Global Surveillance System

(Document prepared by EPPO)

1. In a recent scientific publication, a group of experts led by the International Center for Tropical Agriculture described their ideas on a global surveillance system (GSS) for emerging crop diseases (the publication is attached). The paper describes a new approach to enhance communication between farmers, farmer associations, extension services, academia, research centers and the national plant protection organizations and regionally between national plant protection organizations. The processes proposed will accelerate the reporting of pest outbreaks from the field with the goal to enhance national surveillance, increase regional and international preparedness and allow a coordinated response to more effectively prevent disease spread. The GSS consists of several networks, a diagnostic laboratory network, a risk assessment network, a data management network and a communication network, structured in a way to create linkages between surveillance entities across countries and regions. In this context, regional hubs play a key role. This concept is still to be worked into a more operational model; the authors of the paper are currently working on this.
2. RPPOs are mentioned in the paper as partners of the networks. Therefore, it would be good that we as RPPOs discuss this concept, how this aligns with the work of NPPOs and RPPOs, which elements are most important for the NPPOs of their respective regions and consider what our role as RPPOs could be. RPPOs could also be involved and valuably contribute to shaping the operational part of the GSS.
3. Moreover, the IPPC Secretariat is developing an action plan for a Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems with many similarities to the GSS but more operational. In this action plan the RPPOs are also mentioned and play a role. This document is discussed under agenda item 5.5 of the TC-RPPO meeting. It is important to discuss what the relation between these two activities is, in how far they overlap or double work and in how far they could work together and be synergistic.
4. RPPOs play a crucial role because they represent the NPPOs in their regions and are aware of the characteristics and needs of Plant Health work in their regions. A presentation to explain the GSS will most likely be available to introduce this concept during the TC-RPPO meeting.