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REPORT

THE COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES FOCUS GROUP ON PEST OUTBREAK ALERT AND RESPONSE SYSTEMS

(Virtual Meeting No 2)

**Rome, Italy
2 February 2021**

IPPC Secretariat

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1. Opening of the meeting

- [1] Ms Sarah BRUNEL, Deputy Team Lead of the Implementation and Facilitation Unit (IFU) of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat, welcomed the participants and officially opened the second virtual meeting of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) Focus Group on Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems.
- [2] She proposed to the meeting to have the meeting proceedings recorded to facilitate the meeting report writing and to share with group members who were not able to attend this meeting. The motion was adopted unanimously.

2. Meeting Arrangements

- [3] The meeting was informed that all relevant documents to the activities of the Focus Group will be shared online through the International Phytosanitary Portal ([IPP restricted areas](#)) and will be updated as necessary.

2.2 Election of the Chair and Rapporteur

- [4] Ms Sarah BRUNEL explained the need for Focus Group members to be chairing the meetings and taking minutes starting with this meeting.
- [5] Ms Mireille MARCOTTE (Canada), North America, volunteered to Chair the meeting. Mr Jan Hendrik VENTER (South Africa) volunteered to be the rapporteur of this meeting.

2.2 Adoption of the Agenda

- [6] Mr Jan Hendrik VENTER (South Africa) proposed to include the election of Chair and Rapporteur for the March 2021 meeting as an agenda item.
- [7] Several members noted that the document of VM02-04-FGPARS-Study was missing on the list of documents. Ms Sarah BRUNEL explained that the highlights of the document VM02-04-FGPARS-Study was going to be presented by Mr Chiluba MWAPE. It could not be included due to delayed submission, not allowing sufficient time for members to review it.
- [8] The agenda was adopted by all participants and is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

3. Administrative matters

- [9] The documents list and participants list is attached as Appendix 2 to this report.

4. Work activities

4.1 Road map of the CPM Focus Group and nomination of leads for each task

- [10] Ms Sarah BRUNEL made a brief introduction of the road map of the tasks of the CPM Focus Group and explained the necessity for nomination of leads for each task.
- [11] Mr Walter ENKERLIN (IAEA) suggested to consult with the representative from the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) who has good experience in establishment and maintaining of a global alert system for animal health. The scope of the Focus Group also mentioned the integration of the Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases (EMPRES) plant health activities into an overall plant health mandate if appropriate. It is also suggested to link similar FAO Project to facilitate the establishment of Pest Outbreak Alert and Response System.
- [12] Ms Catherine ABADIE (CIRAD) raised a question on whether there was a priority list for the tasks in the road map. She recommended to set a priority for the task considering this road map will be implemented at the global level.
- [13] Ms Olga LAVRENTJEVA (Estonia), suggested to review the tasks one by one to avoid misunderstandings.

- [14] The outcome of discussions and proposals for leads and members for each tasks are available in Appendix 3 of this report. The FG discussed the role of a lead for a task. A lead would be in charge of following up on the good completion of a task. Members would contribute to this work. The IPPC Secretariat would support all tasks. Each lead would have to produce a description for each task before the following meeting.
- [15] The FG agreed that members would consult among themselves to confirm leads and members for each task, and members absent would also be consulted.
- [16] Task Leads should also draft a description for each task prior to the next meeting.

4.2 Presentation of the structure and content of the draft study on existing alert and response systems and discussion on the way forward

- [17] Mr Chiluba MWAPE presented the structure and content of the draft study on existing alert and response systems.
- [18] The FG noted the presentation.

4.3 Presentation of the IPPC National Reporting Obligations Programme and discussion to review and improve it and linkages to the IC Sub-group on NROs

- [19] Mr Qingpo YANG made a presentation of the IPPC NROs programme and invited the FG to consider how Contracting Parties could meet their National Reporting Obligations (NROs) in a timely manner and to recommend changes to contribute to Strengthen a Pest Outbreak Alert System.
- [20] Mr Jan Hendrik VENTER (South Africa) wondered whether the IPP is good enough to respond to an emergency, noting that the current NROs pages on the IPP are a passive system rather than a proactive one. Mr Qingpo YANG explained that the IPP was designed as one tool to facilitate Contracting Parties to fulfil their obligations and submit reports. The IPP needs to be improved to be more user-friendly, which is also a priority for the IPPC Secretariat. Mr Jan Hendrik VENTER (South Africa) considered that the lack of political will to submit report and the fear of negative effect on trade is the main challenge from Contracting Parties.

Ms Kitty F. CARDWELL (United States), recommended to cooperate with the operators and persons who identify pests in the field. She also suggested that data can be more easily collected if they come from a laboratory information system. Ms Olga LAVRENTJEVA (Estonia), explained that NROs are connected with the International Plant Protection Convention. She stated that pest reports need to be officially provided by IPPC Contact Points. This is why there is a challenge and why the information is always very sensitive. The EU countries need to report to EPPO, EU and IPPC Secretariat. She noted that the EU has an enforcing mechanism, while the IPPC Secretariat does not have this kind of enforcing mechanism. Ms Panagiota MYLONA (EU) clarified that **there is a web-based tool** to facilitate EU members to fulfil **their legal obligation for reporting of outbreaks and that information may be automatically transferred from EU countries to EPPO**. Connecting systems makes this process easier. She also clarified it is a different situation for pest outbreaks in territory and interception in commodities, as pest outbreaks are not always linked with trade.

5. Any other business

- [21] The FG decided to elect Ms Mireille MARCOTTE as the chair and Mr Jan Hendrik VENTER (South Africa) as the vice chair for all the meetings of the FG in order to ease the delivery of the tasks. Ms Mireille MARCOTTE indicated she will not be available for the next meeting and that Mr Jan Hendrik VENTER (South Africa) would then Chair that meeting. Ms Olga LAVRENTJEVA volunteered to be Rapporteur for the next meeting.

6. Data and arrangement of the next meeting

- [22] The next meeting will be held from 2:00-5:00PM (Rome time) on 2 March, 2021. The meeting link has already been sent out to the members' emails as an Outlook invitation.

7. Close of the meeting

[23] In closing, the Chair thanked participants for a very productive meeting.

Appendix 1:**VIRTUAL MEETING N° 02 AGENDA***(Updated 2021-01-20)***COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES FOCUS GROUP ON PEST
OUTBREAK ALERT AND RESPONSE SYSTEMS****Start:** 2021-02-02, 08:00-11:00 (Rome time)

Please Join the meeting through the following Zoom link

Meeting URL: <https://fao.zoom.us/j/96281181814?from=addon>

Meeting ID: 962 8118 1814

Passcode: 163045

	Agenda Item	Document No.	Presenter
1.	Opening of the Meeting		
1.1	Opening by IFU (5 min)		LARSON/BRUNEL
2.	Meeting Arrangements		
2.1	Election of the Chair (5 min)		ALL PARTICIPANTS
2.3	Election of the Rapporteur (5 min)		CHAIR
2.4	Adoption of the Agenda (5 min)	VM02_01_FGPOARS_2021_Agenda	CHAIR
3.	Administrative Matters		
3.1	Documents list (1 min)	VM02_02_FGPOARS_2021_Doc	BRUNEL
3.2	Participants list (1 min)		BRUNEL
4.	Work activities		
4.1	Road map of the CPM Focus Group and nomination of leads for each task (15 min)	VM02_03_FGPOARS_2021_Road_Map	BRUNEL
4.2	Draft study on existing alert and response systems and discussion on the way forward (35 min)	VM02_04_FGPOARS_2021_Study	MWAPE
	BREAK (10 min)		
4.3	Presentation of scopes, roles of institutions at the global, regional and national levels and draft action plan (35 minutes)	VM02_05_FGPOARS_2021_Roles	BRUNEL
4.4	Presentation of the IPPC National Reporting Obligations Programme and discussion to review and improve it and linkages to the IC Sub-group on NROs (30 min)	VM02_06_FGPOARS_2021_NROs	YANG
5.	General discussion		

	Agenda Item	Document No.	Presenter
5.1	General discussion on the way forward (20)		CHAIR
6.	Any other business (8 min)		ALL PARTICIPANTS
7.	Date and arrangement of the Next Meeting (2 min)		BRUNEL
8.	Evaluation of the meeting process (1 min)		BRUNEL
9.	Close of the Meeting (2 min)		CHAIR

Appendix 2: List of participants**THE SECOND MEETING OF CPM FOCUS GROUP FOR STRENGTHENING PEST OUTBREAK ALERT AND RESPONSE SYSTEMS****LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

Region/Country /IPPC Body/ Organization	Name, Organization, Address, Telephone	e-mail account	Attendance to FG VM02
CPM Bureau Representative	Mr Lucien KOUAME Inspecteur Direction de la Protection des Végétaux, du Contrôle et de la Qualité Ministère de l'Agriculture Cote D'Ivoire	l.kouame@yahoo.fr	x
IC Representative NPPO	Ms Olga LAVRENTJEVA Adviser in Phytosanitary Affairs Ministry of Rural Affairs NPPO of Estonia	olga.lavrentjeva@agri.ee	√
SC Representative NPPO	Ms Mariangela CIAMPITTI Head of pest survey and plant protection Unit, NPPO of Italy	mariangela_ciampitti@regione.lombardia.it	√
Africa Region South Africa NPPO	Mr Jan Hendrik VENTER Manager Plant Health Early Warning Systems, NPPO South Africa	janhendrikv@daff.gov.za	√
Europe Region European Commission DG Health and Food Safety	Ms Panagiota MYLONA Policy Officer EU- European Commission, DG Health and Food Safety Belgium	Panagiota.Mylona@ec.europa.eu Panagiota.Mylona@ec.europa.eu	√
Latin America and the Caribbean Region Argentina NPPO	Mr Hector Emilio MEDINA SENASA, Argentina	hmedina@agro.uba.ar ; hmedina@senasa.gov.ar	√
North-America Region –Canada NPPO	Ms Mireille MARCOTTE National Manager, Plant Health Surveillance Unit, Canada/ Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)	mireille.marcotte@canada.ca	√
South West Pacific Region Fiji NPPO	Mr Nitesh DATT Principal Plant Protection Officer, NPPO Fiji	dattvasu@yahoo.com.au ; ndatt@baf.com.fj	√
OIRSA RPPO expert	Mr Carlos URIAS General Director of Plant Health, OIRSA	curias@oirsa.org ; svegetal@oirsa.org	x
CABI International Organization	Mr Roger DAY Programme Executive, Action on Invasives, CABI	r.day@cabi.org	√
CIRAD (Centre de coopération international en recherche agronomique pour le développement) Network of reserachers	Ms Catherine ABADIE Dr HDR CIRAD, UMR « Biologie et Génétique des Interactions Plantes-Parasites » Bâtiment K - Bureau 121 TA A-54 / K - Campus international de Baillarguet - 34398 Montpellier Cedex 5 France	catherine.abadie@cirad.fr	√
FAO/WHO International Organization	Ms Eleonora DUPOUY Food Safety and Quality Officer, FAO	Eleonora.Dupouy@fao.org	x

Region/Country /IPPC Body/ Organization	Name, Organization, Address, Telephone	e-mail account	Attendance to FG VM02
IAEA /FAO International Organization	Mr Walter ENKERLIN Entomologist, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)	W.R.Enkerlin@iaea.org	√
International Society for Plant Pathology Network of researchers	Ms Kitty F. CARDWELL Professor and Director, United States/Oklahoma State University, Institute of Biosecurity and Microbial Forensics	kitty.cardwell@okstate.edu	√
IPPC Secretariat	Ms Sarah RUNEL Deputy Team lead of Implementation and Facilitation Unit of IPPC Secretariat	Sarah.Brunel@fao.org	√
IPPC Secretariat	Mr Qingpo YANG Associated Professional officer IPPC Secretariat	Qingpo.yang@fao.org	√
IPPC Secretariat	Mr Chiluba MWAPE International Phytosanitary Consultant for the IPPC Secretariat	Chiluba.Mwape@fao.org	√

Appendix 3

ROAD MAP OF THE CPM FOCUS GROUP ON PEST OUTBREAKS ALERT AND RESPONSE SYSTEMS

Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat

[24] As the work CPM Focus Group on Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems will advance, this road map will be updated for each meeting, to help mark the progress on the work undertaken for each task, as defined in the [Terms of Reference of the Focus Group](#).

[25] During VM02, the FG considered that the scope is to be defined for each task, under the responsibility of the Lead of each task. A tentative time frame for delivery is provided by indicating for each task “Timeline 1”, “Timeline 2”, “Timeline 3”, “Timeline 4”.

1. identify and review existing material and experiences on the topic - Timeline 1

Focus group lead: Mireille

Focus group members: Nitesh

[26] A draft study on existing alert and response systems is shared for review by the group as document VM02_04_FGPOARS_2021_Study.

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 - Timeline 1

Focus group lead: Jan

Focus group members: Walther

[27] This is in the study, to be discussed.

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 - Timeline 2

Focus group lead: Olga

Focus group members:

[28] It is suggested that a legal study be conducted on the liability issues for the IPPC Secretariat and FAO for distributing pest alert information and consider how legal risks may be managed.

[29] During VM02, the FG suggested to liaise with the NROs programme for having automated ways of transmitting information to the IPPC Secretariat. It was also indicated that the NPPOs should reflect the ISPMs in their national obligations, as done in South-Africa. The FG also wondered whether pest management iss included as this task mentioned legal frameworks and liability issues.

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 - Timeline 2

Focus group lead: Walther

Focus group members: Kitty, Xiaonan

[30] A document is shared suggesting what roles organizations at the global, regional and national levels should undertake, as VM02_05_FGPOARS_2021_Scope_Roles_Action-plan. The study highlights some prominent actors as well.

[31] The FG considered that other institutions are welcome to be involved in the programme. However, at present, FAO, IPPC Secretariat, RPPOs and NPPOs undertake the prominent role.

5 establish broad criteria for a pest to be considered in the framework of the programme (considering the RPPOs' work in this regard) - Timeline 2

Focus group lead: Juli

Focus group members: Walther, Mariangela, Hector, Xiaonan

[32] The criteria set by the Technical Consultation of Regional Plant Protection Organizations will be shared at a later stage. This could be considered as the basis for further discussion.

[33] During VM02, the FG clarified that four pests are to be selected as pilot for the programme, and that a recommendation on which pests has to be made. The EFSA Horizon Scanning for priority pests for 2020 was quoted as an important reference in this regard. It was recalled that the latest pest outbreaks were not on any pest list.

6 identify efficient methods for early identification of outbreaks and communication of alerts to NPPOs - Timeline 3

Focus group lead: Kitty

Focus group members: Catherine, Roger, Yuli, Hector

[34] The study identifies several methods for early identification of outbreaks and communications of alerts, the content is to be further discussed to advance in identifying the most efficient methods for NPPOs.

[35] During VM02, the FG considered that "identification" includes early detection, diagnosis, preparedness and horizon scanning and the communication of the alert. The FG agreed that the process starts with surveillance, but that this activity may not be the focus of the FG.

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 - Timeline 3

Focus group lead: Roger

Focus group members: Jan, Nitesh

[36] This task could be undertaken when the focus group would have analyzed existing systems though the study.

[37] The FG wondered whether the IPPC Secretariat would develop the toolbox as mentioned in this task, and suggested that NPPOs should also share useful guides they would have developed. The FG also suggested that clarification should be made on the general guides needed, and the guides specific to a pest. The IPPC Secretariat confirmed provide publication, training materials and database on pest reports can be provided, as is already the case with the prevention, preparedness and response guidelines being developed for *Spodoptera frugiperda*.

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 - Timeline 2

Focus group lead: Olga

Focus group members: Kitty, Mireille

[38] The current programme on National Reporting Obligations is being shared as a separate document VM02_06_FGPOARS_2021_NROs. A discussion on how to better utilize the IPPC Secretariat's NROs Programme and identify what improvements are needed and how to link with the IC Sub-group on NRO should be held by the Focus Group.

[39] During VM02, the IPPC Secretariat clarified that no legal group had been established to facilitate NROs, but that the FAO legal unit can provide support in that regard as needed. The FG suggested to liaise this task with task 3.

9 recommend processes NPPOs could use to rapidly engage expertise and response resources -

Timeline 3

Focus group lead: Walther

Focus group members: Yuli, Catherine

[40] This task should be undertaken after the focus group have analyzed existing systems presented in the study.

[41] During VM02, the FG commented that there is the need to identify gaps and lack of expertise at the national level. A baseline analysis could identify matrixes, gaps in tools, diagnostic, communication, resources. These gaps could then be addressed by providing concrete recommendations in order to improve the system and to make it more pro-active. The FG discussed the difficulty to define "rapidly" in this task, and it was suggested that "effectively" would be more accurate.

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 - Timeline 3

Focus group lead: Nitesh

Focus group members: Yuli, Jan, Roger

[42] This task should be undertaken after the focus group have analyzed existing systems presented in the study.

[43] During VM02, the FG agreed that task 10 is associated with tasks 1 and 7. It was emphasized that these tasks all deals with events which already happened. It was also indicated that the IC has a surveillance programme and that the IC could be consulted for this task.

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 - Timeline 3

Focus group lead: Konan

Focus group members: Olga, Mariangela

[44] A draft action plan was developed on the basis of activities detailed in the Strategic Framework 2020-2030 and the related 5 years budget and presented to the TC-RPPO and IC and 2019. This document is shared separately as VM02_05_FGPOARS_2021_Scope_Roles_Action_plan.

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 - Timeline 4

Focus group lead: Mariangela

Focus group member: Walther (for operational part)

[45] This could be done at a later stage when the work plan is agreed upon by the focus group.

[46] During VM02, the FG clarified that it is the budget for the IPPC Secretariat programme which needs to be estimated. The FG also considered that figures for practical values could still be provided to NPPOs, as there is available information for some pests. This could be one of the tools in the toolbox, in the form of an excel spreadsheet.