

REPORT FROM CAB INTERNATIONAL (CABI)

AGENDA ITEM 22.3

(prepared by CABI)

Overview

1. CABI is an international, not-for-profit organization that improves people's lives by providing information and applying scientific expertise to solve problems in agriculture and the environment. It is owned and run by its 48 Member Countries.
2. CABI's work contributes to the objectives of the IPPC through its thematic areas of plant health, value chains and trade, invasive species prevention and management, communication and extension, digital development and publishing. Much work contributes to IPPC's core activity of implementation and capacity development, but contributions are also reported in relation to several of IPPC's Development Agenda items, as well as other emerging topics such as One Health.
3. FAO and CABI have a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the aim of consolidating, developing and strengthening cooperation toward common objectives of plant production and protection for sustainable crop production systems. The MoU work plan includes a section on co-operation between CABI and IPPC.

Phytosanitary capacity development

4. The IPPC's Africa Phytosanitary Programme (APP) aims to strengthen the resilience of Africa's phytosanitary systems to pests of regulatory, economic and environmental significance. CABI collaborates with APP through providing expertise on protocols for target pests and training NPPOs. CABI is also member of the APP Technical Working Group (TWG).
5. CABI collaborates with the African Union's Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (AU-IAPSC) to implement several aspects of the Plant Health Strategy for Africa. Together CABI and AU-IAPSC have developed proposals to support SPS capacity building in Africa.
6. In Bangladesh, CABI in collaboration with the Plant Quarantine Wing (PQW) and the Netherlands Embassy in Bangladesh, co-organized the E-Phyto (E-Certification) Readiness Capacity Building Program in Dhaka from 13–16 January 2025.
7. A major update to the PRA Tool was released in June 2025 to improve the user experience for conducting pest-initiated PRAs. Two webinars were held in July to demonstrate the changes to NPPO risk assessors and answer queries.

Preparedness and risk-based approaches

8. CABI is working closely with NPPOs and regional organizations to improve the usability and application of the Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) and Horizon Scanning Tools. The linked pest information in the CABI Compendium is continuously updated. Free access to these tools continues to be available to the NPPOs of 115 low- and middle-income countries.
9. CABI conducted Horizon scanning (pest risk prioritisation) trainings with NPPO's in Nepal and Sri Lanka with an aim to update the regulated pest lists of the countries. The horizon scanning approach for Nepal was based on high-risk pests for 11 crops. PQPMC also

expressed a desire to review and update its regulated pest list. Pest Risk Register workshops were also held in Sri Lanka to review of the horizon scanning and set up protocols for rapid risk assessment procedure.

10. In Zambia, CABI continued to support the Plant Quarantine and Phytosanitary Department (PQPS) to maintain a national pest risk register (PRiR). This has evolved to the Pest Risk Register Committee (PRiRC) holding quarterly meetings. The PRiR is now hosted on a new interactive website (<https://pestrisk-register-zambia.fly.dev/>).
11. In 2025, the PRiRC set out to advance PRiR development by validating the current information in the register, adding new pests, adapting a routine process for PRiRC meetings, addition of new pest threats, and reviewing pest information based on changes in risk. Among the key achievements of the year are the sorting of quarantine and regulated non-quarantine pests into separate lists, the addition of new pests from recent alerts, official launch of PRiR
12. CABI collaborated with Plant Quarantine and Pest Management Centre (PQPMC), Nepal to conduct a Pest Risk Analysis workshop for PQPMC plant protection officers, participants from the universities, research organisations, and freelancers.
13. CABI facilitated a Pest Risk Analysis workshop for Goss' Wilt *Clavibacter nebraskensis*, one of POARS pest in the watch list with NPPOs from Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Malawi, Zambia, Ghana, South Africa, AU-IAPSC, COMESA and IPPC (online). Similarly, a contingency plan was developed, which describes Goss's Wilt prevention, detection; containment, and rapid response measures countries can take for the pest.
14. CABI supported the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA) to undertake a PRA workshop, both online, and combined with a physical workshop in Trinidad and Tobago in December 2025, where 4 pest-initiated PRAs for the region were developed.
15. CABI supported the Rwanda Inspectorate, Competition and Consumer Protection Authority (RICA) (RICA) in a Horizon scanning activity where over 1,700 pests of high risk were identified. Subsequently, the Pest Risk Register (PRiR) for Rwanda was developed and a PRiR working group/task force formed.
16. In Burundi, CABI supported Direction de la Protection des Végétaux (DPV) to update the list of regulated pests. The updated list was published in the latter part of 2025.
17. In Ghana, the NPPO - Quarantine Pest List of Ghana's Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate (PPRS) was supported to form a Phytosanitary Working Group to undertake a comprehensive review and make an update of the 278 pests on the current list.
18. Collaboration with the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and WHO's Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources (EIOS) initiative continued, to develop processes to utilise the EIOS system for plant pest horizon scanning. A machine learning model has been built to filter the most relevant information items, and this is now used to produce Pest Risk Monitoring reports for NPPOs in several PlantwisePlus countries where pest risk prioritisation processes have already been implemented..
19. Following on from pest risk prioritisation work, as well as new pest reports, NPPOs were supported to undertake surveillance for high-risk pests in several countries. In Zambia a detection survey was undertaken for wheat blast, and in Uganda a delimiting survey for mango mealybug found the spread is still limited in a few hotspot areas. In Ghana

surveillance for Banana Bunchy Top Virus (BBTV) was undertaken, and the disease was not detected, and the contingency plan was updated based on heightened risk. In Bangladesh, surveillance was conducted on black thrips (*Thrips parvispinus*) with the pest found to be present at several sites. A new paper of a first report has been published. In Pakistan surveillance was done for spiralling whitefly (*Aleurodicus dispersus*) and no evidence of the pest was detected.

20. CABI and the FAO Sub Regional Office for Southern Africa, undertook a baseline survey on the “Status of Phytosanitary Barriers and Market Access in SADC Member States” under the STOSAR II project. The study provides a comprehensive assessment of the status of market access and, specifically, the phytosanitary barriers and needs faced by SADC Member States. Among the topics studied was the status of ePhyto implementation in the region.
21. CABI has published new papers on pest risk including: Mulema et al (2025) Rapid risk assessment to prioritise potentially high-risk non-native plant pests to protect agriculture and forestry, safeguard biodiversity, and facilitate trade in Burundi, *Frontiers in Agronomy*, <https://doi.org/10.3389/fagro.2025.1604493>; and Mulema et al., 2025. Prioritizing non-native pest species to inform plant health biosecurity policy decisions and to safeguard agriculture, forestry, biodiversity, and livelihoods in Uganda. *Frontiers in Agronomy*. Volume 7, <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/agronomy/articles/10.3389/fagro.2025.1601845/full>.

Response to Outbreaks

22. CABI assists NPOs in responding to pest outbreaks (both recently detected populations as well as significant increases in established populations). In such situations synthetic pesticides are often used, and CABI undertakes a range of Pesticide Risk Reduction (PRR) activities aimed at increasing the use of biological approaches to population suppression. These include supporting adoption of appropriate regulatory processes, providing information on available methods and products, and research and development on biological control agents for invasive pests.
23. CABI, in partnership with national partners and private sector players continued to promote the uptake of bio-protection products. This is done through the BioProtection Portal (<https://bioprotectionportal.com/>), a free, searchable directory of nationally registered biocontrol and biopesticide products. It now covers 52 countries. The CABI BioProtection Portal received the Gold Stevie® Award for Sustainability Initiative of the Year in Europe at the 2025 International Business Awards
24. Classical biological control programmes are in progress for many plant pests, following the guidelines in ISPM3. Support was provided to Kenya, Uganda and South Sudan to release *Acerophagus papayae*, a biological control agent of papaya mealybug, *Paracoccus marginatus*. Releases of *Eiphosoma laphygmae*, a specific parasitoid of fall armyworm from the Americas were made by Ghana and Zambia. In Burundi, mass releases of two parasitoids, *Gyranusoidea tebygi* and *Anagyrus mangicola*, were undertaken against the mango mealybug, *Rastrococcus invadens*, building on work started by FAO and IITA. Following its successful establishment in East Africa, CABI is also collaborating with ICIPE to introduce the parasitoid *Dolichogenidea gelechiidivoris* to other countries in Africa for control of *Phthorimaea (Tuta) absoluta*. *Ganaspis kimorum*, a parasitoid of the spotted-wing drosophila *Drosophila suzukii*, has been released in Switzerland, and shipments made to other countries in Europe, America and Africa.

Market Access

25. CABI is supporting 12 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa to address the challenge of potato cyst nematodes and other pests (*Pectobacterium* and *Dickeya spp.*) (STDF/PG/809). The project is being implemented in partnership with FAO, ICIPE, IITA, CIP and KEPHIS. The project is training partners on diagnostics and phytosanitary measures for application in trade and production of potato.
26. The European Union is supporting a project aimed at improving SPS controls in Uganda's fresh fruit and vegetable sector. The project looks to strengthen the capacity of the competent authority's service provision and support for private sector organizations to comply with SPS measures for domestic and export markets, with a focus on EU plant health and food safety regulations. The project is implemented in collaboration with COLEAD, together with the NPPO, HortiFresh and the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries

Research

27. Under the EUPHRESCO III project, funded by the EU to promote global cooperation in phytosanitary research, CABI is the regional champion for Africa. NPPOs and research institutions have prioritized phytosanitary research areas.
28. CABI is active in the International Pest Risk Research Group (IPPRG) with ongoing work looking at remote sensing techniques to detect and monitor wheat blast. CABI is also participating in a EUPHRESCO research project on "Quantitative horizon scanning using climatic modelling to identify species with the potential to become plant pests".