



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES
NINETEENTH SESSION
REPORT OF THE 36TH TECHNICAL CONSULTATION AMONG
REGIONAL PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS
AGENDA ITEM 15.1

(Prepared by the chairperson of the 36th TC-RPPO)

1. Introduction

- [1] The Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations (TC-RPPO) is the annual international forum where the ten (10) RPPOs discuss issues of common interest, based on the call made by the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).
- [2] The 36th TC-RPPO took place in Panama City, Panama; from 1 - 4 October 2024. The documents, presentations and reports submitted at the 36th TC-RPPO meeting are published on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP).¹
- [3] The IPPC Secretariat Office-in-Charge Arop DENG welcomed all participants of the 36th TC-RPPO and thanked Raúl RODAS for his leadership as Chair and in coordinating the 36th TC-RPPO; Mr DENG highlighted that regional cooperation facilitated by RPPOs was vital to the IPPC community's work to protect the world's plant resources and facilitate safe trade. Mr Raúl RODAS, Executive Director of the International Regional Organization for Animal and Plant Health (OIRSA) and chairperson of the 36th TC-RPPO, opened the meeting and welcomed all participants, emphasizing the role that the RPPOs play as a platform to work together, share solutions and advance phytosanitary objectives. For further information, you can consult the report full of the meeting that finds published in IPP.²
- [4] **Review of the terms of reference for IPPC regional communications networks and steering groups.** Background was presented on the IPPC “Regional Communications Network” (RCN) as a platform to enhance and streamline communication efforts in line with FAO guidelines, while broadening plant health messages across all regions. Following discussion and analysis, the TC-RPPOs agreed:
- That the “Terms of Reference” (TOR) document would be circulated and comments provided for presentation at the next Strategic Planning Group (SPG) meeting; and
 - That two members of the RPPO, being EPPO and AU-IAPSC, will meet with staff of the IPPC Secretariat to discuss how to move forward and follow up with the processes.
- [5] **Update templates to collect communications from RPPO on events and share information on pests of concern.** Participants discussed how to use these previously presented templates effectively and suggested, for example, incorporating weekly updates, adding narrative descriptions and attaching event

¹ 36th TC-RPPO meeting: <https://www.ippc.int/en/ippc-community/regional-plant-protection-organizationstechnical-consultation-among-rppos/2024-36th-tc-rppo/>

² Meeting reports of the TC-RPPOs: <https://www.ippc.int/en/ippc-community/regional-plant-protection-organizationstechnical-consultation-among-rppos/>

flyers. The IPPC Secretariat agreed to develop an email list to send relevant information between RPPOs.

- [6] **IPPC Secretariat on IPPC Subsidiary Bodies (e-commerce study).** Updates on the IPPC Observatory study on e-commerce were presented, as well as major developments in the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC). The importance of the IPPC Observatory e-commerce survey was highlighted, which aims to gather information on how countries manage pest risks associated with e-commerce. It was agreed that RPPOs will follow up with their member NPPOs to complete the survey in order to respond to the survey by 31 October 2024.
- [7] **IPPC Regional Workshops.** TC-RPPO members provided an update on the organization of the IPPC Regional Workshops held during 2024, generally indicating satisfaction as well as contribution from participants. The TC-RPPO members recommended that planning for IPPC Regional Workshops be started well in advance for 2025 and stressed that each regional workshop organizing committee was encouraged to seek resources to support the regional workshop in its region; funding from the IPPC is also expected for the 2025 workshops.
- [8] **Considerations on the potential role of RPPOs in supporting the work of the Focus Group on the Safe Supply of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid.** Updated information on the Focus Group's activities was provided, and RPPOs were invited to contribute through webinars, case studies and implementation materials. A simulation of this matter is planned to be developed in the OIRSA region by 2025, for which it is planned to involve various stakeholders, including the armed forces and the Red Cross, for example, with the aim of collecting critical comments. In addition, coordination with FAO Mesoamerica to receive support and guidance.
- [9] **Reports of the RPPOs .** Nine RPPOs reported on their activities, in particular on actions carried out in coordination with their NPPOs, as well as activities in knowledge generation, prioritized pests, project management, response to phytosanitary emergencies, and the implementation of various topics within the framework of the IPPC. Based on these reports and discussion, it was suggested that topics be identified to be examined in depth at future meetings of the TC-RPPOs such as at the upcoming CPM 19. It was also suggested to propose a parallel session on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in phytosanitary matters during CPM-19, with the aim of exploring the potential role of AI in phytosanitary management and assessing its benefits and risks.
- [10] **Information of other organizations.** Other organizations reported about their activities including representatives of the Panama's NPPO (Ministry of Agricultural Development), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and the Subregional Office for Mesoamerica of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), all of which indicated the importance of supporting the "One Health" initiative, which integrates plant, animal, and human health.
- [11] The 36th TC-RPPO:
- (1) *Agreed* to submit agenda proposals for the 37th TC-RPPO by March 2025, ensuring that key phytosanitary topics are covered, including the outcomes of the 2025 IPPC regional workshops;
 - (2) It was agreed that representatives from EPPO and AU-IAPSC will meet with the IPPC Secretariat, when in Rome for the GSP, to discuss next steps to advance the establishment of the IPPC Regional Communications Network;
 - (3) Supported the request made by the TC-RPPO to provide translation of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the TC-RPPO into all FAO languages;
 - (4) Supported the invitation of APPPC and PPPO to join focus groups such as POARS, One Health and the IPPC Observatory;
 - (5) Manage the proposal to hold a parallel session on Artificial Intelligence at CPM-19; and
 - (6) It was agreed to test the new templates for sharing information on pests of interest and regional events with the distribution list to be provided by the IPPC Secretariat.

- [12] At the end of the meeting, the Regional International Organization of Plant and Animal Health (OIRSA) Chairperson transferred the chairing of the 37th TC-RPPO ORPF to Asia Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 29 September to 3 October, 2025.
- [13] The representative of Near East Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO) in his capacity as Executive Director Mr. Mohamed BEN JAMAA has graciously accepted to be vice-chairperson for the year 2025 and corresponding TC-RPPO chair for the year 2026.

Recommendations

- [14] The CPM is invited to:
- (1) *note* the report from the 36th TC-RPPO.