



REPORT

Thirty-fifth Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations

Bogotá, Colombia 24–27 October 2023

IPPC Secretariat

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Abbreviations and acronyms

APP African Phytosanitary Programme

APPC Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission

CAHFSA Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency

CAN Andean Community

COSAVE Southern Cone Plant Health Committee
CPM Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

CPM-18 Eighteenth Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

DP diagnostic protocol

EPPO European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization

ePhyto electronic phytosanitary certificate

FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GICSV Interamerican Coordinating Group in Plant Protection

IAPSC Inter-African Phytosanitary Council

IC Implementation and Capacity Development Committee

ICA Colombia Agricultural Institute
IDPH International Day of Plant Health

IICA Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

IPP International Phytosanitary Portal

ISPM International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures

NEPPO Near East Plant Protection Organization

NAPPO North American Plant Protection Organization

NPPO national plant protection organization

OCS Online Comment System

OIRSA Regional International Organization for Plant Protection and

Animal Health

POARS Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems

PPPO Pacific Plant Protection Organisation RPPO regional plant protection organization

SC Standards Committee SPG Strategic Planning Group

TC-RPPO Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations

TR4 Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. cubense Tropical Race 4

1. Opening of the meeting

1.1 Welcome by TC-RPPO chairperson

[1] The chairperson of the Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations (TC-RPPO), Stephanie BLOEM, Executive Director of the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO), opened the meeting and welcomed all participants.

1.2 Welcome remarks from Colombian dignitaries

- Juan Fernando ROA ORTIZ, Director of the Colombian Agricultural Institute (ICA), welcomed all participants to Colombia and said that the TC-RPPO played an important role in protecting plant resources because collaboration and interregional cooperation were essential to stopping pest threats as pests did not recognize borders. RPPOs were a platform to work together, share solutions and move forward with phytosanitary goals.
- Diego MORA GARCÍA, deputy representative of FAO in Colombia, noted that the TC-RPPO was being held for the first time ever in Colombia, and expressed his hope for a productive meeting. The TC-RPPO facilitated discussions on topics of global importance. As agriculture was crucial to food security, it was important to move to food systems that were more resilient and sustainable and to ensure that past gains in agricultural development were not lost to crises or threats. Risk management activities should be bolstered. In Colombia, the strong relationship between ICA, producers and research institutes had been critical for containing outbreaks of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* Tropical Race 4 (TR4). The FAO Country Office and the FAO Subregional Office for Mesoamerica were also part of the efforts to contain the threat of TR4 in Colombia, which was exposed to a high level of phytosanitary challenges due to its geographic position and status as an agricultural export producer.

1.3 Welcome by IPPC Secretariat

[4] A prerecorded message by IPPC Secretary Osama EL-LISSY welcomed all participants to the TC-RPPO, particularly new RPPO directors participating in their first TC-RPPO, Mohamed Habib BEN JAMÂA (Near East Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO)), Niassy SALIOU (Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC)) and Raúl RODAS (Regional International Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health (OIRSA)), and thanked Stephanie BLOEM for her leadership as chairperson of the 35th TC-RPPO. The Secretary underlined that the regional cooperation facilitated by RPPOs was vital to the work of the IPPC community to protect global plant resources and facilitate safe trade.

2. Meeting arrangements

2.1 Brief introductions

[5] All participants introduced themselves.

2.2 Selection of the rapporteur

[6] TC-RPPO members selected Juliet GOLDSMITH from the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA) as rapporteur of the meeting.

2.3 Adoption of the agenda

TC-RPPO members adopted the agenda as presented in Appendix 1 to the present report, noting that agenda item 11 (any other business) would address issues on One Health and the International Day of Plant Health.

3. Administrative matters

3.1 Document list

[8] The secretariat presented the documents as listed in Appendix 2; participants had no comments thereon.

3.2 Participant list

[9] Each participant was invited to review the list and to send their latest contact details. The participant list is available in Appendix 3.

3.3 Local information

[10] Maribel HURTADO from NAPPO presented the local information; participants had no comments thereon.

4. Pending matters from the 34th and proposals for the 35th TC-RPPO

4.1 Approval of templates to collect RPPO information on events and pests of concern

- The COSAVE representative presented a template to collect information on events that might be of interest to other RPPOs. Members agreed, in principle, to the proposed form, noting that the template would be useful to share information on both past and future events. Members recommended that the information be shared on an as-and-when basis, and that the relevant RPPO would be responsible for distributing the information to the other members and to the IPPC Secretariat for posting on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) if necessary. It was agreed that each RPPO would provide a contact list of who within their organization would receive the information. The template, with modifications as discussed, would be shared with TC-RPPO members for final review. The chairperson encouraged members to consider translating the template into the other FAO official languages. One member suggested that the secretariat consider future opportunities for involvement in communicating on RPPO events.
- [12] The COSAVE representative then presented the template to collect information on pests of concern. Its aim was to facilitate and promote the exchange among RPPOs of information on the identified pests concern and could also contribute to the Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems (POARS). Members were generally supportive of the initiative, but expressed some reservations, particularly as to how pests of concern would be identified. The chairperson suggested that, following the RPPO updates, which would present pests of concern in each region, the conversation could be revisited in the light of that additional information.
- [13] The Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations:
 - (1) *agreed* to the use of a template to collect information on events of possible interest to other RPPOs; and
 - (2) asked the representative of COSAVE to modify the template to collect information on pests of concern as discussed and circulate it to the TC-RPPO members for their final review.

4.2 Relationship between the RPPOs and the IPPC and the role of RPPOs in shaping global plant health

- [14] The chairperson presented a historical overview of the role RPPOs have played in shaping global plant health, noting particularly that it had been the RPPOs that had recommended the establishment of the IPPC Secretariat in 1989 and that RPPOs were "phytosanitary pioneers" leading discussions on interregional plant health issues for many decades.
- [15] The chairperson outlined the functions of RPPOs and noted that Article IX of the IPPC provided for RPPO contributions to achieving the objectives of the IPPC and codified the relationship of RPPOs with the IPPC Secretariat and the CPM. The Terms of Reference of the TC-RPPO describe its scope,

composition and function, and the Rules of Procedure describe the membership, meeting roles and responsibilities of members.¹

- The chairperson said that, while all RPPOs shared common responsibilities to their member countries, all were different in structure, governance and regional needs. It would be important to be mindful of those differences and to ensure that the IPPC community understood what RPPOs could and could not do. The chairperson identified a number of areas for collaboration among RPPOs, including exchanging information on pests and activities, participating, supporting, jointly organizing and contributing to activities in other regions, exchanging positions on CPM agenda items and supporting proposals from other regions during the IPPC Call for Topics.
- [17] Members thanked the chairperson for her excellent and informative presentation. Members agreed that the presentation should be shared on the IPP and presented at CPM-18 (2024), as it would be helpful for setting the stage in advance of presenting the outcomes of the TC-RPPO to the Commission. The chairperson was in favour of an additional presentation to CPM to raise the profile of RPPOs and discuss their role, their work, their similarities and differences, and possible opportunities for collaboration. It was agreed that the chairperson would draft a letter to the CPM Bureau making this suggestion and would circulate it to the RPPOs prior to sending it to the CPM Bureau for their consideration at the December meeting.
- [18] The chairperson encouraged RPPOs to provide translations of the presentation into the six FAO languages to raise the profile of the work of RPPOs. The Pacific Plant Protection Organisation (PPPO) offered to translate the presentation into French.
- [19] The Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations:
 - (3) agreed to share the presentation on agenda item 4.2 on the IPP; and
 - (4) *agreed* to deliver the presentation on agenda item 4.2 to CPM-18 (2024), pending acceptance by the Bureau.

4.3 Proposal for harmonizing RPPO information on the International Phytosanitary Portal

- The chairperson put forward a proposal to harmonize the presentation of information about RPPOs on the IPP, noting that currently RPPO profiles did not have the same structure, did not contain the same information, were in some cases not up to date or they contained broken links. Members agreed to the proposal, noting that it would increase the visibility of RPPOs. Several members raised issues on the lack of multilingual functionality for the IPP and the timeliness of updates to information implemented by the secretariat.
- [21] Members wondered if RPPOs could have access to the IPP to upload their own content, except for Official Contact Point information, which must be routed through the IPPC Secretariat.
- [22] Additionally, some members raised concerns on the categorization of RPPOs on the redesigned IPP; listing RPPOs with "Others" as a member of the IPPC community was not considered to be correct, and "Others" should be listed instead under the IPPC network.
- [23] To increase visibility, OIRSA proposed making a video on the role of RPPOs.
- [24] The Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations:
 - (5) agreed to harmonize RPPO information on the IPP;

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Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations. Available at: https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/91820/.

- (6) *agreed* to hold a follow-up virtual meeting, possibly in February 2024, on progress by RPPOs in uploading the harmonized information, to be organized by NAPPO;
- (7) asked NAPPO to prepare a communication to the IPPC Secretariat to inform it of the RPPOs intention to update RPPO information on the IPP;
- (8) *asked* the IPPC Secretariat to consider the possibility of granting access to RPPOs to update RPPO profiles themselves on the IPP; and
- (9) *agreed* to send a joint communication to the IPPC Secretariat, expressing the concern on how RPPOs were categorized on the IPP.

5. IPPC Secretariat updates

5.1 IPPC Secretariat

On behalf of the IPPC Secretary, the secretariat representative presented the IPPC Secretariat Report covering the core work and internal management of the IPPC Secretariat. He informed the RPPOs of future initiatives: the global phytosanitary programme, where work had begun with the African Phytosanitary Programme (APP) whose pilot project with 11 African countries and five pests of interest had recently launched, the global phytosanitary trade support team and the IPPC Centre of Excellence, an initiative that was still in the process of development.

5.2 CPM Bureau

- [26] In a prerecorded presentation, the CPM Bureau Chairperson presented the core decisions from the Bureau, noting opportunities for the IPPC community to provide input into discussions on One Health as the concept evolved, and stressing the importance of RPPOs to the IPPC community as a whole and to the deliberations, decisions and outcomes of all IPPC governance bodies. The TC-RPPO noted the report.
- The chairperson said that it was important for the TC-RPPO to consider the role of RPPOs in implementing the Strategic Framework 2020–2030 development agenda items. The chairperson said it would also be important for RPPOs to consider the paper on One Health to be presented at CPM-18 (2024).
- One member noted that work on some development agenda items had yet to begin, and RPPOs could identify opportunities to contribute resources for those items. The member also wished to draw attention to the consultation for the draft annex to the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) 46 (Commodity-specific standards for phytosanitary measures): International movement of Mangifera indica fruit (2021-011), which was the first consultation for an annex to that ISPM. The chairperson, noting that several additional topics for annexes on commodities to ISPM 46 had been submitted during the recent IPPC call for topics standards and implementation, said that it would be important to get the first annex right and resolve all issues so that those that followed could do so smoothly.
- [29] The report is available on the IPP.

5.3 Standards Committee

- In a prerecorded presentation, a member of the Standards Committee (SC) reported on activities on pathway and commodity standards, noting particularly that a paper was forthcoming on the way forward for the draft annex to ISPM 38 (*International movement of seeds*): Design and use of systems approaches for phytosanitary certification of seeds (2018-009), and that work was ongoing to develop an agreed-upon definition of the term "emerging pest" to be included in ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*). The TC-RPPO noted the report.
- [31] The chairperson suggested that RPPOs could work together to provide a consensus-based definition of the term "emerging pest".

- The chairperson, noting the lack of consensus to implement the annex to ISPM 38 on systems approaches, informed the TC-RPPO that the SPG had agreed to organize a scientific session on systems approaches during CPM-18. One member suggested that RPPOs could provide examples of how systems approaches were being implemented in their regions.
- One member wished to laud the IPPC for its collaboration and cooperation in moving back the deadline for submission of topics; the later deadline now made it possible for the region to discuss and align on topics during its IPPC Regional Workshop.
- [34] One member said that the draft annexes to ISPM 46 provided opportunities to update the annex in case a treatment was no longer effective or the name of a pest changed but did not provide for additions of new treatments. The member felt that was an oversight, as it did not allow for timely updates of all relevant information.
- On a question of regional representation in the composition of the SC, the chairperson said that the rules of procedure stipulated that SC members acted in their capacity as experts and not as regional or national representatives. Regional and national views were ensured in the SC as all contracting parties had the ability to propose topics, prioritize topics and provide their feedback on standards.
- [36] The report is available on the IPP.

5.4 Implementation and Capacity Development Committee

- [37] The COSAVE representative reported on the activities and outcomes of the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC), for which she is the TC-RPPO representative.
- [38] Members thanked the COSAVE representative for her participation in IC meetings.
- On the issue of the update to the guidelines for IPPC Regional Workshops, several members expressed concerns, as the update would not go through a consultative process and there was a risk that the new guidelines would be overly prescriptive and leave little leeway for regional specificities. One member questioned the use of the term "IPPC Regional Workshop" when, for the most part, it was the regions that organized and funded the workshops, not the IPPC Secretariat. The chairperson said that it was RPPO experience that should drive the update of the guidelines rather than the top-down approach that seemed to be the case currently. The secretariat took note of the RPPO concerns.
- [40] In response to several member comments on the availability of resources in FAO languages other than English, the chairperson called on RPPOs to translate IPPC materials that were of importance to their regions.

5.5 IPPC Observatory

- [41] The CAHFSA representative presented a report on the work of the IPPC Observatory in 2023. The TC-RPPO noted the report.
- [42] The representative said that the IPPC Observatory was conscious of "survey fatigue" and had reduced the number of questions in each survey; however, one recent survey had only six questions yet only 35 percent of contracting parties had responded. It was not clear what else could be done to facilitate the process. One member recommended that the survey questions be made available in PDF format for download so that questions could be reviewed and appropriate persons could be identified within the NPPO to answer, or contribute to answering, the survey. Some participants also recommended widely disseminating the video on the IPPC Observatory, which would help to understand its role and increase engagement with its important work.
- [43] In response to a question from the chairperson, the representative said that survey questions could be shared with RPPOs to collect their feedback prior to distributing the survey. That would help to understand regional specificities and may highlight particular areas of difficulty.

- [44] In response to a question on the quality control of data received by the IPPC Observatory, the representative said that it occurred at respondent level, and noted that RPPOs had a role to support national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) in providing responses, and that doing so created opportunities to understand regional perspectives that could lead to regional action to address issues of concern.
- [45] In response to a question on the results, analysis and outcomes of IPPC Observatory work, the representative said that all IPPC Observatory documentation was available on the IPP.
- [46] The report is available on the IPP.

5.6 Sea containers

- [47] The TC-RPPO noted the report from the Focus Group on Sea Containers.
- The chairperson said that the Focus Group on Sea Containers had collected feedback on the updated CPM recommendation on sea containers (R-06) and were hoping to present an updated recommendation at CPM-18 (2024) along with a recommendation on next steps to take to address the risks of sea containers. The aim was to determine if a CPM recommendation would be effective in helping to manage the risks in the sea container pathway. One RPPO said that sea containers were a pathway for many invasive species into their region, and that the issue was of particular importance.
- [49] The report is available on the IPP.

5.7 IPPC communication activities and future expectations for the IPPC community

- [50] The secretariat presented updates on the communication activities of the IPPC Secretariat, noting particularly the expanded role of communication on the International Day of Plant Health (IDPH) to have a wider audience and reach.
- [51] The chairperson said that the SPG had stated that new themes were needed for the IDPH, and that IDPH themes should be a standing agenda item to ensure proper forward planning on the topic; a paper was also being prepared for consideration by CPM-18 (2024) on the IPPC community approach to the IDPH.
- The secretariat presented on the Communication Community of Practice, an online global community of communication professionals working around plant health. Consultative meetings had been held with RPPOs in July and August 2023 to gather insight and advice on the community of practice; the chairperson said that that consultation needed to be repeated, perhaps in early 2024, as few RPPOs had been able to participate in the initial round of consultations.
- [53] The secretariat said that the process to redesign the IPP was ongoing, and invited all participants to provide feedback on needed or desired changes.
- [54] Members supported the secretariats efforts to increase communication activities, which generated interest in the work of the IPPC and could be used to drive engagement with stakeholders at all levels.
- [55] The chairperson noted that the *IPPC Communications Strategy 2023–2030* could be used as a template for RPPOs to design their own regional communication strategy. The COSAVE representative said that they had drawn on the *IPPC Communications Strategy 2023–2030* to develop the COSAVE regional communication plan.

5.8 Updates on ePhyto

[56] The chairperson presented a video and report on the IPPC electronic phytosanitary certificate (ePhyto) Solution, noting that long-term funding was critical to the future of ePhyto; it was funded to 2025, and continuation of its operation thereafter had not been secured. A new funding model would need to be

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² *IPPC Communications Strategy* 2023–2030. Available at: https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc7189en.

agreed on at CPM-18 (2024); therefore, it would be crucial for RPPOs to raise the issue with their member countries and ensure they came to CPM-18 with a decision on the matter after reading the CPM-18 paper on the subject.

- The chairperson said that, based on the feedback received by the CPM Focus Group on Sustainable Funding of the IPPC ePhyto Solution, the proposed funding model was based on the user-pay principle, with a base contribution that took account of the economic development status of the user together with a usage fee based on the level of use of the Solution.
- [58] Some members questioned why the usage fee in the proposed model was based on the number of exchanges and not the number of ePhyto certificates. The chairperson explained that only exchanges could be tracked, as the information within the exchange was confidential, but invited members to propose alternative solutions to the ePhyto focus group.
- [59] On the question of user training for ePhyto, the chairperson said that, as per advice received during CPM-17, the proposed yearly cost to maintain the ePhyto system did not include training, which contracting parties were expected to provide with the support of the secretariat. One participant added that the maintenance costs did not consider improvements to the system.
- [60] On the question of the multiplication of certification systems, one member said that most national or regional systems now passed their ePhyto certification through the ePhyto Hub, which created efficiencies by eliminating the need for bilateral or other systems.
- [61] On the question of the use of paper certificates, the chairperson noted that, as per ISPM 12 (*Phytosanitary certificates*), all contracting parties should continue accepting paper certificates, but said that paper certification had a cost as well and that electronic certificates would simplify trade transactions.
- [62] On the question of the role of RPPOs in the sustainable funding of the ePhyto Solution, the chairperson reiterated that the issue was for contracting parties to decide, but that RPPOs should raise the issue of funding to their member countries and encourage them to reach a decision on the matter in advance of CPM-18 (2024) after reading the CPM-18 paper on the subject; if member countries had objections to the proposal or suggestions for improvement, they should be submitted via the appropriate channels.
- [63] One RPPO said that greater awareness-raising efforts were needed to highlight the impact of the ePhyto Solution on reducing fraud.
- [64] The chairperson encouraged RPPOs to provide translations for the subtitles of the ePhyto video into other FAO languages, as it would make that useful resource, which clearly demonstrated the benefits of the ePhyto Solution, more accessible to all.
- [65] The report is available on the IPP.

5.9 Updates on coordination of global action for *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. cubense Tropical Race 4

- The OIRSA representative provided an update on the actions and outcomes of its work to fight TR4, noting particularly that it had carried out simulation exercises to build capacity, organized a webinar on a diagnostic laboratory network, developed digital tools including a virtual simulation room that used artificial intelligence technology, developed certification schemes and protocols, and continued work to develop resistant and tolerant varieties of banana.
- [67] RPPOs thanked OIRSA for its strong leadership and technical guidance on this important plant pest.
- [68] The OIRSA representative also said that a rapid diagnostic test for TR4 developed in cooperation with the University of Taipei would be released within six months. RPPOs welcomed the news of the rapid diagnostic test.

- In regard to challenges, OIRSA said that a high-tech approach was not always the most appropriate for every situation and also incurred costs and could be burdensome to administer. It also noted that the best way forward to deal with TR4 was to develop resistant and tolerant varieties of banana and, although none yet existed, development research was ongoing and promising. OIRSA also noted that while there were considerable research efforts in developing resistant and tolerant banana varieties, little work was being done for plantains, which were an important food source in some regions.
- [70] One RPPO said that it had carried out a simulation exercise for TR4 using the guide,³ but noted that regional differences made the guidance not always applicable. The representative said that there was work to do to ensure that varied points of view were reflected in the guidance provided.
- [71] One member said that while the IPPC was coordinating the global response to TR4, there were opportunities to cooperate at the regional level on the issue.

5.10 Conclusions on IPPC Regional Workshops

- The IPPC secretariat provided an update on the organization of the 2023 IPPC Regional Workshops. The secretariat Regional Workshop debrief, conducted on 19–20 September 2023, indicated overall satisfaction by participants, who attributed the success of the Regional Workshops to the collaboration among stakeholders. A number of improvements were also identified, namely financial support, training on the Online Comment System (OCS), knowledge sharing during the workshop, the need for additional time dedicated to discussions of important draft standards and implementation issues, and the level of commentary provided, with the suggestion that more comments may be elicited if information were provided in other official languages.
- [73] The secretariat reiterated that it had taken note of earlier concerns regarding the updates to the guidelines for IPPC Regional Workshops, and invited RPPOs to provide their feedback and input into the process, which would be invaluable.
- [74] The secretariat encouraged all RPPOs to begin planning for IPPC Regional Workshops well in advance, and underlined that each Regional Workshop organizing committee was encouraged to mobilize resources to support the Regional Workshop in their region. The secretariat looked forward to working with the Regional Workshop organizing committees in 2024.
- [75] Members noted the process in organizing the 2023 IPPC Regional Workshops.
- [76] Some RPPOs explained that regional specificities precluded organizing committees from acting according to the timelines set out by the IPPC. Although Regional Workshops were purported to be adaptable to the needs of a region, in practice, IPPC approaches sometimes created challenges for the RPPOs.
- [77] Some participants also said that assigning different IPPC staff members to the various regional workshops each year created challenges for RPPOs as there was a lack of continuity from year to year.
- [78] The chairperson said that some Regional Workshop presentations could be prepared and perhaps prerecorded well in advance; doing so would help to alleviate some of the burden prior to the Regional Workshop.
- The chairperson said that the TC-RPPO may wish to consider adding an item to the agenda of the 36th TC-RPPO for feedback from the RPPOs on the outcomes of the IPPC Regional Workshops.

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Prevention, preparedness and response guidelines for Fusarium Tropical Race 4 (TR4) of banana. Available at https://doi.org/10.4060/cc4865en.

6. Strategic issues

6.1 Basic responsibilities of an RPPO

- [80] The chairperson and the representative of EPPO presented a draft document on the basic responsibilities of an RPPO, which would be of benefit both to incoming members of the TC-RPPO and to the IPPC community. The TC-RPPO thanked the representatives for their work on the document that would raise the profile of the RPPOs.
- [81] The chairperson recommended that the document be submitted to CPM-18 for it to note.
- [82] TC-RPPO members suggested that the document include the role of RPPOs in implementing the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030 development agenda items and a table setting out the rotational order of RPPOs in chairing the TC-RPPO.
- [83] The Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations:
 - (10) *agreed* to review the paper on the basic responsibilities of an RPPO and submit their comments thereon by 30 November 2023.

6.2 Role of RPPOs in implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030 development agenda items

- [84] The chairperson made a presentation on the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030 development agenda items, which are work programmes to address real needs that had been identified by contracting parties.
- [85] The chairperson said that RPPOs had an important role to support their member countries in implementing the development agenda items, and provided examples of RPPO contributions to the work plan of individual development agenda items. She encouraged RPPOs to consider future actions to support the implementation of the development agenda items, which could be reviewed and added to the TC-RPPO Action Plan.
- [86] The chairperson said that work had yet to begin for two of the development agenda items (global phytosanitary research coordination and diagnostic laboratory networking). Terms of reference for the focus groups on the two development agenda items were being prepared for consideration at CPM-18 (2024) for its approval.
- In support of the development agenda items, EPPO said that it organized an annual meeting of experts in ePhyto to share and exchange experiences. EPPO also coordinated the Euphresco network, which was looking at regional and global links in research coordination. As regards development agenda item 8 (diagnostic laboratory networking), the representative said that there was a particularly large role for the RPPOs to play, as regional needs in diagnostics varied considerably and that linking to existing initiatives could save time and resources for RPPOs seeking to take action on the matter.
- [88] One member said that the TC-RPPO needed to consider how the broad range of regional views could be shared by RPPO representatives on IPPC governance bodies.
- [89] CAHFSA explained that all RPPOs were advisers to the Euphresco network and could submit project proposals, and said that RPPOs could support each other in jointly submitting project proposals.
- [90] The chairperson suggested that it would be useful for the TC-RPPO to revisit the issue each year to see progress on the development agenda items and how RPPOs could contribute and were already contributing to their ongoing development.
- The chairperson said that the CPM chairperson had suggested that the agenda for CPM-18 (2024) follow the implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030 development agenda items; it would therefore be very important for RPPOs to highlight the work that they were doing to support development agenda item implementation.

7. RPPO reports

- [92] Each RPPO presented their activities including:
 - specificities of their RPPO;
 - technical and capacity-development achievements;
 - emerging pests and issues;
 - surveillance projects and activities; and
 - proposals for further collaboration.
- [93] All the presentations are available on the IPP website.
- [94] As TC-RPPO members considered issues of common interest and opportunities for collaboration, the chairperson suggested that members may wish to consider changes to the agenda of future TC-RPPO meetings to allow for a specific agenda item to discuss issues of particular shared interest in more detail.
- [95] Some members noted that there were opportunities to collaborate in the development of diagnostic protocols (DPs). EPPO said that it collaborated with the IPPC when developing protocols to ensure the work of the two organizations on DPs was complementary and did not overlap, but that closer cooperation on the list of topics for DPs would lead to a more effective use of resources.
- [96] The Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC) said that the RPPO reports had highlighted that African pests of concern were found in many regions, and that sharing regional best practices could benefit other RPPOs.
- [97] The PPPO recommended that examples of collaboration among RPPOs be discussed at the forthcoming TC-RPPO. One representative said that as pests were an issue of shared concern, they represented a potential starting point for future interregional collaboration.
- On the issue of safe food aid, the TC-RPPO thanked the PPPO for its presentation on the topic. The chairperson said that a webinar could raise awareness of the reality and severity of the situation. CAHFSA said that it was happy to support a proposal in that regard, as many of its member countries had experienced the impact of pest introductions from food aid in post-crisis situations. One representative said that fact sheets were particularly valuable in post-crisis situations as phytosanitary officers could access them quickly and easily.

8. Reports from other organizations

8.1 ICA, IICA-GICSV, FAO

Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario (ICA)

- [99] The ICA representative presented the structure and phytosanitary work of ICA, Colombia's NPPO. ICA conducts activities related to pests, plant health, facilitating trade and implementing ISPMs.
- [100] The chairperson thanked the ICA representative for her informative presentation.

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) – Interamerican Coordinating Group in Plant Protection (GICSV)

- [101] The IICA-GICSV representative presented the plant health actions carried out by IICA in 2022–2023 to support member states in their efforts to strengthen their capacities in plant health. The representative also shared the work of GICSV to promote effective and common actions to protect plant health in the Americas. The representative thanked NAPPO for its efforts to support the translation of documents and interpretation of meetings into Spanish.
- [102] The chairperson thanked the representative for her presentation and work to support the RPPOs in the Americas.

[103] The presentation is available on the IPP.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

- [104] The FAO representative presented their projects and outcomes on the management of TR4 and other plant pests in Latin America and the Caribbean, noting challenges to harmonize priorities across regions and to mainstream plant health into regional agenda.
- [105] The IPPC Secretariat thanked the representative for her presentation and noted many possible avenues for collaboration on the points presented.

8.2 Discussion of reports – identify opportunities for collaboration

- [106] The chairperson noted that many RPPOs developed resources for pests that were a common concern in multiple regions; it would be beneficial to share such resources. GICSV said that its resources and webinars were available for download on its website. One participant said that collecting input on resources from RPPOs would result in a richer final product that captured a broader range of experiences.
- [107] One participant said that by working together on pests of common concern, RPPOs could ensure that those pests were prioritized in the international agenda.
- [108] The chairperson said that there were opportunities for RPPOs to come together and discuss points of view on key papers in advance of CPM-18 (2024).

9. Field visit

[109] A field visit was arranged to visit a production site and a packing facility for cape gooseberry (*Physalis peruviana*) and to learn about the export programme for that commodity.

10. TC-RPPO Action Plan

- [110] The chairperson presented the TC-RPPO Action Plan covering the group's core activities, schedule and follow-up actions for the forthcoming year.
- [111] As regards the functioning of the 35th TC-RPPO and the planning and agenda of the 36th TC-RPPO (2024), the chairperson invited the RPPOs to translate the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the TC-RPPO into other FAO languages. One member said that the vice-chairperson of the 36th TC-RPPO should be decided, as that RPPO would be responsible for the 37th TC-RPPO (2025). Another member said that it was important for all RPPOs to share the responsibility of organizing the TC-RPPO; assistance was available if needed and the TC-RPPO could be hosted in Rome if there were difficulties hosting it in-region.
- [112] In regard to RPPO attendance, representation and collaboration in IPPC bodies, committees and workshops, the chairperson said that it was important for all RPPOs to attend meetings of the CPM, which also provided an opportunity for the group to meet on the margins. Members agreed to have a virtual meeting in advance of CPM-18 (2024), with the agenda jointly set by NAPPO and OIRSA, which would be an opportunity to share positions on the papers for discussion. Starting from CPM-18 (2024), members also agreed to support that the secretariat move the presentation by the TC-RPPO higher in the agenda, give some time to GICSV to present and for the RPPOs to be seated together. Members further agreed to request the CPM Bureau for additional time for the RPPOs to present on the impact of RPPOs on plant health.
- [113] The TC-RPPO noted its representation in the IC by COSAVE and in the IPPC Observatory by CAHFSA, and that the draft terms of reference for the forthcoming focus groups on global phytosanitary research coordination and diagnostic laboratory networks also provided for a TC-RPPO representative; CAHFSA, NEPPO and PPPO volunteered as representatives to the focus group on global phytosanitary research coordination; EPPO and NEPPO volunteered as representatives to the focus group on diagnostic laboratory networks. The chairperson encouraged TC-RPPO representatives on IPPC bodies

to report back to the TC-RPPO on issues of interest and not wait until the following TC-RPPO to provide updates. The chairperson also encouraged all RPPOs to attend the SPG, noting that the CPM Bureau was considering funding for RPPOs to attend.

- [114] In regard to the promotion of activities to support the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030 development agenda items, the TC-RPPO noted that some RPPOs were developing resources and training on ePhyto, and some RPPOs had submitted topics to develop commodity specific- ISPMs during the IPPC 2023 Call for Topics. These included proposals for kidney bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*) seed, apple (*Malus domestica*) fruit, coconut (*Cocos nucifera*), taro (*Colocasia esculenta*) root and orange (*Citrus sinensis*) fruit. The chairperson also noted that three RPPOs had offered to assist in the organization of a side session on e-commerce that would be held at CPM-18 (2024). Some RPPOs said that they were working on phytosanitary research coordination in their regions.
- [115] The chairperson said that the TC-RPPO Action Plan was a living document and invited all RPPOs to further add to the document their actions in support of the development agenda items. The chairperson added that RPPOs also played a role in other key activities such as communication activities, sea containers, One Health, the IPDH and food aid that could be added to the Action Plan.
- [116] In regard to collaboration and information exchange among RPPOs, the chairperson said that there were opportunities for collaboration on pests of common concern, which highlighted the usefulness of the template to collect information on pests of concern. TC-RPPO members agreed to review the table on pests of concern that would be circulated. The chairperson also said that there was an opportunity for RPPOs to work together to develop a consensus definition of "emerging pest" to submit to the POARS Steering Group for its consideration.
- [117] In regard to collaboration with other organizations, the chairperson invited the RPPOs to populate the Action Plan with activities that they had taken to support each other and to support partner organizations. That would demonstrate, when the TC-RPPO report was presented at CPM-18 (2024), that RPPOs had important collaborative links around the world.
- [118] The Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations:
 - (11) *agreed* to have a virtual meeting in advance of CPM-18 (2024) to share positions on the papers for discussion;
 - (12) *supported* the request made by the chairperson to the CPM Bureau that the secretariat at CPM-18 (2024) move the report on the outcomes of the 35th TC-RPPO higher in the agenda, to add time to present the outcomes from the GICSV and to seat the RPPOs together;
 - (13) agreed to request for additional time at CPM-18 (2024) to present on the roles and responsibilities of RPPOs, with NAPPO preparing the draft request to be circulated among RPPOs in advance of the December meeting of the CPM Bureau; and
 - (14) *agreed* to review and complete by mid-December the table of pests of concern and the RPPO Action Plan that would be circulated by NAPPO.

11. Any other business

One Health

[119] The chairperson said that the One Health approach would be discussed at CPM-18 (2024) and noted that several RPPOs already were implementing One Health approaches. Several RPPOs emphasized the significance of plant health in relation to human and animal health. One RPPO suggested that the plant health community should articulate the reasons why plant health was crucial and deserved a spot in One Health discussions. One RPPO suggested that the IPPC could develop and deliver resources to promote the connection between plant health and One Health.

- [120] The chairperson said that risk management contributed significantly to One Health, with One Biosecurity touching on plant, animal and human health equally.
- [121] One RPPO noted with concern the absence of soil health in the One Health discussion.
- [122] The chairperson recommended adding actions for One Health to the TC-RPPO Action Plan so that they could be reported to the CPM.

International Day of Plant Health

[123] Several RPPOs shared actions that they were taking to use the IDPH to increase awareness of the importance of plant-health issues with different audiences.

12. Review and adoption of the report

[124] TC-RPPO members reviewed and adopted the report.

13. Selection of new chairperson; date and location for next meeting

- [125] Members selected Carlos Ramón URÍAS (OIRSA) as chairperson for the 36th TC-RPPO.
- [126] OIRSA proposed to host the 36th TC-RPPO in Panama.
- [127] The secretariat, noting the full calendar for FAO in 2024, proposed to work with the chairperson to find a suitable date to hold the 36th TC-RPPO.
- [128] Members agreed that the matter of the vice-chairperson for the 36th TC-RPPO would be dealt with intersessionally, as not all RPPOs had been present at the meeting.
- [129] The Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations:
 - (15) agreed to select the vice-chairperson of the 36th TC-RPPO intersessionally.

14. Close of the meeting

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

Appendix 1: Agenda

THIRTY-FIFTH TECHNICAL CONSULTATION AMONG REGIONAL PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS

24 to 27 October 2023 Centro de Negocios y Eventos Connecta 26 Bogotá, Colombia

AGENDA

	Agenda Item	Document No.	Presenter	Approx. times
Tueso	day October 24			
1.0	Opening of the meeting			8:30
1.1	Welcome by TC-RPPO chairperson		Stephanie Bloem, NAPPO Executive Director	
1.2	Welcome remarks from Colombian dignitaries		 Jhenifer Mojica, Minister of Agriculture Juan Fernando Roa, Director ICA Maya Takagi, interim FAO representative in Colombia or Diego Mora García, representative of FAO in Colombia 	
1.3	Welcome by IPPC Secretariat		Osama El-Lissy, IPPC Secretary	
2.0	Meeting arrangements			9:15
2.1	Brief introductions		Participants	
2.2	Selection of rapporteur		Stephanie Bloem	
2.3	Adoption of the agenda	01_TC-RPPO_2023	Stephanie Bloem	
3.0	Administrative matters			9:30
3.1	Document list	02_TC-RPPO_2023	John Gilmore, IPPC Secretariat	
3.2	Participant list	03_TC-RPPO_2023	John Gilmore	
3.3	Local information	04_TC-RPPO_2023	Maribel Hurtado, NAPPO Scientific Officer	
Coffee	e break – 30 minutes			9:45

	Agenda Item	Document No.	Presenter	Approx. times
4.0	Pending matters from the	34th and proposals fo	r the 35th TC-RPPO	10:15
4.1	Approval of templates to collect RPPO information on events and pests of Concern	05_TC-RPPO_2023 Events and Pests	Melisa Nedilskyj, COSAVE / all	
4.2	Relationship between the RPPOs and the IPPC and role of RPPOs in shaping global plant health	Presentation	Stephanie Bloem	
4.3	Proposal for harmonizing RPPO information on the International Phytosanitary Portal	Presentation and discussion	Stephanie Bloem	
Lunch	ı – 1 ½ h			12:10
5.0	IPPC Secretariat updates	10 min each plus time fo	or questions	13:30
5.1	IPPC Secretariat	Presentation	John Gilmore for Osama El-Lissy	
5.2	CPM Bureau	06_TC-RPPO_2023	Greg Wolff, CFIA and CPM Bureau Chairperson	
5.3	Standards Committee	07_TC-RPPO_2023	Steve Côté, CFIA and SC member	
5.4	Implementation and Capacity Development Committee	Presentation and document	Melisa Nedilskyj, COSAVE and IC member	
5.5	IPPC Observatory	08_TC-RPPO_2023	Juliet Goldsmith, CAHFSA	
5.6	Sea containers	09_TC-RPPO_2023	Greg Wolff	
5.7	IPPC communication activities and future expectations for the IPPC community	Presentation	John Gilmore for Arop Deng	
5.8	Updates on ePhyto	10_TC-RPPO_2023	Stephanie Bloem	
5.9	Updates on coordination of global actions for <i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> f. sp. <i>cubense</i> Tropical Race 4	Presentation and document	Xavier Euceda, OIRSA / Carlos Urías	
5.10	Conclusions of IPPC Regional Workshops	11_TC-RPPO_2023	John Gilmore	
	e break – 30 minutes			16:00
6.0	Strategic issues			16:30
6.1	Basic responsibilities of an RPPO	12_TC-RPPO_2023	Nico Horn, EPPOStephanie Bloem	
6.2	Role of RPPOs in implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030 development agenda items	Presentation and discussion	Stephanie Bloem / all	
	Adjourn			18:00
Welco	ome dinner			18:45

	Agenda Item	Document No.	Presenter	Approx. times
Wedn	esday October 25			
7.0	RPPO reports ⁴ 10 min ead	ch plus time for questions	s/discussion	8:30
7.1	APPPC	Prerecorded presentation	G C Yubak	
7.2	CAHFSA	Presentation	Juliet Goldsmith	
7.3	CAN	Presentation	Katty Rojas	
7.4	COSAVE	Presentation	Melisa Nedilskyj	
7.5	EPPO	Presentation	Nico Horn	
7.6	IAPSC and Plant Health Strategy for Africa	Presentation	Flaubert Nana Sani / Niassy Saliou	
Coffee	e break – 30 minutes			10:30
7.7	NAPPO	Presentation	Stephanie Bloem	11:00
7.8	NEPPO	Presentation	Mohamed Habib Ben Jamâa	
7.9	OIRSA	Presentation	Xavier Euceda / José Hernández / Carlos Urías	
7.10	PPPO and Focus Group on Safe Food Aid	13_TC-RPPO_2023	Visoni Timote	
Lunch	i – 1 ½ h			12:30
7.11	Discussion – identify opportunities for collaboration		All	14:00
8.0	Reports from other organ	izations		14:30
8.1	- ICA - IICA-GICSV - FAO	14_TC-RPPO_2023	- Andrea Amalia Ramos, ICA - Lourdes Fonalleras, IICA - Raixa Elena Llauger, FAO	
Coffee	e break – 30 minutes			16:00
8.2	Discussion of reports – identify opportunities for collaboration	15_TC-RPPO_2023	All	16:30
	Adjourn			17:00
Thurs	day October 26			
9.0	Field visit	Travel time approx. 2h	1	6:45
Coffee	e break – 30 minutes			9:00
9.1	Visit cape gooseberry (<i>Physalis peruviana</i>) field sites		Edna Milena Zambrano, ICA and Frutireyes	9:30
9.2	Visit packing house		Edna Milena Zambrano, ICA and Frutireyes	11:15

Each RPPO will prepare a 10-minute presentation including the following issues: (1) specificities of the RPPO; (2) technical and capacity-development achievements; (3) emerging pests and issues; (4) surveillance activities; and (5) proposals for further collaboration.

	Agenda Item	Document No.	Presenter	Approx. times
Lunch	n – 1 h			13:30
9.3	Cape gooseberry export programme	Presentation	Edna Milena Zambrano, ICA	14:30
9.4	Report from Colombian cape gooseberry exporters	Presentation	Carlos Lozano, Cape Gooseberry Exporters	15:10
	Brief information about ICSEF		Ines Ecima Valbuena, Dean ICSEF	
	Return to Bogotá	Travel time approx. 2h	1	15:40
Frida	y October 27 – half-day mee	ting		
10.0	TC-RPPO Action Plan		Stephanie Bloem	8:30
11.0	Any other business		Stephanie Bloem	
12.0	Report review/adoption		Stephanie Bloem	
13.0	Election of new chairperson; date and location for next meeting		Stephanie Bloem	
14.0	Close		New chairperson: Carlos Urias, OIRSA	
	Adjourn			12:00

Appendix 2: Document list

DOCUMENT LIST

DOCUMENT NO.	AGENDA ITEM	DOCUMENT TITLE	DATE POSTED / DISTRIBUTED
01_TC-RPPO_2023	2.3	Agenda	20/10/2023
02_TC-RPPO_2023	3.1	Document list	20/10/2023
03_TC-RPPO_2023	3.2	Participant list	20/10/2023
04_TC-RPPO_2023	3.3	Local information	16/10/2023
05_TC-RPPO_2023	4.1	Information exchange on pests of concern	20/10/2023
06_TC-RPPO_2023	5.2	Bureau update to TC-RPPO	10/10/2023
07_TC-RPPO_2023	5.3	Standard Setting Unit update to TC-RPPO	10/10/2023
08_TC-RPPO_2023	5.5	IPPC Observatory	10/10/2023
09_TC-RPPO_2023	5.6	Focus Group on Sea Containers update to TC-RPPO	10/10/2023
10_TC-RPPO_2023	5.8	Updates on ePhyto	10/10/2023
11_TC-RPPO_2023	5.10	Conclusions of IPPC Regional Workshops	10/10/2023
12_TC-RPPO_2023	6.1	Basic responsibilities and role of an RPPO	10/10/2023
13_TC-RPPO_2023	7.10	PPPO and Focus Group on Safe Food Aid	10/10/2023
14_TC-RPPO_2023	8.1	IICA plant health activities overview	10/10/2023
15_TC-RPPO_2023	8.2	Communication between RPPOs about regional events	10/10/2023

Appendix 3: Participant list

PARTICIPANT LIST

List of members attending the meeting

Present	Region/ Role	Name, mailing, address, telephone	Email address
✓	Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC)	Mr Niassy SALIOU incoming coordinator 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	saliouniassy@hotmail.com
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