



MINUTES OF THE 3RD MEETING OF THE IC TEAM ON FUSARIUM TR4

13 December 2021

1. Opening of the meeting

1.1. Welcoming remarks

- [1] The IPPC Secretariat welcomed the members of the IC Team on Fusarium TR4, who joined the third virtual meeting. During the meeting, Camilo Beltran Montoya introduced Jelena Ilic from Croatia and Thomas Gbokie, Jr. from Liberia as two new staff who recently joined the IPPC Secretariat to support the COMESA project activities. Gert Kema sent his apologies for being unable to attend the meeting. The participants' list is available in Appendix 2 of this report.

2. Meeting Arrangements and administrative matters

2.1. Selection of the Chair

- [2] Magda GONZALEZ ARROYO, Lead for the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) chaired the Third Meeting of the IC Team on Fusarium TR4. The Chair welcomed the two new IPPC staff and indicated that there are great expectations of the IC Team engagements in helping to support capacity development in other countries.

2.2. Selection of the Rapporteur

- [3] Morag WEBB DE GONZALES served as rapporteur for the meeting.

2.3. Review and adoption of the reports of the 1st and 2nd meeting

- [4] The IC Team on Fusarium TR4 reviewed and adopted the 1st and 2nd meeting reports.

2.4. Adoption of the Agenda

- [5] The IC Team on Fusarium TR4 adopted the Third Meeting Agenda (see Appendix 1).

3. Follow up on the work plan activities

3.1. Technical resources compiled on TR4 for experts' revision

- [6] The IPPC Secretariat presented the status of experts' review of technical resources. There were a total of 16 resources shared with members; five (5) of these resources were considered suitable, six (6) needed further revision, and the other five (5) of them had not been reviewed. The Chair suggested that the resources that haven't been reviewed should be re-assigned among the team members for revision.
- [7] There was some discussion on the need for clear criteria as to what "suitable" means to help reviewers, and to avoid any inconsistencies in interpretation between them. Was noted that a "suitable" classification means the Team endorse it technically according to the assessment criteria, but not necessarily recommends a particular resource. In terms of accessibility, the Team noted that a resource should be in the public domain and freely available, without payment of royalties. In some cases, a disclaimer should be added along the lines of: "provides a template, but content needs adapting according to context". With these clarifications, it was agreed that reviewers should re-assess their earlier assessment to ensure consistency.
- [8] Some experts commented that those resources provided by the private sector (especially on diagnosis protocols) might be an issue. These resources might be technically correct but could create an eventual conflict of interest. There is no criterion to assess these cases. The Team noted

the eventual consideration of these resources as suitable does not imply that the Team recommends using any tool or kit for TR4 diagnosis. The IPPC Secretariat was requested to clarify how to manage these cases. The IPPC Secretariat will analyze internally and consult the IC Team on Contributed Resources. It was agreed that updates would be provided during the next meeting.

- [9] Some resources were considered country-specific, and adaptation was raised as a concern. The Chair pointed out that the IC Team must decide whether these resources would be helpful to countries that are trying to prevent the introduction of the TR4 diseases. She also noted that these resources could be used as a reference or model to develop the resources/tools required.
- [10] The IC Team on Fusarium TR4 agreed to complete the review by 31 December 2021. The IPPC Secretariat will open an e-forum to complete the process of assessment.

3.2.Content of the Structure of the Draft Guidelines for the Prevention, Preparedness and Outbreak Response for TR4

- [11] The IPPC Secretariat presented the Draft Structure of the Content for the Guidelines on Prevention, Preparedness and Outbreak Response for TR4 and solicited a review by the IC Team on Fusarium TR4. The Chair commented that the draft guideline's content provides an opportunity to develop a rich document with global relevance.
- [12] The IC Team on Fusarium TR4 emphasized that the development of these guidelines considers the context of banana cultivation at the commercial level (usually large banana monoculture plantations) vs subsistence/smallholder cultivation (characterized by small family farms or mixed crops on few hectares).
- [13] The IC Team on Fusarium TR4 discussed the issue and proposed to use the terms “plantation” and “non-plantation” to differentiate between the two scenarios, and to address them separately. The Team Member from Latin America stated that there are two critical scenarios in her country (Ecuador) covering non-plantations: backyards and nurseries. Another member also flagged the need to establish clear definitions for the scenarios and criteria that need to be considered for the TR4 measures for prevention, surveillance, and containment, as these will be very different according to the context. There are particular challenges to addressing TR4 in smallholder production systems. In most African countries, banana production is ubiquitous on smallholder farms, for subsistence and/or local markets, on a very small scale.
- [14] The IC Team on Fusarium TR4 discussed how to include biosecurity in preparing these guidelines on TR4. Most Existing TR4 biosecurity measures are designed primarily for the commercial banana sector. It may not be realistic to extrapolate these directly to the smallholder context; instead, they will need to be adapted or other approaches considered.
- [15] The Chair recommended including a separate section for definitions and nurseries in the draft guidelines. Another member also highlighted the need for countries to have certification schemes for nurseries. The Team agreed to add certificates for nurseries to the table of content of the guidelines.
- [16] The Chair clarified that the remit of IPPC is only to address quarantine pests. The guidelines should therefore focus on measures that maintain countries as TR4-free, or to contain outbreaks; they will not be directed towards countries where TR4 is already established.
- [17] The IC Team on Fusarium TR4 agreed to provide feedback on the draft content structure by 31 December 2021.

3.3. Draft concept note for the virtual awareness-raising workshops on surveillance, diagnostic and inspection on TR4

- [18] The IPPC Secretariat briefly introduced the Concept Note on the objectives of the training workshops, its target countries, and audiences. This training was conceptualized as virtual workshops, and as such, the Chair pointed out the issue surrounding logistics. Members of the IC Team also noted that for some African countries training workshops will need to be adapted to consider the fact that they do not have laboratory capacities for TR4 diagnostics. The IPPC Secretariat mentioned that the training is conceptual (not hands-on experience) and will include information considering the minimum technical requirements.
- [19] The expected delivery date of the workshops is between April and May 2022. The IC Team on Fusarium TR4 agreed to provide feedback on the concept note by 31 December 2021.

3.4. Draft questionnaire “Assessment of country and NPPO capacities in the face of TR4”

- [20] The member from Latin America presented the draft questionnaire “*Assessment of country and NPPO capacities in the face of TR4*”, which is specific to the issues of TR4 compared to the other global questionnaire launched entitled “*Questionnaire to assess the capacities of the IPPC COMESA contracting parties to respond to plant quarantine pest outbreaks.*” The IPPC Secretariat encouraged the Team to review the questionnaire on TR4.
- [21] Concerns were raised over the questionnaire having several questions that will take up a lot of time for the respondents to provide their feedback. Hence, the IC Team on Fusarium TR4 agreed that the draft questionnaire be further reviewed, ensuring that the finalized questionnaire has fewer questions that address the major needs of assessing the countries’ capacities. The IC Team members agreed that information dissemination and communication should be included in the TR4 questionnaire.

4. Any other business

- [22] The Team confirmed the next meeting to be held on 10 January 2022. No other business was discussed.

5. Closure of the meeting

- [23] The Chair closed the meeting.

Appendix 1: Meeting agenda

The third Meeting of the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) Team on *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* Tropical Race 4 (TR4)

13 December 2021 (12:00 pm – 3:00 pm), Rome Time

Teleconference

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

	AGENDA ITEM	Duration (minutes)	DOCUMENT NO.	PRESENTER
1	Opening of the Meeting		--	
1.1	Welcoming remarks	2'	-	IPPC Secretariat
2	Meeting Arrangements			
2.1	Selection of the Chair of the meeting	3'		All members.
2.2	Selection of the rapporteur of the meeting	3'		All members
2.3	Review and adoption of the reports of the 1 st and 2 nd meetings	5'		All members voted for adoption.
2.4	Participant's list	2'	VM03_02_TR4_2021	Adopted by all members.
2.5	Adoption of the Agenda	2'		Adopted by all members
3	Follow up on the work plan activities			
3.1	Technical resources reviewed by the IC Team on TR4 and discussion	30'	VM03_03_TR4_2021	IPPC Secretariat/All members
3.2	Content of the structure to draft the guidelines for the Prevention, biosecurity preparedness for TR4	20'	VM03_04_TR4_2021	IPPC Secretariat
3.3	Draft concept note for the virtual training workshops on surveillance and diagnostic and inspection on TR4	20'	VM03_05_TR4_2021	IPPC Secretariat/ Miguel Dita, Wassim HABBIB, Sospeter GACHAMBA
3.3	Draft questionnaire to assess countries capacities on preparedness, early detection, and rapid response for TR4	20'	VM03_06_TR4_2021	Monica GALLO
4	Any Other Business	5'		
5	Closing of the Meeting		--	

Appendix 2: List of participants**PARTICIPANTS LIST**

Region/ Role	Name, mailing, address, telephone	Email address	Attending
Member(IC Representative)	Chris DALE	chris.dale@agriculture.gov.au ;	x
Member	Mr Miguel Angel DITA RODRIGUEZ	m.dita@cgiar.org	x
Member	Ms Rhiannon EVANS	rhiannonevans19@gmail.com Rhiannon.Evans@daf.qld.gov.au	√
Member	Mr Sospeter Gachuhi GACHAMBA	sgachamba@kephis.org ; gachuhisos@gmail.com	√
Member	Ms Monica GALLO LARA	magallolara@gmail.com ; monica.gallo@agrocalidad.gob.ec ;	√
Member	Ms Magda GONZALEZ ARROYO	mgonzalez@sfe.go.cr ;	√
Member	Mr WASSIM HABIB	wassim.f.habib@gmail.com ; whabib@lari.gov.lb ;	√
Member	Mr Gert KEMA	gert.kema@wur.nl ;	x
Member	Mr Luis Fernando PÉREZ VICENTE	luis.perezvicente@live.com ; perezvicente@inisav.cu ;	x
Member	Ms Morag WEBB DE GONZALES	morag.webb@coleacp.org ;	√
IPPC Secretariat	Natsumi YAMADA	Natsumi.Yamada@fao.org	√
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IPPC Secretariat	Ms Sarah BRUNEL	sarah.Brunel@fao.org	x
IPPC Secretariat	Mr Thoma Gbokie JR	thomas.gbokiejr@fao.org	√
IPPC Secretariat	Ms Jelena Ilic	Jelena.Ilic@fao.org	√