



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

EIGHTEENTH SESSION

STRENGTHENING PEST OUTBREAK ALERT AND RESPONSE SYSTEMS (POARS)

AGENDA ITEM 12.5

(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat)

Background

- [1] The IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 includes eight development agenda items (DAIs) and one of them is the Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems (POARS). A Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) Focus Group on POARS (FG POARS)¹ was established to provide recommendations on effective POARS. The FG POARS, which met virtually in 2021, produced recommendations which were presented to CPM-16 (2022),² and were published on the IPP.³
- [2] As an interim measure, CPM-16 (2022) agreed to establish a Steering Group on POARS (SG POARS) to work on establishing a POARS capability, with the Bureau to review and approve the SG POARS Terms of Reference (ToR).⁴ The IPPC Secretariat opened a call for experts to participate in the SG POARS in 2022,⁵ and reviewed and assessed the nominations received. During its October 2022 meeting, the Bureau approved the selection of experts and selected a Bureau representative for the SG POARS.⁶ The SG POARS membership list is available on the IPP⁷.
- [3] CPM-17 (2023) agreed to the overarching implementation plan for the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020 - 2030 DAIs, prepared by the CPM Focus Group (FG) on the Strategic Framework Development Agenda Items (SFDAl), including the proposed sequencing and budgets.⁸ This paper includes excerpts from the overarching implementation plan that are relevant to the POARS DAI and provides updates on the related ongoing activities.

¹ CPM Focus Group on Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems, ToR and membership list: <https://www.ippc.int/en/commission/cpm-focus-group-reports/strengthening-pest-outbreak-alert-and-response-systems/>

² CPM 2022/36: https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2022/02/36_CPM_2022_CPM_FG_POARS-2022-02-15.pdf

³ Recommendations for an Effective Pest Outbreak Alert and Response System: https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/mediakitdocument/en/2022/03/POARS_All_Recommendations.pdf

⁴ ToR for the Steering Group of The Global Pest Outbreak Alert And Response System https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2022/08/2022_ToRs_POARS_SG_cleaned_2022_08_10.pdf

⁵ Call for experts for the Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems Steering Group: <https://www.ippc.int/en/calls/call-for-experts-for-the-pest-outbreak-alert-and-response-systems-steering-group/>

⁶ CPM Bureau report – October 2022: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/91812>

⁷ POARS Steering Group Membership list - International Plant Protection Convention (ippc.int)

⁸ CPM23/13_01: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/91889/>

Value proposition/benefits

- [4] According to the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 Development Agenda Items Overarching Implementation Plan (2023),⁹ a global pest alert system with mechanisms to evaluate and communicate emerging pest risks will be developed, providing regular information to national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) on changes in pest status around the world. NPPOs will use this system to quickly adapt their phytosanitary systems to reduce the risk of introduction and spread of pests. NPPOs, regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) and FAO will collaborate to develop and roll out a comprehensive but easy to use toolbox, to help countries to respond quickly and effectively to pest outbreaks and incursions. In the event of outbreaks, strengthened pest outbreak response systems and tools will help countries to take prompt action, especially against new incursions. Furthermore, some RPPOs may take an active role in assisting NPPOs to coordinate outbreak responses across their regions.

Update on the status of implementation

- [5] A substantial amount of work has been done to scope and plan the DAI on POARS. In 2022, CPM-16 considered a draft action plan and agreed to establish the SG POARS to further develop an implementation plan for this DAI.
- [6] The DAI on POARS is still considered to be in the scope and planning phase. The IPPC Secretariat is in the process of hiring a dedicated staff to work on the implementation of this DAI. While planning and preparing for the implementation of the activities, the IPPC Secretariat, supported by technical working groups, has been coordinating strong emerging pest response programmes for fall armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) and Fusarium banana wilt TR4. An update on TR4 is further elaborated in paper CPM 2024/30 Update TR4 activities.

Delivery

SG POARS establishment and synergies

- [7] During its October 2022 meeting,¹⁰ the Bureau agreed on the membership of the SG POARS. The Bureau recognized the synergies between the activities planned under the DAI on POARS and the Global Phytosanitary Programme implemented by the IPPC Secretariat, highlighting that POARS may form the structure through which the new phytosanitary programme is delivered.

Road to Operationalising SG POARS in 2024

- [8] The DAI on POARS includes national reporting obligations, specific pest work and will be led by the SG POARS, and delivered by the Implementation and Facilitation Unit (IFU) of the IPPC Secretariat. The steering group will first redefine the focus of the work and establish the POARS capability before operationalising the POARS.
- [9] The SG POARS will initially be established for two years, at which point it will review and provide recommendations to CPM on its future. During the 2023 SPG meeting,¹¹ the IPPC Secretariat provided an update on the progress of DAI on POARS and informed of the composition of the SG POARS, which is planned to be operationalized in early 2024. The steering group will evaluate a recommendation for a

⁹ IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 Development Agenda Items Overarching Implementation Plan (pages 17-19): <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/91889/>

¹⁰ 2022 October Bureau meeting report: https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2022/11/Report_Bureau-2022-Oct.pdf

¹¹ 2023 SPG meeting: https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2023/11/Report_SPG-2023-Oct_2023-11-28.pdf

stakeholder meeting and coordinate activities related to individual pests. They will also determine criteria for defining an "emerging pest."

Update on the proposed addition of "Emerging Pest" to ISPM 5

- [10] The Standards Committee (SC) requested the Technical Panel for the Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms (TPG) to add the term "emerging pest" to ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*). This request stemmed from a need identified by the FG POARS to define the term. During the 2022 TPG meeting,¹² the TPG discussed the proposal and presented a draft definition of "emerging pest" (2018-003) to the SC for approval.
- [11] In its May 2023 meeting,¹³ the SC discussed on the proposed definition but concluded that it was not yet suitable for consultation. The SC recommended that the SG POARS continue developing the criteria for what constitutes an "emerging pest," with input from the TPG as necessary. The SC invited the Bureau to provide guidance on the next steps.
- [12] During the 2023 SPG meeting,¹⁴ the SPG recognized the significance of determining what constitutes an "emerging pest" for the work of the DAI on POARS and called for a prompt resolution. The SPG emphasized that criteria, rather than a strict definition, would suffice for "emerging pest". The SPG noted that the criteria would depend on the needs of POARS. Additionally, it was highlighted that the term "emerging pest" did not currently appear in any ISPMs, and the definitions in ISPM 5 were intended for terms in ISPMs.

Role of RPPOs in POARS

- [13] During the 2022 SPG meeting,¹⁵ the TC-RPPO presented a paper stating that "the role of the RPPOs and other regional organizations and institutions should be to guide, support, coordinate and link the NPPOs with POARS".¹⁶ The paper also listed specific actions for RPPOs to undertake for an effective POARS. The IPPC Secretariat explained that the FG POARS had tried to avoid being prescriptive on RPPOs' role and instead provided an inclusive list of actions that RPPOs may potentially take. The SPG recommended that the TC-RPPOs submit their comments to the SG POARS for consideration once the comments are finalized.

Long-term plan

- [14] The IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 Development Agenda Items Overarching Implementation Plan (2023)¹⁷ outlines three main areas for the SG POARS. These areas include evaluating and ranking emerging plant pests, including the development of criteria for "emerging pest". Second, developing surveillance and response tools, that will involve collation of existing tools, and developing new tools for the gaps identified. And lastly, developing national pest reporting, which will include the development of a website on the IPP to provide access to reporting, the design of a horizon scanning system for collecting information on emerging pests, and establishing a system of communicating alerts on these pests.

¹² 2022 December TPG meeting report: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/92027/>

¹³ SC May 2023 meeting: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/92494/>

¹⁴ 2023 SPG meeting: https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2023/11/Report_SPG-2023-Oct_2023-11-28.pdf

¹⁵ 2022 SPG meeting: https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2022/12/SPG_Oct_Report_2022.pdf

¹⁶ 08_SPG_2022_Oct: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/91576/>

¹⁷ IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 Development Agenda Items Overarching Implementation Plan (pages 17-19): <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/91889/>

[15] Figure 1 shows the revised timeline, and the SG POARS will need to develop the long-term plan further as requested by CPM-16 (2022). The SG on POARS will start developing the revised long-term plan upon its operationalization in 2024.

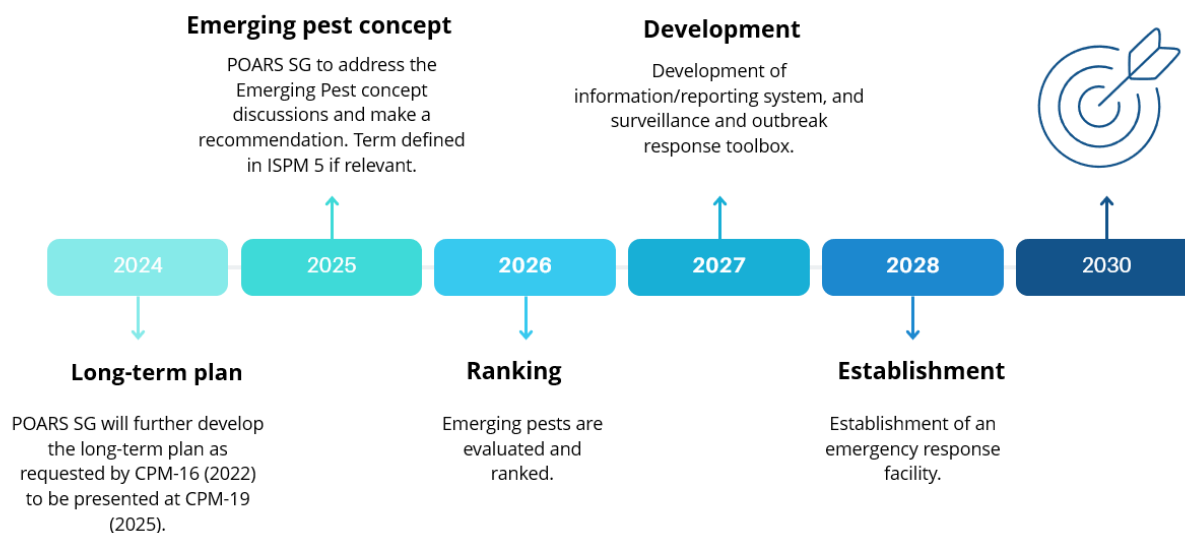


Figure 1. Revised timeline of activities for the strengthening pest outbreak alert and response system development agenda item.

Recommendations

[16] The CPM is invited to:

- (1) *note* the update on activities for Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems,
- (2) *note* the revision to the timeline of activities for the work program,
- (3) *request* allocation of resources to the activities on Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems.