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**Summary Report of the Twenty-seventh Technical Consultation among
Regional Plant Protection Organizations**

Agenda item 11.2.2

Prepared by the North American Plant Protection Organization - NAPPO

English only

1. The 27th Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations (TC-RPPOs) was hosted by the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine, International Phytosanitary Standards Group from the U.S. NPPO. The meeting was held at the Sheraton Downtown Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee, from November 2 to 6 2015. Present at the Consultation were representatives of the IPPC Secretariat, the CPM Bureau and the following nine RPPOs:
 1. Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC),
 2. Comité de Sanidad Vegetal del Cono Sur (COSAVE),
 3. Comunidad Andina (CA),
 4. European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO),
 5. Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC),
 6. North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO),
 7. Near East Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO),
 8. Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA), and
 9. Pacific Plant Protection Organization (PPPO).

2. The full report of the meeting is available on the IPP¹

I. Matters arising from the 26th Technical Consultation

Communication/contact among RPPOs – RPPOs continue to be interested in finding the best/easiest mechanism for periodic and efficient communication between face to face meetings. Members agreed that for the time being, teleconferences and e-mail are the easiest means of communication and decision-making. RPPOs agreed to have a face-to-face meeting on the fringes of CPM-11 (2016). RPPOs also plan to have a teleconference before CPM-11 (2016) and one after the Bureau meeting in June, 2016. The Secretariat agreed to prepare and circulate the teleconference Agenda(s) at least two weeks prior and to produce minutes of the teleconference(s). It was also agreed that the Secretariat would put together a table of possible videoconference software/programs for consideration by RPPOs, including Skype.

II. Review of the RPPOs Activities

Each RPPO informed on their regional activities over the past year related to the following:

1. development of workplans, regional standards and guidelines for phytosanitary measures
2. involvement in the organization of regional workshops
3. information exchange including pest reporting
4. improvement of phytosanitary capacity through capacity building projects
5. development of contingency plans
6. major pest issues
7. RPPO website information

Details for each RPPO can be found in the full Technical Consultation report.

1. ¹ Report TC among RPPOs 2015: <https://www.ippc.int/en/partners/technical-consultation-among-rppos/2015-27th-tc-among-rppos/>

III. Status of the Caribbean RPPO and the Comunidad Andina

With regards to the Caribbean RPPO, the Secretariat

1. reconfirmed that the Caribbean Plant Protection Convention (CPPC) was abolished following a decision of the FAO Council in December of 2014
2. informed that the FAO legal office recommends the development of a procedure for withdrawal of recognition of RPPO status because, even though the CPPC was abolished, it is still recognized as an RPPO by the IPPC
3. reiterated its support and provided information relevant to the creation of an RPPO in the Caribbean
4. explained that no final decision has been taken by Caribbean countries on which institution – the Caribbean Plant Health Directors Forum (CPHD) or CARICOM, for example - would represent them as their RPPO.

With regards to the Comunidad Andina, the Secretariat

- informed the TC of receipt of a formal letter confirming that CAN is functioning as an RPPO in its region
- confirmed that withdrawing CAN's recognition as an active RPPO is no longer valid.

The TC agreed ...

- to express its concern on the urgent need of an RPPO for the Caribbean
- that this should be transmitted by the IPPC Secretariat to all Caribbean NPPO contact points
- meanwhile, to have specific consideration for the Caribbean countries when undertaking capacity development activities.

IV. IPPC Secretariat Updates

IPPC towards 2020 – After a presentation on the history of the IPPC, discussions focused on the problems with implementation of the Convention and its ISPMs in certain regions and countries. The question of where Contracting Parties can go for interpretation or clarification of ISPMs was also mentioned. Some RPPOs highlighted challenges that their member countries have in implementing standards and questioned the need to develop new standards until such time when there is substantial progress towards implementation and capacity development on existing ISPMs. NEPPO suggested developing short, medium, and long term plans towards implementation of IPPC standards. The Bureau chairperson, Ms Kyu-Ock YIM, confirmed that at present there are limited budgetary resources in IPPC for ISPM implementation and reminded the TC that implementation is a CP responsibility. Another issue discussed was a suggested shift from dispute settlement to dispute avoidance.

International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) – After a presentation on the International Year of Plant Health 2020, RPPOs discussed and recognized its importance to raise awareness on plant health, especially among politicians. The Secretariat indicated that upon approval from CPM-11, an IYPH steering group will be formed. EPPO is enthusiastic about the IYPH and would consider an event on plant health and science, with Euphresco. NAPPO suggested that actions toward engaging the next generation of plant health professionals should be included in IYPH activities and themes. NEPPO suggested that an event presenting the IYPH could be organized during the FAO Council. Vertical integration IPPC/RPPO/NPPO could benefit communication of activities surrounding the IYPH. RPPOs will actively work to motivate their NPPOs to advocate for the decision in the IYPH to be made at the UN Assembly in 2018.

ePhyto - The Secretariat summarized the current state of the ePhyto project and the possible roles of RPPOs. Mr. Neimanis presented the ePhyto work plan of the APPPC. NAPPO inquired about feedback from surveys on ePhyto sent to NPPOs. Mr. Neimanis offered to share the report on countries which completed the survey. EPPO indicated that some EU member states would be waiting for a common EU system before implementing ePhyto. EPPO would appreciate receiving information on any additional EPPO codes needed in order to get prepared.

The TC agreed

- to provide feedback to Mr. Neimanis on the document “Implementing the IPPC Global ePhyto solution into APPPC countries” within one month.
- the ePhyto survey should be provided to RPPOs, and they will encourage their NPPOs to complete the survey

2015 Secretariat Activities - Activities of the governance bodies, achievements of the standard setting unit, implementation and facilitation unit, and communication and advocacy unit were outlined, as well as recent activities related to partnership and resource mobilization. Some RPPOs commented on the challenges of finding/obtaining information on Secretariat activities in different regions and on the status of development of draft standards.

V. CPM-10 (2015) Follow Up

The Bureau Chairperson, Ms Kyu-Ock YIM, informed that

1. eight proposals adoption of standard documents were supported by NPPOs at CPM-10 (2015)
2. Mr. Wang and FAO supported the recommendations of the IPPC Enhancement study
3. Mr. Wang has been invited to provide an update to CPs during CPM-11 (2016)
4. Formal approval needs to be obtained from FAO for the IYPH
5. a ministerial meeting shall be organized in 2020, as well as a donor meeting
6. that lack of resources in the multi donor trust fund compromises the sustainability of the Secretariat and that more pro-active contributions are required from CPs and donors
7. South Korea may host CPM-12 (2017).

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.

The TC agreed

- that RPPOs should inform their NPPOs and stakeholders (including the industry) about the IYPH including the themes and sequence leading to 2020
- to work on their NPPOs awareness-raising on IPPC activities

VI. Topics for future CPM Scientific Sessions

The TC put forward the following proposals for CPM-12 (2017) Special Topics sessions. They are not listed in order of priority.

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

For Side Sessions during CPM-12 (2017), the TC suggested:

- Regional contingency planning
- Research and science co-ordination

The TC also suggested topics related to IPPC and trade facilitation (2017 IYPH theme) for Side Sessions at CPM-12 (2017). They are:

1. Knowledge topic session on the practical applications of harmonization, examples can be provided.
2. Pest risk management from risk managers and implementers' perspectives - more than 1 side session could be organized
3. Implementation of ISPMs 15 and 13
4. ISPM and private standards (Global GAP and others)
5. Application of systems approaches (inputs from good agricultural practices)
6. Precision agriculture and plant protection

The TC supported

that the session on Emerging pests during CPM-11 (2016) could be implemented in coordination with the Secretariat with updates related to one or more of:

1. *Xylella fastidiosa* strain pauca,
2. ants,
3. HLB and
4. *Agrilus planipennis*.

Updates on these pests could be used for the elaboration of the State of Plant Health in the World.

VII. TC among RPPOs – Work Plan

The TC discussed the 2016 work plan and agreed on the activities indicated in the table below. EPPO suggested, and the TC agreed, to share work and implementation plans in order to facilitate interregional collaboration.

Activity / Topic		Responsible body
1	Investigate a pest reporting mechanism through RPPOs	Secretariat + all RPPOs
2	Should recognition of a Caribbean RPPO be proposed, they should be made aware of the RPPO recognition requirements; RPPOs will assist with the technical aspects of the new RPPO	Secretariat + all RPPOs
3	Support to Regional IPPC workshops	All RPPOs
4	Contingency planning or systems approaches	APPPC EPPO CAN COSAVE NAPPO OIRSA

Activity / Topic		Responsible body
5	Encourage NPPOs to participate in electronic certification	all RPPOs + Secretariat
6	Input into the IRSS (Implementation review and support system)	all RPPOs + Secretariat
7	<i>Review and update of the Roles and Functions of RPPOs in the framework of the IPPC</i> – see below under Other Business	All RPPOs
8	Preparations for upcoming TC meetings – periodic communication to provide updates and reminders	all RPPOs + Secretariat NEPPO – procedures for doc exchange
9	Support activities by NPPOs to implement the Convention and the ISPMs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Possible involvement by RPPOs in capacity development activities b) Facilitation of the fulfilment of NROs c) Support implementation of the IPPC communications work plan d) Participate in implementation programs (e.g. surveillance) 	All RPPOs
10	Discussion of 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	Seminar on specific topic - TBD at CPM-11	

VIII. Other Business

Review of RPPO Roles and Functions - The Secretariat updated the TC on previous efforts to define the roles and functions of RPPOs, including the document ‘Recommendations on the roles and functions of RPPOs in their relationship with the Commission’ that was presented and approved by ICPM in 2005.

The TC discussed different approaches to deal with this issue and decided to work on the modification of the document during the 27th TC; RPPOs agreed to provide comments on the review until mid-December. 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.

As NEPPO was attending the November SC meeting, the TC agreed that NEPPO would raise the TC concerns on the role of RPPOs in the review of the setting process on behalf of all RPPOs. NEPPO, EPPO and NAPPO worked to draft the intervention document. Before the end of January 2016, RPPOs should agree on the way forward with this review; the options are ...

- the document goes for adoption at CPM-11 (2016), or
- CPM-11 (2016) is informed that a final document is going to be presented at CPM-12 (2017)

NAPPO will report to CPM-11 (2016) on the review of this document and inform that the TC would like to preserve specific roles and functions and add new areas for their participation (e.g. enhancement study, implementation plan, the IYPH).

The TC agreed

- that RPPOs would contact their member countries to highlight the importance of the RPPO work and the need to ensure their continued active participation in the IPPC
- to provide comments on the revised document (Suggested roles and functions of RPPOs in their relationship with the Commission) by the 15th of December, 2015.

The Secretariat will include a point in the CPM-11 (2016) or possibly at CPM-12 (2017) agenda; for CPM-11 (2016), the draft document should be posted on the IPP at the latest on the 31st of January 2016

Mentoring and cooperation amongst RPPOs - Several potential actions were identified, for example ..

1. Cooperation in identification of experts for RPPOs technical activities
2. APPPC/PPPO workshop on surveillance
3. NAPPO workshop on Citrus diseases with participation by other RPPOs
4. IAPSC/COSAVE/CAN/OIRSA share information on pests of national concern (BBTV and panama disease in banana, Cassava mealybug and mosaic virus, among others)
5. EPPO/COSAVE annual meeting before CPM
6. EPPO/NAPPO annual bilateral meeting
7. EPPO/NEPPO/CAN/OIRSA cooperation on PRA
8. GICSV: NAPPO/CAN/OIRSA/COSAVE/Caribbean annual work plan and shared projects
9. EPPO/all RPPOs/Secretariat cooperation on formats for pest reporting system (possible meeting at CPM)

For future TCs, a table of RPPO cooperation will be compiled and presented at CPM.

IX. Date and location of the twenty-eight TC-RPPOs

The TC-RPPOs agreed that the next Technical Consultation will be held during the period of 14 to 18 November 2016, in Rabat, Morocco. The TC thanked NEPPO for offering to host the meeting. NAPPO and EPPO shall assist NEPPO with organization of the meeting.

CPM is invited to note the report