



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

EIGHTEENTH SESSION

CPM-18 SIDE SESSION ON FUSARIUM TR4 PROGRAMME

When: Wednesday 17 April 2024 | 13:00-14:45 (CET)

Where: Red Room (A121), FAO Headquarters

Live-streaming link: <http://www.fao.org/webcast/home/en/item/6522/icode/>

Fusarium oxysporum f.sp. *cubense* Tropical Race 4 (TR4) is a significant threat to global banana production. During the side session on Fusarium TR4, national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) will share their experiences in responding to Fusarium TR4 outbreak in their countries. The objective of this is to share lessons on the importance of early-warning systems, detection, and management of Fusarium TR4 outbreaks. In this session, NPPOs of countries where Fusarium TR4 has not been detected will also share their experiences in undertaking preparatory simulation exercises to prevent and prepare to respond to Fusarium outbreaks in their countries. This discussion will revolve around what aspects of the emergency response were covered during the simulation and how this helped prepare for a real pest emergency response.

Programme

Time	Description	Speakers
13:00-13:05	Opening (5 minutes)	Mr. Osama ElLissy IPPC Secretariat
13:05-13:10	Introduction to the session and instructions (5 minutes)	Ms. Sarah Brunel IPPC Secretariat
13:10-13:20	Technical presentation (10 minutes)	Dr. Raixa Llauger FAO Mesoamerica & Mr. Carlos Ramón Urías Morales OIRSA
13:20-13:25	Mozambique's experience in management of Fusarium TR4 outbreak (5 minutes)	Mr. Afonso Sitole Mozambique NPPO
13:25-13:30	Australia's emergency response and management experience (5 minutes)	Dr. Gabrielle Vivian Smith Australia NPPO
13:30-13:35	Venezuela's experience on Fusarium TR4 outbreak response (5 minutes)	Dr. Joan José Montilla Mota Venezuela NPPO
13:35-13:40	Nicaragua's experience on undertaking a face-to-face simulation exercise for Fusarium TR4 (5 minutes)	Mr. Ricardo José Somarriba Reyes Nicaragua NPPO
13:40-13:45	Ecuador's experience on undertaking a face-to-face simulation exercise for Fusarium TR4 (5 minutes)	Mr. Larry Mouricio Rivera Jara Ecuador NPPO

13:45-13:50	Outputs from the IPPC tabletop simulation exercise (5 minutes).	<i>Ms. Saholy Nomenjanahary Ramiliarijaona</i> Madagascar NPPO
13:50-14:10	Q & A (20 minutes)	<i>Ms. Sarah Brunel</i> Moderator
14.10-14.40	Interactive session (30 minutes)	Facilitator
14.40-14.45	Closing	<i>Ms. Sarah Brunel</i> Moderator

Speakers

Title: FAO and OIRSA activities on *Fusarium* TR4

Raixa Llauger



Raixa Llauger has an academic background in Plant Protection and Biotechnology, Agronomic crop diagnosis and management. She has previously worked for the Tropical Fruit Research Institute of the Ministry of Agriculture of Cuba for 23 years as a researcher and then as a General Director in research related to agronomic management and diagnosis of diseases affecting fruit trees.

She is currently the Agriculture Officer (Tropical Fruits) of the Subregional Office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for Mesoamerica and is responsible for coordinating the Better Environment program for Mesoamerica and the One Health Program in the FAO office and its coordination with other organizations in the region.

As an official of FAO, she provides technical assistance in public policies for countries in terms of production, plant protection, as well as in designing and implementing national, subregional, and regional programs and projects related to agrifood systems to be better adapted to climate change, more resilient, ecosystem services, remaining programs within the strategic framework, contributing directly to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Carlos Ramón Urías Morales



Carlos Ramón Urías Morales is an agronomic engineer and a professional parasitologist with a postgraduate degree in Phytopathology. He has experience in academics, research and management in Plant Protection related public and private sectors in Mexico. He currently works as a Plant Health Regional Director at the Regional Plant Protection Organisation, Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA), spearheading the Plant pests early warning systems, technological innovation in plant protection, simulation drills for preventing/managing pest outbreaks, capacity assessment for dealing with phytosanitary threats, rapid response to phytosanitary emergencies, among other topics being implemented in the Region: Mexico, Central America and Dominican Republic.

Title: Mozambique's experience in the management of *Fusarium* TR4 disease

Afonso Ernesto Sitole



Afonso Ernesto Sitole joined the National Plant Protection Organization of Mozambique in 2000. Currently, he is the IPPC official contact person, and the head of Pest Surveillance, Phytosanitary Inspection, and Plant Quarantine. He is also the national focal point for SPS. During his career at the NPPO of Mozambique, he has worked as a plant nematologist and been involved in many plant protection activities such as surveillance and surveys of pests, laboratory diagnostic, coordination of comments on draft ISPM for Mozambique, plant quarantine and inspection, the establishment of PFA, and editor of IPPC portal, etc. He has represented Mozambique in SPS issues at the regional and international level; and was part of the trade negotiations teams for trade preferential agreements at the SADC region. He is trained in many subjects: PRA, Advanced SPS course, IPM, Phytosanitary inspection and Quarantine, Plant biosecurity, notification of SPS issues, Agriculture and trade, and trade policy, etc. He has a Master's Degree in Agrarian Development, Bachelor of Management and Planning, and Diploma in Agriculture and Livestock.

Title: Australia's emergency response and management experience

Gabriell Vivian-Smith



Gabrielle Vivian-Smith was appointed Chief Plant Protection Officer of Australia in 2021 after an extended period of acting in the role. She is Australia's Delegate at the International Plant Protection Convention. She leads Australia's national responses to emergency plant pest and disease incursions. Her work aims to protect Australia's plant-based industries and the natural environment from harmful exotic plant pests and diseases. Such pests and diseases, if allowed to establish can permanently reduce the productivity of our land and damage our natural heritage. She has worked in biosecurity for 20 years including managing complex, high profile biosecurity and scientific programs and portfolios in science, operational response and policy at state and national levels. She was previously Victoria's Chief Plant Health Officer from 2013 to 2017. From 2001 to 2013 Gabrielle led various Queensland Government biosecurity programs in invasive species research, policy and operational programs. Gabrielle's formal qualifications include a Bachelor of Agricultural Science (Hons), a Graduate Diploma in Horticulture and a PhD in Ecology.

Title: Venezuela's experience on *Fusarium* TR4 outbreak response

Joan José Montilla Mota



Joan José Montilla Mota has been in the role of the National Director of Agricultural Health for seven years. Prior to being appointed this position, he had the role of Director of Agricultural Research Centre of the Anzoátegui State and National Director of Agricultural Research Centre. He also has 20 years of experience as an Agricultural Research Professional. He is IPPC's Official Contact Point for Venezuela.

He is an Agricultural Engineer by training and holds a Master's in plant Breeding and Doctorate in Ecology of Human Development.

Title: Nicaragua's experience**Ricardo Jose Somarriba Reyes**

Ricardo Somarriba is an agricultural engineer by training with a postgraduate and master's degree in rural development sciences. He has experience in senior management and consulting positions and has previously been in the role of the General Manager of the Rural Development Institute (IDR).

He is currently the Executive Director of the Institute of Agricultural Protection and Health, the competent sanitary-phytosanitary authority of Nicaragua.

He is Nicaragua's delegate and Official Contact Point for the International Plant Protection Convention.

Title: Ecuador's experience**Larry Mauricio Rivera Jara**

Larry Mauricio Rivera Jara is a food industrialization engineer. He has a Master's degree in agroindustry with mention in food quality and safety.

He is currently the General Coordinator of Plant Health with National Plant Protection Organization of Ecuador, AGROCALIDAD. He is also the Official Contact Point for the International Plant Protection Convention for Ecuador. His previous roles include Food Safety Manager for AGROCALIDAD, auditor and trainer, best practices certification specialist, professor at the University of Americas on good manufacturing practices and FSMA law and working as the President of Ecuador's dairy technical committee.

He has also participated in the Tropical *Fusarium* TR4 event in Americas to exchange experiences, perspectives and technological innovations for the prevention, containment, and integrated management of *Fusarium* TR4. He has also coordinated and planned several technical visits and simulation exercises for *Fusarium* TR4.

Title: Madagascar's experience- Outputs from the IPPC table-top simulation exercise**Ramiliarijaona Nomenjanahary Saholy**

Ramiliarijaona Nomenjanahary Saholy was appointed as the Director of Plant Protection of Madagascar in 2021. Since taking on this role, her objective has been to implement Madagascar's compliance with international standards and measures, especially those of the IPPC.

She was also the head of the NPPO in 2017 when Madagascar carried out its phytosanitary capacity assessment with IPPC experts. This evaluation resulted in the development of the Phytosanitary Strategy and the updating of the phytosanitary law of Madagascar.

She was also the Head of the ePhyto Project in 2020 which was able to set up and implement electronic phytosanitary certification in her country. This project was carried out with the support of the World Forum for Trade and Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation.

Currently, she works extensively with her team to prevent the introduction of invasive pests such as corn MLND and *Fusarium* TR4 across Madagascar's 13 borders. She has also been the IPPC Official Contact Point for Madagascar since 2017.

Moderator

Sarah Brunel



Sarah Brunel leads, within the IPPC Secretariat, the Implementation and Facilitation Unit (IFU), which coordinates implementation, facilitation and capacity development activities such as the production of IPPC guides and training materials, phytosanitary capacity evaluations and capacity strengthening activities to address emerging pests. Her focus is on the coordination of implementation projects and management of the IFU's workplan, including staffing, budgeting, resource mobilization and strategies. She is the IPPC Secretariat's lead on One Health. She is also the secretariat's liaison with organizations such as the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI), Comité de Liaison Entreprenariat – Agriculture – Développement (COLEAD), the European Union and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). She is an agricultural engineer from the Institut Supérieur d'Agriculture Rhône-Alpes (ISARA). She has a master's degree in international affairs and another in anthropology from Sorbonne University and the French Museum of Natural History, respectively. She has more than 20 years of national, regional and international experience in plant protection, pest and disease control policies and legislation, implementation of standards for phytosanitary measures, environmental protection and capacity development.

Facilitator

Preet Parmar



Preet Parmar leads the activities on the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) trade facilitation project for *Fusarium* TR4 prevention. Prior to joining the IPPC Secretariat, she worked for the New Zealand National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) for six years. She was involved in developing phytosanitary requirements following International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) to manage phytosanitary risks associated with importing fresh fruits and vegetables into New Zealand. She was also part of a team comprising representatives from the New Zealand NPPO and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The team worked on improving and enhancing phytosanitary certification systems in selected Pacific Island countries. More recently, she worked as a Senior Adviser for the response group in the NPPO, responding to pest detections in New Zealand. She is a New Zealand national. She holds a bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences and master's degree in Biosecurity and Conservation from the University of Auckland, New Zealand.