



SPG DISCUSSION PAPER

THE THIRTY-FIFTH TECHNICAL CONSULTATION AMONG REGIONAL PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS – 35TH TC-RPPO

(Prepared by NAPPO with input from COSAVE and EPPO)

Background

- [1] As stated in Article IX of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs) shall function as coordinating bodies for plant health within their regions, shall participate in various activities to achieve the objectives of this Convention and, where appropriate, shall gather and disseminate plant health information. Article IX also states that the IPPC Secretary convenes the annual Technical Consultation among RPPOs. The 35th TC-RPPO will take place in Bogotá, Colombia from Oct. 24-27, 2023. The Chair of the 35th TC-RPPO is NAPPO. The ten RPPOs with their dates of inception are below:

*The ten RPPOs**

- 1951 - EPPO** - European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization
- 1953 - OIRSA** - Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria
- 1956 - IAPSC** - Inter-African Phytosanitary Council
- 1956 - APPPC** - Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission
- 1969 - CAN** - Comunidad Andina
- 1976 - NAPPO** – North American Plant Protection Organization
- 1989 - COSAVE** - Comité de Sanidad Vegetal del Cono Sur
- 1994 - PPPO** - Pacific Plant Protection Organization
- 2012 - NEPPO** - Near East Plant Protection Organization
- 2017 - CAHFSa** – Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency

*Criteria for recognition adopted by ICPM-04 (2002).

Issue

- [2] In the last few years, several circumstances have affected the degree and ease of collaboration and coordination among the RPPOs and between the RPPOs and the IPPC Secretariat. For example, the COVID-19 pandemic prevented the RPPOs from holding face-to-face meetings, which always served as catalysts to revitalize and reenergize intra-regional collaboration. In addition, the unit within the IPPC Secretariat providing logistic support to the TC-RPPO changed a few years ago from the *Implementation and Facilitation Unit* to the *Integration and Support Team*. This change impacted continuity of knowledge and administrative processes. Also, several RPPOs have had recent changes in leadership; for example, APPPC, CAN, IAPSC, NEPPO and OIRSA. As a result, incoming RPPO Directors or Executive Secretaries may not have a clear idea on how their RPPO can engage with other RPPOs, on how their RPPO can contribute to the implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 or on how their participation in plant health related meetings, such as the Commission on Phytosanitary Measure (CPM), the Strategic Planning Group (SPG), the Standards (SC) and Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) meetings, may benefit their member

countries and their RPPO. Lastly, if the change in leadership occurred during the pandemic years, the incoming RPPO Directors or Executive Secretaries may not have had a chance to meet their RPPO counterparts in person.

- [3] While it is recognized that each of the ten RPPOs has their own unique structure, governance, and mission, *all RPPOs should abide by the provisions of Article IX of the IPPC*. To revitalize and reenergize this important and strategic global plant health network, the 35th TC-RPPO face-to-face meeting will have presentations (drafts attached) on the historical and current role of the RPPOs in shaping global plant health, on how they can (and are) contributing to the implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework Development Agenda Items and on how, as a group, they can improve their visibility to other plant health partners.

Reason for this paper

- [4] We wanted to share the agenda and draft presentations for the upcoming 35th TC-RPPOs with those attending the the upcoming SPG, as discussions on the role of RPPOs in supporting the Pest Outbreak Alert and Response System during the 2022 SPG meeting resulted in a suggestion by the SPG to develop a document on the basic functions of RPPOs. A draft of this new document, alongside all other documents and draft presentations available to guide the RPPOs, will be discussed at the meeting in Bogotá and are shared as Appendices to this paper.

- Appendix 1 –Agenda 35th TC-RPPO – *near final version*.
- Appendix 2 - Relationship between the RPPOs and the IPPC and role of RPPOs in shaping global plant health – *draft presentation*.
- Appendix 3 - Proposal - harmonizing RPPO information on the IPP – *draft presentation*.
- Appendix 4 –Basic responsibilities of an RPPO – *draft paper*.
- Appendix 5 - Role of RPPOs in implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework Development Agenda Items – *draft presentation*.

- [5] The SPG is requested to:

- (1) *Review, discuss, and comment* on the paper and its Appendices.
- (2) *Make* suggestions on other priority plant health issues that should be discussed at the 35th TC-RPPO meeting in Bogotá.
- (3) *Provide* additional suggestions on how to improve collaboration and coordination between the TC-RPPO with the IPPC Secretariat in order to better capitalize on the global network available through the RPPOs from around the world.