**IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 development agenda:**

**Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems**

*(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat)*

1. Background
2. A Development Agenda identified in the IPPC Strategic Framework (2020-2030) is entitled “Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems”. [A CPM-15 (2020) paper](https://www.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2020/02/27_CPM_2020_Pest_Outbreak_AlertResponseSystem_2020-02-19.pdf) provided information on the initial steps towards Strengthening Pest Outbreak[[1]](#footnote-1) Alert and Response Systems, which are summarized and updated in this document.
3. 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]](#footnote-2).
4. During CPM-14 (2019), the concept of emerging pests and emergency issues were discussed and several Contracting Parties expressed their concern regarding the situation with *Spodoptera frugiperda* (Fall Armyworm) and called for a more synchronized response from FAO in the event of a pest outbreak, and requested a preventive approach be taken.
5. In addition, during CPM-14 (2019) session on “Successes and challenges in implementing the IPPC”, *Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria* (OIRSA[[3]](#footnote-3)), an RPPO, presented its emergency alert and response system which supported the eradication of an incursion of the Central American flying locust (*Schistocerca piceifrons piceifrons)* within 18 hours of its detection. It was agreed that this case was a concrete example of what could be put in place in a Pest Outbreak Alert and Response System. The success show in this example was mainly due to the excellent coordination among high level authorities and fact that established procedures could be followed, helping to ensure timely communication and actions. The OIRSA system has action plans in place for seven other pests. 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 mader available to quickly intervene as “commandos”. OIRSA and FAO have organized simulation exercises to help build the capacities of the NPPOs in the region to be able 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[[4]](#footnote-4). The IPPC Secretariat attended this simulation to better understand how the OIRSA system functions which could be taken as an example for the programme to be developed and replicated in other regions.
6. 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, which was presented to the SPG in 2019. The SPG suggested to align the title with the title used in the SF Development agenda item: “Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response System” as in the SF, this development agenda item includes the concepts of “emerging pests” and “emergency situations” . It was agreed that the scope would be **limited to quarantine or potential quarantine pests.**
7. A draft action plan was developed with input from the FAO Locust and Transboundary Pests team, the SPG, TC-RPPOs, SC and IC.
8. Concepts for the IPPC programme to “Strengthen Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems”
9. The IPPC Secretariat’s programme to “Strengthen Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems” **will endeavor to build synergies and help 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 (NSP), National Reporting Obligations (NROs) and CABI’s new initiative on “the Global Burden of Crop Loss”.
10. The overall objective would be to set up well-functioning pest outbreak 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.
11. Activities at the **national, regional and global levels** which should help to establish well-functioning and complementary pest outbreak alert and response systems are detailed in the  [CPM-15 (2020) paper](https://www.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2020/02/27_CPM_2020_Pest_Outbreak_AlertResponseSystem_2020-02-19.pdf) CPM 2020/27.
12. Ongoing activities to Strengthen Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems

*Convening a CPM Focus Group (FG) of subject matter experts*

1. Specific expertise is needed to assess the current status of pest outbreak alert and response systems around the world and determine next steps to strengthen and coordinate a globally focused effort. The CPM Bureau, at their July 2020 meeting agreed to establish a CPM Focus Group on Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems. The [Terms of Reference](https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/cpm/cpm-focus-group-reports/strengthening-pest-outbreak-alert-and-response-systems/), approved by the CPM Bureau are posted on the IPP. The CPM Bureau also agreed this CPM Focus Group could meet virtually, possibly before the end of 2020. As per the CPM Bureau recommendation, a [call for experts was issued for this CPM Focus Group](https://www.ippc.int/en/calls/2020-09-call-for-experts-cpm-focus-group-on-strengthening-pest-outbreak-alert-and-response-systems/) and is open until the 15 November 2020.

*Calls to gather experiences and resources on the topic*

1. CPM-14 (2019) had requested that updates on emerging pest situations be added to the CPM agenda as a standing item. A Call for [Pest Outbreak Alerts from Contracting Parties](https://www.ippc.int/en/calls/call-for-pest-outbreak-alert-from-contracting-parties/) had been issued in preparation of CPM-15 (2020). As the CPM in April 2020 was cancelled, the responses received were not presented but are kept for presentation to the next CPM.
2. A [Call for phytosanitary technical resources related to Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems](https://www.ippc.int/en/calls/call-for-phytosanitary-technical-resources-related-to-e-commerce-pra-and-pest-outbreak-alert-and-response-systems-that-may-be-shared-with-the-ippc-community/)  was opened in 2020 and any technical resources received in response to this call will be collected, in addition a study will be undertaken to help identify the necessary components of alert and response systems. Both the collected technical resources and the results of this study will be presented to the CPM FG to help them with their tasks.

*Linkages with existing FAO initiatives on pests of concern*

1. A body of experience lies with Fall Armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda)*, also taken as an example to consider how coordination mechanisms and networks can be set at the national, sub-regional, regional and global levels to help ensure appropriate and efficient action is taken. A FAO-IPPC Fall Armyworm Technical Working Group on “Prevention and Phytosanitary in relation to trade” was established and is managed by the IPPC Secretariat and is part of an overall Fall Armyworm Global Action Plan. Guidelines for the prevention of Fall Armyworm are being drafted for this group and will be one of the components in the toolbox. These tools will be tried out on some pests as part of a pilot test.
2. The IPPC Secretariat is also involved in a FAO project aiming to draft a strategy for the whole of Latin America to prevent *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* Tropical Race 4 from spreading. The virtual consultations undertaken by FAO at the various levels, national, sub-regional and regional, involving NPPOs, RPPOs and the private sector is a good example for the CPM FG to consider.

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

1. There is an estimated budget of USD 630K to cover activities and staff for the work related to this SF DA item on Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems for a three year period (2020 to 2022). This was noted by CPM-14 (2019); funds for this budget are from the following sources, which have been secured:

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

- A EU project (GCP/GLO/040/EC) has a component related to this DA which will support activities for up to USD 330K for 2020-2022.

- A COMESA trade facilitation programme (project: GCP/INT/387/COM,) has a component related to this DA which will support activities for up to USD 75K for 2020-2022.

The IPPC Secretariat is on track and following up on the implementation of the above projects that support this programme.

1. The SPG is requested to:
2. *Note* the update and ongoing activities on the Development Agenda “Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems”
1. 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]”. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. 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/publiation/en/2019/10/IPPC_StrategicFramework_2020-2030_2019-10-21.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. *Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria* (OIRSA) website <https://www.oirsa.org/> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. 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>. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)