



REPORT

# 33<sup>rd</sup> TECHNICAL CONSULTATION AMONG RPPOS

## (VIRTUAL MEETING NO 3) 3 February 2022 ROME, ITALY

**IPPC Secretariat** 

#### Required citation

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#### 1. Opening of the Meeting

#### **1.1 Welcome by the IPPC Secretariat**

[1] The IPPC Secretariat welcomed all members to the third series of the 33rd meeting of the Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations (TC-RPPO).

#### **1.2 Welcome by the TC-RPPO Chairperson**

[2] Acknowledging everyone from around the world, Chairperson Visoni TIMOTE wished all a very good morning, good afternoon, and good evening and for taking time to meet again virtually for the TC-RPPO. He thanked the Secretariat for the support and encouragement to have all the TC-RPPO members present in the meeting and invited colleagues to observe the protocols.

#### 2.Meeting arrangements

#### **2.1 Selection of a Rapporteur**

[3] The colleague from the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) volunteered to be the rapporteur.

#### 2.2 Adoption of the agenda

[4] The Chairperson TIMOTE opened the floor to approve the agenda with a motion by CAHFSA to approve, seconded by EPPO to adopt it.

#### 3. Administrative matters

<sup>[5]</sup> Power point presentations were given by participating Regional Plant Protection Organizations, in addition to a presentation update by Mr Chris DALE, Chairperson for the Focus Group on Climate Change and Plant Health, and the observer from ECOWAS.

#### **3.1 Documents list**

[6] No documents submitted for the third virtual session.

#### **3.2 Participants list**

[7] All members were present except Near East Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO)- Mr Mekki CHOUIBANI due to a case of COVID-19.

TC-RPPO Chairperson - Visoni TIMOTE – PPPO APPPC – G.C. Yubak CAHFSA - Juliet GOLDSMITH CAN - Katty ROJAs COSAVE - James PAZO EPPO - Nico HORN IAPSC - Jean Gérard MEZUI, Jovita AKIUMBENI, Luiza MUNYUA NAPPO - Stephanie BLOEM OIRSA: Xavier EUCEDA Efrain MEDINA Evelyn PEREZ Carlos URIAS Oscar ZELAYA **IPPC** Secretariat:

John GILMORE Erika MANGILI Riccardo MAZZUCCHELLI Vladimir MIJATOVIC Natalie NICORA

#### **Observers:**

ECOWAS - Benoit GNONLONFIN Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues – Chairperson Chris DALE

#### **3.Strategic issues**

### **4.1 Presentation by Chairperson Chris Dale of the CPM Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues**

- [8] Mr Chris DALE presented the work of the focus group since September 2021 and noted the tenure for the next four years (2022-2025). The immediate priorities for 2022-2023 of the CPM Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues (FG-CCPI) is an Action Plan with its key outcomes to be presented at CPM-16 in April 2022.
- [9] The Action Plan has a list of relevant activities linked to the three key outcomes of the IPPC Action Plan on Climate Change Impacts on Plant Health with recommendations based on the *Scientific review of the impact of climate change on plant pests*.
- [10] Three key outcomes are:
  - 1 Awareness of the impacts of climate change on plant health is improved.
  - 2 Risks of climate change to plant health are evaluated and managed; and
  - 3 Enhanced recognition of phytosanitary matters in the international climate change debate.
- [11] Plans are to strengthen the work of the focus group with collaborations in IPPC as well as with regional and national plant protection organizations to identify and share climate change information relating to pest distribution and host range. Capitalize activities together by coordinating initiatives and collaboration with resources from in-kind contributions supporting the development of guidance materials, webpage development, etc.
- [12] Mr DALE was asked to clarify why there was a second call for experts for this focus group, and for what reason the call was extended.
- [13] He explained there were active focus group members, yet a lack of full participation by one member that will be replaced, and a region still needs to nominate a member to complete the focus group. To allow all regions to fully participate, it was decided to go back to the Bureau for a second call for two experts.
- [14] Chairperson TIMOTE thanked Mr DALE and offered TC-RPPO support and noted there is good collaboration on the regional level.

#### 4.2 Regional Presentations (Updates and Challenges by each Region)

- [15] (APPPC) Mr. GC YUBAK presented activities in the Asia-Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) outlining two major pests, fall armyworm (FAW) and desert locusts and developing response in case these pests arrive. There is a FAW global pilot demonstration project currently in China, India and Philippines. Fifteen pilot countries in three geographical zones in South Asia, Northeast Asia, and Southeast Asia are collaborating in activities launched in a demonstration program targeting regional integrated pest management development and FAW management in demonstration countries. A capacity building project supporting the webinar series on four different models on early warning pest detection, monitoring, surveillance, and biological control is underway.
- [16] A regional draft pest integration and management package is developing feedback from the country's national FAW contact point with a Task Force of FAW management that is in place. The task force is responsible for the FAW oversight activities in the national program. The integrated pest management program will be validated with a series of webinars among the research institute, private sector, and the national plant protection organizations.
- [17] APPPC has launched a study on phytosanitary improvement program to improve the sanitary and phytosanitary SPS situation in the diverse geographical region in terms in terms of capacity structure. The harmonization of SPS and trade related issues has many hindrances.
- [18] The NAPPO colleague announced the five RPPOs of the Americas would hold an online seminar on 23 February on remote sensing on Orthopteran pests. Even though locusts in the APPPC are not the same species as the ones Argentina faces, this workshop might be of interest in learning about some tools Argentina is using to combat the locust problem.
- [19] The African Union Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (AU-IAPSC) Director Mr MEZUI announced he would leave the meeting early to attend the African Union summit during the week of 2 February - 6 February for a budget meeting. Before Mr. MEZUI left, he announced the ECOWAS colleague, Mr Benoit GNONLONFIN would be presenting in his place.
- [20] (CAHFSA) Ms Juliet GOLDSMITH shared background and topics of the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA) operating directly under the thematic area of Agricultural Health and Food Safety. Twenty countries within the Caribbean region cover animal health and food safety.
- [21] The CAHFSA work programme organizes activities under six headings: Legislation and standards, capacity building, rapid response mechanism and safeguarding, information exchange, regional and international cooperation, dispute avoidance and settlement.
- [22] A list of Objective Prioritization of Exotic Pests began in 2018, with expectations to update the complete list in 2022.
- [23] Surveillance activities continue with three priority pests on the list, *Tuta absoluta*, citrus canker and *Fusarium* TR4, in addition to the ongoing regional surveillance activities of Tephritid fruit flies with an interactive online monitoring system where countries input trapservice data. Ongoing diagnostic operations include Caribbean Pest Diagnostics Network and CABI Diagnostic service via WhatsApp.

- <sup>[24]</sup> Other activity projects are phytosanitary training and capacity evaluation in four countries, pilot project training CARICOM facilitators, and a COLEACP pilot in Suriname with the support of the FAO sub-regional office.
- [25] CAHFSA continues networking and collaboration with other regional plant protection and international organizations on pest diagnostics, contingency planning, and surveillance programmes. Main challenges preventing successful implementation of the activities ahead are climate change, inadequate staffing and turnover, political interventions where there is no IPPC contact point in the NPPO, and contracting parties limited technical capacity in diagnostics, pest risk analysis, and surveillance.
- [26] Emergency response plans have been developed for citrus canker and a regional pest risk analysis has been completed. In addition to diagnostic training and the issue of diagnostics, the Caribbean pest diagnostic network is fully implemented that includes a memorandum of understanding with the University of Florida where most of the diagnostic service comes from.
- (EPPO) Mr Nico HORN presented procedural challenges faced by the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) region. Availability of experts to contribute to international work like CPM bodies and expert working groups is a regional challenge. During COVID-19, remote meetings did not create the same level of participation, interaction, and involvement in the usual platform to develop networks of experts. A few of the technical challenges in the EPPO region are the impact of *Xylella fastidiosa* and *Agrilus planipennis* because the latter pest is present in the eastern part of the region and is difficult to detect in an early stage to allow for eradication. Spreading pests such as *X. fastidiosa* and *Agrilus planipennis* have a significant impact. Another challenge is preparing for newly emerging diseases, e.g., Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus (ToBRFV) and for some NPPOs to have sufficient resources for surveillance, diagnosis and pest reporting.
- [28] One subject that EPPO is focusing on is contingency planning and realistic exercises for emergency response to emerging pests that may appear in the region. Surveillance diagnosis and pest reporting are limited in some countries because resources are unavailable.
- [29] Ideally, in 2022 physical meetings can resume to get experts working on the challenges that some member countries are facing.
- [30] (IAPSC) In consultation with Director MEZUI, Mr. GNONLONFIN reported on the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC) and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) activities in Africa. IAPSC reported there is an endorsement by a specialized technical committee of the African Union Commission (AUC) on the strategy brand for Africa, as well as the food safety strategy for Africa. The two strategies will be implemented from 2022 through 2030.
- [31] The AUC and specialized Technical Committee will strategize to prepare a questionnaire to African Union states with the plant health strategy on biopesticides. This questionnaire will be sent to regional economic communities and member countries to gather information on available regulation on pesticides to inform future action on the harmonization of pesticide regulation within the continent.

- [32] Other key activities on emerging pests are challenges of climate change, fall armyworm, and desert locusts. To strengthen the capacity and institutional capacity of the AU IAPSC, support was received from USAID and the United States Department of Agriculture to recruit staff to support IAPSC planning on practical plant health strategies. In 2021, there have been limited activities because funding was unavailable. In 2022, support from USDA will help implement plant health activities.
- [33] Contributing to the regional updates on ECOWAS activity, Mr GNONLONFIN spoke about training for Harmonized Phytosanitary Inspection and a Decision-Making Guide that was validated. Training was given to border port inspectors in sampling, inspections, pest detection and identification, and a decision-making process while conducting inspections. Requests for annual border inspection training for all border personnel were made, as well as needs for border inspection equipment. In January 2002, an online Pest Surveillance training course was launched with 124 participants from 17 countries participating in the course.
- [34] Preparations are underway to organize a common harmonization with West African regional NPPOs and taskforce partners to discuss and review issues and priorities for phytosanitary and SPS issues and to build common positions to agenda items of CPM.
- [35] COVID-19, virtual meetings, limited travel, and physical meetings are all challenges in addition to limited human resources, various needs for infrastructure and quarantine facilities, laboratory equipment, and pest reporting capacity by some member countries.
- [36] (NAPPO) Ms Stephanie BLOEM presented a general overview of the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) functions and structures, the state of NAPPO in 2021-2022, project achievements, challenges, and opportunities for regional collaboration.
- [37] NAPPO is a forum for Canadian, Mexican and USA regulatory and industry professionals to collaborate in the protection of all plant resources and the environment while facilitating safe trade. NAPPO's forum worked hard to facilitate communication among members and engaged with all the stakeholders to collaborate with key strategic partners outside of the region, promoting harmonized approaches to planning the work while trying hard to foster trust and maintain transparency in the region. Trust and transparency are especially important tools for phytosanitary diplomacy.
- [38] The NAPPO colleague described the region's work on developing strategic documents and products. For example, science based regional standards applicable to NAPPO, developing and delivering symposia, webinars and workshops are just some of the products. NAPPO's Secretariat engages stakeholders through a website, newsletter, and the annual meeting. The products are the result of work done by expert working groups consisting of government experts, the NAPPO Secretariat, industry and academic experts, and an advisory management committee.
- [39] NAPPO's accomplishments for calendar year 2021 were completion of nine projects including four Regional Standards on Phytosanitary Measures, a science and technology document, a regional manual, and a NAPPO 101 webinar on the basics of NAPPO for inexperienced staff and industry members. The webinar is accessible on the NAPPO webpage.

- [40] The NAPPO strategic plan is scheduled for updating as well as several NAPPO documents that specifically name the new North American Free Trade Agreement. The NAPPO 2022 call for proposals that resulted in four new project submissions under review for this year. Canada will host the annual NAPPO meeting projected to be virtual again this year.
- [41] Presently, eight laboratories and five different protocols in the region are studied and applied to detect Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus. The objective of the three countries is to harmonize diagnostic protocols on the regional level.
- [42] NAPPO alerts continue for regional pest threats that are not yet in the region or are present in limited areas of the region:
  - Khapra beetle *Trogoderma granarium*, because many interceptions have been made in different ports.
  - Asian gypsy moth *Lymantria dispar asiatica* and other high risk Lymantrids, considering expanding the vessel certification program to include other high-risk Lymantria moths in the same family.
  - Other pathogens, over and above the tomato brown rugose fruit virus.
  - European cherry fruit fly *Rhagoletis cerasi*
  - Spotted lantern fly *Lycorma delicatula*
  - Tephritidae economic important fruit flies
- [43] Opportunities for partner collaboration include:
  - Technical Consultation among RPPOs and IPPC Secretariat
  - Promoting harmonization
  - Developing and implementing regional and international standards
  - Hosting international symposia and workshops
  - Sharing information on plant health.
- [44] El Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA) Mr Oscar ZELAYA presented OIRSA's regional plant health challenges in Central America and the Dominican Republic and introduced Efrain MEDINA, OIRSA's Chief Executive Officer and Carlos URIAS, Regional Plant Health Director, among other regional participants.
- [45] An important regional challenge was performing physical standard operational procedures under COVID-19 biosafety protocols. While some worked from home, all program activities, including field trips and meetings were face-to-face. Virtual meetings were fewer in some cases.
- [46] A planning database that tracks technical and financial projects is used for a continuous process of evaluation to review, follow-up, and adjust the resources analyzed for costs and benefits of all the programmes projects.
- [47] In the case of the Pest Risk Analysis System, the project consolidates capacities of surveillance and monitoring in the region with support from governments and private agribusiness sectors. The Pest Risk Analysis System is in place using satellite monitoring, rapid molecular diagnostics, digital surveillance, and x-ray and canine units in ports of entry.
- [48] Focusing not only on one system but also on cooperation to strengthen the capacity on preventing physical, biological, and chemical contaminations to improve marketability of

plant products is important. Evaluating resource needs and measuring quality control at inspection points for the timely detection of pests is critical to improve these processes within the region.

- [49] In addition to inspection and prevention, the governments are implementing the ePhyto Solution to accelerate trade facilitation by utilizing electronic phytosanitary certificates.
- [50] Important pest threats of regional concern are:
  - *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp *cubense* Tropical race 4 (TR4)
  - Tephritid fruit flies, not just *Ceratitis capitata*
  - Coffee Berry Disease *Colletotrichum kahawae*
  - Tuta absoluta
  - Khapra beetle *Trogoderma granarium*
  - Giant African snail Achatina fulica
- [51] The region is also networking with research cooperatives to validate disease resistant varieties to strengthen capacity building and work on biological control systems with natural enemies.
- [52] (PPPO) Mr Visoni TIMOTE presented the outline on implementation activities, partnerships and collaborations, challenges, and the way forward for PPPO.
- [53] He began with the topic on the Safe Provision of Food and Other Aid to Prevent the Introduction of Plant Pests via emergency food and other relief aid. A regional PPPO standard on emergency aid is important, as the region is vulnerable to natural disasters like tsunamis and the recent volcano eruption near Tonga after which emergency relief aid has been pouring in.
- [54] Funding from Australia and New Zealand supplies an ePhyto coordinator in the PPPO Secretariat to actively engage in ePhyto training with countries in phase one and phase two paperless exchange trials.
- [55] In addition to the international technical working group on Fall Armyworm, other regional technical working groups are evaluating emerging pests to prepare and respond to Fusarium TR4, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle, and Khapra Beetle. Discussions to propose the establishment of a PPPO regional priority pests working group are ongoing.
- [56] The PPPO Secretariat saw an opportunity to move from a pest risk database at regional level to three, sub-regional levels. Virtual interactive capacity building training with teams in Melanesia, Polynesia and Micronesia were given at the sub-regional level.
- [57] The database will be important for countries to update the national reporting obligation, pest status, and analysis in potential commodity exports to markets in Australia or New Zealand.
- [58] Monthly virtual regional Talanoa meetings enable member countries to discuss priorities, challenges, share successes, and stay connected and informed on current topics. This informative Talanoa platform enables the region to receive updates on work by the Standard Committee, Implementation Committee, and the IPPC.

- [59] Partnerships with the European Union on biosecurity, SPS and value chains, the Australia Department of Agriculture and Water and Environment, the Australian Center of International Research, the Green Climate Fund, and the New Zealand Ministry of Primary Industries are important collaborations that engages the region on phytosanitary capacity and trade. The PPPO thanks all the supporters from the RPPOs and NPPOs for Submission on Safe Food Aid and to the APPPC for its support on the Mango Commodity Standard.
- [60] Logistical challenges following the COVID-19 pandemic have affected travel, and the procurement process that delayed prompt receipt of traps and lures. Limited internet connectivity and slow speed during peak usage can affect quality of virtual meetings in different time zones. These challenges also hinder deadlines and prompt pest identification using remote microscopic identification tools.
- [61] (ECOWAS) Mr Benoit GNONLONFIN from ECOWAS expressed his appreciation to colleagues who attended the November meeting about the possibility of ECOWAS becoming an RPPO.
- <sup>[62]</sup> The Chairperson noted the outcome of the November meeting and the recommendation for CPM to address the submission of ECOWAS application to be the 11<sup>th</sup> RPPO. He thanked Mr GNONLONFIN for giving both updates for IAPSC and ECOWAS.
- [63] The colleague from NAPPO gave the update for Mr James PAZO from COSAVE who was unable to present because of technical difficulties. Notwithstanding the rotational assignment for the incoming Chairpersonship, the TC-RPPO agreed without objections that the NPPO in Argentina, Mr. Diego QUIROGA would Chair the 34th TC-RPPO after the COSAVE Presidency rotated from Peru to Argentina in March 2022.
- [64] The Secretariat reminded the regional representatives about the TC-RPPO report for CPM-16 to be sent to the Secretariat by the end of January.
- [65] The Secretariat updated the TC-RPPO on developments of the International Plant Health Conference (IPHC). The NAPPO colleague asked if the IPHC would follow the programme that was originally planned for 2020 in Finland, while the member from EPPO asked if EPPO could still contribute, and what is needed.
- [66] The Secretariat replied that the programme is essentially the same and it is the starting point for this year's conference. Side-events (both virtual and physical) are available for contributions.
- [67] The feasibility of a physical meeting and future dates for the next TC-RPPO meeting were proposed by the Secretariat.
- [68] Members from EPPO and NAPPO suggested the Secretariat send a Doodle poll to determine the dates for the 34<sup>th</sup> TC-RPPO.
- [69] Chairperson TIMOTE opened the floor for other agenda items and since none were raised, thanked the representatives for their participation and closed the meeting.

#### Appendix 1: Agenda

	Agenda Item	Document No.	Presenter
1.	Opening of the Meeting		
1.1	Welcome by the IPPC Secretariat		DENG
1.2	Welcome by the TC-RPPO Chairperson		TIMOTE
2.	Meeting Arrangements		
2.1	Election of the Rapporteur		TIMOTE
2.2	Adoption of the Agenda	VM01_01_TC-RPPO_2022_Feb	TIMOTE
3.	Administrative Matters		GILMORE
3.1	Documents list	VM01_02_TC-RPPO_2022_Feb	
3.2	Participants list	VM01_03_TC-RPPO_2022_Feb	
4.	Strategic issues		
4.1	Climate change and plant health	Oral presentation	Chair of FG on Climate Change Chris DALE (15min)
5.	Presentation of regional challenges (10 minutes each)		TIMOTE
5.1	APPO		Yubak
5.2	CAHFSA		Goldsmith
5.3	CAN		Rojas
5.4	COSAVE		Pazo
5.5	EPPO		Horn
	SHORT BREAK (minutes)		
5.6	IAPSC		Mezui_M'ella
5.7	NAPPO		Bloem
5.8	NEPPO		Chouibani
5.9	OIRSA		Zelaya
5.10	PPPO		Timote
6	Election of new Chair and dates (virtual?) for 34 <sup>th</sup> TC RPPO		TIMOTE/ALL
7.	Any other business		TIMOTE/GILMORE
8.	Welcome to the new Chair		TIMOTE
9	Introduction by new Chair		
10	Closing		TIMOTE

#### **Appendix 2: Participants list**

#### 33<sup>rd</sup> Technical Consultation Among RPPOs

#### VIRTUAL MEETING N° 03

#### Start: 3 February 2022 at 14:00 (Rome time)

#### PARTICIPANTS LIST

Present	Region/ Role	Name, mailing, address, telephone	Email address
×	Inter-African Phytosanitar y Council (IAPSC)	Mr Jean Gérard MEZUI M'ELLA Director of Interafrican Phytosanitary Council of African Union African-Union Interafrican Phytosanitary Council / Conseil Phytosanitaire Interafricain de I'Union Africaine P.O.Box 4170 Nlongkak, Yaoundé, Cameroon Tel:(+237) 222 21 19 69, (+237) 694 89 93 40, +237 673275853 Fax:(+237) 222 21 19 67	MezuiJG@africa-union.org; jeangerardmezuimella@gmail.com
×	Inter-African Phytosanitar y Council (IAPSC)	Ms Luiza MUNYUA Director of Interafrican Phytosanitary Council of African Union African-Union Interafrican Phytosanitary Council / Conseil Phytosanitaire Interafricain de I'Union Africaine P.O.Box 4170 Nlongkak, Yaoundé, Cameroon Tel:(+237) 222 21 19 69, (+237) 694 89 93 40, +237 673275853 Fax:(+237) 222 21 19 67	MunyuaL@africa-union.org;
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×	Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC)	Mr Yubak Dhoj G. C. Senior Agricultural Officer (Plant Protection)FAO Regional Office for Asia (RAP) 39 Phra Atit Road Bangkok 10200, Thailand Tel: +662974268 Mobile:+66858758784 Fax:+662 6974445	yubak.gc@fao.org; yubak.gc@yahoo.com
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<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	Comunidad Andina (CAN)	Ms Katty Rojas QUIROGA RESPONSABLE ESPECIALISTA EN SANIDAD VEGETAL	krojas@comunidadandina.org

Present	Region/ Role	Name, mailing, address, telephone	Email address
✓	OIRSA	Mr Oscar ZELAYA OIRSA	ozelaya@oirsa.org
	Comite de Sanidad Vegetal del Cono Sur (COSAVE)	Mr César De La Cruz Director General de Sanidad Vegetal, del Servicio Nacional de Sanidad Agraria (SENASA) -Presidente del Comité Directivo del COSAVE 2020-2021 Av. La Molina 1915, La Molina, Lima Perú Tel:(+511) 313-3300 Anexo 6101	cdelacruz@senasa.gob.pe asist_tecnico@cosave.org
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