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منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
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COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

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| Thirteenth Session |
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| Successes and Challenges of Implementation of the Convention - The North American Sea Containers Initiative: A Successful Launch |
| Agenda item 16 |
| Prepared by North America (The United States of America and Canada) |
| <i>English only</i> |

1. At CPM-12 (2017), the CPM endorsed the Sea Containers Complementary Action Plan. As part of the action plan, national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) were encouraged to share information during CPM meetings on actions taken at the country level to support the CPM Recommendation on Sea Containers.

2. In February 2017, in order to implement the action plan, the NPPOs of the United States and Canada launched the North America Sea Container Initiative (NASCI) in partnership with maritime and shipping industry organizations and border inspection agencies aimed at addressing and mitigating contaminant pests associated with sea containers. The NASCI's first major step was to establish an active outreach and education campaign to broaden understanding of the risks and consequences of contaminant pests on and in sea containers, and the need for a coordinated response. The second major action was to work with inspection agencies and shipping organizations to develop a method to measure the frequency, volume, and type of plant pest interception in and on sea containers. The information collected will facilitate appropriate responses and the development of relevant future efforts to effectively prevent or reduce the introduction and spread of plant pests.

3. In its first year, NASCI Working Group has achieved the following:

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- Developed a Sea Container Cleanliness bulletin¹ that has been translated into Spanish, French, Mandarin, Russian, and Japanese. The Sea Container Task Force (SCTF) recognized the value of this bulletin and agreed that it should also be used by other countries and regions. The NASCI bulletin is also being used for the development of an IPPC fact sheet on sea containers.
 - Developed key promotional information for the U.S. and Canada NPPO web sites², which include links to the Sea Container Cleanliness bulletin, the Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTU Code), Joint Industry Guidelines for Cleaning of Containers, and a PowerPoint presentation about carrier contamination developed by the U.S. NPPO and its border inspection counterpart.
 - Along with the industry organizations, developed the NASCI mission and vision statements, as well as objectives. These formalize government and industry commitment to a number of specific actions over the next three years.
4. NASCI is closely linked to the activities of the SCTF. The North American Co-Chair of the NASCI is also a member of the SCTF. The experiences of NASCI have been shared with the SCTF to encourage other regions to take actions similar to what is being done in North America.
5. Upcoming priorities include:
- Beginning an aggressive outreach and education campaign. NASCI has identified high level industry association meetings at which to initiate this campaign.
 - The United States will work with its State plant health officials to conduct an outreach and education campaign at local ports of entry. These officials will work with their local pest risk committees on special operations of inspections of sea containers. Pest Risk Committee membership include the U.S. NPPO, the U.S. border inspection agency, state level officials, and other federal agencies conducting inspections at ports of entry (this can vary depending on location).
 - The United States and Canada will work with their border inspection counterparts to collect data on sea container contamination.
 - An update on the progress of NASCI will be given at the 2018 North America Plant Protection Organization annual meeting. Maritime and shipping industry groups from the United States, Canada, and Mexico will also participate.
 - The United States will give a presentation at the July meeting of Caribbean plant health officials as part of broader strategy to develop a perimeter defense against the introduction of high risk plant pests into the Caribbean region.
- The United States and Canada will continue to highlight NASCI objectives and accomplishments at regular trilateral meetings on invasive pests and pathways with Chile, China, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Russia, and other countries.

1 Sea Container Cleanliness Bulletin: English - https://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/plant_imports/nasci/US-CanadaSeaContainerCleanlinessBulletin-ENG.pdf

Spanish - https://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/plant_imports/nasci/US-CanadaSeaContainerCleanlinessBulletin-ENG_ES.pdf

Mandarin - https://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/plant_imports/nasci/US-CanadaSeaContainerCleanlinessBulletin-CN.pdf

2 United States NPPO Site: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/import-information/sa_offshore_programs/nasci

Canada NPPO Site: <http://inspection.gc.ca/plants/plant-pests-invasive-species/sea-container-cleanliness/eng/1508779809618/1508779809944>

6. A critical element in the North America strategy on sea containers has been the active engagement of industry stakeholders. This engagement has been successful. The key maritime and shipping organizations in the United States and Canada have become active, constructive participants in this effort to mitigate the pest threats associated with the movement of sea container.

7. The United States and Canada would like to showcase the work being done in North America at a side session at CPM-14 in 2019. Such a session will provide some useful ideas, lessons, exchanges, and other insights of benefit to other CPM members as they also consider strategies for addressing phytosanitary risk posed by sea containers in their respective regions.