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International  
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Convention

## **REPORT**

# **34th Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations**

**Session 4  
Virtual Meeting  
7 November 2022**

**IPPC Secretariat**

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## CONTENTS

1.	Opening of the meeting .....	4
1.1	Welcome by the IPPC Secretariat .....	4
1.2	Welcome by the TC-RPPO Chairperson.....	4
2.	Meeting arrangements .....	4
2.1	Selection of the rapporteur .....	4
2.2	Adoption of the agenda .....	4
2.2	Introduction of the participants .....	4
3.	Administrative matters .....	4
3.1	Document list .....	4
3.2	Participant list.....	4
4.	Updates .....	4
4.1	RPPO representative for POARS Steering Group .....	4
4.2	RPPO representative for the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) .....	5
4.3	Outcome and next steps of SPG discussions on document concerning the roles of RPPO in the POARS and other Development Agendas of the IPPC Strategic Framework .....	5
4.4	SPG Updates on Implementing the Strategic Framework Development Agenda Items (SFDAIs) – Next steps .....	6
5.	Future plans .....	6
5.1	Collaboration among RPPOs – summary of identified pests or phytosanitary actions where RPPOs can work together (for example, khapra beetle).....	6
5.2	Draft agenda items for the 35th TC-RPPO meeting (2023).....	7
5.3	Election of new chairperson and the selection of possible date and location for the Thirty-Fifth TC-RPPOs.....	7
5.4	Invitations to face-to-face TC-RPPOs meetings be sent, in the first instance, to the appropriate managers of RPPO representatives, with a few weeks advance notice....	8
6.	Any other business.....	8
7.	Close of the meeting .....	8
	Appendix 1: Agenda.....	9
	Appendix 2: Document list.....	11
	Appendix 3: Participant list .....	12

## **1. Opening of the meeting**

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

- [1] The IPPC Secretariat (here in after “the secretariat”) opened the meeting and welcomed all participants to the fourth session of the 34th meeting of the Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations (TC-RPPO).

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

- [2] Diego QUIROGA, President of the Southern Cone Plant Health Committee (COSAVE), welcomed all participants to the meeting.

## **2. Meeting arrangements**

### **2.1 Selection of the rapporteur**

- [3] The representative of the European Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) volunteered to be the rapporteur for the meeting.

### **2.2 Adoption of the agenda**

- [4] The representative of the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) asked to amend the agenda to include discussion on the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the TC-RPPO under agenda item No. 6 (Any other business). No objection was raised, and the agenda was adopted as amended.

### **2.2 Introduction of the participants**

- [5] The participants introduced themselves.
- [6] Jean Gérard MEZUI M’ELLA, Director of the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC), announced that he would soon retire, and introduced his colleagues, Sandrine BAYENDI LOUDIT and Luiza MUNYUA, who would take up his duties.

## **3. Administrative matters**

### **3.1 Document list**

- [7] The documents for the meeting are presented in Appendix 2.

### **3.2 Participant list**

- [8] The participants in attendance are listed in Appendix 3.

## **4. Updates**

### **4.1 RPPO representative for POARS Steering Group**

- [9] The chairperson said that all RPPOs supported the proposal of the nomination of Stephanie BLOEM as RPPO representative to the Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems (POARS) steering group, and that the proposal had been submitted to the secretariat. Confirmation of the nomination of an RPPO representative was still pending.

[10] The TC-RPPO:

- (1) *Asked* the secretariat to follow up on nomination of an RPPO representative to the POARS Steering Group, and clarify the process to be followed.

#### **4.2 RPPO representative for the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC)**

[11] The chairperson said that the current term of the RPPO representative to the IC, Stephanie BLOEM, was ending, and the group needed to consider the nomination of a new representative. The current representative gave an overview of the work of the IC. She noted that the Sixteenth Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-16, 2022) had agreed to an increased role for the RPPO representative, who would be able to actively contribute to the IC decision-making process. The aim was to have both the outgoing and the incoming RPPO representative attend the IC meeting in Rome in May 2023 to ensure a degree of continuity to the role.

[12] One participant suggested leveraging the geographic proximity of the EPPO office in Paris, France, to the IPPC Secretariat in Rome, and having EPPO act as the permanent RPPO representative on the IC. The representative of EPPO appreciated the suggestion, but regretted that he would not be able to take on the role of RPPO representative to the IC. The chairperson noted that COSAVE would put forward a nomination.

[13] The TC-RPPO:

- (2) *Asked* the secretariat to clarify the process to be followed to nominate a new RPPO representative to the IC;
- (3) *Asked* all RPPOs to submit their nomination for a new RPPO representative to the IC by 18 November 2022.

#### **4.3 Outcome and next steps of SPG discussions on document concerning the roles of RPPO in the POARS and other Development Agendas of the IPPC Strategic Framework**

[14] Stephanie BLOEM said that the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) had met on 24 to 26 October 2022. The TC-RPPO had submitted a paper reacting to suggestions made by POARS Focus Group for actions to be undertaken by RPPOs. The paper was well received. A number of contracting parties agreed that, although RPPOs were considered together under Article IX of the International Plant Protection Convention, they were not homogenous organizations, and they supported the implementation of the Convention in differing ways according to the needs and wishes of the region. Several contracting parties said that it would be beneficial for the groups implementing the Strategic Framework 2020–2030 development agenda items to better understand the functions and core capacities of an RPPO. Doing so would help ensure that RPPOs could contribute to the planning process for the seven other development agenda items.

[15] Stephanie BLOEM drew the group's attention to the document *Roles and Functions of RPPOs in their relationship to the CPM*,<sup>1</sup> which was developed by all RPPOs and outlined RPPO functions as regards standard setting, implementation and capacity development, communication, coordination and partnerships.

[16] The chairperson said that it had been encouraging to hear SPG participants speak about the relevance of RPPOs and their vision to support the activities of the IPPC.

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<sup>1</sup> Available at: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/88182/>.

[17] The TC-RPPO:

- (4) *Asked* the secretariat to share the document *Roles and Functions of RPPOs in their relationship to the CPM* with the chairperson of the Focus Group on the Strategic Framework 2020–2030 Development Agenda Items (FG-SFDAI) to assist in that group’s planning efforts.

#### **4.4 SPG Updates on Implementing the Strategic Framework Development Agenda Items (SFDAIs) – Next steps**

- [18] The chairperson said that FG-SFDAI had asked to have RPPO viewpoints on the work of FG-SFDAI. The chairperson noted that the FG-SFDAI was developing a holistic system for implementation of all eight development agenda items, while he felt that TC-RPPO may be better suited to working on the implementation of each development agenda item individually. A number of participants supported the view that TC-RPPO be more involved in implementation of individual items, as the role of TC-RPPO may differ from one item to another.
- [19] One participant said that, if each development agenda items had a focus group, it would be important that the RPPO representative in each focus group highlight the work of the group to all RPPOs in order to shape the role RPPOs could play in the implementation of that item. A number of participants supported that point of view.

### **5. Future plans**

#### **5.1 Collaboration among RPPOs – summary of identified pests or phytosanitary actions where RPPOs can work together (for example, khapra beetle)**

- [20] The chairperson said that item 5.1 had been an outcome from the preceding TC-RPPO session, where all RPPOs presented their work and agreed to collaborate and share experiences on common issues, such as khapra beetle. Other areas on which to share included surveillance actions, control measures, rules and communication activities. The chairperson suggested creating a template for each topic for RPPOs to share their experiences. A number of participants supported the idea. One participant said that a number of pests, notably khapra beetle, had been identified at the preceding TC-RPPO sessions that could serve as the starting point for RPPOs to share their experiences. The chairperson said that COSAVE would create the templates and share with the group in November 2022.
- [21] The chairperson said that CPM working groups work on these issues, but that it would be useful to know what other RPPOs in particular were doing in response. The working groups may also benefit from knowing what activities were being undertaken by RPPOs.
- [22] The IAPSC representative said that pest introductions were a major concern for the African region, and that the continued occurrence of plant pests was exacerbated by climate change. IAPSC, together with the African Union Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, had elaborated and adopted a 2022–2036 Plant Health Strategy for Africa (PHSA) to manage plant health threats that undermined the operationalization of the continent’s development strategies and initiatives, such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Development of the Strategy’s implementation plan and coordination mechanism was ongoing, and the IAPSC representative offered to share the strategic document with the TC-RPPO, the IPPC and all stakeholders once it was approved. The representative also highlighted other initiatives in the continent, such as the pest outbreak alert and response system within the FAO Subregional Office for Eastern Africa, whose ministerial conference for East African Member States was scheduled for 2023. The representative also outlined phytosanitary initiatives that the IPPC may wish to support in the Africa region.
- [23] The chairperson welcomed the offer for the sharing of strategic documents, which would be beneficial to TC-RPPO members.
- [24] One participant suggested creating a mechanism to communicate on RPPO webinars, as it was noted that all RPPOs delivered webinars and the webinars had the potential to be of interest to other RPPOs.

A number of participants expressed their support for the idea, with a number of participants proposing to broaden the scope of the mechanism to also include in-person meetings of interest to other RPPOs.

- [25] One participant said that the recent annual meeting of NAPPO covered topics that may be of interest to RPPOs, including climate change, and recordings were available online.<sup>2</sup>
- [26] The chairperson said that communication was an important activity for the IPPC, and RPPOs had an important role to play therein. RPPO experience with communication could also be shared to improve the IPPC communication strategy.

## 5.2 Draft agenda items for the 35th TC-RPPO meeting (2023)

- [27] One representative suggested an agenda item on the templates for collaboration among RPPOs and an agenda item on the mechanism to communicate on webinars and other meetings so that the documents could be discussed.
- [28] A representative suggested agenda items to discuss the proposals from the POARS summary document, notably items related to communication. One participant supported the idea, noting that the POARS group will have been held by the next TC-RPPO meeting where the TC-RPPO representative to POARS could present TC-RPPO points of view and develop better communication pathways between the two groups.
- [29] A representative suggested an agenda item on the revision of documents related to the Strategic Framework 2020–2030 development agenda items, as work for the items would be ongoing. As implementation of the items was happening in stages; those items that were moving forward and had information on their implementation should be considered at the next TC-RPPO. A number of participants agreed to include that on the agenda. The chairperson suggested that the secretariat could present a brief update on the activities underway for development agenda items.
- [30] The chairperson said that updates from RPPO representatives in various groups should be a standing agenda item for the TC-RPPO.
- [31] The chairperson said that there would be the opportunity to further refine the agenda items when participants met for CPM-17 in March 2023.

## 5.3 Election of new chairperson and the selection of possible date and location for the Thirty-Fifth TC-RPPOs

- [32] The secretariat said that the Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) was due to chair the 35th TC-RPPO. The secretariat said that the Executive Secretary of APPPC, Yubak Dhoj G.C., had asked to decline the chair of the 35th TC-RPPO.
- [33] The next RPPO in the rotation was Regional International Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health (OIRSA). The OIRSA representative said that it was currently in the process of selecting a new director, and would not be able to chair the 35th TC-RPPO.
- [34] The subsequent RPPO in the rotation was NAPPO. The NAPPO representative said that NAPPO was happy to accept the chair of the 35th TC-RPPO. The representative would report back to the group with date and location arrangements for that meeting.
- [35] The NAPPO representative suggested that COSAVE present the TC-RPPO report to CPM-17 (2023) and chair the side session there, after which NAPPO would assume the chair. COSAVE suggested to jointly chair the CPM side session meeting with NAPPO. Participants agreed to that arrangement.

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<sup>2</sup> Available at: <https://nappo.org/english/45th-NAPPO-Annual-Meeting>.

[36] One participant said that the terms of reference and rules of procedure of the TC-RPPO had been revised in 2021, opened for a formal consultation process in October 2021, and approved by the 33rd TC-RPPO (2021), although it had never been presented to CPM to note.

[37] The TC-RPPO:

- (5) *Asked* the secretariat to update the document *TC-RPPO Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons* to reflect tenures from 2021 and 2022;<sup>3</sup>
- (6) *Asked* the secretariat to seek formal confirmation from OIRSA that it would not chair the 35th TC-RPPO;
- (7) *Asked* the secretariat to update the document *Terms of Reference of TC-RPPOs*<sup>4</sup> on the IPPC website to the version that had been approved;
- (8) *Asked* the secretariat to book a meeting room in Rome during CPM-17 (2023) for the TC-RPPO side session to set the agenda for the 35th TC-RPPO;
- (9) *Asked* the secretariat to plan for a virtual meeting of TC-RPPO in advance of CPM-17 (2023) to determine if there were any issues that TC-RPPO wanted to raise at the CPM meeting.

#### **5.4 Invitations to face-to-face TC-RPPOs meetings be sent, in the first instance, to the appropriate managers of RPPO representatives, with a few weeks advance notice.**

[38] Discussion on this item was deferred to the TC-RPPO meeting on the sidelines of CPM-17 (2023).

### **6. Any other business**

[39] The chairperson noted that there had been no presentation by IAPSC or by the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA) at the preceding TC-RPPO meeting. The chairperson took note of the offer by IAPSC to deliver a presentation on Africa to the TC-RPPO. The CAHFSA representative said that they would follow up on its contribution.

### **7. Close of the meeting**

[40] The chairperson thanked the participants for their contributions and the secretariat closed the meeting.

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<sup>3</sup> Available at: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/89641/>.

<sup>4</sup> Available at: [https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2020/09/TOR\\_including\\_ROP\\_for\\_TC-RPPO\\_2020-09-07\\_rgF371A.pdf](https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2020/09/TOR_including_ROP_for_TC-RPPO_2020-09-07_rgF371A.pdf)



**Appendix 1: Agenda**

**34TH TECHNICAL CONSULTATION AMONG  
REGIONAL PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS  
4TH SESSION  
VIRTUAL MEETING**

Agenda Item		Document No.	Presenter
7 November (Virtual meeting) – 14:00 to 16:30 CET			
<b>1.</b>	<b>Opening of the meeting</b>		
1.1	Welcome by the IPPC Secretariat		John GILMORE <i>IPPC Secretariat</i>
1.2	Welcome by the TC-RPPO Chairperson		Diego QUIROGA <i>Chairperson</i>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Meeting arrangements</b>		
2.1	Selection of the rapporteur		Diego QUIROGA <i>Chairperson</i>
2.2	Adoption of the agenda	VM01_01_TC-RPPO_2022_Nov	Diego QUIROGA <i>Chairperson</i>
2.3	Introduction of the participants		Participants
<b>3.</b>	<b>Administrative matters</b>		
3.1	Document list	VM01_02_TC-RPPO_2022_Nov	John GILMORE <i>IPPC Secretariat</i>
3.2	Participant list	VM01_03_TC-RPPO_2022_Nov	John GILMORE <i>IPPC Secretariat</i>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Updates</b>		Diego QUIROGA <i>Chairperson</i>
4.1	RPPO representative for POARS Steering Group		Diego QUIROGA <i>Chairperson</i>
4.2	RPPO representative for the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC)		Diego QUIROGA <i>Chairperson</i>
4.3	Outcome and next steps of SPG discussions on document concerning the roles of RPPO in the POARS ( <a href="#">link</a> ) and other Development Agendas of the IPPC Strategic Framework		Stephanie BLOEM
4.4	SPG Updates on Implementing the Strategic Framework Development Agenda Items (SFDAs) – Next steps	VM01_04_TC-RPPO_2022_Nov VM01_05_TC-RPPO_2022_Nov	Diego QUIROGA <i>Chairperson</i>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Future plans</b>		
5.1	Collaboration among RPPOs – summary of identified pests or phytosanitary actions where all RPPOs can work together (for example, khapra beetle)		Diego QUIROGA <i>Chairperson</i>
5.2	Draft agenda items for the 35th TC-RPPO meeting (2023)		All
5.3	Election of new chairperson and the selection of possible date and location for the Thirty-Fifth TC-RPPOs		All

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5.4	Invitations to face-to-face TC-RPPOs meetings be sent, in the first instance, to the appropriate managers of RPPO representatives, with a few weeks advance notice.		
6.	<b>Any other business</b>		Diego QUIROGA <i>Chairperson</i>
7.	<b>Close of the meeting</b>		Diego QUIROGA <i>Chairperson</i>

**Appendix 2: Document list**

<b>DOCUMENT NO.</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>DOCUMENT TITLE</b>	<b>DATE POSTED / DISTRIBUTED</b>
VM01_01_TC-RPPO_2022_Oct	2.2	Agenda	2022-09-25
VM01_02_TC-RPPO_2022_Oct	3.1	Documents List	2022-10-25
VM01_03_TC-RPPO_2022_Oct	3.2	Participants List	2022-10-25
VM01_04_TC-RPPO_2022_oct	4.4	Change – Roadmap for the regional implementation of the agenda	2022-10-25
VM01_05_TC-RPPO_2022_oct	4.4	SFDAI SPG Report	2022-10-25

### Appendix 3: Participant list

A check (✓) in column 1 indicates confirmed attendance at the meeting.

	Region/Role	Name, Organization, Address, Telephone	E-mail address
<b>RPPO representatives</b>			
	Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC)	<b>Yubak Dhoj G. C.</b> Senior Agricultural Officer (Plant Protection) FAO Regional Office for Asia (RAP) 39 Phra Atit Road Bangkok 10200, Thailand Tel: (+66) 2974268 Mobile: (+66) 858758784 Fax: (+66) 2 6974445	yubak.gc@fao.org yubak.gc@yahoo.com
	APPPC	<b>Kyu-Ock YIM</b> Senior Researcher- Export Management Division Dept. of Plant Quarantine Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Republic of Korea Tel: (+82) 82-54-912-0627	koyim@korea.kr
✓	Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSa)	<b>Jolanda Verwey</b> Plant Health Specialist Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSa) Letitia Vriesdelaan #10 Paramaribo, Suriname Tel: (+597) 422 546	rppo.secretariat@cahfsa.org
	Comunidad Andina (CAN)	<b>Katty Rojas Quiroga</b> Responsable especialista en sanidad vegetal	krojas@comunidadandina.org
	CAN	<b>Ronald Becerra Corredor</b> Especialista en sanidad vegetal	rbecerra@comunidadandina.org
✓	Comité de Sanidad Vegetal del Cono Sur (COSAVE)	<b>Melisa NEDILSKYJ</b> Dirección Nacional de Protección Vegetal Servicio Nacional de Sanidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria (SENASA) Secretaria de Coordinación del COSAVE 2022-2024 Venezuela 162, CABA, Buenos Aires, Argentina Tel: (+54) 011 4121 5000 (int 6040)	secretaria_coordinacion@cosave.org cosave@cosave.org
✓	COSAVE (Chairperson)	<b>Diego QUIROGA</b> Director Nacional de Protección Vegetal Servicio Nacional de Sanidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria (SENASA) Presidente del Comité Directivo del COSAVE 2022-2024 Venezuela 162, CABA, Buenos Aires Tel: (+54) 011 4121 5000 (int 6040)	dquiroga@senasa.gob.ar cosave@cosave.org

✓	European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO)	<b>Nico M. HORN</b> Director-General of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO/OEPP) 21 boulevard Richard Lenoir 75011 Paris, France Tel: (+33) 1 45 20 77 94	nico.horn@epo.int
✓	Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC)	<b>Jean Gérard MEZUI M'ELLA</b> Director of Interafrican Phytosanitary Council of African Union African-Union Interafrican Phytosanitary Council / Conseil Phytosanitaire Interafricain de l'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 jeangerardmezumella@gmail.com
✓	IAPSC	<b>Luiza MUNYUA</b> Senior Scientific Officer African Union Inter-African Phytosanitary Council P.O.Box 4170 Nlongkak, Yaoundé, Cameroon Tel: (+237) 222 21 19 69, (+237) 678010935, (+254) 733802041 Fax: (+237) 222 21 19 67	MunyuaL@africa-union.org
✓	IAPSC	<b>Maryben CHIATOH</b>	
✓	IAPSC	<b>Sandrine BAYENDI LOUDIT</b>	Bayendiloudi@africa-union.org
✓	IAPSC	<b>Flaubert Nana SANI</b>	
✓	North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO)	<b>Stephanie BLOEM</b> Executive Director North American Plant Protection Organization Secretariat 1730 Varsity Drive, Suite 145, Raleigh, North Carolina 27606 United States of America Tel: (+1) 919 617 4040 Mobile: (+1) 919 480 4761	stephanie.bloem@nappo.org tita.bloem@gmail.com
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✓	OIRSA	<b>Xavier EUCEDA</b>	

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<b>Other participants</b>			
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✓	IPPC Secretariat	<b>Mr Maki IIZUKA</b> Agricultural Officer	Maki.Iizuka@fao.org
✓	IPPC Secretariat	<b>Ms Natalie NICORA</b> Integration and Support Team Assistant	Natalie.Nicora@fao.org