



# COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

## Sixteenth Session

**Virtual Meeting, 5, 7 and 21 April 2022**

**Report from Technical Consultation among regional plant protection organizations - Report of the 33rd Meeting of TC-RPPOs**

**Agenda item 17.1**

**Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat and the PPPO**

1. The 33rd Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations (TC-RPPO) met virtually in three sessions in October and November 2021, and February 2022.
2. The TC RPPO considered the request and dossier submitted by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to become the eleventh Regional Plant Protection Organization and deliberated putting forth a recommendation to the 16th session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-16) to ratify ECOWAS' application as a Regional Plant Protection Organization under the IPPC.
3. The criteria used by the TC-RPPO followed a procedural review approved in 2002 by ICPM - 4, along with guidance from FAO's legal department, and assessments whether the prospective RPPO meets the ICPM Guidelines for the Recognition of RPPOs. All RPPOs considered whether the structure, activities and functions of ECOWAS fulfill the criteria outlined in these guidelines for an RPPO:
  - coordinate the activities among National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) in the region covered, in order to achieve the objectives of the IPPC (1997);
  - harmonize phytosanitary measures;
  - participate in activities to promote the objectives of the IPPC (1997); and
  - gather and disseminate information.
4. In this respect, the TC-RPPO did not reach consensus. Nevertheless, the majority of the RPPOs are on record stating that ECOWAS meets the minimum criteria outlined by ICPM. As such, TC-RPPO recommends CPM-16 recognize ECOWAS as the 11th Regional Plant Protection Organization under the IPPC.

5. During the 33rd meeting of the TC-RPPO and supported by FAO legal and the IPPC Secretariat, a sub-group of RPPOs including CAN, EPPO, NEPPO, and NAPPO worked-on and presented a draft revision of TC-RPPO Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure to be approved by the RPPO representatives. The revised document was adopted without opposition or further comments.
6. The TC-RPPO received updates from the IPPC Secretariat on the possible partnership/collaboration with the International Society for Pests and highlighted potential linkages with the work of the CPM Focus Group on Pest Outbreak Alert and Response System (POARS). They also informed on the progress the POARS focus group has made.
7. The TC-RPPO also received updates by the IPPC Secretariat on diagnostic laboratory network as it relates to the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020 - 2030 Development Agenda. Ideas posed for the Terms of Reference for a potential consultant to be hired by the IPPC and how a consultant could proceed with evaluations to analyze various resources already in existence by some regional laboratory diagnostic systems were considered.
8. RPPOs were also given the opportunity to present on the challenges they continue to face in their various regions, as well as highlight their successes and strategic partnerships.
9. The Chair of the CPM Focus Group on Climate Change and Plant Health presented an update to TC-RPPO on the current status of the focus group's work since its inception in September 2021.
10. The TC RPPO representatives thank outgoing Chairperson Visoni TIMOTE from the Pacific Plant Protection Organization (PPPO) for leading the 33rd TC RPPO and give a warm welcome to incoming Chairperson Diego QUIROGA from Comité de Sanidad Vegetal del Cono Sur (COSAVE) to lead the 34th TC RPPO in 2022.
11. CPM -16 (2022) is invited to:
  - 1) *Note* the report.
  - 2) *Consider* TC RPPO's recommendation for the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to be the 11th Regional Plant Protection Organization under the IPPC.