



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



International  
Plant Protection  
Convention

## **REPORT**

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

**Session 5  
Virtual Meeting  
14 March 2023**

**IPPC Secretariat**

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## 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 fifth session of the 34th meeting of the Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations (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. 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.
- [3] The Secretary said that he looked forward to welcoming all members to the forthcoming Seventeenth Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-17), the first in-person session since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- [4] Regarding the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) request to become a regional plant protection organization (RPPO), the Secretary said that, following meetings held in June 2022 at FAO headquarters in Rome with ECOWAS, the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC), the African Union, the CPM Chairperson and the secretariat, a tentative agreement had been reached 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 very supportive of the APP, and said that it could be used to deliver the Plant Health Strategy for Africa that had been adopted by all 54 African Union member countries in 2022. The African Union had asked the secretariat to form a partnership to further the development and implementation of the APP.
- [5] The Secretary clarified that the African Union Commission did not support the ECOWAS request to establish a 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, and said that ECOWAS would be welcomed as a future RPPO, should that be the outcome of ECOWAS–African Union discussions.
- [6] The representative from EPPPO said that ECOWAS meets all minimum requirements and actual functions that are needed for an RPPO and that nine RPPOs had agreed in previous meetings that ECOWAS met the criteria to be a new RPPO. The chairperson noted that additional an RPPO could be beneficial to deepening cooperation and coordination among countries.
- [7] 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.
- [8] 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 were quickly able to mobilize a team and resources to help contain, suppress and deal with the outbreak in the most effective way. 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.

[9] The Secretary noted that the 35th meeting of the TC-RPPO was planned 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.

[10] 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**

[11] 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**

[12] COSAVE representative Melisa NEDILSKYJ volunteered to be the rapporteur for the meeting.

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

[13] TC-RPPO members adopted the agenda as presented in Appendix 1 to the present report.

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

[14] The secretariat welcomed Mohamed Habib BEN JAMAA, the new Executive Director of the Near East Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO), to the TC-RPPO.

## **3. Administrative matters**

### **3.1 Document list**

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

### **3.2 Participant list**

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

## **4. Technical issues**

### **4.1 Draft templates for communication of regional events and for collaboration regarding pests of interest**

[17] A representative from COSAVE introduced a draft template for communication of regional events and a draft template for collaboration regarding pests of interests that their RPPO had prepared to address recurrent challenges faced by RPPOs.

[18] The draft template for collaboration regarding pests of interest would allow information to be shared on pest 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 representative said the intent was to share general information on pests as a first step; if RPPOs then needed additional details, they could follow up directly themselves.

[19] 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.

[20] 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 that 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.

- [21] The TC-RPPO was invited to make suggestions to improve the draft templates in order to agree on final versions in its forthcoming meeting.

## **4.2 FG update on the safe provision of food and other humanitarian aid**

- [22] Visoni TIMOTE, representative of the CPM Focus Group on the Safe Provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid, said that the group, which had been established by CPM-16 (2022), had met three times, including an in-person meeting from 6 to 10 February in Nadi, Fiji. Two additional meetings were planned in April and June 2023 to address the outcomes of the in-person meeting, including the group's terms of reference, the role of RPPOs in supporting the safe provision of food and other humanitarian aid and incorporating the safe movement of food and other humanitarian aid in the new IPPC communication strategy. The focus group also recommended including the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) as a member.
- [23] The chairperson welcomed the update from the focus group representative, and said that the role of RPPOs in supporting the safe provision of food and other humanitarian aid was an important issue for the TC-RPPO to consider. The incoming chairperson noted that an item would be added to the agenda of the 35th meeting of the TC-RPPO for further updates and discussion on the matter.

## **4.3 e-Learning courses available from the IPPC**

- [24] Stephanie BLOEM, RPPO representative on the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC), said that her tenure was ending after the forthcoming IC meeting in May 2023, and welcomed Melisa NEDILSKYJ from COSAVE, who would be the future RPPO representative to the IC. She said that the IC had developed resources to help countries improve their phytosanitary capacity. Among the resources were useful e-learning courses open to all on topics that might be of interest to RPPO member countries, including surveillance and national reporting obligations, pest risk analysis (PRA), export certification and inspection. Some courses were modular, giving participants the possibility of completing solely the modules of particular interest.
- [25] A number of members thanked Stephanie BLOEM for sharing the helpful e-learning resources, and were grateful of her work representing RPPOs on the IC.
- [26] The chairperson said that COSAVE was presently preparing a Spanish translation of the e-learning course on phytosanitary inspection.

## **5. Future plans**

### **5.1 Arrangements for the transition of the Chair – meeting on the margins of CPM-17**

- [27] The secretariat said that the Mexico Room (Room D211) had been reserved from 12:00 to 13:30 on 27 March 2023 for TC-RPPO members to meet.

### **5.2 Arrangements for the 35th face-to-face meeting**

- [28] 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. 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 for the meeting. The intent was to hold the meeting the week of 23 October 2023, with the exact number of days to be determined by the agenda, which would soon be set. A technical visit and a reception were also planned.
- [29] NAPPO said that it looked forward to the meeting and hoped that all ten RPPOs could 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.

[30] NAPPO said that it was planning a presentation on the history and importance of the TC-RPPO for the benefit of new members and to outline expectation on what RPPOs should contribute to TC-RPPO meetings.

[31] The secretariat said that it had received requests for travel funding from two RPPOs, and 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.

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

[32] The secretariat said that once the TC-RPPO agreed on the proposed date for the 35th meeting of the TC-RPPO (week of 23 October 2023), the secretariat would then proceed to send out the formal invitation.

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

[33] 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.

## **6. Any other business**

[34] No other business was raised.

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

[35] 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.



**Appendix 1: Agenda**

**34TH TECHNICAL CONSULTATION AMONG  
REGIONAL PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS  
5TH SESSION  
VIRTUAL MEETING**

Agenda Item	Document No.	Presenter
14 March 2023 (Virtual meeting) – 14:00 to 16:00 CET		
<b>1.</b>	<b>Opening of the meeting</b>	
1.1	Welcome by the IPPC Secretariat	Osama EL-LISSY <i>IPPC Secretary</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_2023_March 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_2023_March John GILMORE <i>IPPC Secretariat</i>
3.2	Participant list	VM01_03_TC-RPPO_2023_March John GILMORE <i>IPPC Secretariat</i>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Technical issues</b>	
4.1	Draft templates for communication of regional events and for collaboration regarding pests of interest	VM01_04_TC-RPPO_2023_March VM01_05_TC-RPPO_2023_March Diego QUIROGA <i>Chairperson</i>
4.2	FG update on the safe provision of food and other humanitarian aid	Visoni TIMOTE <i>Pacific Plant Protection Organization representative</i>
4.3	e-Learning courses available from the IPPC	Stephanie BLOEM <i>IC representative</i>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Future plans</b>	
5.1	Arrangements for the transition of the Chair – meeting on the margins of CPM-17	John GILMORE <i>IPPC Secretariat</i>
5.2	Arrangements for the 35th face-to-face meeting	John GILMORE <i>IPPC Secretariat</i> , Stephanie BLOEM <i>North American Plant Protection Organization representative</i>
5.3	Invitation for the 35th face to face TC-RPPO meeting	John GILMORE <i>IPPC Secretariat</i> , Stephanie BLOEM <i>North American Plant Protection Organization representative</i>

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5.4	IPPC logistics/responsibilities for the 35th TC-RPPO		John GILMORE <i>IPPC Secretariat</i>
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>AGEND A ITEM</b>	<b>DOCUMENT TITLE</b>	<b>DATE POSTED / DISTRIBUTED</b>
VM01_01_TC-RPPO_2023_Match	2.2	Agenda	2023-02-22
VM01_02_TC-RPPO_2023_Match	3.1	Documents list	2023-03-10
VM01_03_TC-RPPO_2023_Match	3.2	Participants list	2023-02-28
VM01_04_TC-RPPO_2023_Match	4.1	Communication between RPPOs about phytosanitary regional events	2023-03-10
VM01_05_TC-RPPO_2023_Match	4.1	Sharing information about pests of interest	2023-03-10

### 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
	Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA)	<b>Juliet GOLDSMITH</b> 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
✓	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 mnedilsk@senasa.gob.ar

✓	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 secretaria_coordinacion@ cosave.org
✓	European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO)	<b>Nico M. HORN</b> Director-General European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO/OEPP) 21 boulevard Richard Lenoir 75011 Paris, France Tel: (+33) 1 45 20 77 94	nico.horn@eppo.int
✓	Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC)	<b>Sandrine Mariella BAYENDI LOUDIT</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	Bayendiloudi@africa-union.org
	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
✓	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@napo.org tita.bloem@gmail.com
✓	NAPPO	<b>Maribel HURTADO</b>	
✓	Near East Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO)	<b>Mohamed Habib BEN JAMAA</b> Executive Director of NEPPO Bâtiment C de l'INRA, Angle des Avenues Ibn Al Ouazzane et Hassan II Rabat, Morocco Tel: +212673997808	hq.neppo@gmail.com; neppo2023@gmail.com

	Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA)	<b>Carlos URIAS</b> Executive Director of ORISA OIRSA, Edificio OIRSA, Calle Ramón Belloso, final pasaje Isolde Colonia Escalón, San Salvador Apdo. Postal (01) 61, San Salvador, El Salvador Tel: (+503) 6000 1680	dejecutiva@oirsa.org ozelaya@oirsa.org svegetal@oirsa.org
✓	PPPO	<b>Visoni TIMOTE</b> 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
<b>Other participants</b>			
✓	IPPC Secretariat	<b>Mr Osama EL-LISSY</b> IPPC Secretary	Osama.Ellissy@fao.org
✓	IPPC Secretariat	<b>Mr Arop DENG</b> Integration and Support Team Lead	Arop.Deng@fao.org
✓	IPPC Secretariat	<b>Mr John GILMORE</b> Agricultural Foreign Service Officer	John.Gilmore@fao.org
✓	IPPC Secretariat	<b>Ms Maki IIZUKA</b> Agricultural Officer	Maki.lizuka@fao.org