



47th NAPPO Annual Meeting

Contents

47 th Annual Meeting	1
NAPPO Management Team Meetings	2
New call for NAPPO project proposals	2
Expert groups news	3
NAPPO-EPPO strategic meeting	4
New NAPPO products approved by the Executive Committee	6
NAPPO participated in the ASTA meetings	6
NAPPO invited to speak at the 1st international symposium on grapevine epidemic diseases	7
Thank you to Craig Reggelbrugge and welcome to Brad Gething as new NAPPO IAG member	7
Farewell to Maribel Hurtado, NAPPO SO	9
E-commerce side session at CPM 18	10
Revamping IPPC website on e-commerce	10
In-Memoriam. Remembering Deborah Golino	11

Dear NAPPO Stakeholders,

The NAPPO Secretariat is pleased to announce that the upcoming 47th NAPPO Annual Meeting, hosted by the United States, will be held at the Tucson Marriott University Park Hotel in Tucson, Arizona, from October 22 to 24, 2024. Breakfast, lunch and coffee breaks will be included in the meeting registration fee.

Government, industry, and government/industry meetings will take place the morning of October 22. The afternoon session will begin with welcome remarks provided by Mr. Ibrahim Shaqir (NAPPO Executive Committee Chair for 2024 and APHIS PPQ Deputy Administrator). Updates on IPPC activities will be provided by Dr. Osama El-Lissy (IPPC Secretary). Updates from NAPPO will be provided by the new NAPPO Chief Scientist. NAPPO Expert groups will also provide updates on their projects during the meeting.

The Annual Meeting planning committee is still working on the Agenda, which will include knowledge topics with time for questions and answers from participants, and two topics for the Symposium on October 24.

More information will be made available to the NAPPO community in the next NAPPO Newsletter, which will be published on July 1, 2024, and through the NAPPO website (www.nappo.org), including an updated Agenda, invitation letter from the U.S., how to register/pay for meeting registration, and additional information on the meeting venue.

Stay tuned!



47th NAPPO Annual Meeting
Tucson, Arizona, USA
October 22-24, 2024

Tucson Marriott University Park Hotel
880 E 2nd Street Tucson, AZ 85719 United States

NAPPO Management Team Meetings

Members of the NAPPO Management Team (Executive Committee (EC), Advisory and Management Committee (AMC), Industry Advisory Group (IAG) and Secretariat) met face-to-face on the margins of the NAPPO 46th Annual Meeting on December 4, 2023, in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico and virtually on March 19 and 20, 2024.

Government and industry updates were provided during the meetings. Highlights from these meetings include:

1. The Executive Committee approved the following documents:
 - NAPPO Dispute Settlement Process.
 - Proposed NAPPO Secretariat travel for 2024.
 - NAPPO Budget
 - Two new NAPPO products (See article “NAPPO Executive Committee approves two new NAPPO products in this Newsletter issue).
2. The ED informed on the outcomes of the 35th TC-RPPO meeting in Bogotá, Colombia, in October 2023.
3. The NAPPO Management Team discussed the following topics:
 - Collaboration with other RPPOs including the NAPPO-EPPO strategic engagement and pre-CPM 18 meetings.
 - Collaboration with COSAVE and EPPO on the e-commerce side-session on the margins of CPM 18.
 - Collaboration with the Inter-American Cooperation Group in Plant Protection (GICSV because of its Spanish acronym),
 - New project proposals submitted for consideration for inclusion in the NAPPO work program.

New Call for NAPPO Project Proposals

The NAPPO Secretariat informs all stakeholders that a call for new project proposals will open May 1st, 2024. Click on these links for [specific instructions](#) on submitting a project proposal, [project proposal forms](#), and the criteria used to prioritize a proposal.

News from Expert Groups

NAPPO expert groups continue to deliver high-quality products to the NAPPO community. The most important highlights include:

Country Consultation for the specification for a newly proposed Regional Standard for Phytosanitary Measures on seeds systems approaches ended on March 29, 2024. Comments will be compiled and addressed by the project proponent. The NAPPO Executive Committee will determine the next steps for this proposed new project.

Updates from current expert groups:

Forestry-ISPM 15 compliance (Evaluating the risk associated with different types of wood packaging materials-opportunities to improve ISPM 15 compliance). The EG began working on this project in December 2023. The EG is collecting inspection data on forest pests from the NAPPO and other regions to evaluate the risks of forest pest introduction associated with different types of wood packaging materials. Meghan Noseworthy (Natural Resources Canada) was elected the Chairperson, and Scott Geffros (Canadian Industry) was elected Vice-Chairperson. The NAPPO Secretariat wants to welcome María José Martínez, Samuel Podlipsky, Katia Aguilar, and Enrique Negrete as new EG members representing the Mexican industry.

Forestry Quarantine Research. The EG continues to discuss research on forestry quarantine. A project proposal for a science and technology (S&T) document titled “Testing the heat treatment dose for wood product pests in North America” was submitted for consideration for inclusion in the NAPPO Work Program. The proposal is being evaluated by the NAPPO Advisory and Management Committee.

Alternatives to methyl bromide. Work is underway to develop a discussion document (DD) on alternatives to methyl bromide in the NAPPO region. Robert Baca (USDA APHIS PPQ) was elected Chairperson. Work on the discussion document is moving fast. The EG continues collecting information on practical alternatives to methyl bromide and discussing uses within each NAPPO country.

***Tuta absoluta*.** The EG is actively working on the draft discussion document (DD) concerning the threat and impact of *Tuta absoluta* introduction to the NAPPO region. The EG is currently discussing the risk analyses and the possible components for an emergency response in each NAPPO country. The NAPPO Secretariat welcomes María Guadalupe Chávez Sánchez (SENASICA, Mexico) to the EG.

Revision of NAPPO Regional Standard for Phytosanitary Measures 26 (RSPM 26) (Certification of commercial arthropods biological control agents or non-*Apis* pollinators moving into NAPPO member countries). The background study paper was completed by the EG. This paper will inform the fundamental review of RSPM 26 and outlines important considerations to include in the revision.

The NAPPO Secretariat would like to express their sincerest recognition and gratitude to Dr. Peter Mason for his invaluable contributions to the NAPPO Biological Control Expert Group, and formerly Biological Control Panel. We can't remember exactly in what year he became part of the NAPPO family, but we can confirm it was many moons ago. We are going to dearly miss his contributions, leadership and camaraderie. We wish Peter the best of luck in this new chapter of his life as a retiree.

Please join us to welcome new EG members to the Revision of RSPM 26 on biocontrol: Paul Abram from CFIA Canada; Keith Hopper and Ben Slager from APHIS PPQ, United States.

Seeds ToBRFV (Pilot for harmonization of diagnostic protocols for seed pests focused on ToBRFV). The writing subgroup is working on a scientific manuscript concerning the outcomes of the pilot project. A Decision Sheet (DS) has been prepared by the NAPPO AMC supporting the use of selected protocols for the detection of ToBRFV in seeds of tomato and pepper the NAPPO region. The DS will be signed by the NAPPO Executive Committee once the manuscript is accepted for publication or after country consultation of the final project report.

Phytosanitary Alert System (PAS). Sixteen Official Pest Reports (OPRs) have been published between November 18, 2023 and March 26, 2024. The PAS EG continues meeting the IPPC reporting obligations and the publication of OPRs from NAPPO member countries.

Inter-American Group on Cooperation in Plant Protection (GICSV because of its Spanish acronym). NAPPO experts continue to actively participate in the different GICSV working groups. Click on [this link](#) for additional information on the different GICSV working groups. GICSV activities are currently being coordinated by the International Regional Organization for Health in Agriculture (OIRSA, because of its Spanish acronym).

Meetings between NAPPO and the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization - EPPO



United States and Canadian government representatives alongside the NAPPO Executive and Technical Directors met with EPPO representatives from January 23 to 25 in Washington DC. During the meeting, members of both Regional Plant Protection Organizations:

- Discussed their positions on sustainable funding for the IPCC ePhyto solution.
- Provided information and their positions on international standards for adoption at the upcoming CPM 18 meeting in Rome, Italy.
- Discussed the status and lack of progress of the Pest Outbreak, Alert and Response System (POARS), one of the Development Agenda items of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030.
- Discussed the importance and challenges of the IPPC African Phytosanitary Program, including its role in ensuring food security in Africa and using the program as a model for other regions.
- Discussed the current situation with the IPPC Sea Container initiative, including supporting the work of the Focus Group for an additional year.
- Outlined the importance of the One Health initiative including putting together a small group to develop an action plan and possibly organizing an international conference on One Health.

- Discussed issues related to the proposed international standard on Safe Food and Humanitarian Aid.

The NAPPO and EPPO Directors also provided a summary of the discussions that took place during the 35th Technical Consultation of the RPPOs meeting held from October 24 to 27 in Bogotá, Colombia, and presented the arrangements for the pre-CPM 18 NAPPO EPPO meeting in Rome, Italy.

Three technical presentations were delivered at this meeting, including:

- The USDA-APHIS Regulatory Framework for Seeds Health (ReFRESH) by Yilmaz Balci (USDA APHIS PPQ),
- Strategic outlook on molecular diagnostics in the United States by Mark Nahkla (USDA APHIS PPQ), and
- Managing regulatory issues arising from new diagnostic technologies by Shalajja Rabindran (USDA APHIS PPQ) and Sarah Brearey (CFIA).

The meeting culminated with a tour to the United States Capitol.



Participants of the NAPPO EPPO meeting in Washington D.C., United States. **Standing (from left to right):** Yilmaz Balci (APHIS PPQ), Alan McLeod and Mathew Everatt (Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, UK), John Greifer and Ibrahim Shaqir (APHIS PPQ), Valerio Lucchesi (EPPO), Zurab Chekurashvili (National Food Agency, Georgia), Marco Traa (Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, Netherlands), Laurence Bouhot-Delduc (Ministère Agriculture et Souveraineté Alimentaire, France), Tanya Staffen (CFIA), Stephanie Dubon (APHIS PPQ), Alonso Suazo (NAPPO). **Sitting (from left to right):** John Eivers (Plant Health International Horticulture and Plant Health Division, Ireland), Thorwald Geuze (Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority, Netherlands), Sultan-Makhmud Sultanov (Head of International Relations Department, Uzbekistan), Nico Horn (EPPO), Stephanie Bloem (NAPPO), Steve Côté (CFIA).

NAPPO Executive Committee Approves two new NAPPO Products

As you may remember, two of NAPPO's Expert Groups - Huanglongbing and ISPM 25 Guidance - completed work on their respective documents – listed below – and these went out for Country Consultation in October 2023. Many comments were received from NAPPO stakeholders, and these were discussed and incorporated into the documents by each EG. Both documents were presented to the Executive Committee for their approval and signature at the March 2024 virtual NAPPO Management Team meeting. The documents were approved and will soon be available on the NAPPO website.

They are –

- **Updated Discussion Document 05 - Management of Huanglongbing and its Vector, the Asian Citrus Psyllid, *Diaphorina citri*.** Prepared by the NAPPO DD05 (Huanglongbing) Expert Group: Victoria Hornbaker (CDFA), Donald Seaver (APHIS PPQ), Catherine Katsar (APHIS PPQ), Mayra Arredondo (APHIS PPQ), Michael Hennessey (APHIS PPQ), Clemente de Jesús García Avila (SENASICA), Andrés Quezada Salinas (SENASICA), Carolina Ramírez Mendoza (SENASICA), Norma Edith García Hernández (SENASICA), Francisco Javier Márquez Pérez (SENASICA), and Jim Cranney (California Citrus Quality Council), with input from additional experts from the United States and Mexico.
- **Guidance Document 01 - Standardization of responsibilities and actions for safeguarding consignments that have transited one NAPPO member country to enter another NAPPO member country.** Prepared by the NAPPO ISPM 25 (Consignments in transit) Expert Group: Wendy Asbil (CFIA), Christine Villegas (CFIA), Everett Harper (CBSA), Helen Gerson (CBSA), Brendon Reardon (USDA APHIS PPQ), Erin Stiers (USDA APHIS PPQ), Fan Wang-Cahill (USDA APHIS PPQ), Annaliese Blecha (DHS CBP), Neftalí Reyes Carranza (SENASICA) Francisca de la Cruz Martínez (SENASICA), Allan Schepens (Canadian Pacific), Jeffrey Parsons (Canadian National Railway), John Ercolani (J&K Fresh), and Greg Yielding (National Onion Association).

NAPPO Invited to Speak at the American Seed Trade Association's (ASTA) Vegetable and Flower Seed Conference in Monterey, CA in January 2024

The NAPPO Executive Director addressed ASTA's Phytosanitary Committee and spoke about harmonization of and cooperation on seed phytosanitary issues in North America and beyond. The presentation highlighted the regional, hemispheric, and global functions of NAPPO and the different ways in which NAPPO contributes to address and resolve seed issues – through regional and international workshops, development of regional plant health standards, discussion and science and technology documents, and leading global initiatives such as proposing an Annex to ISPM 38 – *International Movement of Seeds* – on “the use of systems approaches for phytosanitary certification of seeds” to the 2018 IPPC call for topics. The Phytosanitary Committee meeting had 80+ participants. The presentation is available on request.

NAPPO Invited to Speak at the 1st International Symposium on Grapevine Epidemic Diseases in Austin, TX in May 2024

We are delighted to inform our stakeholders that Ms. Sarah Brearey from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency will be representing NAPPO at this Symposium and speaking during Session 2 – *Disease monitoring and control: international standards*. The title of Sarah's presentation will be "Standards and panels outcomes in the North American region". She will focus on the recently updated NAPPO RSPM 35 – *Guidelines for the movement of stone and pome fruit trees and grapevines into a NAPPO member country*. Sarah was the Chairperson for this Expert Group and, as such, is uniquely qualified to speak on the subject. We thank her for agreeing to represent NAPPO!

Please see the Symposium announcement and the webpage links below:



[announcement link](#)

[webpage link](#)

NAPPO Thanks Outgoing United States Industry Advisory Group Member - Mr. Craig Regelbrugge – and Welcome's Incoming Member – Dr. Brad Gething – to NAPPO

As many of you are aware, the transition from Craig to Brad took place at the 46th NAPPO Annual Meeting in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico. Here, we take a moment to acknowledge Craig and welcome Brad. How fortunate we are in NAPPO to have had and still have such dedicated volunteer industry advisors!!

Craig was a longtime member of the NAPPO Industry Advisory Group – bringing the latest intelligence from the plant industries of the U.S. into NAPPO and ensuring that industry stayed informed of our harmonization activities supporting plant industries. One of his industry colleagues



said about Craig – “he convinced many of us from industry to participate in Expert Groups working on NAPPO documents. He was great at sending the message that our contributions mattered - and how they mattered - and that participating in NAPPO was a great way to improve our interactions with government regulators. Clearly, we all wanted to be like Craig”.

Craig began his storied career at Virginia Tech where he obtained a degree in horticulture. He first worked in retail, transitioning to becoming a county horticultural extension agent in VA. For many years Craig was Senior Vice President - Advocacy and Research - for AmericanHort - the organization representing greenhouse and nursery plant breeders, growers, retail and landscape professionals, and others in the industry market chain. Craig played a crucial role in the formation of the National Clean Plant Network working with industry and the Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance. It began in 2008 with fruit trees and grapes and now includes 7 specialty crop networks - berries, citrus, fruit trees, grapes, hops, roses, and sweet potatoes, funded by a \$7.5 million annual allocation from the

U.S. Plant Protection Act. Craig played a major role in driving changes to agricultural labor policy in the US. He worked to draft bipartisan legislation to modernize immigration laws and improve access to farm labor benefiting both specialty crop producers and farm workers.

On a personal level, Craig was always a staunch supporter of NAPPO and a good friend to the soon to be retired Executive Director. NAPPO acknowledges and thanks Craig for his lifetime contributions to improving and protecting regional plant resources in North America! We will surely miss you!!



Brad earned an MSc and PhD degrees in Materials from Penn State University, and a BSc degree in Chemical Engineering from Bucknell University. Brad joined the National Wooden Pallet & Container Association (NWPCA) staff in July 2013 and currently serves as Vice President of Science & Technology. His role at NWPCA includes engagement with regulatory bodies, use of regional and international plant health standards, direction and promotion of research and development, and support of technical issues related to the wood packaging industry. In addition to being a member of several NAPPO Forestry Expert Groups, Brad is a member of the International Forestry Quarantine Research Group (IFQRG) and has participated in expert working groups for the

International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

Brad had his first “solo” participation as U.S. IAG member at the Spring NAPPO Governance meeting in mid-March 2024 and he did a great job!

NAPPO bids farewell to its Scientific Officer Ms. Maribel Hurtado Sepulveda from Colombia



As the old saying goes ... “all good things must come to an end”. In this case, the NAPPO Scientific Officer certainly was a very good and strategic addition to NAPPO, and her presence is and will continue to be sorely missed. Maribel worked in this capacity for three years - 2021 to 2023 - during which she was primarily responsible for the following duties:

- Provided expertise/guidance to the NAPPO Secretariat and to the NPPOs of the host countries - United States in 2021 and Canada in 2022 - as they planned and delivered virtual NAPPO Annual Meetings during the

COVID-19 pandemic;

- Managed and directed the governance and activities of the six Working Groups (ePhyto, fruit flies, locusts, huanglongbing, *Tuta absoluta*, and FOC TR 4) of the Interamerican Group on Cooperation in Plant Protection (GICSV, because of its Spanish acronym) on behalf of NAPPO for the 2021-2023 biennium;
- Continued developing and completed part II of the Risk-Based Sampling (RBS) Manual in English and worked with editor and Spanish translator to finalize part II of the RBS Manual; in addition, she provided the narrators voice for the RBS Module for inspectors that is now available in Spanish on the NAPPO website;
- Managed all aspects concerning NAPPO’s role in Chairing the 35th Technical Consultation among regional plant protection organizations (TC-RPPO). Her roles included organizing all aspects of the face-to-face meeting, technical visit and dinner; pursuing Visas for some of the meeting participants; preparing capacity development materials for presentation to the TC-RPPO; and any other activities assigned by the NAPPO Executive Director;
- Supported the NAPPO Secretariat and the NPPO of Mexico as they planned and delivered the 46th NAPPO Annual Meeting in 2023, the first face-to-face meeting after the pandemic, in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico.
- Supported the NAPPO Secretariat in the development of the NAPPO Foundational Documents.

Maribel performed these and numerous other tasks with excellence, creativity, enthusiasm, and unwavering attention to detail, always going above and beyond the call of duty. Her Project Management skills and her can-do attitude were invaluable to all of us in the NAPPO Secretariat. We literally could not have accomplished many of the items listed above without her help. Please join us in thanking Maribel for her excellent contributions to our small regional plant protection organization.

What is Maribel up to these days? She accepted a position as a Consultant with Colombia Productiva in her home country, Colombia, in late 2023.

Side-session on E-commerce on the margins of the 18th Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures in Rome in mid-April



Three regional plant protection organizations - the Comité de Sanidad Vegetal del Cono Sure (COSAVE), the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection organization (EPPO) and NAPPO - worked alongside the IPPC Secretariat Implementation and Facilitation Unit to organize a side-session on e-commerce which will take place at mid-day on Tuesday April 16th. The event will be live-streamed. This side session is expected to achieve the following outcomes:

- raise awareness and increase the use of the new IPPC e-commerce guide - <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc8209en>, video and other IPPC technical resources;
- share knowledge and experiences about e-commerce initiatives undertaken by different countries;
- increase participation in the IPPC Observatory study on e-commerce;
- enhance commitment by countries to address the pest risks associated with small parcels moving on the postal and courier pathways at national and regional levels.

The session will feature speakers from Argentina, Canada, New Zealand, and the United States who will highlight issues of awareness-raising, collaboration and promoting compliance, and addressing/managing pest risks; the Universal Postal Union will address collaboration between national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) and their national postal services.

We hope you can connect to this side session! For more information, visit the IPPC International Phytosanitary Portal - <https://www.ippc.int/en/>.

New Article from the IPPC: Revamped IPPC Webpage to Serve as Hub for Resources on e-commerce and plant health

The IPPC has recently revamped its e-commerce webpage on the International Phytosanitary Portal consolidating essential technical resources and tools to facilitate the availability of information to stakeholders. Click on [this link](#) to read the recently published IPPC article (March 14, 2024) to learn more. Information available includes links to the IPPC e-commerce guide (A guide to managing the pest risk posed by goods ordered online and distributed through postal and courier pathways), videos, and announcements.



In Memoriam – **Remembering Deborah Golino**

Deborah Golino, who served as director of Foundation Plant Services (FPS) from 1994 to 2021, passed away suddenly on December 23, 2023. She was a great colleague and mentor, and will be deeply missed. Her contributions to FPS were many: she led FPS's grape importation program to excellence, expanded FPS's collections of virus-tested materials, and undertook important virus research.

Deborah was an innovative scientist, who was open minded when it came to collaborating with regulators in pursuit of the international exchange of plant material through legal channels. She created a great legacy by engaging in collaborative plant protection activities and setting an example for those she mentored. From the early days of her career Deborah showed her commitment to the safe international exchange of plant material, securing a controlled import permit from USDA-APHIS in 1990 while serving as a technical advisor to FPS. Hundreds of new grape selections from international sources were added to the FPS collection during Deborah's tenure, as she facilitated the introduction of clean plants to serve US growers.



Deborah Golino in Puglia, Italy, 2012

The operations of the National Clean Plant Network (NCPN), established by the 2008 Farm Bill, were influenced greatly by Deborah's commitment to clean plants. NCPN funding supports clean plant centers that provide diagnostic and pathogen elimination services and maintain blocks of pathogen-tested material in the US. Deborah encouraged NCPN centers to follow the NAPPO example of drafting standards. She personally encouraged me to participate in the 2022 update of RSPM 35, supporting international collaboration even after her retirement! I know many of you had the chance to interact with Deborah over the years through her involvement with NAPPO, and will also have fond memories of her.

A celebration of life for Deborah will be held on Saturday, April 27, 2024. Hosted at the UC Davis Conference Center in Davis, California, a Zoom feed will be available for remote participation. Advance RSVP is requested for both in-person and online participants and can be done at this link: <https://bit.ly/GolinoRSVP4-27>.

Sidebar – Craig Regelbrugge, *AmericanHort*

My good friend Maher has detailed Deborah's professional contributions, which touched nursery stock and fruit growers across the nation and around the world, whether they knew it or not. Beyond the professional, those who knew Deborah as a friend will never forget her passion, her *joie de vivre*. Together she and her husband Dick had a deep yet unpretentious appreciation for good food and libation shared amidst laughter and stories, among friends long-established or new.

A favorite recollection of mine was of the NAPPO annual reunion in Cancún. When the meeting ended, though Deborah had never sailed, I talked her into joining me on a rented Hobie Cat. The

winds were rising thanks to a tropical system developing off western Cuba, and we nearly flew back and forth along white sand beaches, spray-soaked and laughing the whole while. That was, to me, quintessential Deborah. Embrace life as it comes, and live it fully. We will miss you, Deborah, and yet know your many contributions will live on!

By Maher Al-Rwahnih and Craig Regelbrugge

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