Alert system

February 2025

**Scope**

A global pest alert system with mechanisms to communicate emerging pest risks and providie regular information to NPPOs and RPPOs on changes in pest status around the world. . The aim of the alerts is to facilitate timely phytosanitary measures to reduce the risk of introduction and spread.

**Background**

The POARS Focus Group examined communications and alerts by NPPOs, RPPOs and the IPPC. NPPOs communicate new threats and outbreaks of plant pests via media news releases, notices to industry, email distribution lists, national websites, social media, and international reports. Broad national communications are useful to raise stakeholders’ and public awareness, which contributes to early detection of other outbreaks and increases compliance with regulatory measures in place to control the new outbreak. (Reference)

RPPOs receive national reports of outbreaks of plant pests. This information is often shared with email distribution lists to interested stakeholders. As an example, the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO) sends a monthly newsletter on events of phytosanitary concern. It focuses on new geographical records, new host plants, new pests (including invasive alien plants), pests to be added to the EPPO Alert List, detection and identification methods, amongst other things. EPPO also has a global database, which provides information on specific plant pests, including their distribution, host range, and documents of interest. Mention NAPPO? Reference the POARS SG

At the global level, communications and alerts related to pest outbreaks and alerts are mostly limited to information being posted on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP). The creation and implementation of the POARS should significantly improve international communications about emerging outbreaks and alerts, resulting in better plant protection at the global level.

**When should alerts be communicated?**

Alerts should be communicated when:

* An emerging pest is identified, following assessment against the emerging pest criteria
* There is a new outbreak of an emerging pest (verified = pest reporting)
* There is a significant change in the status and understanding (biological, ecological, other?) of an emerging pest, such as new information on host plants or when an emerging pest no longer fulfils emerging pest criteria(
* Reports in scientific or other publication to be confirmed with NPPO before creating an alert (follow up). IPPC Secretariat to contact them, If they don't answer or follow up, the report is put in a list of unofficial reports.
* There is agreement and resources (funds) to develop prevention, preparedness and response tools/training/networks etc.
* Prevention, preparedness and response tools are completed and available for use

**To whom should alerts be communicated to?**

Alerts should be communicated to the following people/groups:

* NPPOs
* RPPOs
* Donor organisations

**How should alerts be communicated?**

Alerts will be communicated in the following ways:

* When an emerging pest is identified, an alert should be sent to IPPC contact points (and donors) via email. This alert could provide a brief summary of the emerging pest, how it has fulfilled the criteria, and what’s next (template) (need graphic design):
  + Pest species name
  + Photo
  + Distribution and reports of outbreaks
  + Economic and/or environmental impacts
  + Risk to new areas
  + Tools and networks that could be created
  + Call for information
  + Encouragement for funding
* A monthly newsletter to IPPC contact points (and donors), which will include information on:
  + New emerging pests (Alert)
  + New outbreak reports (Alert)
  + Changes in status and understanding (Alert)
  + Plans for prevention, preparedness and response tools/training/networks etc.(Comms)
  + Prevention, preparedness and response tools available (Comms)
* The IPP website (POARS page), which will include:
  + Rolling updates (comms)
  + Emerging pest summary alert sheets (comms)
  + Map of emerging pest distribution and outbreaks (tabs for different pests)
  + Access to prevention, preparedness and response tools
  + Watch list
  + Database of emerging pests
  + Pests which no longer qualify as emerging pests
  + Links to other support and relevant websites e.g., EPPO global database
  + Outcome of assessment of pests (criteria)
* Social media to provide links to emerging pest qualifications, monthly newsletter and the website