



REPORT

Bangkok, Thailand
[11-12 June 2016]

Informal Working Group Meeting on the IPPC Implementation Pilot on Surveillance



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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Opening of the meeting

- [1] The APPPC Executive Secretary welcomed all participants and wished them a fruitful meeting.
- [2] The IPPC Secretariat welcomed the participants and updated them on the pilot project on surveillance. A working group had recommended that this pilot be open to any Contracting Party (CP) willing to participate, and have national, regional and global components. A draft work plan for this pilot project on surveillance had been developed by the IPPC Secretariat but resources still needed to be mobilized. The Republic of Korea took a pragmatic approach and suggested that following the proposals made by a small study group that met during CPM-11, the pilot project could work on three pests. These are *Xylella fastidiosa*, *Bactrocera dorsalis* complex, and invasive ants. An NPPO, RPPO or a relevant stakeholder should play the role of champion for each of the pest projects. The IPPC Secretariat launched a call to gather capacity development resources (manuals, procedures, apps, etc.) on these 3 pests. As each pest has different characteristics, the activity conducted for each of them could be quite different.
- [3] The participant from Korea noted that the present initiative intends to focus on pests which are emerging or great impact on agriculture and trade in wide range of countries, by first collecting material and then determining which activities should be conducted. The participant from the APPPC noted the experience of this RPPO in the area of surveillance, which includes a 6-year programme of workshops, and considered that collaboration between the IPPC and APPPC would be beneficial. The IPPC Secretariat noted that the pests under consideration are of global interest and that the lack of financial resources provided an opportunity for enhancing collaboration - particularly with RPPOs. The pilot project would build and create synergies with existing programs and may provide mechanisms to allow IPPC to contribute to solving current pest problems.
- [4] The group elected a participant from the Republic of Korea as the Chair and the participant from New Zealand as rapporteur and agreed on the draft agenda.
- [5] The Chair thanked the APPPC for hosting the meeting. She underlined that the implementation pilot project on surveillance initially arose from a New Zealand proposal, and that an IPPC open-ended working group on implementation had proposed surveillance as the topic to focus on. The project pilot on surveillance was subsequently approved by SPG and CPM. As emerging pests are of great concern and some countries do not have mechanisms to deal with such pests, the pilot project on surveillance could possibly be a means to create an alert system and provide useful information on emerging pests. And she emphasized that the pilot on surveillance should work within the context of IPPC and avoid duplication of other international activities.

1. Revision of collected material to identify gaps and tools in surveillance for the 3 example pests

1.1 *Xylella fastidiosa*

- [6] The participant from the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) – Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari presented up-to-date results of work on

Xylella fastidiosa in Italy and innovations for early surveillance and detection¹. The EPPO participant indicated that a datasheet had been elaborated and that a diagnostic protocol and a standard for inspection measures were under preparation. The IPPC Secretariat indicated that in the framework of a FAO project in the Near East and North Africa on *Xylella fastidiosa*, a contingency plan would be developed. The participant from Australia reported that work had been undertaken in Australia on this species and that he would share it.

- [7] This species was recognized by the group as a global concern. The Chair noted that Europe developed a lot of resources on this pest, and that the whole world is at risk from this disease. The Chair suggested that a tool kit to help countries respond to the pest - including a datasheet, a contingency planning, diagnostic and inspection methods - would be very useful. These could be in the form of regional standards.
- [8] The IPPC Secretariat suggested that RPPOs should be involved as much as possible in this programme, and that the development of regional standards would be very beneficial. The participant from CIHEAM reported that a network of accredited laboratories working on *X. fastidiosa* has been developed in Europe, and that other regions would benefit from the development of such networks.
- [9] The Chair asked whether a roster of experts was available. The EPPO Secretariat participant indicated that the EPPO database provides diagnostic expertise², while an Euphresco³ database (currently under development) will provide broader expertise on research. The CIHEAM representative explained that the practical training delivered during the FAO-IPPC-CIHEAM workshop 4 on sampling methods and the real-time LAMP and DTBIA developed by the CIHEAM are (among the tests) recommended in the EPPO diagnostic protocol; the training could be organised again to benefit to other regions and strengthen preparedness. The IPPC Secretariat suggested that a training module could be developed and delivered to regions in the framework of their existing events. The IPPC Secretariat indicated that the activities on this pilot of surveillance will be presented in a dedicated session during the 2016 IPPC Regional Workshops. The representative of APPPC proposed to include this material in the next year surveillance APPPC workshop if available. The group discussed the climatic modelling of *X. fastidiosa* and concluded that owing to the variability of hosts and vectors, considerable uncertainty would be associated with a model.
- [10] *The group agreed that:*
- The work should be undertaken at the species level (and not at sub-species or strain level).
 - RPPOs should be involved in the initiative.
 - Appropriate diagnostic laboratories should be ready to work on *X. fastidiosa* all around the world, and follow the EPPO and IPPC (under preparation) diagnostic protocols for

¹ CIHEAM presentation available at http://phytosanitary.info/sites/phytosanitary.info/files/CPM11_%202016_04_04_%20D%27ONGHIA%20Xylella.pdf

² EPPO Database on Diagnostic Expertise : <http://dc.eppo.int/>

³ EUPHRESCO Website : <http://www.euphresco.net/>

⁴ FAO-IPPC-CIHEAM International Workshop on *Xylella fastidiosa*: <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/the-fao-ippc-ciheam-international-workshop-on-xylella-fastidiosa-successfully-held-in-bari-italy/>

this species.

- The most relevant material gathered should be translated in English to be made widely available.
- A training module on sampling and diagnostic methods could be prepared for regions under IPPC coordination with the active contributions from the champions. This training would be targeted to inspectors and diagnosticians. This material should be ready by May 2017.
- Advocacy and information material on *X. fastidiosa* constituting a “case study” should be developed and provided to countries to be inserted in workshop programmes under IPPC coordination with the active contributions of the champions. This material would be targeted to any NPPO staff. This material should be ready by May 2017.

[11] *The following gaps were identified for X. fastidiosa:*

- Harmonized surveillance to know the status of *X. fastidiosa* in the country or region.
- Appropriate import requirements for ornamental plants for planting.
- Statistically based sampling methods as a gap in terms of numbers of samples to be undertaken in nurseries, at entry points, in the field, and in knowing which parts of the hosts should be sampled.
- Certification procedures for ornamental plants for planting (while certification procedures exist for olive trees).
- Eradication feasibility study for *X. fastidiosa*.
- Factsheets to inform stakeholders on measures to be taken to prevent the introduction and spread of *X. fastidiosa*.

1.2 *Bactrocera dorsalis* complex

[12] The Chair recalled that the taxonomy of the *Bactrocera dorsalis* complex is unclear as it includes 23 species among which species representing a major threat such as *B. dorsalis*, *B. philipinensis* (= *B. invadens* = *B. papaya*) and *B. carambolae*. All these species have different distribution patterns. The participant from Brazil emphasized the importance of *B. carambolae* as eradication programme are being undertaken on this pest in his country. A participant from Japan suggested focusing on economically important pests species of *B. dorsalis* complex because many of these species are localized pests. The group reviewed the world expertise on fruit flies and indicated that Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, Japan, Thailand have experience with eradication and surveillance. Expertise is also available in Asia. The participant from Australia indicated that fruit flies represent a biosecurity and surveillance priority for his country and emphasized the usefulness of the Australian National Fruit Fly Strategy. The participant from EPPO informed that a project has been funded in 2015 through Euphresco that will study the cold hardiness of fruit-flies (including *Bactrocera dorsalis*). The IPPC Secretariat indicated that the IAEA should also be closely involved, as this institution undertakes activities on fruit flies and plans to draft a manual on how to implement ISPMs related to fruit flies.

[13] *The group agreed that:*

- The focus should be on economically important *Bactrocera* species.
- The Republic of Korea will undertake research on the genetics on the *Bactrocera dorsalis*

complex to get further taxonomic clarity, and will share these results.

- A committee could be set to prioritize and select among the numerous available references on fruit flies the ones that are the most appropriate.
- A roster of experts on fruit flies could be developed through the committee.
- Further work could be undertaken to have more NROs on fruit flies.
- Existing regional workshops and resources should be made use of.
- The IAEA should be involved.

[14] *The following gaps were identified for B. dorsalis complex:*

- There is no guideline to determine how an outbreak is defined and to provide guidance on how to attain pest free area where the species is endemic.
- Modelling of vulnerable areas for species for which it is not available would be very useful to warn the countries at risk through an alert system.
- A manual or an ISPM on cold treatment or treatments for fruit flies could be developed.

1.3 *Invasive ants*

[15] The Australian participant reported on the work undertaken on invasive tramp ants in Australia which includes current prevention and detection activities:

- Pathway analysis for the introduction of *Solenopsis spp.*
- Inspection activities – traps and intelligence gathering
- Increased surveillance of vessels, aircraft, cargo.

[16] Current management and control in Australia includes:

- Working to restrict the internet trade and movement of ant farms through eBay
- Production of tramp ant fact sheets for public and stakeholder awareness
- Completion of economic, environmental and social benefit cost analysis of tramp ant incursions, establishment and spread
- Development of tramp ant specific surveillance and diagnostic protocols
- Development of a national Tramp Ant Research and Development plan.

[17] The group recognized that Australia now includes environmental pests within its targeted plant biosecurity targets, and the management of invasive tramp ants has been managed by the NPPO. This is not the case in other countries where environmental issues are managed by other entities. The topic of invasive ants represents an opportunity to expand the NPPO scope to environmental pests and issues. The group noted that a considerable amount of information and documentation is available and sufficient and could be shared.

[18] *The group agreed that:*

- Sufficient information is available on invasive tramp ants

2. Agreement on selected pests for the pilot and their champions

2.1 Champions

[19] The group agreed that the champions would play an active role in undertaking activities and the IPPC Secretariat would take an overall coordinating role to ensure coherence and wide diffusion of the outputs.

[20] *The group agreed that:*

- For *Xylella fastidiosa*, CIHEAM and EPPO are the champions.
- For *Bactrocera dorsalis* complex, the group considered useful working on this example pest although the taxonomy is complex. The Republic of Korea is the champion, with help from Australia, Brazil, Japan and Thailand. The Chair suggested that the work on the *Bactrocera dorsalis* complex could be undertaken on a longer time frame. The champion would set up a committee to review the most appropriate material and to develop a roster of experts. This work would be undertaken in collaboration with the IAEA.
- For invasive ants, Australia is the champion.

2.2 Financial resources

[21] The Chair indicated that the Republic of Korea will secure 40.000 USD for the implementation of this initiative. She suggested that some activities could enter in the framework of the next cycle of the Implementation Review and Report System (IRSS), such as sending a questionnaire to countries on the 3 pests on diagnostic and surveillance methods. The IPPC Secretariat indicated that the activities undertaken under the IRSS need to remain centred on review and monitoring and cannot be capacity development activities.

2.3 How to collate, present and communicate to CPs

[22] The group discussed the framework table and how it could be made available.

[23] *The group agreed that:*

- All activities envisaged should be integrated.
- Participants to the meeting would provide their comments on the framework table by the 10th of July.
- The framework table should be revised as follows:
 - o the column “questions and gaps” be separated and the column “gaps” be placed at the end of the table.
 - o there should be a chronological sequence of surveillance activities with links to relevant ISPMs.
 - o categories should be clarified, in particular those related to general and specific surveillance.
- The participant from Australia would provide suggestions for the design for posting the framework table in a user friendly way on internet.
- Three dedicated webpages for each example pest would be created on the phytosanitary.info website with the selected content of the framework table.
- Illustrated one page datasheets should be produced for the 3 pests on the basis of the Australian material and will be distributed to CPM-12 and other relevant events. These

datasheets will be printed by the Republic of Korea, and made available online on the phytosanitary.info website and other NPPOs, RPPOs and relevant institutions websites. This material should be available by the end of this year. The IPPC Secretariat in consultation with the group will work on the objectives, target and content of the factsheet, the champions will be in charge of elaborating the content of each individual factsheet.

- The IPPC Secretariat, with the help of the champions, will provide information on relevant workshops related to pest surveillance on the “event” part of the phytosanitary.info website.
- The IPPC Secretariat will provide an update on this initiative during the 2016 IPPC Regional Workshops.
- The results of this initiative will be presented during CPM-12.

2.4 Future plans

[24] The group also discussed the future of the pilot program. The Champion countries or groups may propose work plans for each pest for further activities within IPPC which may need discussion in CPM. Also, the group stressed the need for data maintenance on the 3 example pests and for the Secretariat to seek sustainable funding for the pilot project on surveillance.

[25] The group recognized that this initiative represents a good framework to attract attention on the whole chain of action for surveillance. Different categories of pest surveillance could be envisaged. In the future, additional pests could be included under the supervision of champions.

[26] This initiative will allow learning by doing and after one year, the experience gained could input in the design of the overall pilot project on surveillance. This initiative could even allow the setting of new mechanisms within the Secretariat on surveillance. The IPPC Secretariat reported that in addition to this initiative, existing FAO surveillance projects will be collected to allow the building of synergies.

Appendix 01 - Action list and work plan table

	General work	Xylella fastidiosa Champions: CIHEAM & EPPO	Bactrocera dorsalis complex Champions: Republic of Korea with the support of Brazil, Japan, Thailand	Invasive ants Champion: Australia
10th of July	All champions to provide their comments on the framework to the IPPC Secretariat. Australia to provide feedback on how to present the framework table in a user friendly way.	Informal Working Group (IWG) to provide comments on the framework table		
				Provide suggestions for user friendly presentation of the table.
30th of July	IPPC Secretariat to circulate the revised framework table to the IWG.	All champions to share information on all the pests (e.g. Australia to share data on <i>X. fastidiosa</i>).		
5th of August	IPPC Secretariat to circulate the presentation on surveillance for the IPPC Regional Workshops to the IWG.			
31st of August	IPPC Secretariat to define the objectives, target and content of the factsheet and to circulate a draft factsheet template. IPPC Secretariat to post “events” and “projects” information on the Phyto page.	Champions to comment on the factsheet template and to start drafting the factsheet for the pest.		
4th to 6th October	Presentation of the initiative to the CPM Strategic Planning Group (SPG)	Champions to provide a first draft of the factsheet.		
7th of October	Presentation of the initiative to the CPM Bureau			
1st of November	IPPC Secretariat to provide an update to the champions and IWG participants on the outcomes of the Regional Workshops, and on the existing projects.		A committee to be created to select the relevant material, in collaboration with IAEA.	
15th of November	/	Relevant selected material to be made available to the IPPC Secretariat.		
31st of December	A dedicated phyto page to be created on the 3 example pests with the selected material provided by the champions, as a user –friendly version of the framework table.		Korea to print the datasheets. Korea to share preliminary results on the genetic study on <i>Bactrocera</i> .	

	Three datasheets to be posted on the phyto page and to be promoted for posting on other websites.				
1st March 2017	Collaboration on the elaboration of the training module and case study on <i>X. fastidiosa</i> . Networking to include the training and case study into regions and countries events.	Development of training modules and case study on <i>X. fastidiosa</i> .	Consideration on how to include the training module and case study on <i>X. fastidiosa</i> in regions and countries events.		
April 2017 CPM-12	Datasheets on 3 pests to be displayed. Initiative to be presented to the CPM-12.				
April 2017	Lessons learnt and integration to the overall pilot project on surveillance.	Action group to be determined.			

Appendix 02 - Participants list

A check (✓) in column 1 indicates confirmed attendance at the meeting.

Members not attending have been taken off the list.

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