



REPORT

Memphis, Tennessee
United States
02 – 06 November 2015

Twenty-Seventh Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations November, 2015



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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Note: The papers and Power Point presentations presented at the 27th Technical Consultation among RPPOs are available on the IPPC Website

1. Opening of the Twenty-Seventh Technical Consultation among RPPOs

- [1] The meeting was officially opened by Mr. Osama El-Lissy, Deputy Administrator of the NPPO of the USA through a video. He welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of protecting agriculture and the natural environment, and facilitating safe trade. He mentioned that this meeting is crucial to deal with key issues in plant protection, in particular emerging pests and ePhyto, the adaptation of diagnostic and treatment technologies and wished a fruitful meeting to all participants. Ms. Stephanie Bloem, NAPPO Executive Director, also welcomed the participants to Memphis, Tennessee.
- [2] Mr. Jingyuan Xia, Secretary of the IPPC, welcomed all the participants and stressed the crucial role of RPPOs. He recalled the UN sustainable agenda and the need to integrate IPPC activities within this framework. He stressed the current efforts being taken to renew the IPPC with the establishment of a Standard Setting unit, an Implementation and Facilitation unit, and a Communication and Partnership unit within the Secretariat. He stressed the importance of this meeting for the IPPC to articulate the global, regional and national phytosanitary activities. He wished excellent discussions during this meeting to the participants.

2. Election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur

- [3] The meeting elected Ms. Stephanie Bloem as the Chairperson, Mr. Mekki Chouibani, as Vice-Chairperson and Ms. Rebecca Lee as Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

- [4] The Secretariat presented the agenda and noted this is the first time in many years that all RPPOs are present in the TC meeting, which stands as a record. The agenda was adopted with some modifications proposed by the Secretariat by mail, and by EPPO and NAPPO during the meeting. The agenda was adopted as per Appendix I. It was noted that the minutes would include the reports from each RPPO in an appendix, while the power point presentations would be posted on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) in the Technical Consultation's area.

4. Matters arising from the Twenty-Fifth Technical Consultation

- [5] The TC agreed that teleconference or videoconference could be a mechanism for periodic communication. Teleconference is the first choice because not all RPPOs have video facilities.
- [6] About the periodicity of the teleconferences it should be before CPM and after the Bureau meeting in June.
- [7] The Secretariat should circulate the agenda of the teleconference at least two weeks before and should produce the minutes of the teleconference. As usual, the TC should meet during CPM and E-mails should be used as a main channel for requesting decisions.
- [8] Skype could be also explored as a communications mechanism, but it was noted that firewalls may block its use. NAPPO indicated that different software can be used for document sharing during teleconferences. It was suggested that the Secretariat would elaborate a table with the software that can be used by the different RPPOs.
- [9] The TC agreed:
- *The Secretariat should produce a table with the videoconference software that can be used by the different RPPOs.*

5. Information Exchange platform on RPPO activities

- [10] Each RPPO presented their activities over the past year. Summaries of their presentations are given in Appendix II. The TC had decided that each RPPO should be granted some more minutes of presentation to show their websites. Because of lack of time, presentations of the websites could not be performed, but some information is incorporated in the documents of the meeting. The RPPO presentations also provided opportunities to discuss and exchange views.

6. Results on consultations on a Caribbean RPPO

a) Mechanism for CPM to withdraw RPPO recognition

- [11] The Secretariat reminded the attendees that the Caribbean PPC (CPPC) had been abolished after a decision of the FAO Council (December 2014). The Secretariat informed the TC that the legal office recommended the development of a procedure for withdrawal of recognition of RPPO status. Currently, even if the CPPC does not exist anymore, it is still an RPPO recognized by the IPPC. For this reason the Secretariat informed that it is developing a document for CPM 11 suggesting the approval of a procedure to withdraw the recognition of an RPPO. The procedure that the Secretariat is elaborating follows the recommendation of the TC on using the same steps as for recognition in an inverse way.

b) CPPC and CAN

- [12] The Secretariat informed the participants to have received the formal confirmation of CAN acting as an RPPO in its region. CAN's letter was submitted to the IPPC Secretariat as requested, demonstrating its continuing activity. The suggestion by the TC in its past meeting of withdrawing CAN's recognition is no longer valid.
- [13] The Secretariat provided to the TC detailed information on its support to the creation of a recognised RPPO in the Caribbean. The Secretariat explained that no decision had been taken by the Caribbean countries on which institution would take on this role.
- [14] The TC agreed:
- *To express its concern on the urgent need of an RPPO for Caribbean countries, and this should be transmitted by IPPC to all Caribbean NPPO contact points.*
 - *To have a specific consideration for the Caribbean countries when undertaking capacity development activities.*

7. IPPC Secretariat update

- [15] The participants were updated by the Secretariat on IPPC towards 2020, the International Year of Plant Health, on the ePhyto project and on the Secretariat 2015 achievements.

7.1 IPPC Secretariat 2020

- [16] The Secretariat briefed the participants on the history of the IPPC and the future plans. The presentation is available on the IPP in the dedicated section.
- [17] The discussions following this presentation were focused on the problems of implementation of the IPPC and its standards. Some NPPOs highlighted the difficulties of their member countries in implementing standards and questioned the need to produce new standards until there is a substantive advance in terms of implementation and capacity development on existing standards. Other RPPOs offered case studies and suggested to increase the bottom-up communication of risks to increase participation in the implementation efforts of a country. NEPPO suggested establishing work plans for short, medium, and long terms concerning implementation of IPPC standards. The relationship WCO-IPPC was also mentioned as key to facilitating trade, particularly with regards ePhyto implementation. WCO will be invited to next CPM.

- [18] It was clarified by the Bureau chairperson that currently there are very few resources for implementation in the IPPC budget and that this type of actions should have worldwide impacts, but that implementation is a CP responsibility.
- [19] Another issue addressed under this presentation was the suggested switch from dispute settlement to dispute avoidance. The Secretariat clarified that there is no “interpretation” body in the IPPC and that the only expected role of the SBDS in this respect is “clarification”. Detailed information on standard setting activities was provided in the document presented by the Secretariat.

7.2 International Year of Plant Health

- [20] The Secretariat made the presentation on the International Year of Plant Health to be organized in 2020, as well as the topics to be covered in the years preceding 2020 (2016 – food security; 2017 – trade facilitation; 2018 – environmental protection; 2019 – capacity building).
- [21] RPPOs recognized the importance of this action to raise awareness about plant health, especially among politicians. The Secretariat indicated that upon approval from CPM 11, a steering group shall be organized. EPPO mentioned that the EPPO Council was very enthusiastic about the IYPH and should work on plant health and science through the Euphresco project, as well as on diagnostics. NAPPO suggested that actions toward engaging the next generation should be included. NEPPO suggested that an event presenting the IYPH could be organized during the FAO Council. Vertical integration IPPC/RPPO/NPPO could help in communicating activities surrounding IYPH. A concrete action that RPPOs could do is to motivate their NPPO members to advocate for the decision to be made at the UN Assembly in 2018.

7.3 ePhyto

- [22] The Secretariat updated the participants on the current state of the ePhyto project and the possible roles of the RPPOs. Mr. Neimanis presented the ePhyto forward work plan of the APPPC.
- [23] NAPPO asked whether some additional terms would need to be added to the glossary related to ePhyto. Mr. Neimanis answered that specific terminology is included in the appendix of ISPM 12 as well as in the “Implementing the IPPC Global ePhyto solution into APPPC countries”. The Secretariat explained that the TPG should consider whether there is a need to define this terminology and to elaborate a separate supplement.
- [24] NAPPO asked about the feedback of the surveys on ePhyto sent to NPPOs. Mr. Neimanis indicated that he could provide the report on countries which would have completed the survey to RPPOs.
- [25] EPPO indicated that some EU member states are likely to be awaiting a common system at EU level for receipt of ePhytos. EPPO would appreciate to get information on the number of additional EPPO codes which may be needed, and the names of the plants or pests for which they may be needed, in order to get an idea as to how much resource would be required.
- [26] The TC agreed:
- the document “Implementing the IPPC Global ePhyto solution into APPPC countries” should be shared by Mr. Neimanis and RPPOs should provide feedback within one month.
 - the ePhyto survey should be provided to the RPPOs by Mr. Neimanis, and RPPOs will then encourage NPPOs fill them out.

7.4 Main activities of the IPPC Secretariat in 2015

- [27] The Secretariat presented activities of the governance bodies of the IPPC Secretariat, the achievements of the standard setting unit, the implementation and facilitation unit, the communication and advocacy unit and the latest activities related to partnership and resource mobilization.

- [28] IAPSC requested to be informed on all IPPC activities organized in Africa, including at the national level. The Secretariat explained that most of IPPC field activities are based on FAO projects and that according to FAO rules, the project document is confidential. On the other hand, the list of activities of the Secretariat is presented to CPM and made public.
- [29] EPPO considered that it is sometimes difficult to follow progress of the topics and draft standards, particularly at which consultation stage they have reached, and requested that consideration be given to the way such information is presented.

8. CPM 10 Follow up

- [30] The Bureau Chairperson indicated that there were 8 proposals of standard setting documents for adoption supported by NPPOs. She indicated that consultation with Mr. Wang and FAO supported the IPPC Enhancement study recommendations and that Mr. Wang was invited to make an update to the contracting parties during CPM 11. The ePhyto project was discussed as well as the IYPH. For the IYPH, a formal approval needs to be obtained from FAO. She wondered how other bodies than FAO could be involved on the IYPH, as well as NPPOs, RPPOs and IPPC to make a successful event. She pointed out that a ministerial meeting shall be organized in 2020, as well as a donor meeting.
- [31] She also mentioned that the lack of resources in the multidonor trust fund compromises the sustainability of the Secretariat and that more proactive contributions are required from contracting parties and donors. She also indicated that South Korea may host CPM 12.
- [32] The Secretariat added that the CPM side programme was very successful and involved NPPOs and RPPOs. The Secretariat thanked EPPO and NEPPO for their support, as well as the general support of CPs to contribute to the photo contest.
- [33] The TC agreed:
- The RPPOs should urge their representatives to inform NPPOs and stakeholders (including the industry):*
- about the IYPH
 - on the sequence of events which lead to 2020
 - to work on awareness raising nationally on IPPC activities.

9. ISPM 15 implementation

- [34] The Secretariat updated the participants on the progress of the symbol registration. The document is available on the IPP TC page.
- [35] NAPPO reported on the possibility to organize RPPOs' workshops on ISPM 15 implementation, as suggested by Canada at CPM 10. RPPOs were contacted requesting representatives for a call, and a teleconference took place in September 2015 with participants from NAPPO, EPPO, APPPC and COSAVE. NEPPO and PPPO confirmed that they had been contacted for the call but were unable to participate. Many issues were identified in this call for inclusion in a future workshop. As a conclusion of this teleconference, it was decided that a needs analysis should be prepared as well as training modules and an outline of contents which could be tailored to the needs of different regions. A publicity flyer could be used to promote the workshop, and a draft was developed by NAPPO after the call. There were still discussions as to whether it was better to develop broader international workshops or several regional ones. NAPPO indicated that next steps are a needs analysis to be provided by APPPC and development of materials to raise awareness and input for a future ISPM 15 workshop. NAPPO requested reactions of the RPPOs in getting involved.
- [36] The Secretariat suggested that:

- Following the content of the CPM 10 report and Canada's suggestion, an invitation should be sent to the IPPC Secretariat to participate in this activity, in particular to the implementation and facilitation unit.
- Even if CPM 10 has not adopted a decision on the organization of ISPM 15 implementation workshops, RPPOs are encouraged to get involved in this activity.

[37] From a technical point of view, some of the issues identified are linked to non-compliance and relate to ISPM 13 and not directly to ISPM 15 in many cases, and this should be taken into account in further instances.

[38] The TC agreed:

- *To encourage RPPOs to get involved in the organization of this activity by promoting the workshop.*
- *On the next steps to work on the organization of the workshop, such as the needs analysis, and the preparation of training modules and educational materials on the basis of the results of the analysis.*
- *That RPPOs should motivate NPPOs to pursue the registration of the symbol in their countries.*

10. Review of RPPO roles and functions

[39] The Secretariat updated the participants on the previous efforts to define the roles and functions of the RPPOs. The document 'Recommendations on the roles and functions of RPPOs in their relationship with the Commission' was presented and approved by ICPM in 2005.

[40] The TC analyzed different options to deal with the review of the RPPOs roles and functions.

[41] The TC decided to work on the modification of this document during this meeting, and RPPOs were invited to provide comments until mid-December. Before the end of January, RPPOs should agree on the way forward:

- either the document goes for adoption at CPM 11
- or CPM 11 is informed that a final document is going to be presented at CPM 12.

[42] The TC analyzed issues related to the roles of observers in IPPC meetings and the strategic discussions on RPPO participation in groups and activities. The TC discussed the procedure for approval of this document and agreed that the word "recommendation" should be removed from the title for more clarity.

[43] The TC discussed whether a document could be presented as a candidate to be an IPPC recommendation.

[44] The TC agreed:

- *The TC examined the suggested roles and functions of RPPOs and confirmed the role they have in the standard setting process.*
- *NAPPO will report to CPM that the TC reviewed the suggested roles and functions and detected that there were areas in which they would like to preserve their roles and functions, and new areas for their participation (e.g. enhancement study, implementation plan, the IYPH).*
- *NEPPO will raise the TC concerns on the role of RPPOs in the review of the setting process on behalf of all RPPOs during the November SC meeting.*
- *The document on "Suggested roles and functions of RPPOs in their relationship with the Commission" will be submitted to CPM 11 or CPM 12 for adoption after further consultation amongst RPPOs.*
- *RPPOs should contact their member countries to highlight the importance of their RPPO work and the need to ensure their active participation in the IPPC.*

- Comments should be provided by RPPOs on the revised “Suggested roles and functions of RPPOs in their relationship with the Commission” by the 15th of December.
- The Secretariat will include a point at the CPM 11 or possibly at CPM 12 agenda; for the former the draft document should be posted on the IPP at the latest on the 31st of January 2016.

11. Topics for future CPM Side Sessions

[45] The Secretariat explained the different type of sessions and training offered at CPM. It also displayed the programming for the next TC to ensure that the suggestion of the RPPOs in this TC do not overlap with the decision of the Bureau for CPM 11.

[46] The TC decided to put forward the following proposals for CPM 12 special topic sessions, which are not in any particular order of priority:

- Lessons learned from jurisprudence: Revisiting the role of science in phytosanitary disputes at the WTO.
- Research and science coordination.
- Examination on new trade patterns.

[47] On side sessions for the CPM 12, the TC suggested:

- Regional contingency planning
- Research and science coordination

[48] Topics related to IPPC and trade facilitation (2017 topic) for side sessions of CPM 12 are the following:

- Knowledge topic session on the practical application of harmonization, examples can be provided.
- Pest risk management from risk managers and implementers’ perspectives (more than 1 side session could be organized).
- Implementation of ISPMs 15 and 13.
- The relationship between ISPMs and private standards (Global GAP and others)
- Applications of systems approaches (inputs from good agricultural practices).
- Precision agriculture and plant protection.

[49] The TC also supported that:

- The CPM 11 session on Emerging pests could be implemented in coordination with the Secretariat with tables related to one or more of: *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *pauca*, ants, HLB and *Agrilus planipennis*. The material aggregated on these pests could be used for the elaboration of the State of Plant Health in the World.

12. Technical Consultation work plan

[50] The work plan 2016 was discussed and appears in Appendix III.

12.1 Sharing work plans and implementation plans to identify possible joint work areas

[51] EPPO suggested sharing draft work plans and implementation plans to identify possible joint work areas and increase cooperation in their activities.

13. Technical Consultation amongst RPPOs technical discussions

13.1 IPPC Regional Workshops

[52] The Secretariat shared with the participants the CPM decision adopted in 2012 regarding the procedures for organization of regional workshops (Agenda item 10.1). The Secretariat made a

presentation recalling the objectives of the IPPC regional workshops, the modalities in terms of timing, location, organization, participations and collaboration. A table summarizing all IPPC regional workshops being organized in 2015 was shown and the arrangements in organizational matters were detailed.

- [53] The Secretariat informed the TC that the emails to be used for any type of communication will be limited to the ones included in the list of participants of this report.
- [54] NEPPO thanked IPPC for the flexibility in organizing the workshop, in particular with the section on emerging pests, and highlighted the effective collaboration with the FAO offices. PPPO thanked the Secretariat for attending the workshop in the Pacific.
- [55] The case of the 2015 workshop in Africa was extensively analyzed and it became clear that even if strong efforts had been performed in the Secretariat and by the IAPSC, the African Union contribution had not been confirmed and the procedures for organization as approved by CPM 10 had not been completed.
- [56] APPPC noted that the quality of presentations should be improved, in particular for standards. NAPPO suggested recording the key presentations for further use.
- [57] EPPO mentioned that until 2014 the regional workshop had been organized satisfactorily and expected the Secretariat to continue the past collaborative approach with EPPO. The Secretariat suggested that this issue should be discussed in detail to reach general satisfaction.
- [58] IICA indicated that Peru hosted the workshop in Latin America and that COSAVE and OIRSA paid for the whole attendance. Both NPPOs and RPPOs were consulted on the agenda of this regional workshop which is an interesting model.

13.2 Current and emerging major pest issues

- [59] Each of the RPPOs attending the meeting presented updated information on current and emerging major pests issues, which information is recorded in the presentations available in the IPP. The APPPC information on emerging pests is included with the presentation under item 5. IASPC indicated that a meeting on mango pests was organized in 2014 which was attended by a COLEACP expert, and indicated that *Tuta absoluta* was also recorded as an emerging pest. NEPPO provided information to the IASPC on *Tuta absoluta* management documents.
- [60] PPPO made a presentation on *Xylella fastidiosa* as this pest is of concern for the Pacific region and provided recommendations to the Secretariat. The Secretariat reported that a project on *Xylella fastidiosa* was on-going with FAO Near East and NEPPO, that a manual on surveillance was being prepared, that a workshop for the Mediterranean countries was being planned, and that a more important FAO project was being prepared. The Secretariat confirmed that it was very committed on working on *Xylella fastidiosa* as suggested by the PPPO, in accordance with the mandate of the Convention. EPPO indicated that *Xylella fastidiosa* was recommended for regulation in the region and that EFSA had performed a pest risk assessment, that diagnostic protocols for this species will be updated and that two inspection protocols would be produced. EPPO reported to be in contact with DG Research, DG SANTE, EFSA and the olive producers associations and suggested to organize a teleconference to update all stakeholders on current projects. The Secretariat proposed to join forces and to organize a joint workshop in 2016.

13.3 ePhyto

- [61] IAPSC and NAPPO indicated they had not received the information on the ePhyto workshop to be held in Republic of Korea and had not received an invitation to attend this workshop. They noted that the announcement was not available on the IPP so they were unable to forward the information to their NPPOs. IAPSC asked to get feedback from this event. The Secretariat indicated that reports of meetings and workshops are available on the IPP and that the regional representatives from countries

in the ePhyto steering committee had the task to report to the region. The Secretariat mentioned that the announcement of this workshop had also been made at CPM and at all the IPPC regional workshops.

13.4 Contingency planning

[62] EPPO indicated that an EWG would work on drafting a general contingency plan for *Popillia japonica* and that new EU legislation is likely to require member states to develop individual contingency planning for 20 to 30 pests.

[63] This item is going to continue to be included in the TC Agenda to allow RPPOs to discuss on further developments.

13.5 Systems approaches

[64] The Secretariat indicated that RPPOs were invited under this item to report on projects concerning systems approaches.

[65] APPPC reported that a workshop shall be organized on design and implementation for export for countries, drawing on the ISPM 14.

[66] NAPPO indicated that in the USA, Integrated Pest Risk Management Measures for Plants for Planting represented a new project to look at the system for plants for planting. A NAPPO specification for standard on a potential use of systems approaches to manage pest risks associated with the movement of wood was approved, and the standard will be developed over the next year.

13.6 Pests of national concern

[67] The RPPOs present in the 27th TC did not provide new information on this item.

13.7 Priority pest lists

[68] EPPO and NAPPO had jointly worked on a document that was presented by EPPO, explaining that the focus of developing pest list needed to be defined and that a priority is only relevant for a certain purpose to be determined (i.e. priority for research, action, etc.).

[69] NEPPPO reported the difficulty in establishing global lists as each region has different priorities. The Secretariat clarified that the initial idea came from the Capacity Development area and was presented to the Bureau, and that it was recognized as a focus for action. The idea was not to create a list for regulation, but to prioritize the Secretariat's efforts and resources on global concerns of regulated pests. The Secretariat congratulated EPPO and NAPPO on the excellent contribution and suggested that capacity development was missing.

[70] The TC agreed:

- *EPPO and NAPPO would work towards adding capacity development as an additional purpose for a pest list.*
- *NAPPO will provide a template to all RPPOs taking into account the discussions on the purposes of the lists.*
- *All RPPOs will fill out the template and circulate it by June 1st 2016.*
- *A revised version of the document will be presented during the next TC.*

14. Other business

a) Mentoring and cooperation amongst RPPOs

[71] Several potential actions on this sense were identified, as for instance:

- Cooperation in the identification of experts for RPPOs technical activities.

- APPPC/PPPO workshop on surveillance
- NAPPO workshop on Citrus diseases with participation of other RPPOs
- IAPSC/COSAVE/CAN/OIRSA share information on pests present and of national concern (BBTV and panama disease in banana, Cassava mealybug and mosaic virus, among others)
- EPPO/COSAVE annual meeting before CPM
- EPPO/NAPPO annual bilateral meeting
- EPPO/NEPPO/CAN/OIRSA cooperation on PRA
- GICSV: NAPPO/CAN/OIRSA/COSAVE/Caribbean annual work plan and shared projects.
- EPPO/ all RPPOs/Secretariat cooperation on formats for pest reporting system (possible meeting at CPM). Proposal on contents of the meeting to be circulated at least one month before CPM.

[72] For future TCs, this table is going to be compiled and presented to CPM.

b) TC report to CPM 10

[73] There are references to this item in other points of the agenda.

c) Requests from the Bureau

[74] The TC had not received any new request from the Bureau.

d) Communications work plan

[75] No news was presented by the Secretariat since the new work plan had not been approved.

15. Date and location of the next session

[76] The TC-RPPOs tentatively agreed that the next TC-RPPOs would be held during the period of 14-18 November 2016 in the territory of a NEPPO member country, possibly in Rabat, Morocco. The TC thanked NEPPO for offering to host the meeting. A tentative agenda for the meeting is included in Appendix IV.

[77] NAPPO and EPPO shall assist NEPPO with the organization of the meeting.

[78] The rotation agreed at the 25th TC was reviewed and extended as follows:

2017 - EPPO
2018 - IAPSC
2019 - CAN

16. Adoption of the Report

[79] The meeting provisionally adopted the report with the understanding that the Secretariat would circulate the document for RPPOs final comments. The commenting period would be until November 27th, 2015.

17. Closure

[80] The Chairperson thanked the participants for their attendance and participation of this TC.

[81] IICA expressed deep gratitude for the excellent dinner and visit of the botanical gardens organized by NAPPO. The RPPOs representatives thanked the organizers of the 27th TC for the hospitality and accurate organization of this meeting.

Appendix 1 – Agenda

TECHNICAL CONSULTATION AMONG REGIONAL PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS
27th Session
Memphis, USA , 02 - 06 November 2014
Agenda

1. Opening of the Technical Consultation
2. Election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Matters arising from the 26th TC-RPPOs, including post meeting networking and cooperation / Follow up on impacts of the decisions of the 26th TC-RPPOs.
5. Information Exchange Platform on RPPO activities (including presentation of the Web Sites)¹
 - 5.1 APPPC
 - 5.2 CAN
 - 5.3 COSAVE
 - 5.4 EPPO
 - 5.5 IAPSC
 - 5.6 NAPPO
 - 5.7 OIRSA
 - 5.8 PPPO
 - 5.9 NEPPO
6. RPPOs recognition / withdrawal of recognition.
 - a. mechanism for CPM to withdraw RPPO recognition
 - b. CPPC and CAN
7. Secretariat update
 - 5.1 IPPC towards 2020
 - 5.2 International Year of Plant health
 - 5.3 ePhyto
 - 5.4 ePhyto forward work plan of the APPPC
 - 5.5 Standard Setting Unit
 - 5.6 Implementation Facilitation Unit

¹ All RPPOs have to provide a Power point presentation of their yearly activities, for presentation at the meeting, as well as a Word document detailing the presentation, for inclusion in the meeting report. Each RPPO has to present in this item of the agenda the structure and contents of its website.

- National Reporting Obligations
 - Implementation (IRSS and implementation programs)
 - Capacity Building
 - Dispute Settlement/ Avoidance
8. Follow-up from CPM 10
 9. ISPM 15 implementation
 10. Review of RPPO roles and functions
 11. Topics for future CPM special and side sessions
 12. TC Work Plan (standing work plan with annual reviews)
 - 5.1 Sharing work plans and implementation plans to identify possible joint work areas
 13. TC among RPPOs technical discussions including:
 - 5.1 RPPOs support to IPPC regional workshops
 - 5.2 Current and emerging major pest issues (all RPPOs report on this issue)
 - *Fusarium oxysporum* race 4
 - *Xylella fastidiosa*
 - 5.3 ePhyto
 - 5.4 Contingency planning
 - 5.5 Systems approaches
 - 5.6 Pests of national concern
 - 5.7 Priority pest list (each RPPO report the top 10 regulated pest for its region)
 14. Other Business
 - a) Mentoring and cooperation
 - b) Report to CPM 11
 - c) Requests from the Bureau
 - d) Communications work plan
 15. Date and location of next TC
 16. Adoption of the Report of the 27th TC-RPPOs
 17. Closure

Appendix 2 – Item 5. Review of RPPO activities

5.1 Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC)

APPPC update summary for the 27th TC-RPPOs

The main activities of APPPC have focused on the implementation of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM), strengthening information exchange and development of capacities in pest management. At the same time, the member countries have made progress in improving their own plant protection programmes and made organisational changes, issued new laws and regulations, started up new facilities and equipment, established pest free areas, and strengthened their pesticide management.

The 29th Session of APPPC was convened from 7-11 September, 2015 in Bali, Republic of Indonesia. The meeting was attended by delegation from 21 member countries. The meeting reviewed the activities and progress made since the 28th, agreed the work plan and budget for the coming biennium 2016-2017, the Session also adopted the mandatory financial contribution level of each contracting country for 2016-2017.

It was decided that the work relating to implementation of ISPMs would be main context of the work program of the Standing Committee on Plant Quarantine. It was recommended that ISPM6, ISPM12, ISPM31 and ISPM15 would be main focus of selected ISPMs to enhance the implementation of ISPMs.

It was agreed to implement a six year work plan for surveillance with the first year focus of the fundamentals of surveillance systems and management responsibilities of an NPPO in establishing and maintaining plant health surveillance systems and reporting on surveillance systems as well as the second year focus of fundamentals for designing, planning, coordinating and delivering surveillance activities and programs in accordance with ISPM6 and RSPM7; It was proposed to implement a global ePhyto framework into APPPC countries through a pilot project to assist 6 countries to participate in “ePhyto IPPC Hub” pilot project in the next three years. In addition, the APPPC will follow the international developments in work associated with ISPM 15 implementation; it was proposed during 2016-2017 to consider sampling procedures for different consignments (e.g. seed or commodities for consumption). It is expected to identify critical gaps for full implementation of ISPM31 and to propose amendments of ISPM31 in the revision or to build regional standard of sampling methods depending on type of consignment; a regional phytosanitary measures (RSPM) on hot water treatment of mangoes for fruit fly species will be developed.

The 16th APPPC Workshop on the review of draft ISPMs (2015 IPPC Regional Workshop Asia) was held in Jeju, Republic of Korea from 19-23 October 2015 in collaboration with the NPPO of Korea with participation of 20 countries. The regional comments, prepared by the workshop were shared with all NPPO focal points of member countries and all participants immediately through OCS and distribution of the comments. In addition to the review of draft ISPMs, updates and discussions were made on phytosanitary technical resources, the ePhyto programme as well as the registration status of the ISPM15, the international year of plant health, etc. The exercise on National Reporting Obligations (NROs) was conducted by focusing on collection, verification and provision of information.

The feedback on the survey form on surveillance from 15 countries, which were collected prior to the workshop and shared by participating countries at the meeting, indicated that lack of technical capacity and insufficient internal coordination and collaboration are common problem for countries. In addition, in some countries there are separate institutions on plant protection and plant quarantine with various functions. Involvement of research institutes on surveillance and their backstopping services to the NPPO on the surveillance are not sufficient, while lack of funds is common challenge to countries.

To enhance the use of IPP and APPPC website in terms of country obligation of the information exchange, a quarterly based monitoring of country pages were convened and analytical summaries of the results of the monitoring were sent to each country for their review and necessary follow up action.

A serious outbreak of Yellow-Spined Bamboo Locust, *Ceracris Kiangsu*, in Luang Prabang Province and Huaphan Province of Laos was reported in 2015. Several invasive alien species were found in some countries egg. Mango cecid fly, *Procantarinia* sp, in Philippines, Mango pulp weevil, *Sternochetus frigidus*, in Malaysia, etc.

APPPC website:

www.apppc.org

<http://www.fao.org/asiapacific/apppc/en/>

5.2 Andean Community (CAN)

Summary activities 2015

General Secretary of the Andean Community

The Andean Subregional Integration Agreement, the Cartagena Agreement, among others topics, it dictates the adoption of policies and common developments in pest and animal health, which are instruments to improve the sanitary and phytosanitary standards of the Member States, and facilitate trade in order to contribute to achieve a single regional market. In this sense, the Decision 515 Andean System of Agricultural Sanitary Measures “Sistema Andino de Sanidad Agropecuaria”, signed by the Andes Community Commission, created the Andean Agricultural Health System. The institutional framework for plant and animal health is formed by:

- The Andean Community Commission “*Comisión de la Comunidad Andina*”
- The General Secretary of the Andean Community “*Secretaría General de la Comunidad Andina*” (SGCAN)
- The Agricultural Sanitary Measures Andean Committee “*Comité Andino de Sanidad Agropecuaria*” (COTASA)
- The state member’s Agricultural Sanitary Measures Official Services “*Servicios Oficiales de Sanidad Agropecuaria*” (SOSA)

In the Decision 515, the general principles for the phytosanitary rules include the principles included in the agreement on the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures of the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the norms and recommendations of the IPPC. Also, we have the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Rules Subregional Register “Registro Subregional de Normas Sanitarias y Fitosanitarias de la Comunidad Andina” (RS), whose principal objective is to provide transparency, legal certainty and security in the application of the phytosanitary standards adopted by our countries members.

In the daily task of managing the RS, we promote the implementation and application of the International Standards of Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) of the IPPC, especially in topics related with the pest status in our countries members, Pest Risk Assessment (PRA), and application of phytosanitary measures only for Regulated Pest.

Under the COTASA framework, the SOSAs of countries members, discuss and makes recommendations on technical matters of plant health, to bring them into consideration of the Andean Community Commission and the SGCAN. During 2015, among others activities, we have been working on the following topics:

- Regional contingency plan to prevention of introduction of citrus disease “*huanglongbing*”

- Plan to prevent the entry of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. cubense raza 4 tropical, according to continental plan.
- Promote update of phytosanitary requirements for trade of 31 plant products, according to criteria of the ISPM
- We started to build a phytosanitary portal web page in order to improve the information exchange.

Since 1998 the Andean community has rules for the registration and control of pesticides. In 2015 this rules has been updated. In this sense the trade and agriculture ministers signed the Decision 804.

Decision 804 is to establish the guidelines and harmonized procedures for the registration and control of chemical pesticides for use Agricultural (PQUA); orient their proper use and management in the framework of good practices agricultural; prevent and minimize risks to health and the environment; ensure effectiveness biological product; and facilitate trade in the subregion.

5.3 Southern Cone Plant Health Committee (COSAVE)

COSAVE Report

1. RESOLUTIONS

- ✓ Resolution 137/35 – 15M (Approves Cooperation Agreement among Ministries of Agriculture from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and the Inter-American institute for Cooperation on Agriculture – IICA to strength COSAVE actions in the region).
- ✓ Resolution 210/82 – 14D (Approves the Harmonized Phytosanitary Import Requirements for alfa seeds.).

2. REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

Regional Plan for HLB Containment (*Candidatus Liberibacter* spp.) in citrus: COSAVE has been implementing an electronic tool that will allow members to be updated on HLB surveillance activities. Guidelines on introduction of citrus plants are under development and it is forecast to strengthen border actions for the Plan.

Regional Plan for Eucalyptus bronze bug (*Thaumastocoris peregrinus*) control: Approved in 2012, the Plan has been progressively implemented by COSAVE members. Some countries have already implemented all foreseen steps according to the Plan, presenting very good results on the pest control. As a consequence of COSAVE coordination will, other countries have taken advantage of information from the experienced countries to help them on the implementation on their own territories.

Regional Surveillance and Control Plan for *Lobesia botrana*: Under discussion, its goals are strength specific surveillance systems for early pest detection; strength quarantine system to avoid pest introduction and dispersal; implement broadcasting strategies to manage cooperation of stakeholders; reinforce regional technical capabilities.

Regional Contingency Plan against *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* and *Monochamus* spp.: under discussion, it has the aim at establishing phytosanitary measures for contention, suppression or eradication of detection or an outbreak of these pests in *Pinus* spp.

Regional Contingency Plant against *Lymantria dispar*: under discussion, it has the aim at establishing phytosanitary measures for contention, suppression or eradication of an outbreak of the pests.

3. PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Since November 2014, COSAVE has been participated in the following regional and international events:

- 10^a CMF
- Bureau
- Expert Working Group for the revision of ISPM 6: Guidelines for surveillance.
- ePhyto Steering Group
- Inter-American Group on Coordination in Plant Health (GICSV),
- Regional Workshop on Draft ISPM - LAC
- Standard Committee
- Strategic Planning Group
- Technical Panels (Forest Quarantine, Glossary and Phytosanitary Treatments)
- Working group on Concept of a Commodity Standard Meeting

4. STRATEGIC GUIDELINES 2014-2015

1. Reaffirm the regional phytosanitary mission for the development of sustainable agricultural and forestry production.

Objectives:

- Prevention of pest introduction and management of pest risk.
- Develop and coordinate regional plans to reduce effect of pest on production cost and facilitate trade.
- Provide participation or adhesion of NPPOs from Latin America on COSAVE activities.

2. Support for COSAVE members on international phytosanitary negotiations and develop capacities of NPPOs staff.

Objectives:

- Joint efforts to make the ISPMs under development suitable for regional reality and needs.
- Fulfil with responsibilities and activities specified to the RPPO under IPPC strategic framework 2012-2019.
- Evaluate phytosanitary restrictions or barriers affecting main commodities exported from the region.
- Analyse phytosanitary issues dealt in international forum besides IPPC.

3. Develop and Foster implementation of regional phytosanitary standards and perform coordinated actions in order to protect and improve phytosanitary status of agricultural and forestry production, including native flora of the region, and facilitate trade.

Objectives:

- Foster development and implementation of regional standards, technical documents and resolutions.
- Foster implementation of ISPM on COSAVE members.
- Plan and organize regional programs for preventions and control of pests.
- Harmonize phytosanitary import requirements based on pest risk analysis for plants foreign to the region.
- Keep up-to-date the list of regulated pest for the region.
- Implement regional phytosanitary system to alert in case of interception of quarantine pest.
- Broadcast outbreaks of quarantine pests.
- Develop systems for general or specific surveillance.
- Harmonize phytosanitary procedures.

4. Provide higher interaction and participation of industry.

Objectives:

- Build and keep linkages to exchange efforts with agricultural and forestry industries.
- Foster industry participation on consultations for regional and international standards.
- Perform actions to raise awareness on public and private sectors concerning COSAVE activities.

5. Develop capacity activities on NPPO members in order to strength regional phytosanitary capacity.

Objectives:

- Improve capacity and maintain NPPO staff updated

6. Strength linkages to RPPOs and NPPOs for articulation of common actions.

Objectives:

- Perform activities of broadcasting and exchanging of information between NPPO and IPPC
- Maintain and increase relationship with RPPOs
- Keep permanent link with NPPOs from Latin America and Caribbean

5. WORK PLAN 2015

Main activities carried out through the corresponding Technical Groups (TG) are described below:

Plant Quarantine:

- Harmonization of phytosanitary requirements
- Emerging pests on the region or the world
- Review of main regulated pest list

Surveillance:

- Follow up of HLB regional plan
- Follow up of surveillance for *Helicoverpa armigera*, *Psa*, *Drosophila suzukii*.
- Surveillance program and control of *Lobesia botrana*.
- Evaluation for ISPM 6 revision

Forestry phytosanitary:

- Contingency Plan for *Lymantria dispar*
- Contingency Plan for *Monochamus* spp.
- Maintenance of list of present pests and regulated pests
- Indicate emerging pests for risk analysis
- Implementation of regional plan *Thaumastocoris peregrinus*
- Evaluation of systems of surveillance and outbreaks alerts
- PRA for emerging pest of phytosanitary concern for forests

CPM Issues:

- Analysis and development of position papers for CMF/IPPC
- Analysis of ISPM under country consultation and preparation of comments
- Following up of topics prioritized by IPPC such as national reporting obligations, capacity development, IRSS, etc.

Plant propagation material

- Procedures for PRA of Regulated Non-Quarantine Pests - RNQP
- Establish national lists for RNPQ in citrus.

Sampling, inspection and certification

- Assess import requirements for products on trade inside and outside region
- Evaluate actions for ePhyto implementation
- Operational procedures for plant products transfer from barge to ships.

Plant protection products

- Evaluation of Codex MRL adoption by countries

Biological Control

- List for Biological Control Organisms - BCO
- Compile national legislation ruling BCO and register for biological plant protection product

Electronic certification

- Assess pilot plan for electronic certification
- Evaluate feasibility of the development of a platform to allow reading of e-PC.

6. PROJECT APPROVAL ON STDF: Regional strengthen of implementation of phytosanitary measures and market access

Main goals:

- Strengthen phytosanitary measures implementation capacity
- Improvement of phytosanitary status
- Trade facilitation of agricultural commodities and market access.

IICA Cooperation and Support.

5.4 European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO)

The 2014 EPPO annual report will be available on the EPPO website www.eppo.int.

Update for the TC of RPPOs on EPPO activities in 2015

Membership and Governance

Fifty countries are members of EPPO in 2015: European countries (almost all of them), and countries around the Mediterranean and in Central Asia. Membership has been stable for some years. Confirmation of application from Georgia is still awaited, and would bring EPPO membership up to 51 countries.

At the Council in 2015 we appointed Sweden onto the Executive Committee to replace Estonia and join Algeria, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Switzerland and Uzbekistan. Mrs Karola Schorn (Germany) was elected as Chairman for a three year term starting in 2016, and Mrs Natalia Sherokolava (Russian Federation) was elected for a second three year term as Vice-Chairman.

Other items on the Council agenda included the approval of Standards, updates on projects for which EPPO is in discussion with potential funders, and agreement of the work programme and budget for 2016. Collaborations with the European Commission (including EFSA) are well established and discussions continue on possible projects for collaboration with the Eurasian Economic Commission.

Staff at 30/10/2015

Martin Ward, Director-General

Françoise Petter, Assistant Director

Vlasta Zlof, Scientific Officer, leading on Plant Protection Products
Anne-Sophie Roy, Information Officer
Andrei Orlinski, Scientific Officer
Muriel Suffert, Scientific Officer
Madeleine McMullen, Managing Editor
Rob Tanner, Scientific Officer
Valerio Lucchesi, Scientific Officer
Baldissera Giovani, Co-ordinator of the Euphresco research funders' network
Jeroen Meeussen, EU Minor Uses Co-ordinator
Eliane Madène, Administrator
Damien Griessinger, IT Officer
Fabienne Grousset, Scientific Officer
Marie-Christine Ozanon, Secretary
Jocelyne Cesari, Secretary
Cintia Mauchien, Administrative Support

Mr Jean Perchet completed a three year secondment to EPPO from the French Government at the end of September. His contribution over that time in particular to the CPM Panel, the Inspections Panel and the Q-Collect project are acknowledged, as is the contribution of France in making him available to EPPO.

EPPO has extended the contractual arrangement with Ms Sarah Brunel which will enable her to continue working for the IPPC Secretariat on a short term contract. Her post in EPPO has been filled by Mr Rob Tanner, also on a short term contract.

Programme of Meetings

The programme of administrative and technical meetings organised by EPPO in 2015 is shown in Appendix 1. The Calendar of meetings for 2016 is also appended.

Working Party on Plant Protection Products

The 45th Meeting of the Working Party on Plant Protection Products took place in York on 2015-05-27/29, hosted by the Chemicals Regulation Directorate of the UK's Health and Safety Executive. There were 21 participants from 17 EPPO countries and a member of ECPA2 as an observer. Nine revised or new specific Standards and two revised general Standards were proposed to Council for adoption. Fifteen new or revised tables for efficacy extrapolation between crops and two examples of efficacy evaluation for zonal assessment were approved by the Working Party for publishing on the EPPO website. Two questionnaires were agreed: one on dose expression, including specific aspects in relation to seed treatment, and the other on the use of leaf wall area.

The Working Party agreed a paper to raise awareness of the need for resistance monitoring, which was later presented to EPPO Council.

Plans were presented for improving recovery of costs for use of the PP1 database of Standards on efficacy testing through a clearer charging structure and automatic reminders when licences are due for renewal. The interest of developing countries in the use of these Standards has been explored in a meeting with the plant protection team in FAO.

Following the report of an ad hoc Expert Working Group on Integrated Pest Management the Working Party concluded that updating the 33 PP2 series Standards to address national needs on IPM would be possible, but would require substantial effort and was not a current priority for EPPO resources.

Standards adopted in 2015

Specific Standards for Efficacy Evaluation of Plant Protection Products (series PP 1):

² European Crop Protection Association

- *Botryotinia fuckeliana* on strawberries (revision PP 1/16)
 - *Fusarium* ear rot of maize (New)
 - *Phthorimaea operculella* (potato tuber moth) (New)
 - *Anarsia lineatella* (peach twig borer) (New)
 - *Grapholita molesta* (oriental fruit moth) (New)
 - *Slugs* (revised and merged PP 1/95 and PP 1/96)
 - *The design and use of molluscicide small plot cage (barriered) field trials* (New)
 - *Weeds in asparagus* (New)
 - *Chemical hybridizing agents in cereals (except maize)* (revision PP 1/182)
- General Standards for Efficacy Evaluation of Plant Protection Products (series PP 1):*
- *Resistance risk analysis* (revision PP 1/213)
 - *Guidance on comparative assessment* (minor revision PP 1/271)

Working Party on Phytosanitary Regulations

The 53rd meeting of the Working Party on Phytosanitary Regulations took place in Larnaca, Cyprus on 2014-06-16/19, hosted by the NPPO. There were participants from 17 EPPO countries and observers from the European Commission, the North American Plant Protection Organization and APHIS/United States Department of Agriculture.

Six pests were newly recommended for regulation: *Geosmithia morbida* and *Pityophthorus juglandis* (causal agent and vector of thousand cankers disease of walnut), *Heterobasidion irregulare* (a pathogen of conifers, particularly pines) and three species of invasive plants, two aquatic (*Alternanthera philoxeroides* and *Myriophyllum heterophyllum*) and one terrestrial, (*Microstegium vimineum*). *Bactrocera zonata* and *Dacus ciliatus* were recommended for removal from the A1 to the A2 list because eradication of populations within the EPPO region was no longer considered feasible. Changes were made to the listing of species in the genera *Leucinodes* and *Xanthomonas* to reflect recent developments in taxonomy. For similar reasons *Andean potato mild mosaic virus* was added to the A1 list.

A number of other new or revised Standards were approved and then adopted by Council. These included a new series of five Standards produced by the revived Panel on Phytosanitary Inspections. Drafts on consignment and place of production inspections for *Xylella fastidiosa* had already been produced but were not yet ready for adoption. They would be a high priority for 2016, as would revision of the diagnostic protocol for that species. Specifications were agreed for three standards on phytosanitary measures relating to potatoes: managing risks from movement of soil with potatoes, potato cyst nematodes, and zebra chip.

Amendments to diagnostic protocols and to PM 6/3 (list of biological control agents widely used in the EPPO region) were made by the agreed fast track process. Specifications were agreed for a Decision Support Scheme for import and release of non-indigenous invertebrate biological control agents of plant pests. Also on biological control agents, plans were presented for the workshop on regulation and evaluation of biological control agents to be held in Budapest in November, organised jointly with a number of other organisations. A programme for that workshop is now available on the EPPO website.

Priorities for PRA in 2016 were agreed to be pospiviroids, *Lycorma delicatula*, *Meloidogyne mali*, and a review of the EFSA opinion on soil and growing medium as a basis for measures against soil borne *Phytophthora* species. An Expert Working Group will also be convened for developing a Standard for a National Regulatory Control System against *Popillia japonica*.

The Working Party discussed the maintenance and purpose of the Alert List and the process followed for deleting pests. A survey on the use of different PRA schemes was agreed and circulated. NPPOs were also encouraged to develop databases of imports in order to assist with PRA production and the identification of emerging trades which should be subject to assessment.

Difficulties were encountered in setting appropriate buffer zones for two pests newly recommended for regulation and the Working Party concluded that research on pest spread (including modelling) should be encouraged and that risk managers and risk assessors should agree some principles concerning how recommendations for buffer zones are developed. This will be one of the issues to be considered at a joint EPPO - EFSA Workshop on Modelling, planned for December 2016.

Other items considered included ways of collating and making available expertise on pest eradication, and how best to acknowledge the contribution of national experts to the authorship of EPPO Standards.

An “EPPO Study on Wood Commodities (other than round wood, sawn wood and manufactured wood items)” was carried out in order to make progress in addressing risks from the increasing movement of large quantities of woodchips etc. for biofuel and other purposes. It classifies commodities according to the processes to which they have been subjected and an expert judgement on the likely residual risk as a pathway for different types of pests. More information is needed on the real nature of material of being imported and moved; data from Customs codes does not necessarily give a good indication of the level of risk. NPPOs were encouraged to gather and share data on movements of such material, using the classifications in the Study as a basis.

Finally, the Working Party and Council continued to encourage prompt reporting of significant new pest findings from all member countries through EPPO’s online system.

Standards adopted in 2015

- *General Phytosanitary Measures (series PM1)*

Revision of PM 1/2, by

- *addition of the following pests to the List of pests recommended for regulation:*
- *Pests absent from the region (A1): Andean potato mild mosaic virus (APMMV), Leucinodes africensis, L. rimavallis and L. pseudorbonalis*
- *Pests present in the region (A2): Geosmithia morbida and Pityophthorus juglandis (causal agent and vector of thousand cankers disease), Heterobasidion irregulare, Xanthomonas perforans, X. euvesicatoria and X. gardneri, and three invasive plant species Alternanthera philoxeroides, Myriophyllum heterophyllum and Microstegium vimineum.*
- *transfer from the A1 to the A2 List: Bactrocera zonata and Dacus ciliatus*
- *deletion of Xanthomonas axonopodis pv. vesicatoria*

- *Phytosanitary Procedures (series PM3)*

Trees of Malus, Pyrus, Cydonia, and Prunus spp. - Inspection of places of production

Consignment inspection of seed of Solanum lycopersicum

Consignment inspection for Anoplophora chinensis and A. glabripennis

Vegetable plants for planting under protected conditions - Inspection of places of production

Consignment inspection of seed and grain of cereals

- *Diagnostics (series PM7)*

Spodoptera littoralis, Spodoptera litura, Spodoptera frugiperda, and Spodoptera eridania

Phytophthora lateralis

ELISA tests for viruses

Electron microscopy in diagnosis of plant viruses

- *National Regulatory Control Systems (series PM9)*

Parthenium hysterophorus

- *Withdrawal of EPPO Standards dealing with Methyl bromide fumigation*

Standards PM 3/1, PM 3/24, PM 3/3, PM 3/5, PM 3/6, PM 3/8, PM 3/9, PM 3/11, PM 3/12, PM 3/13, PM 3/14, PM 3/15, PM 3/16, PM 3/19, PM 3/20, PM 10/3, PM 10/5, PM 10/7, PM 10/11, PM 10/12.

International phytosanitary issues

There were three meetings of the EPPO CPM Affairs Panel during 2015, and strong participation from the EPPO region in CPM itself and in its subsidiary bodies. EPPO was pleased to have the opportunity at CPM to present aspects of its work on diagnostics in special topic and side sessions.

The EPPO region hosted the Expert Working Group on the concept of a commodity standard, in Edinburgh (GB), in July. Two topic suggestions related to possible commodity standards were developed and submitted by EPPO. A discussion paper on priority pest lists was prepared in conjunction with NAPPO and has been circulated prior to the TC.

The proposed International Year of Plant Health has been presented to the EPPO Council and received strong endorsement. EPPO is starting to consider how it can best contribute, if the IYPH is confirmed.

The following nominations were agreed by EPPO Council, for the European region:

- *Mr Corné van Alphen (NL) as Bureau member from 2016 (second term of two years)*
- *Mr Nevzat Birisik (TR) as Standards Committee replacement member from 2016*
- *Ms Olga Lavrentieva (EE) as a member of the Standing Body on Dispute Settlement*
- *Ms Clara Pacheco (FR) as an alternate for the Standing Body on Dispute Settlement*
- *Mr Federico Sorgoni (IT) as member of the National Reporting Obligations Advisory Group*

A short contract for EPPO to provide IT services to the IPPC Secretariat enabled work on issues of common interest. These included resolution of the technical obstacles to use of a single pest reporting system through which NPPOs can notify a new pest finding to the RPPO and IPPC at the same time.

Finally there were a number of issues this year with the timing and organisation of the IPPC Regional Workshop for Eastern and Central Europe and Central Asia, which has previously been run in collaboration between IPPC, FAO Regional Office and EPPO. It is hoped that these can be resolved for 2016 through discussion between the Secretariats.

Other projects and activities

Q-bank

EPPO continues discussions with the Netherlands and potential funders on the future of the Q-bank database. A survey of the 75 diagnostic laboratories in EPPO's network showed that most of them are aware of Q-bank and make regular use of it, particularly for sequence data, barcoding protocols and information on where to find biological material.

EPPO Codes

Over 60,000 species of pests and hosts are covered by the EPPO Code system, and about 2,000 new codes are added each year. EPPO Codes are now free to users, but costs for adding new codes will need to be recovered in future. Adding codes can be very quick, or can take a significant amount of researching if there are changes needed in a particular taxonomic group. During 2015 a clear distinction was introduced into the database between codes which have a place in the taxonomic hierarchy and non-taxonomic or agronomic codes, such as "leafy herbs" or "seed potatoes", which are used by the crop protection industry. This distinction will help to ensure that the codes continue to meet the needs of existing users, while also being suitable for new uses. For some uses only taxonomic codes are wanted, and if that is the case the non-taxonomic codes can now be screened out. The EPPO Panel on Harmonisation of Data has been given responsibility for oversight of the non-taxonomic codes and any requests for additions to these.

Euphresco

The Euphresco research co-ordination network has been hosted by EPPO since June 2014, when Mr Baldissera Giovani took up a two year appointment as Co-ordinator. Euphresco's strength has since been demonstrated by:

- 31 partners confirmed from 24 countries - 16 of those partners are NPPOs
- Each partner pays at least 3000€ p.a. to cover the costs of running the network
- Partners have indicated that 1.2M€ is available for projects in 2015
- 18 topics are still under consideration for 2015 funding (from an initial list of 60 suggestions)
- Network Management Group of 7 partners
- Governing Board held immediately after the EPPO Council meeting
- Network now extends beyond the EPPO Region

The topics still under consideration are shown in appendix 2.

EU Minor Uses Co-ordination Facility

Since April 2015, EPPO has been host to the EU Minor Uses Co-ordination Facility, and its first Co-ordinator, Mr Jeroen Meeussen, started work in September. The Facility is funded initially by the European Commission, France, Germany and the Netherlands. Its work is closely aligned with work which EPPO has carried out in support of minor uses, such as the production of extrapolation tables for crop safety and efficacy, and it will also be building links with equivalent initiatives in other parts of the world.

Appendix 1 - EPPO Calendar 2015 and 2016

2015

I Executive Committee / Comité Exécutif

1.	Executive Committee/Comité Exécutif	04-21/22	Paris
2.	Executive Committee/Comité Exécutif	09-21	Riga

II Council/ Conseil

1.	Council/Conseil	09-22/23	Riga
2.	Council Colloquium/Colloque du Conseil	09-24	Riga

III Workshops and Conferences / Ateliers et Conférences

1.	IPPC Regional Workshop / Atelier régional CIVP*	09-07/10	Moscow
2.	Workshops for Heads of laboratories and Q-collect project / Ateliers pour responsables de laboratoires et projet Q-collect	09-08/11	Rome
3.	Workshop on Regulation of Biological Control Agents	11-23/24	Budapest
4.	Conference on Diagnostics & TESTA project / Conférence sur le diagnostic et projet TESTA	12-02/04	Angers (FR)

IV Working Parties/ Groupes de travail

1.	Plant Protection Products / Produits phytosanitaires	05-27/29	York (GB)
2.	Phytosanitary Regulations / Réglementation phytosanitaire	06-16/19	Cyprus

V Panels and Expert Working Groups/ Panels et groupes d'experts

1.	CPM Affairs / Relations avec la CMP	01-27/28	Paris
2.	Diagnostics in nematology / Diagnostic en nématologie	02-02/03	Paris
3.	Harmonization of data on plant protection products (EPPO Codes) / Harmonisation des données sur les produits phytosanitaires (Codes OEPP)	02-17/19	Braunschweig (DE)
4.	Herbicides-PGRs / Herbicides-Régulateurs de croissance	02-23/25	Paris
5.	General Standards/ Normes générales pour l'évaluation biologique	03-09/11	Madrid
6.	Quarantine Pests for Forestry / Organismes de quarantaine forestiers	03-09/11	Paris
7.	Diagnostics in Entomology / Diagnostic en entomologie	03-17/19	Rome
8.	Phytosanitary measures / Mesures phytosanitaires	03-24/26	Paris
9.	CPM Affairs / Relations avec la CMP	04-08/10	Paris
10.	EWG on extrapolation tables/ Groupe d'experts sur les tableaux d'extrapolation	04-13/15	Bologna (IT)
11.	EWG for PRA - <i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i> and <i>Myriophyllum heterophyllum</i>	04-20/24	Paris

12.	Panel on Invasive Alien Plants / Panel sur les plantes exotiques envahissantes	05-05/07	Paris
13.	Phytosanitary measures for potato / Mesures phytosanitaires pour la pomme de terre	05-19/21	Kleinmachnow (DE)
14.	CPM Affairs / Relations avec la CMP	09-01/04	Hnanice (CZ)
15.	Resistance to PPPs / Resistance concernant les produits phytosanitaires	09-16/17	Harpden (GB)
16.	Phytosanitary measures / Mesures phytosanitaires	10-06/08	Bologna (IT)
17.	Diagnostics in Bacteriology / Diagnostic en bactériologie	10-20/22	Copenhagen
	EWG for PRA - soil	11-03/04	Paris
18.	Plant Protection information/ Information en protection des végétaux	11-12/13	Paris
19.	Panel on Diagnostics in Mycology / Panel OEPP sur le Diagnostic en Mycologie	11-16/18	Paris
20.	Fungicides-Insecticides / Fongicides Insecticides	11-17/19	Zagreb (HR)
21.	Biological control agents (EPPO/IOBC) / Agents de lutte biologique (OEPP/OILB)	11-26/27	Budapest
22.	Colorado beetle/ Doryphore	12-01/02	Jersey
23.	EWG for PRA / Groupe d'experts pour l'ARP	12-07/10	Paris
24.	Phytosanitary Procedures / Procédures phytosanitaires	12-09/10	Paris

* - organised by IPPC Secretariat

2016

I Executive Committee / Comité Exécutif

1.	Executive Committee/Comité Exécutif	04-19/20	Paris
2.	Executive Committee/Comité Exécutif	09-19	Paris

II Council/ Conseil

1.	Council/Conseil	09-20/21	Paris
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III Workshops and Conferences / Ateliers et Conférences

1.	Regional Workshops on draft ISPMs?	??	??
2.	Workshop on Leaf-Wall-Area dose expression / Atelier sur l'Expression de la dose tenant compte de la surface de haie foliaire à traiter	10-18/20	Vienna
3.	Workshop for Phytosanitary Inspectors / Atelier pour inspecteurs phytosanitaires	11- ??	UK
4.	EPPO-EFSA Conference on modelling/ Conférence OEPP EFSA sur la modélisation	12- 13/15?	Parma (IT)

IV Working Parties/ Groupes de travail

1.	Plant Protection Products / Produits phytosanitaires	05-24/26	Sweden
2.	Phytosanitary Regulations / Réglementation phytosanitaire	06-14/17	Belgium

V Panels and Expert Working Groups/ Panels et groupes d'experts

1.	CPM Affairs / Relations avec la CMP	01-13/14	Paris
2.	Diagnostics and Quality Assurance / Diagnostics et assurance qualité	01-19/21	Paris
3.	Herbicides-PGRs / Herbicides-Régulateurs de croissance	02-09/11	Vienna
4.	Phytosanitary measures for potato / Mesures phytosanitaires pour la pomme de terre	02-16/18	Paris
5.	Quarantine Pests for Forestry / Organismes de quarantaine forestiers	02-23/25	Bosnia Herzegovina
6.	Phytosanitary measures / Mesures phytosanitaires	03-01/03	Paris
7.	Harmonization of data on plant protection products (EPPO Codes) / Harmonisation des données sur les produits phytosanitaires (Codes OEPP)	03-07/09	Paris
8.	General Standards/ Normes générales pour l'évaluation biologique	03-09/11	Paris
9.	Diagnostics in virology and phytoplasmaology / Diagnostic en virologie et phytoplasmaologie	03-22/24	Rome
10.	EWG on extrapolation tables/ Groupe d'experts sur les tableaux d'extrapolation	04-20/22	Paris
11.	CPM Affairs / Relations avec la CMP	04-26/28	Paris
12.	Panel on Invasive Alien Plants / Panel sur les plantes exotiques envahissantes	06-01/03	Antalya
13.	CPM Affairs / Relations avec la CMP	09-06/09?	?
14.	Diagnostics in nematology / Diagnostic en nématologie	09-06/08	Vienna
15.	Resistance to PPPs / Resistance concernant les produits phytosanitaires	09-14/16	Paris
16.	Phytosanitary measures / Mesures phytosanitaires	10-04/06	Israel

17.	Biological control agents (EPPO/OIBC) / Agents de lutte biologique (OEPP/OILB)	10-11/13	Paris
18.	Diagnostics and Quality Assurance / Diagnostics et assurance qualité	10-18/20	Algeria
19.	Fungicides-Insecticides / Fongicides Insecticides	11-22/24	Paris
20.	Diagnostics in Entomology / Diagnostic en entomologie	11-29/12-01	Paris
21.	Colorado beetle/ Doryphore	12-06/07	Guernesey
22.	Phytosanitary Inspections / Inspections phytosanitaires	12-13/14	Switzerland

5 EWG – Dates to be arranged/dates à fixer

Appendix 2 - research topics under consideration for funding via Euphresco in 2015

2015 Euphresco research topics

Funding phytosanitary research projects is one of the activities ensured by the Euphresco network. In the past months its members have worked to shortlist 62 national priorities to 18 research topics; the research projects that will start in the next months will allow trans-national cooperation on focussed phytosanitary problems, will develop knowledge and propose solutions that could be rapidly applied to the field.

Below is the list of the 18 Euphresco research topics. Please note that certain topics could be discarded (i.e. eventually not funded) because of limited resources available.

1. The biology and epidemiology of *Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum* and potato phytoplasmas and their contribution to risk management in potato and other crops.
2. Identification and early detection of *Cryphonectria parasitica* and *Ceratocystis platani* occurring on trees in Europe.
3. VirusCollect: building an international network of reference collections for regulated and other important plant viruses and viroids.
4. Assessment of *Dickeya* and *Pectobacterium* spp. on vegetables and ornamentals.
5. Diagnostic tools for the detection and identification of *Ralstonia solanacearum* directly on plant tissues.
6. Consensus detection and identification protocol for *Acidovorax citrulli* on cucurbit seeds.
7. Harmonized protocol for monitoring and detection of *Xylella fastidiosa* in its host plants and its vectors.
8. Determine different plum pox virus strains in wild hosts and in stone fruit cultivars with different susceptibility as a part of improved control and surveillance strategies.
9. Ringtest for improved *Potato virus Y* strain detection.
10. Enforcement of phytosanitary legislation on courier services.
11. Development and implementation of early detection tools and effective management strategies for invasive non-European and other selected fruit fly species of economic importance.
12. Nematology: potato cyst nematodes.
13. Tree borers: risk assessment, risk management and preparedness for emerald ash borer and bronze birch borer.
14. Tracking vectors of bacteria and phytoplasmas threatening Europe's major crops.
15. Identifying and assembling data for pest risk analysis, contingency planning and modelling pest invasions.
16. The application of Next-Generation Sequencing technology for the detection and diagnosis of non-culturable organisms.
17. MULTIPLEX – multi-lure and multi-trap surveillance for invasive tree pests.
18. Building capability for frontline national inspectorates.

For any enquiry about the research topics, their detailed content, the funders' consortia or more generally about Euphresco please contact: bgiovani@euphresco.net

5.5 Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC)

Contribution of the African Union Inter African Phytosanitary Council (AU-IAPSC) to the 27th Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs) scheduled on November 2-6, 2015 at Memphis in Tennessee, USA.

The Inter-African Phytosanitary Council is one of the Regional Plant Protection Organizations of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) in charge of the coordination of plant protection, of the 54 member states of the African Union Commission; as stated in Article IX of the Convention. It is moreover a Specialized Technical Office of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) of the Commission, which takes care of continental plant health issues in addition to pesticides management in Africa. It plays an important role in the cooperative endeavour to implement at continental level, the IPPC's functions and promote good agricultural and pesticides management practices by enhancing member states to comply with ISPMs, carry out Member States' Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE), Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) and to implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM) such as to increasing sustainable intensification of crop production and productivity in Africa. It does promote the increase of agricultural production and market access.

The Inaugural Conference of the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) meetings of Experts and Ministers on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment, held on 5th -9th October, 2015 in Addis Ababa Ethiopia; endorsed the IAPSC's Strategic and implementation plan 2014-2023 and edged member states to include it in their respective National Agricultural Investment plans. This strategy which was developed with a large consultation from members states (MS), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), farmers' organizations, partners' intuitions and civil societies has as vision, missions and goal which follow:

- Robust plant health systems and reduced pest risks contribute to better livelihoods, enhanced trade and biodiversity preservation in Africa;
- To develop, promote and coordinated sustainable plant health systems among continental, regional and national actors for increased agricultural production and market access and
- Continental plant health management systems improved by 2023.

The developed strategy has three programmatic areas which include enhanced compliance with International Phytosanitary Standards and regulations; mitigation of impacts and risks of pandemic and exotic invasive plant pest species on livelihoods and biodiversity in Africa and the promotion of human capacity development. It will be implemented within short medium and long terms with the key IAPSC stockholders like 54 member states' NPPOs, 8 Regional Economic Communities(RECs), the International Plant Protection Convention(IPPC), The Food and Agricultural Organizations of the United Nations(FAO), IITA, CABI, STDF, NGOs, HRST, USAID, Agro-industries and trade institutions, farmers organizations; Agricultural institutions of learning and donors institutions. The current office structure which includes a general Assembly, a Steering Committee and four sections (Phytopathology, entomology, Administration and finance, documentation) will need to be improved in order that; International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) are effectively implemented in the continent, the impacts and risks of pandemic and exotic invasive plant pest on livelihoods and biodiversity in Africa mitigated and adequate plant health personnel at all levels in the position to effectively perform better services.

The above outcomes will be effective if the following outcomes are fulfilled:

- NPPOs structures amended;
- ISPMs implemented and coordinated;
- African countries' contribution to standards setting improved;
- National plant quarantine services operational according to standards;
- Enabling continental environment for effective management of pests and pesticides created;
- functional trans- boundary pest early warning and rapid response systems established;
- effective continental plant health information system established and in use and

- certified master trainers(male and female) in place at the local, national and regional levels;
- training curricula and facilities improved and upgraded

The Selected activities approved by the Permanent Representative of the Commission (PRC) to be funded within the office budget program of 2015 fiscal year include:

- Technical preparatory meeting for the common African position on the agenda of the CPM10 meeting;
- Participation of IAPSC to the CPM10 , the WTO-SPS Committee meeting and 27th Technical Consultation meeting among RPPOs;
- Workshop with RECs and member states on safe use of chemical pesticides on agriculture;
- Workshop with RECs and member states to strengthen their knowledge and facilitate the implementation of Early Detection and Rapid Response of pests;
- Workshop on strengthening MS capacity on invasive Alien plants, risk assessment and management and
- Continental member states consultation workshop on 2015 draft ISPMs of IPPC.

The commission only succeeded to fund a few activities which IAPSC succeeded to effectively implement. These are

- A preparatory technical meeting to review the CPM10 agenda for Africa common position was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on February 26-28,2015;
- Participation of IAPSC to the CPM10 meeting on March 16-20,2015 in Rome , Italy and the 27th Technical Consultation meeting among RPPOs in the USA;
- Holding of the office 9th Steering Committee and 26th General Assembly on June 1-5,2015 in Douala, Cameroon
- The Workshop on safe use chemical pesticides on Agriculture is scheduled to take place in December 2015.

A list of Emerging/re-emerging pests in Africa was also established and includes:

- Fruit flies: classic trade, but complex ecosystem invasion (*Bactrocera invadens*)
- Cassava mosaic disease: conflict traffic;
- Cassava brown streak: humanitarian;
- Banana bacterial wilt: conflict traffic Banana wilt (Banana panama disease);
- Banana bunchy top disease;
- Tuta absoluta and
- Maize Lethal Necrosis disease.

The IAPSC has suffered a considerable drop in the release of its program budget for 2015; to enable implementation of approved activities; despite a milestone which was the endorsement of its strategic and implementation plan 2014-2023 by the Specialized Technical Committee (STC). This endorsement clears ways for member states to take ownership of the strategy and include it in their respective Agricultural National Investment plan. However, it is unfortunate that IAPSC was unable to organize as usual, the IPPC workshop to review the 2015 draft ISPMs and specifications; due to the lack of funds and despite effort by IPPC secretariat to bring additional technical and financial support. The office will need to step up multilateral cooperation and partnerships to be able implement its strategy.

5.6 Near East Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO)

NEPPO Report to the 27th Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations / Memphis, Tennessee, USA, 02 – 06 November 2015

Introduction

The Near East Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO) is the tenth RPPO formerly recognized by the 7th CPM in March 2012. The Agreement, signed in 1993, entered into force in 2009. Country members are: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Pakistan, Syria, Sudan, and Tunisia. Oman is the new member since December 6, 2014. Iran, Mauritania and Yemen signed the Agreement but not yet ratified it. The Executive Committee includes 6 countries elected: Algeria, Jordan, Libya, Pakistan, Syria and Tunisia.

Currently, the staff of NEPPO is constituted by its Executive Director and a Secretariat.

The Headquarter agreement with Kingdom of Morocco has been signed on October 2013, and approved by the Law 119-2013.

In the current context, the Secretariat faces a big challenge on how to play its role meeting the Near East NPPOs huge needs on building capacities, sharing information, establishing harmonized phytosanitary measures and procedures and technical assistance. The Secretariat focuses its activities on building capacities and information exchange.

NEPPO managed to sign two Letters of Agreement with IPPC Secretariat (UK project with Fera), and with RNE FAO (Cairo). They allowed NEPPO to organize some activities in 2015.

Activities:

1. Participated in technical workshop on *Fusarium* Wilt Disease of Banana. Held in, Rome, 9-10 December 2014. The workshop focused on the new tropical strain race 4 (TR4) detected in many Asian, African and Middle East countries and threatens deeply Banana production over the world as there is no resistant varieties. Thirty five experts from different countries participated and 29 presentations done.

The main recommendations of the workshop:

- ☐ Awareness raising at farmer, producer and political level,
- ☐ Surveillance, early detection and rapid response,
- ☐ Legislation, quarantine measures and role of IPPC and plant protection organizations
- ☐ Risk assessment and contingency planning,
- ☐ Use of clean planting materials,
- ☐ Development and use of resistant varieties,
- ☐ Inoculum reduction through appropriate management practices,
- ☐ Capacity building and training of technical officers and farm workers,
- ☐ Regional and global collaboration,

2. NEPPO participated to the Regional workshop on “Plant Health and Plant Protection Products”, held in Rabat, Morocco, on 8-12/12/2015, organized by BTSF of EU. A presentation was done on the NEPPO and its activities.

3. NEPPO contributed and participated to the BTSF- Workshop on effective participation in IPPC activities (EU programme), held in Casablanca (Morocco) on May 25-27, 2015. Seven countries participated with 28 participants. NEPPO contributed with a presentation on the Regional Plant Protection Organization and their role.

4. Participation in the 10Th Commission on Phytosanitary Measures Meeting held in Rome on March 16-20, 2015

5. The Secretariat establish an Arabic Language review Group for standards,

6. Participated in the Standard meeting, Rome, May 4-8, 2015

7. NEPPPO contributed and participated to the organization of the IPPC Regional workshop for Near East and North Africa Region held in Amman, Jordan 14-17 September 2015.

Exchange information

The Secretariat collects information related to plant protection and share them with the Near East NPPO through its website: www.neppo.org (all activities organized and presentations) and its Facebook page.

Building capacities

- The NEPPPO Secretariat translated an Australian “Guidelines for surveillance for plant pests in Asia and the Pacific” in French and was distributed to French speaking countries. The Arabic version is in on-going process.
- A meeting on *Xylella fastidiosa* on Olive in Amman, Jordan on September 17, 2015. In concertation with FAO-RNE and IPPC Secretariat, an awareness meeting on these bacteria and its vectors was done. The Italian experience has been shared with participants.
- A training course on PRA for trainers held in Rabat (Morocco) on September 28-October 2, 2015 in collaboration with Fera. It was a good opportunity to enhance skills of the experts selected on the basis of scores achieved in the online course of IPPC. It was also an opportunity to create a core group on PRA for the Near East and North Africa region.

Emerging pests of concern for the NEPPPO region

- *Xylella fastidiosa* on Olive. Further to detection of these bacteria in Italy and Corsica (France) on Olive, Countries increased one’s vigilance because of the higher threat not only on olive but also in many crops like Citrus and grapes.
- Red Palm Weevil: *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* is still of big concern and has potential highly negative environment and socioeconomically impact.
- Fruit flies: *Bactrocera zonata* and *B. dorsalis*, North Africa is surrounded by the both *B. zonata* in Libya and *B. dorsalis* in Senegal (Maybe in Mauritania)
- Huanglongbing Citrus disease (HLB) big threat to Citrus production in the Near East and in the Mediterranean region which is until now free from HLB and its vectors. Its vectors have been detected in the North of Spain, increasing threat and vigilance.
- *Tuta absoluta* in the Middle East countries.
- *Drosophila susuki*
- Some Invasive alien species as:
 - *Pistia stratiotes*, an aquatic plant
 - *Solanum elaeagnifolium* spread in most of the North Africa and Middle East countries.

5.7 North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO)

Status of NAPPO 2015 Projects – Report to the TC of RPPOs, November 2015

This document provides an executive summary of projects status in NAPPO for the above-mentioned time period.

- **Revision of the following Regional Standards for Phytosanitary Measures**
 - **RSPM 7** – *Guidelines for petition for first release of non-indigenous phytophagous biological control agents*
 - **RSPM 12** - *Guidelines for petition for first release of non-indigenous entomophagous biological control agents*
 - **RSPM 18** (2004), *Guidelines for phytosanitary action following detection of plum pox virus*

- **RSPM 26** - Certification of commercial arthropod biological control agents or non-*Apis* pollinators moving into NAPPO member countries
- **RSMP 29** - *Guidelines for the petition for import and release of non-Apis pollinating insects into NAPPO countries*
- **RSPM 33** - *Guidelines for regulating the movement of ships and cargo from areas infested with the Asian gypsy moth*
- **Other documents (e.g. science and technology and protocol documents)**
 - Finalized the document on recommended measures for the establishment and maintenance of area wide management programs for Huanglongbing and its vector.
 - Finalized protocol for citrus shoot-tip micro-grafting
 - Finalized template for new and emerging citrus quarantine pests and methods for their identification and management.
 - Template was used for Citrus leprosis virus.
 - Finalized specifications for a standard on the potential use of systems approaches to manage pest risks associated with the movement of wood.
 - Finalized annex to RSPM 17 on guidelines for development of, and efficacy verification for, lures and traps for arthropod pests of fruits
 - Finalized citrus thermotherapy protocol document
- **Other activities**
 - Delivered a symposium on Innovations in Pest Risk Management during the 2015 NAPPO Annual Meeting – presentations from this symposium will be posted to the NAPPO website (www.nappo.org)
 - Organized a workshop (regional and international) on implementation of ISPM 12, *Guidelines for petition for first release of non-indigenous entomophagous biological control agents* – presentations from this workshop are available on the NAPPO website (www.nappo.org)
 - Organized a workshop (regional and international) on Needs Assessment for regulatory support of the North American seed industry – presentations from this workshop are available on the NAPPO website (www.nappo.org)
 - Organizing a workshop (regional and international) on implementation of RSPM 33 – *Guidelines for regulating the movement of ships and cargo from areas infested with the Asian gypsy moth*
 - Managed the NAPPO pest reporting system and continued working towards eliminating any duplication in reporting to the IPPC
- **Ongoing**
 - Continued support to the IPPC ePhyto steering group
 - Lymantriids science and technology document
 - Continued support for developing the next international ISPM 15 workshop
 - Revision of RSPM 3, *Guidelines for movement of potatoes into a NAPPO member country* to align it with ISPM 33, *Pest free potato (Solanum sp.) micropropagative material and minitubers for international trade* and discuss any adjustments required by NAPPO member countries.
 - Revise standards on Karnal Bunt: RSPM 13, *Guidelines to establish, maintain and verify Karnal Bunt pest free areas in North America*
 - Document on diversion from intended use
 - *RELOCATION OF THE NAPPO SECRETARIAT*
- **Projects delayed, withdrawn or on hold**

- Standard on “Criteria for the determination of host status of pest arthropods and pathogens based on available information” because of ongoing discussions on host status at the IPPC.
- RSPM 41, *Guidelines for oversight programs*, because issues were resolved bilaterally

5.8 International Regional Organization for Animal and Plant Health (OIRSA)

OIRSA Report to the 27th Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations / Memphis, Tennessee, USA – November 02-06, 2015

Introduction

As a result of the agricultural calamity caused in the 1940s by locusts plagues in Central America and the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Mexico, bonds of solidarity and cooperation that yielded undeniable benefits were developed between these countries.

As a result, the Governments of these countries resolved in October 1953 to create the International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health (Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA)). This Organization was to work towards the common defense of the agricultural heritage, enforcing sanitary and phytosanitary measures to reduce the impact of pests and diseases.

Nine countries belong to OIRSA, by means of law in each country: Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic,

El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama. OIRSA is one of the RPPOs partners to the IPPC.

OIRSA provides advice on and evaluation of the operation of the National Plant Health and Quarantine Services as required by member countries. It keeps member countries informed about the phytosanitary conditions prevailing in the region and abroad. It promotes diffusion of achievements and experiences in sanitary and phytosanitary subjects, as well as the consensus of agreements or arrangements with other agencies on international technical cooperation and development, to fund projects of regional interest.

OIRSA has worked together with its member countries improving the phytosanitary status of the entire Region, to enhance the competitiveness of agriculture and food security for the inhabitants of the area of influence. One of its principal concerns is capacity development of the member NPPOs.

Building capacities and activities:

- XIV Meeting of the OIRSA Technical Regional Group for ISPMs Revision. El Salvador, October 5-9, 2015 (Same for 2014)
- Financial support for Member Countries to attend the IPPC Latin America Workshop. Lima, Peru, October 20- 23, 2015 (Same for 2014).
- Participation at the CPM 10, March 2015.
- XXIV Extraordinary Meeting of OIRSA Technical Committee [the National Animal Health, Plant Protection, Quarantine and Food Safety Authorities of Member Countries], October 2015.
- Panel of Experts Workshop for the formulation of the Regional List of Quarantine Pests, December 2015.
- The Member Countries adopted the Coffee Leaf Rust Early Warning System, developed by OIRSA.
- Support the Dominican Republic Ministry of Agriculture efforts to contain the outbreak of the Mediterranean fruit fly, and to implement the eradication plan.

- Training Workshops on “Epidemiology and Recognition of Citrus Huanglongbing (HLB)”, “Integrated Pest Management (IPM) of Citrus HLB” “Production of Citrus Healthy Plants, Regulations, and PCR diagnosis”.
- Strengthening of Medfly Pest Free Areas in Honduras and Guatemala, including training and advisory assistance.
- Development of PRAs: a) *Megacopta cribraria*, b) PRA for importation to Central America of paddy rice from Pakistan and Vietnam.
- Elaboration of data sheets and field cards: Potato Golden nematode, Pineapple *fusarium*, Red palm mite.
- Regional Workshop for development of the Continental Action Plan for *Fusarium oxysporum* f sp. *cubense* TR4 (Panama Disease), March 2015.
- CPM 10 Preparatory Workshop - for Member Countries, in coordination with IPPC Secretariat, February 2015.

Regional Phytosanitary Programs - In operation

- Citrus HLB Regional Pest Control.
- Coffee Leaf Rust Phytosanitary Program.
- Fruit Flies: *Anastrepha grandis* and *Ceratitis capitata* (Medfly.)
- Pest Integrated Management (PIM).
- Regional Quarantine Pests Prevention Program.

National Phytosanitary Programs in support to NPPO members

- Pest Surveillance.
- Pest Diagnosis.
- Plant Protection & Quarantine.
- Plant Health Operational Support.
- Plant Health Training.

Coordination with Regional Plant Protection Organizations

- Chairing the International Coordinating Group in Plant Protection –ICGPP (GICSV)
- Participation in virtual meetings of the International Coordinating Group in Plant Protection – ICGPP (GICSV), on October 2015. COSAVE, NAPPO, CAN. Caribbean Plant Health Directors (CPHD) Forum- invitee.

Upcoming activities

- Formulation of the Regional List of Quarantine Pests.
- Pest Risk Analysis System
- Regional Phytosanitary Surveillance System.
- Early Warning System of Regional Pests.
- Implementation of the Continental Action Plan for *Fusarium* FOC TR4
- Formulation of the Action Plan against *Colletotrichum kahawae* coffee berry disease (CBD).
- Determination of pest status: a) Potato quarantine nematodes b) *Trips palmi* in vegetables c) *Tuta absoluta* in vegetables, particularly tomato.
- Studies of interaction between pest and climate change.
- Determination of pest free areas for *Xylella fastidiosa* in ornamental plants.
- Support the development of the IPPC ePhyto Project opinion survey.
- CPM 11 Preparatory Workshop addressed to member countries, in coordination with the IPPC Secretariat, February 2016.

Prevention and control of regulated and emerging pests

Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus (HLB – citrus greening). Proposed continuation of the project with ICDF-Taiwan support for five more years. Axes: a) healthy plant, b) integrated management, d) Diagnosis, Prevention and Surveillance in HLB free countries.

Fruit flies. OIRSA continually supports meetings for the maintenance of the Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitidis capitata*) PFAs in member countries (Belize, Honduras, and Guatemala). Additionally, OIRSA provides continual assistance to the eradication program of the South American cucurbit fly (*Anastrepha grandis*) developed by MIDA in the Darien Province, Panama.

Fusarium oxysporum f.sp. *cubense* Tropical Race 4 (Foc TR4). OIRSA coordinates development and implementation of the Continental Action Plan to minimize the risk of introduction of Foc TR4, with participation of SENASICA- Mexico, Embrapa- Brazil, CORBANA- Costa Rica, University of Costa Rica, Chapingo Autonomous University- Mexico, Postgraduate College- Mexico and the NPPOs of the Member Countries.

Hemileia vastratix Berk & Br. Coffee Leaf Rust

The Early Warning System for Coffee Leaf Rust and other coffee pests is being implemented.

Maconellicoccus hirsutus

Dispersed through the OIRSA Region the Pink Mealybug is currently present in Belize, Honduras, El Salvador and Costa Rica. This pest is restrictive to trade. Biological control strategy using *Criptolaemus montrouzieri* and *Anagyrus kamali* is being applied.

Megacopta cribraria (Fabricius 1798) (Heteroptera: Plataspidae), Kudzu bug. After carrying out the Pest Risk Analysis, the countries have promoted implementation of phytosanitary surveillance and mitigation measures.

Trogoderma granarium Everts 1898, Khapra beetle. The Pest Risk Analysis was performed. Diagnosis was strengthened in commodities entry points. Some countries have implemented phytosanitary surveillance and mitigation measures.

5.9 Pacific Plant Protection Organization (PPPO)

Pacific Plant Protection Organisation (PPPO) Report at the 27th TC of RPPO – Memphis, Tennessee, USA

The PPPO was recognised as an RPPO in 1997. Today it has 22 members Pacific Island Countries and Territories with its metropolitan member countries members of Australia, New Zealand and United States of America. The Executive Secretariat of the PPPO seats with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. There are 13 contracting parties to the IPPC. Those not contracting parties have been encouraged to sign up.

1. Standard Setting Bodies

The Executive Secretariat attending the 26th TC RPPO held in Antigua, Guatemala in 2014 and reported on the activities of the PPPO. In April 2015, PPPO members attended CPM 10 were Samoa, Cook Islands, Australia, New Zealand and the Executive Secretary for PPPO.

The annual Regional IPPC workshop was held in Suva, Fiji from the 29th to 31st July 2015. The regional IPPC workshop was for three days where members were able to comment on the three ISPM standards and also to use the OCS for comments. The PPPO was also blessed with the attendance of the IPPC Secretariat. The IPPC Secretariat and the IPPC Capacity Development Committee chairperson facilitated training to PPPO members on National Reporting Obligations for IPPC contracting parties.

Information Exchange

- The NPPO contact points are updated annually as NPPO's are normally changing within its members. E-newsletter - newsletter is a means of sharing any information whether it be training workshops, regional meetings etc - to all NPPOs in the PICs
- Another area where information is shared to the NPPO in the region is through the PPPO mailing list. This list comprise of all NPPO contacts of the south west pacific region and is used as an information exchange platform in keeping abreast with regional topical biosecurity and plant protection issues.

2. Technical Assistance provided by PPPO to its members

The PPPO is funded by project funds. This funds meets the financial needs of its members to participate in regional workshops and regional meeting such as PPPO Executive Committee meeting, Draft ISPM meeting, PPPO Full board regional meeting, and training organized by IPPC, Australia or New Zealand.

As part of SPCs commitment to its members, SPC-LRD established a biosecurity helpdesk as part of its technical advisory services to better serve its clients (PPPO Members). The helpdesk predominantly receives and processes email equerries on matters related to biosecurity, trade facilitation and plant protection including advice on import risk analysis

3. 8th Board meeting of the Pacific Plant Protection Organisation(PPPO) and the 17th Regional Technical Meeting of Plant Protection(RTMPP)

The 8th board meeting of the PPPO and 17th RTMPP meeting was held in Nadi Fiji from the 21st-25th September 2015. A total of 71 participants (including observers) attended the meeting. At the meeting, Vanuatu was elected the Chair of the PPPO with Australia the Vice Chair. Also there were nominations for the PPPO Executive committees for the next two years. Executive committee members were endorsed by the three regions in the Pacific namely Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia.

Nominees were:

Melanesia – Fiji and New Caledonia
 Micronesia – Nauru and Republic of the Marshall Island
 Polynesia – Tonga and Niue

The term of office is two years. At the meeting the members agreed to a two yearly meeting of the PPPO board rather than the triennial meeting that it used to have previously.

Other areas of discussion at the meeting were:

- PPPO secretariats report on the activities of the PPPO
- Update on the IPPC activities. Update was done by Lois Ransom of Australia in her position as Bureau member. Ms Ransom noted that not many Pacific members were at the last CPM. She let members know that funding is available for developing countries to attend the meeting. She reinforced that representation of the South West Pacific region on the Bureau was an opportunity for the Pacific.
 The IPPC have a new Secretary who has already shown strong leadership.
 On the subject of the ePhyto – There will be a global Symposium in South Korea. North America is looking at funding a Pilot hub for ePhyto exchange. The APPPC is looking at e-phyto readiness for participation in a global pilot hub.
 There is a new focus in the IPPC on the implementation of standards beginning with a pilot on surveillance. The CDC has developed a manual. The PPPO board was also informed that CPM 11 will be from the 4th to 8th April 2016.
 The IPPC is looking at developing a new strategic plan.

- IPPC Dispute Avoidance and Settlement System by lois. The Bureau member updated the board on the bureau discussions on the Dispute avoidance ad settlement system which included the following:
 - a. Phytosanitary dispute is defined as disagreement over the imposition of a phytosanitary measure between two or more countries.
 - b. CPM agreed that dispute avoidance should be the first step in solving phytosanitary disagreements.
 - c. Strong recommendation to avoid disputes with suggestions of ways to avoid this very lengthy and expensive exercise.
 - d. Countries can also look to standards for guidance and actively report non-compliance.
 - e. There are steps that can be found on the International Phytosanitary Portal:
<https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/dispute-settlement/>
- Standard Setting was led by SC Chair – Dr Bart Rossel.
 Several standards have been subject to formal objections. Phytosanitary treatments as phytosanitary measures are now being drafted by the Technical Panel for Phytosanitary Treatments. This could be of great benefit to the PPPO region.
 Of particular relevance to the PPPO is the treatment on Heat Treatment Forced Air for papaya for fruit fly which will be up for adoption at CPM this year if approved by the SC. Tonga noted concern on how specific the standard was and whether that would have trade implications.
 Dr Rossel noted that no experts were nominated for the expert working group for the waste standard from the Pacific, even though the topic was nominated by the Pacific. SWP will seek CPMs approval to keep the Waste standards with the IPPC workplan as it is important to the region.
 The PPPO board was also informed that the surveillance standard (ISPM 6) will be reviewed in October.
- IPPC Capacity Development Committee Update – Chairperson – Sally Jennings
 Presented on the phytosanitary information available from the IPPC website such as pest surveillance protocols, standards implementation manuals. This information is provided so that countries do not need to re-invent the wheel and can utilize existing information sources.
 - ii. Updated on phytosanitary capacity evaluation (PCE) as principal tool to evaluate capacities of quarantine systems.
 - iii. Requested countries provide CDC with their priority training needs.
- PPPO Business Plan and resource mobilisation
- Phytosanitary Capacity building
- Update on the Sea container Standard by John Hedley.
 The IPPC has been working to develop a standard on sea containers for some time. There will be a Special Session at CPM devoted to sea containers to look at different aspects including risk aspects, industry concerns and practical NPPO problems. Not all countries are aware of the risk of pest movement with sea containers or do wish to address them. Next year there will be the third expert working group meeting
- PPPO logo. The PPPO secretariat proposed the development of a PPPO logo to provide further recognition of the PPPO and noted that other RPPOS have their unique logos. The PPPO board supported the proposed development of a PPPO logo. SPC to initiate a competition, open to higher education institutions to design a logo for the PPPO.
- PPPO Website. Endorsed that PPPO have a stand-alone website. PPPO Secretariat to work on this proposal.

- New and emerging pests

At the 8th PPPO board meeting saw the launching of the Regional Handicraft Manual. This was funded by the Australian government under the Pacific Horticultural Agricultural Market Access project (PHAMA).

It is important to note that the workplan of SPC-Biosecurity and Trade is based around the PPPO work plan.

4. Pest Surveillance activities

The PPPO conducts Crop pest surveillance when NPPO requests for this technical assistance annually. In 2015 pest surveillance was done for Palau, Vanuatu Tuvalu and Yap. Collection of arthropod samples has been sent to the NZ laboratory for identification authentication. To date some results have been received and country Pest List Database has been updated. On a positive note PPPO has worked with Cook Islands NPPO to eradicate Oriental Fruit-fly from the island.

The Pacific region is well known for IAS both plants and insects.

In 2015, PPPO has assisted Tuvalu and Nauru on delimiting surveys for Yellow Crazy Ants (YCA). PPPO is also working with other partners on a project to address Yellow Crazy Ants in Tokelau and Kiribati in terms of management, control and capacity building for its biosecurity officers at the border. It is hoped that the finding of the project will be guide for the other PICTs that have YCA in its environment.

5. Capacity Building

- PPPO has been actively involved in capacity building for its members. In 2014 there was an annual Biosecurity Training – North Pacific where participants were from Guam, FSM, Palau, RMI, and Saipan. Training was in March 2015
- Regional Global Quarantine awareness Training for Palau, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands (covering international agreements, organizations and standards)
- Plant Health Systems Analysis course. This was funded under the US-APHIS and International Service. The training was from 8th to 19th June 2015. A total of 7 participants from the PPPO member countries were selected to attend the training. The training was for two weeks covering a range of topics such as:
 - Regulatory Framework for Plant Protection
 - Phytosanitary Terminology
 - What is Risk, Overview of Risk Analysis, Resources for PRA
 - Approaches to Pest Risk Assessment – Collaboration Tools
 - Qualitative Risk Assessment, PRA guidelines, elements process overview
 - Pest Lists, Pest Initiated PRA
 - Bio-Surveillance for Effective Safeguarding: Pest Lens
 - Fundamentals of Risk Management
 - Systems Approaches
 - Application of GIS to Plant Health
 - Phytosanitary Treatments and the Use of Treatment Schedules
 - Plant Inspection Stations
 - Trapping and Surveillance

6. Legislation Review

PPPO with financial assistance from FAO (SAP) engaged a consultant to review the Biosecurity legislation for Fiji and Cook Islands. At present, Cook Islands Crown Law needs to send their comments through to the PPPO Secretariat who will then forward it to the consultant to include the comments. For Fiji the work had to be withdrawn due to issues beyond the PPPO Secretariats control.

7. Market Access Activities

This is an output within the PPPO work-plan to assist its members to engage in trade with each other and also internationally.

In 2015 PPPO assisted the following on market access activities:

- Assisted Niue of Honey Bee health Survey
- Worked with NPPO Tuvalu in developing a Market Access submission to NZ for export of breadfruit chips
- Assisted Cook Islands Noni Marketing Ltd to get Chinese Organic Certification
- Feasibility study of Papaya Export to NZ from the Cook Island
- NPPO Fiji assisting mature ginger access to the Australian market.

8. RPPO Collaboration

PPPO and APPPC had been working in collaboration on the following:

- Surveillance workshop
- ePhyto workshop

Appendix 3 – Work Programme of the Technical Consultation amongst RPPOs (2016)

Activity / Topic		Responsible body
1	Investigate an operative mechanism for pest reporting through RPPOs	Secretariat All RPPOs
2	a) Should the recognition of an NPPO for the Caribbean be proposed, they should be made aware of the requirements for recognition as RPPOs and b) Cooperate in the technical aspects of the establishment.	Secretariat All RPPOs
3	RPPOs support to Regional IPPC workshops	All RPPOs
4	Contingency planning or systems approaches	APPPC EPPO CAN COSAVE NAPPO OIRSA
5	Electronic certification: encourage all NPPOs to participate in developments and exchange of information in the TC.	All RPPOs Secretariat
6	RPPOs input into the IRSS (Implementation review and support system)	All RPPOs Secretariat
7	Review and update of the Roles and Functions of RPPOs in the framework of the IPPC.	All RPPOs
8	Management of preparations for further TC meetings – periodic communication to provide updates and reminders	All RPPOs Secretariat NEPPO for doc exchange procedures
9	Support activities intended to encourage NPPOs to implement the Convention and the standards and particularly implementation programs. a) Possible increased involvement by RPPOs in capacity development activities b) Facilitation of the fulfilment of NROs a) Support the implementation of the IPPC communications work plan when it is ready b) Participating in the implementation programs: e.g. surveillance	All RPPOs
10	Discussion on new concepts of strategic value for the Convention	All RPPOs
11	Consideration of specific requests coming from the Bureau and CPM bodies	All RPPOs
12	IYPH	Secretariat All RPPOs
13	2017 IPPC and Trade Facilitation	Secretariat All RPPOs
14	A seminar on a specific topic : to be discussed at CPM time	

Appendix 4 – 28th Technical Consultation among RPPOs 2016 – Tentative Agenda

1. Opening of the Technical Consultation
2. Election of the Chairperson, Vice-chair and Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Matters arising from the 26th TC-RPPOs, including post meeting networking and cooperation / Follow up on impacts of the decisions of the 27th TC-RPPOs
5. Information Exchange Platform on RPPO activities (including presentation of the Web sites)
 - 5.1 APPPC
 - 5.2 CAN
 - 5.3 COSAVE
 - 5.4 CPPC
 - 5.5 EPPO
 - 5.6 IAPSC
 - 5.7 NAPPO
 - 5.8 OIRSA
 - 5.9 PPPO
 - 5.10 NEPPO
6. Status of a Caribbean NPPO and review of RPPOs ToRs.
7. Secretariat update
 - a. Governance
 - b. Standard setting
 - c. Implementation Facilitation
 - d. Communications and partnership
 - e. Others
8. Follow-up from CPM 11
9. Topics for future CPM special and side sessions
10. TC Work Plan (standing work plan with annual reviews)
11. TC among RPPOs technical discussions including:
 - a. Current and emerging major pest issues (all RPPOs)
 - b. E-Phyto
 - c. Contingency planning
 - d. Systems approaches
12. Other Business
 - Mentoring, cooperation and work sharing among RPPOs
 - Report for CPM 12
 - Requests from the Bureau
 - Communications work plan

13. Date and location of next TC
14. Adoption of the Report of the 28th TC-RPPOs
15. Closure

Appendix 5 – List of Participants and Observers

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