

**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 betweenthese 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* fsp. *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 e-Phyto 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 (*Ceratitis 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 been 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.