



## COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

### EIGHTEENTH SESSION

## REPORT ON THE 35<sup>TH</sup> TECHNICAL CONSULTATION AMONG REGIONAL PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS (35<sup>TH</sup> TC-RPPO)

### AGENDA ITEM 15.2

*(Prepared by the 35<sup>th</sup> TC-RPPO Chairperson)*

#### Background

- [1] The Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations (TC-RPPO) is the annual forum for Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs) to discuss issues of common interest. Article IX.4 of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) states that:
- “The Secretary will convene regular Technical Consultations of representatives of regional plant protection organizations to:
- (a) *promote* the development and use of relevant international standards for phytosanitary measures (ISPMs); and
  - (b) *encourage* inter-regional cooperation in promoting harmonized phytosanitary measures for controlling pests and in preventing their spread and/or introduction.”
- [2] The 35<sup>th</sup> TC-RPPO was convened by the IPPC Secretary and held in Bogotá, Colombia at the CONNECTA Centro Empresarial, from 24-26 October 2023.
- [3] All documents and reports given at the 35<sup>th</sup> TC-RPPO meeting are posted on the IPP<sup>1</sup>
- [4] Nine (of ten) RPPOs attended the meeting including the incoming Coordinator and the Assistant Senior Scientific Officer of the Inter African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC), Mr. Niassy SALIOU, and Mr. Flaubert NANA SANI, respectively, and the newly elected Executive Director of the Near East Plant Protection Organisation (NEPPO), Mr. Mohamed Habib BEN JAMAA. A complete participant list is part of the 35<sup>th</sup> TC-RPPO full meeting report.
- [5] This report summarizes important topics discussed and decisions taken at this meeting. For additional details please consult the full meeting report posted on the IPP<sup>2</sup>.
- [6] **Approval of templates to collect information.** The 35<sup>th</sup> TC-RPPO approved a template to collect information on events of possible interest to other RPPOs developed by COSAVE. A second template to collect information on pests of concern was further discussed during the review of the TC-RPPO Action Plan in light of a list of pests developed from the RPPO reports and is pending final approval.

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<sup>1</sup> 2023 35<sup>th</sup> TC-RPPO - <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/external-cooperation/partners/technical-consultation-among-rppos/2023-35th-tc-rppo/>

<sup>2</sup> Report of the 35<sup>th</sup> TC-RPPO - [https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2024/01/2023\\_Report\\_of\\_the\\_35th\\_Technical\\_Consultation\\_among\\_RPPOs\\_cN8Vvwz.pdf](https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2024/01/2023_Report_of_the_35th_Technical_Consultation_among_RPPOs_cN8Vvwz.pdf)

- [7] **Presentation on the relationship between the RPPOs and the IPPC and the role of RPPOs in shaping global plant health.** The 35<sup>th</sup> TC-RPPO agreed that the presentation delivered during this meeting should also be delivered at CPM-18 pending acceptance by the CPM Bureau<sup>3</sup>.
- [8] **Proposal to harmonize RPPO information on the IPP.** The 35<sup>th</sup> TC-RPPO agreed to work together to update the information on each RPPO on the IPP using a harmonized template. The RPPOs planned to meet virtually in early 2024 to progress this task. These updates will dovetail with the redesign of the IPP that is currently underway.
- [9] **IPPC Secretariat updates.** In person or virtual updates were provided to the 35<sup>th</sup> TC-RPPO on activities of the IPPC Secretariat, the CPM Bureau, the Standards Committee, the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee, the IPPC Observatory, the work of the Sea Containers Focus Group. IPPC communication activities and future expectations for the IPPC community, e-Phyto sustainable funding, coordination of global actions for *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* Tropical Race 4, and the IPPC Regional Workshops held in 2023.
- [10] **Conclusions on IPPC Regional Workshops.** After the update from the IPPC Secretariat on the outcomes of the IPPC Regional Workshops, the 35<sup>th</sup> TC-RPPO had a number of important observations and suggestions to improve coordination of these yearly events. The 35<sup>th</sup> TC-RPPO:
- (1) Agreed that RPPOs should provide input to the guidelines for organizing IPPC Regional Workshops;
  - (2) Highlighted that assigning different IPPC staff members to workshops each year creates organizational challenges because of lack of continuity;
  - (3) Suggested that for cross-cutting topics (such as ePhyto or Sea Containers), a single pre-recorded presentation be prepared and used at all regional workshops;
  - (4) Agreed that a standing Agenda item to discuss IPPC Regional Workshops will be included in the Agenda of future TC-RPPO meetings.
- [11] **Basic Responsibilities of an RPPO.** After discussing the draft document, the 35<sup>th</sup> TC-RPPO agreed to do an in-depth review and provide comments back to the authors by early 2024. Furthermore, they agreed to submit the document to CPM-18 for noting. As such, the document is in **Attachment 1** of this report.
- [12] **Role of RPPOs in implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2039 development agenda items (DAIs).** The 35<sup>th</sup> TC-RPPO agreed that they have an important role in supporting their regions in implementing the DAIs. Some important efforts are already underway in several RPPOs. They further agreed to make this a standing Agenda item for discussion at future TC-RPPO meetings and to add this topic to the TC-RPPO Action Plan to track regional progress and report this information to other IPPC governance bodies.
- [13] **RPPO reports.** The ten RPPOs delivered reports on their activities including on specificities of their own RPPO, technical and capacity development achievements, emerging pest and phytosanitary issues, surveillance activities and proposals for future collaboration. Based on these reports, there was a suggestion to identify topics for in-depth discussion at future TC-RPPO meetings. Also, based on these reports, a pest table was developed to highlight the pests mentioned by each RPPO and identify pests of common interest for some of the regions. This table provided the basis for good discussions during the last day of the meeting on possible collaborative links between RPPOs.
- [14] **Reports from other organisations.** Representatives from the NPPO of Colombia, the Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario (ICA), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and the Mesoamerican Subregional Office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations reported on their activities.

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<sup>3</sup> At their December meeting, the CPM Bureau agreed to this suggestion. The presentation will be delivered to CPM-18 under Agenda item 15.1.

[15] TC-RPPO Action Plan. The 35<sup>th</sup> TC-RPPO:

- (1) Agreed that the Action Plan is a living document and other items could be added to it, such as communication activities and One Health, among others;
- (2) Agreed to review the Action Plan as presented by the Chairperson and add/complete information in some sections, particularly on activities from each of their RPPO;
- (3) Agreed to hold a virtual meeting ahead of CPM-18 to share views and position on posted papers for the meeting;
- (4) Agreed to circulate and review the pest list developed from the RPPO reports and determine next steps;
- (5) Noted that CAHFSA, NEPPO and PPPO volunteered to represent the RPPOs in the Future Focus group on Phytosanitary Research Coordination;
- (6) Noted that EPPO and NEPPO volunteered to represent the RPPOs in the Future Focus group on Diagnostic Laboratory Network.

[16] At the end of the meeting, NAPPO transferred the Chair for the 36<sup>th</sup> TC\_RPPO to OIRSA. The 35<sup>th</sup> TC-RPPO agreed to select the 36<sup>th</sup> TC-RPPO vice Chairperson intersessionally. The 36<sup>th</sup> TC-RPPO will be held in Panama City from 23-27 September 2024.

### **Recommendations**

[17] CPM-18 is invited to:

- (1) *Note* the report.
- (2) *Note* the document entitled ***The Roles and Basic Responsibilities of Regional Plant Protection Organizations*** as presented in Attachment 1 to this paper (CPM 2024/24\_01).