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منظمة  
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# COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

<b>Fifteenth Session</b>
<b>Rome, 30 March - 3 April 2020</b>
<b>Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems</b>
<b>Agenda item 8.4</b>
<b>Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat with input from the IC</b>

## 1. Background

- [1] A Development Agenda identified in the IPPC Strategic Framework (2020-2030) is entitled “Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems”. This CPM paper proposes initial steps towards Strengthening Pest Outbreak<sup>1</sup> Alert and Response Systems.
- [2] The desired outcome for this Development Agenda is that “a global pest alert system with mechanisms to evaluate and communicate emerging pest risks is in place, providing regular information to NPPOs on changes in pest status around the world. NPPOs are using this to quickly adapt their phytosanitary systems to reduce the risk of introduction and spread. In case of outbreaks, strengthened pest outbreak response systems and tools are helping countries take much more timely action against especially new incursions. NPPOs, RPPOs and the FAO have collaborated to develop and roll out a comprehensive but easy to use toolbox to support countries responding quickly and effectively. RPPOs are playing an active role to assist NPPOs and coordinate outbreak responses across their regions”<sup>2</sup>.
- [3] During CPM-14 (2019), the concept of emerging pests and emergency issues was discussed and several countries expressed their concern regarding the situation with *Spodoptera frugiperda* (Fall Armyworm) and strongly supported global Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems, as no such systems exist within the IPPC Community.
- [4] In addition, during CPM-14 (2019) session on “Successes and challenges in implementing the IPPC”, the RPPO *Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria* (OIRSA<sup>3</sup>) shared its well established emergency alert and response system which eradicated an incursion of the Central American flying locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*) within 18 hours of its detection. This outcome occurred because of excellent coordination among high level authorities and established procedures for timely communication and actions. The OIRSA system has action plans for other pests such as the pine bark beetle (*Dendroctonus frontalis*), pink hibiscus mealybug (*Maconellicoccus hirsutus*), HLB in citrus (*Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus*), coffee rust (*Hemileia vastatrix*), medfly (*Ceratitis capitata*), yellow sorghum aphid (*Melanaphis sacchari*) and Fusarium wilt Tropical race 4 (*Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* Tropical Race 4) among others. To support this system, financial resources are secured and are available specifically to deal with pest emergencies. In addition, systems are supported by a roster of subject matter experts that are available and quickly able to intervene immediately as “commandos”. OIRSA and FAO have organized simulation exercises to help build the capacities of the NPPOs in the region to respond to pests outbreaks. A video of the simulation highlighting all measures taken by Nicaragua against *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* Tropical Race 4 (TR4) is available on the *Instituto de Protección y Sanidad Agropecuaria* (IPSA) website<sup>4</sup>. The IPPC Secretariat attended this simulation to better understand how the OIRSA system functions.
- [5] CPM-14 (2019) requested that the Bureau draft an action plan for an IPPC pest emergency system and to submit it to CPM-15 (2020) with input from the SPG. The IPPC Secretariat developed the document. It was decided to align the action plan with the “Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response System” Development Agenda in which the concepts of “emerging pests” and “emergency situations”

<sup>1</sup> An outbreak is defined in ISPM 5 (Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms) as “a recently detected pest population, including an incursion, or a sudden significant increase of an established pest population in an area [FAO, 1995; revised ICPM, 2003]”.

<sup>2</sup> IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030, desired outcome 2030 for the Development Agenda “Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems” [https://www.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2019/10/IPPC\\_StrategicFramework\\_2020-2030\\_2019-10-21.pdf](https://www.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2019/10/IPPC_StrategicFramework_2020-2030_2019-10-21.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> *Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria* (OIRSA) website <https://www.oirsa.org/>

<sup>4</sup> IPSA video on *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* Tropical Race 4 (TR4) simulation in Nicaragua in August 2019: <https://www.ipsa.gob.ni/NOTICIAS/itemid/157/SIMULACRO-IPSA-ANTE-UN-POSIBLE-BROTE-DE-LA-MARCHITEZ-POR-FUSARIUM>.

were embedded. It was agreed that the scope would be **limited to quarantine or potential quarantine pests.**

- [6] The draft action plan had input from the FAO Locust and Transboundary Pests team and was presented at the June 2019 Bureau meeting. The plan has been updated with input from the SPG, TC-RPPOs, SC and IC. In particular, the IC agreed that a project supporting this work was aligned with the IPPC strategic objectives, has strategic value and provides a competitive advantage.

## 2. Action plan for the IPPC programme to “Strengthen Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems”

- [7] The IPPC Secretariat’s programme to “Strengthen Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems” **will build synergies and avoid duplication** with activities conducted by other organizations. The Secretariat would first identify existing material and experiences on the topic, including initiatives such as the work of the FAO Plant Production and Protection Division (AGP), National Reporting Obligations (NROs) and CABI’s new initiative on “the Global Burden of Crop Loss”.

- [8] The overall objective would be to set up well-functioning pest alert and response systems which would initially be tested **for a few pests** of global concern (no more than 4) in countries or regions where these pests are quarantine pests or have the potential to be quarantine pests.

- [9] *Issues to be addressed at global, regional and national levels*

- [10] At the **global level**, the programme would consist of coordinating activities and cooperating with relevant organizations such as FAO and CABI. The IPPC Secretariat would not be involved in field activities. Global activities would bring together knowledge and provide guidance to assist in designing global Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems including:

- Defining criteria for pest outbreak situations including criteria to determine if a pest should be considered a priority that could spread within or between regions (aligned to the criteria defined by RPPOs),
- Establishing mechanisms to share information in emergency situations,
- Identifying subject matter experts willing to provide expertise,
- Determining and helping to establish financial mechanisms to set aside funds in advance to deal with pest outbreaks,
- Drafting and publishing specialized protocols to help NPPOs and RPPOs develop contingency plans (including information on pest diagnostic and surveys), build capacity for taking action and communicate more effectively with targeted audiences,
- Mobilizing networks of stakeholders of relevant institutions and experts at the regional levels for phytosanitary emergency activities,
- Ensuring a constant flow of information among different countries and regions to create synergies by sharing experiences of dealing with emergency situations, what interventions were taken and the use of simulation exercises,
- Establishing mechanisms to develop and share survey protocols,
- Ensuring coordination with FAO national, sub-regional and regional offices and other partner international organizations.

- [11] The IPPC Secretariat, would pursue Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) approved activities to support this programme, namely:
- Producing guides and training materials,

- Providing content for web based (IPP) information to help stakeholders implement standards,
- Providing platforms for sharing information and experiences, such as IC meeting or IPPC Regional Workshops.

[12] At the **regional level**, regional institutions such as RPPOs or FAO sub-regional and regional offices could undertake the following activities to Strengthen Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems:

- Facilitating national surveillance activities on pests,
- Facilitating the conduct of Pest Risk Analyses,
- Identifying regional pests to be included in the Pest Outbreaks Alert and Response Systems,
- Sharing information on regional priority pests and facilitating and encouraging pest reporting,
- Establishing intervention teams (commandos) by identifying groups of subject matter experts for specific pests,
- Drafting regional contingency plans for specific pests (including information on pest diagnostic and survey),
- Conducting national and regional simulation exercises to prepare for possible outbreaks of pests of interest by RPPOs and to test contingency plans,
- Customizing or supplementing guides and training materials to address regional specific needs,
- Securing emergency funds for intervention in case of an emergency,
- Securing a stock of materials required for emergency actions,
- Creating and activating communication channels of officials to be contacted in emergency situations,
- Producing and providing communication and capacity development materials for stakeholders,

[13] At the **national level**, Contracting Parties or NPPOs would Strengthen Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems through the following activities:

- Establishing national coordination committees as needed,
- Planning, coordinating and conducting pest surveillance activities,
- Conducting Pest Risk Analysis
- Regulating pests of concern,
- Reporting pest outbreaks to neighbours and trading partners and the IPPC Secretariat,
- Opening and maintaining communication channels with the highest national authorities (e.g. Ministers) when dealing with pest outbreaks,
- Drafting contingency plans and other relevant national technical materials (factsheet, etc.),
- Customizing and distributing national communication and capacity development materials for stakeholders,
- Conducting national simulation exercises to prepare for possible pest outbreaks,
- Participating in regional simulation exercises,
- Conducting monitoring and evaluation activities related to pest outbreaks.

### 3. Next steps to be taken to Strengthen Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems

[14] *Convening a focus group of subject matter experts*

[15] Specific expertise is needed to assess the current status of pest alert and response systems around the world and determine next steps to strengthen and coordinate a globally focused effort. Although the IPPC Secretariat developed a draft action plan, experts should study and improve the plan in order to build robust and efficient global systems. In full consistency with the CPM activity related to Commodity - and pathway- specific ISPMs, it is suggested to form a CPM Focus Group and it is proposed that CPM would identify experts to meet in Rome during the week of 25-29<sup>th</sup> of May 2020 (tentative date). A draft Terms of Reference for the Focus Group is available in Appendix 1.

[16] *Financial aspects for implementing the 2020-2022 action plan to “Strengthen Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems”*

[17] An estimated budget of USD 630K (to cover activities and staff) for a three year period (2020 to 2022) was noted by CPM-14 (2019); these funds have been secured as follows:

- The Implementation Facilitation regular programme budget will support activities for up to USD 225 K for 2020-2022.

- EU project (GCP/GLO/040/EC) for 2020-2022 has a component on Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems funded up to USD 330K. This project was drafted to support the draft action plan of the same Development Agenda.

- COMESA project (GCP/INT/387/COM) entitled “FAO support to COMESA trade facilitation programme” shall contribute for up to USD 75K for 2020-2022.

[18] CPM-15 (2020) is requested to:

- *Agree* to establish a CPM Focus Group on Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems.
- *Review and adopt* Terms of Reference for the CPM Focus Group on Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems (as presented in Appendix 1 to this CPM paper).
- *Agree* to hold the CPM Focus Group on Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response System meeting on 25-29 May 2020 in Rome at FAO Headquarters.

## Appendix 1: Terms of reference for a Focus Group on Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert Response Systems

### 1. Background

[19] A Development Agenda identified in the IPPC Strategic Framework (2020-2030) is entitled “Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems”. This CPM paper proposes initial steps towards Strengthening Pest Outbreak<sup>5</sup> Alert and Response Systems.

[20] The desired outcome for this Development Agenda is that a global pest alert system with mechanisms to evaluate and communicate emerging pest risks is in place, providing regular information to NPPOs on changes in pest status around the world. NPPOs are using this to quickly adapt their phytosanitary systems to reduce the risk of introduction and spread. In case of outbreaks, strengthened pest outbreak response systems and tools are helping countries take much more timely action against especially new incursions. NPPOs, RPPOs and the FAO have collaborated to develop and roll out a comprehensive but easy to use toolbox to support countries responding quickly and effectively. RPPOs are playing an active role to assist NPPOs and coordinate outbreak responses across their regions.

### 2. Process

[21] A CPM Focus Group would meet on 25-29 May 2020 in Rome at FAO Headquarters and complete the tasks outlined below. The report of this meeting will include recommendations on how to Strengthen Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems and would be presented to CPM-16 (2021) via the SPG.

### 3. Membership

[22] Members should have the relevant knowledge, skills and experience to address the tasks listed below, in addition, efforts will be made to help ensure a wide geographical representation and should be composed of:

- Six experts and one expert representing OIRSA.

[23] Members should have combined expertise and knowledge in:

- Working with outbreaks.
- Designing and managing outbreak alert systems.
- Designing and managing outbreak response systems.
- Knowledge of phytosanitary systems related to pests outbreaks.

### 4. Tasks

[24] Considering the budgeted action plan for Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems noted by CPM-14 (2019), the CPM Focus Group will:

- 1) *discuss and agree on the* components necessary for an efficient and effective programme to Strengthen Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems,
- 2) *review and refine* the action plan to Strengthen Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems considering inputs from the CPM Bureau, the TC-RPPO, the SPG, the IC and the SC,
- 3) *identify* existing material and experiences on the topic,
- 4) *establish* criteria for a pest to be considered in the framework of the programme (in line with the RPPOs’ work in this regard),
- 5) *set* a procedure for a pest to be recognized in the framework of the programme (e.g., presented to CPM, documents to be produced, call to be launched),
- 6) *review* submissions for proposed pests and develop a global list of pests to be considered,

- 7) *review* how Contracting Parties meet their National Reporting Obligations (NROs) and recommend changes to contribute to Strengthen a Pest Outbreak Alert System in a timely manner,
- 8) *recommend* processes for rapidly engaging expertise and response resources.

## 5. Funding

- [25] The organization that employs an IPPC meeting participant is responsible for funding the travel and daily subsistence allowance for that person to attend. If the employer is unable to allocate sufficient funds, participants are first encouraged to seek assistance from sources other than the IPPC Secretariat.
- [26] Where such demonstrated efforts to secure assistance have been unsuccessful, requests for assistance (i.e. travel and subsistence costs) from the IPPC Secretariat may be made. However, any support is subject to available funds. The IPPC Secretariat will consider funding assistance for participants following IPPC criteria for funding. Full details on these criteria can be found on the IPP

<https://www.ippc.int/publications/criteria-used-prioritizing-participants-receive-travel-assistanceattend-meetings>).

## 6. Some references

CPM-14 (2020) Report <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/87271/>

IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/ippc-strategic-framework/>