

**NEPPO Report to the 27th Technical Consultation among
Regional Plant Protection Organizations
Memphis, Tennessee, USA, 1 – 6 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 focusses 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. NEPPO 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 NEPPO 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 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 NEPPO 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:
 - o *Pistia stratiotes*, an aquatic plant
 - o *Solanum elaeagnifolium* spread in most of the North Africa and Middle East countries.