



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



International
Plant Protection
Convention

REPORT

**TRANSITION FROM 34th TO
35th TECHNICAL
CONSULTATION AMONG
RPPOS**

27 March 2023
Rome, Italy

IPPC Secretariat

Required citation

IPPC Secretariat. 2023 TRANSITION from 34th to 35th *Technical Consultation among RPPOS* 27 March 2023

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by FAO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.

The views expressed in this information product are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of FAO.

© FAO, 2023



Some rights reserved. This work is made available under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 IGO licence (CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO; <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/igo/legalcode/legalcode>).

Under the terms of this licence, this work may be copied, redistributed and adapted for non-commercial purposes, provided that the work is appropriately cited. In any use of this work, there should be no suggestion that FAO endorses any specific organization, products or services. The use of the FAO logo is not permitted. If the work is adapted, then it must be licensed under the same or equivalent Creative Commons licence. If a translation of this work is created, it must include the following disclaimer along with the required citation: "This translation was not created by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). FAO is not responsible for the content or accuracy of this translation. The original English edition shall be the authoritative edition. Disputes arising under the licence that cannot be settled amicably will be resolved by mediation and arbitration as described in Article 8 of the licence except as otherwise provided herein. The applicable mediation rules will be the mediation rules of the World Intellectual Property Organization <http://www.wipo.int/amc/en/mediation/rules> and any arbitration will be conducted in accordance with the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).

Third-party materials. Users wishing to reuse material from this work that is attributed to a third party, such as tables, figures or images, are responsible for determining whether permission is needed for that reuse and for obtaining permission from the copyright holder. The risk of claims resulting from infringement of any third-party-owned component in the work rests solely with the user.

Sales, rights and licensing. FAO information products are available on the FAO website (www.fao.org/publications) and can be purchased through publications-sales@fao.org. Requests for commercial use should be submitted via: www.fao.org/contact-us/licence-request. Queries regarding rights and licensing should be submitted to: copyright@fao.org

Contents

1. Opening of the meeting.....	4
1.1 Welcome by the IPPC Secretariat	4
1.2 Welcome by the TC-RPPO Chairperson.....	5
2. Meeting arrangements	5
2.1 Selection of the rapporteur	5
2.2 Adoption of the agenda	5
2.3 Introduction of the participants	5
3. Administrative matters.....	5
3.1 Document list	5
3.2 Participant list.....	5
4. Strategic issues	5
4.1 Change in management for all RPPOs.....	5
4.2 Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedures (TORs and ROPs).....	5
5. Technical issues.....	6
5.1 Comments on draft templates for communication of regional events and for collaboration regarding pests of interests.....	6
5.2 Commodity Standards (Annexes to ISPM 46) Regional proposals (Call for topics, procedures, commodities).....	7
5.3 Invitation for the 35th face-to-face TC-RPPO meeting	7
5.4 IPPC logistics/responsibilities for the 35th TC-RPPO.....	7
6. Future plans.....	8
7. Any other business	8
8. Close of the Meeting	8
Appendix 1: Agenda	9
Appendix 2: Documents List	10
Appendix 3: Participants List.....	11

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 transition of the 34th meeting of the Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations (TC-RPPO) to the 35th TC-RPPO.
- [2] Osama EL-LISSY, IPPC Secretary, thanked Diego QUIROGA, the outgoing chairperson of the TC-RPPO, for his wisdom and insight during his tenure. The Secretary welcomed incoming TC-RPPO chairperson, Stephanie BLOEM, and said he looked forward to working together to advance the work plan of the TC-RPPO.
- [3] Recalling the challenging three years of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Secretary welcomed all members to Rome for the first in-person Seventeenth Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-17). The IPPC Secretary also thanked the other members of the TC-RPPO for their time, expertise and important contributions to fulfilling the mission of the IPPC to preserve food security and facilitate safe trade.
- [4] The Secretary spoke about crop loss of 40% or more in some regions due to plant pests, while in Africa it is 50-60% higher in some regions before harvest. The estimated worldwide loss is greater than \$220 billion US dollars which coincide with an alarming 820 million hungry people worldwide.
- [5] Mr El-Lissy noted that RPPOs provide a unique platform to share knowledge and information. He thanked everyone for their work and reiterated that the RPPOs could count on the IPPC Secretariat for support.
- [6] Regarding the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) request to become a regional plant protection organization (RPPO), the Secretary informed of meetings held in June 2022 at FAO headquarters in Rome. The meeting concluded with the Secretary, ECOWAS, the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC), the African Union, the CPM Chairperson and the secretariat with a tentative agreement to develop an African Phytosanitary Programme (APP) that would allay ECOWAS concerns that had prompted it to pursue the establishment of an RPPO. Stipulated in the agreement was that the secretariat would engage with the ECOWAS Commission and the African Union Commission to develop the programme. While engagement with the ECOWAS Commission was still pending, the African Union Commissioner was supportive of the APP, and said that it could be used to deliver the Plant Health Strategy for Africa that had been agreed upon by all 54 African Union member countries in 2022. The African Union agreed with the secretariat to form a partnership to further the development and implementation of the APP.
- [7] The Secretary stated that the African Union Commission did not support the ECOWAS request to establish an RPPO separate from IAPSC, and added that the matter was one to be resolved between ECOWAS and the African Union internally and that the matter should not be brought before the CPM until the parties had resolved their differences. One member thanked the secretariat for its efforts to dialogue with the parties. The members said that the TC-RPPO had been tasked with determining if ECOWAS met the criteria for RPPO membership, which it did. They said that ECOWAS would be welcomed as a future RPPO, should that be the outcome of ECOWAS–African Union discussions.
- [8] The representative from EPPPO said that ECOWAS meets all minimum requirements and actual functions needed for an RPPO and that nine RPPOs had agreed in previous meetings that ECOWAS met the criteria to be a new RPPO.
- [9] The chairperson noted that an additional RPPO could be beneficial to deepening cooperation and coordination among countries, such as in South America.

[10] On the question of an agenda item at CPM-17 for the issue of an ECOWAS RPPO, the Secretary said that the preference of the CPM Chairperson was to address the issue in the Secretary's Report in CPM17.

The Secretary thanked the *Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria* (OIRSA) and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for their prompt reporting of a *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* tropical race 4 (TR4) outbreak. Working with the national plant protection organization (NPPO) and other stakeholders, FAO and the IPPC could quickly send a team and resources to learn about the outbreak and its challenges. The chairperson said that *Fusarium* TR4 was a pest of major concern for the Americas and welcomed the support of FAO and the IPPC to address the outbreak.

The Secretary noted that the 35th meeting of the TC-RPPO could convene in Colombia in October or November 2023, and said that the secretariat was ready to provide the necessary support to ensure that the meeting was a success.

[11] The TC-RPPO:

- (1) *Asked* the IPPC Secretary to note in his report to CPM-17 the support of RPPOs to the ECOWAS request to establish an RPPO.

1.2 Welcome by the TC-RPPO Chairperson

[12] Diego QUIROGA, President of the Comité de Sanidad Vegetal del Cono Sur (COSAVE) and chairperson of the 34th meeting of the TC-RPPO, welcomed all participants to the meeting.

2. Meeting arrangements

2.1 Selection of the rapporteur

[13] CAHFSA representative Juliet GOLDSMITH volunteered to be the rapporteur for the meeting.

2.2 Adoption of the agenda

[14] NAPPO moved to adopt the agenda as presented in Appendix 1 of the present report.

2.3 Introduction of the participants

[15] The secretariat welcomed guests from the Standards Committee and the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee.

3. Administrative matters

3.1 Document list

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

3.2 Participant list

[17] The participants in attendance are listed in Appendix 3.

4. Strategic issues

4.1 Change in management for all RPPOs

[18] OIRSA said Raul Rodas was recently confirmed to be the Executive Director for OIRSA.

4.2 Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedures (TORs and ROPs)

[19] NAPPO gave a background on the TOR revision by four RPPOs, and noted that it added clarity. Everyone was encouraged to see the TC-RPPO link on the IPP and read the TOR and ROP. The chairperson said that the role of RPPOs in supporting the TORs was an important issue for the TC-

RPPO. The incoming chairperson noted that a Spanish translation of the TORs for some RPPOs would be added to the agenda of the 35th meeting of the TC-RPPO for further updates and discussion on the matter.

- [20] The TC-RPPO added that CPM17 will be asked to note the TC-RPPO report with a reference to the revised TOR.
- [21] NAPPO indicated that it had offered to Chair the 35th TC-RPPO as the RPPO that should be the next Chair based on the alphabetical rotation was not ready at this time. NAPPO asked if either APPPC or OIRSA would be Vice-Chair. APPPC is next in line, but declined, suggesting that OIRSA be the Vice-Chair for the 35th TC-RPPO.
- [22] The chairperson said that COSAVE was preparing a Spanish translation of the e-learning course on phytosanitary inspection.

The TC-RPPO

(2) *asked* the secretariat for a volunteer to translate the TOR and ROP.

5. Technical issues

5.1 Comments on draft templates for communication of regional events and for collaboration regarding pests of interests

- [23] The draft template for collaboration regarding pests of interest would allow information to be shared on pests that are of interest to three or more RPPOs. One member asked if the draft template was intended to share detailed, country-specific information, which might be difficult for some RPPOs to collect. The COSAVE representative clarified that the intent was to share general information on pests as a first step; if RPPOs needed additional details, they could follow up directly.
- [24] The templates align with Article XX to be a technical assistance tool to evaluate regional pests. The contracting parties agree to promote the provision of technical assistance to contracting parties, especially those that are developing contracting parties, either bilaterally or through the appropriate international organizations.
- [25] The intent was to collect the information on regional pests of interest following each meeting of the TC-RPPO to identify those that are of interest to multiple RPPOs and may include forest pests.
- [26] The draft template for communication of regional events was designed to share information on events, webinars and workshops that could be of interest across regions. One member said it would be beneficial if the form included an open-ended option to indicate eligibility to participate in the event. Another member said it would be beneficial if the form indicated whether the outcomes of the event would be publicly available. While another member commented that the document could be shared with RPPOs every three months. EPPO suggested the templates be in word doc to propose comments and track change in the texts. The templates have great expectations as an internal document to record events and report information.

The TC-RPPO was invited to make suggestions to improve the draft templates in order to get more input from other RPPOs agree on final versions in its forthcoming meeting.

5.2 Commodity Standards (Annexes to ISPM 46) Regional proposals (Call for topics, procedures, commodities)

- [27] Proposals from the Strategic Framework Development Agenda Item on commodity standards is open for discussion inside the region.
- [28] NEPPO said there is a range of commodities proposals with a call for topics, i.e. the mango was the first commodity with a look ahead to other fruits, cut flower roses, specific seed, etc. it is important to get a commodity topic to share ideas in email between the RPPOs.
- [29] COSAVE recommended regions be more aggressive in the call for topics for commodity standards. Moving beyond mangoes, how to ask for more products? Suggestion that a call for commodities remain open just like the call for treatments is open and request for how to develop commodity standards from a long list of products could go through the technical panel.
- [30] The TC-RPPO is a good conduit to propose topics and to coordinate the list of commodities and it is better to have a closed deadline versus an open deadline for commodities.

5.3 Invitation for the 35th face-to-face TC-RPPO meeting

- [31] The secretariat said the TC-RPPO date for the 35th meeting of the TC-RPPO (week of 23 October 2023) and will send out the formal invitation. Stephanie BLOEM, chairperson of the 35th meeting of the TC-RPPO, said that NAPPO was honoured to take over the chair of the TC-RPPO from COSAVE and had the pleasure of hosting the first face-to-face meeting since the group met in 2019 in Abuja, Nigeria. However, as security and visa concerns created complications to host the meeting in a NAPPO member country, the 35th meeting would instead take place in Bogotá, Colombia. NAPPO was currently working with the secretariat to plan the agenda for the meeting which will include a technical visit, a reception and the IPPC observatory.
- [32] NAPPO said it was planning a presentation on the history and importance of the TC-RPPO to benefit new members and to outline expectations on what RPPOs should contribute to TC-RPPO meetings.
- [33] The secretariat said that it had received requests for travel funding from two RPPOs. He noted that travel funding requests could not be made by FAO employees or by people whose funding came wholly from FAO regional or subregional offices. If any additional RPPOs required travel-funding support, they were encouraged to submit their request as soon as possible.
- [34] The APPPC asked the secretariat to send the invite to the APPPC Director with a copy to Mr. YUBAK for travel authorization to the TC-RPPO meeting in Bogota.
- [35] NAPPO said that it looked forward to the meeting and hoped that all ten RPPOs would be in attendance. IPPC Secretary, Osama EL-LISSY, and the incoming CPM Chairperson would endeavour to attend to provide updates on IPPC and CPM issues.

5.4 IPPC logistics/responsibilities for the 35th TC-RPPO

- [36] The TC-RPPO:
- (2) *Asked* the secretariat to coordinate with NAPPO representatives on the diplomatic notes and formal communications that would need to be sent with regard to the 35th meeting of the TC-RPPO.
 - (3) *Cited* the secretariat is responsible for the report writing and will support the translation of the TOR into Spanish.

6. Future plans

[37] No other business was raised.

7. Any other business

Members thanked Diego QUIROGA for chairing the 34th meeting of the TC-RPPO. The chairperson thanked the participants for their contributions and said he looked forward to seeing members in person at the 35th meeting. The secretariat then closed the meeting.

8. Close of the Meeting

Appendix 1: Agenda

	Agenda Item	Document	Presenter
1.	Opening of the Meeting		
1.1	Welcome by the IPPC Secretariat		Secretary (El Lissy)
1.2	Welcome by the outgoing TC-RPPO Chairperson		Chair – COSAVE (Quiroga)
2.	Meeting Arrangements		
2.1	Election of the Rapporteur		Chair – COSAVE (Quiroga)
2.2	Adoption of the Agenda	01_TC-RPPO_2023_CPM17	Chair – COSAVE (Quiroga)
2.3	Introduction of the participants		Participants
3.	Administrative Matters		
3.1	Documents list	02_TC-RPPO_2023_CPM17	Secretariat - Gilmore
3.2	Participants list	03_TC-RPPO_2023_CPM17	Secretariat - Gilmore
4.	Strategic Issues		
4.1	Changes in management for all RPPOs		Chair – COSAVE (Quiroga)/ All RPPOs
4.2	Terms of Reference and rules of procedure of the technical consultation among regional plant protection organizations	LINK	COSAVE (Quiroga), NAPPO (Bloem)
5.	Technical issues		
5.1	Comments on Draft templates for communication of regional events and for collaboration regarding pests of interest	VM01_04_TC-RPPO_2023_27_MarchCPM17 VM01_05_TC-RPPO_2023_27_MarchCPM17	All RPPOs
5.2	Commodity Standards (Annexes to ISPM 46) – Regional proposals (Call for topics, procedures, commodities)		All RPPOs
6.	Future plans		
6.1	Transition of the TC-RPPO Chair		COSAVE (Quiroga), NAPPO (Bloem)
6.2	35 th TC-RPPO Draft Agenda – for comment/discussion by RPPOs	06_TC-RPPO_2023_CPM17	NAPPO (Bloem)
6.3	Arrangements for the 35th face to face meeting.		Secretariat - NAPPO (Bloem)
6.4	IPPC logistics/responsibilities and timelines for the 35 th TC-RPPO		Secretariat - Gilmore
7.	Any other business		Participants
8.	Close of the Meeting		Chair - NAPPO (Bloem)

Appendix 2: Documents List

DOCUMENT NO.	AGENDA ITEM	DOCUMENT TITLE (PREPARED BY)	DATE POSTED / DISTRIBUTED
01_TC-RPPO_2023_Mar_CPM17	2.2	Agenda	2023-03-16
02_TC-RPPO_2023_Mar_CPM17	3.1	Documents List	2023-03-23
03_TC-RPPO_2023_Mar_CPM17	3.2	Participants List	2023-03-23
VM05_04_TC-RPPO_2023_Mar_CPM17	5.1	Communication between RPPOs about phytosanitary regional events	2023-03-10
VM05_05_TC-RPPO_2023_Mar_CPM17	5.1	Sharing information about pests of interest	2023-03-10
06_TC-RPPO_2023_Mar_CPM17_Draft 35TCRPPO_Agenda	6.2	Draft Agenda 35 th TC-RPPO	2023_03_23

Appendix 3: Participants List

**TRANSITION FROM 34TH TO 35TH TECHNICAL CONSULTATION AMONG
RPPOS
CPM-17 SESSION**

Start: 12:00 – 13:30 (Rome time), March 27, 2023

PARTICIPANTS LIST

List of members attending the meeting. ✓

(Updated 2023-04-14)

Present	Region/ Role	Name, mailing, address, telephone	Email address
	Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC)	MS Sandrine Mariella Bayendi Loudit 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	Bayendiloudi@africa-union.org
	Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC)	Ms Luiza MUNYUA 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	Munyual@africa-union.org;
	Near East Plant Protection Organisation (NEPPO)	Mr Mohamed Habib BEN JAMAA Executive Director Near East Plant Protection Organisation (NEPPO) NEPPO Batiment C de l'INRA, Angle des Avenues Ibn Al Ouazzani et Hassan II. Rabat. Morocco Tel:+212 537 704 810 Mobile: + 212 673 997 808 Fax:+212 537 7087 63	hq.neppo@gmail.com; neppo2023@gmail.com
✓	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

Present	Region/ Role	Name, mailing, address, telephone	Email address
✓	European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO)	Mr Nico M. HORN Director-General European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO/OEPP) 21 boulevard Richard Lenoir 75011 FRANCE Tel:+ 33 (0) 1 45 20 77 94	nico.horn@epo.int
	Comunidad Andina (CAN)	Ms Katty Rojas Quiroga RESPONSABLE ESPECIALISTA EN SANIDAD VEGETAL Avenida Paseo de la Republica 3895, San Isidro, Lima, Perú	krojas@comunidadandina.org;
	Comunidad Andina (CAN)	Mr Ronald Becerra Corredor ESPECIALISTA EN SANIDAD VEGETAL Avenida Paseo de la Republica 3895, San Isidro, Lima, Perú	rbecerra@comunidadandina.org
✓	Comite de Sanidad Vegetal del Cono Sur (COSAVE)	Mr Diego Quiroga Director General de Sanidad Vegetal, del Servicio Nacional de Sanidad Agraria (SENASA) -Presidente del Comité Directivo del COSAVE 2022-2024	dquiroga@senasa.gob.ar; secretaria_coordinacion@cosave.org; mnedilsk@senasa.gob.ar
✓	Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA)	Mr Oscar Zelaya standing in for Raul Rodas Technical Director OIRSA Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria OIRSA Edificio OIRSA Calle Ramón Belloso, final pasaje Isolde Colonia Escalón, San Salvador Apdo. Postal (01) 61, San Salvador El Salvador Tel:+503 2263 1127 Mobile:+503 7737 9999 Fax:+503 2263 1128	dejecutiva@oirsa.org; rrodas@oirsa.org ozelaya@oirsa.org; svegetal@oirsa.org;
✓	Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA)	Mr Carlos Urias Executive Director OIRSA Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria OIRSA Edificio OIRSA Calle Ramón Belloso, final pasaje Isolde Colonia Escalón, San Salvador Apdo. Postal (01) 61, San Salvador El Salvador Tel:+503 2263 1127 Mobile:+503 7737 9999 Fax:+503 2263 1128	dejecutiva@oirsa.org; ozelaya@oirsa.org; svegetal@oirsa.org;
✓	Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA)	Ms Juliet Goldsmith Plant Health Specialist Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA) Letitia Vriesdelaan #10 Paramaribo, Suriname Tel:+ 597 422 546 Mobile:+ 597-725-2922	juliet.goldsmith@cahfsa.org; rppo.secretariat@cahfsa.org

Present	Region/ Role	Name, mailing, address, telephone	Email address
✓	North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO)	Ms Stephanie BLOEM Executive Director North American Plant Protection Organization Secretariat 1730 Varsity Drive, Suite 145, Raleigh, North Carolina 27606 United States of America Tel:+ 919 617 4040 Mobile:+ 919 480 4761	stephanie.bloem@nappo.org; tita.bloem@gmail.com;
	Pacific Plant Protection Organisation (PPPO)	Mr Visoni TIMOTE Executive Secretary Pacific Plant Protection Organisation (PPPO) Pacific Community (SPC) Pacific Community, Land Resources Division, Private Mail Bag ,Suva, Fiji Tel:(+679) 337 9220 or (+679) 337 0733 Ext:35220 Mobile:(+679) 863 3542 Fax: (+679) 337 0021	visonit@spc.int; timotev@gmail.com;
✓	COSAVE	Ms Melisa Nedlilskyj	secretaria_tecnica@cosave.org; mnedilsk@senasa.gob.ar;
✓	NAPPO	Ms Maribel Hurtado	maribel.hurtado@nappo.org;
✓	NAPPO	Mr Alonso Suazo	alonso.suazo@nappo.org;
✓	NAPPO	Mr Steve Cote	Steve.Cote@inspection.gc.ca;
✓	NAPPO	Mr Dominique Pelletier	dominique.pelletier2@canada.ca;
✓	PPPO	Ms Sophie Peterson	sophie.peterson@awe.gov.au;
✓	IPPC Secretariat	Mr Osama El Lissy Secretary	Osama.ElLissy@fao.org;
✓	IPPC Secretariat	Mr John Gilmore Agricultural Foreign Service Officer	John.Gilmore@fao.org;
✓	IPPC Secretariat	Ms Maki Izuka Integration and Support Team	Maki.Izuka@fao.org;