



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

TWENTIETH SESSION

CONFERENCE ROOM PAPER (CRP) ON EMERGING PESTS

AGENDA ITEM 19

(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat)

1. Introduction

- [1] Emerging pests continue to pose significant and evolving threats to plant health, biodiversity, and agricultural production globally. Recognizing this challenge, the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) at CPM-14 (2019) established emerging pests as a standing agenda item to facilitate international awareness and coordinated responses.
- [2] The CPM agreed that information shared under this agenda item should focus on pest outbreaks that:
- have regional or global implications;
 - pose risks to plant resources or ecosystems;
 - may require coordinated international actions.
- [3] In response, the Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems (POARS) initiative under the IPPC Development Agenda provides a structured framework to identify and assess emerging pests of global concern and to strengthen preparedness, information sharing, and coordinated responses.
- [4] Building on the work presented at CPM-19, the present paper provides:
- an update on pest reporting activities supporting global awareness of pest events;
 - information on pests requiring further evidence under the POARS Watch List;
 - information on an additional pest nomination submitted after the 2025 cycle; and
 - update on ongoing efforts to strengthen early warning through collaboration with FAO multi-hazard early warning initiatives.

2. Pest reporting and emerging pest awareness

- [5] Pest reporting is essential for early warning and coordinated action. To improve awareness of pest events reported by countries, the IPPC Secretariat launched Monthly [Pest Reporting Summaries](#) in January 2025. These summaries compile pest reports shared through:
- National Reporting Obligations (NROs) on the IPP.
 - National or regional pest reporting systems.
- [6] Pest reports submitted through the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) and national or regional reporting systems continue to provide early signals of pest risks. Recent reports highlight first detections, expansions of quarantine areas, and the emergence of new pest pathotypes across several regions.

- [7] Notable examples include the first confirmed detection of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* Tropical Race 4 (Hypocreales: Nectriaceae) in Ecuador; the first official detection of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* (Aphelenchoididae), the pine wood nematode, in France; and the identification of new pathotypes of *Synchytrium endobioticum* (Chytridiales: Synchytriaceae), the causal agent of potato wart disease, in the Netherlands. Some reports also involve pests assessed under the POARS emerging pest process, including *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae), the red palm weevil, and *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* (Rhizobiales: Rhizobiaceae), associated with citrus greening (huanglongbing).
- [8] These reports illustrate how pest reporting contributes to early awareness and provides evidence supporting a follow-up identification and monitoring of emerging pests under POARS.
- [9] Recent reports also highlight the continued importance of surveillance and pathway management, particularly in relation to plants for planting, ornamental plant trade, and greenhouse production systems. At the same time, successful eradication and containment actions reported by NPPOs demonstrate the effectiveness of early detection and rapid response.
- [10] The IPPC monthly pest reporting summaries also reveal that many pest signals come from national or regional reporting systems rather than the IPP. This indicates that valuable information exists outside the IPP reporting channel and that improved integration with national or regional systems could strengthen global awareness.

3. Emerging pests of global concern identified through the POARS criteria, the uncertainties, and pests requiring further evidence (Watch List)

- [11] The process and criteria applied for identifying emerging pests of global concern under the POARS framework are described in [CPM 2026/17](#), which presents the outcomes of the first assessment cycle. That paper identifies the pests that currently meet the criteria for emerging pests of global concern¹ and those that require further evidence.
- [12] Several nominated pests were placed on a POARS Watch List.² Detailed results of the pest assessments conducted under the 2025 Call for Nominations, including the screening outcomes against each POARS criterion, are available on the [POARS IPP page](#).
- [13] During the assessment conducted by the POARS Steering Group (POARS SG), with support from the IPPC Secretariat, for several nominated pests, scientific or operational uncertainties were identified, even though they are well known and established in certain regions. Those pests may be emerging in new geographic areas or production systems, and further evidence is needed to substantiate this. They were therefore placed on the POARS Watch List pending further evidence. Key uncertainties identified during the assessment include:
- *Clavibacter nebraskensis* – uncertainty regarding pathways of international spread and the potential economic impacts outside its historical distribution area, particularly in regions where maize production systems differ.
 - *Euwallacea fornicatus* (polyphagous shot hole borer) – uncertainty concerning the full extent of environmental impacts and host range in newly affected regions.
 - *Sri Lanka cassava mosaic virus* (SLCMV) – uncertainty regarding pathways of spread and the potential for further expansion in cassava-producing regions beyond currently affected areas.

¹ *Bactrocera dorsalis* (Diptera: Tephritidae), *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* TR4 (Hypocreales: Nectriaceae), *Lycorma delicatula* (Hemiptera: Fulgoridae), *Orobanche cumana* (Lamiales: Orobanchaceae), *Rhizoctonia theobromae* (Cantharellales: Ceratobasidiaceae), *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae), *Xylella fastidiosa* (Xanthomonadales: Xanthomonadaceae).

² Banana bunchy top virus (BBTV) (Bunyavirales: Nanoviridae), *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* (Rhizobiales: Rhizobiaceae), *Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum* (Rhizobiales: Rhizobiaceae), *Clavibacter nebraskensis* (Micrococcales: Microbacteriaceae), *Euwallacea fornicatus* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae), Sri Lanka cassava mosaic virus (SLCMV) (Geminiviridae: Begomovirus).

- [14] The Watch List serves as a mechanism under POARS to monitor pests where evidence remains incomplete but potential risks warrant continued attention.

4. Emerging pest nomination submitted after the 2025 cycle

- [15] Following the 2025 cycle, in February 2026, the United Kingdom submitted an additional nomination for *Litylenchus crenatae* (Nematoda: Anguinidae) (Beech Leaf Disease nematode), the nematode associated with beech leaf disease.
- [16] Information provided in the nomination indicates that the pest has spread rapidly in North America since its first detection in Ohio (United States) in 2012 and is now reported across multiple U.S. states and in Ontario (Canada). Evidence from North America indicates significant ecological and economic impacts, including mortality of American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) and potential long-term changes in forest ecosystems. The nomination highlights that beech species (*Fagus* spp.) are widely distributed across North America, Europe, and Asia and play important ecological roles in forest systems and economic roles in timber and wood products. The pest may spread through plant material during planting and natural dispersal, posing a potential risk to regions where beech species occur.
- [17] The pest will be assessed in accordance with the established criteria for identifying emerging pests of global concern, and the outputs will be communicated via IPP.

5. Emerging pests integration with FAO multi-hazard early warning initiatives

- [18] Under the POARS initiative, the IPPC Secretariat has begun engaging with FAO's Multi-Hazard Risk Communication Dashboard, which aims to integrate intelligence from existing agri-food early warning systems into a single platform to support country decision-making across sectors. The platform is being developed under an FAO One Health framework and will aggregate information on risks affecting animal health, plant health, food safety, and the environment.
- [19] In this context, opportunities are being explored to link IPPC pest reporting mechanisms, including National Reporting Obligations (NROs), monthly pest reports, and POARS alerts, with the emerging FAO multi-hazard platform. Within FAO, the development of multi-hazard early warning approaches reflects a broader effort to integrate information from sector-specific systems into more coordinated cross-sectoral risk frameworks. These developments could strengthen cross-sectoral early warning and enhance global awareness of plant health threats.
- [20] While pest reports and alerts provide valuable early awareness of emerging pest risks, the data currently available through reporting mechanisms is often insufficient to support more advanced epidemiological analyses or predictive modelling. Such analyses typically require more detailed surveillance datasets, including temporal and spatial occurrence data, as well as other operational information.
- [21] As POARS evolves, identifying approaches to enhance the analytical use of available information may further strengthen global early warning and preparedness for emerging pests.

Recommendations

- [22] The CPM is *invited* to:
- *note* the information provided in this paper regarding pest reporting activities and emerging pest awareness;
 - *encourage* Contracting Parties to continue sharing timely pest reports through National Reporting Obligations (NROs) and other relevant national or regional reporting systems;
 - *note* ongoing efforts to strengthen collaboration between POARS and FAO multi-hazard early warning initiatives, with the IPPC contributing plant health information within this broader risk information framework.

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