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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 32nd Technical Consultation among regional plant protection organizations**

**Agenda items 16.1**

**Prepared by Ms Juliet Goldsmith, CAHFSA**

## REPORT PRESENTATION-32 TC-RPPO

For over 30 years, the Technical Consultation on Regional Plant Protection organization (TC-RPPOs) has provided this wonderful opportunity for discrete regions of the world to join forces with each other and the IPPC secretariat to protect global plant health.

And so, a global health crisis notwithstanding, the RPPOs met, virtually, on six occasions. Three times the group met informally with the IPPC Secretariat to share updates and discuss how to mitigate the pandemic's impact on their activities and how to progress the work of the TC-RPPO. We agreed that the 32<sup>nd</sup> TC-RPPO would be held in three virtual sessions. We did on the 3 December 2020, 29 January, and 26 February 2021.

The reports are available on the IPP and the highlight in the CPM paper. I would just like to say however...

We had very fruitful discussions on several strategic and developmental issues.

1. Bearing in mind the challenges presented by the global pandemic, it was the opportune time for the TC-RPPOs to discuss and agreed on a plan to deal with emergency situations that may arise, impacting the work of the TC-RPPO, including the organization of annual meetings. We have drafted a plan which we believe will serve us well for the future.
2. With the global pandemic and the push for a more cohesive risk mitigation strategies, the One Health Approach is gaining even more attention. The TC-RPPOs carefully considered and explored the possibility of a linkage between the IPPC community and a One Health Approach. While it was recognized that phytosanitary work indirectly contributes to One Health, the TC-RPPO thought it essential that, at this time, the IPPC Community focuses its limited resources on current tasks such as the implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework.
3. One Development Agenda items of this Strategic Framework is **Global phytosanitary research coordination**. The RPPOs recognized the tremendous benefits of having regulators and researchers working together and sharing information. RPPOs, however, believe regional networks have great potential in this regard and are committed to supporting such interventions.
4. And speaking of networks, the TC-RPPOs entertained discussions towards a possible partnership with the International Society for Pest Information, related particularly to their database on pests and disease. These discussions are on-going, and you will hear more later.
5. One special highlight of our meeting was the request from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to be recognized as an RPPO. The TC-RPPO is excited

about the possibility of welcoming a new RPPO and looks forward to the discussions in this regard at the 33<sup>rd</sup> session.

6. The 33<sup>rd</sup> TC-RPPO will be help remotely in October and November of 2021. In the meanwhile, we continue to work with our Member Countries and Developmental partners to protect global plant resources from the introduction and spread of plant pests to preserve food security, biodiversity, and facilitate trade.
7. Thank you!