



## Postponement of the 44<sup>th</sup> NAPPO Annual Meeting

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On April 30<sup>th</sup>, the NAPPO Executive Committee, with support from the Advisory and Management Committee and the NAPPO Secretariat, reached the difficult decision to postpone the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting to sometime in 2021.

As you well know, the NAPPO Annual Meeting brings together stakeholders from government, industry, and other phytosanitary organizations to discuss the most important plant health issues facing North America. In 2019, the NAPPO Annual Meeting, held in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, brought together one hundred and

thirty-one participants including representatives from 28 industries in North America.

The 44<sup>th</sup> NAPPO Annual Meeting was to be hosted by Mexico and was scheduled for Nov. 16-19, 2020 in Merida, Yucatan.

NAPPO Management recognized that the uncertain travel conditions and other health and safety concerns significantly impacting plant health related activities during the COVID-19 pandemic would most certainly negatively impact attendance to the 44<sup>th</sup> NAPPO Annual Meeting. As such, and out of an abundance of caution, they



*Participants of the 43rd NAPPO annual meeting in Montreal, Québec, Canada- October 28-31, 2019*

decided to postpone the event to sometime in 2021. This is the first time, since NAPPOs inception in 1976, that the Annual Meeting has been postponed.

A NAPPO Management virtual governance

meeting is scheduled in mid-July 2020. One of the Agenda topics is when and where to hold the 44<sup>th</sup> NAPPO Annual Meeting. As soon as decisions are made, the NAPPO Secretariat will inform our stakeholders, so please stay tuned.

## North American NPPOs deliver critical services despite the COVID-19 pandemic

The NAPPO member countries' (Canada, Mexico and the United States) National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) recognize the many challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has posed to plant health and safe trade. Despite this unprecedented pandemic, the NPPOs of North America have been doing all they can to ensure the health and safety of their employees, while still delivering crucial, plant health-related services to their stakeholders. As a result, the United States, Canada, and Mexico continue to:

- Ensure that imported plants, plant products and other regulated articles are safe to enter their respective countries;
- Protect the plant health of their respective crops and natural environments;
- Provide access to valuable export markets that many growers need for their economic subsistence.

During the pandemic, these activities are more critical than ever.

### ***Update on continuity of phytosanitary operations during COVID-19 from each NPPO of the NAPPO region***

#### **Canada: Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the CFIA took immediate action to maintain its ability to deliver critical services that protect food safety, animal health, plant health and market

access. The CFIA activated its business continuity plan, continuing to provide critically important activities and services while temporarily suspending low-risk activities that do not immediately affect the protection of its plant resource base. Under its business continuity plan, the CFIA maintained service for the following critical plant health-related activities:

- Export certification;
- Import inspection services;
- Emergency management;
- Laboratory diagnostics, in support of the above.



*CFIA Inspectors conducting surveillance activities wearing face masks or practicing social distancing*

Given the impacts of COVID-19 on businesses and government, the CFIA delayed the timelines for all regulatory initiatives in its 2019-21 forward regulatory plan. The CFIA will continue to actively review its response to COVID-19 and adjust as appropriate.

To help lessen the burden on industry and support international trade during this challenging period, the CFIA adopted new approaches to business, such as the use of electronic document transfer (see below section on **NAPPO member countries adopt new approaches to business during COVID-19** for further details and examples). The CFIA continues to review its services and activities as the pandemic situation progresses and to make adjustments as appropriate, in line with guidance from public health officials.

### **Mexico: National Service for Agri-Food Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA) Plant Health General Directorate (DGSV)**

SENASICA, through its Plant Health General Directorate, maintains one hundred percent of all its essential activities, following the recommendations of the Mexican Health authorities. In order to guarantee the food supply and protect the country's agri-food heritage during the COVID-19 pandemic, officers from SENASICA inspect commercial shipments and cargo entering the country, in order to expedite the entry of imported food products required by the national market while preventing the introduction of pests and diseases.

To ensure exported consignments meet the phytosanitary import requirements of an importing country and, as such, the issued Phytosanitary Certificates, Mexico decided to accept digitized Phytosanitary Certificates (scanned documents) or a printed copy of a PC, for those countries that request it, while commercial activities return to normal.

Regarding preclearance of plant products in exporting countries, due to the limitations of international travel which do not allow Mexican personnel (official or approved) to travel, Mexico has decided to accept equivalent measures to preclearance (during the pandemic) relying on personnel of the NPPO's in the exporting countries for the inspection of plant products.



*Almost 1200 sanitary officers work at main ports, air-ports, and border points in Mexico.*

(See section below on **NAPPO member countries adopt new approaches to business during COVID-19** for further details and examples from Mexico).

### **United States: USDA APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ)**

Since the COVID-19 public health emergency started, PPQ has remained open for business, continuing to effectively fulfill its mission of safeguarding American agriculture and facilitating safe trade. PPQ has been doing all it can to ensure the health and safety of its employees and customers, while delivering timely and crucial plant-health services to its stakeholders.

PPQ has innovated to maintain its critical services, exercising administrative flexibilities like maximizing telework where possible or modifying work processes in the field to ensure social distancing and other safety

measures. As an example of administrative innovation, PPQ built an online COVID-19 Dashboard to give PPQ leaders a valuable at-a-glance view of the entire organization. This dashboard provides many views, including maps and tables of PPQ employees and facilities by State and their work or operational statuses. (Refer to ***NAPPO member countries adopt new approaches to business during COVID-19*** for additional examples, such as use of electronic documents).

Because of the various efforts, there have been no disruptions in PPQ's essential services. On the domestic side, PPQ continues to survey for plant pests and diseases and manage domestic regulatory programs. On the international side, PPQ continues to provide all regular plant and plant product import and export services, including:

- Accepting and processing permit applications;
- Inspecting imported plants and plant products;
- Identifying intercepted pests;
- Monitoring phytosanitary treatment activities;
- Inspecting and certifying plants and plant products for export.

PPQ continues to closely monitor this evolving situation and will provide updates as needed.

### ***NAPPO member countries adopt new approaches to business during COVID-19***

To help lessen the burden on industry and support international trade during this challenging period of COVID-19, the NAPPO member countries' NPPOs have adopted new approaches to delivering critical, plant-health related services. Examples shared by the NAPPO member countries, among other efforts, include:

### **Maximizing the use of electronic document transfer:**

This global public health emergency has led to flight cancellations, travel restrictions, and courier delays that could slow the arrival of original paper (phytosanitary) certificates. In addition, paperwork is more difficult to process when workers must maintain healthy physical distancing at the workplace. For all of these reasons, during the pandemic, the NPPOs of North America have maximized the use of electronic document transfer including:

- Sending scanned copies of phytosanitary certificates to other NPPOs that expressed a willingness to accept such documents in this format;
- Accepting scanned phytosanitary certificates submitted by importers or brokers for imported plants or plant products;
- Maximizing the use of the global ePhyto system, with Mexico and the United States actively exchanging electronic phytosanitary certificates and Canada developing the capacity as well.

### **Maximizing the use of virtual meetings and online communication platforms:**

Due to the COVID-19 situation, NPPOs have not been able to hold in-person plant health technical bilateral meetings with other trading partners or participate in NAPPO face-to-face expert group meetings. To continue mission critical work, NPPOs have been using virtual engagements or conference calls with trading partners to continue making progress on phytosanitary topics. In addition, NPPOs and regional stakeholders continue to regularly participate in NAPPO virtual expert group meetings, hosted by NAPPO's Secretariat, in order to progress on the 2020 NAPPO annual work program, which also includes actively promoting the International Year of Plant Health.

## Additional country examples:

In Canada, inspectors involved in various plant health activities such as surveillance, wear face mask and/or practice physical distancing to reduce health risks associated with COVID-19.



*PPQ's Miami Plant Inspection Station utilizes white inspection paper to maintain a 6-foot social distancing buffer between inspectors.*

In Mexico, inspection protocols include the placement of sanitary mats upon arrival of all international flights, as well as commercial and tourist vessels considered risky in seaports, which serve to disinfect passenger and crew footwear, as well as luggage wheels.

With the help of 85 canine pairs in ports, airports and borders, Mexico's Agriculture agency inspects tourist luggage in an agile and non-intrusive way to detect plant and animal products that could be carriers of pests and diseases.

During inspections, Mexico's SENASICA officers follow the safety recommendations of the governing body of human health in Mexico, including using gloves, face masks and disinfectant gel. In addition, they try to keep distance from people with whom they have direct communication at inspection points. Officers are not allowed to go to their work centers if they present symptoms of a respiratory illness.

In the United States, employees have pitched in to help keep plant health operations going. For example at the Miami, Florida, plant inspection station, an employee brought in a sewing machine to make masks for the entire staff. At airports in Hawaii and Puerto Rico, PPQ installed acrylic barriers to protect our inspectors during agricultural inspections of passenger



*A PPQ employee brings a sewing machine to PPQ's Miami Plant Inspection Station to make masks for the entire staff.*

baggage headed to the mainland United States. Some of PPQ's domestic programs, such as fruit fly trapping, created outdoor survey supply stations and provided outdoor Wi-Fi, allowing pest surveyors to fulfill their duties without needing to enter a building.

Of course, this pandemic will eventually ebb and pass. The NPPOs in the NAPPO region will continue to review their services and activities as the pandemic situation progresses and make adjustments as appropriate, in line with guidance from public health officials. One thing is certain: North America's NPPOs are not letting the pandemic interfere with protecting plant health and facilitating safe trade.

*By Patricia Abad (USDA-APHIS-PPQ), Steve Côté (CFIA), Ana Lilia Montealegre (SENASICA-DGSV) and Gregory Rosenthal (USDA-APHIS-PPQ)*

## Virtual meetings of the IPPC Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) and Standards Committee (SC) ensure continuity of its activities

The May 2020 face-to-face meetings of the IPPC Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) and the Standards Committee (SC) were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To ensure continuity of activities, the CPM Bureau encouraged the use of virtual tools to progress the work of the IC and the SC.

IC management prioritized the most relevant topics to be discussed during the virtual meetings. The meetings were attended by the current IC members and the newly selected IC members, whose official term will begin in November, were asked to join as observers. The new IC members include Ms. Kyu-Ock Yim (Asia/Republic of Korea), Mr. Nilesh Ami Chand (Southwest Pacific/ Fiji), Mr. Ahmed Abdellah Abdelmottaleb (Near East/ Egypt), Ms. Ruth Alicia Arévalo Macías (Chile), Mr. Thorwald Geuze (the Netherlands) and Mr. Lalith Bandula Kumarasinghe (New Zealand). The complete [IC membership list](#) is posted on the IPP.

The first two-hour meeting was held on 20 May and included general updates from the IPPC Secretariat and the Bureau and discussed the development of e-learning materials on Pest Risk Analysis and Export Certification. IC members also discussed the IPPC Regional Workshops and agreed that key segments of these workshops should be delivered virtually if face-to-face workshops are cancelled.

A second 2-hour meeting took place on 3 June and focused on draft Implementation Plan(s) for Guides and Training Materials. These plans have the objective of improving awareness and use of Guides and Training Materials and suggest approaches to

measure the uptake of these materials by the IPPC Contracting Parties. The recently completed [Guide for Establishing and Maintaining Pest Free Areas](#) was used as an example for the discussion. A revised Implementation Plan template will be used to develop three additional plans for other guides.

The next meetings are planned for 24 June, 22 July and 5 August as posted on the [IPP calendar](#). Reports of the IC virtual meetings will be posted on the IPP at: <http://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/capacity-development-committee/>

The SC has continued to work virtually via e-forum to review draft standards, specifications, and phytosanitary treatments in preparation to country consultation. Discussions have also included selection of experts for Expert Working Groups (EWGs), reviewing the work for some of the Technical Panels, and improvement of the standard-setting process. The SC has had 14 e-forum discussions since April 2020.

The following draft ISPMs will undergo first consultation starting July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020:

- Audit in the phytosanitary context;
- Focused revision of ISPM 12 (*Phytosanitary certificates*) in relation to re-export;
- Amendments to ISPM 5: *Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms*.

Additionally, the following draft phytosanitary treatments (Annexes to ISPM 28) will either undergo first or second consultation:

- Irradiation treatment for the genus

- *Anastrepha* (2017-031)
- Irradiation treatment for *Bactrocera dorsalis* (2017-015)
- Irradiation treatment for *Sternochetus frigidus* (2017-036)
- Irradiation treatment for *Carposina sasakii* (2017-026)
- Irradiation treatment for Tortricidae in fruits (2017-011)
- Cold treatment for *Bactrocera tryoni* on *Vitis vinifera* (2017-023B)
- Cold treatment for *Ceratitis capitata* on *Vitis vinifera* (2017-023A)
- Cold treatment for *Bactrocera tryoni* on *Prunus avium*, *Prunus salicina* and *Prunus persica* (2017-022B)
- Cold treatment for *Bactrocera zonata* on *Citrus sinensis* (2017-013)
- Cold treatment for *Ceratitis capitata* on *Prunus avium*, *Prunus salicina* and *Prunus persica* (2017-022A)
- Cold treatment for *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on *Citrus sinensis*. (2017-029)
- Vapour heat - modified atmosphere treatment for *Cydia pomonella* and *Grapholita molesta* in fruit of *Malus pumila* and *Prunus persica* (2017-038) – priority 3

The SC has also approved the following draft specifications for country consultation:

Design and use of systems approaches for phytosanitary certification of seeds (Annex to ISPM 38 *International movement of seeds*);

Criteria for the determination of host status for fruit flies based on available information (Annex to ISPM 37: Determination of host status of fruit to fruit flies (Tephritidae)).

Lastly, the overarching Commodity Standard and the Specification for Terms of Reference for the Technical Panel on Commodity Standards will also be undergoing first consultation starting 1 July 2020. These items will enter the regular standard-setting process under the authority of the SC. The Standards Committee has also been asked to review nominations to select experts for the revision of ISPM 4: *Requirements for the establishment of pest free areas*.

By Stephanie Bloem (NAPPO ED) and Steve Côté (CFIA).

## NAPPO completes upgrades to the NAPPO Phytosanitary Alert System

The NAPPO Phytosanitary Alert System (PAS) is an English and Spanish web-based notification system that allows Canada, the United States, and Mexico to provide timely official notifications concerning regulated plant pests in their country or share information about emerging plant pests of importance to the NAPPO region. The NAPPO PAS also meets the National Reporting Obligations for the NAPPO region to the Contracting Parties of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

In late October 2019, NAPPO launched its updated public interface for the [PAS](#) that not only significantly improved the user friendliness of the site but also strengthened cybersecurity and secure navigation capabilities. In April 2020, in collaboration with the NAPPO Secretariat, the PAS expert group, through the services of North Carolina State University's Center for Integrated Pest Management, completed additional updates to the administrative PAS interface. The administrative interface allows

PAS expert group members to login to the system and post official pest report notifications, send automated updates to subscribers after a pest report is posted, and automatically generate the monthly updates that are delivered to all subscribers. Additional functionality updates include viewing PAS metrics using Google analytics to analyze information provided by our subscribers.

The two key products delivered by the PAS expert group using the PAS system are:

- **Official Pest Reports**, which are official communications on regulated pests from a NAPPO member country intended to comply with the IPPC International Standard on Pest Reporting (ISPM 17). These reports are provided and posted by the National Plant Protection Organizations of Canada, the United

States, or Mexico.

- **Emerging Pest Alerts**, which are intended to function as early warning notifications concerning emerging plant pests that are not present in the North American region and may pose a threat to the region. Typically, emerging pest alerts include information on new/expanded geographic distribution, new host records, potential open pathways, and first-time reports of organisms as plant pests.

Over the past year the PAS expert group has posted 14 official pest reports on NAPPO PAS. Since the launching of the new interface the NAPPO PAS has been visited more than 20,000 times, and currently has 2,964 subscribers. For more information and to subscribe to the NAPPO PAS, please go to [www.nappo.org](http://www.nappo.org) and click on [pest alerts](#) to subscribe.

North American Plant Protection Organization  
**Phytosanitary Alert System**  
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Update on the status of *Rhagoletis pomonella* (apple maggot) in the pest free area in British Columbia  
 READ MORE  
 By J. Berger (Bugwood.org)  
 5402797

**Official Pest Reports**  
 Official Pest Reports are provided by National Plant Protection Organizations within the NAPPO region. These Pest Reports are intended to comply with the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures No. 17: 2002 Pest Reporting, of the International Plant Protection Convention.

Country	Title	Date Posted
Canada	International, Preliminary Pest Report: Japanese Stiltgrass: Detection in Canada	26 May 2020
Canada	<i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> race 3 biovar 2: Detection in a Canada Greenhouse	11 May 2020
Mexico	Eradicated Mediterranean fruit fly - <i>Ceratitis capitata</i> (Wiedemann) in Manzanillo, Colima, Mexico.	27 Apr 2020
United States	<i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> race 3 biovar 2: Detection in a United States Greenhouse	22 Apr 2020

**Emerging Pest Alerts**  
 Emerging Pest Alerts are news items obtained from public sources. They do not serve as official communication from NAPPO. The 'Emerging Pest Alerts' is an early warning tool for emerging plant pests that are not present in the North American region. In most cases, information within alerts is not confirmed with the corresponding National Plant Protection Organization. They are provided solely as an early warning to NAPPO countries and should be used with this disclaimer in mind.

Title	Date Posted
<i>Hymenoscyphus fraxineus</i> , causal agent of ash dieback: new hosts	20 Jun 2019
First report of <i>Argyrotaenia zuzumana</i> as a pest	08 Feb 2019
<i>Ceratitis capitata</i> detected in Chile	24 Jan 2019
<i>Bactrocera dorsalis</i> : First report in Europe	24 Jan 2019

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# News on ongoing NAPPO projects

Despite setbacks caused by the current COVID 19 pandemic, including cancellation of face-to-face meetings originally scheduled for the first and second quarter of 2020, the work conducted by the NAPPO EGs on the different NAPPO projects continues to move forward. Three projects approved by the NAPPO Executive Committee in November 2019 have already been launched: A pilot for harmonization of diagnostic protocols for seed pests focused on ToBRFV, improving the implementation of ISPM 25 (*Consignments in transit*) in the NAPPO region and the Revision of RSPM 38 (*Importation of certain wooden and bamboo commodities into a NAPPO member country*). Additionally, three documents have been submitted for country consultation: a Science and Technology document (*Risks associated with the introduction of exotic lymantriid species of potential concern to the NAPPO region*), Revision of RSPM 9 (*Authorization of laboratories for phytosanitary testing*) and the revision of RSPM 5 (*NAPPO Glossary of phytosanitary terms*). Significant progress has been made with the revisions of RSPM 35 (*Guidelines for the movement of stone and pome fruits trees and grapevines into a NAPPO member country*), RSPM 22 (*Guidelines for construction and operation of a containment facility for insect and mites used as biological control agents*) and the development of the Risk-Based Sampling manual. Below is a brief update of the latest activities of NAPPO EGs from March to June 2020.

**Revision of RSPM 22 (*Guidelines for the construction and operation of a containment facility for insects and mites used as biological control agents*)**. A first version of the revised document is expected to be completed in the summer 2020. A two-day face-to-face meeting originally scheduled for April 28-29 was cancelled due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

**Forestry**. The EG continues to make steady progress with the Science and Technology document (*Inspection guidance following detection of pests in certified wood packaging material and wood commodities*). A draft is expected to be completed in the second half of 2020.

**Seeds-Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus (ToBRFV)**. One of the largest NAPPO EGs, the Seed-ToBRFV EG was tasked with developing the terms of reference for the harmonization of ToBRFV detection protocols in the NAPPO region. Ed

Podleckis (APHIS PPQ) was elected Chairperson and Marlene Ortiz Berrocal (AMSAC-Mexico) was elected Co-Chair. Two sub-groups have been formed. The first sub-group was tasked with developing a list of ToBRFV PCR-based detection protocols that will be further discussed and evaluated by the EG and the second sub-group was tasked with suggesting/describing possible methods to compare the diagnostic protocols and the criteria used to determine their acceptability.

**Implementation of ISPM 38 (*International movement of seeds*)**.

The NAPPO EG that organized the “America’s focused” implementation of ISPM 38 workshop in 2019 was officially disbanded. However, the Communications and Terminology Ad-Hoc groups remain active. Deliverables from the workshop can be viewed and downloaded in both languages from the NAPPO website at <http://www.nappo.org/english/final-report-nappo-ism-38-implementation-workshop/additional->

[resources-2/](#) and <http://www.nappo.org/spanish/informe-final-del-taller-sobre-la-implementacion-de-la-nimf-38/otros-recursos-2/>. The NAPPO Secretariat wants to thank all EG members for the outstanding job done organizing and delivering the workshop.

**International Year of Plant Health (IYPH).** Rescheduling of IYPH activities internationally due to the COVID-19 pandemic has also resulted in changes in the agenda for the NAPPO IYPH EG. They are actively promoting the IYPH through social media. Information can be viewed at the NAPPO website at [www.nappo.org](http://www.nappo.org) or by clicking on the specific IYPH webpage at <http://planthealth.nappo.org/>. The EG will raise awareness on how NAPPO contribute to plant health in the region through the publication of short articles on the impact of current and previous NAPPO activities and products on plant health. The NAPPO Secretariat welcomes Karen Miranda (SENASICA) as a new EG member.

**Electronic Certification.** EG members continue to provide updates on the status of their ePhyto systems as well as what is happening globally with ePhyto implementation. The NAPPO Secretariat would like to welcome new EG members (Nathalie Bruneau, CFIA; Avtar Virk, CFIA; Edgar Reyes Oregón, SENASICA and Francisca de la Cruz Martínez, SENASICA).

**Lymantriids.** The EG completed the Science and Technology document (*Risks associated with the introduction of exotic Lymantriid species of potential concern to the NAPPO region*) which is currently out for country consultation. Stakeholders are encouraged to provide comments. EG members will address comments and the final version will be submitted for approval to the NAPPO Executive Committee.

**Revision of RSPM 9 (Authorization of laboratories for phytosanitary testing).** The EG completed the revision of RSPM 9. The document is currently out for

country consultation.

**Revision of RSPM 35 (Guidelines for the movement of stone and pome fruit trees and grapevine into a NAPPO member country).** A planned EG face-to-face meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions. Delays with the adoption of the revised ISPM 8 (*Determination of pest status in an area*) have impacted the work on the RSPM 35 pest tables updates. However, work on the body of the standard is almost complete. On May 20, EG member Dr. Maher Al Rwahneh (UC Davis) delivered a virtual talk on behalf of the EG entitled “*Updates on the NAPPO regional standard for phytosanitary measures (RSPM 35): How to address the phantom diseases*” to the Western Extension and Research Activity (WERA) group.

**Revision of RSPM 5 (NAPPO Glossary of phytosanitary terms).** The NAPPO AMC successfully completed the revision of RSPM 5 and the document was sent for country consultation. The revised RSPM includes new terms used in RSPMs that have been recently revised.

**Revision of RSPM 38 (Importation of certain wooden and bamboo commodities into a NAPPO member country).** The EG had its first video conference at the end of June where EG members introduced themselves, the Secretariat provided guidance on the functioning of EGs, and the objectives of the project were discussed. A Chair and Co-Chair will be nominated and selected in the next videoconference.

**ISPM 25 Guidance (Consignments in transit).** Shelah Morita (APHIS PPQ) was elected Chairperson and Christine Villegas (CFIA) and Neftali Reyes Carranza (SENASICA) were elected Co-Chairs. The EG is developing a strategy/outline for the development of harmonized guidance for the improved implementation of ISPM 25 in the NAPPO region. During their second call,

NAPPO countries provided an overview of their transit systems and opportunities for harmonization were identified including the development of a stakeholder communications plan, the development of contingency plans for emergencies and non-compliances and the need to schedule periodic reviews of the North American transit system.

**Risk-Based Sampling.** Part 1 of the multi-authored manual for implementation of Risk-Based Sampling is out for editorial review. The IPPC Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) has expressed interest in reviewing and possibly “uptaking” the manual at the level of the IPPC for the benefit of all 184 contracting parties.

## Welcome to new NAPPO Expert Groups members

**Vessela Mavrodieva, PhD** (*Expert Group: Seed ToBRFV*). In her current position as an Assistant Director for the PPQ S&T Beltsville laboratory Vessela manages methods development and confirmatory diagnostics for regulated plant pathogens. Vessela’s background is in molecular biology of plant viruses. She has worked on development and validation of advanced diagnostics methods for plum pox virus (PPV), CGMMV, ToBRFV, pospiviroids and other viruses; *Xanthomonas citri* and *P. ramorum*. Vessela managed the Proficiency Testing for the PPQ National Plant Protection Laboratory Accreditation Program for more than 10 years. She is a recognized technical expert for plant pathogen diagnostics and has trained more than 75 diagnosticians from various US laboratories and abroad.



**Annaliese Blecha** (*Expert Group: ISPM 25 Guidance*). Annaliese Blecha began her career as an Agriculture Specialist with US Customs and Border Protection, Office of Field Operations in 2005, shortly after receiving her degree from the University of Portland, in Portland, Oregon. She was stationed in Nogales, Arizona, for ten years before being relocating to Washington, DC. Currently, she is a Senior Operations Manager for Agriculture Programs and Trade Liaison, Process Resolution and Risk Management.



**M.C. José Manuel Cambrón Crisantos** (*Expert Group: Seed ToBRFV*). He has degree in Agronomy from Chapingo Autonomous University in Mexico and a M.S. from the School of Graduate Studies. He works at the National Phytosanitary Reference Center in SENASICA where he has participated in the development of phytosanitary diagnostic protocols and characterizing and identifying quarantine and emerging pests. He is a member of the Mexican Virology Network. He has delivered numerous lectures on pest issues, seed health, virus, viroids and phytoplasma detection. He has expertise in several molecular diagnostic techniques. He participated in the first notification of the *Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus* in Mexico.



**Edgar Reyes Oregón** (*Expert Group: Electronic Certification*). Edgar Reyes Oregón has a degree in Agronomy from the Metropolitan Autonomous University in Mexico. He obtained a Masters degree in Plant Protection, Entomology and Acarology from the School of Graduate Studies in Mexico. He began working at the Plant Health General Directorate (DGSV) of the National Service for Agri-Food Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA) in June of 2015.

His responsibilities at the DGSV include participating in the development of domestic regulations for the movement of plant products, plant product exports, phytosanitary certification, development and modification of domestic standards (NOMs), and recognition of pest free areas. He has actively participated in the implementation of ePhyto with the Pacific Alliance countries.



**Gustavo Hernández** (*Expert Groups: Lymantriids, Forestry*). Biologist, Forest Health Directorate -SEMARNAT, México.

Born in Mexico City, he graduated as a Biologist from the Metropolitan Autonomous University in Mexico.

He began his career as a public servant working at the Office of Ecology of the State of Hidalgo (a state located almost 100 km from Mexico City) where he worked for almost 9 years. He then moved to the Forestry Health Directorate in SEMARNAT where he worked in the section responsible for the development of forestry health regulations (Mexican Official Norms) for about 15 years. During this time period, he was fortunate to be the co-founder, in 1996, of the former Forestry *Ad-Hoc* Panel, precursor of the first permanent NAPPO



Forestry Panel. In 2000, he represented México in the International Working Group tasked with the revision of the draft standard *Guidelines to regulate non-manufactured wood packing material for the movement of basic commodities*, which preceded the current ISPM 15. From 2015-2019, he worked for a Forestry Commodity Certification Agency and in November 2019 he returned to the Forestry Health Directorate tasked with continuing and developing national level forestry phytosanitary standards. In this capacity, he renewed his participation in different Forestry related NAPPO Expert Groups on behalf of SEMARNAT.

**Pamela Ross** (*Expert Group: Seed ToBRFV*). Pamela Ross joined the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in 2000 with previous experience in lab diagnostics within private industry. While at the Agency, she has performed a variety of roles including Quality Manager and most recently as Lab Director. She is responsible for the provision of diagnostic testing, research and technology development, laboratory accreditation, and scientific advice. These activities support CFIA's policy decisions, program development, regulatory responsibilities and Agency mandated key deliverables and long-term strategies to ensure a healthy plant resource base and safe market trade of Canadian goods.

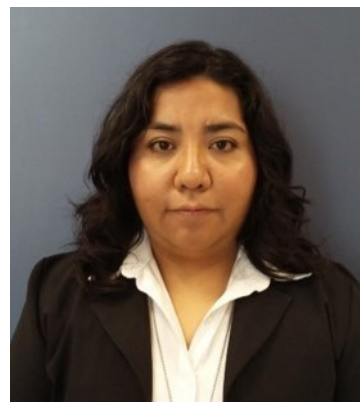


**Evan Moss** (*Expert Group: ISPM 25 Guidance*). Evan Moss is a Licensed Customs Broker and Sr. Director at J&K Fresh East a division of 721 Logistics. Evan is involved with various US Customs and participating Government Agency regulations pertaining to the import and export process of which he specializes in the clearance of fresh fruits and vegetables. Evan has worked in various capacities to assist in providing guidance to both terminal operators, ocean carriers and inland drayage providers on the regulations required to import and safely manage commercial cargo operations.



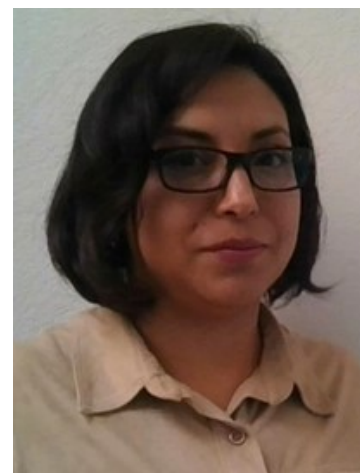
Evan lives in a suburb outside of Philadelphia, PA with his wife Maura.

**Daniela Alejandra Bocanegra Flores** (*Expert Group: Seed ToBRFV*). With 11 years of experience in Pest Risk Analysis, Daniela is the Coordinator for PRA at the DGSV in SENSICA. She graduated from Chapingo Autonomous University in Mexico with a degree in Agronomy and also earned a M.S. in Plant Protection from the School of Graduate Studies. Daniela has received advanced training in PRA and her job responsibilities include export files, pest categorization, technical opinions, preclearance, etc., on several plant products as per IPPC standards. She has participated in training events organized by IDB, USDA, IICA, IPPC and the WTO. She herself has provided PRA training to technical personnel in Colombia, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Dominican Republic.



**Jessica Berenice Valencia Luna** (*Expert Group: Seed-ToBRFV*). Coordinator for the National Phytosanitary Reference Center (CNRF) Virology Laboratory.

She graduated from Chapingo Autonomous University (2008) with a degree in Agronomy and received a MSc in Plant Pathology from the School of Graduate Studies (2010). She was recognized for her academic achievements and was granted a student loan to complete her graduate degree. She has 12 years of experience in diagnostics of plant viral pathogens. Since beginning her work at the CNRF Virology Laboratory in 2011, she has participated in the standardization and adoption of over 100 phytosanitary diagnostic protocols based on techniques such as ELISA, PCR, RT-PCR and RT-qPCR. In addition, she has expertise in optical and electronic microscopy, cloning, primer design and bioassays. She has worked on identification of other plant pathogens. Jessica has delivered lectures, workshops and presentations at national and international events, and been an invited speaker at plant health international fora. She has also helped train students for community work, internships and thesis work in phytosanitary diagnostics.



**Helen Gerson** (*Expert Group: ISPM 25 Guidance*). Helen Gerson is a Senior Program Advisor with the Food, Plant and Animal Program at the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA). After completing a M.Sc. in Marine Sciences and working as a biologist in various positions, Helen started work with the CBSA in 1997 and has 22 years of customs experience. Helen's expertise includes a detailed knowledge of the Harmonized System (HS) for plant and animal commodities and a comprehensive understanding of both taxonomic and tariff classification. Helen works with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to address border and customs issues related to plant and animal health.

**Erin Stiers** (*Expert Group: ISPM 25 Guidance*). Erin Stiers is the Minnesota State Plant Health Director for USDA APHIS PPQ Field Operations, a position she has held since 2015. In this role, Erin manages the people and programs needed to carry out PPQ's mission in Minnesota. Throughout her time in Minnesota, Erin has built strong relationships with Customs and Border Protection and industry on the Northern border, giving her a unique perspective into the ISPM 25 harmonization issue.



**Karen Stephany Miranda Ponce** (*Expert Group: International Year of Plant Health*). She obtained a BA in Communications with a major in Marketing from the Ecatepec University, in the State of Mexico, Mexico.

In 2018 she obtained a Graduate Certificate in Marketing and Communications at the Monterrey Technological Institute of Graduate Studies (ITESM) in Mexico City.

For the last six years, she has been working for the National Service for Agri-Food Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA) and in November 2019 she became the Deputy Director for the Development and Operations Unit. She is responsible for the Annual Social Communication and Promotion Program, as well as the coordination of communication campaigns with the agricultural sector and management of social media for her agency.



**Francisca de la Cruz Martínez** (*Expert Groups: ISPM 25 Guidance and Electronic Certification*). Francisca has a degree in Agronomy and a Masters in Entomology and Acarology. As head of the Department of Phytosanitary Certification and Approval, she coordinates plant imports, exports, and movement, as well as the approval of phytosanitary officers, and third-party entities. In addition Francisca has expertise in inspection as she is the former Head of Inspection at Internal Verification Points and person in charge at the OISA inspection office at the Mexican International Airport. She is currently the Head of the Department of International Entities for Plant Protection at the Plant Health General Directorate (DGSV) where she develops new requirements for the importation of regulated commodities by SADER-SENASICA.



**Nathalie Bruneau** (*Expert Group: Electronic Certification*). Nathalie Bruneau is an agronomist with a specialization in plant and soil science from Laval University, Quebec, Canada. She has 21 years of professional experience in agriculture and various phytosanitary issues.



Nathalie started her career in a plant pathology and nematology laboratory for the Quebec Ministry of Agriculture. In 2002, she joined the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and worked in the Plant Protection Division Potato section as a Program officer and as National Manager.

In 2009, she joined the CFIA's eCert section as a Business analyst. She was a member of the Electronic Phytosanitary Certification Panel and Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on IPPC Electronic phytosanitary certification from 2009 to 2011.

After a 7 year leave for a family farm project, she returned to the CFIA in October 2019 and is working on the eCert project.

**Kevin Ong** (*Expert Group: Seed-ToBRFV*). Dr. Kevin Ong is a Professor & Associate Department Head (Extension) of the Department of Plant Pathology & Microbiology at Texas A&M University. He also serves as the Director of the Texas Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab (TPDDL), based in College Station, TX since 2008. He received his PhD in Plant Pathology from Clemson University and joined Texas A&M in 2002. His applied research interests are in developing and optimizing pathogen detection procedures, and integration of best management practices in ornamental production and landscape issues.





**Neftali Reyes Carranza** (*Expert Group: ISPM 25 Guidance*). Neftali Reyes Carranza graduated from the Chapingo Autonomous University in Mexico with a degree in Agronomy. He has occupied the following positions:

- Assistant for animal and plant Inspection at the Port of Manzanillo, Colima for the Phytozoosanitary Inspection General Directorate of the National Service for Agri-Food Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA). In this position, he verified compliance with phytosanitary regulations for vessels carrying plant and animal products and by-products.
- Executive Professional for Specialized Services at the Standardization and Verification Unit of SENASICA's office of the Director, supporting the revision and management of draft plant health legislation, regulations, Mexican Official Norms, agreements, and legal provisions for publication at the Federal Official Gazette.
- Phytosanitary Agricultural Specialist, assigned to the Plant Health General Directorate in SENASICA, supporting the development of phytosanitary measures for plant products and by-products.

Currently, Neftali is the Head of the Department of Phytosanitary Measures under the Plant Health General Directorate responsible for establishing and following phytosanitary measures for importation of plant products and by-products. In March of 2018, he was assigned as member of the *Trogoderma granarium* Expert Group for NAPPO.



**Eduardo Garrido-Ramírez** (*Expert Group: Seed ToBRFV*). He is an Plant Protection Agronomist, graduated from the "Lázaro Cárdenas de Río" faculty, Tamaulipas Autonomous University (1975-1979).

He holds an MSc in Plant Pathology from the Plant Pathology Center, School of Graduate Studies, Montecillos, Mexico, (1984-1986) where he worked with Dr. Sebastian Romero Cova. A Doctorate in Sciences (Plant Pathology-Virology) University of California, Davis, USA. (1994-1999) under Dr. Robert L. Gilbertson.

Since 1980 he has been a Researcher at the INIFAP-Chiapas Experimental Field Station His areas of responsibility include: collection and selection of corn and bean genotypes, diagnostics and control of tropical diseases, vegetable crops and cereals, molecular biology of geminivirus, identification and quantification of mycotoxines, and food safety.



**Mike Tamilia** (*Expert Group: ISPM 25 Guidance*). Mike Tamilia is Senior Manager, Customs and Transborder Operations overseeing transborder operations at 7 CN US-Canada crossing points and responsible for CN Customs regulatory and policy issues. Mike has been instrumental in the development of CN's customs automated systems, CN's transborder process, and border inspection infrastructure, which includes operation of a treatment facility for pests and noxious seed issues found in containers transiting Canada by rail. He also represents the Railway Association of Canada on customs matters, is past Chairman of the Association of American Railroads Transborder Committee and is a key spokesperson on northern US border rail issues.



**John Ercolani III** (*Expert Group: ISPM 25 Guidance*). John Ercolani III is the US Licensed Customs Broker and Vice President of J&K Fresh East, a division of 721 Logistics. John is actively involved in the international trade community and works with many trade associations that deal with CBP, USDA, FDA, EPA and other government agencies that regulate the commodities our clients import. Throughout his career, he has been involved in almost every product vertical in the customs brokerage business.



He is alumni of Rider University in New Jersey and studied Business Administration & Economics. John now lives in Southern NJ with his wife Jillian and their three children.

# Greatly Missed

**Russell Reck, Jr.** Vice President of Operations for the American Lumber Standard Committee (ALSC) passed away in Tulsa, Oklahoma on Sunday, February 23, 2020 at the age of 54 after a prolonged hospitalization. Russel was a wonderful colleague and a great contributor to NAPPO. He was an active participant in the NAPPO Forestry Experts Group. He contributed extensively to the development and maintenance of ISPM 15 and was called on to explain implementations of treatment, marking systems, and controls to reduce fraud to numerous audiences. Russell was heavily involved in making sure that the three other programs overseen by ALSC (Untreated Lumber, Treated Lumber, and Pellets) were running smoothly and

effectively.

Russell graduated from Nathan Hale high school in 1983 where he excelled at golf. Russell earned a Bachelor's degree from Oklahoma State University in forestry. He kept up with his OSU Cowboys while living in Frederick, Maryland for the past 27 years. His career allowed him to meet with industry leaders, lecture, and travel extensively throughout North America and Europe, where he met interesting people and enjoyed the scenery and local culture. Russell's extensive travels reinforced his great appreciation for art, architecture, food, and music. His warm puckish smile, dry sense of humor, and mischievous pranks will be greatly missed.



*Russell Reck Jr. and members of the NAPPO Forestry Expert Group during a face-to-face meeting at the APHIS PPQ Headquarters in February 2017 in Beltsville, Maryland. From left to right: John Tyrone Jones II (APHIS-PPQ), Alonso Suazo (NAPPO), Scott Myers (APHIS PPQ), Brad Gething (US industry), Meghan Noseworthy (Nat. Res. Canada), **Russell Reck**, Nedelka Marin-Martinez (NAPPO), Paul Chaloux (APHIS-PPQ), Eric Allen (Nat. Res. Canada, retired), Faith Campbell (CISP), Patricia Abad (APHIS-PPQ), Steve Côté (CFIA) and Gustavo Gonzáles (Formerly SEMARNAT).*

**Michael Guidici Pietro** It is with deep sadness that we inform you of the sudden and unexpected passing of Michael Guidici Pietro of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) on March 23, 2020. Mike will be forever remembered as a great friend and colleague to all who knew him and worked with him throughout his 40-year career in APHIS, including on work in the area of international trade, with a focus on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) issues, since 1994.



Mike began his career in 1979 as a Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) Officer in the port of San Pedro, California, and later transferred to San Francisco to take the position of Pathology Identifier. Over the years, Mike worked in commodity preclearance programs in Chile, the Netherlands, and New Zealand. He also worked in export certification as a Trade

Specialist representing the export programs for U.S. fruits, vegetables, and nursery products grown in the western United States. In 2003, Mike joined the PPQ- Phytosanitary Issues Management unit as the National Trade Director for Exports and eventually became the unit's Associate Director and lead phytosanitary negotiator, participating in numerous bilateral meetings. His efforts helped open a number of valuable markets around the world. As important was Mike's success in strengthening U.S. relationships with technical counterparts from around the world. He was viewed as a credible, technically competent, and much respected negotiator committed to win-win outcomes for U.S. stakeholders and foreign counterparts alike.

Mike was a wonderful colleague and a great contributor to the PPQ' International Phytosanitary Standards' team, to the PPQ Harmonization Advisory Group and to NAPPO in relation to regional and international standard-setting activities and initiatives. Mike was always willing to share his extensive experience with APHIS and international colleagues. Mike was a regular APHIS delegation attendee at the NAPPO annual meeting, where he also participated as an expert speaker. In addition, Mike served in the NAPPO panel that developed NAPPO's regional standard 34 on the "Development of Phytosanitary Treatment Protocols for Regulated Arthropod Pests of Fresh Fruits or Vegetables".

We were truly fortunate to know and work with Mike, and will certainly miss his expertise and leadership on phytosanitary issues, his dedication to APHIS' mission and to NAPPO's work, and, of course, his friendship.



*Michael Guidici Pietro during the 2010 Australian visit for spotted-winged drosophila (SWD) and European grape vine moth (EGVM) in Central Valley, Sacramento, California.*

# NAPPO Newsletter

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