



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES SIDE SESSION: INNOVATIVE RESEARCH AND TOOLS TO PREVENT AND CONTAIN FUSARIUM TR4 SPREAD

Wednesday 19 March, 2025, 13-14.45 PM, FAO Red Room

Hybrid session: <https://www.fao.org/webcast/home/en/item/6973/icode/>

Translation available: French and Spanish

Concept Note

1. Background

The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) 17 (2023) requested the IPPC Secretariat to coordinate global action on the growing threat of Fusarium TR4, a soil-borne pathogen affected banana production. As part of this initiative, at the request of the CPM Bureau, the IPPC secretariat organized a knowledge-sharing side session during CPM-18 (2024) to share experiences from various countries that have experience in undertaking preparedness and/or response activities to prevent the entry and spread of this pathogen. Countries such as Australia, Ecuador, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nicaragua, and the Republic of Venezuela, along with experts from the FAO Office in Mesoamerica and the Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA) shared their valuable experiences and insights. Given the strong interest and attendance at the session, the CPM Bureau has requested a follow-up session at CPM-19 (2025) focusing on innovations in research, prevention, and containment tools for Fusarium TR4.

This CPM-19 side session is an opportunity to demonstrate innovative tools and research, and to further raise awareness on the risk of Fusarium TR4. It also seeks to bring together key stakeholders, including the private sector, to discuss the role of Public-Private Partnership in actionable solutions and resource mobilization. This concept note outlines the expected outcomes of the session and provides a draft programme in Table 1 below.

2. Objectives

The CPM side session on Fusarium TR4 is expected to achieve the following objectives:

- (1) **Foster awareness and collaboration:** Contribute to the on-going efforts of FAO and IPPC Secretariat in addressing Fusarium TR4, promote increased awareness of its risks and impact on global banana production. and collaboration.
- (2) **Showcase innovative tools and need for solutions:** Highlight some of the innovative research, and preparedness tools that can assist countries and stakeholders in preparing for and managing the spread of Fusarium TR4 effectively.
- (3) **Engage stakeholders:** Engage appropriate stakeholders, particularly the private sector, to strengthen collaboration and support efforts such as in resource mobilization to improve preparedness, response and prevention activities against Fusarium TR4.

Table 1 Draft programme for the side session on Fusarium TR4 during Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM)- 19, 2025

Modality: Hybrid (in person and online)		
Venue: Red Room, FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy		
Online: https://www.fao.org/webcast/home/en/item/6973/icode/		
Facilitator: Preet Parmar		
Time	Description	Proposed speakers
13:00-13:10	Opening	FAO Deputy Director General <i>Beth Bechdol</i>
13:10-13:25	Introduction of challenges with global coordination on Fusarium TR4 activities, FAO and IPPC activities and of speakers	<i>Sarah Brunel</i> IPPC Secretariat
13:25-13:35	Innovative capacity development tool: virtual 3D simulation room	<i>Carlos Ramón Urías Morales</i> OIRSA
13:35- 13:43	Innovative research: new varieties of banana	<i>Mónica Betancourt Vásquez</i> AGROSAVIA
13:43-13:50	Innovative research: Point-of-care molecular detection in the field, new control measures and resistant breeding	<i>Chunyu LI</i> GDAAS ¹ China
13:50-14:00	Role of public-private partnerships in management of Fusarium TR4 spread: private sector	<i>George Kporye</i> Golden Exotics Ltd Ghana
14:00-14:07	Update on innovation on Fusarium TR4 activities in Latin America and Caribbean region	<i>Raixa Llauger</i> FAO Mesoamerica
14:07-14:14	Simulation exercise in Kenya and response capacities strengthened through the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation	<i>Florence Munguti</i> NPPO of Kenya
14:14-14:35	Q & A session	<i>Preet Parmar</i> IPPC Secretariat
14:35-14:45	Closing from the Office of Innovation (OIN)	<i>Vincent Jean Martin</i> FAO

¹ Guangdong Academy of Agricultural Sciences