



# NAPPO

North American Plant Protection Organization  
Organización Norteamericana de Protección a las Plantas

## NAPPO Conference Call Report

Expert Group:	Phytosanitary Alert System	
Location:	Conference call	
Date:	3 March 2021	
Chairperson	Ignacio Baez (USDA APHIS)	
Participants:		
Heather Cumming (CFIA)	Rajesh Ramarathnam (CFIA)	Amanda Kaye (USDA APHIS)
Ana Lilia Montealegre (SENASICA)	Stephanie Bloem (NAPPO)	Alonso Suazo (NAPPO)
Pati Abad (USDA APHIS)		

### Summary

Agenda item 1:	<p><b>PAS user manual update and status on previous action items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Finalized the document with the instructions to use the PAS. Key inclusion to the final version was the language in the workflow of section 2 and 3, with guidance on when and how to include French translations in reports generated by Canada. Also, added guidance for translation when drafting Emerging Pest Alerts that are found under section 4.3. Final document was shared by email to the EG and NAPPO Secretariat.</li><li>Contacted contractor that addressed the following changes to the system: 1) changed the administrator permission, which now allows all EG members to have the same dashboard view, 2) corrected function issues that allows now EG members receive report notifications and the PAS monthly update, 3) sent the latest PAS login credentials to A. L. Montealegre.</li><li>NAPPO ED: Receiving duplicated notifications and did not received the monthly update.</li></ul>
Agenda item 2:	<p><b>US – Inquiry: Pest information useful to NAPPO</b></p> <p>Background: U.S. EG members are reviewing their criteria that help screen through pest information of interest to the NAPPO region. A set of question were shared to the EG and the NAPPO Secretariat (see addendum).</p> <p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>NAPPO Secretariat: Each NAPPO country has regulated plant pest lists. Also, they could be based on commodity of importance perspective. Those lists could be prioritized, for example, <b>top five pests</b> for each country. It would be interesting to look at each country's regulated plant pest list and see which pests/genera are in common for the 3 countries. Emerging pest alerts could also include <b>newly identified commodities that are pathways</b> for a specific pest for example hibiscus flowers (dried) for Khapra beetle.</li><li>U.S. AMC member: Another important aspect is highlighting pests of importance associated to ongoing projects under the NAPPO work program. For example, the team revising the</li></ul>

	<p>RSPM35 pest list is interested on emerging viruses, viroids, phytoplasmas or other pathogens of concern to stone fruit, pome, and grape germplasm and plants for planting, also, the team is interested in looking at the Lymantrid list. The NAPPO Secretariat can facilitate a list of key working groups and the latest NAPPO work program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mexico EG member: Years back the three countries tried to develop a list of pests relevant to the three countries. There was no consensus. But a decision document was drafted: D No. 7, <a href="#">Criteria for Pest Lists in NAPPO RSPMs</a>. For some countries, it is important to know what <b>phytosanitary measures</b> were taken by a country to <b>prevent or stop the spread</b> of a reported pest. Mexico commented on the recurrent detections of khapra beetle that they have had on rice from Uruguay more associated with sea containers and pointed out that this increasing situation in the number of detections in containers had also been raised by Australia, therefore attention should be given to this situation. Agreed on the idea that the group could come up with a list of the top 5 pests.</li> <li>• Canada EG member: Agree with Mexico EG member in highlighting pathways for regulated pests. Also, what measure to prevent entries, types of commodities, new host records will be useful. Also, if each country puts forward the top 5, perhaps they could think on the top pest for the entire region.</li> <li>• NAPPO Secretariat: We could also survey our stakeholders – industry, NPPOs, and states/provinces to give us their opinion on the top 5-10 pests or commodities to watch. It might encourage our stakeholders to periodically visit the PAS. The Secretariat can send the survey out if the PAS colleagues help to identify the questions. Also, US EC member has asked during NAPPO governance meetings if PAS can help in horizon scanning for potential new pest threats.</li> </ul>
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Agenda item 3:	<p><b>5.Updates from the NAPPO Secretariat: 2021 NAPPO virtual meeting-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft agenda is being worked on. The virtual meeting will be the first week of November. Presentation report out of expert group will be expected.</li> </ul>
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**Next Steps**

<b>Responsible Person</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Date</b>
Chair	Contact contractor to correct duplication of PAS notifications.	3/10/21
NAPPO Secretariat	Facilitate a list of key working groups that may benefit of emerging pest alerts.	3/17/21
All	Share links of regulated pest list from each country with the Chair.	3/17/21
NAPPO Secretariat	Schedule a call to discuss next actions	TBD
Location:	Teleconference	
Date:	To be determined	

<b>Proposed Agenda Items</b>
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## **Addendum. Inquiry: Defining pest information most useful to NAPPO**

### **Background:**

To best fulfill our responsibility as U.S. members of the PAS EG, Amanda and I review and post to the PAS any pest information that we think may be of interest to the NAPPO region. One source of our information is generated weekly by the PestLens team of analysts that systematically collects, evaluates, and summarizes relevant pest information typically from online sources (see Appendix for details on PestLens).

We want to improve our understanding of what specific pest information may be relevant for the NAPPO region when we review this material. To do so, we are reviewing our criteria that help us screen through these sources of information.

We have formulated a set of questions to better help us understand how to optimally highlight and timely share useful data to you and the NAPPO region.

### **Questions about NAPPO PAS for the EG**

1. What information from the PAS do you find useful for your work?
  - a. What part of your work is informed by the alert content?
  - b. If it is, what aspect of the PAS alerts do you incorporate into your work?
  - c. What aspect of the PAS alerts are not useful to you?
2. Do you subscribe to PestLens?
  - a. If so, what information could be added to the subsequent PAS alerts that would enhance your use of that resource?
3. Is there an example of a PAS alert that was helpful to your work?
4. Is there an example of a PAS alert that was not sufficiently timely or did not contain relevant information for you?
5. If there is a PAS alert that references your country, would you like to be informed prior to the alert being issued?

## **Appendix. About PestLens**

PestLens (<https://pestlens.info/>) is an early-warning system supporting the efforts of the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)-Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) to protect U.S. agriculture and natural resources against exotic plant pests. PestLens collects and distributes new information on exotic plant pests and provides a web-based platform for documenting safeguarding decisions and resulting actions.

A team of PestLens analysts with expertise in entomology, plant pathology, weed science, and technical communication systematically collects, evaluates, and summarizes relevant pest information, both from online sources and from contributions from the system users. When summarizing news items, the PestLens team places them into a plant health context and includes pertinent biological background information.

## **Weekly Notification**

The summaries produced by the PestLens team are disseminated through a weekly e-mail notification. The notification is timely, concise, safeguarding-focused, and formatted for readability. The types of information most commonly reported by PestLens are:

- New distribution records
- New host records
- New pest descriptions/identifications
- Significant outbreaks
- Weed naturalization events
- New pathogen/vector relationships
- Research of regulatory or phytosanitary interest

PestLens does not report on:

- Routine pest outbreaks
- Pests that are not identified by name
- Sources that are obviously unreliable or hearsay
- Pest distribution changes within a country (excluding Mexico and Canada)

Sensitive information is not distributed in the weekly notification. However, it is made available through the PestLens web system to designated PPQ representatives for appropriate and rapid safeguarding action.

APHIS-PPQ Designated Action Groups are tasked with deciding what actions should be taken in response to each PestLens article and recording the resulting decisions and actions in the PestLens web system. Action groups represent specific PPQ safeguarding functions (e.g., domestic pest surveys, regulations, risk assessments, pest databases).

Each action group has an action leader, who is responsible for recording decisions made by the action group and updating the progress and status of each resulting action. Action groups use their own internal decision-making processes, as well as their own guidelines and criteria, to determine which actions, if any, should be taken in response to each PestLens article.

## **Development of PestLens**

PestLens is the result of the merger of two previously existing PPQ systems—Exotic Pest Information Collection and Analysis (EPICA) and the Offshore Pest Information System (OPIS)—into a more streamlined, efficient, and user-friendly system. Archived OPIS and EPICA reports are accessible through the searchable database in the PestLens web system. While PestLens was developed for PPQ, its audience now extends beyond PPQ to a wide range of international plant protection officials.

## **Subscribe**

To receive the weekly PestLens e-mail notification, simply complete the form on the Subscribe page (<https://pestlens.info/public/subscribe.cfm>).