



WEBINAR

FAO and COLEACP partnership New training tools for pest risk analysis and export certification

Under a new partnership agreement, **FAO** and the **Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee (COLEACP)** join forces to improve global food security and sustainable agricultural production by protecting the environment from the impacts of plant pests. The webinar announces that a Memorandum of Understanding between the parties will be signed to facilitate the development of tools for capacity development in the field of plant protection and trade facilitation.

Draft Agenda

- 15:30 –15:40** Opening remarks by **Beth Bechdol**, FAO Deputy Director-General
- 15:40 –15:50** Welcoming remarks by **Avetik Nersysian**, Officer-in-Charge for daily matters, International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat, FAO
- 15:50 –16:00** Welcoming remarks by **Jeremy Knops**, General Delegate, COLEACP
- 16:00 –16:10** Official signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by **Beth Bechdol** and **Jeremy Knops**
- 16:10 –16:20** Demonstration of the private sector webpage for COLEACP by **Alexander Jones**, Director of FAO Resource Mobilization and Private Sector Partnerships
- 16:20 –16:30** COMESA Secretariat involvement on e-learning courses by **Shawa Dingiswayo**, COMESA Secretariat
- 16:30 –16:45** Demonstration of the course's format including tutoring and follow up options by **David Sodade**, Training Project Manager, COLEACP
- 16:45 –16:55** Brief overview of the content of the course by **Juan Rull**, Phytosanitary Specialist, IPPC Secretariat
- 16:55 –17:20** Q&A session and zoom poll by **Sarah Brunel**, Agricultural Officer, IPPC Secretariat, FAO
- 17:20 –17:30** Closing remarks by Jingyuan Xia

*The seminar will be moderated by **Jingyuan Xia**, Director of FAO Plant Production and Protection Division and Officer-in-Charge for the IPPC Secretariat*



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Beth Bechdol

Beth Bechdol is Deputy Director-General at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). In this role, she continues her service to food and agriculture – now on a global scale. Ms Bechdol is responsible for FAO's Partnership and Outreach work, including Partnerships and UN Collaboration, Resource Mobilization and Private Sector Partnerships, South-South and Triangular Cooperation. She also leads programmes in the area of Plant Production and Protection and oversees FAO's main technical advisory committee on agriculture, the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) as well as the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat.



Jingyuan Xia

Jingyuan Xia is the Director of Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP) of the FAO. Prior to his present position, from 2015 to 2019, he was the Secretary to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) at FAO headquarters in Rome. Before joining the FAO, from 2012 to 2014, Dr Xia was serving as Permanent Representative and Minister Plenipotentiary at the China Mission to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture in Rome. Between 2001 and 2011, he served as Director General and Extension Professor at the National Agro-Tech Extension and Service Center (NATESC) of the Ministry of Agriculture in Beijing. Between 1993-2000, he worked as Assistant Director General, Deputy Director General and Director General as well as Research Professor at the China Cotton Research Institute (CCRI) of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) in Anyang.



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Avetik Nersisyan

Avetik Nersisyan works as Agricultural Officer and Standards Setting Unit Lead at the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). As current Officer in charge IPPC Secretary for daily matters, he coordinates and oversees the work of the IPPC Secretariat. Before joining FAO and the IPPC Secretariat, he managed the implementation of Strategic Programme SP2 in FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia. He initiated a new Regional Initiative under SP2 and led its implementation team for sustainable management of natural resources under climate change. In parallel, he acted as alternative FAO Representative for Moldova and was the responsible FAO Technical Officer for Plant Production and Protection in the region.



Jeremy Knops

Jeremy Knops holds a Master's degree in Business Engineering from the Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management (SBS-EM). He started to work for COLEACP as an expert in charge of matters related to private standards and certification for ACP producers and exporters of fruit and vegetables. Jeremy is an accredited coach for leadership and professional development. He was appointed as General Delegate of COLEACP in June 2019.



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Alexander Jones

Alexander Jones is the Director of the Resource Mobilization and Private Sector Partnership Division of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). A US national from Pennsylvania, he has an MSc in Agricultural Development from Imperial College at Wye, with main focus on conservation agriculture and farming systems. He has worked in relief and development programs throughout the world for the last 20 years, living in Kosovo, Afghanistan, Congo, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Nepal, Indonesia and Sudan. Within FAO he has worked extensively with the Investment Center Division, and was previously the Director of the Climate and Environment Division.



Shawa Dingiswayo

Dingiswayo Shawa is currently working as a Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Expert with Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), a Regional Economic Community with Twenty-one (21) Member States. His current role at COMESA includes coordinating SPS capacity building programmes and harmonization of SPS measures in the COMESA region. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Food Science and Technology (University of Zambia) and a Master's Degree in Food Quality Management (Wageningen University, Netherlands). He is a Standards and Food Safety Expert with 17 years' experience in standards development, training, implementation. He has worked as Lecturer (part-time) in Food Quality Management at University of Zambia.



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David Sodade

David Sodade works as a Training Project Manager at the COLEACP training unit in Brussels after previous engagement with the Technical Assistance/Market Intelligence department. As a Training Project Manager within the COLEACP team, he has trained technical experts on training delivery, developed digital training resources, and facilitated the delivery of training in food safety, agricultural production and processing, plant health, sustainable agricultural production and business development. Before joining COLEACP, he worked as a development consultant in the Brussels development corridor supporting the African stakeholders (Entrepreneurs and African government departments) facilitating strategic partnership and resource mobilization within the ACP- EU partnership agenda in Inclusive business, agricultural value chain, energy and environment.



Juan Rull

Juan Rull is an agronomist with a Ph.D in Entomology from the University of Massachusetts and 20 years of experience in research and pest management. As current IPPC-IFU phytosanitary specialist, he coordinates the development of e-learning courses on Pest Risk Analysis, Export Certification, Inspection and Surveillance. Before joining the IPPC Secretariat, he acted as technical secretary of the Mexican Plant Protection Organization, led the Mediterranean Fruit Fly Eradication Program in México, was a research scientist in the Institute of Ecology in México and a Research scientist in the PROIMI, Argentina. He has acted as a consultant in fruit fly management for the FAO-IAEA joint entomology division in Egypt, Panama and the Philippines. He is also author and co-author of 100 scientific publications and book chapters.



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Sarah Brunel

As the Implementation Facilitation Unit Deputy Lead within the IPPC Secretariat, Sarah Brunel manages important IPPC implementation and capacity development projects, such as the IPPC Global Project on Capacity Development under the framework of the FAO-China South-South Cooperation Programme. She analyzes global and country specific requirements and relevant technical issue through backstopping to FAO projects in developing countries of all continents, particularly to apply Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluations (PCE). She is also the lead within the IPPC Secretariat for the new programme on “Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems”. Ms Brunel is the Vice-Chair of the Technical Working Group on Quarantine and Phytosanitary Measures and the IPPC-Regional Plant Protection Organizations Task Force on Fall Armyworm.



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