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منظمة
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COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Fifteenth Session

Virtual Meeting, 16, 18 March and 1 April 2021

Updates on Technical Cooperation among regional plant protection organizations - Update on the 32nd Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations (TC-RPPO)

Agenda item 16.1

Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat and the Chairperson of the TC-RPPO

1. The 32nd Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations (TC-RPPO) had been scheduled for 6, 7 and 8 April 2020 in FAO HQ in Rome, Italy. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was postponed.
2. The IPPC Secretariat and Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs) met virtually three times (May, June and September 2020) to share updates and discuss how to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on their work and how to progress the work of the TC-RPPO. Summaries of these informal meetings are posted on the IPP¹. After some discussion, the RPPOs agreed to hold the 32nd TC-RPPO in three virtual sessions (3 December 2020, 29 January and 26 February 2021). The 32nd TC-RPPO was chaired by Ms Juliet GOLDSMITH, representative of the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA).
3. This document provides some highlights from the 32nd TC-RPPO. The full reports of the virtual meetings are posted on the IPP.²

¹ Summary of 2020 RPPOs informal virtual meetings is available at: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/external-cooperation/partners/technical-consultation-among-rppos/2020-32nd-tc-among-rppos/>

² 32nd TC-RPPO meeting report is available at: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/external-cooperation/partners/technical-consultation-among-rppos/>

I. Contingency plans to work in emergency situations

4. The participants discussed how to deal with emergency situations that arise and impact the work of the TC-RPPO. The TC-RPPO agreed that if an emergency arose, where a face-to-face meeting could not be held, the IPPC Secretariat would consult with the Chairperson and the TC-RPPO meeting would be either moved to FAO HQ or held virtually. It was also agreed that, preferably, this decision would be taken two months prior to the meeting and communicated to the RPPOs as soon as possible.

II. How Plant Health could be involved in a One Health Approach

5. The Comunidad Andina (CAN) representative presented this topic to explore the possibility of a linkage between the IPPC community and a One Health Approach. The participants considered that the IPPC Community focuses on a narrower definition of plant health than that within the broader context of a One Health Approach. The TC-RPPO concluded that phytosanitary work might indirectly contribute to a One Health Approach but recommended that the IPPC Community focus on current tasks such as the implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework (IPPC SF) (2020-2030).

III. Global phytosanitary research coordination: next steps

6. The participants discussed this topic, which is one of the IPPC SF Development Agenda items. The importance and benefits of having regulators and researchers working together and sharing information was highlighted. The participants considered that researcher organizations often have their own mandates and that it might be more acceptable to facilitate exchanges via networks rather than trying to coordinate their work. The TC-RPPO considered that various regional networks might be a better way to go rather than a global network. RPPOs agreed that they would like to be involved in regional networks.

IV. Review of ECOWAS's application to be recognized as an RPPO

7. The IPPC Secretariat informed the participants that the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)³ requested recognition as an RPPO under Article IX of the Convention. The CPM agreed procedure for recognition of a new RPPO⁴ was followed. The FAO Legal Office reviewed and confirmed ECOWAS's legal status. The TC-RPPOs were then asked to verify that ECOWAS met the criteria to be an RPPO before it could be recommended as such to the CPM. However, the TC-RPPO requested additional time to consider the information provided and agreed to continue the discussion at the 33rd TC-RPPO.

V. Partnership/collaboration with the International Society for Pest Information

8. A representative from the International Society for Pest Information presented to the TC-RPPO their database of pests and disease, which is called "Pest Information Wiki"⁵, as they are looking for organizations to partner with them to support the continuation of their work. The TC-RPPO considered it a useful database covering a significant number of pests and agreed to discuss it further at the 33rd TC-RPPO.

³ ECOWAS is a regional group with a mandate of promoting economic integration in all fields of activity of the constituting 15 countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote d' Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Senegal and Togo)

⁴ Procedure for the recognition of new RPPOs adopted by ICPM-04 (2002) is available at: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/88704/>

⁵ Pest Information Wiki is available at: https://wiki.pestinfo.org/wiki/Main_Page

VI. Date and venue of the next TC-RPPOs

9. The TC-RPPO agreed to hold the 33rd TC-RPPO in three virtual sessions in October and November 2021.
10. CPM-15 (2021) is invited to:
 - 1) *Note* the report from the 32nd Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations