (SC) updates. Mr. Ahmed Abdelmoteleb raised a question of the difference in the number of drafts under revision are less than presented in IPPC at ocs. This is confirmed by NEPPO head that there is no contradictory in numbers since this RW2020 is discussing only 5 of which.
	1. Update from IC
12. Mr. Mamoon ElBakri delivered the presentation and updated the participants with the Implementation Committee (IC). Mr. Thaer inquired about information and the activities carried out or under the process for *Xylella fastidiosa* sampling. Mr. Mamoun replied that out-resources will be an assist in this case, however the IC have not issued any guidance or information for this related-activities. Mr. Mamoun said “from my side, I raised the significance of *X. fastidiosa* in the IC meetings and sampling issues, this is apart from the fact that sampling is generally illustrated in some ISPMs”. Mr. Thaer followed this up by revealing that the FAO - RNE office is carrying out some activities with FAO headquarter at Rome, the study is concerning both social and economic impact of *X. fastidiosa* invasion, since it infects 160 plant hosts and resulted in losing 92 million jobs. This work is going to be translated into Arabic. He indicated that Egypt has a successful story for preventing the entry of the disease because of the focused and stringent phytosanitary measurement taken by the Egyptian NPPO. NEPPO head also expressed his interest to exchange the Egyptian experience in the preventive measures taken in the same aspect. Egyptian NPPO head expressed his interest to share such information this is along the fact that Egypt has notified the case in the WTO website. Mr. Gameel pointed out to the coast of the phytosanitary treatment action taken to clean containers, he mentioned that this issue is still a challenge for importers and exporters and should be taken into consideration in SCTF meetings. IC member discussed such issue in the SCTF and who will bear the cost? Miss. Ketevan mentioned that identifying stakeholders responsible for the cleaning action should be considered and determine which point in the supply chain they can contribute and not only the cost issues, she said that this is the task of SCTF. She mentioned about a workshop organized with NAPPO and the world bank to meet with the representatives of the industry to find out solution for (who, when and how) will clean the sea containers. Mr. Thaer suggested for IC, and REPPOs to meet with stakeholders and interested parties in the region trying to find out a solution and discuss them with representors in action from the region.
	1. Update on the Sea Containers Task Force
13. A recorded presentation was delivered.
	1. Audits in the phytosanitary context
14. Mr. ElBadry delivered the presentation and illustrated the process and updates of audits in the phytosanitary context. Mr. AbdElMoteleb raised an inquiry of how this ISPM of authorizing entities to perform phytosanitary action is going to be approved before the approval of this audits ISPM under the consultation. However, Mr. Mekky suggested to make this as a general comment in the ocs platform.
15. Mr. Thaer, Mr. ElAttar, and Mr. Mekky expressed the importance of sharing in commenting through ocs, this will give the opportunity for the region to have a harmonized and unified comments to prevent the adoption of any ISPM before raising the feedback of the region.
16. Mr. Ahmed Hussien clarified the point of authorizing a third party to take a phytosanitary action, he indicated that such authorization can include a delegation for a laboratory to test or diagnose samples against specific disease or pest, and also can be a phytosanitary treatment carried to take this task to perform for the NPPO. Mr. Ahmed Eid, indicated and confirmed that these cases are present and applied in Bahrain, so they mean that they authorize a third party. Tunisia also authorize a third party to control red palm weevil through a tender for a private company to carry out the phytosanitary control, especially to prevent the lack of recourses in the future.
17. Section 2: Focused revision on ISPM 12 in relation to re-export
18. One of the participants raised a question about the drafted revision version of the ISPM12 for phytosanitary certificates in relation to re-export will allow NPPOs to approve the re-exportation of a consignment without issuing a new certificate for re-exportation in the cases mentioned, in the specified sections under revision in the draft (exclusively in section 6).
19. Concluding this added at the end of new section 6.2 to give more guidance with regard when a PC for re-export cannot be issued by the country of re-export, but information from the country of origin is required to attest compliance with the phytosanitary import requirements of the country of destination.
20. Another question raised, regarding the adoption of the ISPM, as some countries within the NENA region still consider the phytosanitary certificate sections is the same as phytosanitary certificates for re-export except the title, this is although in the adopted version of ISPM 12 there is description these certificates while the preamble existed in both cases for the certificate of export and certificates in relation to re-export.
21. Answering this presented as in cases where one or more of the requirements set out in section 6.1 for issuing a PC for re-export cannot be met, a PC for re-export shouldn’t be issued. Instead, the NPPO of the country of re-export may carry out inspection, testing, treatment or another appropriate phytosanitary action, and if it is confident that the phytosanitary import requirements are met, it should issue a PC for export.
22. On one hand, one of the participants re-explained the cases where certificate of re-export is being issued and the case where it is not, as in the case of in-transit, as in this case there is no modifications made to the consignment. However, if any change for the consignment took place in terms of applying any phytosanitary measures e.g. re-packing, treatment ..etc, the certificate of re-export should be issued in this case. On the other hand, in the case where the consignment was re-exported to the country of origin, so in this case there is no any n ew phytosanitary certificate or PC for re-export is applicable to be issued.
	1. Virtual discussion around online commenting system
	2. Discussing Audits in the phytosanitary context (2015-014)
23. NEPPO responsible illustrated all comments through the ocs website on the shared screen of the meeting session. Scrolling comments made by the region countries and gave the floor for each country to discuss its comment. Egypt had no comments on this ISPM draft. Morocco and Qatar have concerns about the adoption of this ISPM before adopting the authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions first. Mr. Ahmed ElSayed clarified what authorized entities can be, any external and independent organization of the NPPO itself and of its internal services (e.g. governmental or private sectors but independent from NPPO and carry out one or more of the services required from NPPO) these can include laboratory testing, diagnosing, fumigation services.
24. Participants discussed the auditing and auditee responsibilities and limitations in performing the type of phytosanitary action, and discussed Morocco comments on ocs, Mr. Ben Jamaa indicated that auditor is having a specific task to perform with limited period of termination this is to perform the action and feedback with the recommendation then his task is finished. However, the auditee is to ensure that the recommendations are taken into consideration as a follow up for auditor.
25. Mr. Ahmed Abdelmoteleb commented for the clarification of actions that are performed by auditors, auditee and types of quality actions performed in ISO or HACCP for instance. The difference may include the preciseness of performing the task in which phytosanitary cases are alike, as country legislations will take place.
26. Bahrain explored its comments through ocs and indicated that the finalized audit reports should be reported to the NPPO as a necessary not where appropriate.
	1. Discussing the draft 2020 Amendments to ISPM 5 (Glossary on phytosanitary terms)
27. Mr. Mekky presented the updates in amendments in ISPM 5. Qatar has no comment and in agreement with the draft. Egypt commented for substitution of plants than people, but Mekky explained that this term is generalized to only give an example. As a result, the comment was deleted.
	1. Discussing the Focused revision of ISPM 12 (“re-export”)
28. It has been confirmed that the phytosanitary certificates are only issued through NPPOs not third parties.
29. Bahrain explored their comments. Emirates commented on re-export certificates and if it is available the NPPO can make the additional declaration indicated in the certificate of origin in the certificate of re-export. Mr. ElAttar, Mr. Gamel and Mr. Abbas confirmed that if the NPPO can comply any phytosanitary measurement indicated in the certificate of origin so it can issue a new certificate for its own inspection in such case.
30. Section 3:Commodity-based standards for phytosanitary measures (2019-008)
31. Mr. Mekky delivered the presentation and explored the comments on ocs, he represented Moroccan comments who is in agreement with the draft, NEPPO comment is concerned of the list of regulated pests and the pest risk analysis based on adding or removing a pest, a solution for this is to adopt a recognized pest list by WTO. Some of participants raised the fact of including any pest should be verified scientifically, another concern is about the sovereign rights of countries for their own pest list legislations. This is not contradicted with the fact that following ISPMs are not mandatory for countries, however they are recommended. Mr. Ahmed AbdeElMoteleb indicated that most pest lists for countries were adopted before joining IPPC, but this can encourage CPs to verify and update their pest lists. Although, this should be scientifically justified and may be based on pest risk analysis. This is to make the equilibrium between applying phytosanitary measurement and smoothing the trade. Mr. Thaer encourage the request of adopting a call for supporting NEPPO for establishing a unified Pest Risk Analysis unit for harmonizing and building a regional pest list. Mr. Mekky is encouraging more to consider building a pest list based on main commodities rather than making a full list of pests.
	1. Draft CPM Recommendation: Safe provision of food and other aid to prevent the introduction of plant pests during an emergency situation (2018-026)
32. Mr. ElBadry delivered the presentation. It has been followed by exploring comments through ocs, Qatar concerned of taking the consideration of the IPPC scope while adopting this draft, since some items in the annex are discussing animal diseases transmitted to human and suggesting omitting this or reformulate the issue. Morocco made some comments in the annex of the draft ISPM, for free area since free place is not containing free area. Another case, if there is an approved phytosanitary action in the country of importing can be considered beside ISPM 42 and 43. In the additional declaration, should include both ISPMs 42 and 43. Egypt commented on the necessity of including dates of date-palm as dried fruits for human consumption. Tunisia considering dried food as processed where they are not deemed for phytosanitary certification. Mr. ElBadry suggested to rename the category in the index of “dried food” to be “stored grains” instead, since it considers important quarantined pests e.g. *Trogoderma granarium*. Morocco added certified materials to the index of “seeds and other propagated materials”.
	1. Regional FAO phytosanitary capacity development activities
33. Mr. Thaer with Mr. Mohammed Sidatt delivered the presentation bilaterally. The presentation explored the achievements supported by FAO regional offices of containing fall army worm in Egypt and controlling red palm weevil in Jordan and providing support for workshops in United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. Another funded project from Norway for preventing chemical contamination in upper Litani river bank in Lebanon. Improving date palm bi-production in Sudan. Supporting infrastructure for phytosanitary sector in Syria and Iraq. Improving capacity building and infrastructure for seed production in Yemen. Mr. Mohamed Siddat (Sub-regional office for North Africa) explored the activities carried out in North Africa e.g. fall army worm traps, extension programs for capacity building in using the technology in FAMEWS application and training on ePhyto for Tunisia.
34. Section 4
35. NEPPO activities included workshops regarding FAW for North Africa countries, ePhyto exchanges and Moroccan experience in Hub system for this. Shared in pest risk analysis support for regional countries;
36. Mr. Mekky presented the updates for the activities carried out by NEPPO in the region.
37. He presented the various workshops performed for regional interests which included the Pest Free Area Workshop organized in Japan, international conference for transit pests and diseases in NENA region organized in Bari, Italy, also included virtual meetings such as *Xylella fastidiosa* as a destructive threat, 13rd meeting for African council for phytosanitary. Mr. Barik followed up with a commnet X. fastidiosa is one of the most important pests of the regional concern, as a result NEPPO has performed Pest Risk Analysis for this pest to investigate the possibility for the suitable action to be considered for preventing the invasion of *X. fastidiosa* to the NEPPO region. He wished to share countries’ experience in the context of preventing the pest within a dedicated workshop for discussing this issue once accepted the idea. Mr. Thaer shared the same experience and FAO carried out actions, such as the social and economic impact influenced by the possibility of the introduction of *X. fastidiosa* once happened. He also mentioned that this publication will be posted officially on the IPPC-FAO website once approved, however he can share this with interested countries upon request. Also, Mr. Thaer announced that this study was sponsored by FAO and World Bank, where the world bank is willing to help the potentially affected countries once requested assistance for how to be prepared for preventing the pest introduction since there is 37 Million US dollars dedicated for this issue.
38. Mr. Thaer presented the Legacy of the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH2020), he discussed and overviewed what have been carried out and to open the floor for discussions for how to share in monitoring IYH2020. He announced that the IYPH2020 have been extended up to next year 2021 to overcome COVID-19 negative impact for promoting the year 2020. Mr. El-Attar, Egypt NPPO head announced that Egypt has taken the action of issuing an official post stamp representing the IYPH2020. He also, announced for some extra activities such as a periodical Bulletin, leaflets to distribute over passengers in airports, representing the Egyptian NPPO demo video. Mr. Thaer interested to have all activities from Egypt and all countries.
	1. IPPC Implementation and Capacity Development Resources
39. Mr. Ahmed Abdelmoteleb presented the capacity development resources and CPs needs for PCE, IRSS, introducing calls for ISPMs. Mr. Ahmed Hussien stressed about the encourage of refining the Arabic translations of FAO and IPPC publications, IPPC guides and ISPMs to enhance SPS units. He wished to facilitate the application of PCE and encourage NPPOs to nominate a facilitator from each country for this issue as its importance. Mr. Mekky announced that NEPPO is sharing is such Arabic translation and refining the ISPMs titles and contents, he also encourages to have and share the experience in this through representatives from the region e.g. SC, IC, EWGs in the region for meeting, discussing and enhancing the translation processes.
40. Mr. ElGhamidy of KSA NPPO intervened for his missed session and invited all participants for attending the virtual workshop organised about the role of SPS in NPPOs by KSA ministry of Agriculture.
41. Ms. Ketevan shared the experience of the Russian to translate IPPC guidance and encouraged NPPOs to contact their FAO regional offices for arranging this. Mr. Thaer followed up to partially support the regional NPPOs in revising the translations, upon previously organised meetings. Mr. Ahmed Abdelmoteleb commented about the logistics of translation procedures since ISPMs should follow an official way for its translation through e.g. TPG, but this not include IPPC guidance.
42. Mr. Ahmed Eid of Bahrain delivered his prepared presentation for the country’s activities in IYPH2020
	1. IPPC PFA guide: how to support the implementation of the Convention and ISPMs
43. Mr. Ahmed Hussein delivered the presentation and shared countries experiences in PFA e.g. Egypt for potatoes pest free production of brown rot disease. He also explored FAO and IPPC activities and production e.g. PFA guidance, organizing PFA international symposium in Japan, performing a survey through audits review and supporting system by IPPC for PFAs. Mr. ElAttar commented about the experience of Egypt in PFA of potatoes and another example of applying the Area with Low Pest Prevalence (ALPP) for Mango orchards by monitoring the fruit fly and peach fly populations and applying a year-round control. Mr. Ahmed Hussein commented that the current ISPMs are not representing each country’s methodology because of trade partners may have bilateral agreement to compliance issues. Also, he mentioned that according to the SPS agreement, as long as a country approved production areas or sites free from pest(s), so the trade partner should comply to this action with no objections.
44. Mr. Ben Jamaa presented Tunisian experience with Citrus Black Spot disease on *Citrus* sp. and explored the Tunisian activities for sharing and promoting IYPH2020 through issuing Post stamp, periodical bulletin, and producing a renewed logo for the Sanitary and Phytosanitary.
	1. Preparation for 2021 Call for Topics: Standards and Implementation
45. Mr. Ahmed AbdElMoteleb delivered the presentation, he encourages NENA region to activate their submissions for phytosanitary ideas for ISPMs in IPPC calls. He explored the logistical flow chart of how to submit proposals.
	1. National Reporting Obligations
46. Mr. Ahmed AbdElMoteleb delivered the presentation, started the exploration of encouraging REPPOs for the minimum reporting. He explored the IPPC website and explained how notifications and pest reporting can be found within. Mr. Thaer stressed on encouraging the regional IPPC contracting parties for reporting to increase the transparency. Mr. Ahmed Hussein encourages NPPO to report also for their notifications of non-compliance, since it has a high impact for neighboring countries and helpful in protection against harmful pests. Mr. ElAttar also noted that for example Egypt is reporting for the most important non-compliance notifications but not the whole number of notifications all year-round as the number is still high in many cases, however he inquired for the priorities necessary for such reporting. NEPPO head, added the exchanges should also include legislations and protocols for adding the experience of other trading partners however, there is still a lack of information exchange.
	1. Assessment of CPs knowledge on IPPC and ISPMs – presenting the results of the questionnaire previously shared with the NPPOs
47. Dr Ahmed ElSayed, presented his analysis for the distributed questionnaire for CPs knowledge on IPPC & ISPMs.
	1. COVD-19 impact and mitigation in NENA region in Plant Protection
48. Dr Ahmed ElSayed, presented his analysis for the distributed questionnaire for the impact of COVID-19 in the NENA region.
49. Dr Thaer thanked the CPs for sharing in these questionnaires and for Mr. Ahmed Hussein for his efforts of gathering country’s answers and analysing them.
	1. ePhyto solution status update
50. Ms. Ketevan delivered the ePhyto presentation and country experience in establishing the system and explored its benefits and updates. Mr. Ahmed AbdElMotelab inquired whether the integrity between different organizations “single window” e.g. customs sector and NPPOs is it technically or legislative? Ms. Ketevan answered that this decision is country by country based since it is not the same for all countries.
51. Mr. Mohamed Magdy delivered a presentation for the Egyptian experience with ePhyto establishment. Mr. Ahmed Hussein noted that it was worth for Egypt to choose Hub system, however he liked to know what are the main challenges of establishing the ePhyto system in the country. Mr. Madgy announced that the huge information in the background that was required behind the establishment of the system has taken long time to assemble and gather. Mr. ElAttar also added that the data should be digitalised within the system as a result for country’s like Egypt that issue around 200K phytosanitary certificates per year. Also, the National Security approval has also taken long time to be issued. In addition of, COVID-19 delayed networking the 40 phytosanitary administrative terminals and starting the trail version of the ePhyto system. Mr. Waleed from Oman followed up that FAO was supporting their NPPO for ePhyto training and Oman was resuming such training courses to raise the awareness of the benefits of the system, also Oman exchanged the legislations with country’s standards. He also announced that the biggest challenge was networking the phytosanitary terminals. Ms. Ketevan embossed for the necessity of verifying their national legislation for joining ePhyto as a step-wise first thing to do, this is before exceeding effort in vain. She also announced that IPPC secretariat are ready to provide the necessary guidance for interested CPs in this issue for awareness.
52. Mr. BenJamaa presented the Tunisian experience in ePhyto. He mentioned that they will temporary join the GeNS for going forward, and they have the challenge of a legislation in the Tunisian legislative only approve the paper issuance of any phytosanitary certificate so they are in the process of changing this in the legislation before the full running for the system to take place.
53. Mr. Ahmed ElSayed asked Morocco participant Mr. Edris to share his country experience in ePhyto, they started in March 2020 with USA then with EU hub, he stressed the point previously mentioned by Mr. ElAttar of the challenge for phytosanitary terminals to approve and include the information required in phytosanitary certificates in a digitalised way. He also mentioned the efficiency of using the ePhyto system. Mr. Siddat announced about the efforts the FAO sub-regional office is carrying out in Morocco Tunisia and Libya for joining the ePhyto system.
	1. Regional strategy for sustainable management of transboundary plant pests and diseases in NENA region
54. Mr. Thaer delivered the presentation of the regional strategy for NENA, he shed the light for FAO activities and support programs for the region in the different aspects.
55. Mr. Mohamed Bob presented the experience of Near East and North Africa (NENA) in managing Red Palm Weevil (RPW) since this region is producing around 90% of the world dates production, in which RPW pest became a threaten pest for this region.
56. Mr. Ahmed ElSayed presented the experience of the NENA region for the devastating pest that rapidly spread of FAW.
	1. Date and Venue of the Next IPPC regional Workshop 2021
* Proposed date , 2021
* Proposed venue is Tunisia or Egypt as alternative venue
	1. Closing Remarks of RW2020
1. The rapporteur of the regional workshop explored the recommendations:
* Regularly expressing opinions and comments on draft standards under review through the online commenting system (OCS).
* The participation of the regional countries with each other for sharing their successful experiences of how to deal with a phytosanitary pest with a fatal economic impact, as well as the activities of the International Year of Plant Health, especially at the level of plant health in general.
* Encouraging the interaction with representatives of the region in various committees and experts to discuss developments in the International Plant Protection Convention and preparing draft opinions to be circulated with the countries of the region.
* Finding and developing systems for pest risk analysis for the regional countries (it is suggested that NEPPO adopt a unified system for analyzing the risks of the area in the event of finding and providing the necessary support achieving this work).
* Preparing a reference pest lists for the NENA regional countries.
* Providing representatives from countries to communicate about PCE
* The urgent support for the 2020-2030 strategy.

**Conclusions and Recommendations of the workshop**

1. The following conclusions and recommendations were mentioned by the countries of the region:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Agenda Item** | **Conclusions / Recommendations** |
| **IC updates** | *Xylella fastidiosa* significance and impact in the region:* FAO - RNE office is carrying out some activities with FAO headquarter at Rome, the study is concerning both social and economic impact of *X. fastidiosa* invasion.
* Mr. Thaer expressed the Egyptian successful story for preventing the entry of the disease because of the focused and stringent phytosanitary measurement taken by the Egyptian NPPO.
* Mr. Gameel pointed out to the coast of the phytosanitary treatment action for cleaning containers, is still a challenge issue for importers and exporters and should be taken into consideration in SCTF meetings.
* Miss. Ketevan mentioned that identifying stakeholders responsible for the cleaning action should be considered and determine which point in the supply chain they can contribute and not only the cost issues, she said that this is the task of SCTF.
 |
| **Audits in the phytosanitary context** | - The Online Commenting System (ocs), provide the opportunity for regions to have a harmonized and unified comments to prevent the adoption of any ISPM before raising the feedback of the region.- Mr. Ahmed Hussein clarified the point of authorizing a third party to take a phytosanitary action, in which it can include a delegation for a laboratory to test or diagnose samples against specific disease or pest, and also can be a phytosanitary treatment carried to take this task to perform for the NPPO.- Morocco and Qatar have concerns about the adoption of this ISPM before adopting the authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions first. |
| **Focused revision on ISPM 12 in relation to re-export** | * the NPPO of the country of re-export may carry out inspection, testing, treatment or another appropriate phytosanitary action, and if it is confident that the phytosanitary import requirements are met, it should issue a PC for export.
 |
| **Discussing the draft 2020 Amendments to ISPM 5** | * Qatar has no comment and in agreement with the draft.
* Egypt commented for substitution of plants than people
 |
| **Discussing the Focused revision of ISPM 12 (“re-export”)** | * Phytosanitary certificates are only issued through NPPOs not third parties.
* Mr. ElAttar, Mr. Gamel and Mr. Abbas confirmed that if the NPPO can comply with any phytosanitary measurement indicated in the certificate of origin so it can issue a new certificate for its own inspection in such case.
 |
| **Commodity-based standards for phytosanitary measures** | * NEPPO recommended to adopt a recognized pest list for the region based on main commodities and notified by WTO.
* Some of participants raised the fact of including any pest should be verified scientifically, another concern is about the sovereign rights of countries for their own pest list legislations.
* Mr. Thaer encourage the request of adopting a call for supporting NEPPO for establishing a unified Pest Risk Analysis unit for harmonizing and building a regional pest list.
 |
| **Draft CPM Recommendation: Safe provision of food and other aid to prevent the introduction of plant pests during an emergency situation (2018-026)** | * Qatar concerned of taking the consideration of the IPPC scope while adopting this draft, since some items in the annex are discussing animal diseases transmitted to human and suggesting omitting this or reformulate the issue.
* Egypt commented on the necessity of including dates of date-palm as dried fruits for human consumption.
* Mr. ElBadry suggested to rename the category in the index of “dried food” to be “stored grains” instead, since it considers important quarantined pests.
* Morocco added certified materials to the index of “seeds and other propagated materials”.
 |
| **IPPC Implementation and Capacity Development Resources** | * Mr. Ahmed Hussein stressed about the encourage of refining the Arabic translations of FAO and IPPC publications, IPPC guides and ISPMs. Mr. A. Hussein wished to facilitate the application of PCE and encourage NPPOs to nominate a facilitator from each country for this issue as its importance.
* Mr. Mekky announced that NEPPO is sharing is such Arabic translation and refining the ISPMs titles and contents, and sharing the experience in this through representatives from the region e.g. SC, IC, EWGs discussing and enhancing the translation processes.
* Ms. Ketevan shared the experience of the Russian to translate IPPC guidance and encouraged NPPOs to contact their FAO regional offices for arranging this.
* Mr. Thaer followed up to partially support the regional NPPOs in revising the translations, upon previously organised meetings.
* Mr. Ahmed Abdelmoteleb commented about the logistics of translation procedures since ISPMs should follow an official way for its translation through e.g. TPG, but this not include IPPC guidance
 |
| **IPPC PFA guide: how to support the implementation of the Convention and ISPMs** | * Mr. Ahmed Hussein delivered the presentation and shared countries experiences in PFA e.g. Egypt for potatoes pest free production of brown rot disease. He also explored FAO and IPPC activities and production e.g. PFA guidance.
* Mr. ElAttar commented about the experience of Egypt in PFA of potatoes and another example of applying the Area with Low Pest Prevalence (ALPP) for Mango orchards by monitoring the fruit fly and peach fly populations and applying a year-round control.
 |
| **National Reporting Obligations** | * Mr. Thaer stressed on encouraging the regional IPPC contracting parties for reporting to increase the transparency.
* Mr. Ahmed Hussein encourages NPPO to report also for their notifications of non-compliance, since it has a high impact for neighboring countries and helpful in protection against harmful pests.
 |
| **ePhyto solution status update** | * Ms. Ketevan explored country experience in establishing the system and explored its benefits and updates.
 |
| **Regional strategy for sustainable management of transboundary plant pests and diseases in NENA region** | * Mr. Thaer shed the light for FAO activities and support programs for the region in the different aspects.
* Mr. Mohamed Bob presented the managing of Red Palm Weevil (RPW) in NENA region, in which RPW pest became a threaten pest for this region.
* Mr. Ahmed ElSayed presented the experience of the NENA region for the devastating pest that rapidly spread of Fall Army Worm (FAW).
 |
| **Date and Venue of the Next Meeting** | Tunisia and alternatively Egypt. , 2021 |

Annex I: RW2020 Agenda

**AGENDA**

**2020 IPPC VIRTUAL REGIONAL WORKSHOPS**

**FOR NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA**

**2020 THEME: INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANT HEALTH (IYPH) LEGACY**

*09:00 - 11:30, 7 and 8 September 2020*

*09:00 - 11:30, 14 and 15 September 2020*

**DRAFT AGENDA**

*(Updated 2020-09-02)*

|   |  | **Agenda Item** | **Document No.** | **Presenter / facilitator** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **DAY 1: 7 September, Monday** |
| **1.** | **8:30 - 9:00** | **Participants registration**  |  |  |
| **2** | **9:00 - 9:15** | **Opening of the Meeting** |  |  |
| 2.1 |  | FAO Regional Office (ADG- RNE) |  | Mr Serge Nakuzi  |
| 2.2 |  | Opening statement by MoALR of Egypt |  | Ahmed ElAttar |
| 2.3 |  | Opening statement by IPPC Secretariat |  | Ms Ketevan Lomsadze,  |
| 2.4 |  | Welcome remarks by co-organizer – FAO RNE |  | Mr Thaer Yaseen  |
| 2.5  |  | Near East Plant Protection Organisation (NEPPO) |  | Mr M. Mekki Chouibani,  |
| 2.6 |  | Message from the IPPC Secretariat |  | IPPC Secretariat  |
| **2.** | **9:15 - 9:25** | **Meeting Arrangements and setting the rules** |  |  |
| 2.1 |  | Election of the Chairperson |  | Mr Thaer Yaseen  |
| 2.2 |  | Election of the Rapporteur |  | Chairperson |
| 2.3  |  | Adoption of the Agenda |  | Chairperson |
| **3.** | **9:25 - 9:30** | **Administrative Matters** |
| 3.1 |  | Participants list |  | Chairperson |
| **4.** |  | **Updates on governance and strategic issues** |
| 4.1 | **9:30 - 9:55** | Governance and Strategy (CPM, CPM Bureau) |  | Mr Gamil Anwar Mohammed RAMADHAN |
| 4.2 | **9:55 - 10:25**  | Update from SCDiscussion on SC update |  | Mr Nader Badry |
| 4.3 | **10:25 - 10: 55** | Update from IC |  | Mr Mamoun Bakri |
| 4.4 | **10:55 - 11: 20** | Update on the Sea Containers Task Force |  | Recorded presentation in Arabic |
|  | **11:20 -11:35** | **Break** |
| **5.** | **Section 1: Discuss the substantive comments on draft standards and recommendations***This section will consist of presentations followed by questions from the workshop participants and discussions on substantive comments submitted by CPs in the OCS prior to the RW* |
| 5.1 | **11:35 - 12: 00** | Audits in the phytosanitary context |  | Mr Nader Badry  |
| **DAY 2: 8 September, Tuesday** |
| **5.** | **Section 2: Discuss the substantive comments on draft standards and recommendations - Continued** *This section will consist of presentations followed by questions from the workshop participants and discussions on substantive comments submitted by CPs in the OCS prior to the RW* |
| 5.2 | **9:00 - 9:20** | Draft 2020 Amendments to ISPM 5 (Glossary on phytosanitary terms) Focused revision of ISPM 12 (“re-export”) |  | Mr Mekki Chouibani |
| 5.3 | **9:20 - 10:05** | Focused revision of ISPM 12 (“re-export”) |  | Mr Nader Badry  |
| 5.4 | **10:05 - 10: 45** | Commodity-based standards for phytosanitary measures (2019-008) |  | Mr M. Mekki Chouibani |
|  | **10:45 -11:00** | **Break** |  |  |
| 5.5 | **11:00 - 11:30** | Draft CPM Recommendation: Safe provision of food and other aid to prevent the introduction of plant pests during an emergency situation (2018-026) |  | Mr Nader Badry  |
|  |  |  |
| 5.6  | **11:30 -11:45** | Assessment of CPs knowledge on IPPC and ISPMs – presenting the results of the questionnaire previously shared with the NPPOs |  | Mr Ahmed Elsayed  |
| **DAY 3: 14 September, Monday** |
| **6.** | **Section 3: Implementing and raising awareness in the framework of FAO/RPPOs***This section will consist of presentations followed by discussion and questions from the workshop participants* |
| 6.1 | **9:00 - 9:20** | Regional FAO phytosanitary capacity development activities |  | Mr Thaer Yaseen Mr Sidatt Mohamedelhady  |
| 6.2 | **9:20 - 9:40** | RPPO activities  |  | Mr M. Mekki Chouibani |
| **7.** | **Section 4: Moving together from ideas to action (Facilitated session)** *This section will consist of presentations followed by discussion and questions from the workshop participants* |
| 7.1 | **9:40 - 10:10** | International Year of Plant Health Legacy |  | Mr Thaer Yaseen Ayman Al Ghamdi (KSA)BenJemaa (2 min Tunisia experience) |
| 7.2 | **10:10 - 10:30** | IPPC Implementation and Capacity Development Resources  |  | Mr Ahmed Abdulmutallab |
| 7.3 | **10:30 - 11:15** | IPPC PFA guide: how to support the implementation of the Convention and ISPMs:* IPPC presentation
* 2-3 presentations by NPPOs on the status, updates, challenges (short presentations)
 |  | Mr Ahmed Elsayed,Egypt short presentation Tunisia (CBS management by Mr Benjamaa) |
|  | **11:15 – 11:30** | **Break**  |
| 7.4 | **11:30 – 12:05** | Preparation for 2021 Call for Topics: Standards and Implementation |  | Mr Mamoun Bekri and Mr Ahmed Abdelmottaleb |
| **DAY 4: 15 September, Tuesday**  |
| **8.** |  | **Section 5: Regional issues** |
| 8.1 | **09:00 - 09:15** | National Reporting Obligations |  | Mr Ahmed Abdelmottaleb |
| 8.2 | **09:15 - 09:45** | COVD-19 impact and mitigation in NENA region in Plant Protection **:*** Presentation based on the results of the questionnaire to be prepared and send to NPPOs by FAO office
 |  | Mr Ahmed Elsayed+Countries challenges  |
| 8.3 | **09:45 - 10:25** | e-Phyto :* IPPC update presentation
* Moroccan success story on ephyto
* NPPOs presentation on status, update and challenges on Phytosanitary certification
 |  | Ms Ketevan Lomsadze, Mr. Mohamed Magdy (Egypt)Ask Mekki to deliver the name and the Morocco presentation.Mr M Benjamaa (Tunisia experience)  |
| 8.4 | **10:25 - 11:15** | Regional strategy for sustainable management of transboundary plant pests and diseases in NENA regionUpdate on Red Palm Weevil in NENA regionUpdate on Fall Armyworm NENA region |  | Mr Thaer YASEENMr Mohamed Ali Pob Mr Ahmed Elsayed |
| **8.6** | **11:15-11:20** | **Conclusion of the workshop / Date and Venue of the Next Meeting** |  | **Chair** |
| **8.7** | **11:20 - 11:30** | **Closing remarks**  |  | **Chair/IPPC Secretariat/ FAO/NEPPO** |

Annex II: Participants list

Actual : 8/10/2020

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **IPPC Regional Workshop in the Near East and North Africa Region****Zoom meeting** **7, 8, 14 & 15 September, 2020** |  |

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Annex III: Participants Photo



