**منظمة وقاية النباتات للشرق الأدنى**

**NEAR EAST PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATION**

**NEPPO Report to the 25th Technical Consultation among**

**Regional Plant Protection Organizations**

**Colonia del Sacramento (Uruguay), August 26-30, 2013**

Introduction

The Near East Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO) is the tenth RPPO formerly recognized by the 7th CPM in March 2012. The Agreement has been signed in 1993, and entered into force in 2009. The members are: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Pakistan, Syria, Sudan, and Tunisia. Oman is ongoing process for adhesion. 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.

The staff of the Secretariat, until now, includes only the Executive Director and one assistant.

As new RPPO, the Secretariat focused on administrative activities as:

* Headquarter agreement with Kingdom of Morocco,
* Recognition of the NEPPO as RPPO
* Establishment of Staff regulation and Financial rules
* Updating of the agreement, to be on line with IPPC (and SPS Agreement)
* Strategic framework to 2020

In the current context, the Secretariat faces a challenge to play its role and to organize activities meeting the Near East NPPOs huge needs on building capacities, sharing information, establishing harmonized phytosanitary measures and procedures and technical assistance.

Activities :

Participation in the Regional workshop for the review of draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) held in Cairo, Egypt 09-13 September, 2012.

Participation in the Meeting of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures Standards Committee, in 12-16 November 2012 and in 6-10 May 2013 in Rome (Italy).

NEPPO participated in the regional workshop on strengthening regional cooperation and knowledge sharing in plant protection between the Near East countries, in Cairo, Egypt, 2-4/12/ 2012 and presented an overview on the Organization and the importance of establishing a regional phytosanitary data base through a Near East network linking NPPOs, Universities and Research institute.

NEPPO participated also in the 8th Meeting of the Commission on Phytosanitary Standards (CPM), and in the Group for Review of French and sending of comments on French versions of ISPMs adopted by the Eight Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures in April 2013.

NEPPO participated to Subregional capacity-building workshop to address invasive alien species and to achieve Aichi biodiversity target 9 in the Arab region. Dubai (UAE), 11-14/02/2013 through presentation “the Role of regional plant protection organization to addressing invasive alien species in harmonized manner at the regional level”.

NEPPO participated to EUPHRESCO Workshop - Exploring plant health problems of concern with special emphasis on Mediterranean partners of EPPO and EUPHRESCO. Monte Estoril (Portugal) 13/03/2013 and made a presentation on “Important phytosanitary pests of concern and threats in the Near East region and in particular problem with pests originating from EU members states. Visions on possible future co-operation between NEPPO and EUPHRESCO”

*Exchange information*

The website is under construction. The secretariat collects information related to plant protection and share them with the Near East NPPO. The Secretariat is preparing a page in Facebook to post NEPPO activities there.

*Building capacities workshop*

* Workshop on surveillance jointly with EPPO: To meet the request of the Near East countries during the Regional workshop to review phytosanitary surveillance within the context of the IPPC standard (ISPM No. 6) held in Cairo (Egypt) 16-18 January, 2012, in Algiers (Algeria) from 18-20/09/2012.
* Workshop on ISPM 7 and 12 jointly with EPPO: The aim was harmonize the way these Standards are implemented within the both regions. Antalya (Turkey) 20-22 November 2012.
* Workshop on plant quarantine and phytosanitary measures: the aim was to share information on regulation related to quarantine pests and phytosanitary measures implemented in the participant countries; to establish a draft quarantine lists of the Near East Region; to determine the most important topic (standards, diagnostic, treatment, etc.) on line with the need of the region and to determine the emergent pests within the Near East. Rabat (Morocco), June 24-26, 2013. Process establishing draft regional lists of quarantine pests have been initiated.
* Regional symposium on management of fruit fly on the Near East region: organized jointly with FAO, FAO-IAEA, AAEA, IOBC North Africa Commission, Tunisian NPPO and the Tunisian Association of Plant Protection (ATPP). Hammamet (Tunis) November 4-6; 2012. Participants are aware on the real threat exerted by these pests to production and trade.

*Emerging pests of concern for the NEPPO region*

* Red Palm Weevil: *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* is of big concern and has potential highly negative environment and socioeconomically impact. Detected on ornamental palm trees in Morocco (Tangier, North) and Tunisia (Carthage), Not yet detected in Algeria.
* Fruit flies: *Bactrocera zonata and B, invadens*, North Africa is surrounded by the both *B. zonata* in Lybia and B,invadens in Sénégal (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.
* *Tuta absoluta* in the Middle East countries.