



REPORT OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE IC TEAM ON FUSARIUM TR4

10 January 2022

1. Opening of the meeting

1.1. Welcoming remarks

- [1] The IPPC Secretariat welcomed the members of the IC Team on Fusarium TR4, who participated in the fourth meeting, which is also the first meeting of the New Year 2022. The Secretariat informed members that many activities are scheduled for this year and encouraged IC team members to remain committed to completing these tasks. The participant's list is available in Appendix 1 of this report. Team Member Sospeter G. GACHAMBA sent his apologies for his absence.

2. Meeting Arrangements and administrative matters

2.1. Selection of the Chair

- [2] The Lead for the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC), Magda GONZALEZ ARROYO was selected as Chair for this fourth IC Team on Fusarium TR4 meeting. The Secretariat informed the participants that the task to Chair the meeting is intended to be rotational among the members. IC Representative (Australia) opted to serve as the Chair of the next IC Meeting. The Chairperson welcomed everyone and wished the Team fruitful deliberations.

2.2. Selection of the Rapporteur of the Meeting

- [3] Rhiannon EVANS (Representative of Asia and Pacific Region) was selected as Rapporteur for the meeting.

2.3. Review and adoption of the report of the 3rd meeting

- [4] The IPPC Secretariat informed that the 3rd Meeting Report was reviewed and validated by the Rapporteur and will be uploaded in the respective MS Team Folder. The Team will be duly informed when the IPPC Secretariat shall have posted the 3rd Meeting Report.

2.4. Adoption of the Agenda

- [5] The IC Team on Fusarium TR4 adopted the Fourth Meeting Agenda (see Appendix 2).
[6] The invitation of simulation experts was agreed to be added to AOB.

3. Follow up on the work plan activities

3.1. Draft Guidelines for the Prevention, Preparedness, and incursion response for TR4

- [7] The IPPC Secretariat reviewed and incorporated comments made by the IC Team members and discussed the prevention part of the draft guidelines, which included host, symptoms, epidemiology, exclusion measures, a brief description of simulation exercises, and the steps involved in planning and executing simulation exercise, considering the following aspects:

Terminology used

- [8] Based on an earlier experience with the FAW guidelines development, the IC Representative (Australia) suggested the need to simplify terminology around prevention, preparedness, and

response for TR4. He also emphasized that the TR4 guidelines should be targeted to countries where TR4 is a quarantine pest and where this pest is hence absent or of limited distribution.

- [9] The IC Team on Fusarium TR4 agreed that biosecurity terminology will not be used in the guideline based on the prior experience gained with the FAW guidelines development. It was realized that this terminology is not internationally understood.
- [10] The IC Representative suggested the removal of the term incursion from the title of the Fusarium TR4 guidelines and retaining only the term “response”, which he argued would afford the ability to make the category on the response TR4 relatively broader. He further asserted that the response measures must focus on what NPPOs can do to face the first detection and organize a response in case of an outbreak.

New scientific name for Fusarium TR4

- [11] A representative from the academia commented on the existence of a new scientific name of Fusarium TR4, and the Chair suggested that there should be an agreement among the IC Team members regarding the use of the new scientific name of Fusarium TR4. The guidelines will document the update on the taxonomy, but in general, refer to TR4 to avoid the difference in opinions.

Diagnostic

- [12] On the diagnostic of TR4, a member from the academia expressed his disagreement over the exclusion of commercial kits and argued that these kits are far better (from his experience) than the individual primers, given that the kits are widely used and therefore allow for efficient data comparison. The Chair indicated/suggested the inclusion of an appendix to provide more details on the list and references of available commercial kits, but no particular brand would be recommended.

Pest risk analysis

- [13] The Chair informed the Team of the existence of a few elaborate PRAs, (including New Zealand and Australia), which could easily be used by countries who do not have adequate resources and logistics to prepare for and conduct their respective PRAs.

Simulation exercises

- [14] The IC representative emphasized the need to have references to the guidelines on simulation exercises, including Australia's experiences on pest outbreaks and alerts. He pointed out that simulation exercise is a part of preparedness and prevention. It was agreed that one paragraph on simulation exercise in Australia and technical inputs be obtained from the IC representative.
- [15] The IPPC Secretariat proposed assigning sections of the document to each expert with related technical experiences for revision, and subsequently, after the first draft document is prepared, a general revision of the draft document by all the experts will be organized.
- [16] The IC Team on Fusarium TR4 agreed to provide feedback on the draft for the prevention part by 28 February 2022.

3.2. Draft Concept Note for the Virtual Training Workshops on Surveillance and Diagnostic and Inspection on TR4

- [17] The IPPC Secretariat presented the three main sections of the concept note. The training aims to guide developing countries to perform simulation exercises to provide general insights and information regarding early warning, TR4 diagnostic laboratory, inspection, and surveillance activities. The IPPC revised/updated the concept note based on the experts' feedback.
- [18] The Team member from International Organizations suggested that the concept note be preferably called “Awareness Raising” rather than “Training”, arguing that “awareness raising” is more about letting people know about the issue and while on the other hand, training is more geared towards how they deal with the issues in practical terms. Also, the IC representative added that

the use of information or technical webinar is more appealing presenting a lot of technical materials (e.g., in forums), which is intended to not only highlight key information but also provides an opportunity for Q&A Panels so that the participants can ask questions specific to diagnostic, surveillance and inspection.

- [19] The IPPC Secretariat clarified that the proposed training workshops cover these sessions on different days and activities. The IPPC requested that the experts endorse the concept note, and agree on the tentative dates for delivering the training and identify possible speakers for each training item. Since all the team members did not address or provide comments, it was agreed that they would be given more time to review and comment on the draft. The team will provide feedback by 28 January 2022.

3.3.Draft Questionnaire to Assess Countries Capacities on Preparedness, Early Detection, and Rapid Response for TR4.

- [20] The IC Team on Fusarium TR4 agreed that the comments provided by the team would be forwarded to the representative from Latin America for incorporation into the document.

3.4.Update on the review of the contributed resources.

- [21] The IPPC Secretariat presented the reviewed resources table based on the experts' comments. Discussions were held on the remaining resources that are to be reviewed. The IPPC Secretariat added a new column, "Suggestions by IPPC Secretariat". The Chair requested to provide more time to experts to review and finalize the document so that the experts decide whether these resources are appropriate for posting on the IPP as contributed resources.

4. Any Other Business

- [22] The IPPC Secretariat requested the representative from Asia and Pacific to provide support to identify and invite simulation experts to make a presentation during the next meeting of the IC Team on Fusarium TR4. The representative from Asia and Pacific sought clarification regarding the scope of presentations and understanding the key components that would be meaningful to the audiences and the issues such as logistics and available communication systems in the beneficiary countries. The Chair also recommended including key elements relevant in the presentation when adopting simulation exercise, especially since not countries have the same status and resources.
- [23] The IPPC Secretariat clarified that the intention of inviting experts to provide a presentation to the IC Team on Fusarium TR4 is to promote the team discussions.

5. Concluding Remarks

- [24] The Chairperson and the IPPC Secretariat thanked all the experts for their participation and contributions. The next meeting will be held on 14 February 2022.

Appendix 1: Meeting Agenda

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

10 January 2022 (12:00 – 3:00 pm), Rome Time

Link: <https://fao.zoom.us/j/91564576950?from=addon>

Meeting ID: 915 6457 6950

Passcode: 15964150

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	Reports of the 3 rd meeting	5'		All members
2.5	Adoption of the Agenda	2'	VM04_01_TR4_Agenda	All members
3	Follow up on the work plan activities			
3.1	Draft Guidelines for the Prevention, Preparedness and incursi on response for TR4	40'	VM04_02_TR4_Content VM04_03_TR4_Prevention	IPPC Secretariat/ A ll members
3.2	Draft Concept Note for the Virtual Training Workshops on Surveillance and Diagnostic and Inspection on TR4	30'	VM04_04_TR4_ConceptNote	IPPC Secretariat/ A ll members
3.3	Draft Questionnaire to Assess Countries Capacities on Preparedness, Early Detection, and Rapid Response for TR4	20'	VM04_05_TR4_questionnair e	Monica GALLO
3.4	Update on the review of the contributed resources	15'		IPPC Secretariat/AI l members
4	Any Other Business	5'	Discussion on Potential presentation by Queensland Bio and simulation exercises	

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	√
Member (RPPO and International Organization)	Miguel Angel DITA RODRIGUEZ	m.dita@cgiar.org	x
Member (Asia and pacific)	Rhiannon EVANS	rhiannonevans19@gmail.com; Rhiannon.Evans@daf.qld.gov.au	√
Member (Africa)	Sospeter Gachuhi GACHAMBA	sgachamba@kephis.org; gachuhisos@gmail.com	x
Member (Latin America and the Caribbean)	Monica GALLO LARA	magallolara@gmail.com; monica.gallo@agrocalidad.gob.ec	x
Member (IC Lead)	Mada GONZALEZ ARROYO	mgonzalez@sfe.go.cr	√
Member (Near-East and North Africa)	WASSIM HABIB	wassim.f.habib@gmail.com; whabib@lari.gov.lb;	x
Member (Academia)	Gert KEMA	gert.kema@wur.nl;	√
Member (Academia)	Luis Fernando PÉREZ VICENTE	luis.perezvicente@live.com; perezvicente@inisav.cu;	x
Member (International Organization)	Morag WEBB DE GONZALES	morag.webb@coleacp.org;	√
IPPC Secretariat	Natsumi YAMADA	Natsumi.Yamada@fao.org	√
IPPC Secretariat	Camilo BELTRAN MONTOYA	Camilo.BeltranMontoya@fao.org	√
IPPC Secretariat	Sarah BRUNEL	sarah.Brunel@fao.org	x
IPPC Secretariat	Brent LARSON	Brent.Larson@fao.org	x
IPPC Secretariat	Jelena ILLIC	Jelena.Ilic@fao.org	√
IPPC Secretariat	Thomas GBOKIE, JR.	Thomas.Gbokiejr@fao.org	√