Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP meeting

update from the cPM focus group on global phytosanitary research coordination

(*Prepared by the focus group members*)

Introduction

1. International research collaboration across nations, institutions and disciplines can lead to higher quality science, efficiencies of resource use, better outcomes, and wider adoption of results. However, these benefits of collaboration will only be realised for phytosanitary research when there is mutual vision in alignment of research goals and collaboration is actively supported. The need to develop a balanced portfolio of research work, ranging from strategic to applied research, will be essential when trying to maximising research benefit at the global level.
2. Therefore, in March 2023 the CPM-17 agreed to establish a Focus Group on Global Phytosanitary Research Coordination (FG-GPRC) and at CPM-18 in April 2024, the terms of reference were approved.
3. The main objective of the focus group is to carry out a scoping study to examine the existing international and regional phytosanitary research structures and policies. This study will identify gaps and outline options for improving regional and global coordination. Following CPM approval, a proposal and framework for establishing a coordination mechanism will be developed.

Focus group work to date

1. The FG-GPRC held its kick-off meeting in December 2024 and has convened regularly scheduled virtual meetings. To date, there have been 12 virtual meetings.
2. The focus group designed a brief questionnaire to distribute to the research networks in advance of virtual interview meetings with research network representatives. The questionnaire also helps to guide the discussions during the interview meetings. To date, there have been two interview sessions with research networks with plans for additional interviews to be scheduled.

The research networks have been identified for interviews based on four criteria:

* Scope of the network ̶ prioritizing networks with a wide range of interests within plant health, rather than those focused on a single disease or commodity
* Geographical coverage ̶ considering networks that operate across a significant geographical area, potentially encompassing diverse climatic and ecological conditions
* Phytosanitary relevance ̶ prioritizing networks with a strong focus on sanitary issues (preferably plant health related)
* Policy relevance ̶ prioritizing networks that actively engage with policy makers and thus can influence policy decisions.

1. Furthermore, FG-GPRC members are also drafting a national-level research survey to better understand existing research coordination mechanisms at national levels and identify gaps and enhance collaboration to address those gaps. It is anticipated that this survey will be distributed to NPPO counterparts later this autumn.
2. FG-GPRC members have also initiated the drafting of a report for presentation to CPM-20 in March 2026. To date, several sections of the report have been drafted, and FG members plan to meet at FAO HQ in Rome on November 4-6, 2025, to finalize a draft report for further vetting and finalization in preparation for CPM-20.

Challenges

1. The FG-GPRC is composed of nine members (table 1 below) with experience in phytosanitary research coordination, and/or knowledge of the IPPC and its activities. In its short existence the focus group has already undergone several changes in its membership:

* February 2025: the EPPO representative changed
* March 2025: the CPM Bureau representative changed
* March 2025: a new member, representing the Near East and Northern African (NENA) region joined

**Table 1. Membership of the CPM Focus Group on Global Phytosanitary Research Coordination**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Role | Member | Representing |
| 1 | RPPO representative | Mr. Saliou NIASSY | AU-IAPSC |
| 2 | RPPO representative | Ms. Olga TIKKA | EPPO |
| 3 | RPPO representative | Mr. Rashid Hamdan Saif AL-SHIDI | NEPPO |
| 4 | NPPO representative | Ms. Susie COLLINS | Australia |
| 5 | NPPO representative | Ms. Cheryl DOLLARD (vice chairperson) | Canada |
| 6 | NPPO representative | Mr. Philippe REIGNAULT | France |
| 7 | NPPO representative | Mr. Maikel AVESKAMP (chairperson) | Netherlands |
| 8 | Expert | Mr. Takashi FUJIKAWA | Japan |
| 9 | CPM Bureau representative | Mr. Glenn PANGANIBAN | CPM bureau (Asia region) |

1. The composition of the focus group is aimed to have a geographical balance. However, currently, there is no representative from the Latin America and the Caribbean regions.
2. Therefore, the list of research networks that has been created is geographically biased towards the regions and countries of the members of the focus group. This has resulted in an underrepresentation of research networks that are, for example, operating in Latin America and the Caribbean.
3. This changing membership, while necessary did result in some progress delays as the new members were brought up to speed on the group’s purpose, prior discussions, and initial decisions. This also means that existing members have needed to revisit earlier conversations or decisions to integrate new perspectives.

Delivery of this Development Agenda Item (DAI)

1. More information about the FG-GPRC, including the terms of reference (ToRs), membership, action plan and meeting reports can be accessed at the FG-GPRC subpage on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP): <https://www.ippc.int/en/commission/cpm-focus-group-reports/cpm-focus-group-on-global-phytosanitary-research-coordination/>.

Recommendations

The SPG is invited to:

1. *Discuss* this update from the CPM focus group on global phytosanitary research coordination.