



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Sixteenth Session

Virtual Meeting, 5, 7 and 21 April 2022

Update on the emerging pests activities

Agenda item 13

Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat

I. Background

1. At CPM 14 (2019), the issues related to "emerging pests" were merged with the activities to address the IPPC Strategic Framework (2020-2030) development agenda item on "Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems."
2. The CPM Bureau at their meeting in July 2020¹ established a CPM Focus Group (FG) on Pest Outbreak and Alert Response System (POARS). The Bureau at their meeting in December 2020² selected the members for this focus group and the FG met virtually in 2021. The FG on POARS has made a number of recommendations to the CPM (presented under agenda point 8.8.1). One of them was to propose to the Standard Committee (SC) to request the Technical Panel on the Glossary (TPG) to consider the term, and related definitions, for an "emerging pest"³. Other recommendations from the FG on POARS may also impact how the IPPC Community deals with emerging pests.
3. In 2021, two pests of primary concern for the IPPC Community have been the subject of global efforts and activities to help address these pests have been incorporated into the IPPC Secretariat's work plan. These pests are:

1 Report of the Bureau meeting 2020-07: <http://www.ippc.int/en/publications/88659/>

2 Report Bureau meeting 2020-12: <http://www.ippc.int/en/publications/89287/>

3 FG POARS proposed definition for emerging pest: "A pest qualifying as a quarantine pest for which the pest risk or impact for an area has recently increased substantially, due to changes in pest-intrinsic factors, hosts, pathways or environment related factors with potential damage reaching epidemic proportions".

- Fall armyworm – FAW - (*Spodoptera frugiperda*)⁴ and
 - Fusarium Banana wilt TR4 (*Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp *cubense* Tropical Race 4)⁵.
4. This paper provides information on the IPPC Secretariat activities to help address these two pests.

II. FAO/IPPC Secretariat Technical Working Group on Quarantine and Phytosanitary Measures for Global Action for FAW Control

5. The Technical Working Group (TWG) on Quarantine and Phytosanitary Measures for Global Action on FAW Control aims to provide current, scientifically and evidence-based, internationally harmonized and practical advisory support on Fall Armyworm prevention, preparedness and containment to the FAW Global Action Technical Committee⁶. This FAO/IPPC Secretariat TWG is one of the FAO Global Action for FAW Control⁷. This TWG has met virtually almost every month since August 2020 and is composed of experts from NPPOs, RPPOs, academia and the private sector.

6. This TWG achieved their planned outputs. The "IPPC Prevention, preparedness and response guidelines for *Spodoptera frugiperda*"⁸ were published in Arabic, English, French and Russian. These guidelines provide information on the distribution and biology of the pest, activities for the prevention and preparedness plan when the pest is still absent, and activities for the response plan, including phytosanitary measures, when the pest is officially detected and confirmed.

7. The IPPC Secretariat, with solid support from the TWG, delivered the webinar series "Fall Armyworm, a global threat to prevent," which consisted of three sessions. Nearly 120 attendees from Asia, Africa, Europe and Pacific countries participated in each webinar held in English with Arabic, French and Russian interpretation. Records, presentations and Questions & Answers paper, are available on the webinar webpage⁹.

III. IC Team on Banana Fusarium wilt TR4

8. The IC established the IC Team on Banana Fusarium wilt (TR4) to draft a work plan in line with the CPM FG on POARS recommendations, compile information on TR4 and develop relevant global prevention, preparedness and response materials for implementation and capacity development activities, as well as related communication materials¹⁰. The IC selected qualified experts for this team from nominations from NPPO and RPPOs, academia, and the private sector¹¹. The IC Team met three times in 2021¹².

⁴ CPM-14 (2019) discussed the concept of emerging pests and several countries expressed their concern regarding the situation with *Spodoptera frugiperda*, Report CPM-14 (2019) http://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2019/07/CPM-14_Report_withISPMs-2019-07-31.pdf

⁵ The Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) established a new IC Team on Banana Fusarium Wilt (TR4) in June 2020 (e-Decision) and this is noted in the Report of IC meeting 2021-06: <http://www.ippc.int/en/publications/90286/>.

⁶ Terms of Reference of the FAO/IPPC Technical Working Group on Quarantine and Phytosanitary Measures for Global Action on FAW control: http://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2020/09/ToRs_Quarantine_and_Phytosanitary_in_Relation_to_Trade2020-08-18_2.pdf

⁷ FAO webpage on the Global Action for FAW control: <http://www.fao.org/fall-armyworm/global-action/en/>

⁸ IPPC Prevention, preparedness and response guidelines for *Spodoptera frugiperda*: <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb5880en/>

⁹ Webinar Series: Fall Armyworm, a global threat to prevent

<http://www.ippc.int/en/news/workshops-events/webinars/fall-armyworm-faw-training-part-1-22-october-part-2-19-november-and-part-3-10-december/>

¹⁰ Terms of Reference of the IC Team on TR4: <http://www.ippc.int/en/publications/90172/>

¹¹ Membership list of the IC Team on TR4: <http://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/capacity-development-committee/ic-sub-group/ic-team-on-tropical-race-4-tr4/>

¹² IC Team on TR4 reports available at <http://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/capacity-development-committee/ic-sub-group/ic-team-on-tropical-race-4-tr4/>

9. The Team reviewed the 15 contributed resources that were submitted in response to the IPPC Secretariat call. These resources consist of technical situational reports, guidelines, and training materials and the IC Team reviewed these resources against the IC criteria for contributed resources.

10. The IC Team identified gaps in existing resources and agreed to an action plan to develop guidelines on prevention, preparedness and response. In addition, the Team agreed to develop and deliver workshops on diagnostic and surveillance for TR4 for the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) countries in the framework of the FAO project “FAO support to COMESA trade facilitation programme”¹³ (GCP/INT-387-COM (2018-2022)).

11. Working on these two emerging pests, the IPPC Secretariat has gained experience on how global prevention and preparedness resources for emerging pests can be put in place and how to develop better response to these outbreaks. This experience will help to implement some of the recommendations from the CPM FG on POARS which will also be aligned with the IPPC Strategic Framework (2020-2030) development agenda on POARS.

12. The CPM is invited to:

- 1) *Note* the current IPPC Secretariat activities on emerging pests.
- 2) *Promote* the use of the global materials for prevention, preparedness and response for FAW and TR4.
- 3) *Encourage* contracting parties, NPPOs, RPPOs and stakeholders to participate actively in webinars, workshops, and activities related to emerging pests.

¹³ COMESA Trade Facilitation project: <http://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/projects-on-implementation-and-capacity-development/comesa-trade-facilitation-programme/>