



REPORT

Antigua, Guatemala
10 – 14 November 2014

Twenty-Sixth Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations November, 2014



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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1. Opening of the Twenty-Sixth Technical Consultation among RPPOs

[1] The meeting was officially opened by Mr. Jose Sebastian Marcucci, Vice-Minister of Plant and Animal Protection of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food of Guatemala. He welcomed the participants who were attending the meeting and provided an oversight of the situation of agricultural production in all over the OIRSA Region, highlighting the importance for the country, as an active agricultural exporter, to participate in international fora, as the Technical Consultation (TC) among RPPOs and the IPPC.

He recognized the importance of phytosanitary issues in market access negotiations and wished a fruitful meeting to the participants.

[2] The OIRSA Executive Director, MSc. Efrain Medina, welcomed the participants on behalf of the hosting RPPO and remarked the importance for OIRSA to host this TC, taking into account its objectives in promoting regional cooperation.

He encouraged all RPPOs to continue working and interacting, not only through this annual consultation but by sharing information at all levels, and expressed the commitment to work hard in order to achieve such objective with the understanding that implementation of ISPMs at a global level is needed.

[3] The representative of the IPPC Secretariat transmitted the congratulations of the IPPC Secretary and mentioned the general objectives of the meeting and new developments that the IPPC has experienced in the past few months and require knowledge or action from the RPPOs. She thanked OIRSA for hosting the meeting and in particular for the detailed organizational arrangements performed.

2. Election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur

[4] The meeting elected Mr. Jimmy Ruiz, OIRSA Representative in Costa Rica, as the Chairperson; Ms. Christina Devorshak, Acting Executive Director NAPPO, as Vice-Chairperson and Mr. Josua Wainiqolo, (PPPO) as Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

[5] The agenda was as agreed during CPM-9 with some modifications proposed by the Secretariat by mail and by EPPO during the meeting. The agenda was adopted as per Appendix I. It was noted that the minutes would include the reports from each region in an appendix, while the power point presentations would be posted on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) in the Technical Consultation's area.

4. Matters arising from the Twenty-Fifth Technical Consultation

a) Feasibility to draw up list of priority pests (National, Regional, Global and under which modalities)

[6] In past consultations the TC decided to take some more time to consult members of their regions on this issue. The consultation should focus on quarantine pests and the availability of lists in the regions. RPPOs assumed the commitment to provide updated information. Key recommendations performed included:

- To think more strategically about this kind of lists.
- To study the top regulated pests considering cultivated area, volume, and value for the host commodity.
- To think about global/regional protection when establishing this type of list.

As the issue has not progressed substantively, the TC agreed:

Encourage all RPPOs to present the status of the issue in their region for further consideration at the next TC.

b) Follow up on impacts of the 25th Technical Consultation

[7] The TC analyzed the impacts of discussions and agreements during the past meeting. This is a standing issue in the agenda and a table on the 2014 impacts is as follows.

Meeting or activity	Identified impact
Bureau	Strategic decisions on diagnostic protocols, RPPO recognition, Issues to be addressed in the special and side sessions
CPM 9	Special session on new technologies for inspection and on new developments in PRA.
SC	Support in the identification of experts
CDC	Review of technical resources
IPPC Workshops	Coordination and cooperation

c) Other issues

[8] The Secretariat highlighted its interest in the fulfillment of the commitments assumed by the RPPOs in the 25th TC, in particular with reference to their cooperation for issues related to IRSS since this area is going to be key for working on implementation programs, as decided by CPM.

[9] She also pointed out that the item in the report of the past TC, listing the possible mentoring and cooperation actions among RPPOs, was a standing item and explored with the participants the level of compliance obtained. Only 3 actions did not take place from 15 identified ones:

- Cooperation in the identification of experts for regional projects
- NAPPO workshop on Citrus diseases with participation of other RPPOs
- APPPC /Brazil – on hold (South American leaf blight)

5. Information Exchange platform on RPPO activities

[10] Each RPPO presented their activities over the past year. Summaries of their presentations are given in Appendix II. The TC decided that during the next meeting, each RPPO should be granted some more minutes of presentation to show their Web Sites.

6. Results on consultations on a Caribbean RPPO

[11] The TC was informed that the FAO CCLM was recommending to the FAO Council (December 2014) to abolish the CPPC as an FAO regional commission. This action should be followed by the withdrawal of the IPPC recognition as an RPPO to the CPPC, as indicated by the Bureau and the FAO legal office that had identified two criteria to proceed: (i) RPPO does not exist anymore (ii) RPPO has been inactive in all IPPC activities for a period of time that the 25th TC advised to cover a period of 3 years.

[12] On the Bureau decision to send a letter to all RPPOs, noting there will be two criteria on the withdrawal of recognition under the Convention, the Secretariat informed that this action had been performed and two RPPOs had not answered to the request: CPPC and CAN

- [13] The TC RPPOs was consulted about the withdrawal of the recognition to both organizations to recommend to the Bureau the way forward.

The TC agreed:

- *To propose the withdrawal of recognition of CPPC and suggest the Bureau to send the proposal for withdrawal to CPM, for adoption.*
- *If necessary, support the creation/recognition of a Caribbean RPPO.*
- *The RPPOs should work together collectively to raise the level of participation in IPPC activities,*
- *To request the Secretariat to make all efforts to contact CAN and reconfirm their interest in working as an RPPO under the IPPC.*
- *To review the Roles and Functions of the RPPOs, to take into account changes in the IPPC strategies and work plans and to define clearly when an RPPO is acting in the IPPC framework.*

7. IPPC Secretariat update

- [14] The 26th TC was updated on the decision adopted by the IPPC Secretary, Mr Yukio Yokoi to leave the organization at the end of 2014 and received his warm letter recognizing the work of the RPPOs and its achievements over the years.
- [15] The Secretariat and the Bureau observer informed also the TC on the replacement procedures and on the works of an evaluation team charged to perform an Enhancement Study of the Secretariat, whose results are expected for December 2014.

7.1 Standard Setting

- [16] Detailed information on standard setting activities was provided in the document presented by the Secretariat.

7.1.1 Framework for Standards: work in progress

- [17] RPPOs were encouraged to help inform their members about this process in order to get the best input to move the Framework for IPPC standards and implementation forward.

7.1.2 Sharing comments on the Online Commenting System: enhancing the regional message

- [18] RPPOs and their members were encouraged to pay particular attention to guidance on regional comments management and help facilitate the handling of comments.
- [19] The TC discussed the problems in the operation of the system and the time consumed to perform comments, raising that the process continued to be difficult for the contracting parties, that countries continued to face problems even to get connected to Internet and that the time savings for the Secretariat under the OCS had implied even more work time spent at the national level.
- [20] The RPPOs also requested to be informed by the Secretariat on the use of the OCS for generating statistics, to be aware of its use in this sense and able to encourage feedback from the member countries or detect problems in its use.
- [21] The RPPOs also understand that Contracting parties should be allowed to submit comments using conventional means when they have difficulties to operate the OCS.

7.1.3 Calls for experts: widening the search

[22] RPPOs were asked to help disseminate information and get more nominations in response to calls for experts. Their comments were the following:

- The main general reason to don't get proposals of experts is that the NPPOs and RPPOs have an evident shortage of human resources for their own activities and hence the IPPC is competing for the same human resources,
- The problems related to financial support for participation are important for the majority of RPPOs.
- The performance of the expert meetings in English is an important limitation for participation.
- Some RPPOs do not feel they are informed appropriately on the role and skills of the experts requested and do not receive any feedback from them after the meetings.
- A realistic approach, based on innovative and appropriate business models needs to be implemented in the IPPC.

[23] A realistic approach could involve the reformulation of the standard setting work plan, the consideration of withdrawal of some less relevant EWGs and Panels, or the elimination of activities duplicated with the ones performed by RPPOs.

7.1.4 Language Review Groups: for better acceptance of translated ISPMs

[24] The IPPC Secretariat would need additional experts to pilot such a process and would welcome in kind contributions, possibly consisting of professional translators with experience in phytosanitary issues.

[25] The RPPOs took note of this issue.

7.2 National Reporting Obligations including reporting through RPPOs

[26] The Secretariat presented a paper detailing the works of the National Reporting Obligations Advisory Body (NROAG).

The TC considered the update provided and agreed to:

Include in the agenda of the next TC an item on the NRO Programme, after its approval by CPM 10.

7.3 IRSS and OEWG on Implementation

[27] The Secretariat provided the TC with explanations on the future IRSS project and an update on the activities performed in the framework of the OEGW on implementation and its conclusions. In particular requested the TC-RPPOs to be aware of their role in supporting implementation and to consider consulting with their membership on how to collaborate and contribute to support an effective and sustainable programme with strong national and regional level participation.

[28] The TC agreed to:

- encourage RPPO member countries to consider the request of the Secretariat.
- be a key part of IPPC implementation program.

7.4 Capacity Building

[29] The Secretariat informed the RPPOs about a set of CD related issues:

- The selection of members for the CDC after its first two years of work and about the performance of a CDC evaluation to determine the nature of the CD oversight structure.
- The status of projects STDF 350 and 401 related to the production of technical resources and to the training of PCE facilitators.

- The development of a joint project CDC/e-Phyto steering committee for implementation and development of capacities in the e-Phyto area.
- A project to be presented to the STDF by Imperial College and Queensland University of Technology on training for using the Beyond Compliance tool for setting systems approaches. The PPPO informed that some of its member countries were interested in participating in the Beyond compliance project.

[30] The RPPOs received 6 IPPC draft manuals and booklets and were requested to make comments under a confidential regime. Preliminary comments were performed at the meeting: language simplification, addition of more text, incorrect use of language and repetition of text were mentioned.

[31] The TC also discussed the possibility to exchange experiences on systems approaches at its next meeting that are feasible, effective and already implemented.

[32] RPPOs noted that STDF projects should be consistent with rights, obligations and responsibilities under the IPPC and CPM decisions.

[33] RPPOs and NPPOs should be appropriately consulted and their needs taken into account by the proposers before putting forward PGs and PPGs in the framework of the STDF partnership.

[34] The TC agreed to:

- *send comments to the 6 resources received before December 15, 2014.*
- *discuss systems approaches and concrete case studies of its application from all RPPOs in next meeting.*

7.5 Dispute Settlement update

[35] A document prepared by the Secretariat was presented reporting on a current case and discussions on the role of the SBDS. The Bureau observer reported on Bureau discussions on the existence and work modality of the SBDS.

[36] RPPOs understood there is a difficulty in maintaining a body with low level of activity for trade disputes.

[37] However, there are many other issues, as for instance the interpretation of standards that are not presented as trade disputes and could be discussed as possible subjects for the work of this body.

[38] This issue should be addressed by Bureau and SBDS and discussed at next TC.

7.6 The IPPC in 20 years

[39] The Secretariat informed on the results of this item included in the agenda of the SPG and specifically on the seven scenarios identified.

[40] RPPOs were invited to follow the presentation of this issue at CPM 10 and participate actively in further discussions.

8. CPM-9 Follow up

[41] The Secretariat informed on the success of the session planning performed for CPM 9 and the maintenance of the same scheme at CPM 10.

[42] EPPO requested to consider the possibility to precede the adoption of standards in the plenary, with a specific recognition of the long and complicate process to develop an ISPM and its importance for the Convention.

9. Topics for future CPM Scientific Sessions

[43] The TC decided to put forward the following proposals for CPM 11 special topic sessions, which are not in any particular order of priority:

- Lessons learned from jurisprudence: Revisiting the role of science in phytosanitary disputes at the WTO.
- Examination on new trade patterns.

[44] On side sessions for the CPM 11, the TC suggested:

- Implementation of ISPMs 15, 13 and 32.
- ISPM vs. private standards (Global GAP and others)
- Contingency planning
- Systems approaches
- Research and science co-ordination

[45] The TC also agreed that :

- The CPM 10 session on Emerging pests could be implemented as a market place in coordination with the Secretariat with tables related to: Eradication of outbreaks of Anoplophora (EPPO), Fusarium oxysporum race 4 in banana (OIRSA and Costa Rica), practical experiences in diagnostics (NAPPO and EPPO).

[46] The TC note that the APPPC to contribute to the CPM 10 side session on e-Phyto sharing the results of a recent workshop in the APPPC region.

[47] The Secretariat requested EPPO's cooperation for the joint organization of the CPM10 special session on new technologies for diagnostics and the side session on International Plant Sentinel Network.

10. TC work plan

[48] The standing plan 2014 was discussed and the 2015 work plan appears in Appendix III.

11. TC amongst RPPOs technical discussions

11.1 Current and emerging major pest issues

[49] Each of the RPPOs attending the meeting presented updated information on this issue that is recorded in the presentations available in the IPP. The TC discussed the actions performed by the RPPOs.

11.2 E-Phyto

[50] IPPC Secretariat informed the TC that it is going to present a global project in December related to e-Phyto and intended to develop the e-Phyto Hub, other necessary interfaces and to develop some of the capacity development resources needed.

[51] It was mentioned that the Secretariat will need letters of support from the RPPOs and NPPOs on this proposal and the cooperation of the RPPOs was expected.

[52] EPPO suggested that when the project is secure, it should be useful to keep in mind that the outputs should be useable in other SPS areas (OIE and CODEX).

[53] The IPPC Chair informed the TC that Korea would like to host the IPPC Global symposium on e-Phyto in November 2015.

[54] EPPO reported on an e-Phyto workshop in their region in Baku, Azerbaijan, in 2014 and is ready to support the development of the Hub.

- [55] APPPC informed to have held an e-Phyto workshop in Bangkok, Thailand on October 28-30, a number of recommendations were made for country, the region and CPM. The results of the workshop will be available shortly in the APPPC website.
- [56] NAPPO had a symposium on e-Phyto in Huatulco, Mexico, on October 23rd 2014 that supported the development of a Hub.
- [57] In the framework of the acting Interamerican group (GICSV), e-Phyto topic was included in the work plan of this group composed by COSAVE, NAPPO and OIRSA.
- [58] OIRSA participated in the meeting to develop the IPPC global project in Rome in October 2014 as the organization is available to act as a pilot region for these developments.
- [59] IAPSC reported that the system is positive for Africa but the region is not fully able to implement it currently. Kenya and South Africa and may be Uganda and Ethiopia, would be able to try the e-Phyto but not other countries in the region as an immediate action. IAPSC requested significant support for implementation.

11.3 Contingency planning

- [60] EPPO and the UK NPPO had organized a workshop on contingency planning which would be held the following week at Kew Gardens, London. There would be presentations from NPPOs and from other sectors – animal health and flood management - on their experience of drafting and using contingency plans. On the second day participants would be divided into small groups for an extended exercise to manage the scenario of a finding of *Anaplophora chinensis* in the area. Various complications would be fed into the scenario during the day to stimulate discussions on problems commonly encountered during eradications and how the contingency plan might be improved to address those problems.
- [61] The TC considered that contingency planning is an issue whose importance is key for fulfilling the IPPC objectives and for this reason proposed a side session for CPM 11.
- [62] This item is going to continue to be included in the TC Agenda to allow RPPOs to discuss on further developments.

11.4 RPPOs input into the Implementation review and Support System (IRSS)

- [63] The Secretariat recalled the commitments assumed by the RPPOs to:
- Provide the Secretariat on their thoughts (including benefits and challenges) on indicators and monitoring implementation.
 - Provide case studies and other practical examples of ways member countries have applied ISPMs and/or are measuring implementation.

11.5 Pests of national concern

- [64] Considering the previous discussions presented in the TCs by COSAVE, the diverse opinions expressed on the issue, the paper with attached work plan presented by COSAVE to the SPG 2013 and the recent discussions at the IPPC in 20 years exercise, COSAVE was requested to present to the next TC a paper clarifying the concept and the proposal in terms of a work plan with specified needs for its development.
- [65] TC has to consult the document presented to the SPG 2013 to elaborate conclusions on this issue.

11.6 Diagnostics initiative

- [66] EPPO presented the proposal sent to the SPG 2014 on a diagnostics initiative.

- [67] The Secretariat commented on a Secretariat's position paper presented also to the SPG 2014 and congratulated EPPO for the initiative to address this key issue raising that its position paper included proposals on the way forward for the initiative.
- [68] She also informed on the discussions during the meeting and raised that some of the recommendations presented had not been endorsed by the SPG and are going to be raised in the SPG report, as for instance the proposals for new standards, the use of this initiative for recording pest distribution and the performance of proficiency tests. The Secretariat also raised that under IPPC standards it is not a requirement to use ISO standards but to have a quality assurance process in place. Concern was also expressed on the use of molecular methods for quarantine purposes what needs more research and evidences and could cause important technical barriers to trade.
- [69] NEPPO expressed concern of its region capacities and on the difficulties to get equipment and reagents due to the existence of bioterrorism laws.
- [70] IAPSC raised that they have problems of pest identification in the field and it should be of great benefit to have access to rapid detection devices for field diagnostics.
- [71] PPPO referred to the difficulty of getting pest diagnostics authenticated although the species is know, according to the corresponding ISPM, it needs to be authenticated. Costs of this process are an expensive exercise.
- [72] EPPO informed the TC that nothing in its proposal is advocating the use of ISO standards and molecular methods.
- [73] The TC concluded that EPPO should be encouraged to propose to next CPM the development of an IPPC recommendation on this initiative, under the understanding that the process to develop the recommendation is going to give the opportunity to RPPOs and its member countries to perform detailed comments on its specific contents.

11.7 Trade Facilitation

- [74] The Secretariat updated the TC on the current situation under the WTO Trade facilitation Agreement, and the facts that National Trade Facilitation Committees are currently instrumented in many countries and at least 42 countries had reported to be ready to implement this new treaty that contains new phytosanitary obligations.
- [75] The Secretariat requested the cooperation of the RPPOs to inform on this situation its member countries NPPOs and to promote early contact and participation in the works to implement this new treaty at the national level.

11.8 EUPHRESCO

- [76] EPPO performed a detailed report on this issue that is posted in the IPP and encouraged the other RPPOs to release information to NPPOs and research funders on the possibility to participate in projects established under this network.

11.9 International Plant Sentinel Network

- [77] EPPO performed a detailed report on this issue that is posted in the IPP and encouraged the other RPPOs to release information to NPPOs on the possibility to participate in this network and to consult about it in: www.plantsentinel.org

12. Other business

a) Mechanism for inter-session communication

- [78] The TC agreed that teleconference or videoconference could be a mechanism for periodic communication. Teleconference is the first choice because not all RPPOs have adequate facilities.

- [79] About the periodicity of the teleconferences it should be before CPM and, after the Bureau meeting in June.
- [80] The Secretariat should circulate the agenda of the teleconference at least two weeks before and should produce the minutes of the teleconference.
- [81] As usual, the TC should meet during CPM and E-mails should be used as a main channel for requesting decisions.
- [82] Skype could be also explored as a communications mechanism.
- [83] NAPPO volunteers to look to websites used for document sharing during teleconferences

b) Mechanism for requesting the addition of items to the CPM agenda

- [84] The TC could do this through:
- Proposals of member countries
 - Sending suggestions to the Bureau before its June meeting.
- [85] Proposals could be performed as individual RPPOs or as the TC.
- [86] Memoranda should be sent to the Secretariat at least one month before the end of December

c) Mentoring and cooperation amongst RPPOs

- [87] Several potential actions on this sense were identified, as for instance:
- Cooperation in the identification of experts for RPPOs technical activities.
 - Second APPPC/PPPO on surveillance
 - NAPPO workshop on Citrus diseases with participation of other RPPOs
 - APPPC /Brazil – on hold (South American leaf blight)
 - APPPC/PPPO – training workshop on pest surveillance
 - IAPSC- All RPPOs attendance to the Joint meeting of the IAPSC steering committee and General Assembly(After March 2015)
 - IAPSC/COSAVE/OIRSA share information on pests present and of national concern.(BBTV and panama disease in banana, Cassava mealybug and mosaic virus, among others)
 - EPPO and NEPPO share information with IAPSC on Tuta absoluta
 - EPPO/COSAVE annual meeting before CPM
 - EPPO/NAPPO annual bilateral meeting
 - EPPO/NEPPO/OIRSA cooperation on PRA
 - GICSV: NAPPO/OIRSA/COSAVE annual work plan and shared projects.
 - EPPO/ all RPPOs/Secretariat cooperation on formats for pest reporting system (possible meeting at CPM). Proposal on contents of the meeting to be circulated at least one month before CPM.

- [88] For future TCs, this table is going to be compiled and presented to CPM.

d) TC report to CPM 10

- [89] The TC suggested to OIRSA for the report to CPM, to highlight the role of RPPOs in IPPC activities and the possibility of work sharing under different scenarios allowing the use of the best experiences of each RPPO in a global level. RPPOs felt that in view of shortage of all types of resources and particularly experienced staff, modernization of the ways in which they do they work could be performed through sharing work, working remotely and electronically and performing informal consultations to other regions of the world to make regional outputs more widely usable, among others.

[90] RPPOs should also highlight in the report to CPM that all their activities are intended to support the implementation of the IPPC and its standards.

e) Requests from the Bureau

[91] The TC addressed all request performed by the Bureau under other items in the Agenda.

f) Communications work plan

[92] The TC requested to consider the involvement of RPPOs in the development and delivery of the IPPC Communication work plan.

13. Date and location of the next session

[93] The TC-RPPOs tentatively agreed that the next TC-RPPOs would be held during the period of 2-6 November 2015 in the territory of a NAPPO member country. The TC thanked NAPPO for offering to host the meeting. A tentative agenda for the meeting is included in Appendix IV.

[94] OIRSA and NEPPO shall assist NAPPO with the organization of the meeting.

[95] The rotation agreed at the 26th TC was reviewed and extended as follows:

2016- NEPPO
2017- EPPO
2018- IAPSC

14. Adoption of the Report

[96] The meeting provisionally adopted the report with the understanding that the Secretariat would circulate the document for RPPOs final comments. The commenting period would be until December 15th, 2014.

15. Closure

[97] The Chairman thanked the participants for their kind participation and attitude in the personal exchanges and discussions of this TC and the friendly and enjoyable work environment produced by the many interactions amongst the RPPOs present in the meeting.

[98] The RPPOs representatives thanked the organizers of the 26th TC for the hospitality and referred to the positive experiences of sharing personal and cultural activities they experienced in this week.

[99] They specifically mentioned the field visit performed to the “El Pino” station of Moscamed Program in Guatemala, a joint Guatemala/Mexico/US program and the pleasant experience to receive valuable information on its work. A facility to be really proud for Guatemala and the other countries participating in the initiative!

Appendix 1 – Agenda

TECHNICAL CONSULTATION AMONG REGIONAL PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS
26th Session
Antigua, Guatemala, 10 -14 November 2014
Agenda

1. Opening of the Technical Consultation
2. Election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chair and Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Matters arising from the 25th TC-RPPOs, including post meeting networking and cooperation / Follow up on impacts of the decisions of the 25th TC-RPPOs ¹.
5. Information Exchange Platform on RPPO activities ²
 - 5.1 APPPC
 - 5.2 CA
 - 5.3 COSAVE
 - 5.4 CPPC/CAFHSA
 - 5.5 EPPO
 - 5.6 IAPSC
 - 5.7 NAPPO
 - 5.8 OIRSA
 - 5.9 PPPO
 - 5.10 NEPPPO
6. Results of consultations on a Caribbean RPPO
7. Secretariat update
 - 7.1 Standard Setting
 - 7.2 National Reporting Obligations including reporting through RPPOs
 - 7.3 IRSS and OEWG on Implementation
 - 7.4 Capacity Building
 - 7.5 Dispute Settlement
 - 7.6 IPPC in 20 years

¹ It is requested to all participants to work in the identification of impacts at the level of their regions. The IPPC Secretariat should provide a review of possible impacts in different IPPC bodies and meetings.

² Each RPPO should produce for this section of the Agenda: a short report in Word, intended to be annexed to the report of the meeting and a Power point presentation. Both of them need to be submitted to the Secretariat.

8. Follow-up from CPM-9
9. Topics for future CPM side sessions and special topics sessions and cooperation for CPM 10
10. TC Work Plan (standing work plan with annual reviews)
11. TC among RPPOs technical discussions ³, including:
 - 11.1 Current and emerging major pest issues (all RPPOs)
 - 11.2 E-phyto
 - 11.3 Contingency planning
 - 11.4 RPPO input into the implementation review and support system (All RPPOs)
 - 11.5 Pests of national concern
 - 11.6 Diagnostics initiative
 - 11.7 Trade Facilitation
 - 11.8 EUPHRESKO
 - 11.9 International Plant Sentinel Network
12. Other Business
 - a) Evaluation of the mechanism for inter- session communication
 - b) Mechanism for requesting the addition of items to the CPM agenda
 - c) Mentoring and cooperation among RPPOs
 - d) Report for CPM 10
 - e) Requests from the Bureau
 - f) Communications work plan
13. Date and location of next TC
14. Adoption of the Report of the 26th TC-RPPOs
15. Closure

³ In brackets, RPPOs producing presentations. It is expected all RPPOs be prepared to interact and discuss the technical issues in the agenda, even if not been charged to produce specific presentations.

Appendix 2 – Item 5. Review of RPPO activities

5.1 Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC)

The twenty-eighth session of the Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) was held on Cheju Island (Jeju), Republic of Korea, from 23 to 27 September 2013. The meeting was attended by delegates from 22 contracting governments as well as observers from non-member states and international organizations. With more than 100 participants, this was the biggest Session in the history of APPPC with the most member countries attending. The session reviewed the activities and progress made since the 27th Session, adopted two new Regional Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (RSPM), namely the RSPMs on *Approval of Irradiation Facilities* and *Approval of Fumigation Facilities*, and agreed to the work plan and budget for the coming biennium 2014-2015.

It was decided that the work relating to implementation of ISPMs would be main context of the work program of the Standing Committee on Plant Quarantine. It was recommended that ISPM15, ISPM12, ISPM6 and ISPM14 would be main focus of selected ISPMs to enhance the implementation of ISPMs.

An APPPC regional workshop on surveillance information management was convened from 2-6 June in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in collaboration with Australian pest surveillance experts and Malaysia Department of Agriculture. This workshop aims to promote the capacity of NPPOs in implementation of ISPM6 through strengthening regional surveillance capabilities by providing training in use of P-Tracker with the *GeoJox software* and supporting to ensure plant pest data integrity, consistency and currency across APPPC member countries.

An APPPC-NAPPO joint workshop on implementation of ISPM 15 was convened in Beijing, China in collaboration with the NPPO and AQSIQ of China from 10-14 June 2014. The meeting provided an opportunity to share experiences and lessons associated with the implementation of ISPM 15, identified constraints, issues and challenges to the implementation. A number of recommendations were proposed by the workshop. It associated with improvement of guidance, harmonisation of best management practices for NPPOs and encouragement of NPPOs to request the CPM to provide documentation with indicting the authority of NPPOs for the proper use of the mark including the symbol, revise the ISPM15 to add the security elements which may provide additional traceability, organize an international workshop on ISPM15 to improve harmonised implementation and compliance, as well as to develop a harmonised format and electronic exchange system on the IPP for the transfer and receipt of the notification of non-compliance.

An APPPC workshop on building understanding and preparedness for e-Phyto certification was held from 29-31 October 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand with participation of 20 countries. The workshop reviewed the status of and update member countries on developments in harmonisation of phytosanitary certification and the future opportunities for electronic data exchange, improved common understanding of e-Phyto concepts and regulatory and technical issues, shared and reviewed countries current capacities, needs and current plans, identified areas of uncertainty including where further information is required and understand concerns that may be a barrier to countries participating in future electronic data exchange, identified specific common issues that need to be addressed at various levels, identified opportunities to work together and next steps for moving forward by countries.

The 15th APPPC Workshop on the review of draft ISPMs (2014 IPPC Regional Workshop Asia) was held in Busan, Republic of Korea from 15-19 September 2014 in collaboration with the NPPO of Korea with participation of 18 countries. This workshop allowed members to share their views on the developing standards. It also assisted countries to develop their technical expertise on standards. The regional comments, prepared by the workshop were shared with all NPPO focal points of member countries as well as to all participants immediately through OCS and distribution of the comments. In addition to the review of draft ISPMs, updates and discussions were made on phytosanitary technical

resources and International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) training materials, the e-Phyto programme, the implementation programme and the sea container draft standard.

The APPPC pre-CPM9 meeting was organized in Rome on 31 March 2014 with participation of 15 countries. The meeting provided an opportunity to member countries have better understanding of specific subjects of agenda through sharing their views and stands. It was supported to include the ISPM6 (pest surveillance) as a pilot program for the implementation program of IPPC and several countries expressed their interest of participation in the OEWG.

To enhance the use of IPP and APPPC website in terms of country obligation of the information exchange, a quarterly based monitoring of country pages were convened and analytical summaries of the results of the monitoring were sent to each country for their review and necessary follow up action.

A new species of coconut scale insect in Philippines was identified. It was used to be considered as *Aspidiotus destructor* as a minor pest in 2011 and now it was identified as *Aspidiotus rigidus* Reyne in 2014. The mixed species quickly invaded broad areas. 1st report of the infestation was made in 2010. The infestation has been expended in several Southern Taglog provinces in Luzon & Basilan Island in Mindano. The country have taken an emergency action on the control with allocation of 15 million US\$ for a 6-month program to prune and rehabilitate affected coconut trees, burn their leaves, introduce bio-control and quarantine affected areas in 2014. An indigenous field population of a parasitoid was discovered and identified as *Comperiella unifasciata*. It is now being seriously validated and hopefully will lead to the full recovery from this devastating malady.

Timor-Leste has endorsed the Agreement by accepting all amendments (1983/1999) and become member of APPPC since 20 April 2012. Bhutan, Japan and Singapore had expressed their intention of membership and the Secretariat and Legal Service of FAO provided some essential advice to these countries. Twenty-five countries are contracting parties to the Plant Protection Agreement for Asia and the Pacific at present.

5.2 Andean Community (CA)

No representative was present from CA.

5.3 Southern Cone Plant Health Committee (COSAVE)

1. DECISIONS

- ✓ Decision 204/79 – 13D (Approves harmonization of phytosanitary requirements for seeds of festuca and sorghum).
- ✓ Decision 205/79 – 13D (Approves list of main regulated pests of COSAVE region).
- ✓ Decision 206/79 – 13D (Approves document on criteria for acceptance or rejection of imports).
- ✓ Decision 207/79 – 13D (Approves constitution of Consultative Technical Group on Regional Virtual School on Phytosanitary Inspection).
- ✓ Decision 207/80-14D (Approves guidelines on strategic international participation of COSAVE).
- ✓ Decision 208/80-14D (Approves 2014 work plan).
- ✓ Decision 209/80-14D (Demands IICA to postpone the Cooperation Agreement until 2018).
- ✓ Decision N° 130/33 - 14 M (Establishes that the Plant Health Department of Brazil will hold COSAVE presidency from 1 March 2014 through 29 February 2016).

- ✓ Decision N° 131/33 - 14 M (Approves the composition of Coordination Secretariat of COSAVE from 1 March 2014 through 29 February 2016, and establishes its location in Brasília, Brazil).
- ✓ Decision N° 133/33 - 14 M (Approves Strategic Guidelines for 2014 and 2015).
- ✓ Decision N° 135/34 - 14 M (Approves addenda to the Cooperation Agreement between COSAVE members and IICA, to postpone its validity until 31 July 2015 and demands IICA do proceed with necessary steps to renew the Agreement for four years).
- ✓ Decision N° 136/34 - 14 M (Demands IICA to write a project with the aim of strengthen the regional capacity for implementing phytosanitary measures and contribute to enhance the phytosanitary status and facilitate market access).

2. REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

Regional Plan for HLB Containment (*Candidatus liberibacter spp.*) in citrus: COSAVE has been implementing an electronic tool that will allow members to be updated on HLB surveillance activities. Guidelines on introduction of citrus plants are under development and it is forecast to strengthen border actions for the Plan.

Regional Plan for Eucalyptus bronze bug (*Thaumastocoris peregrinus*) control: Approved in 2012, the Plan has been progressively implemented by COSAVE members. Some countries have already implemented all foreseen steps according to the Plan, presenting very good results on the pest control. As a consequence of COSAVE coordination will, other countries have taken advantage of information from the experienced countries to help them on the implementation on their own territories.

3. PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Between November 2013-August 2014 COSAVE has been participated in the following regional and international events:

- Inter-American Group on Coordination in Plant Health (GICSV),
- Standard Committee
- Technical Panels (Glossary and Phytosanitary Treatments),
- Group e-Phyto
- Strategic Planning Group (formerly SPTA),
- 9^a CMF.
- Expert Working Group on the International movement of wood products and handicrafts made from wood.
- Regional Workshop on Draft ISPM - LAC
- Bureau

4. STRATEGIC GUIDELINES 2014-2015

1. Reaffirm the regional phytosanitary mission for the development of sustainable agricultural and forestry production.

Objectives:

- Prevention of pest introduction and management of pest risk.
- Develop and coordinate regional plans to reduce effect of pest on production cost and facilitate trade.
- Provide participation or adhesion of NPPOs from Latin America on COSAVE activities.

2. Support for COSAVE members on international phytosanitary negotiations and develop capacities of NPPOs staff.

Objectives:

- Joint efforts to make the ISPMs under development suitable for regional reality and needs.
- Fulfil with responsibilities and activities specified to the RPPO under IPPC strategic framework 2012-2019.
- Evaluate phytosanitary restrictions or barriers affecting main commodities exported from the region.
- Analyse phytosanitary issues dealt in international forum besides IPPC.

3. Develop and Foster implementation of regional phytosanitary standards and perform coordinated actions in order to protect and improve phytosanitary status of agricultural and forestry production, including native flora of the region, and facilitate trade.

Objectives:

- Foster development and implementation of regional standards, technical documents and resolutions.
- Foster implementation of ISPM on COSAVE members.
- Plan and organize regional programs for preventions and control of pests.
- Harmonize phytosanitary import requirements based on pest risk analysis for plants foreign to the region.
- Keep up-to-date the list of regulated pest for the region.
- Implement regional phytosanitary system to alert in case of interception of quarantine pest.
- Broadcast outbreaks of quarantine pests.
- Develop systems for general or specific surveillance.
- Harmonize phytosanitary procedures.

4. Provide higher interaction and participation of industry.

Objectives:

- Build and keep linkages to exchange efforts with agricultural and forestry industries.
- Foster industry participation on consultations for regional and international standards.
- Perform actions to raise awareness on public and private sectors concerning COSAVE activities.

5. Develop capacity activities on NPPO members in order to strength regional phytosanitary capacity.

Objectives:

- Improve capacity and maintain NPPO staff updated

6. Strength linkages to RPPOs and NPPOs for articulation of common actions.

Objectives:

- Perform activities of broadcasting and exchanging of information between NPPO and IPPC
- Maintain and increase relationship with RPPOs
- Keep permanent link with NPPOs from LAC

5. WORK PLAN 2014

Main activities carried out through the corresponding Technical Groups (TG) are described below:

Plant Quarantine:

- Harmonization of phytosanitary requirements
- Emerging pests on the region or the world

- Guidelines for publication of national regulated pests

Surveillance:

- Application of regional for mapping risk and progress of emerging pests
- HLB regional plan
- *Helicoverpa armigera*, *Psa*, *Ceratocystis fimbriata*.
- Surveillance program and control of *Lobesia botrana*.

Forestry phytosanitary:

- Contingency Plan for *Lymantria dispar*
- Contingency Plan for *Monochamus* spp.
- Maintenance of list of present pests and regulated pests
- Indicate emerging pests for risk analysis
- Implementation of regional plan *Thaumastocoris peregrinus*
- Evaluation of systems of surveillance and outbreaks alerts

CPM Issues:

- Analysis and development of position papers for CMF/IPPC
- Analysis of ISPM under country consultation and preparation of comments
- Following up of topics prioritized by IPPC such as national reporting obligations, capacity development, IRSS, etc.

5.4 Caribbean Plant Protection Commission (CPPC)

No representative was present from CPPC.

5.5 European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO)

Pest Listing and Pest Risk Analysis

Pests added to EPPO Alert List

Myiopardalis pardalina, *Diplocarpon mali*, thousand cankers disease (*Geosmithia morbida* and *Pityophthorus juglandis*), laurel wilt (*Raffaelea lauricola* and *Xyleborus glabratus*), *Heterobasidion irregulare*, *Ambrosia trifida*, *Arctotheca calendula*, *Megacopta cribraria*, *Heterodera elachista*, *Meloidogyne mali*, *Amaranthus palmeri*

Pests recommended for regulation in the EPPO region

Polygraphus proximus, *Neoleucinodes elegantalis*, *Aromia bungii*, *Acidovorax citrulli*, *Parthenium hysterophorus*

Revised management options recommended for *Agrilus anxius*, *Oemona hirta*

PRAs on *Heterobasidion irregulare*, Thousand Cankers Disease (*Geosmithia morbida* vectored by *Pityophthorus juglandis*), *Myriophyllum heterophyllum*.

Pathway studies on tomato fruits and categorisation of “wood commodities other than round wood, sawn wood and manufactured items” (wood chips etc.)

Regional Standards

Several Standards were amended or withdrawn. The following new ones were agreed:

- Sampling soil attached to potato tubers for potato cyst nematodes
- Diagnostic protocols for *Pseudomonas syringae* pv *actinidiae* and *Candidatus Liberibacter* (africanus, asiaticus and americanus)

- Guidelines for organisation of interlaboratory comparisons
- Decision support scheme for prioritising action during outbreaks
- National regulatory control systems for invasive alien aquatic plants
- Efficacy testing: *Psylliodes attenuate* (on hop), *Rhyncophorus ferrugineus* (on palms)

Other activities

Meetings of EPPO Council, Executive Committee (x2), Working Parties (Phytosanitary Regulations and Plant Protection Products), and Expert Panels and Groups (x28), including three meetings of the EPPO Panel on CPM Affairs.

Joint meetings on CPM issues with NAPPO and COSAVE.

Workshops and conferences on:

- Accreditation and quality assurance for laboratories - York
- Data collection and information sharing (jointly with EFSA) - Parma
- E-Phyto and related information systems - Baku
- Contingency planning (workshop for phytosanitary inspectors) – London
- Commodity associated phytosanitary risk (jointly with FAO) - Bishkek
- Draft ISPMs and other IPPC issues (with IPPC and FAO) – Moscow

The Euphresco research co-ordination network is now hosted within the EPPO Secretariat. A co-ordinator, Baldissera Giovani, was appointed in June 2014.

EPPO Codes (over 60,000 codes for pests and host plants) are being made free to users. Arrangements are being made for consulting the increasing range of users, and seeking funding for enhancements where possible.

EPPO is now an adviser to the International Sentinel Plant Network, helping to explore innovative ways of improving horizon scanning for new risks.

The EPPO Working Party on Phytosanitary Regulations considered the issue of taxonomic changes and concluded that these should not automatically change the effect of legislation. They may trigger a reassessment of risks and a review of measures when what was previously regarded as a single species is split into two.

The “EPPO Global Database” has been launched. Over time this will bring together in one place all of EPPO’s information about specific pests: distribution, diagnostic protocols, PRAs, photographs and extracts from the Reporting Service.

EPPO is currently involved in three EU funded research projects: DROPSA (on pests of fruit crops such as *Drosophila suzukii*), TESTA (seed borne pests) and Q-COLLECT (reference collections for plant health services).

Strategy for 2015-2020

Strategy agreed at Council 2014 will inform the annual work programme for the next five years. The scope of EPPO work will remain broadly the same. Work on plant protection products will focus on efficacy. Further consideration will be given to EPPO’s role in relation to biological control agents. Actions are grouped under a number of headings in the Strategy:

1. Improving Protection of Plant Health
2. Maintaining and Strengthening Relationships
3. Building Capability to Manage Projects
4. Improving Processes
5. Securing the Future of EPPO

Details of EPPO activities are available on www.eppo.int

5.6 Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC)

Founded in 1956, the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council is the Regional Plant Protection Organization of the International Plant Protection Convention for Africa and a Specialized Technical Office of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission. It has 54 member countries encompassing all the member states of the African Union. IAPSC office is since 1967, located in Yaoundé, Cameroon. It works together with NPPOs by coordinating their various activities in preventing the spread and introduction of pests into the continent. It does regulate plant health activities of member states and encourage the production of good quality and healthy plants and plant products as foreseen in the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

Within the framework of the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP), IAPSC mainstreams with Member States and African Regional Economic Communities to safeguard the capacity of the continent agricultural land resource from the adverse impacts of invasive plants and plant pests and to protect plant health and quality through the application of sustainable pest management technologies, implementation of good pesticides management and the compliance with the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures practices that enhance consumer confidence, ensure food security, trade and economic growth.

IAPSC is governed by the General Assembly which holds every two years and the Steering Committee that takes place annually to assess what the office has achieved in the preceding year and examine the current work plan for improvement and validation. The eight session of its Steering Committee was held in Accra, Republic of Ghana. During the session, the office strategic plan 2014-2023 was adopted which vision is robust plant health system for better livelihoods, enhanced trade and biodiversity with four programmatic areas that include: (1) enhanced compliance with international phytosanitary standards and regulations, (2) Mitigation of impacts and risks of pandemic and exotic invasive plant pests species on livelihoods and biodiversity in Africa, (3) promotion of human capacity development and (4) Sensitization of policy and decision makers of the contribution of improved and strengthened plant pest management to the economic in Africa. IAPSC also held a Technical meeting in Tunis, Tunisia to examine the 9th CPM draft agenda and discuss strategies for common position. The office took part to the CPM 9 meeting at Rome in Italy. IAPSC participated to the SPS-committee in Geneva, Switzerland. A Regional draft standard on Cassava seed and planting material has been initiated and needs further consultation. The plant and plant products pest list and information were initiated through the African Union Plant Health Information Management (AU-PHIM). Two phytosanitary news bulletins were published to better communicate with members.

Other current activities include the regional consultation workshop for Africa to review the 2014 draft ISPMs and specification of IPPC which is scheduled to take place on 17th- 19th November, 2014 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and the workshop to strengthen member states National Plant Protection Organizations to better address invasive alien plants problems in Africa that is to take place on 20th-21st November 2014 in Addis Ababa Ethiopia. Effort is being put in place in cooperation with the FAO-RAF to develop the implementation plan of the adopted strategic plan 2014-2023. Cooperation among all stakeholders was one of the main focuses of the office. However a lot still need to be emphasis on cooperation with Regional Economic Communities as well as other NPPOs and IPPC secretariat.

The current and emerging pests in Africa include: *Tuta absoluta*, Maize Lethal Necrosis disease, Banana Bushy Top disease, fruit flies and cassava Brown Streak and Cassava Mosaic Disease just to name a few. IAPSC looks forward to develop a project proposal on a survey protocol for early detection of *Tuta absoluta*.

Effective implementation of the ISPMs of IPPC by African member states constitute a major challenge to boost crops production and productivity, enhance trade and ensure continental food security. Another challenge is the technical capacity to set and use phytosanitary measures and better address

institutional and financial sustainability and enhance capacity of NPPOs to involve the private sector and to support market access.

5.7 Near East Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO)

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. Iraq is the new member since December 6, 2013. 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.

The Headquarter agreement with Kingdom of Morocco has been signed on October 2013, and approved by the Law 119-2013.

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.

NEPPO managed to sign a Letter of Agreement (LoA 17/2013) with the sub regional office of FAO in Tunis which allowed NEPPO to create a website and to organize activities in 2014.

Activities:

Contribution to the organization of the IPPC Regional workshop for Near East and North Africa Region held in Agadir, Morocco 28 October – 1 November 2013.

Participation in the Moroccan Plant Protection Association Congress held in Rabat (Morocco) December 3, 2013 and made a presentation on the IPPC and International trade.

Participation in the Meeting of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures Standards Committee, in 18-22 November 2013 and in 4-9 May 2014 in Rome (Italy).

NEPPO participated in Global Forum for Food and Agriculture held In Berlin (Germany) on January 17, 2014 and made a presentation on the “Impact of invasive species, harmful to plants, on food security and appropriate measures for crisis managements and to secure sustainability of plants production.

NEPPO participated also in the 9th Meeting of the Commission on Phytosanitary Standards (CPM). 2

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Exchange information

In the framework of the LOA 17/2013, NEPPO created a website: www.neppo.org. The secretariat collects information related to plant protection and share them with the Near East NPPO. The Secretariat put also on the website all the activities organized with the minutes and presentations done. The Secretariat created a Facebook page to post NEPPO activities.

Building capacities workshop

A meeting on Huanglongbing Citrus Disease in Agadir on November 1, 2013. The Secretariat seized the opportunity of the IPPC regional workshop and organized in collaboration of FAO, COSAVE, and OIRSA an awareness meeting on this disease and their vectors. Experiences of COSAVE, OIRSA (presentation done by NEPPO on behalf of OIRSA), Canarias Island (Vector), Saudi Arabia, and

Spain program have been shared with participants. Many thanks to COSAVE and OIRSA for their support.

Workshop on good practice for participation in IPPC meetings held in Hammamet, Tunisia, on March 3-5, 2014 in collaboration with IPPC Secretariat. It was a good opportunity to enhance skills of Heads of NPPO to be more involved in IPPC meetings mainly CPM and SC. The secretariat seeks sponsors for organizing such meeting to prepare the CPM sessions in 2015.

Workshop on pest surveillance and all related ISPMs (4, 8, 17 and 26) in Rabat, Morocco, on September 22-24, 2014. The workshop has also as goals to enhance IPPC commitment of participants on pest reporting and transparency for example.

Emerging pests of concern for the NEPPO region

- Red Palm Weevil: *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* is still 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.

Bayoud of palm date: *Fusarium oxysporum* sbsp *albedenis*. Big concern in the free countries: from Tunisia until Middle East.

5.8 North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO)

Status of NAPPO 2013-14 Projects – Report to the TC of RPPOs, November 2014

This report provides an executive summary of the status of projects in NAPPO. This includes projects:

The following projects were completed during the 2014 work year:

1. Standards

- Revision of Appendix 2 of RSPM 26 - *Guidelines for certification of commercial arthropod biological control agents moving into NAPPO member countries*
- Revision of RSPM 28, *Guidelines for Authorization of Entities to Perform Phytosanitary Services*, based on comments received through country consultation (Authorization EG)
- Review RSPM 32 (2008), *Pest risk assessment for plants for planting as quarantine pests* and compare with ISPM
- Finalize RSPM 40, *Pest Risk Management*, based on comments received through country consultation

2. Other documents (e.g. Science and technology documents)

- Completed the taxonomic identification protocol for tetranychid mites
 - o The morphological (taxonomic) identification was finalized, put through country consultation and finalized for EC approval to be posted on the NAPPO website as a Diagnostic Protocol.
- Finalized Science and Technology document on review of scientific literature for heat treatments of wood – available on NAPPO website and intended to be published in a scientific journal

3. Other activities

- Delivered a symposium on electronic phytosanitary certification “e-Phyto” held during the 2014 NAPPO Annual Meeting (eCert EG) – presentations from this symposium are posted on the NAPPO website (www.nappo.org)
- Organized a workshop (regional or international) on implementation of ISPM 15, *Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade* – results of this workshop are published on the NAPPO website (www.nappo.org)
- Managed the NAPPO pest reporting system and work towards eliminating any duplication in reporting to the IPPC

In addition to work completed during 2013 – 2014, several projects were initiated and are ongoing:

1. Standards:

- Developed specifications for a standard on the potential use of systems approaches to manage pest risks associated with the movement of wood.
- Initiated development of a standard on “Criteria for the determination of host status of pest arthropods and pathogens based on available information” according to the approved specifications.
- Finalize the Annex to RSPM 17 on guidelines for development of and efficacy verification for, lures and traps for arthropod pests of fruits: format as Appendix, submit for country consultation and finalize.
- Finalize RSPM 41, *Guidelines for oversight programs*, based on comments received through country consultation.
- Review the existing RSPM 3 (2011), *Guidelines for movement of potatoes into a NAPPO member country* to align it with ISPM 33 (2010), *Pest free potato (Solanum sp.) micropropagative material and minitubers for international trade* and discuss any adjustments required by NAPPO member countries.
- Revise standards on biological control agents: RSPM 7 (2008)- *Guidelines for petition for first release of non-indigenous phytophagous biological control agents*; RSPM 12 (2008)- *Guidelines for petition for first release of non-indigenous entomophagous biological control agents*;
- Revise standards on Karnal Bunt: RSPM 13 (2009), *Guidelines to establish, maintain and verify Karnal Bunt pest free areas in North America* and RSPM 21 (2009), *a harmonized procedure for morphologically distinguishing teliospores of Karnal bunt from ryegrass bunt, rice smut and similar smuts.*
 - o RSPM 13 was revised and is ready for country consultation (period Jan 15-Apr 15).
 - o In the comparison with Annex 4 to ISPM 27, *DP 4 Tilletia indica Mitra*, the EG decided to keep RSPM 21 as two pathogens included in RSPM 21 were omitted in the ISPM Annex. RSPM 21 was adjusted to reference the ISPM Annex.
- Revise RSPM 18 (2004), *Guidelines for phytosanitary action following detection of plum pox virus* to incorporate options for management of plum pox
- Revise RSPM 29 (2008)- *Guidelines for the petition for import and release of non-Apis pollinating insects into NAPPO countries*
- Revise RSPM 33 (2009), *Guidelines for regulating the movement of ships and cargo from areas infested with the Asian gypsy moth.*

2. Other documents

- Finalize the document on recommended measures for the establishment and maintenance of area wide management programs for Huanglongbing and its vector
- Identify new and emerging citrus quarantine pests and methods for their identification and management. Template has been developed and a draft finalized for Citrus leprosis virus.

5.9 International Regional Organization for Animal and Plant Health (OIRSA)

Introduction

OIRSA was established by its member countries on October 29th, 1953. Its objectives, after making the necessary technical studies, are to determine which diseases and pests of phytozoosanitary character pose a real or potential threat of economic importance at regional level; to promote adoption of common policies for Plant and Animal Health, Food Safety and Quarantine in the region, and to take actions intended for prevention, control and/or eradication of pests of regional significance.

Nine countries belong to OIRSA, by means of law in each country: Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic,

El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama. OIRSA is one of the RPPOs partners to the IPPC.

OIRSA also provides advice on and evaluation of the operation of the National Plant Health and Quarantine Services as required by member countries. It keeps member countries informed about the phytosanitary conditions prevailing in the region and abroad. It promotes diffusion of achievements and experiences in sanitary and phytosanitary subjects, as well as the consensus of agreements or arrangements with other agencies or international technical cooperation and development, to fund projects of regional interest.

To these ends, OIRSA has been working with its member countries in improving the phytosanitary status of the entire Region, for better competitiveness of agriculture and food security for the inhabitants of the area of influence. One of the principal concerns is capacity development in the NPPO members.

Building capacities and activities:

- XIII Meeting of the OIRSA Technical Regional Group for ISPMs Revision, October 13-17, 2014 (Same for 2013)
- Financial support for the IPPC Regional Workshop, September 27-31, 2014 (Same for 2013).
- Participation at the CPM-9, April 2014, with 8 member countries.
- LIX Ordinary Meeting of OIRSA's Technical Committee [the NPPO members], March 2014.
- Technical Expert Panel working to draw up the Regional Quarantine Pest List, it is expected to be ready in 2015.
- In 2013, OIRSA developed a Coffee Leaf Rust early warning system for its member countries.
- Medfly Control Program in Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico, and maintenance of medfly free areas. Coordination meetings in 2013 and 2014.
- Diagnostic Labs Strategic Planning Workshop in October 2014, for member countries.
- *Fusarium oxysporum* f sp. *cupense* (Panama Disease) Regional Workshop, September 2014.
- HLB Molecular Diagnostic PCR Regional Training for member countries, July 2014.
- CPM-9 Preparation Workshop addressed to member countries, in coordination with IPPC Secretariat, February 2014.
- OIRSA participated at the ePhyto preparation project workshop at Rome, IPPC Secretariat, FANC-STDF funds, October 2014.

Regional Phytosanitary Programs Working

- Coffee Leaf Rust Phytosanitary Program.
- Prevention of Regional Quarantine Pests.
- Pest control program of regional interest.
- *Anastrepha grandis* Regional Pest Control in Panama.
- *HLB* Regional Pest Control.

National Phytosanitary Programs in support to NPPO members

- Pest Surveillance.
- Pest Diagnosis.
- Plant Protection & Quarantine.
- Plant Health Operational Support.
- Phytosanitary Campaigns Support.
- Plant Health Training.

Coordination with Regional Plant Protection Organizations

- OIRSA participated at NAPPO's 37th and 38th Annual Meetings. OIRSA supported the participation of its member countries: Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Dominican Republic at NAPPO's 37th Annual Meeting.
- OIRSA participated at the meetings of the International Coordinating Group in Plant Protection –ICGPP (GICSV), on February 2014. COSAVE and NAPPO also participate at ICGPP.

Future activities

- Regional PRA scheduled for *M. cribraria*, *FOC R4T*, *A. grandis*, *F. Guttiforme*, and *T. absoluta*.
- Training course in management for NPPO Directors and Deputy Directors.
- E-Phyto Regional Pilot Project in coordination with IPPC Secretariat.

Prevention and control of regulated and emerging pests

Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus' (HLB – citrus greening). In the framework of the ongoing Project TCP/RLA 3311 with FAO and ICDF-Taiwan, support has been provided to Member Countries for surveillance, diagnosis and control of this pest and its insect vector, *Diaphorina citri*; as well as training and divulgation on both, and also on citrus quarantine pests.

Fruit flies. OIRSA continually supports meetings for the maintenance of the Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitidis capitata*) PFAs in member countries (Belize, Honduras, and Guatemala). In addition, OIRSA provides continual assistance to the eradication program of the South American cucurbit fly (*Anastrepha grandis*) developed by MIDA in the Darien Province, Panama.

Fusarium guttiforme. OIRSA recommended phytosanitary measures to prevent the entry of the pest to the region, and outlined strategies that allow an early detection of outbreaks in case of a possible introduction.

Fusarium oxysporum f.sp. *cubense* Strain 4 Tropical (Foc R4T). OIRSA, in coordination with Bioversity International, developed a contingency plan in case of an outbreak of this pest in a country of the OIRSA region. OIRSA makes efforts to prevent introduction of this pest.

Hemileia vastratix Berk & Br. Coffee Leaf Rust

By the end of 2012, there was an epidemic phytosanitary event from Mexico down to Panama. OIRSA, in coordination with IICA, CATIE, and PROMECAFE, developed a Regional Phytosanitary Program that is being implemented at present.

Maconellicoccus hirsutus

Pink Mealybug has dispersed through the OIRSA's Region, it is currently present in Belize, Honduras, El Salvador and Costa Rica. This pest is restrictive to trade. Biological control strategy is being applied, using *Criptolaemus montrouzieri* and *Anagyrus kamali*.

Megacopta cribraria (Fabricius 1798) (Heteroptera: Plataspidae), Kudzu bug. The distribution of this insect was located in Southeast Asia, Japan, China, Korea and India. It was first found in Georgia (USA) in 2008 and subsequently attacking soybean in the same State in 2009. *M. cribraria* has dispersed rapidly in this new area. By August 2012, there were reports of its presence from Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Tennessee and Virginia. *M. cribraria* may adapt to hibernation conditions, and can remain active all year long if conditions are favourable. It has become an important pest in infested soybean cultivated areas in the USA. Several interceptions of *M. cribraria* from Georgia at entry points to the OIRSA region were recorded from Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panamá, Belize and Dominican Republic. To date, numerous interceptions of insects, both dead and alive, have been made. This insect is of great concern for the OIRSA region since it could become a very damaging pest for legumes, such as common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*), that are part of the staple diet of the population. A Regional Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) for *M. cribraria* is currently under development, sponsored and contracted by OIRSA.

Trogoderma granarium Everts 1898, Khapra beetle. This pest is a very damaging pest of stored hosts products (grains and starches) under dry and warm conditions. It can cause complete destruction in a short time. *T. granarium* has been intercepted several times, both alive and dead, at entry points to the OIRSA region.

5.10 Pacific Plant Protection Organization (PPPO)

The PPPO was recognised as an RPPO in 1997. Today it has 22 members Pacific Island Countries and Territories with its metropolitan member's countries members of Australia, New Zealand and United States of America. The Executive Secretariat of the PPPO seats with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

1. Standard Setting Bodies

The Executive Secretariat attending the 25th TC RPPO held in Uruguay in 2013 and reported on the activities of the PPPO. In April 2014, PPPO members attended CPM 9 were Tonga, Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue, Australia, New Zealand and the Executive Secretary for PPPO.

The PPPO Executive Secretariat was co-leader in development of the Regional Biosecurity Plan (RBP) for Micronesia and Hawai'i. This RBP was developed due to the buildup of the US military from Okinawa to Guam and Saipan in the Northern Pacific Region. The PPPO Executive Secretariat together with the University of Guam held a workshop to inform its stakeholders on the draft Strategic Implementation Plan and also to make receive comments from its stakeholders. The draft RBP is with the Department of Defence who have funded the project for finalisation of the RBP.

The annual Regional IPPC workshop was held in Suva, Fiji in July 2014. The regional IPPC workshop was for three days where members were able to comment on the three ISPM standards and also to use the OCS for comments. The PPPO was also blessed with the attendance of the IPPC Secretariat. At the end of the regional workshop the members was given a task to do a role play on Pest Risk Analysis. This is to assist the NPPO on how to use simple language when presenting their case for funding to Ministries that have people who are not well versed with the technical language used for the PRA. Following the three day regional IPPC workshop was a two days meeting of the Executive committee members of the PPPO. The two meeting of the Executive committee members was mainly to look at the activities of the PPPO, funding of the PPPO and possible Regional Standards for the PPPO.

2. Information Exchange

- The NPPO contact points are updated annually as NPPO's are normally changing within its members. E-newsletter - newsletter is a means of sharing any information whether it be training workshops, regional meetings etc - to all NPPOs in the PICs

- Another area where information is shared to the NPPO in the region is through the PPPO mailing list. This list comprise of all NPPO contacts of the south west pacific region and is used as an information exchange platform in keeping abreast with regional topical biosecurity and plant protection issues.

3. Technical Assistance provided by PPPO to its members

The PPPO is funded by project funds. This funds meets the financial needs of its members to participate in regional workshops and regional meeting such as PPPO Executive Committee meeting, Draft ISPM meeting, PPPO triennial regional meeting, and training organized by IPPC, Australia or New Zealand.

In 2014 PPPO assisted Samoa during the UN-SIDs conference in developing an in-flight video for delegates coming to Samoa for the SIDS conference. This video will be shared to the IPPC IRSS resource page.

It is important to note that the Workplan of SPC-Biosecurity and Trade is based around the PPPO activities. There are 9 outputs but only two outputs namely PPPO activities and Market Access is funded by the project. There is a need to fund other important activities of the PPPO.

As part of SPCs commitment to its members, SPC-LRD established a biosecurity helpdesk as part of its technical advisory services to better serve its clients (PPPO Members). The helpdesk predominantly receives and processes email equerries on matters related to biosecurity, trade facilitation and plant protection including advice on import risk analysis

4. Pest Surveillance activities

The PPPO conducts Crop pest surveillance when NPPO requests for this technical assistance annually. In 2014 pest surveillance was done for Palau, Vanuatu Tuvalu and Yap. Collection of arthropod samples has been sent to the NZ laboratory for identification authentication. To date some results have been received and country Pest List Database has been updated. On a positive note PPPO has worked with Cook Islands NPPO to eradicate Oriental Fruit-fly from the island.

5. Joint Work of IPPC and CBD

In 2014 IPPC became the 7th member of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity related convention which includes the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This announcement of membership of IPPC does gives strength to the activities the PPPO has been involved in with Invasive Alien Species (IAS). The Pacific region is well known for IAS both plants and insects.

In 2014, PPPO has assisted Tokelau, Tuvalu and Nauru on delimiting surveys for Yellow Crazy Ants (YCA). PPPO is also working with other partners on a project to address Yellow Crazy Ants in Tokelau and Kiribati in terms or management, control and capacity building for its biosecurity officers at the border. It is hoped that the finding of the project will be guide for the other PICTs that have YCA in its environment.

Also in October 2014, CABI with its Invasive Species Compendium (ISC) ran a three days capacity building at SPC in Fiji on the use of the compendium on Invasive Species. SPC is a consortium member to the ISC.

6. Capacity Building

- PPPO has been actively involved in capacity building for its members. In 2014 the was an annual Biosecurity Training – North Pacific Guam, FSM, Palau, RMI, Saipan March 2014

- Regional Global Quarantine awareness Training for Palau, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands (covering international agreements, organizations and standards)
- World Health Animal Health information System (WAHIS) training for Samoa (Oct 2014)

7. Legislation Review

PPPO with financial assistance from FAO (SAP) engaged a consultant to review the Biosecurity legislation for Fiji and Cook Islands. At present, Cook Islands Crown Law needs to send their comments through to the PPPO Secretariat who will then forward it to the consultant to include the comments. For Fiji the work had to be withdrawn due to issues beyond the PPPO Secretariats control.

8. Market Access Activities

This is an output within the PPPO workplan to assist its members to engage in trade with each other and also internationally.

In 2014 PPPO assisted the following on market access activities:

- Assisted Niue of Honey Bee health Survey
- Engaged a consultant to look at priority export commodities for 17 of the PICTs
- Worked with NPPO Tuvalu in developing a Market Access submission to NZ for export of breadfruit chips
- Assisted Cook Islands Noni Marketing Ltd to get Chinese Organic Certification
- Feasibility study of Papaya Export to NZ from the Cook Island
- NPPO Fiji assisting mature ginger access to the Australian market.

9. RPPO Collaboration

PPPO and APPPC had been working in collaboration on the following:

- Surveillance workshop
- E-Phyto workshop

Appendix 3 – Work Programme of the Technical Consultation amongst RPPOs (2015)

Activity / Topic		Responsible body
1	Investigate an operative mechanism for pest reporting through RPPOs	Secretariat All RPPOs
2	a) Should an NPPO for the Caribbean be proposed, then they should be made aware of the requirements for recognition as RPPOs and b) Cooperate in the technical aspects of the establishment.	Secretariat All RPPOs
3	RPPOs support to Regional IPPC workshops	PPPO APPPC EPPO COSAVE OIRSA NEPPO IAPSC
4	Contingency planning for emerging pests	All RPPOs
5	Electronic certification: encourage all NPPOs to participate in developments and exchange of information in the TC.	All RPPOs Secretariat
6	RPPOs input into the IRSS (Implementation review and support system)	All RPPOs Secretariat
7	Review and update of the Roles and Functions of RPPOs in the framework of the IPPC.	All RPPOs
8	Management of preparations for further TC meetings – periodic communication to provide updates and reminders	All RPPOs Secretariat NAPPO for doc exchange procedures
9	Support activities intended to encourage NPPOs to implement the Convention and the standards and particularly implementation programs. a) Possible increased involvement by RPPOs in capacity development activities b) Facilitation of the fulfilment of NROs c) Support the implementation of the IPPC communications work plan. d) Participating in the implementation programs: e.g. surveillance	All RPPOs
10	Discussion on new concepts of strategic value for the Convention	All RPPOs
11	Consideration of specific requests coming from the Bureau and CPM bodies	All RPPOs

Appendix 4 – 27th Technical Consultation among RPPOs 2015 – Tentative Agenda

1. Opening of the Technical Consultation
2. Election of the Chairperson, Vice-chair and Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Matters arising from the 26th TC-RPPOs, including post meeting networking and cooperation / Follow up on impacts of the decisions of the 26th TC-RPPOs
5. Information Exchange Platform on RPPO activities (including presentation of the Web sites)
 - 5.1 APPPC
 - 5.2 CAN
 - 5.3 COSAVE
 - 5.4 CPPC
 - 5.5 EPPO
 - 5.6 IAPSC
 - 5.7 NAPPO
 - 5.8 OIRSA
 - 5.9 PPPO
 - 5.10 NEPPO
6. Status of RPPOs (CPPC, CAN) and review of RPPOs ToRs.
7. Secretariat update
 - a. Standard Setting
 - b. National Reporting Obligations
 - c. Implementation (IRSS and implementation programs)
 - d. Capacity Building
 - e. Dispute Settlement
 - f. Others
8. Follow-up from CPM-10
9. Topics for future CPM special and side sessions
10. TC Work Plan (standing work plan with annual reviews)
11. TC among RPPOs technical discussions including:
 - a. Current and emerging major pest issues (all RPPOs)
 - b. E-Phyto
 - c. Contingency planning
 - d. Systems approaches
 - e. Pests of national concern
12. Other Business
 - Mentoring, cooperation and work sharing among RPPOs
 - Report for CPM 11

- Requests from the Bureau
- Communications work plan

13. Date and location of next TC

14. Adoption of the Report of the 27th TC-RPPOs

15. Closure

Appendix 5 – List of Participants and Observers

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