Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

International Plant Protection Convention

IPPC Virtual Workshop Series on Fusarium TR4 Diagnostic, Surveillance, Inspection and Simulation Exercises

First session on diagnostics - Content of the workshop series and introduction of the COMESA project

Presented by Camilo Beltrán Montoya

Context: IPPC POARS & emerging pests

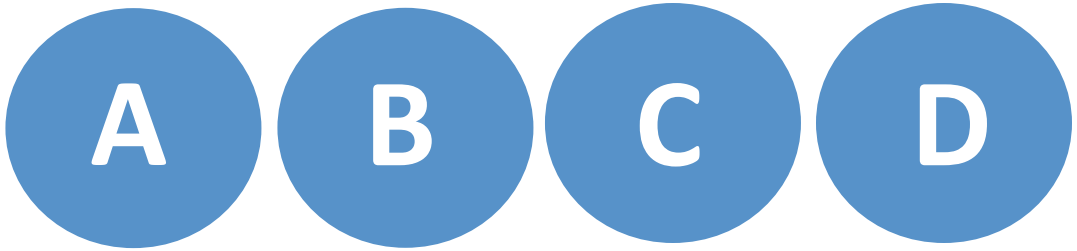
1. Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) Focus Group (FG) on Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems to implement the 5th Development Agenda of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030.

2. FAO/IPPC Technical Working Group on Quarantine and Phytosanitary Measures for Global action on Fall Armyworm (FAW) control

3. Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) Team on *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* Tropical Race 4 (TR4)

IC Team on Fusarium TR4 activities

A. Support the revision of the contributed resources on Fusarium TR4



C. Questionnaire to assess countries' capacities on Fusarium TR4 response

B. Drafting prevention, preparedness and response guidelines for Fusarium TR4

D. Support virtual training workshops on surveillance, diagnostic, inspection and simulation exercises on TR4

https://www.ippc.int/es/publications/

Phytosanitary activities of the COMESA (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa) Project

The project "*FAO support to COMESA trade facilitation programme*[1]" – GCP/INT-387-COM (2018-2022) - aims to strengthen the National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) phytosanitary capacities.

The IPPC Secretariat oversees two sets of activities in the framework of this project:

- Creation of a regional networking platform for sharing information on risks to plant health arising from pests and diseases, and
- Establishment of an early warning and emergency response system to facilitate collective actions in mitigating priority risks

POARS activities of the COMESA Project

E-learning courses on Pest Risk Analysis, Export Certification, and Surveillance

Guide on contingency planning

Assess countries' capacities to undertake preparedness, early detection, and rapid response

Response and surveillance simulation exercises to be organized for TR4 in two COMESA countries.

Strengthen the diagnosis and inspection capacities for a prioritized pest in COMESA countries.

Virtual training workshops

SESSION 1

24 th March 2022

11:00 to 13:30 Rome Time

Diagnostics of *Fusarium* TR4 in bananas (in English)

Register here

SESSION 2

19th April 2022

11:00 to 13:30 Rome Time

Surveillance and early warning of *Fusarium* TR4 in banana (in English with simultaneous interpretation in French and Arabic)

SESSION 3

10 th May 022

11:00 to 13:30 Rome Time

Inspection and Simulation Exercises (in English with simultaneous interpretation in French and Arabic)

Objectives of the workshop series

After having followed this workshop, the attendees should be able to:

Understand the importance of the appropriate TR4 diagnostic for early warning, including field recognition, sample and sampling management, and know the available tools and protocols (classical and molecular) needed for TR4 diagnosis.

Be mindful of the international trade pathways of significant concern for the Fusarium TR4 spread, and the commodities that should be subject to inspection.

Be aware of the significance of carrying out specific surveillance for the Fusarium TR4 detection and delimitation (in case of entry) and know the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) that should be implemented for surveillance purposes.

Be better informed on the concept of simulation exercises and understand their usefulness to improve the quarantine pest outbreak response and how to prevent the introduction and spread of quarantine pests such as Fusarium TR4.

The IPPC virtual workshop series on Fusarium TR4 ***disseminate and communicate*** *essential information that the involved staff in diagnostics, surveillance and response for TR4 should know. The first session on diagnostics* ***shares technical and conceptual information to promote a similar knowledge and understanding, considering the gaps among countries worldwide****.*

Attendees will receive insights to ***understand the complexities of the Fusarium TR4 diagnosis****, which involves multigenic tests to proceed with a first report. They will be informed on the available and appropriate tools and protocols for TR4 diagnosis, understanding the principles and reasons to select specific methodologies.*

Virtual sessions represent the more straightforward and efficient way to disseminate this kind of knowledge as broadly as possible*. The NPPO responsible staffs of the TR4 diagnosis need to count or develop the required skills to apply the shared knowledge appropriately.*

First session content

1. Recognition of suspect plants, characterization of TR4 symptoms in banana, sampling, sample preparation, and fungus isolation *by Gert Kema Professor of Phytopathology at Wageningen University*
2. Overview of the available tools for classical and molecular TR4 diagnostic, their usefulness and minimum tools needed to perform a correct first diagnosis of TR4 in banana crops *by Fernando Garcia-Bastidas, Head of the banana breeding program at Keygene*
3. Case study: Colombian NPPO experiences implementing and performing TR4 diagnostic in banana crops *by Mariluz Ayala Vasquez, Technical Lead of Fusarium TR4 Diagnostic at the Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario (ICA)*
4. Q&A

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Thank you

IPPC Secretariat

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