



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



International
Plant Protection
Convention



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

A GLOBAL PEST OUTBREAK ALERT AND RESPONSE SYSTEM (POARS)

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Background

1

During CPM-14 (2019), the concept of emerging pests and emergency issues was discussed, and several countries expressed their concern regarding the situation with *Spodoptera frugiperda*.

2

The concept of emerging pests was aligned with the development agenda item listed in the IPPC Strategic Framework (2020-2030) entitled “Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response System”

3

The scope would be limited to species qualifying as quarantine or potential quarantine pests.

4

A Focus Group was set and met virtually every month from January to September 2021.

Outline:

1. POARS overarching components
2. Considerations related to relations with other bodies and stakeholders
3. Considerations related to the information systems and tools available through the POARS
4. Considerations on definitions
5. Considerations related to the governance of the POARS

1. POARS overarching components

Overarching components

Policy model

Legal framework

Financial model

Data management
and communication
system

Oversight

Pre-presence to detection

Alert

Early
Detection

Post detection

Response

Notification



GLOBAL PEST OUTBREAK ALERT AND RESPONSE SYSTEM FRAMEWORK

2. Considerations related to relations with other bodies and stakeholders

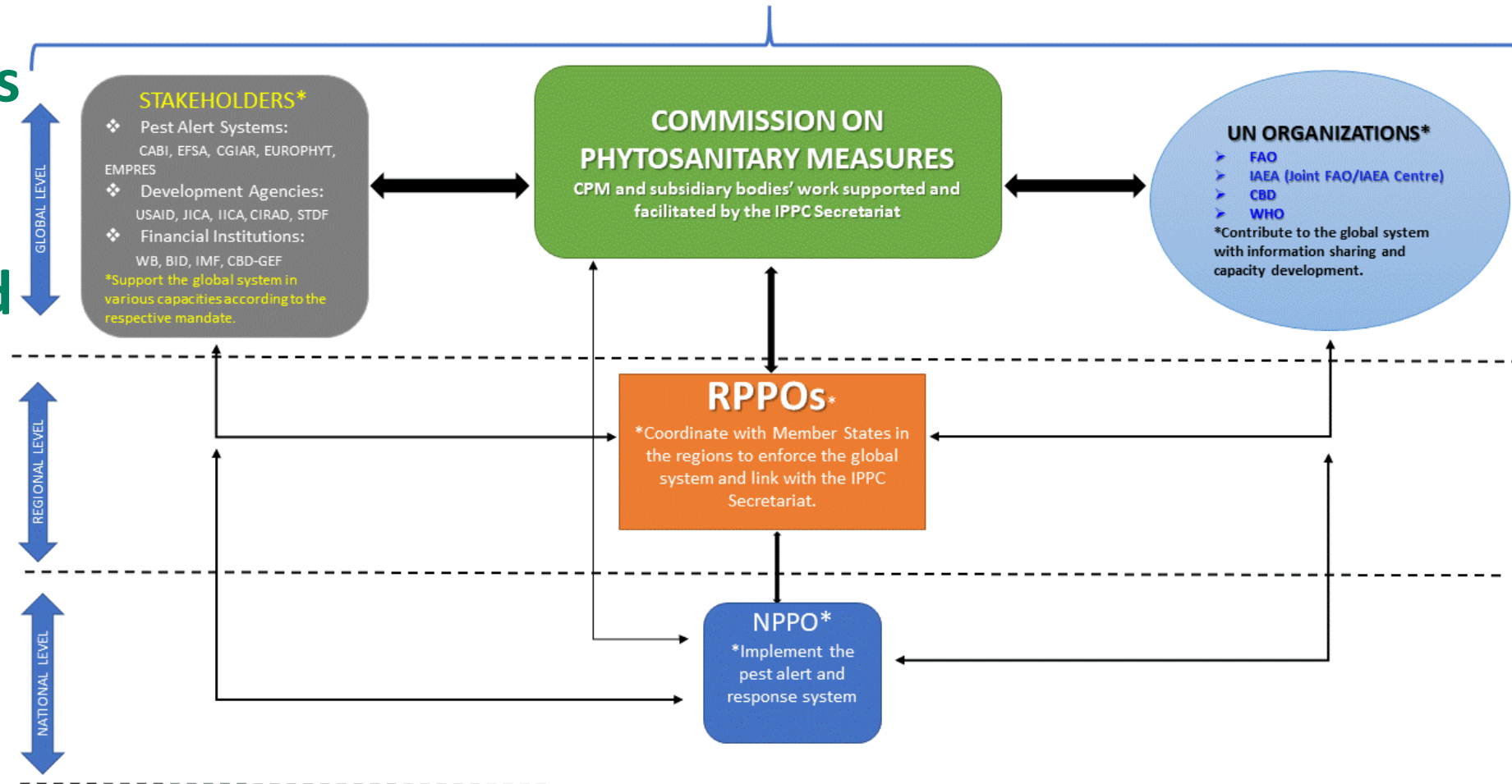


Figure 2. Proposed framework for the Pest Outbreak Alert and Response System (POARS).

3. Considerations related to the information systems and tools available through the POARS

A **dedicated webpage** should be set up and connections with links to RPPOs' websites. The webpage should provide access to a toolbox to include:



Automated processes

to scan media and scientific sources for information on emerging pests.

Data visualization

of the geographic distribution of emerging pests, and their progressive spread

Tools

for the collection and sharing of surveillance data for emerging pests and facilitate access more readily to expertise on diagnostics, surveillance and eradication.

Pest specific webpages

Simple, Timely (up to date) and Accurate pest specific pages on emerging pests.



POARS must include capacity development for NPPOs and pest reports need to be submitted in a timely and transparent manner. The information system must be legally supported (e.g., ensure no liabilities issues for the IPPC Secretariat).

Some pests which invade quickly with huge impact and over large areas could cause a global concern

- Pests which invaded most of Africa within 10 years after first detection

Bactrocera dorsalis: 2003-2013

South of Sahara all countries except Lesotho

Tuta absoluta: 2006-2016

First in North Africa. From 2013 -16 all Countries South of Sahara

Spodoptera frugiperda: 2016-2017

South of Sahara all countries



4. Definitions

The FG advised the Standard Committee to request the Technical Panel on the Glossary (TPG) to consider the term 'emerging pest' and a definition to be included in ISPM 5 (Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms):

"A pest qualifying as a quarantine pest for which the pest risk or impact for an area has recently increased substantially, due to changes in pest-intrinsic factors, hosts, pathways or environment related factors with potential damage reaching epidemic proportions".

5. Considerations related to the governance of the POARS

- The FG considered whether POARS should be established as part of the IC, or whether a new subsidiary body should be established. **The FG recommended that a new subsidiary body is established, provisionally named the Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems Committee (POARSC).**
- **As a start, the CPM recommended that a POARS Steering Group would be set for two years.**

The **POARS Committee** should:

1

be established to provide general direction to the POARS;

2

ensure overall coordination between stakeholders' organizations globally; and,

3

drive resource mobilization.

This Steering Group could be composed of nine members with relevant skills and experience in Alert and Response Systems, among which there will be at least a RPPO representative.



Recommendations of the POARS focus group

- the recommendations from the Focus Group had been published on the International Phytosanitary Portal at https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/mediakitdocument/en/2022/03/POARS_All_Recommendations.pdf
- **following the CPM decision, a call for experts for the POARS steering group was open until the 19th of September:** <https://www.ippc.int/fr/calls/call-for-experts-for-the-pest-outbreak-alert-and-response-systems-steering-group/>.





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Thank You

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