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| **Memphis, Tennessee, USA 02 – 06 November 2015** | **Twenty-Seventh Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations** |

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|  | **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations** |

**27th TC-RPPOs (2015) REPORT**

**REPORT OF THE**

**TWENTY-SEVENTH TECHNICAL CONSULTATION AMONG**

**REGIONAL PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS**

**Memphis, Tennessee, USA, 02 – 06 November 2015**

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

**2015**

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**Report of the Twenty-Seventh Technical Consultation**

**among Regional Plant Protection Organizations**

**Memphis, USA, 02-06 November 2015**

1. **OPENING OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH TECHNICAL CONSULTATION AMONG REGIONAL PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS**

The meeting was officially opened by Mr Osama El-Lissy, Deputy Administrator of the NPPO of the USA through a video. He welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of protecting agriculture and the natural environment, and facilitating safe trade. He mentioned that this meeting is crucial to deal with key issues in plant protection, in particular emerging pests and ePhyto, the adaptation of diagnostic and treatment technologies and wished a fruitful meeting to all participants. Ms Stephanie Bloem, NAPPO Executive Director, also welcomed the participants to Memphis, Tennessee.

Mr Jingyuang Xia, Secretary of the IPPC, welcomed all the participants and stressed the crucial role of RPPOs. He recalled the UN sustainable agenda and the need to integrate IPPC activities within this framework. He stressed the current efforts being taken to renew the IPPC with the establishment of a Standard Setting unit, an Implementation and Facilitation unit, and a Communication and Partnership unit within the Secretariat. He stressed the importance of this meeting for the IPPC to articulate the global, regional and national phytosanitary activities. He wished excellent discussions during this meeting to the participants.

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSON AND RAPPORTEUR**

The meeting elected Ms. Stephanie Bloem as the Chairperson, Mr. Mekki Chouibani, as Vice-Chairperson and Ms. Rebecca Lee as Rapporteur.

1. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The Secretariat presented the agenda and noted this is the first time in many years that all RPPOs are present in the TC meeting, which stands as a record. The agenda was adopted with some modifications proposed by the Secretariat by mail and by EPPO and NAPPO during the meeting. The agenda was adopted as per Appendix I. It was noted that the minutes would include the reports from each RPPO in an appendix, while the power point presentations would be posted on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) in the Technical Consultation’s area.

1. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE TWENTY-SIXTH TECHNICAL CONSULTATION**

The TC agreed that teleconference or videoconference could be a mechanism for periodic communication. Teleconference is the first choice because not all RPPOs have video facilities.

About the periodicity of the teleconferences it should be before CPM and, after the Bureau meeting in June.

The Secretariat should circulate the agenda of the teleconference at least two weeks before and should produce the minutes of the teleconference.

As usual, the TC should meet during CPM and E-mails should be used as a main channel for requesting decisions.

Skype could be also explored as a communications mechanism, but it was noted that firewalls may block its use. It was suggested that the Secretariat would elaborate a table with the software that can be used by the different RPPOs.

NAPPO indicated that different softwares can be used for document sharing during teleconferences.

The TC agreed:

* *The Secretariat should produce a table with the videoconference software that can be used by the different RPPOs.*

1. **INFORMATION EXCHANGE PLATFORM ON RPPO ACTIVITIES**

Each RPPO presented their activities over the past year. Summaries of their presentations are given in Appendix II. The TC had decided that each RPPO should be granted some more minutes of presentation to show their websites. Because of lack of time, presentations of the websites could not be performed but some information is incorporated in the documents of the meeting. The RPPO presentations also provided opportunities to discuss and exchange views.

**6. RESULTS ON CONSULTATIONS ON A CARIBBEAN RPPO**

* 1. Mechanism for CPM to withdraw RPPO recognition

The Secretariat reminded the attendees that the CPPC had been abolished after a decision of the FAO Council (December 2014). The Secretariat informed the TC that the legal office recommended the development of a procedure for withdrawal of recognition of RPPO status. Currently, even if the CPPC does not exist anymore, it is still an RPPO recognized by the IPPC. For this reason the Secretariat informed that it is developing a document for CPM 11 suggesting the approval of a procedure to withdraw the recognition of an RPPO. The procedure that the Secretariat is elaborating follows the recommendation of the TC on using the same steps as for recognition in an inverse way.

* 1. CPPC and CAN

The Secretariat informed the participants to have received the formal confirmation of CAN acting as an RPPO in its region. CAN’s letter was submitted to the IPPC Secretariat as requested, demonstrating its continuing activity. The suggestion by the TC in its past meeting of withdrawing CAN’s recognition is no longer valid.

The Secretariat provided to the TC detailed information on its support to the creation of a recognised RPPO in the Caribbean. The Secretariat explained that no decision had been taken by the Caribbean countries on which institution would take on this role.

The TC agreed:

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

1. **IPPC SECRETARIAT UPDATE**

The participants were updated by the Secretariat on IPPC towards 2020, the International Year of Plant Health, on the ePhyto project and on the Secretariat 2015 achievements.

**7.1 IPPC Secretariat 2020**

The Secretariat briefed the participants on the history of the IPPC and the future plans. The presentation is available on the IPP in the dedicated section.

The discussions following these presentations were focused on the problems of implementation of the IPPC and its standards. Some NPPOs highlighted the difficulties of their member countries in implementing standards and questioned the need to produce new standards untill there is a substantive advance in terms of implementation and capacity development on existing standards. Other RPPOs offered case studies and suggested to increase the bottom-up communication of risks to increase participation in the implementation efforts of a country. NEPPO suggested establishing work plans for short, medium, and long terms concerning implementation of IPPC standards. The relationship WCO-IPPC was also mentioned as key to facilitating trade, particularly with regards ePhyto implementation. WCO will be invited to next CPM.

It was clarified by the Bureau chairperson that currently there are very few resources for implementation in the IPPC budget and that this type of actions should have worldwide impacts, but that implementation is a CP responsibility.

Another issue addressed under this presentation was the suggested switch from dispute settlement to dispute avoidance. The Secretariat clarified that there is no “interpretation” body in the IPPC and that the only expected role of the SBDS in this respect is “clarification”.

**7.2 International Year of Plant Health**

The Secretariat made the presentation on the International Year of Plant Health to be organized in 2020, as well as the topics to be covered in the years preceding 2020 (2016 - food security; 2017 – trade facilitation; 2018 – environmental protection; 2019 – capacity building).

RPPOs recognized the importance of this action to raise awareness about plant health, especially among politicians. The Secretariat indicated that upon approval from CPM 11, a steering group shall be organized. EPPO mentioned that the EPPO Council was very enthusiastic about the IYPH and should work on plant health and science through the Euphresco project, as well as on diagnostics. NAPPO suggested that actions toward engaging the next generation should be included. NEPPO suggested that an event presenting the IYPH could be organized during the FAO Council. Vertical integration IPPC/RPPO/NPPO could help in communicating activities surrounding IYPH. A concrete action that RPPOs could do is to motivate their NPPO members to advocate for the decision to be made at the UN Assembly in 2018.

**7.3 ePhyto**

The Secretariat updated the participants on the current state of the ePhyto project and the possible roles of the RPPOs. Mr Neimanis presented the ePhyto forward work plan of the APPPC.

NAPPO asked whether some additional terms would need to be added to the glossary related to ePhyto. Mr Neimanis answered that specific terminology is included in the appendix of ISPM 12 as well as in the “Implementing the IPPC Global ePhyto solution into APPPC countries’’. The Secretariat explained that the TPG should consider whether there is a need to define this terminology and to elaborate a separate supplement.

NAPPO asked about the feedback of the surveys on ePhyto sent to NPPOs. Mr Neimanis indicated that he could provide the report on countries which would have completed the survey to RPPOs.

EPPO indicated that some EU member states are likely to be awaiting a common system at EU level for receipt of ePhytos. EPPO would appreciate to get information on the number of additional EPPO codes which may be needed, and the names of the plants or pests for which they may be needed, in order to get an idea as to how much resource would be required.

The TC agreed:

* *the document “Implementing the IPPC Global ePhyto solution into APPPC countries’’ should be shared by Mr Niemanis and RPPOs should provide feedback within one month.*
* *the ePhyto survey should be provided to the RPPOs by Mr Neimanis, and RPPOs will then encourage NPPOs fill them out.*

**7.4 Main activities of the IPPC Secretariat in 2015**

The Secretariat presented activities of the governance bodies of the IPPC Secretariat, the achievements of the standard setting unit, the implementation and facilitation unit, the communication and advocacy unit and the latest activities related to partnership and resource mobilization.

IAPSC requested to be informed on all IPPC activities organized in Africa, including at the national level. The Secretariat explained that most of IPPC field activities are based on FAO projects and that according to FAO rules, the project document is confidential. On the other hand, the list of activities of the Secretariat is presented to CPM and made public.

EPPO considered that it is sometimes difficult to follow progress of the topics and draft standards, particularly at which consultation stage they have reached, and requested that consideration be given to the way such information is presented.

1. **FOLLOW UP FROM CPM 10**

The Bureau Chairperson indicated that there were 8 proposals of standard setting documents for adoption supported by NPPOs. She indicated that consultation with Mr Wang and FAO supported the IPPC Enhancement study recommendations and that Mr Wang was invited to make an update to the contracting parties during CPM 11. The ePhyto project was discussed as well as the IYPH. For the IYPH, a formal approval needs to be obtained from FAO. She wondered how other bodies than FAO could be involved on the IYPH, as well as NPPOs, RPPOs and IPPC to make a successful event. She pointed out that a ministerial meeting shall be organized in 2020, as well as a donor meeting.

She also mentioned that the lack of resources in the multidonor trust fund compromises the sustainability of the Secretariat and that more proactive contributions are required from contracting parties and donors. She also indicated that South Korea may host CPM 12.

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:

*The RPPOs should urge their representatives to inform NPPOs and stakeholders (including the industry):*

* *about the IYPH*
* *on the sequence of events which lead to 2020*
* *to work on awareness raising nationally on IPPC activities.*

1. **ISPM 15 IMPLEMENTATION**

The Secretariat updated the participants on the progress of the symbol registration. The document is available on the IPP TC page.

NAPPO reported on the possibility to organize RPPOs’ workshops on ISPM 15 implementation, as suggested by Canada at CPM 10. RPPOs were contacted requesting representatives for a call, and a teleconference took place in September 2015 with participants from NAPPO, EPPO, APPPC and COSAVE. NEPPO and PPPO confirmed that they had been contacted for the call but were unable to participate. Many issues were identified in this call for inclusion in a future workshop. As a conclusion of this teleconference, it was decided that a needs analysis should be prepared as well as training modules and an outline of contents which could be tailored to the needs of different regions. A publicity flyer could be used to promote the workshop, and a draft was developed by NAPPO after the call. There were still discussions as to whether it was better to develop broader international workshops or several regional ones. NAPPO indicated that next steps are a needs analysis to be provided by APPPC and development of materials to raise awareness and input for a future ISPM 15 workshop. NAPPO requested reactions of the RPPOs in getting involved.

The Secretariat suggested that:

* Following the content of the CPM 10 report and Canada’s suggestion, an invitation should be sent to the IPPC Secretariat to participate in this activity, in particular to the implementation and facilitation unit.
* Even if CPM 10 has not adopted a decision on the organization of ISPM 15 implementation workshops, RPPOs are encouraged to get involved in this activity.
* From a technical point of view, some of the issues identified are linked to non-compliance and relate to ISPM 13 and not directly to ISPM 15 in many cases, and this should be taken into account in further instances.

The TC agreed:

* *To encourage RPPOs to get involved in the organization of this activity by promoting the workshop.*
* *On the next steps to work on the organization of the workshop, such as the needs analysis, and the preparation of training modules and educational materials on the basis of the results of the analysis.*
* *That RPPOs should motivate NPPOs to pursue the registration of the symbol in their countries.*

1. **REVIEW OF RPPO ROLES AND FUNCTIONS**

The Secretariat updated the participants on the previous efforts to define the roles and functions of the RPPOs. The document ‘Recommendations on the roles and functions of RPPOs in their relationship with the Commission’ was presented and approved by ICPM in 2005.

The TC analyzed different options to deal with the review of the RPPOs roles and functions.

The TC decided to work on the modification of this document during this meeting, and RPPOs were invited to provide comments until mid-December. Before the end of January, RPPOs should agree on the way forward:

- either the document goes for adoption at CPM 11

- or CPM 11 is informed that a final document is going to be presented at CPM 12.

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 and agreed that the word “recommendation” should be removed from the title for more clarity.

The TC discussed whether a document could be presented as a candidate to be an IPPC recommendation.

The TC agreed:

* *The TC examined the suggested roles and functions of RPPOs and confirmed the role they have in the standard setting process.*
* *NAPPO will report to CPM that the TC reviewed the suggested roles and functions and detected that there were areas in which they would like to preserve their roles and functions, and new areas for their participation (e.g. enhancement study, implementation plan, the IYPH).*
* *NEPPO will raise the TC concerns on the role of RPPOs in the review of the setting process on behalf of all RPPOs during the November SC meeting.*
* *The document on “Suggested roles and functions of RPPOs in their relationship with the Commission” will be submitted to CPM 11 or CPM 12 for adoption after further consultation amongst RPPOs.*
* *RPPOs should contact their member countries to highlight the importance of their RPPO work and the need to ensure their active participation in the IPPC.*
* *Comments should be provided by RPPOs on the revised “Suggested roles and functions of RPPOs in their relationship with the Commission” by the 15th of December.*
* *The Secretariat will include a point at the CPM 11 or possibly at CPM 12 agenda; for the former the draft document should be posted on the IPP at the latest on the 31st of January 2016.*

1. **TOPICS FOR FUTURE CPM SIDE SESSIONS**

The Secretariat explained the different type of sessions and training offered at CPM. It also displayed the programming for the next TC to ensure that the suggestion of the RPPOs in this TC do not overlap with the decision of the Bureau for CPM 11.

The TC decided to put forward the following proposals for CPM 12 special topic sessions, which are not in any particular order of priority:

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

On side sessions for the CPM 12, the TC suggested:

* Regional contingency planning
* Research and science coordination

Topics related to IPPC and trade facilitation (2017 topic) for side sessions of CPM 12 are the following:

* Knowledge topic session on the practical application of harmonization, examples can be provided.
* Pest risk management from risk managers and implementers’ perspectives (more than 1 side session could be organized).
* Implementation of ISPMs 15 and 13.
* The relationship between ISPMs and private standards (Global GAP and others)
* Applications of systems approaches (inputs from good agricultural practices).
* Precision agriculture and plant protection.

The TC also supported that:

* the CPM 11 session on Emerging pests could be implemented in coordination with the Secretariat with tables related to one or more of: *Xylella fastidiosa* strain *pauca*, ants, HLB and *Agrilus planipennis*. The material aggregated on these pests could be used for the elaboration of the State of Plant Health in the World.

**12**. **TC WORK PLAN**

The work plan 2016 was discussed and appears in Appendix III.

* 1. Sharing work plans and implementation plans to identify possible joint work areas

EPPO suggested sharing draft work plans and implementation plans to identify possible joint work areas and increase cooperation in their activities.

**13**. **TC AMONGST RPPOS TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS**

**13.1 IPPC Regional Workshops**

The Secretariat shared with the participants the CPM decision adopted in 2012 regarding the procedures for organization of regional workshops (Agenda item 10.1). The Secretariat made a presentation recalling the objectives of the IPPC regional workshops, the modalities in terms of timing, location, organization, participations and collaboration. A table summarizing all IPPC regional workshops being organized in 2015 was shown and the arrangements in organizational matters were detailed.

The Secretariat informed the TC that the emails to be used for any type of communication will be limited to the ones included in the list of participants of this report.

NEPPO thanked IPPC for the flexibility in organizing the workshop, in particular with the section on emerging pests, and highlighted the effective collaboration with the FAO offices. PPPO thanked the Secretariat for attending the workshop in the Pacific.

The case of the 2015 workshop in Africa was extensively analyzed and it became clear that even if strong efforts had been performed in the Secretariat and by the IAPSC, the African Union contribution had not been confirmed and the procedures for organization as approved by CPM 2012 had not been completed.

APPPC noted that the quality of presentations should be improved, in particular for standards. NAPPO suggested recording the key presentations for further use.

EPPO mentioned that until 2014 the regional workshop had been organized satisfactorily and expected the Secretariat to continue the past collaborative approach with EPPO. The Secretariat suggested that this issue should be discussed in detail to reach general satisfaction.

IICA indicated that Peru hosted the workshop in Latin America and that COSAVE and OIRSA paid for the whole attendance. Both NPPOs and RPPOs were consulted on the agenda of this regional workshop which is an interesting model.

**13.2 Current and emerging major pest issues**

Each of the RPPOs attending the meeting presented updated information on this issue that is recorded in the presentations available in the IPP. The APPPC information on emerging pests is included with the presentation under item 5. IASPC indicated that a meeting on mango pest was organized in 2014 which a COLEACP expert was present and that *Tuta absoluta* was also recorded as an emerging pest. NEPPO provided information to the IASPC on *Tuta absoluta* management documents.

PPPO made a presentation on *Xylella fastidiosa* as this pest is of concern for the Pacific region and provided recommendation to the Secretariat. The Secretariat reported that a project on *Xylella fastidiosa* strain *pauca* was on-going with FAO Near East and NEPPO, that a manual on surveillance was being prepared, that a workshop for the Mediterranean countries was being planned, and that a more important FAO project was being prepared. The Secretariat confirmed that it was very committed on working on *Xylella fastidiosa* as suggested by the PPPO, in accordance with the mandate of the Convention. EPPO indicated that *Xylella fastidiosa* was recommended for regulation in the region and that EFSA had performed a pest risk assessment, that diagnostic protocols for this species will be updated and that 2 inspection protocols would be produced. EPPO reported to be in contact with DG research, DG SANTE, EFSA and the olive producers associations and suggested to organize a teleconference to update all stakeholders on current projects. The Secretariat proposed to join forces and to organize a joint workshop in 2016.

**12.2 ePhyto**

IAPSC and NAPPO indicated they had not received the information on the ePhyto workshop to be held in Republic of Korea, and noted that the announcement was not available on the IPP so they were unable to forward the information to their NPPOs. IAPSC asked to get feedback from this event. The Secretariat indicated that reports of meetings and workshops are available on the IPP and that the regional representatives from countries in the ePhyto steering committee had the task to report to the region. NAPPO reported that they did not receive an invitation to attend this workshop. The Secretariat mentioned that the announcement of this workshop had also been made at CPM and at all the IPPC regional workshops.

**12.3 Contingency planning**

EPPO indicated that an EWG would work on drafting a general contingency plan for *Popillia japonica* and that new EU legislation is likely to require member states to develop individual contingency planning for 20 to 30 pests.

This item is going to continue to be included in the TC Agenda to allow RPPOs to discuss on further developments.

**12.4 Systems approaches**

The Secretariat indicated that RPPOs were invited under this item to report on projects concerning systems approaches.

APPPC reported that a workshop shall be organized on design and implementation for export for countries, drawing on the ISPM 14.

NAPPO indicated that in the USA, Integrated Pest Risk Management Measures for Plants for Planting represented a new project to look at the system for plants for planting. A NAPPO specification for standard on a potential use of systems approaches to manage pest risks associated with the movement of wood was approved, and the standard will be developed over the next year.

**12.5 Pests of national concern**

The RPPOs present in the 27th TC did not provide new information on this item.

**12.6 Priority pest lists**

EPPO and NAPPO had jointly worked on a document that was presented by EPPO, explaining that the focus of developing pest list needed to be defined and that a priority is only relevant for a certain purpose to be determined (i.e. priority for research, action, etc.).

NEPPO reported the difficulty in establishing global lists as each region has different priorities. The Secretariat clarified that the initial idea came from the Capacity Development area and was presented to the Bureau, and it was recognized as a focus for action. The idea was not to create a list for regulation, but to prioritize the Secretariat’s efforts and resources on global concerns of regulated pests. The Secretariat congratulated EPPO and NAPPO on the excellent contribution and suggested that capacity development was missing.

The TC agreed:

* *EPPO and NAPPO would work towards adding capacity development as an additional purpose for a pest list.*
* *NAPPO will provide a template to all RPPOs taking into account the discussions on the purposes of the lists.*
* *All RPPOs will fill out the template and circulate it by June 1st 2016.*
* *A revised version of the document will be presented during the next TC.*

**12.**  **OTHER BUSINESS**

1. **Mentoring and cooperation amongst RPPOs**

Several potential actions on this sense were identified, as for instance:

* Cooperation in the identification of experts for RPPOs technical activities.
* APPPC/PPPO workshop on surveillance
* NAPPO workshop on Citrus diseases with participation of other RPPOs
* IAPSC/COSAVE/CAN/OIRSA share information on pests present and of national concern (BBTV and panama disease in banana, Cassava mealybug and mosaic virus, among others)
* EPPO/COSAVE annual meeting before CPM
* EPPO/NAPPO annual bilateral meeting
* EPPO/NEPPO/CAN/OIRSA cooperation on PRA
* GICSV: NAPPO/CAN/OIRSA/COSAVE/Caribbean annual work plan and shared projects.
* EPPO/ all RPPOs/Secretariat cooperation on formats for pest reporting system (possible meeting at CPM). Proposal on contents of the meeting to be circulated at least one month before CPM.

For future TCs, this table is going to be compiled and presented to CPM.

1. **TC report to CPM 10**

There are references to this item in other points of the agenda.

1. **Requests from the Bureau**

The TC had not received any new request from the Bureau.

1. **Communications work plan**

No news was presented by the Secretariat since the new work plan had not been approved.

**13. DATE AND LOCATION OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH TC-RPPOs**

The TC-RPPOs tentatively agreed that the next TC-RPPOs would be held during the period of 14-18 November 2016 in the territory of a NEPPO member country, possibly in Rabat, Morocco. The TC thanked NEPPO for offering to host the meeting. A tentative agenda for the meeting is included in Appendix IV.

NAPPO and EPPO shall assist NEPPO with the organization of the meeting.

The rotation agreed at the 25th TC was reviewed and extended as follows:

2017- EPPO

2018 - IAPSC

2019 - CAN

**14. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

The meeting provisionally adopted the report with the understanding that the Secretariat would circulate the document for RPPOs final comments. The commenting period would be until November 27th, 2015.

**15. CLOSURE**

The Chairperson thanked the participants for their attendance and participation of this TC.

IICA expressed deep gratitude for the excellent dinner and visit of the botanical gardens organized by NAPPO. The RPPOs representatives thanked the organizers of the 27th TC for the hospitality and accurate organization of this meeting.

**Appendix I**

TECHNICAL CONSULTATION AMONG REGIONAL PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS

27th Session

Memphis, USA , 02 - 06 November 2014

Agenda

1. Opening of the Technical Consultation
2. Election of the Chairperson, Vice-chairperson and Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Matters arising from the 26th TC-RPPOs, including post meeting networking and cooperation / Follow up on impacts of the decisions of the 26th TC-RPPOs
5. Information Exchange Platform on RPPO activities (including presentation of the Web sites)🟏

5.1 APPPC

5.2 CAN

5.3 COSAVE

5.4 EPPO

5.5 IAPSC

5.6 NAPPO

5.7 OIRSA

5.8 PPPO

5.9 NEPPO

1. RPPOs recognition / withdrawal of recognition.
   1. mechanism for CPM to withdraw RPPO recognition
   2. CPPC and CAN
2. Secretariat update
   1. IPPC towards 2020
   2. International Year of Plant health
   3. ePhyto
   4. ePhyto forward work plan of the APPPC
   5. Standard Setting Unit

7.5 Implementation Facilitation Unit

* + - National Reporting Obligations
    - Implementation (IRSS and implementation programs)
    - Capacity Building
    - Dispute Settlement/ Avoidance

1. Follow-up from CPM-10
2. ISPM 15 implementation
3. Review of RPPO roles and functions
4. Topics for future CPM special and side sessions
5. TC Work Plan (standing work plan with annual reviews)
   1. Sharing work plans and implementation plans to identify possible joint work areas
6. TC among RPPOs technical discussions including:
   1. RPPOs support to IPPC regional workshops
   2. Current and emerging major pest issues (all RPPOs report on this issue)
      * *Fusarium oxysporum* race 4
      * *Xylella fastidiosa*
   3. ePhyto
   4. Contingency planning
   5. Systems approaches
   6. Pests of national concern
   7. Priority pest list (each RPPO report the top 10 regulated pest for its region)
7. Other Business
   1. Mentoring and cooperation
   2. Report to CPM 11
   3. Requests from the Bureau
   4. Communications work plan
8. Date and location of next TC
9. Adoption of the Report of the 27th TC-RPPOs
10. Closure

🟏All RPPOs have to provide a Power point presentation of their yearly activities, for presentation at the meeting, as well as a Word document detailing the presentation, for inclusion in the meeting report. Each RPPO has to present in this item of the agenda the structure and contents of its website.

Appendix II

**ITEM 5. INFORMATION EXCHNAGE PLATFORM ON RPPO ACTIVITIES**

**5.1Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC)**

**APPPC update summary for the 27th TC-RPPOs**

The main activities of APPPC have focused on the implementation of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM), strengthening information exchange and development of capacities in pest management. At the same time, the member countries have made progress in improving their own plant protection programmes and made organisational changes, issued new laws and regulations, started up new facilities and equipment, established pest free areas, and strengthened their pesticide management.

The 29th Session of APPPC was convened from 7-11 September, 2015 in Bali, Republic of Indonesia. The meeting was attended by delegation from 21 member countries. The meeting reviewed the activities and progress made since the 28th, agreed the work plan and budget for the coming biennium 2016-2017, the Session also adopted the mandatory financial contribution level of each contracting country for 2016-2017.

It was decided that the work relating to implementation of ISPMs would be main context of the work program of the Standing Committee on Plant Quarantine. It was recommended that ISPM6, ISPM12, ISPM31 and ISPM15 would be main focus of selected ISPMs to enhance the implementation of ISPMs.

It was agreed to implement a six year work plan for surveillance with the first year focus of the fundamentals of surveillance systems and management responsibilities of an NPPO in establishing and maintaining plant health surveillance systems and reporting on surveillance systems as well as the second year focus of fundamentals for designing, planning, coordinating and delivering surveillance activities and programs in accordance with ISPM6 and RSPM7; It was proposed to implement a global ePhyto framework into APPPC countries through a pilot project to assist 6 countries to participate in “ePhyto IPPC Hub” pilot project in the next three years. In addition, the APPPC will follow the international developments in work associated with ISPM 15 implementation; It was proposed during 2016-2017 to consider sampling procedures for different consignments (e.g. seed or commodities for consumption). It is expected to identify critical gaps for full implementation of ISPM31 and to propose amendments of ISPM31 in the revision or to build regional standard of sampling methods depending on type of consignment; A regional phytosanitary measures (RSPM) on hot water treatment of mangoes for fruit fly species will be developed.

The 16th APPPC Workshop on the review of draft ISPMs (2015 IPPC Regional Workshop Asia) was held in Jieju, Republic of Korea from 19-23 October 2015 in collaboration with the NPPO of Korea with participation of 20 countries. The regional comments, prepared by the workshop were shared with all NPPO focal points of member countries and all participants immediately through OCS and distribution of the comments. In addition to the review of draft ISPMs, updates and discussions were made on phytosanitary technical resources, the ePhyto programme as well as the registration status of the ISPM15, the international year of plant health, etc. The exercise on National Reporting Obligations (NROs) was conducted by focusing on collection, verification and provision of information.

The feedback on the survey form on surveillance from 15 countries, which were collected prior to the workshop and shared by participating countries at the meeting, indicated that lack of technical capacity and insufficient internal coordination and collaboration are common problem for countries. In addition, in some countries there are separate institutions on plant protection and plant quarantine with various functions. Involvement of research institutes on surveillance and their backstopping services to the NPPO on the surveillance are not sufficient, while lack of funds is common challenge to countries.

To enhance the use of IPP and APPPC website in terms of country obligation of the information exchange, a quarterly based monitoring of country pages were convened and analytical summaries of the results of the monitoring were sent to each country for their review and necessary follow up action.

A serious outbreak of Yellow-Spined Bamboo Locust, *Ceracris kiangsu,* in Luang Prabang Province and Huaphan Province of Laos was reported in 2015. Several invasive alien species were found in some countries eg. Mango cecid fly, *Procantarinia sp*, in Philippines, Mango pulp weevil, *Sternochetus frigidus, in Malaysia, etc.*

APPPC website:

[www.apppc.org](http://www.apppc.org)

<http://www.fao.org/asiapacific/apppc/en/>

**5.2 Andean Community (CA)**

**Summary activities 2015**

**General Secretary of the Andean Comunity**

The Andean Subregional Integration Agreement, the Cartagena Agreement, among others topics, it dictates the adoption of policies and common developments in pest and animal health, which are instruments to improve the sanitary and phytosanitary standards of the Member States, and facilitate trade in order to contribute to achieve a single regional market. In this sense, the Decision 515Andean System of Agricultural Sanitary Measures *“Sistema Andino de Sanidad Agropecuaria*”, signed by the Andes Community Commision*,* created the Andean Agricultural Health System. The institutional framework for plant and animal health is formed by:

* The Andean Community Commission. “*Comisión de la Comunidad Andina”*
* The General Secretary of the Andean Comunity “*Secretaría General de la Comunidad Andina”* (SGCAN)
* The Agricultural Sanitary Measures Andean Comitee “*Comité Andino de Sanidad Agropecuaria”* (COTASA)
* The state member’s Agricultural Sanitary Measures Official Services “*Servicios Oficiales de Sanidad Agropecuaria”* (SOSA)

In the Decision 515, the general principles for the phytosanitary rules, include the principles included in the agreement on the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures of the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the norms and recommendations of the IPPC. Also, we have the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Rules Subregional Register “*Registro Subregional de Normas Sanitarias y Fitosanitarias de la Comunidad Andina”* (RS), whose principal objective is provide transparency, legal certainty and security in the application of the phytosanitary standards adopted by our countries members.

In the daily task of managing the RS, we promote the implementation and application of the International Standards of Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) of the IPPC, especially in topics related with the pest status in our countries members, Pest Risk Assessment (PRA), and application of phytosanitary measures only for Regulated Pest.

Under the COTASA framework, the SOSAs of countries members, discuss and makes recommendations on technical matters of plant health, to bring them into consideration of the Andean Community Commisionand the SGCAN. During 2015, among others activities, we have been working on the following topics:

* Regional contingency plan to prevention of introduction of citrus disease  *“huanglongbing*”
* Plan to prevent the entry of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. cubense raza 4 tropical, according to continental plan.
* Promote update of phytosanitary requirements for trade of 31 plant products, according to criteria of the ISPM
* We started to build a phytosanitary portal web page in order to improve the information exchange.

Since 1998 the Andean community has rules for the registration and control of pesticides. In 2015 this rules has been updated. In this sense the trade and agriculture ministers signed the Decision 804.

Decision 804 is to establish the guidelines and harmonized procedures for the registration and control of chemical pesticides for use Agricultural ( PQUA ) ; orient their proper use and management in the framework of good practices agricultural ; prevent and minimize risks to health and the environment; ensure effectiveness biological product ; and facilitate trade in the subregion.

**5.3 Southern Cone Plant Health Committee (COSAVE)**

**COSAVE REPORT**

**1. RESOLUTIONS**

* Resolution 137/35 – 15M (Approves Cooperation Agreement among Ministries of Agriculture from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and the Inter-American institute for Cooperation on Agriculture – IICA to strength COSAVE actions in the region).
* Resolution 210/82 – 14D (Approves the Harmonized Phytosanitary Import Requirements for alfalfa seeds.).

**2. REGIONAL PROGRAMMES**

Regional Plan for HLB Containment (*Candidatus Liberibacter* spp.) in citrus: COSAVE has been implementing an electronic tool that will allow members to be updated on HLB surveillance activities. Guidelines on introduction of citrus plants are under development and it is forecast to strengthen border actions for the Plan.

Regional Plan for Eucalyptus bronze bug (*Thaumastocoris* *peregrinus*) control: Approved in 2012, the Plan has been progressively implemented by COSAVE members. Some countries have already implemented all foreseen steps according to the Plan, presenting very good results on the pest control. As a consequence of COSAVE coordination will, other countries have taken advantage of information from the experienced countries to help them on the implementation on their own territories.

Regional Surveillance and Control Plan for *Lobesia botrana*: Under discussion, its goals are strength specific surveillance systems for early pest detection; strength quarantine system to avoid pest introduction and dispersal; implement broadcasting strategies to manage cooperation of stakeholders; reinforce regional technical capabilities.

Regional Contingency Plan against *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* and *Monochamus* spp.: under discussion, it has the aim at establishing phytosanitary measures for contention, suppression or eradication of detection or an outbreak of these pests in *Pinus* spp.

Regional Contingency Plant against *Lymantria dispar*: under discussion, it has the aim at establishing phytosanitary measures for contention, suppression or eradication of an outbreak of the pests.

**3. PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS**

Since November 2014, COSAVE has been participated in the following regional and international events:

* 10ª CMF
* Bureau
* Expert Working Group for the revision of ISPM 6: Guidelines for surveillance.
* ePhyto Steering Group
* Inter-American Group on Coordination in Plant Health (GICSV),
* Regional Workshop on Draft ISPM - LAC
* Standard Committee
* Strategic Planning Group
* Technical Panels (Forest Quarantine, Glossary and Phytosanitary Treatments)
* Working group on Concept of a Commodity Standard Meeting

**4. STRATEGIC GUIDELINES 2014-2015**

1. Reaffirm the regional phytosanitary mission for the development of sustainable agricultural and forestry production.

Objectives:

* Prevention of pest introduction and management of pest risk.
* Develop and coordinate regional plans to reduce effect of pest on production cost and facilitate trade.
* Provide participation or adhesion of NPPOs from Latin America on COSAVE activities.

2. Support for COSAVE members on international phytosanitary negotiations and develop capacities of NPPOs staff.

Objectives:

* Joint efforts to make the ISPMs under development suitable for regional reality and needs.
* Fulfil with responsibilities and activities specified to the RPPO under IPPC strategic framework 2012-2019.
* Evaluate phytosanitary restrictions or barriers affecting main commodities exported from the region.
* Analyse phytosanitary issues dealt in international forum besides IPPC.

3. Develop and Foster implementation of regional phytosanitary standards and perform coordinated actions in order to protect and improve phytosanitary status of agricultural and forestry production, including native flora of the region, and facilitate trade.

Objectives:

* Foster development and implementation of regional standards, technical documents and resolutions.
* Foster implementation of ISPM on COSAVE members.
* Plan and organize regional programs for preventions and control of pests.
* Harmonize phytosanitary import requirements based on pest risk analysis for plants foreign to the region.
* Keep up-to-date the list of regulated pest for the region.
* Implement regional phytosanitary system to alert in case of interception of quarantine pest.
* Broadcast outbreaks of quarantine pests.
* Develop systems for general or specific surveillance.
* Harmonize phytosanitary procedures.

4. Provide higher interaction and participation of industry.

Objectives:

* Build and keep linkages to exchange efforts with agricultural and forestry industries.
* Foster industry participation on consultations for regional and international standards.
* Perform actions to raise awareness on public and private sectors concerning COSAVE activities.

5. Develop capacity activities on NPPO members in order to strength regional phytosanitary capacity.

Objectives:

* Improve capacity and maintain NPPO staff updated

6. Strength linkages to RPPOs and NPPOs for articulation of common actions.

Objectives:

* Perform activities of broadcasting and exchanging of information between NPPO and IPPC
* Maintain and increase relationship with RPPOs
* Keep permanent link with NPPOs from Latin America and Caribbean

**5. WORK PLAN 2015**

Main activities carried out through the corresponding Technical Groups (TG) are described below:

Plant Quarantine:

* Harmonization of phytosanitary requirements
* Emerging pests on the region or the world
* Review of main regulated pest list

Surveillance:

* Follow up of HLB regional plan
* Follow up of surveillance for *Helicoverpa armigera*, Psa, *Drosophila suzukii*.
* Surveillance program and control of *Lobesia botrana*.
* Evaluation for ISPM 6 revision

Forestry phytosanitary:

* Contingency Plan for *Lymantria dispar*
* Contingency Plan for *Monochamus* spp.
* Maintenance of list of present pests and regulated pests
* Indicate emerging pests for risk analysis
* Implementation of regional plan *Thaumastocoris peregrinus*
* Evaluation of systems of surveillance and outbreaks alerts
* PRA for emerging pest of phytosanitary concern for forests

CPM Issues:

* Analysis and development of position papers for CPM/IPPC
* Analysis of ISPM under country consultation and preparation of comments
* Following up of topics prioritized by IPPC such as national reporting obligations, capacity development, IRSS, etc.

Plant propagation material

* Procedures for PRA of Regulated Non-Quarantine Pests - RNQP
* Establish national lists for RNPQ in citrus.

Sampling, inspection and certification

* Assess import requirements for products on trade inside and outside region
* Evaluate actions for ePhyto implementation
* Operational procedures for plant products transfer from barge to ships.

Plant protection products

* Evaluation of Codex MRL adoption by countries

Biological Control

* List for Biological Control Organisms - BCO
* Compile national legislation ruling BCO and register for biological plant protection product

Electronic certification

* Assess pilot plan for electronic certification
* Evaluate feasibility of the development of a platform to allow reading of e-PC

**6. PROJECT APPROVAL ON STDF: Regional strengthen of implementation of phytosanitary measures and market access.**

Main goals:

• Strengthen phytosanitary measures implementation capacity

• Improvement of phytosanitary status

• Trade facilitation of agricultural commodities and market access

IICA Cooperation and Support.

**5.4 European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO)**

**European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization**

**Organisation Européenne et Méditerranéenne pour la Protection des Plantes**

**Annual Report 2014**

*“Our crops, forests, landscapes and gardens are under threat from a wide range of pests. New and faster trade pathways move more species around the world, increasing the likelihood of biological invasions. With few natural enemies and limited host plant resistance these new arrivals can spread fast and cause serious damage to economic production and to biodiversity.*

*There are physiological limits to potential crop yields, and recent signs in some areas that new varieties and agronomic practices are approaching those limits. Minimizing losses due to pest damage, diseases and weed competition therefore remains critical for future food security. At the same time tightening regulation of plant protection products tends to reduce the availability of effective controls. Biological control and IPM approaches are increasingly advocated.*

*National Plant Protection Organizations need advice on well targeted phytosanitary measures to reduce the risks from movement of pests into new areas, without unnecessary restriction of trade. For the pests which are already present, regulatory authorities and growers need good evidence of efficacy so they know which products and approaches can be most efficiently and sustainably used for control.*

*Co-ordination of technical advice by the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization helps our member countries to address these problems across the region.”*

Introduction to EPPO Strategy 2015-2020, agreed by EPPO Council 2014

**Foreword from Director-General**

There were significant changes in EPPO during 2014; a new strategy, new projects and my appointment as head of the Secretariat. I spent much of the year increasing my understanding of what EPPO does, how we do it, and why. This confirmed my earlier impression of a dedicated and knowledgeable team working closely with networks of experts around the region to develop technical standards and improve co-ordination of measures to protect plant health.

The new strategy for 2015-2020 includes a substantial degree of continuity from the previous strategy.

It also ensures that evolutionary change is possible where this is required by changes in the countries and sectors we serve, or is made possible by improvements in the tools available. One request from our member countries is that the Secretariat continues to explore alternative sources of funding through projects which are closely aligned with EPPO’s objectives and capabilities. An exciting development in that respect is that EPPO is now hosting the Euphresco network of research funders and managers. We are pleased that we have been able to move quickly from appointing a co-ordinator in June 2014 to launching a new round of calls for topics before the end of the year.

One area where we are open to suggestions for change is in the format of our reporting to member countries and stakeholders. Many of our meetings and other activities are summarised on the website [www.eppo.int](http://www.eppo.int) soon after they happen but there will continue to be a need for a more formal annual report to summarise our work and demonstrate accountability to our members. Finding appropriate measures of success in plant quarantine continues to be a challenge. Awareness of plant health and plant protection is highest when pests are spreading and causing damage, as in the current case of *Xylella fastidiosa* on olive trees in south Italy, for example. Successful exclusion of a pest from the region, because of good horizon scanning and timely risk analysis by EPPO and effective risk management measures by our members, gets no publicity. Somehow we need to get better at quantifying and promoting these successes.

Finally I would like to offer some thanks. Colleagues in the Secretariat have been patient in answering my questions at the same time as delivering the ongoing technical work of the organisation. My three predecessors as Director-General have all provided invaluable advice during the year. Our member countries have continued to support EPPO with their financial contributions and just as importantly by making available their experts in plant health and plant protection to participate in our panels and networks. The Secretariat will continue to ensure that EPPO’s technical standards, information services, workshops and other outputs more than justify that investment by our members.

Martin Ward

7th April 2015

**Membership and Governance**

Fifty countries were members of EPPO in 2014: European countries (almost all of them), and countries around the Mediterranean and in Central Asia. Membership has been stable for some years. The Secretariat continues to make contact with new potential members as opportunities arise. Council in 2014 agreed that Georgia could pay a reduced contribution in their first year of membership, and we are hoping that they will become EPPO’s 51st member during 2015.

Representatives of seven EPPO countries serve on the Executive Committee for a three year term, under a chair and vice-chair who are appointed in a personal capacity. At the Council in 2014 we thanked Hungary, Malta and Tunisia at the end of their period of service and appointed onto the committee representatives of Algeria, Bosnia Herzegovina and Switzerland. Discussions on the possibility of creating a category of Associate Membership continued during 2014. For the time being it was decided not to change the Convention to create a generic category of associate status suitable for all possible candidates but to pursue the possibility of tailored agreements on a case by case basis. The Secretariat continued to collaborate with a wide range of international organisations active in the field of plant health, and a number of examples are given below under point 12 of the Strategy.

A new Strategy for the period 2015-2020 was agreed, following a special Open Working Group in April, extensive discussions in the two Working Parties in May and June, and some further amendments during the Council session itself. Members asked for an implementation plan to be presented to the Executive Committee in April 2015.

Other items on the Council agenda included the approval of Standards, updates on projects for which EPPO is in discussion with potential funders, and agreement of the budget for 2015.

**Staff**

The permanent EPPO team of twelve provides the continuity of the organisation, but a number of people on fixed term appointments also made a valuable contribution to the work in 2014, including providing cover for a period of maternity leave and for a period of long term sick leave. This section just gives a brief indication of each person’s main role and responsibilities during the year.

**Martin Ward**,Director-General, was responsible to the Council for the overall direction of EPPO, chaired the two Working Parties and several Panels, and led on development of the new Strategy.

**Françoise Petter**,Assistant Director, led the programme of the Working Party on Phytosanitary Regulations, including work on Pest Risk Analysis and Diagnostics, and chaired the Panel on Phytosanitary Measures and the six Diagnostics Panels.

**Vlasta Zlof**,Scientific Officer, led the programme of the Working Party on Plant Protection Products, and chaired the Panels on Efficacy Evaluation of Insecticides and Fungicides and on Efficacy Evaluation of Herbicides and Plant Growth Regulators.

**Anne-Sophie Roy**,Information Officer, led the work on horizon scanning and the EPPO Alert List, produced the monthly EPPO Reporting Service, maintained and edited the EPPO website and databases and maintained EPPO Codes.

**Andrei Orlinski**,Scientific Officer, led the programmes of work on quarantine pests for forestry and biological control agents, and led on communications with Russian speaking experts in the EPPO region.

**Eliane Madène**,Administrator, was responsible for all aspects of administration and financial record keeping and worked with EPPO’s chartered accountant to produce the annual accounts.

**Damien Griessinger**,IT Officer, kept EPPO’s IT systems running, worked with the Information Officer to develop databases and web services, and helped migrate Euphresco systems into EPPO infrastructure.

**Muriel Suffert**,Scientific Officer, led the programme of work for the Panel on Phytosanitary Measures for Potatoes, supported the Panel on Phytosanitary Measures and carried out pest risk analysis.

**Madeleine McMullen**,Managing Editor, managed the production of the EPPO Bulletin, edited EPPO’s outputs in English, and supported EPPO’s Diagnostics Panels.

**Sarah Brunel**,Scientific Officer, led the programme of work on Invasive Alien Plants. Sarah was successful in securing a one year appointment with the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention in Rome, which started in December 2014.

**Marie-Christine Ozanon**,provided administrative support for the Director-General, for EPPO’s administrative meetings and for technical meetings on phytosanitary regulations.

**Jocelyne Cesari**, provided administrative support for technical meetings on forestry pests, diagnostics and plant protection products, and translated administrative documents into French.

**Valerio Lucchesi**,Scientific Officer on a fixed term appointment, supported the plant protection products programme and projects within that programme such as development of more extrapolation tables for minor uses.

**Baldissera Giovani** started work with EPPO in June 2014 on a fixed term appointment as the Co-ordinator of the Euphresco research funders’ network.

**Fabienne Grousset**,Scientific Officer and previous EPPO staff member, took up a fixed term appointment during 2014 to carry out work on specific research projects and provide cover for a period of maternity leave.

**Cintia Alaguirissamy** provided administrative support cover when required, through short term appointments.

**Jean Perchet** continued a three year period of secondment to EPPO supporting in particular the work of the EPPO Panels on CPM[[1]](#footnote-1) Affairs and Phytosanitary Inspections and translating some technical documents into French. EPPO is grateful to the French Ministry of Agriculture for funding and facilitating this secondment.

**Programme of Meetings**

The programme of administrative and technical meetings organised by EPPO is shown in Appendix 1. Appendix 4 lists the other meetings attended by EPPO staff. These lists do not include the increasing number of telephone conferences and video conferences in which EPPO staff participate. For most EPPO meetings a short summary report is posted on the website shortly after the event.

Much of the formal work of EPPO consists of the preparation of draft Standards which are prepared by specialist Panels. These are reviewed by the relevant Working Party and then approved and adopted by the Council. A short report of the two Working Parties is given below, followed by the resulting recommendations from Council.

Conclusions from Workshops and Conferences have no formal status within EPPO, but reflect the content of the discussion and any consensus which emerged among those who were present. Along with other forms of consultation they may be taken into account by EPPO when setting priorities for further work. Reports of the workshops held in 2014 are presented in Appendix 3 and links are provided to conclusions and recommendations arising.

**Working Parties**

Working Party on Plant Protection Products

The 44th Meeting of the Working Party on Plant Protection Products took place in Budapest on 2014-05-21/23, hosted by the Hungarian Ministry of Rural Development. There were 23 participants from 16 EPPO countries and a member of ECPA[[2]](#footnote-2) as an observer. The Working Party approved two new EPPO Specific Standards and revised two General Standards in series PP1 *Efficacy Evaluation of Plant Protection Products* for submission to Council. Details are given under the section of the report on Recommendations from EPPO. The other main outcomes of the meeting are presented below.

Examples of zonal efficacy evaluation

Two new examples of zonal efficacy evaluation to accompany EPPO Standard PP 1/278 *Principles of zonal data production and evaluation* were approved and added on the EPPO website: one on insecticides for use against aphids, thrips and whiteflies in ornamental plants in greenhouses and the other on fungicides for the control of yellow rust on wheat in the European Central authorization zone.

Extrapolation tables

The Working Party analysed extrapolation tables for minor uses which are being developed to complement EPPO Standard PP 1/257 *Efficacy and crop safety extrapolations for minor uses*. The following new and revised extrapolation tables were approved and added to the EPPO website:

* Revised tables for efficacy of fungicides: vegetable brassicas, pome fruit, stone fruit, fruiting vegetables of Solanaceae, *Allium* vegetables, Cucurbitaceae, leafy vegetables, tree nuts, bulb and tuber flower crops;
* Revised tables for efficacy of insecticides: vegetable brassicas and bulb and tuber flower crops;
* New tables both for efficacy of fungicides and insecticides: Strawberry and Umbelliferous crops.

Other topics

The Working Party also discussed future activities and priorities. In addition to proposals for new Standards or revision of existing ones, future activities included development of the EPPO codes to describe uses of plant protection products, Good Experimental Practice and initiatives related to Integrated Pest Management. The Working Party also supported the idea of carrying out surveys on how doses for seed treatments are expressed and dose expression in general. Furthermore, the Working Party discussed the future EPPO strategy and made several recommendations which were presented to the EPPO Council.

The next Working Party on Plant Protection Products is due to convene in York, UK on 2015-05-27/29.

Working Party on Phytosanitary Regulations

The 52nd meeting of the Working Party on Phytosanitary Regulations took place in Costesti, Moldova on 2014-06-17/20 at the kind invitation of the NPPO of Moldova. There were 28 participants from 17 EPPO countries and five observers from the European Commission, the Eurasian Economic Commission, the North American Plant Protection Organization and APHIS/United States Department of Agriculture.

A summary of the different Panel meetings and Workshop which took place since the last meeting was presented to the Working Party. The Working Party also discussed future activities and priorities and made several recommendations on the future EPPO Strategy which were presented to the EPPO Council.

The main formal outcomes of the meeting are presented in the section of the report on Recommendations from EPPO. Others issues covered are described here.

International phytosanitary issues

Mr Horn (NL), chair of the IPPC Steering Group on ePhyto presented an update on Electronic certification. It was noted that support from experts from EPPO countries in codes, terminology, harmonization and business rules would be welcomed to participate in this work.

Mr Nordbo (DK), member of the IPPC Standards Committee, presented an update of its activities including specifications for new international standards and a review of those currently in preparation including drafts to be sent to countries for the substantial concerns commenting period.

Ms Lee, Technical Director of NAPPO, presented NAPPO activities, in particular the Standards approved in 2012-2013 and the new strategic plan.

Relationship between EPPO and other regional bodies

Mr Arijs (European Commission) updated the Working Party on the proposal for the new EU Regulation on plant health and underlined the main points of interest for the Working Party. The Working Party was informed of discussions on EPPO’s possible roles in the facilitation of the implementation of the EU regulation on invasive alien species. Mr Tryakhov (Eurasian Economic Commission - EEC) updated the Working Party on the activities of the EEC.

Pest reporting activities and communication

The Working Party recommended that EPPO member countries should be encouraged to use the EPPO online pest reporting system and to notify new pest statuses as well as all interceptions (including interceptions of non-regulated pests). The Working Party took note of recent developments in communication (in particular the ‘Don't risk it’ campaign) and commented that EPPO should take account of developments in the IPPC communication strategy.

Pest Risk Analysis activities

The Working Party discussed the current EPPO PRA process and how it could be improved. It was agreed that the Decision Support Scheme for an Express PRA (PM 5/5) should normally be used by EPPO Expert Working Groups unless there are specific reasons for the use of the full EPPO Decision Support Scheme for PRA (PM 5/3) or sections of it. The Working Party recommended that the Secretariat draw up draft descriptions of circumstances for use of different levels of PRA (or equivalent) which may be required either at EPPO or national level. It also recommended that a survey on the use of the different schemes should be organized. The need to revise or prepare new PRA Standards will then be evaluated. The Working Party supported the approach proposed by the Panel on Phytosanitary Measures for the recommendations of Pest Free Areas in risk management options.

The Working Party recommended that Expert Working Groups (EWGs) for PRA should be organized in 2014-2015 for *Heterobasidion irregulare* and for two invasive plants (to be selected by the Secretariat). It approved the decision made by the Panel on Phytosanitary Measures to organize an EWG on thousand cankers disease (caused by *Geosmithia morbida* and *Pityophthorus juglandis*).

The pathway study prepared on tomato fruits was presented and the Working Party welcomed its results. It noted that the study provides sufficient evidence to recommend that a phytosanitary certificate (PC) should be required for the import of tomato fruits into the region, while recognising that more in-depth study may be needed for some pests. The EPPO Secretariat was invited to prepare a summary document based on the outcome of the study to justify this horizontal requirement for a PC. The Working Party noted that a study on non-manufactured wood commodities had started in 2014 and that an EWG would be organized to discuss its results in autumn.

Activities on Diagnostics

In addition to the regular programme of preparation and revision of diagnostic protocols, specifications for two new Standards were approved. These Standards should be developed in 2015-2016 (Guidelines for the authorization of laboratories and Guidelines on national reference laboratories).

Other topics

The Working Party proposed that an EWG should be organized to prepare a pest-specific contingency plan. The Working Party revised the Terms Of Reference of several Panels working under its supervision (Panel on Phytosanitary Measures, Panel on Phytosanitary Inspections, Panel on Diagnostics in Mycology) and considered a possible extension of the TOR of the Joint EPPO/IOBC Panel on Biological Control Agents, from safety of IBCAs to their efficacy and possibilities in the control of quarantine pests. This will be further discussed.

The Working Party was informed of the involvement of EPPO in different projects (Testa, Invasive Plants, Q-collect, Euphresco, EPPO codes, Regulated Non-Quarantine Pests), as well as in potential future projects of EU horizon 2020. The Working Party was informed that discussions continue on the possibility for EPPO to host the Q-bank database. It was noted that Q-bank can only be hosted by EPPO if external funding becomes available.

The next Working Party on Phytosanitary Regulations is due to convene in Larnaca, Cyprus, on 2015-06-16/19.

**EPPO Information Services**

Bulletin OEPP/EPPO Bulletin

Three issues of the EPPO Bulletin were published in 2014. The EPPO Bulletin is available in a paper and online version. The top 10 downloads from the Wiley-Bulletin website in 2014 were as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Rank** | **Article Title** | **Volume** | **Issue** | **No. of Accesses** |
| 1 | PM 7/119 (1) Nematode extraction | 43 | 3 | 2511 |
| 2 | PM 7/42 (2) *Clavibacter michiganensis* subsp*. michiganensis* | 43 | 1 | 2217 |
| 3 | PM 7/102 (1) *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* pv*. flaccumfaciens* | 41 | 3 | 1405 |
| 4 | PM 7/20 (2) *Erwinia amylovora* | 43 | 1 | 1399 |
| 5 | PM 7/40 (3) *Globodera rostochiensis* and *G. pallida* | 43 | 1 | 1359 |
| 6 | PM 7/98 (2) Specific requirements for laboratories preparing accreditation for a plant pest diagnostic activity | 44 | 2 | 1130 |
| 7 | PM 7/110 (1) *Xanthomonas* spp*. (Xanthomonas euvesicatoria, X. gardneri, X. perforans, X. vesicatoria)* causing bacterial spot of tomato and sweet pepper | 43 | 1 | 1123 |
| 8 | PM 7/98 (1): Specific requirements for laboratories preparing accreditation for a plant pest diagnostic activity | 40 | 1 | 1078 |
| 9 | PM 7/4 (3) *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* | 43 | 1 | 924 |
| 10 | PM 9/9 (1) *Heracleum mantegazzianum, H. sosnowskyi* and *H. persicum* | 39 | 3 | 865 |

The number of traditional (title by title) subscriptions to the printed Bulletin continued to fall from 31 in 2012 to 23 in 2014. The number of online subscriptions specifically to the EPPO Bulletin rose from 50 to 51 in the same period. However, taking into account the packages of subscriptions to multiple journals sold by Wiley, 4,188 institutions purchased access to EPPO Bulletin in 2014. In addition, the publishers provided low-cost or free access to 5,246 developing country institutions via philanthropic initiatives. By the end of 2014, 518 individuals were registered to receive automatic alerts from Wiley when new content appears. This reflects 2.6% growth in registrants over the course of last year. The number of unique visitors to the online Bulletin ranged from under 5000 to just over 7000 per month. A limited number of paper copies and online access licences for the Bulletin are provided free to NPPOs by EPPO.

EPPO Reporting Service

In 2014, the EPPO Secretariat prepared 226 short articles for the EPPO Reporting Service on new events of phytosanitary concern, such as new geographical records, new host plants, and new pests (including invasive alien plants). The Reporting Service was sent by e-mail to more than 2500 registered readers of the English version and more than 1000 registered readers of the French version.

Poster and leaflet (communication material)

In 2013, EPPO published a poster 'Don't Risk It' together with an accompanying leaflet to raise public awareness about the risks of moving plants and their associated pests during international travel. This poster was endorsed officially by the EPPO Executive Committee in April 2013 and circulated to all EPPO member countries in May 2013. The necessary files may be downloaded from the EPPO website: <http://www.eppo.int/PUBLICATIONS/poster/poster&leaflet.htm> and adapted and translated by NPPOs into material for display in airports or any other sites where international travellers will see it.   
The Secretariat has received feedback during 2014 on how this publicity material is being used in a number of member countries. It has been translated into at least Bulgarian, Estonian, German, Maltese, Russian and Turkish, and pictures have been provided of it in use at several airports.

EPPO computerized system for pest reports

According to the obligations stated in the EPPO Convention (articles V, VI), EPPO member countries report new pest introductions, new outbreaks and eradication to the EPPO Secretariat. This information is then circulated among the members via the EPPO Reporting Service and PQR. In 2011, a new EPPO Standard PM 1/5(1*) Format for pest reports* was adopted, and in 2012 the EPPO Secretariat initiated the development of an online system for pest reports based on this Standard. A prototype was presented to the EPPO Council in 2012, and then tested by a small group of users. In July 2013, the new system for pest reports was officially launched <http://www.eppo.int/DATABASES/pest_reporting/pest_reporting.htm>. Nine countries had signed up to the system by the end of 2014 and 27 reports were submitted during the year from the following countries: Belgium (7), Cyprus (2), Czech Republic (3), Denmark (1), Italy (4), Norway (2), Poland (2), Slovakia (2), and Slovenia (4).

EPPO Global Database

In September 2014 the EPPO Global Database was launched to bring together all of the information held by EPPO on specific pests, including information previously held on the PQR database. All content of the EPPO Plant Protection Thesaurus has been transferred to EPPO Global Database (86 074 codes for 67 931 species). All functionalities of PQR have been transferred, except for the search facility for pathways. All EPPO Standards have been linked to relevant organisms, as have all Reporting Service articles back to 1995. Datasheets from 1997 have been added, but some more recent datasheets have yet to be included. 2354 pictures have been added for 395 organisms. A special tool was developed to enable uploading of pictures over the website for those experts who are able to help fill gaps in the collection. The EPPO Global Database contains over 155 500 web pages and there have been more than 1 140 000 page views. 395 users of Global Database have registered for updates.

EPPO website

The EPPO Website (other than Global Database) received over 130 000 visits in 2014, and over 400 000 page views.

Russian translation programme

In 2014, the EPPO programme of Russian translations continued. Six EPPO Standards were translated: EPPO Standard PM 3/66 (2) *Phytosanitary procedures: Guidelines for the management of plant health risks of biowaste of plant origin*, EPPO Standard PM 5/5 (1) *Pest Risk Analysis: Decision-Support Scheme for an Express Pest Risk Analysis*, EPPO Standard PM 8/1 (1) *Commodity-specific phytosanitary measures: Potato*, EPPO Standard PM 3/37 (2) *Phytosanitary procedures: Tilletia indica: inspection for wheat seeds*, EPPO Standard PM 9/15 (1) *National regulatory control system for* Anoplophora glabripennis, and EPPO Standard PM 3/70 (1) *Phytosanitary procedures: Export certification and import compliance checking for potato tubers*. In addition, many administrative documents were translated into Russian. Many bilingual (English/Russian) letters as well as letters in Russian, mainly addressing technical issues, were prepared by the Secretariat for Russian-speaking experts.

**Implementation of EPPO Strategy for 2010-2014**

2014 was the final year for implementation of the Strategy agreed by Council in 2009. Key achievements against the different points in the Strategy are listed here, but in many cases more detail is provided elsewhere in the report.

*1. EPPO should develop guidance in regard to comparative assessment in the framework of substitution of plant protection products. The EPPO Secretariat should consider whether an effective exchange of information on Integrated Pest Management takes shape in the region.*

The Standard PP 1/271 *Guidance on comparative assessment* was published in 2011.

Examples of zonal efficacy evaluation were selected and published (see Working Party report, above)

An EWG was convened in 2014 to consider whether Standards on Good Plant Protection Practice could usefully be adapted to provide guidance on IPM approaches, given the needs of member countries and the work being done on this subject by other organisations and projects. The General Standard on *Principles of Good Plant Protection Practice* PP2/1 was reviewed, and a specific example, *Maize* (PP2/17), was amended by the EWG as an example of what could be done. A report will be provided to the Working Party in 2015.

*2. EPPO will continue to support its members by using a risk-based approach in justifying phytosanitary management and regulation. EPPO should do this by organizing the production of PRAs, cooperating with EFSA and providing training to national experts. PRA tools should be improved and EPPO may become involved with PRA related projects, provided that relevant opportunities arise.*

The EPPO Secretariat organized three expert working groups to perform PRAs on thousand cankers (a disease of walnut trees caused by *Geosmithia morbida* and *Pityophthorus juglandis*), *Microstegium vimineum* (an invasive plant) and *Heterobasidion irregulare* (a disease of pine trees). A study to produce lists of pests associated with the pathway of tomatoes (fruit of *Solanum lycopersicum*) was continued and methodology for preparing pest lists from different pathway studies was developed. The EPPO Secretariat is also involved in an EU research project “Dropsa”, with the objective of preparing such lists for selected fruit species. The study of non-processed wood commodities was started and an Expert Working Group was convened to validate the initial results of what had become the “EPPO Study on wood commodities other than round wood, sawn wood and manufactured items”. The Panel on Phytosanitary Measures began development of a Standard to provide guidance on the types of physical isolation according to the types of pest.

A review of the PRA process was initiated in 2014 in order to better answer the need of NPPOs for a quicker response to the risks posed by emerging pests.

EFSA and EPPO continued to coordinate their work to avoid duplication. A “road map” for collaboration has been prepared and will be presented to the Executive Committee in 2015.

*3. EPPO will continue its role in addressing diagnostic needs by supporting diagnostic laboratories, leading to the introduction of quality assurance systems and/or accreditation and maintaining a database of diagnostic expertise in the member countries. In particular EPPO will provide support for laboratories in the framework of accreditation by preparing appropriate Standards and organizing training Workshops.*

Further diagnostic protocols were agreed and recommended (see EPPO Recommendations, above).

The Database on Diagnostic expertise in the member countries is now well established. The number of laboratories and experts is stable as compared to 2013. 86 laboratories from 35 countries, corresponding to approximately 500 experts have entered data and each laboratory should confirm its data on an annual basis to ensure that the database remains up-to-date. New validation data on diagnostic tests has been added to the database in 2014. The database is freely accessible on the EPPO Website. - http://dc.eppo.int/.

In order to support laboratories in implementing accreditation a workshop was organised in February 2014. A report is included at Appendix 3. Specific contact was made with European Accreditation in order to develop a harmonised approach to implementing a flexible scope for accreditation in plant health diagnostics. Development started of a Standard providing guidance for the authorisation of non-NPPO laboratories to ensure harmonisation across the region.

EPPO participation in TESTA and Q-collect (see section on Additional Projects) linked closely to the programme of diagnostic work.

*4. EPPO will continue to provide guidance on eradication and containment (official control Standards for major quarantine pests).* *EPPO will accelerate and prioritize work on the Standard series PM 9* National regulatory control systems *and develop tools and training programmes to address eradication.*

Standards were agreed on prioritizing action during outbreaks, and on management of invasive alien plants in aquatic environments (see EPPO Recommendations, above).

An Inspectors Workshop was held on the subject of contingency planning and exercising of contingency plans (see Appendix 3).

*5. EPPO will continue to increase its role regarding minor uses. In particular EPPO will expand harmonization work on schemes for crop safety and efficacy extrapolation and identify new possible extrapolations. EPPO will continue work on analyzing risks of resistance in Plant Protection Products.*

Work on the preparation of extrapolation tables for minor uses continues. 18 tables were revised in 2014 and 4 new tables were produced. A total of 50 extrapolation tables are now available.

The Secretariat follows international developments on minor uses. EPPO is an active participant at the EU Technical Group on Minor Uses and OECD Expert Group on Minor Uses (EGMU). OECD has now adopted two EPPO Standards, PP 1/224 *Principles of efficacy evaluation for minor uses* and PP 1/257 *Efficacy and crop safety extrapolations for minor uses* as OECD Standards with no change.

EPPO responded positively during 2014 to a request by three member countries to consider hosting a new EU Minor Uses Co-ordination Facility, to be jointly funded by the three countries and the European Commission.

EPPO work on analyzing risks of resistance to plant protection products continued. A report of the 2014 Panel meeting is available on the website.

*6. EPPO will continue to assist members in establishing collective views on issues discussed at a global level in relation to the IPPC and to the SPS agreement.*

EPPO member countries were well represented at the 2014 meeting of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures, and in the activities of the CPM subsidiary bodies. Co-ordinated positions were developed on draft specifications for ISPMs, notably for international movement of grain, and for revision of ISPM6 on Surveillance, and on draft standards, notably those for international movement of (i) seed, (ii) used vehicles, machinery and equipment, (iii) sea containers, (iv) wood and (v) growing media associated with plants for planting.

A paper on the importance of access to diagnostic capability was prepared by members of the EPPO CPM Affairs Panel for submission to the CPM by the EU. Alignment of EPPO and EU co-ordination processes continued to be facilitated by participation in EPPO’s CPM Affairs Panel of experts from the European Commission and from the country holding the EU Presidency at the following CPM.

EPPO continued to act as the nominating body for representatives of the European region on CPM bodies.

EPPO organised jointly with the FAO regional office in Budapest, the IPPC Secretariat and the All Russian Plant Quarantine Centre a meeting at which draft ISPMs could be reviewed in translation by Russian speaking experts. Comments from that meeting were then considered by the subsequent meeting of the EPPO Panel on CPM Affairs.

EPPO hosted a meeting of the IPPC Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP) in 2014.

*7. EPPO will continue to assist members in the prevention of introduction, establishment and spread of Invasive Alien Plants by providing documentation, recommending action and providing guidance on measures.*

A new Standard was agreed on management of invasive exotic aquatic plants and *Parthenium hysterophorus* was added to the EPPO A2 list (see EPPO Recommendations).

Further work was carried out on pest risk analysis and prioritization for possible invasive alien plants.

A report of the Invasive Alien Plants Panel meeting in 2014 is available on the website.

*8. EPPO will continue to provide selected, reviewed or validated documentation on pests to members, supporting them in assuring plant health* *(EPPO databases, EPPO Reporting Service, EPPO Bulletin, EPPO Website). EPPO will continue to recommend actions based on Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) for new phytosanitary risks.*

Five pests were added to the EPPO A1 or A2 lists in 2014 (see EPPO Recommendations)

A separate section of this report summarises work of EPPO Information Services during 2014.

*9. EPPO will continue to develop Standards for efficacy evaluations of Plant Protection Products.*

Two new specific Standards and two revised specific Standards were agreed in 2014. The database of PP1 Standards for Efficacy Evaluation was maintained and updated.

*10. EPPO will develop harmonized phytosanitary procedures.*

The Panel on Phytosanitary Procedures was renamed the Panel on Phytosanitary Inspections. Revised Instructions to Authors were agreed and the Panel continued to work on drafts on:

* Consignment inspection of grain and seeds of cereals,
* Inspection of places of production of plants for planting of fruit trees,
* Consignment inspection of plants of palms for *Rhyncophorus ferrugineus,*
* Consignment inspection of seeds of tomatoes,
* Consignment inspection for *Anoplophora* spp.,
* Inspection of places of production of plants for planting of species of vegetables.

*11. EPPO will help members with implementation of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) by organizing practical Workshops for NPPO heads based on reported implementation difficulties.*

A workshop in Bishkek was organised jointly with the FAO regional office in Budapest, on the theme of “Commodity-associated phytosanitary risk, its analysis and management”. There were 32 participants from 15 countries and English - Russian interpretation was provided. A report of the workshop is included at Appendix 3.

A workshop on electronic phytosanitary certificates (ePhyto) was held in Baku, with English - Russian interpretation funded by the Government of Azerbaijan. A report of the workshop is included at Appendix 3.

*12. EPPO should collaborate with international organizations involved in plant health and plant protection products areas*

Discussions continued during 2014 with the European Commission and with the Eurasian Economic Commission on possible joint projects and programmes of work.

In April 2014 a Workshop was held jointly by EFSA and EPPO on “Data collection and information sharing in plant health”. A report of the Workshop is at Appendix 3.

Since September 2012 EPPO has been granted observer status in the EFSA’s Plant Health Panel Plenary meetings and members of the Plant Health Unit participated in EPPO Panels. This allowed plans to be made for collaboration and to avoid duplication of work.

**Additional Projects**

Discussion continued during 2014 regarding the possible hosting by EPPO of the Q-bank database of sequence data and other information on pests continued. While most technical issues have been resolved, the question of funding for integration of Q-bank into EPPO systems, and long term maintenance remains to be resolved.

Euphresco was relaunched during 2014 as a long term network hosted by EPPO, with funding provided by contributions from partners who are owners or funders of plant health research programmes. A new call for topics was started before end of 2014. Contact is being maintained with the European Commission and member countries to ensure that Euphresco retains its status under the new funding model. A continuing contribution to funding is being sought from the EU, in recognition of the importance of the EU as a funder of plant health research in Europe. Interest has also been shown by other funders from outside the region in joining the network, or projects initiated by the network. More information is available on www.euphresco.net.

EPPO continued to collaborate on a number of EU funded research projects during 2014, including TESTA (development of seed treatment methods, evidence for seed transmission and assessment of seed health), Dropsa (control of pests and pathogens affecting fruit crops) and Q-collect (improved coordination and collaboration for EU Plant Health reference collections). Criteria for participation in such research projects were agreed by Council, and included the following:

• Objectives of the project are in line with the EPPO strategy and work programme

• Outcomes of the project are relevant for EPPO Standards or recommendations

• Secretariat has capacity to work on a project

It was agreed that the Secretariat should take account of impacts of integrating outputs of a project into EPPO standards or recommendations, or carrying out dissemination activities. If EPPO is not a partner in a project these additional activities, if required, have to be funded from the main EPPO budget.

**EPPO Finances**

EPPO’s main source of income is annual contributions from its 50 member countries, payable under Article 18 of the Convention by which EPPO was established. In 2014 income from contributions amounted to 2.1 million EUR. There is some additional income from sale of publications (though most of EPPO’s outputs are freely available) and from participation in funded projects. The main cost is staff salaries and associated expenditure which in 2014 amounted to 1.6 million EUR. Other costs include the maintenance of the headquarters in Paris and payment of expenses for expert working groups to carry out pest risk analyses. The overall result from 2014 was a small positive balance. Subject to approval of Council this will be used to increase the Special Reserve to cover 3 months normal expenditure as recommended by the Auditor. A detailed financial report produced and audited according to IPSAS standards is distributed to member countries for their approval at the Council meeting.

**EPPO Recommendations in 2014**

**By Council on advice of the Working Party on Plant Protection Products**

**EPPO Standards PP 1: Efficacy evaluation of plant protection products**

To Member Governments to use the four following EPPO Standards in connection with the evaluation of the efficacy of plant protection products for the purposes of registration:

New Standards: PP 1/283(1) *Psylliodes attenuata* on hop and PP 1/284 (1) *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus*.

Revised Standards: PP 1/214(3) Principles of acceptable efficacy and PP 1/135 (4) Phytotoxicity assessment.

The following Standards were republished due to minor amendments to update references to EU legislation: PP 1/224(2) *Principles of efficacy evaluation for minor uses*, PP 1/241(2) *Guidance on comparable climates*, PP 1/242(2) Taint test, PP 1/243(2) *Effects of plant protection products on transformation processes*, PP 1/248(2) *Harmonized classification and coding of the uses of plant protection products*, PP 1/257(2) *Efficacy and crop safety of extrapolations for minor uses*.

These Standards are published in *EPPO Bulletin* **44** (3).

**By Council on advice of the Working Party on Phytosanitary Regulations**

**EPPO Standards PM 1: General Phytosanitary Measures**

To Member Governments to take account, in their national phytosanitary regulations, of the addition of *Neoleucinodes elegantalis, Aromia bungii* and *Acidovorax citrulli* to the A1 List and the addition of *Polygraphus proximus* and *Parthenium hysterophorus* to the A2 List. EPPO Standard PM 1/2 (23) EPPO A1 and A2 Lists of pests recommended for regulation as quarantine pests (2014 version) is published on the EPPO website (<http://www.eppo.int>).

**EPPO Standards PM 3: Phytosanitary Procedures**

### To Member Governments to take account, in their national phytosanitary regulations, of the following revised EPPO Standards: PM 3/60(1) Testing growing medium and plants in growing medium[[3]](#footnote-3) and PM 3/75(1) Globodera rostochiensis and G. pallida: sampling soil attached to ware potato tubers for detection prior to export and at import. These Standards are published in EPPO Bulletin 44 (1) and 44 (3) respectively.

**EPPO Standards PM 6: Safe use of Biological Control**

To Member Governments to take account in their arrangements for the import of exotic biological agents of the following two revised EPPO Standards: PM 6/2(3) *Import and release of non-indigenous biological control agents* and PM 6/3(4) *List of biological agents widely used in the EPPO region* (version 2014). PM 6/2 (3) is published in *EPPO Bulletin* **44** (3). PM 6/3(4) is published on the EPPO website.

**EPPO Standards PM 7: Diagnostic protocols for regulated pests**

To Member Governments to use the following new EPPO diagnostic Standards: PM 7/120(1) *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *actinidiae*, PM 7/121(1) ‘*Candidatus* Liberibacter africanus’, ‘*Candidatus* Liberibacter americanus’ and ‘*Candidatus* Liberibacter asiaticus’, PM 7/122(1) Guidelines for the organization of interlaboratory comparisons by plant pest diagnostic laboratories and the following revised EPPO diagnostic Standard PM 7/76(3) *Use of EPPO diagnostic protocols*. These Standards are published in *EPPO Bulletin* **44** (2) and **44** (3).

To Member Governments to use the following revised Standards which were approved by the fast track approval procedure: PM 7/98 (2) *Specific requirements for laboratories preparing accreditation for a plant pest diagnostic activity,* PM 7/14 (2) *Ceratocystis platani* and PM 7/85 (2) *Plasmopara halstedii*. These Standards are published in *EPPO Bulletin* **44** (2)for PM 7/98 and **44** (3) for PM 7/14 (2) and PM 7/85 (2).

**EPPO Standards PM 8: Commodity-Specific Phytosanitary measures**

To Member Governments to take account in their national phytosanitary measures which they use or require for plants and plant products moving in international trade, the following revised EPPO Standard: PM 8/2(2) Coniferae. This Standard is published in *EPPO Bulletin* **44** (3).

**EPPO Standards PM 9: National regulatory systems**

To Member Governments, when applying official procedures for official control for pests recommended for regulation, to use the following EPPO Standards:PM 9/18(1) *Decision-Support Scheme for prioritizing action during outbreaks* and PM 9/19(1) *Invasive alien aquatic plants*. These Standards are published in *EPPO Bulletin* **44** (3).

**Withdrawal of Standards**

The following Standard was withdrawn: PM 3/53 *Fermenting (composting) of bark of conifers*. Expert advice was that efficacy of treatment depends on the time temperature combination achieved throughout the bulk rather than the means of heating, and resources required to update the Standard with recent data could not be justified.

**Appendix 1 - EPPO Calendar 2014**

**I Executive Committee / Comité Exécutif**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Executive Committee/Comité Exécutif | 04-15/16 | Paris |
| 2 | Executive Committee/Comité Exécutif | 09-22 | Paris |

**II Council/ Conseil**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Council/Conseil | 09-23/24 | Paris |

**III Workshops and Conferences / Ateliers et Conférences**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Workshop on accreditation and quality assurance for laboratories/  Atelier sur l'accréditation et l'assurance qualité pour les laboratoires | 02-18/20 | York (GB) |
| 2 | Colloquium on data collection and information sharing in plant health/Colloque sur la collecte des données et sur le partage d'information en santé des végétaux | 04-01/03 | Parma (IT) |
| 3 | Workshop on Electronic Certificate/ Atelier sur le certificat électronique | 04-29/30 | Baku |
| 4 | EPPO/FAO/IPPC Regional Workshop on draft ISPM/  Atelier regional OEPP/FAO/CIPV sur les projets NIMP | 07-28/31 | Moscow |
| 5 | Workshop for Phytosanitary Inspectors on contingency planning/  Atelier pour inspecteurs phytosanitaires sur les plans d’urgence | 11-18/20 | London |

**IV Working Parties/ Groupes de travail**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Plant Protection Products / Produits phytosanitaires | 05-21/23 | Budapest |
| 2 | Phytosanitary Regulations / Réglementation phytosanitaire | 06-17/20 | Moldova |

**V Panels and Expert Working Groups/ Panels et groupes d'experts**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Joint NAPPO-EPPO meeting & CPM Affairs /  Réunion conjointe NAPPO-OEPP Relations avec la CMP | 02-03/06 | Montreal (CA) |
| 2 | Phytosanitary measures for potato /  Mesures phytosanitaires pour la pomme de terre | 02-11/13 | Lille (FR) |
| 3 | General Standards/ Normes générales pour l’évaluation biologique | 02-25/26 | Paris |
| 4 | Ad Hoc Panel on Harmonisation of Data on Plant Protection Products /  Panel ad hoc sur l’Harmonisation des données sur les produits phytosanitaires | 02-26/27 | Paris |
| 5 | Phytosanitary measures / Mesures phytosanitaires | 03-04/06 | Paris |
| 6 | Quarantine Pests for Forestry / Organismes de quarantaine forestiers | 03-11/13 | Vienna |
| 7 | Diagnostics in Bacteriology / Diagnostic en bactériologie | 03-18/21 | Wageningen  (NL) |
| 8 | Herbicides-PGRs / Herbicides-Régulateurs de croissance | 04-09/11 | Milan (IT) |
| 9 | CPM Affairs / Relations avec la CMP | 04-22/24 | Paris |
| 10 | EWG on extrapolation tables/ Groupe d'experts sur les tableaux d’extrapolation | 04-28/30 | Avignon (FR) |
| 11 | European Mycology Network / Réseau européen de mycologie | 05-06/09 | Budapest |
| 12 | Panel on Invasive Alien Plants / Panel sur les plantes exotiques envahissantes | 05-13/15 | Irkutsk (RU) |
| 13 | Core members to review PRAs/ membre du groupe noyau pour l'examen des ARPs | 07-01/03 | Paris |
| 14 | EWG for PRA / Groupe d'experts pour l'ARP “Thousand Cankers Disease” | 08-26/29 | Paris |
| 15 | CPM Affairs / Relations avec la CMP | 09-02/05 | Tallin |
| 16 | Resistance to PPPs / Resistance concernant les produits phytosanitaires | 09-17/19 | Paris |
| 17 | EWG for PRA - wood commodities study / Groupe d'experts pour l'ARP | 10-07/10 | Paris |
| 18 | Diagnostics in virology / Diagnostic en virologie | 10-14/16 | Rome |
| 19 | Biological control agents (EPPO/OIBC) / Agents de lutte biologique (OEPP/OILB) | 10-14/15 | Paris |
| 20 | EWG for PRA / Groupe d’experts pour l’ARP *Microstegium vimineum* | 10-21/24 | Paris |
| 21 | Phytosanitary measures / Mesures phytosanitaires | 10-28/30 | Antalya (TR) |
| 22 | EWG on Integrated pest management / Groupe d’experts sur la lutte intégrée | 10-28/30 | Paris |
| 23 | Fungicides-Insecticides / Fongicides Insecticides | 11-25/27 | Paris |
| 24 | Diagnostics and Quality Assurance / Diagnostics et assurance qualité | 11-25/27 | Kleinmachnow (DE) |
| 25 | EWG for PRA / Groupe d'experts pour l'ARP *Heterobasidion irregulare* | 12-01/04 | Paris |
| 26 | Colorado beetle/ Doryphore | 12-02/03 | Caen (FR) |
| 27 | Phytosanitary Procedures / Procédures phytosanitaires | 12-09/10 | Paris |

**Appendix 2 - EPPO Publications in 2014**

1. *Bulletin OEPP/EPPO Bulletin* **44** (1) (2014-04), pp. 1-108, including an Editorial, 1 Datasheet, 1 Standard, reports on 2 EPPO Workshops on *Experiences with implementation of Zonal evaluation of plant protection products* and on *Management of* Globodera rostochiensis *and* G. pallida and 14 original papers.
2. *Bulletin OEPP/EPPO Bulletin* **44** (2) (2014-08), pp. 109-260, including an Editorial, 1 Standard, 3 Datasheets, 1 report on the EPPO Workshop on *Setting Ct cut-off values for real-time PCR*, 6 original papers, the conclusions of the EPPO/CoE/IUCN-ISSG/DGAV/UC/ESAC Workshop on *How to communicate on pests and invasive alien plants* and 7 papers linked to the joint Workshop.
3. *Bulletin OEPP/EPPO Bulletin* **44** (3) (2014-12), pp. 261-564, including an Editorial, 21 Standards, 1 Datasheet, 6 original papers and the recommendations made by Council in 2013 and the Annual Report for 2013.

**Appendix 3 - Reports on EPPO Workshops in 2014**

**Workshop on phytosanitary risks associated with soil attached to potato tubers and potato waste**

**Lille, France, 2014-02-11/12**

The EPPO Secretariat organized a short Workshop back-to-back with the Panel on Phytosanitary Measures for Potato. For the last three years similar Workshops have brought together the members of the Panel and additional experts on a specific topic. In 2014, the Workshop addressed the phytosanitary risks associated with soil attached to potato tubers and potato waste. 14 Panel members and 22 additional experts from 16 EPPO countries took part in the Workshop. Several experts also attended the Panel meeting as observers.

The main objectives were to raise awareness on the risk of spreading pests with soil attached to potato tubers and potato waste, and to share experiences on possible management options both in outbreak situations for quarantine pests, and as general good practice to prevent spread of pests and diseases.

A technical visit was organized in a potato processing factory with soil and waste management facilities.

The participants recognized the importance of raising awareness on the potential risks associated with the movement of soil, including the not-yet identified risks. The NPPOs should be helped to raise awareness in the whole potato supply chain (and possibly for other root crops). As a first step, the different types of risks should be described with examples in an EPPO guidance document.

Recent results of research on treatments to remove infested soil from tubers and to disinfest soil and waste contaminated with quarantine organisms were presented. They included washing tubers, heat treatment, anaerobic processes, composting, inundation, storage and dumping. The participants recommended that all these mitigation methods are described and their effectiveness estimated, focusing on the treatments that are likely to be feasible in practice. It would also be useful to have guidance of the possibility to combine their effect. This should finally provide guidance for facilities processing or packing potatoes to help them reduce the risk associated with soil and waste. The Panel considered the conclusions for its working programme and agreed to develop guidance to address risks posed by soil in the potato chain.

**EPPO Workshop on Accreditation for plant pest diagnostic laboratories**

**York, UK, 2014-02-18/20**

The EPPO Workshop on Accreditation for plant pest diagnostic laboratories was organized in York at the invitation of the Food and Environmental Research Agency. It was attended by over 70 participants from 23 countries. This Workshop followed in the sequence of EPPO Workshops on quality assurance, previously held in Denmark (2007) and York (2009). Most participants were experts from official national laboratories in the field of diagnosis of plant pests and representatives of private companies were also present.

The Workshop was opened by Mr Robert Edwards, Chief Scientist in Fera, who presented the activities of the agency. He explained that 2014 marks the centenary of the formation of the first organisations that have evolved into what is known today as The Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera).

Presentations, conclusions and recommendations are available from the EPPO website at

<http://archives.eppo.int/MEETINGS/2014_conferences/lab-accreditation.htm>.

**Joint EFSA-EPPO Workshop on ‘Data collection and information sharing in plant health’**

**Parma, Italy, 1-3 April 2014**

A joint EFSA/EPPO Workshop took place at EFSA headquarters in Parma, from 1-3 April to discuss ‘Data collection and information sharing in plant health’. More than 130 participants from national plant protection organizations, research institutes, universities, international organizations, and stakeholders from agriculture and industry participated in the workshop. More than 35 lectures were delivered and 40 posters presented.

From the discussions, it was clear that data collection and information sharing is a key issue in plant health, as central activities such as surveillance, pest risk assessment, and policy-making, rely on the availability of valid and sound data. Many challenges were identified, such as the availability and reliability of data, harmonization of data, the rapid development of new communication tools, and data sharing not only between IT systems but among stakeholders. However, it was also noted that much progress is taking place in the field of data collection and sharing, and that new tools (models, media monitoring, citizen science) are being developed and should be further explored, as these are likely to open new avenues for improvement. This was the first joint meeting between EPPO and EFSA. Both organizations considered the workshop a success and agreed to work closely together.

Conclusions are at <http://archives.eppo.int/MEETINGS/2014_conferences/efsa-eppo_information.htm>.

**Workshop on Electronic Certificates and associated IT Systems**

**Baku, Azerbaijan, 2014-04-29/30**

The EPPO Workshop on ‘Electronic Certificates and associated IT Systems’ took place in Baku, Azerbaijan, from the 29th to 30th of April. More than 30 experts from 14 countries, the European Commission and the Eurasian Economic Commission participated in this Workshop.

The aim of this Workshop was to exchange experience and views about the current and future implementation of electronic phytosanitary certificates and their associated IT systems. All participants presented the existing systems that are in place in their respective countries to manage phytosanitary certificates and elaborated on how these could relate to electronic certificates (at present or in the future). The IPPC activities on the harmonization of format, content and exchange mechanisms of ePhytos were presented by Mr Horn (Chair of the IPPC steering group on ePhyto) and the participants discussed the advantages and challenges associated with the practical implementation of ePhytos. The EPPO Secretariat also presented the EPPO codes and explained how these computer codes could be used in ePhytos.   
The EU Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES) which is currently being adapted to plant health was presented by Mr Vagner (European Commission) and discussed.

Conclusions are at <http://archives.eppo.int/MEETINGS/2014_conferences/e_certification_baku.htm>.

**FAO/EPPO Workshop on 'Commodity-associated phytosanitary risk, its analysis and management'**

**Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 2014-06-03/06**

The Workshop was attended by 32 participants coming from 15 countries, EPPO and EEC (Eurasian Economic Commission). Eleven presentations from FAO- and EPPO-supported speakers were made, followed by questions and discussions. In addition, 14 presentations were given from participating countries.

The aim of this Workshop was to promote the implementation of ISPMs and EPPO Standards concerning commodity-associated phytosanitary risk, its analysis and management, as well as to provide the opportunity for participants to share experience and views on Pest Risk Analysis (PRA), pest risk specific to different commodities and pest risk management. Participating countries were given the opportunity to present how PRA is carried out and how pest risk is managed at the national level.

The Workshop produced a number of recommendations and observations which are available on the EPPO website at <http://archives.eppo.int/MEETINGS/2014_conferences/eppo_fao_bishkek.htm>.

**EPPO Workshop for Inspectors on Contingency Planning**

**Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew (London), 2014-11-18/20**

The Workshop on contingency planning organized by EPPO with help from the UK Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Royal Botanic Gardens, gathered 49 participants from 22 countries for presentations, exchange of experience, a day-long exercise, and visits of the phytosanitary inspectorate for Heathrow Airport.

The Workshop received background information about the UK plant health service, Kew Gardens, EPPO and the principles of contingency planning, before listening to presentations about the experience in Netherlands, Sweden and Germany of learning lessons from outbreaks and developing and testing plans for managing pest outbreaks. On the second day the Workshop split into four groups of about ten to carry out an extended table-top exercise based on the scenario of a finding of *Anoplophora chinensis* in the neighborhood of Kew Gardens.

On the final morning Workshop participants also had the opportunity to visit the plant quarantine facilities and the mycology laboratory at Kew, and to feed in ideas for the development of EPPO Standards for Inspections. In the afternoon most participants took advantage of the optional visit to see the phytosanitary inspection systems and processes at Heathrow airport. Thanks were expressed to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew for hosting the event, and to the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for organising much of the programme and covering the cost of the venue.

Conclusions are at <http://archives.eppo.int/MEETINGS/2014_conferences/inspectors_kew.htm>.

**Q-collect Workshop for collections and users of biological material**

**Kleinmachnow, Germany, 2014-11-27/28**

Q-collect is a EU FP7 funded project which started on the 1st of October 2013 and aims to improve the status of reference collections important to plant health (more information on the project is available on the Q-collect website). In this framework, a Workshop was organized by the EPPO Secretariat (a partner in this project) to present the progress made after 12 months, and gather stakeholder expectations. The meeting took place at the Julius Kühn Institute in Kleinmachnow (DE) on 2014-11-27/28 and 45 participants from 16 countries attended. The audience was composed of collections’ stakeholders (such as experts from plant pest diagnostic laboratories, as users of biological material) and project participants.

The Workshop was organized over one and a half days and consisted of presentations followed by breakout sessions in small groups.

A general overview of the project by the Coordinator (P. Bonants, PRI, Plant Research International, NL) and an introduction on why collections are important by the EPPO Secretariat (F. Petter, EPPO, European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization, FR).

Workshop presentations, conclusions and recommendations are available on the EPPO website at <http://archives.eppo.int/MEETINGS/2014_conferences/q-collect_de.htm>.

**Appendix 4**

**Meetings attended by the Secretariat in 2014**

**(other than those in the EPPO Programme or at EPPO headquarters)**

1. 24rd Annual USDA Forum on invasive forest pests (Annapolis, US, 2014-01-06/10), attended by Mr Orlinski.
2. EU FP7 Testa 2nd project meeting (Leiden, NL, 2014-01-14/15), attended by Ms Petter
3. AgroParisTech (Paris, 2014-01-22), attended by Ms Roy.
4. Meeting of the French regional Plant Protection Services (Amiens, FR, 2014-01-23/24), attended by Ms Petter
5. Quality Pest Project meeting, DG Sanco (Brussels, 2014-01-27), attended by Mr Ward
6. EU FP7 DROPSA, Quick-off meeting (York, GB, 2014-01-27/28), attended by Ms Suffert
7. Visit to the Netherlands (Wageningen, NL) 2014-01-28, by Mr Ward
8. EFSA, 47th Plant Health Plenary meeting (Parma, IT, 2014-01-29/30), attended by Ms Petter
9. Horizon 2020 Emphasis Project Proposal (Torino, IT, 2014-02-06), attended by Mr Lucchesi
10. FAO Technical Panel for the Glossary (Rome, 2014-02-10/14), attended by Mr Orlinski
11. International Symposium on Plant Protection / Seminar Zastite bija (Opatija, HR, 2014-02- 11/13), attended by Ms Zlof
12. Bern Convention, Preparatory meeting (Rome, 2014-03-07), attended by Ms Brunel
13. European Cooperation for Accreditation (Valletta, MT, 2014-03-12), attended by Ms Petter
14. Technical group on Minor Uses (Brussels, 2014-03-12/13), attended by Ms Zlof
15. EUPHRESCO annual meeting (Chessy, FR, 2014-03-26/27), attended by Mr Ward and Ms Petter
16. EU Consortium meeting (Brussels, 2014-03-27/28), attented by Ms Brunel
17. CIHEAM Course on Emerging and Quarantine Diseases of Mediterranean Fruits and Vegetable Crop (Saragosse, ES, 2014-03-31/2014-04-02), attended by Ms Suffert (as tutor)
18. OECD Working Group on Pesticides (Paris, 2014-03-31/2014-04-03), attended by Ms Zlof
19. CPM-9 (Roma, 2014-03-31/2014-04-04), attended by Mr Ward and Mr Perchet
20. EFSA/EPPO Conference on data collection and information sharing in plant health (Parma, IT, 2014-04-02/03), attended by Ms Petter and Ms Roy
21. COST ACTION Alien (Rhodes, GR, 2014-04-08/11), attended by Ms Brunel
22. Plant Quarantine Coordinative Council of CIS countries (Yerevan, 2014-04-10/11), attended by Mr Ward and Mr Orlinski
23. OECD Meeting of the Expert Group on Integrated Pest Management (Berlin, 2014-05-04/08)
24. EFSA Working Group on Soil and Growing Media (Brussels, 2014-05-14), attended by Ms Petter
25. The EWRS Herbicide Resistance Workshop (Frankfurt, 2014-05-20/21), attended by Ms Zlof
26. 4th International Symposium on Weeds and Invasive Plants (Montpellier, FR, 2014-05-19/23), attended by Ms Brunel
27. Better Training for Safer Food on Plant Health Risk (Lisboa, 2014-05-26/30), attended by Ms Suffert (as tutor)
28. Standing Committee on Agriculture Research and bilateral meeting with EC (Brussels, 2014-06-11), attended by Mr Ward
29. Testa-ISTA Seed Health symposium (Edinburgh, GB, 2014-06-11/13), attended by Ms Petter
30. Expert Working Group on plant health interception response strategy (Grange, IE, 2014-07-01/02), attended by Ms Roy
31. EFSA, 50th Plant Health Plenary meeting (Parma, IT, 2014-09-02/03), attended by Ms Petter
32. Technical Group on Minor Uses (Brussels, 2014-07-01), attended by Ms Zlof
33. Plant Health Interception Response Strategy/Reduced Frequency (Grange, IE, 2015-07-01/02) attended by Ms Roy
34. EFSA 51st Plant Health Plenary meeting (Parma, 2014-07-02/03), attended by Ms Petter
35. EAPR 19th triennial conference (Brussels, 2014-07-08), attended by Mr Ward
36. Visit to the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of the Netherlands (Wageningen, 2015-07-09), by Mr Lucchesi and Mr Giovani
37. Visit to ANSES (Maisons-Alfort, 2015-07-10), by Mr Lucchesi.
38. International Forest Quarantine Research Group meeting (Roma, 2014-09-08/12), attended by Mr Orlinski
39. South American meeting, INIAs (Guadalajara, MX, 2014-09-08/12), attended by Mr Giovani
40. 50th Anniversary of the Hungarian NPPO (Budapest, 2015-09-16), attended by Mr Ward
41. 12th International Symposium (ICP-PR): Hazards of pesticides to bees (Ghent , BE, 2014-09-15/17, attended by Ms Zlof
42. Testa Meeting (Lyon, FR, 2014-09-19), attended by Ms McMullen
43. EFSA, Meeting on risks associated with forest commodities (Brussels, 2014-09-19), attended by Mr Orlinski
44. Conference on Botanists in the 21st Century (Paris, 2014-09-22), attended by Ms Brunel
45. IUCN (Orléans, FR, 2014-09-24/26), attended by Ms Brunel
46. ISO TC218 Timber (Paris, 2014-09-29 and 2014-10-01), attended by Mr Orlinski
47. Evaluators meeting (Piacenza, IT, 2014-09/30-02/10), attended by Ms Zlof
48. C-IPM Workshop on “Future challenges for IPM in a changing agriculture”, (Berlin, 2014-10-08), attended by Mr Lucchesi
49. 9th Annual Biocontrol Industry Meeting ABIM (Basel, CH, 2014-10-20/21), attended by Mr Ward and Ms Zlof
50. Ravageurs et insectes invasifs et émergents (Montpellier, FR, 2014-10-21), attended by Ms Roy
51. International symposium on the European outbreak of *Xylella fastidiosa* in olive and training workshop (Gallipoli (IT), 2014-10-21/24), attended by Ms Petter
52. OECD Meeting “Global Plant Health Risks and Consequences: linking Science, Economics and Policy” (York, GB, 2014-10-27), attended by Mr Ward
53. Meetingon the management on“*Heterobasidion irregulare*: una nuova minaccia per gli ecosistemi forestali italiani ed europei. Come gestire l’emergenza?” (Torino, IT, 2014-10-27), attended by Ms Grousset
54. Cost Action meeting on Forest Pathways for Pests (Estoril, PT, 2014-10-27/29), attended by Mr Orlinski
55. NEOBIOTA - Alien Plants in Agricultural areas (Antalya, TR, 2014-11-04/05), attended by Ms Brunel
56. Cost Action Meeting (Antalya, TR, 2014-11-02/03), attended by Ms Brunel
57. BAYER - meeting on EPPO codes (Monheim, DE, 2014-11-04), attended by Mr Ward
58. 11th Arab Congress of Plant Protection (Amman, JO, 2015-11-09/10), attended by Ms Petter
59. 26th Technical Consultation among RPPOs (Antigua, GT, 2014-11-10/14), attended by Mr Ward
60. Technical Group on Minor Uses (Brussels, 2014-11-12/13), attended by Ms Zlof
61. EUROPHYT working group (Grange, IE, 2014-11-12/13), attended by Ms Roy
62. EFSA 48th Plant Health Network (Parma, IT, 2014-11-19/21), attended by Ms Petter
63. VII Congress on Plant Protection of Serbia – IOBC/EPRS/WPRS (Zlatibor, RS, 2014-11-24/28), attended by Mr Orlinski
64. Symposium on “Improving the safety of the food chain through risk prevention in plant animal production” (Brussels, 2014-11-28), attended by Mr Ward
65. Risk Reduction Steering group and OECD seminar on risk reduction on non-professional uses (Paris, 2014-12-08/11), attended by Ms Zlof
66. FAO Technical Panel for the Glossary (Rome, 2014-12-08/12), attended by Mr Orlinski.

**European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization**

**Organisation Européenne et Méditerranéenne pour la Protection des Plantes**

**Update for the TC of RPPOs on EPPO activities in 2015**

**Membership and Governance**

Fifty countries are members of EPPO in 2015: European countries (almost all of them), and countries around the Mediterranean and in Central Asia. Membership has been stable for some years. Confirmation of application from Georgia is still awaited, and would bring EPPO membership up to 51 countries.

At the Council in 2015 we appointed Sweden onto the Executive Committee to replace Estonia and join Algeria, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Switzerland and Uzbekistan. Mrs Karola Schorn (Germany) was elected as Chairman for a three year term starting in 2016, and Mrs Natalia Sherokolava (Russian Federation) was elected for a second three year term as Vice-Chairman.

Other items on the Council agenda included the approval of Standards, updates on projects for which EPPO is in discussion with potential funders, and agreement of the work programme and budget for 2016. Collaborations with the European Commission (including EFSA) are well established and discussions continue on possible projects for collaboration with the Eurasian Economic Commission.

**Staff at 30/10/2015**

**Martin Ward**,Director-General

**Françoise Petter**,Assistant Director

**Vlasta Zlof**,Scientific Officer, leading on Plant Protection Products

**Anne-Sophie Roy**,Information Officer

**Andrei Orlinski**,Scientific Officer

**Muriel Suffert**,Scientific Officer

**Madeleine McMullen**,Managing Editor

**Rob Tanner**,Scientific Officer

**Valerio Lucchesi**,Scientific Officer

**Baldissera Giovani**,Co-ordinator of the Euphresco research funders’ network

**Jeroen Meeussen**, EU Minor Uses Co-ordinator

**Eliane Madène**,Administrator

**Damien Griessinger**,IT Officer

**Fabienne Grousset**,Scientific Officer

**Marie-Christine Ozanon**,Secretary

**Jocelyne Cesari**, Secretary

**Cintia Mauchien**,Administrative Support

Mr Jean Perchet completed a three year secondment to EPPO from the French Government at the end of September. His contribution over that time in particular to the CPM Panel, the Inspections Panel and the Q-Collect project are acknowledged, as is the contribution of France in making him available to EPPO.

EPPO has extended the contractual arrangement with Ms Sarah Brunel which will enable her to continue working for the IPPC Secretariat on a short term contract. Her post in EPPO has been filled by Mr Rob Tanner, also on a short term contract.

**Programme of Meetings**

The programme of administrative and technical meetings organised by EPPO in 2015 is shown in Appendix 1. The Calendar of meetings for 2016 is also appended.

**Working Party on Plant Protection Products**

The 45th Meeting of the Working Party on Plant Protection Products took place in York on 2015-05-27/29, hosted by the Chemicals Regulation Directorate of the UK’s Health and Safety Executive. There were 21 participants from 17 EPPO countries and a member of ECPA[[4]](#footnote-4) as an observer. Nine revised or new specific Standards and two revised general Standards were proposed to Council for adoption. Fifteen new or revised tables for efficacy extrapolation between crops and two examples of efficacy evaluation for zonal assessment were approved by the Working Party for publishing on the EPPO website. Two questionnaires were agreed: one on dose expression, including specific aspects in relation to seed treatment, and the other on the use of leaf wall area.

The Working Party agreed a paper to raise awareness of the need for resistance monitoring, which was later presented to EPPO Council.

Plans were presented for improving recovery of costs for use of the PP1 database of Standards on efficacy testing through a clearer charging structure and automatic reminders when licences are due for renewal. The interest of developing countries in the use of these Standards has been explored in a meeting with the plant protection team in FAO.

Following the report of an *ad hoc* Expert Working Group on Integrated Pest Management the Working Party concluded that updating the the 33 PP2 series Standards to address national needs on IPM would be possible, but would require substantial effort and was not a current priority for EPPO resources.

Standards adopted in 2015

*Specific Standards for Efficacy Evaluation of Plant Protection Products (series PP 1):*

*-* Botryotinia fuckeliana *on strawberries (revision PP 1/16)*

*- Fusarium ear rot of maize (New)*

*-* Phthorimaea operculella *(potato tuber moth) (New)*

*-* Anarsia lineatella *(peach twig borer) (New)*

*-* Grapholita molesta *(oriental fruit moth) (New)*

*- Slugs (revised and merged PP 1/95 and PP 1/96)*

*- The design and use of molluscicide small plot cage (barriered) field trials (New)*

*- Weeds in asparagus (New)*

*- Chemical hybridizing agents in cereals (except maize) (revision PP 1/182)*

*General Standards for Efficacy Evaluation of Plant Protection Products (series PP 1):*

*- Resistance risk analysis (revision PP 1/213)*

*- Guidance on comparative assessment (minor revision PP 1/271)*

**Working Party on Phytosanitary Regulations**

The 53rd meeting of the Working Party on Phytosanitary Regulations took place in Larnaca, Cyprus on 2014-06-16/19, hosted by the NPPO. There were participants from 17 EPPO countries and observers from the European Commission, the North American Plant Protection Organization and APHIS/United States Department of Agriculture.

Six pests were newly recommended for regulation: *Geosmithia morbida* and *Pityophthorus juglandis* (causal agent and vector of thousand cankers disease of walnut), *Heterobasidion irregulare* (a pathogen of conifers, particularly pines) and three species of invasive plants, two aquatic (*Alternanthera philoxeroides* and *Myriophyllum heterophyllum*) and one terrestrial, (*Microstegium vimineum*). *Bactrocera zonata* and *Dacus ciliatus* were recommended for removal from the A1 to the A2 list because eradication of populations within the EPPO region was no longer considered feasible. Changes were made to the listing of species in the genera *Leucinodes* and *Xanthomonas* to reflect recent developments in taxonomy. For similar reasons *Andean potato mild mosaic virus* was added to the A1 list.

A number of other new or revised Standards were approved and then adopted by Council. These included a new series of five Standards produced by the revived Panel on Phytosanitary Inspections. Drafts on consignment and place of production inspections for *Xylella fastidiosa* had already been produced but were not yet ready for adoption. They would be a high priority for 2016, as would revision of the diagnostic protocol for that species. Specifications were agreed for three standards on phytosanitary measures relating to potatoes: managing risks from movement of soil with potatoes, potato cyst nematodes, and zebra chip.

Amendments to diagnostic protocols and to PM 6/3 (list of biological control agents widely used in the EPPO region) were made by the agreed fast track process. Specifications were agreed for a Decision Support Scheme for import and release of non-indigenous invertebrate biological control agents of plant pests. Also on biological control agents, plans were presented for the workshop on regulation and evaluation of biological control agents to be held in Budapest in November, organised jointly with a number of other organisations. A programme for that workshop is now available on the EPPO website.

Priorities for PRA in 2016 were agreed to be pospiviroids, *Lycorma delicatula, Meloidogyne mali,* and a review of the EFSA opinion on soil and growing medium as a basis for measures against soil borne *Phytophthora* species. An Expert Working Group will also be convened for developing a Standard for a National Regulatory Control System against *Popillia japonica.*

The Working Party discussed the maintenance and purpose of the Alert List and the process followed for deleting pests. A survey on the use of different PRA schemes was agreed and circulated. NPPOs were also encouraged to develop databases of imports in order to assist with PRA production and the identification of emerging trades which should be subject to assessment.

Difficulties were encountered in setting appropriate buffer zones for two pests newly recommended for regulation and the Working Party concluded that research on pest spread (including modelling) should be encouraged and that risk managers and risk assessors should agree some principles concerning how recommendations for buffer zones are developed. This will be one of the issues to be considered at a joint EPPO - EFSA Workshop on Modelling, planned for December 2016.

Other items considered included ways of collating and making available expertise on pest eradication, and how best to acknowledge the contribution of national experts to the authorship of EPPO Standards.

An “EPPO Study on Wood Commodities (other than round wood, sawn wood and manufactured wood items)” was carried out in order to make progress in addressing risks from the increasing movement of large quantities of woodchips etc. for biofuel and other purposes. It classifies commodities according to the processes to which they have been subjected and an expert judgement on the likely residual risk as a pathway for different types of pests. More information is needed on the real nature of material of being imported and moved; data from Customs codes does not necessarily give a good indication of the level of risk. NPPOs were encouraged to gather and share data on movements of such material, using the classifications in the Study as a basis.

Finally, the Working Party and Council continued to encourage prompt reporting of significant new pest findings from all member countries through EPPO’s online system.

Standards adopted in 2015

*• General Phytosanitary Measures (series PM1)*

*Revision of PM 1/2, by*

*- addition of the following pests to the List of pests recommended for regulation:*

*- Pests absent from the region (A1): Andean potato mild mosaic virus (APMMV),* Leucinodes africensis*,* L. rimavallis *and* L. pseudorbonalis

*- Pests present in the region (A2):* Geosmithia morbida *and* Pityophthorus juglandis *(causal agent and vector of thousand cankers disease),* Heterobasidion irregulare, Xanthomonas perforans, X. euvesicatoria *and* X. gardneri, *and three invasive plant species* Alternanthera philoxeroides, Myriophyllum heterophyllum and Microstegium vimineum.

*- transfer from the A1 to the A2 List:* Bactrocera zonata *and* Dacus ciliatus

*- deletion of* Xanthomonas axonopodis *pv.* vesicatoria

*• Phytosanitary Procedures (series PM3)*

*Trees of* Malus, Pyrus, Cydonia, *and* Prunus *spp. - Inspection of places of production*

*Consignment inspection of seed of* Solanum lycopersicum

*Consignment inspection for* Anoplophora chinensis *and* A. glabripennis

*Vegetable plants for planting under protected conditions - Inspection of places of production*

*Consignment inspection of seed and grain of cereals*

*• Diagnostics (series PM7)*

Spodoptera littoralis, Spodoptera litura, Spodoptera frugiperda, *and* Spodoptera eridania

Phytophthora lateralis

*ELISA tests for viruses*

*Electron microscopy in diagnosis of plant viruses*

*• National Regulatory Control Systems (series PM9)*

Parthenium hysterophorus

*• Withdrawal of EPPO Standards dealing with Methyl bromide fumigation*

*Standards PM 3/1, PM 3/24, PM 3/3, PM 3/5, PM 3/6, PM 3/8, PM 3/9, PM 3/11, PM 3/12, PM 3/13, PM 3/14, PM 3/15, PM 3/16, PM 3/19, PM 3/20, PM 10/3, PM 10/5, PM 10/7, PM 10/11, PM 10/12.*

**International phytosanitary issues**

There were three meetings of the EPPO CPM Affairs Panel during 2015, and strong participation from the EPPO region in CPM itself and in its subsidiary bodies. EPPO was pleased to have the opportunity at CPM to present aspects of its work on diagnostics in special topic and side sessions.

The EPPO region hosted the Expert Working Group on the concept of a commodity standard, in Edinburgh (GB), in July. Two topic suggestions related to possible commodity standards were developed and submitted by EPPO. A discussion paper on priority pest lists was prepared in conjunction with NAPPO and has been circulated prior to the TC.

The proposed International Year of Plant Health has been presented to the EPPO Council and received strong endorsement. EPPO is starting to consider how it can best contribute, if the IYPH is confirmed.

The following nominations were agreed by EPPO Council, for the European region:

* *Mr Corné van Alphen (NL) as Bureau member from 2016 (second term of two years)*
* *Mr Nevzat Birisik (TR) as Standards Committee replacement member from 2016*
* *Ms Olga Lavrentieva (EE) as a member of the Standing Body on Dispute Settlement*
* *Ms Clara Pacheco (FR) as an alternate for the Standing Body on Dispute Settlement*
* *Mr Federico Sorgoni (IT) as member of the National Reporting Obligations Advisory Group*

A short contract for EPPO to provide IT services to the IPPC Secretariat enabled work on issues of common interest. These included resolution of the technical obstacles to use of a single pest reporting system through which NPPOs can notify a new pest finding to the RPPO and IPPC at the same time.

Finally there were a number of issues this year with the timing and organisation of the IPPC Regional Workshop for Eastern and Central Europe and Central Asia, which has previously been run in collaboration between IPPC, FAO Regional Office and EPPO. It is hoped that these can be resolved for 2016 through discussion between the Secretariats.

**Other projects and activities**

Q-bank

EPPO continues discussions with the Netherlands and potential funders on the future of the Q-bank database. A survey of the 75 diagnostic laboratories in EPPO’s network showed that most of them are aware of Q-bank and make regular use of it, particularly for sequence data, barcoding protocols and information on where to find biological material.

EPPO Codes

Over 60,000 species of pests and hosts are covered by the EPPO Code system, and about 2,000 new codes are added each year. EPPO Codes are now free to users, but costs for adding new codes will need to be recovered in future. Adding codes can be very quick, or can take a significant amount of researching if there are changes needed in a particular taxonomic group. During 2015 a clear distinction was introduced into the database between codes which have a place in the taxonomic hierarchy and non-taxonomic or agronomic codes, such as “leafy herbs” or “seed potatoes”, which are used by the crop protection industry. This distinction will help to ensure that the codes continue to meet the needs of existing users, while also being suitable for new uses. For some uses only taxonomic codes are wanted, and if that is the case the non-taxonomic codes can now be screened out. The EPPO Panel on Harmonisation of Data has been given responsibility for oversight of the non-taxonomic codes and any requests for additions to these.

Euphresco

The Euphresco research co-ordination network has been hosted by EPPO since June 2014, when Mr Baldissera Giovani took up a two year appointment as Co-ordinator. Euphresco’s strength has since been demonstrated by:

* 31 partners confirmed from 24 countries - 16 of those partners are NPPOs
* Each partner pays at least 3000€ p.a. to cover the costs of running the network
* Partners have indicated that 1.2M€ is available for projects in 2015
* 18 topics are still under consideration for 2015 funding (from an initial list of 60 suggestions)
* Network Management Group of 7 partners
* Governing Board held immediately after the EPPO Council meeting
* Network now extends beyond the EPPO Region

The topics still under consideration are shown in appendix 2.

EU Minor Uses Co-ordination Facility

Since April 2015, EPPO has been host to the EU Minor Uses Co-ordination Facility, and its first Co-ordinator, Mr Jeroen Meeussen, started work in September. The Facility is funded initially by the European Commission, France, Germany and the Netherlands. Its work is closely aligned with work which EPPO has carried out in support of minor uses, such as the production of extrapolation tables for crop safety and efficacy, and it will also be building links with equivalent initiatives in other parts of the world.

**Appendix 1 - EPPO Calendar 2015 and 2016**

2015

**I Executive Committee / Comité Exécutif**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | Executive Committee/Comité Exécutif | 04-21/22 | Paris |
| 2. | Executive Committee/Comité Exécutif | 09-21 | Riga |

**II Council/ Conseil**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | Council/Conseil | 09-22/23 | Riga |
| 2. | Council Colloquium/Colloque du Conseil | 09-24 | Riga |

**III Workshops and Conferences / Ateliers et Conférences**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | IPPC Regional Workshop / Atelier régional CIVP\* | 09-07/10 | Moscow |
| 2. | Workshops for Heads of laboratories and Q-collect project /  Ateliers pour responsables de laboratoires et projet Q-collect | 09-08/11 | Rome |
| 3. | Workshop on Regulation of Biological Control Agents | 11-23/24 | Budapest |
| 4. | Conference on Diagnostics & TESTA project /  Conférence sur le diagnostic et projet TESTA | 12-02/04 | Angers (FR) |

**IV Working Parties/ Groupes de travail**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | Plant Protection Products / Produits phytosanitaires | 05-27/29 | York (GB) |
| 2. | Phytosanitary Regulations / Réglementation phytosanitaire | 06-16/19 | Cyprus |

**V Panels and Expert Working Groups/ Panels et groupes d'experts**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | CPM Affairs / Relations avec la CMP | 01-27/28 | Paris |
| 2. | Diagnostics in nematology / Diagnostic en nématologie | 02-02/03 | Paris |
| 3. | Harmonization of data on plant protection products (EPPO Codes) / Harmonisation des données sur les produits phytosanitaires (Codes OEPP) | 02-17/19 | Braunschweig (DE) |
| 4. | Herbicides-PGRs / Herbicides-Régulateurs de croissance | 02-23/25 | Paris |
| 5. | General Standards/ Normes générales pour l’évaluation biologique | 03-09/11 | Madrid |
| 6. | Quarantine Pests for Forestry / Organismes de quarantaine forestiers | 03-09/11 | Paris |
| 7. | Diagnostics in Entomology / Diagnostic en entomologie | 03-17/19 | Rome |
| 8. | Phytosanitary measures / Mesures phytosanitaires | 03-24/26 | Paris |
| 9. | CPM Affairs / Relations avec la CMP | 04-08/10 | Paris |
| 10. | EWG on extrapolation tables/ Groupe d'experts sur les tableaux d’extrapolation | 04-13/15 | Bologna (IT) |
| 11. | EWG for PRA - *Alternanthera philoxeroides* and *Myriophyllum heterphyllum* | 04-20/24 | Paris |
| 12. | Panel on Invasive Alien Plants / Panel sur les plantes exotiques envahissantes | 05-05/07 | Paris |
| 13. | Phytosanitary measures for potato /  Mesures phytosanitaires pour la pomme de terre | 05-19/21 | Kleinmachnow (DE) |
| 14. | CPM Affairs / Relations avec la CMP | 09-01/04 | Hnanice (CZ) |
| 15. | Resistance to PPPs / Resistance concernant les produits phytosanitaires | 09-16/17 | Harpenden (GB) |
| 16. | Phytosanitary measures / Mesures phytosanitaires | 10-06/08 | Bologna (IT) |
| 17. | Diagnostics in Bacteriology / Diagnostic en bactériologie | 10-20/22 | Copenhagen |
|  | EWG for PRA - soil | 11-03/04 | Paris |
| 18. | Plant Protection information/ Information en protection des végétaux | 11-12/13 | Paris |
| 19. | Panel on Diagnostics in Mycology / Panel OEPP sur le Diagnostic en Mycologie | 11-16/18 | Paris |
| 20. | Fungicides-Insecticides / Fongicides Insecticides | 11-17/19 | Zagreb (HR) |
| 21. | Biological control agents (EPPO/IOBC) /  Agents de lutte biologique (OEPP/OILB) | 11-26/27 | Budapest |
| 22. | Colorado beetle/ Doryphore | 12-01/02 | Jersey |
| 23. | EWG for PRA / Groupe d'experts pour l'ARP | 12-07/10 | Paris |
| 24. | Phytosanitary Procedures / Procédures phytosanitaires | 12-09/10 | Paris |

\* - organised by IPPC Secretariat

2016

**I Executive Committee / Comité Exécutif**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | Executive Committee/Comité Exécutif | 04-19/20 | Paris |
| 2. | Executive Committee/Comité Exécutif | 09-19 | Paris |

**II Council/ Conseil**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | Council/Conseil | 09-20/21 | Paris |

**III Workshops and Conferences / Ateliers et Conférences**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | Regional Workshops on draft ISPMs? | ?? | ?? |
| 2. | Workshop on Leaf-Wall-Area dose expression / Atelier sur l’Expression de la dose tenant compte de la surface de haie foliaire à traiter | 10-18/20 | Vienna |
| 3. | Workshop for Phytosanitary Inspectors / Atelier pour inspecteurs phytosanitaires | 11- ?? | UK |
| 4. | EPPO-EFSA Conference on modelling/ Conférence OEPP EFSA sur la modelisation | 12- 13/15? | Parma (IT) |

**IV Working Parties/ Groupes de travail**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | Plant Protection Products / Produits phytosanitaires | 05-24/26 | Sweden |
| 2. | Phytosanitary Regulations / Réglementation phytosanitaire | 06-14/17 | Belgium |

**V Panels and Expert Working Groups/ Panels et groupes d'experts**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | CPM Affairs / Relations avec la CMP | 01-13/14 | Paris |
| 2. | Diagnostics and Quality Assurance / Diagnostics et assurance qualité | 01-19/21 | Paris |
| 3. | Herbicides-PGRs / Herbicides-Régulateurs de croissance | 02-09/11 | Vienna |
| 4. | Phytosanitary measures for potato / Mesures phytosanitaires pour la pomme de terre | 02-16/18 | Paris |
| 5. | Quarantine Pests for Forestry / Organismes de quarantaine forestiers | 02-23/25 | Bosnia Herzegovina |
| 6. | Phytosanitary measures / Mesures phytosanitaires | 03-01/03 | Paris |
| 7. | Harmonization of data on plant protection products (EPPO Codes) / Harmonisation des données sur les produits phytosanitaires (Codes OEPP) | 03-07/09 | Paris |
| 8. | General Standards/ Normes générales pour l’évaluation biologique | 03-09/11 | Paris |
| 9. | Diagnostics in virology and phytoplasmology /  Diagnostic en virologie et phytoplasmologie | 03-22/24 | Rome |
| 10. | EWG on extrapolation tables/ Groupe d'experts sur les tableaux d’extrapolation | 04-20/22 | Paris |
| 11. | CPM Affairs / Relations avec la CMP | 04-26/28 | Paris |
| 12. | Panel on Invasive Alien Plants / Panel sur les plantes exotiques envahissantes | 06-01/03 | Antalya |
| 13. | CPM Affairs / Relations avec la CMP | 09-06/09? | ? |
| 14. | Diagnostics in nematology / Diagnostic en nématologie | 09-06/08 | Vienna |
| 15. | Resistance to PPPs / Resistance concernant les produits phytosanitaires | 09-14/16 | Paris |
| 16. | Phytosanitary measures / Mesures phytosanitaires | 10-04/06 | Israel |
| 17. | Biological control agents (EPPO/OIBC) / Agents de lutte biologique (OEPP/OILB) | 10-11/13 | Paris |
| 18. | Diagnostics and Quality Assurance / Diagnostics et assurance qualité | 10-18/20 | Algeria |
| 19. | Fungicides-Insecticides / Fongicides Insecticides | 11-22/24 | Paris |
| 20. | Diagnostics in Entomology / Diagnostic en entomologie | 11-29/12-01 | Paris |
| 21. | Colorado beetle/ Doryphore | 12-06/07 | Guernesey |
| 22. | Phytosanitary Inspections / Inspections phytosanitaires | 12-13/14 | Switzerland |

**5 EWG – Dates to be arranged/dates à fixer**

**Appendix 2 - research topics under consideration for funding via Euphresco in 2015**

**2015 Euphresco research topics**

Funding phytosanitary research projects is one of the activities ensured by the Euphresco network. In the past months its members have worked to shortlist 62 national priorities to 18 research topics; the research projects that will start in the next months will allow trans-national cooperation on focussed phytosanitary problems, will develop knowledge and propose solutions that could be rapidly applied to the field.

Below is the list of the 18 Euphresco research topics. Please note that certain topics could be discarded (i.e. eventually not funded) because of limited resources available.

1. The biology and epidemiology of *Candidatus* Liberibacter solanacearum and potato phytoplasmas and their contribution to risk management in potato and other crops.
2. Identification and early detection of *Cryphonectria parasitica* and *Ceratocystis platani* occurring on trees in Europe.
3. VirusCollect: building an international network of reference collections for regulated and other important plant viruses and viroids.
4. Assessment of *Dickeya* and *Pectobacterium* spp. on vegetables and ornamentals.
5. Diagnostic tools for the detection and identification of *Ralstonia solanacearum* directly on plant tissues.
6. Consensus detection and identification protocol for *Acidovorax citrulli* on cucurbit seeds.
7. Harmonized protocol for monitoring and detection of *Xylella fastidiosa* in its host plants and its vectors.
8. Determine different plum pox virus strains in wild hosts and in stone fruit cultivars with different susceptibility as a part of improved control and surveillance strategies.
9. Ringtest for improved *Potato virus Y* strain detection.
10. Enforcement of phytosanitary legislation on courier services.
11. Development and implementation of early detection tools and effective management strategies for invasive non-European and other selected fruit fly species of economic importance.
12. Nematology: potato cyst nematodes.
13. Tree borers: risk assessment, risk management and preparedness for emerald ash borer and bronze birch borer.
14. Tracking vectors of bacteria and phytoplasmas threatening Europe’s major crops.
15. Identifying and assembling data for pest risk analysis, contingency planning and modelling pest invasions.
16. The application of Next-Generation Sequencing technology for the detection and diagnosis of non-culturable organisms.
17. MULTIPLEX – multi-lure and multi-trap surveillance for invasive tree pests.
18. Building capability for frontline national inspectorates.

For any enquiry about the research topics, their detailed content, the funders’ consortia or more generally about Euphresco please contact: [bgiovani@euphresco.net](mailto:bgiovani@euphresco.net)

**5.5 Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC)**

**CONTRIBUTION OF THE AFRICAN UNION INTER-AFRICAN PHYTOSANITARY COUNCIL (AU-IAPSC) TO THE 27TH TECHNICAL CONSULTATION MEETING OF REGIONAL PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS (RPPOS) SCHEDULED ON NOVEMBER 2-6, 2015 AT MEMPHIS IN TENNESSEE-USA.**

The Inter-African Phytosanitary Council is one of the Regional Plant Protection Organizations of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) in charge of the coordination of plant protection, of the 54 member states of the African Union Commission; as stated in Article IX of the Convention. It is moreover a Specialized Technical Office of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) of the Commission, which takes care of continental plant health issues in addition to pesticides management in Africa. It plays an important role in the cooperative endeavor to implement at continental level, the IPPC`s functions and promote good agricultural and pesticides management practices by enhancing member states to comply with ISPMs, carry out Member States` Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE), Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) and to implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM) such as to increasing sustainable intensification of crop production and productivity in Africa. It does promote the increase of agricultural production and market access.

The Inaugural Conference of the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) meetings of Experts and Ministers on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment, held on 5th -9th October, 2015 in Addis Ababa Ethiopia; endorsed the IAPSC `s Strategic and implementation plan 2014-2023 and edged member states to include it in their respective National Agricultural Investment plans. This strategy which was developed with a large consultation from members states (MS), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), farmers’ organizations, partners’ intuitions and civil societies has as vision, missions and goal which follow:

* Robust plant health systems and reduced pest risks contribute to better livelihoods, enhanced trade and biodiversity preservation in Africa;
* To develop, promote and coordinated sustainable plant health systems among continental, regional and national actors for increased agricultural production and market access and
* Continental plant health management systems improved by 2023.

The developed strategy has three programmatic areas which include enhanced compliance with International Phytosanitary Standards and regulations; mitigation of impacts and risks of pandemic and exotic invasive plant pest species on livelihoods and biodiversity in Africa and the promotion of human capacity development. It will be implemented within short medium and long terms with the key IAPSC stockholders like 54 member states` NPPOs, 8 Regional Economic Communities(RECs), the International Plant Protection Convention(IPPC), The Food and Agricultural Organizations of the United Nations(FAO), IITA, CABI, STDF, NGOs, HRST, USAID, Agro-industries and trade institutions, farmers organizations; Agricultural institutions of learning and donors institutions. The current office structure which includes a general Assembly, a Steering Committee and four sections (Phytopathology, entomology, Administration and finance, documentation) will need to be improved in order that; International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) are effectively implemented in the continent, the impacts and risks of pandemic and exotic invasive plant pest on livelihoods and biodiversity in Africa mitigated and adequate plant health personnel at all levels in the position to effectively perform better services.

The above outcomes will be effective if the following outcomes are fulfilled:

* NPPOs structures amended;
* ISPMS implemented and coordinated;
* African countries` contribution to standards setting improved;
* National plant quarantine services operational according to standards;
* Enabling continental environment for effective management of pests and pesticides created;
* functional trans- boundary pest early warning and rapid response systems established;
* effective continental plant health information system established and in use and
* certified master trainers( male and female) in place at the local, national and regional levels ;
* training curricula and facilities improved and upgraded

The Selected activities approved by the Permanent Representative of the Commission (PRC) to be funded within the office budget program of 2015 fiscal year include:

* Technical preparatory meeting for the common African position on the agenda of the CPM10 meeting;
* Participation of IAPSC to the CPM10 , the WTO-SPS Committee meeting and 27th Technical Consultation meeting among RPPOs;
* Workshop with RECs and member states on safe use of chemical pesticides on agriculture;
* Workshop with RECs and member states to strengthen their knowledge and facilitate the implementation of Early Detection and Rapid Response of pests;
* Workshop on strengthening MS capacity on invasive Alien plants, risk assessment and management and
* Continental member states consultation workshop on 2015 draft ISPMs of IPPC.

The commission only succeeded to fund a few activities which IAPSC succeeded to effectively implement. These are

* A preparatory technical meeting to review the CPM10 agenda for Africa common position was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on February 26-28,2015;
* Participation of IAPSC to the CPM10 meeting on March 16-20,2015 in Rome , Italy and the 27th Technical Consultation meeting among RPPOs in the USA;
* Holding of the office 9th Steering Committee and 26th General Assembly on June 1-5,2015 in Douala, Cameroon
* The Workshop on safe use chemical pesticides on Agriculture is scheduled to take place in December 2015.

A list of Emerging/re-emerging pests in Africa was also established and includes:

* Fruit flies: classic trade, but complex ecosystem invasion (*Bactrocera invadens)*
* Cassava mosaic disease: conflict traffic;
* Cassava brown streak: humanitarian;
* Banana bacterial wilt: conflict traffic Banana wilt ( Banana panama disease);
* Banana bunchy top disease;
* *Tuta absoluta* and
* Maize Lethal Necrosis disease.

The IAPSC has suffered a considerable drop in the released of its program budget for 2015; to enable implementation of approved activities; despites a milestone which was the endorsement of its strategic and implementation plan 2014-2023 by the Specialized Technical Committee (STC). This endorsement clears ways for member stated to take ownership of the strategy and include it in their respective Agricultural National Investment plan. However, it is unfortunate that IAPSC was unable to organize as usual, the IPPC workshop to review the 2015 draft ISPMs and specifications; due to the lack of funds and despites effort by IPPC secretariat to bring additional technical and financial support. The office will need to step up multilateral cooperation and partnerships to be able implement its strategy.

**5.6 Near East Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO)**

**NEPPO Report to the 27th Technical Consultation among**

**Regional Plant Protection Organizations**

**Memphis, Tennessee, USA, 02 – 06 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 in 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.

3

*Drosphila susuki*

*Some Invasive alien species as:*

o *Pistia stratiotes, an aquatique plant*

o *Solanum elaeagnifolium spread in most of the North Africa and Middle East countries.*

**5.7 North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO)**

**Status of NAPPO 2015 Projects – Report to the TC of RPPOs**

**November 2015**

This document provides an executive summary of projects status in NAPPO for the above-mentioned time period.

* **Revision of the following Regional Standards for Phytosanitary Measures**
* **RSPM 7** *– Guidelines for petition for first release of non-indigenous phytophagous biological control agents*
* **RSPM 12** - *Guidelines for petition for first release of non-indigenous entomophagous biological control agents*
* RSPM 18 (2004), *Guidelines for phytosanitary action following detection of plum pox virus*
* **RSPM 26** - Certification of commercial arthropod biological control agents or non-*Apis* pollinators moving into NAPPO member countries
* **RSMP 29** - *Guidelines for the petition for import and release of non-Apis pollinating insects into NAPPO countries*
* **RSPM 33** - *Guidelines for regulating the movement of ships and cargo from areas infested with the Asian gypsy moth*
* **Other documents (e.g. science and technology and protocol documents)**
* Finalized the document on recommended measures for the establishment and maintenance of area wide management programs for Huanglongbing and its vector.
* Finalized protocol for citrus shoot-tip micro-grafting
* Finalized template for new and emerging citrus quarantine pests and methods for their identification and management.
* Template was was used for Citrus leprosis virus.
* Finalized specifications for a standard on the potential use of systems approaches to manage pest risks associated with the movement of wood.
* Finalized annex to RSPM 17 on guidelines for development of, and efficacy verification for, lures and traps for arthropod pests of fruits
* Finalized citrus thermotherapy protocol document
* **Other activities**
* Delivered a symposium on Innovations in Pest Risk Management during the 2015 NAPPO Annual Meeting – presentations from this symposium will be posted to the NAPPO website ([www.nappo.org](http://www.nappo.org))
* Organized a workshop (regional and international) on implementation of ISPM 12*, Guidelines for petition for first release of non-indigenous entomophagous biological control agents –* presentations from this workshop are available on the NAPPO website ([www.nappo.org](http://www.nappo.org))
* Organized a workshop (regional and international) on Needs Assessment for regulatory support of the North American seed industry *–* presentations from this workshop are available on the NAPPO website ([www.nappo.org](http://www.nappo.org))
* Organizing a workshop (regional and international) on implementation of RSPM 33 – *Guidelines for regulating the movement of ships and cargo from areas infested with the Asian gypsy moth*
* Managed the NAPPO pest reporting system and continued working towards eliminating any duplication in reporting to the IPPC
* **Ongoing**
* Continued support to the IPPC ePhyto steering group
* Lymantriids science and technology document
* Continued support for developing the next international ISPM 15 workshop
* Revision of RSPM 3, *Guidelines for movement of potatoes into a NAPPO member country* to align it with ISPM 33, *Pest free potato (Solanum sp.) micropropagative material and minitubers for international trade* and discuss any adjustments required by NAPPO member countries.
* Revise standards on Karnal Bunt: RSPM 13, *Guidelines to establish, maintain and verify Karnal Bunt pest free areas in North America*
* Document on diversion from intended use
* *RELOCATION OF THE NAPPO SECRETARIAT*
* **Projects delayed, withdrawn or on hold**
* Standard on “Criteria for the determination of host status of pest arthropods and pathogens based on available information” because of ongoing discussions on host status at the IPPC.
* RSPM 41, *Guidelines for oversight programs*, because issues were resolved bilaterally

**5.8 International Regional Organization for Animal and Plant Health (OIRSA)**

**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 ePhyto 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.

**5.9 Pacific Plant Protection Organization (PPPO)**

**Pacific Plant Protection Organisation (PPPO) Report at the 27th TC of RPPO – Memphis, Tennessee, USA**

The PPPO was recognised as an RPPO in 1997. Today it has 22 members Pacific Island Countries and Territories with its metropolitan member countries members of Australia, New Zealand and United States of America. The Executive Secretariat of the PPPO seats with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. There are 13 contracting parties to the IPPC. Those not contracting parties have been encouraged to sign up.

1. **Standard Setting Bodies**

The Executive Secretariat attending the 26th TC RPPO held in Antigua, Guatemala in 2014 and reported on the activities of the PPPO. In April 2015, PPPO members attended CPM 10 were Samoa, Cook Islands, Australia, New Zealand and the Executive Secretary for PPPO.

The annual Regional IPPC workshop was held in Suva, Fiji from the 29th to 31st July 2015. The regional IPPC workshop was for three days where members were able to comment on the three ISPM standards and also to use the OCS for comments. The PPPO was also blessed with the attendance of the IPPC Secretariat. The IPPC Secretariat and the IPPC Capacity Development Committee chairperson facilitated training to PPPO members on National Reporting Obligations for IPPC contracting parties.

**Information Exchange**

* The NPPO contact point are updated annually as NPPO’s are normally changing within its members. E-newsletter - newsletter is a means of sharing any information whether it be training workshops, regional meetings etc - to all NPPOs in the PICs
* Another area where information is shared to the NPPO in the region is through the PPPO mailing list. This list comprise of all NPPO contacts of the south west pacific region and is used as an information exchange platform in keeping abreast with regional topical biosecurity and plant protection issues.

1. **Technical Assistance provided by PPPO to its members**

The PPPO is funded by project funds. This funds meets the financial needs of its members to participate in regional workshops and regional meeting such as PPPO Executive Committee meeting, Draft ISPM meeting, PPPO Full board regional meeting, and training organized by IPPC, Australia or New Zealand.

As part of SPCs commitment to its members, SPC-LRD established a biosecurity helpdesk as part of its technical advisory services to better serve its clients (PPPO Members). The helpdesk predominantly receives and processes email equerries on matters related to biosecurity, trade facilitation and plant protection including advice on import risk analysis

1. **8th Board meeting of the Pacific Plant Protection Organisation(PPPO) and the 17th Regional Technical Meeting of Plant Protection(RTMPP)**

The 8th board meeting of the PPPO and 17th RTMPP meeting was held in Nadi Fiji from the 21st-25th September 2015. A total of 71 participants (including observers) attended the meeting. At the meeting, Vanuatu was elected the Chair of the PPPO with Australia the Vice Chair. Also there were nominations for the PPPO Executive committees for the next two years. Executive committee members were endorsed by the three regions in the Pacific namely Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia.

Nominees were:

Melanesia – Fiji and New Caledonia

Micronesia – Nauru and Republic of the Marshall Island

Polynesia – Tonga and Niue

The terms of office is two years. At the meeting the members agreed to a two yearly meeting of the PPPO board rather than the triennial meeting that it used to have previously.

Other areas of discussion at the meeting was:

* PPPO secretariats report on the activities of the PPPO
* Update on the IPPC activities. Update was done by Lois Ransom of Australia in her position as Bureau member. Ms Ransom noted that not many Pacific members were at the last CPM. She let members know that funding is available for developing countries to attend the meeting. She reinforced that representation of the South West Pacific region on the Bureau was an opportunity for the Pacific.

The IPPC have a new Secretary who has already shown strong leadership.

On the subject of the ePhyto – There will be a global Symposium in South Korea. North America is looking at funding a Pilot hub for ePhyto exchange. The APPPC is looking at e-phyto readiness for participation in a global pilot hub.

There is a new focus in the IPPC on the implementation of standards beginning with a pilot on surveillance. The CDC has developed a manual. The PPPO board was also informed that CPM 11 will be from the 4th to 8th April 2016.

The IPPC is looking at developing a new strategic plan.

* IPPC Dispute Avoidance and Settlement System by lois. The Bureau member updated the board on the bureau discussions on the Dispute avoidance ad settlement system which included the following:

1. Phytosanitary dispute is defined as disagreement over the imposition of a phytosanitary measure between two or more countries.
2. CPM agreed that dispute avoidance should be the first step in solving phytosanitary disagreements.
3. Strong recommendation to avoid disputes with suggestions of ways to avoid this very lengthy and expensive exercise.

d. Countries can also look to standards for guidance and actively report non-compliance.

e. There are steps that can be found on the International Phytosanitary Portal: https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/dispute-settlement/

* Standard Setting was led by SC Chair – Dr Bart Rossel.

Several standards have been subject to formal objections. Phytosanitary treatments as phytosanitary measures are now being drafted by the Technical Panel for Phytosanitary Treatments. This could be of great benefit to the PPPO region.

Of particular relevance to the PPPO is the treatment on Heat Treatment Forced Air for papaya for fruit fly which will be up for adoption at CPM this year if approved by the SC. Tonga noted concern on how specific the standard was and whether that would have trade implications.

Dr Rossel noted that no experts were nominated for the expert working group for the waste standard from the Pacific, even though the topic was nominated by the Pacific. SWP will seek CPMs approval to keep the Waste standards with the IPPC workplan as it is important to the region.

The PPPO board was also informed that the surveillance standard (ISPM 6) will be reviewed in October.

* IPPC Capacity Development Committee Update – Chairperson – Sally Jenning

Presented on the phytosanitary information available from the IPPC website such as pest surveillance protocols, standards implementation manuals. This information is provided so that countries do not need to re-invent the wheel and can utilize existing information sources.

ii. Updated on phytosanitary capacity evaluation (PCE) as principal tool to evaluate capacities of quarantine systems.

iii. Requested countries provide CDC with their priority training needs.

* PPPO Business Plan and resource mobilisation
* Phytosanitary Capacity building
* Update on the Sea container Standard by John Hedley.

The IPPC has been working to develop a standard on sea containers for some time. There will be a Special Session at CPM devoted to sea containers to look at different aspects including risk aspects, industry concerns and practical NPPO problems. Not all countries are aware of the risk of pest movement with sea containers or do wish to address them. Next year there will be the third expert working group meeting

* PPPO logo. The PPPO secretariat proposed the development of a PPPO logo to provide further recognition of the PPPO and noted that other RPPOS have their unique logos. The PPPO board supported the proposed development of a PPPO logo. SPC to initiate a competition, open to higher education institutions to design a logo for the PPPO.
* PPPO Website. Endorsed that PPPO have a stand alone website. PPPO Secretariat to work on this proposal.
* New and emerging pests

At the 8th PPPO board meeting saw the launching of the Regional Handicraft Manual. This was funded by the Australian government under the Pacific Horticultural Agricultural Market Access project (PHAMA).

It is important to note that the workplan of SPC-Biosecurity and Trade is based around the PPPO work plan.

1. **Pest Surveillance activities**

The PPPO conducts Crop pest surveillance when NPPO requests for this technical assistance annually. In 2015 pest surveillance was done for Palau, Vanuatu Tuvalu and Yap. Collection of arthropod samples has been sent to the NZ laboratory for identification authentication. To date some results have been received and country Pest List Database has been updated. On a positive note PPPO has worked with Cook Islands NPPO to eradicate Oriental Fruit-fly from the island.

The Pacific region is well known for IAS both plants and insects.

In 2015, PPPO has assisted Tuvalu and Nauru on delimiting surveys for Yellow Crazy Ants (YCA). PPPO is also working with other partners on a project to address Yellow Crazy Ants in Tokelau and Kiribati in terms or management, control and capacity building for its biosecurity officers at the border. It is hoped that the finding of the project will be guide for the other PICTs that have YCA in its environment.

1. **Capacity Building**

* PPPO has been actively involved in capacity building for its members. In 2014 there was an annual Biosecurity Training – North Pacific where participants were from Guam, FSM, Palau, RMI, and Saipan. Training was in March 2015
* Regional Global Quarantine awareness Training for Palau, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands (covering international agreements, organizations and standards)
* Plant Health Systems Analysis course. This was funded under the US-APHIS and International Service. The training was from 8th to 19th June 2015. A total of 7 participants from the PPPO member countries were selected to attend the training. The training was for two weeks covering a range of topics such as:
* Regulatory Framework for Plant Protection
* Phytosanitary Terminology
* What is Risk, Overview of Risk Analysis, Resources for PRA
* Approaches to Pest Risk Assessment – Collaboration Tools
* Qualitative Risk Assessment, PRA guidelines, elements process overview
* Pest Lists, Pest Initiated PRA
* Bio-Surveillance for Effective Safeguarding: Pest Lens
* Fundamentals of Risk Management
* Systems Approaches
* Application of GIS to Plant Health
* Phytosanitary Treatments and the Use of Treatment Schedules
* Plant Inspection Stations
* Trapping and Surveillance

1. **Legislation Review**

PPPO with financial assistance from FAO (SAP) engaged a consultant to review the Biosecurity legislation for Fiji and Cook Islands. At present, Cook Islands Crown Law needs to send their comments through to the PPPO Secretariat who will then forward it to the consultant to include the comments. For Fiji the work had to be withdrawn due to issues beyond the PPPO Secretariats control.

1. **Market Access Activities**

This is an output within the PPPO work-plan to assist its members to engage in trade with each other and also internationally.

In 2015 PPPO assisted the following on market access activities:

* Assisted Niue of Honey Bee health Survey
* Worked with NPPO Tuvalu in developing a Market Access submission to NZ for export of breadfruit chips
* Assisted Cook Islands Noni Marketing Ltd to get Chinese Organic Certification
* Feasibility study of Papaya Export to NZ from the Cook Island
* NPPO Fiji assisting mature ginger access to the Australian market.

1. **RPPO Collaboration**

PPPO and APPPC had been working in collaboration on the following:

* Surveillance workshop
* ePhyto workshop

**Appendix III**

Appendix 3 – Work Programme of the Technical Consultation amongst RPPOs (2016)

|  | **Activity / Topic** | **Responsible body** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Investigate an operative mechanism for pest reporting through RPPOs | Secretariat  All RPPOs |
| 2 | a) Should the recognition of an NPPO for the Caribbean be proposed, they should be made aware of the requirements for recognition as RPPOs and  b) Cooperate in the technical aspects of the establishment. | Secretariat  All RPPOs |
| 3 | RPPOs support to Regional IPPC workshops | All RPPOs |
| 4 | Contingency planning or systems approaches | APPPC  EPPO  CAN  COSAVE  NAPPO  OIRSA |
| 5 | Electronic certification: encourage all NPPOs to participate in developments and exchange of information in the TC. | All RPPOs  Secretariat |
| 6 | RPPOs input into the IRSS (Implementation review and support system). | All RPPOs  Secretariat |
| 7 | Review and update of the Roles and Functions of RPPOs in the framework of the IPPC. | All RPPOs |
| 8 | Management of preparations for further TC meetings – periodic communication to provide updates and reminders. | All RPPOs  Secretariat  NEPPO for doc exchange procedures |
| 9 | Support activities intended to encourage NPPOs to implement the Convention and the standards and particularly implementation programs.   1. Possible increased involvement by RPPOs in capacity development activities 2. Facilitation of the fulfilment of NROs 3. Support the implementation of the IPPC communications work plan when it is ready 4. Participating in the implementation programs: e.g. surveillance | All RPPOs |
| 10 | Discussion on 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 | A seminar on a specific topic : to be discussed at CPM time |  |

Appendix 4 – 28th Technical Consultation among RPPOs 2016

**Tentative Agenda**

1. Opening of the Technical Consultation
2. Election of the Chairperson, Vice-chair and Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Matters arising from the 27th TC-RPPOs, including post meeting networking and cooperation / Follow up on impacts of the decisions of the 27th TC-RPPOs
5. Information Exchange Platform on RPPO activities ( including presentation of the Web sites)
   1. APPPC
   2. CAN
   3. COSAVE
   4. CPPC
   5. EPPO
   6. IAPSC
   7. NAPPO
   8. OIRSA
   9. PPPO
   10. NEPPO
6. Status of a Caribbean NPPO and review of RPPOs ToRs.
7. Secretariat update
   1. Governance
   2. Standard setting
   3. Implementation Facilitation
   4. Communications and partnership
   5. Others
8. Follow-up from CPM-11
9. Topics for future CPM special and side sessions
10. TC Work Plan (standing work plan with annual reviews)
11. TC among RPPOs technical discussions including:
    1. Current and emerging major pest issues (all RPPOs)
    2. E-Phyto
    3. Contingency planning
    4. Systems approaches
12. Other Business
    1. Mentoring, cooperation and work sharing among RPPOs
    2. Report for CPM 12
    3. Requests from the Bureau
    4. Communications work plan
13. Date and location of next TC
14. Adoption of the Report of the 28th TC-RPPOs
15. Closure

**Appendix V**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS AND OBSERVERS**

Appendix 5 – List of Participants and Observers

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|  |  |
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1. Commission on Phytosanitary Measures - the global body established by the International Plant Protection Convention and hosted within the FAO to develop agreed international standards for phytosanitary measures. The EPPO CPM Affairs Panel co-ordinates EPPO region participation in this process. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. European Crop Protection Association [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. This Standard was reissued following deletion of a section on extraction to align it with Standard PM7/119, which was approved by Council in 2013 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. European Crop Protection Association [↑](#footnote-ref-4)