



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES
NINETEENTH SESSION
CONFERENCE ROOM PAPER (CRP) ON EMERGING PESTS
AGENDA ITEM 18

(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat)

Background

- [1] Emerging pests pose a growing threat to plant health, biodiversity, and agricultural productivity worldwide. [CPM-14 \(2019\)](#) confirmed that updates on emerging pest situations be added to the CPM agenda as a standing item. CMP 14 also clarified that reports submitted and statements made as part of this standing CPM agenda item should:
- be oriented towards pest outbreaks that are regional in nature or have the potential to have regional impacts;
 - identify the nature of the damage caused or expected, plant resources at risk, the endangered area(s) and other relevant potential plant health, environmental or economic consequences;
 - describe what measures if any, have been taken and what the results of these efforts have been;
 - indicate, if known, what role the FAO and any other international organizations are playing, or are planning, in relation to the outbreak;
 - clarify precisely what role the FAO, IPPC Secretariat or RPPOs could play in helping contracting parties respond to the outbreak.
- [2] Building on the above and in the framework of the Development Agenda Item (DAI) on POARS, this document provides an update on emerging pests, emphasizing the critical role of Contracting Parties in reporting, monitoring, and responding. Recognizing that addressing emerging pests of global concern requires collective action, the IPPC Secretariat encourages NPPOs and RPPOs to engage in these efforts actively.

Launch of monthly summaries

- [3] In January 2025, in the framework of the Development Agenda Item (DAI) on POARS, the IPPC Secretariat launched Monthly Pest Reporting Summaries. These summaries systematically consolidate pest reports shared through the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) and national or regional web-based reporting systems. The goal is to provide countries with increased awareness of the pest reports received, enhance further National Reporting Obligations reports and keep the IPPC community better informed:

Table 1. IPPC Monthly pest reporting summaries

January: See summary here	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Clavibacter nebraskensis</i> (Goss' Wilt): First detection outside North America. - <i>Tomato brown rugose fruit virus (TOBRFV)</i>: This virus severely affects tomato and pepper crops, causing fruit deformation and significant yield losses - <i>Cryphonectria carpinicola</i> – A fungal pathogen affecting various tree species, leading to canker formation and potential tree decline.
February See summary here	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Confirmation from the Netherlands NPPO on their national web-based pest reporting system, reinforcing transparency and cooperation in global pest management. - Updates from the United States, including the termination of certain phytosanitary programs for pests like <i>Bagrada hilaris</i> and <i>Bactericera cockerelli</i>, expanded quarantine areas for <i>Elsinoe australis</i> (Sweet Orange Scab), and approval of new management programs for pests like <i>Radopholus similis</i> (Burrowing Nematode).

Identification of potential emerging pests

- [4] The POARS Steering Group (POARS SG) has established a structured process for identifying and assessing potential emerging pests of global concern. The emerging pest criteria are split into three steps:

Step 1 Distribution and spread:	to show the pest is spreading and is not yet widespread
Step 2 Current impact:	to show the pest is already economically and/or environmentally damaging
Step 3 Risk evidence:	to show the pest is capable of entering, establishing and causing substantial impacts in new areas and will be difficult to manage once introduced.

- [5] For more information about the process, please refer to the document CPM 2025/25.

Contribution to global early warning system

- [6] By submitting pest reports through the IPP as national reporting obligations (NROs), Contracting Parties contribute to a global early warning system, strengthening national and regional responses, ensuring that potential emerging pests are identified and assessed for priority actions under the POARS initiative.

Monitoring and collaboration

- [7] The IPPC secretariat has initiated regular monitoring of the pest reports received under NROs. National or regional organizations conducting horizon scanning activities will be invited to collaborate in identifying potential threats. Additionally, the IPPC Secretariat is setting the stage to collaborate with key partners and engage in horizon scanning activities to complement these efforts. For more information, refer to the document CPM 2025/25.

Creation of IPPC Pest Alerts

- [8] The IPPC Secretariat has created a dedicated IPPC Pest Alert section under the Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems (POARS) web subpage in the IPP. The Pest Alert initiative supports the POARS pilot by providing timely notifications and critical information about potential or confirmed emerging pests. Whenever a new pest alert is issued, NPPOs and RPPOs receive notifications via email. The IPPC Pest Alert section will continue to evolve based on feedback and experiences gathered throughout the pilot phase.

Alert issued for *Clavibacter nebraskensis*

- [9] On 3 March 2025, the IPPC Secretariat issued its first Pest Alert concerning the first confirmed detection of *Clavibacter nebraskensis* (Goss's Wilt of maize) outside North America. Read the full alert [here](#).

Call for nominations

- [10] In coordination with the POARS SG, the IPPC Secretariat opened a [call for nominations of potential emerging pests](#) from January 31st to March 3rd, 2025. This call invited NPPOs and RPPOs to nominate pests that could become of global concern. In response, 21 nominations were received, and one RPPO requested additional time, with its submissions expected in late March.
- [11] Table 2 indicates the list of pests nominated in response to the call for emerging pests, including those nominations presented by the Secretariat. The Secretariat's nominations are based on monitoring pest reports submitted through National Reporting Obligations (NROs) and an initial review of data and a pre-assessment against the criteria established for identifying emerging pests.
- [12] This list is also available in the IPPC POARS subsection, where it will be regularly updated to reflect ongoing assessments. The IPPC Secretariat has conducted a pre-assessment of nominated pests based on available data and criteria established by the POARS SG, which will further validate and provide expert review before finalizing any determinations. To ensure transparency, the outcomes of these evaluations will be published at: [Emerging pests - International Plant Protection Convention](#)
- [13] The following pests were nominated through the call by NPPOs, RPPOs, and the IPPC Secretariat:

Table 2. List of pests nominated in response to the call issued by the IPPC Secretariat

Pest Identity	Nominator	Taxonomy	Main crops/plants affected
<i>Anomis leona</i> (Lepidoptera)	Nigeria	Insect, Lepidoptera, Erebidae	Cocoa
<i>Bactericera cockerelli</i> (Šulc, 1909)	Netherlands	Insect, Hemiptera, Triozidae	Potato
Banana Bunchy Top Virus (BBTV)	South Africa	Virus, Nanoviridae	Banana
<i>Candidatus liberibacter asiaticus</i> , <i>Ca. L africanus</i> Citrus greening disease [Huanglongbing (HLB)]	South Africa	Bacteria, Rhizobiaceae	Citrus
Cassava brown streak viruses (CBSVs)	Nigeria	Virus, Potyviridae	Cassava
<i>Clavibacter nebraskensis</i>	South Africa	Bacteria, Microbacteriaceae	Maize
<i>Cryphonectria parasitica</i> (Chestnut Blight Pathogen)	IPPC Secretariat	Fungi, Cryphonectriaceae	Chestnut and Castanea and Quercus species
<i>Drosophila suzukii</i>	South Africa	Insect, Diptera, Drosophilidae	Soft-skinned fruits (e.g., berries, cherries, grapes)
<i>Eriococcus ironsidei</i> Macadamia Felted Coccid (MFC)	South Africa	Insect, Hemiptera, Eriococcidae	Macadamia
<i>Euwallacea fornicatus</i> (Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer)	South Africa	Insect, Coleoptera, Curculionidae	Avocado, coffee, and ornamental trees

Pest Identity	Nominator	Taxonomy	Main crops/plants affected
<i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> f. sp. <i>cubense</i> tropical race 4	South Africa	Fungi, Nectriaceae	Musaceae crops (e.g. banana, plantain)
<i>Halyomorpha halys</i> (Brown Marmorated Stink Bug)	South Africa	Insect, Hemiptera, Pentatomidae	A wide range of crops, including fruits, vegetables, and ornamental plants
<i>Lycorma delicatula</i> (Spotted Lanternfly)	South Africa	Insect, Hemiptera, Fulgoridae	A wide range of crops, including grapes, apples, and hardwood trees
Maize Lethal Necrosis (MLN)	South Africa	Virus complex	Maize
<i>Rhizoctonia theobromae</i> (<i>Ceratobasidium theobromae</i>)	Brazil	Fungi, Ceratobasidiaceae	Cassava, Cacao
Sri Lanka Cassava Mosaic Virus	South Africa	Virus, Geminiviridae, Begomovirus	Cassava
<i>Synchytrium endobioticum</i> (new pathotypes)	Netherlands	Fungi, Synchytriaceae	Potato
<i>Thaumetopoea processionea</i> (Oak Processionary Moth)	IPPC Secretariat	Insect, Lepidoptera, Notodontidae	Oak trees
<i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> (Strain coffe Peru)	IPPC Secretariat	Bacteria, Xanthomonadaceae	Coffee
<i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> subsp. <i>fastidiosa</i> ; <i>X. f.</i> subsp. <i>multiplex</i> ; <i>X. f.</i> subsp. <i>pauca</i> ; <i>X. f.</i> subsp. <i>sandyi</i> ; <i>X. f.</i> subsp. <i>morus</i>	IPPC Secretariat	Bacteria, Xanthomonadaceae	Olives, grapes, almonds, citrus, oak, elm, sycamore, and peach trees
<i>Zeugodacus cucurbitae</i> (Melon fly)	IPPC Secretariat	Insect, Diptera, Tephritidae	Cucurbit crops (e.g., melons, cucumbers, pumpkins)

Next steps on the pests nominated

- [14] The POARS SG will finalize the assessment and select the emerging pests for further action under the POARS framework. Contracting Parties will be invited to collaborate through calls for resources and expert contributions as relevant, facilitating the conduction of activities to support NPPOs and RPPOs in prevention, preparedness, and response efforts.
- [15] When relevant and subject availability of resources, Expert Working Groups (EWGs) will be created to develop practical tools, guidance, training, and networks tailored to each emerging pest of global concern. Additionally, collaboration and information sharing with key organizations that operate pest alert and response systems will be encouraged to create synergies, enhance coordination, and strengthen global phytosanitary preparedness.

Contributions from Contracting Parties

- [16] Contracting Parties can further contribute to these efforts by:
- Continue reporting relevant pests through the IPP.
 - Engage in the pest alert system to stay updated on threats.
 - Provide feedback on the POARS pilot initiative to enhance its effectiveness.
 - Collaborate with other CPs, RPPOs, and the IPPC Secretariat to strengthen phytosanitary capacity.

FAO Subregional Office for Eastern Africa raises Concern Over *Clavibacter nebraskensis* (Goss's Wilt of Maize)

- [17] On 20 February 2025, the FAO Subregional Office for Eastern Africa (FAO-SFE) alerted the FAO Plant Protection and Production (NPS) division about the detection of *Clavibacter nebraskensis* (Goss's Wilt of maize) on the African continent. They emphasized the urgent need for timely surveillance, risk assessment, and coordinated response efforts to safeguard maize production in Eastern Africa.
- [18] Following a preliminary assessment, the IPPC Secretariat issued a pest alert and is currently working with the POARS SG to determine whether this threat constitutes a global concern or remains a regional emerging pest. However, the POARS SG raised some uncertainties regarding the pest's primary pathways of spread and its economic impact.
- [19] The POARS SG decided to include this pest in the POARS pilot program. Initial actions will focus on issuing a call for resources to support prevention and preparedness efforts. Additionally, Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs) and FAO regional offices in Africa, Latin America, Asia, and the Pacific will be engaged to strengthen prevention and preparedness strategies.
- [20] The discussions at CPM -19 will be instrumental in assessing the need for coordinated international actions and will help in shaping the next steps and defining relevant collective actions. The POARS SG will meet after CPM-19 to discuss this topic especially.

Conclusion and recommendations

- [21] The number of pest nominations and the likelihood of multiple pests being categorized as emerging threats highlight the need for a structured and efficient prioritization system. To streamline decision-making and ensure that resources are directed where they are most needed, the IPPC Secretariat will propose to the POARS SG a tiered triage system to categorize pests based on their spread, impact, and urgency.
- [22] Building on the pre-assessment conducted by the IPPC Secretariat, the POARS SG will continue evaluating nominated pests, prioritizing relevant actions during the POARS pilot phase, and guiding discussions on appropriate next steps. While the IPPC Secretariat leads the coordination of these efforts, strong collaboration among NPPOs, RPPOs, FAO, and international partners remains essential to ensuring an effective and timely response.
- [23] Discussions at CPM 19 will help shape international emerging pests' priorities, reinforcing the IPPC community's role in the POARS.
- [24] Contracting Parties are encouraged to remain actively engaged in pest reporting through the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP). The IPPC Secretariat sincerely appreciates the efforts of countries that have provided pest reports as part of their National Reporting Obligations (NROs) and responded to the call for nominating emerging pests.
- [25] The CPM is invited to:
- *note* the 21 pests nominated by NPPOs, RPPOs, and the IPPC Secretariat in response to the call for emerging pests.
 - *encourage* Contracting Parties to collaborate in prevention, preparedness, and response efforts related to emerging pests.
 - *acknowledge* the launch of the IPPC Monthly Pest Reporting Summaries
 - *note* the establishment of the new IPPC Pest Alert section under POARS in the IPP.
 - *note* the first pest alert issued for *Clavibacter nebraskensis* and engage in discussions on relevant emerging pest situations to inform future actions and priorities.
 - *take note* of the concern raised by the FAO Subregional Office for Eastern Africa regarding this pest and

- *support* the inclusion of this pest in the POARS pilot program for further risk assessment and resource mobilization.
- *thank* Contracting Parties that have actively submitted pest reports as part of their National Reporting Obligations (NROs) and those which participated in the call for emerging pests