



## Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| 44th NAPPO AM Survey Results                       | 1  |
| Welcome to Mr. Ibrahim Shaqir, New NAPPO EC member | 2  |
| New Project Proposals and 2022 Work Program        | 2  |
| NAPPO Strategic Plan                               | 3  |
| 33rd TC-RPPO Virtual meeting                       | 4  |
| IPPC-IC Virtual Meeting                            | 4  |
| News from EGs                                      | 5  |
| Welcome to New NAPPO EG members                    | 6  |
| GICSV Webinars                                     | 8  |
| Darlene Blair Retires                              | 10 |
| Osama El-Lissy Retires                             | 11 |

## 44th NAPPO Annual Meeting Survey Results

At the conclusion of the 44th NAPPO Annual Meeting, a survey was sent to all registered participants to gather their opinions on the meeting content, delivery and organization. Out of 378 meeting participants, 74 (20%) responded to the survey. Below is a summary of responses to the main survey questions:

- 99% of the participants agreed that the duration of the meeting was appropriate.
- 94% of the participants were satisfied with the organization and structure of the meeting.
- 86% of the participants were satisfied with the virtual platform.
- 80% of the participants indicated that the time assigned for industry discussion rooms was appropriate.
- 77% of the participants agreed that the time assigned for industry and government discussion rooms was appropriate.

Positive comments, as well as suggestions for improvements were thoroughly reviewed and will be considered in organizing the 45th NAPPO Annual Meeting in 2022, which will be hosted by Canada.



# NAPPO welcomes

## Mr. Ibrahim M. Shaqir

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The NAPPO Secretariat is pleased to announce and welcome Mr. Ibrahim M. Shaqir as the new NAPPO Executive Committee – EC - member for the United States. Ibrahim began serving in this capacity in January 2022 replacing Osama El-Lissy. He will work alongside John Greifer – alternate EC member for the U.S. and Stephanie Dubon – NAPPO PPQ Technical Director - on all issues related to our Regional Plant Protection Organization.



Mr. Shaqir was appointed USDA-APHIS-PPQ Associate Deputy Administrator for Trade in January 2021. In this role, he leads the Phytosanitary Issues Management – PIM - and the International Phytosanitary Standards - IPS - Programs. Before joining PPQ, Ibrahim served as Associate Deputy Administrator for APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services. From 2009 to 2016, he was Director of the Office of International Research Programs within the USDA Agricultural Research Service.

Ibrahim holds a B.Sc. degree in International Environmental Studies, Environmental Business, and Economics from Rutgers University, and a master's degree in International Finance from the University of Maryland Global Campus. He is a graduate of both the Harvard Kennedy School Senior Executive Fellows Program and the American University School of Public Affairs USDA Senior Executive Service Candidate Development Program.

Please join us in welcoming Ibrahim. We look forward to working with him in furthering the NAPPO mission!

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## New Project Proposals and 2022 NAPPO Work Program

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The NAPPO call for new project proposals closed on January 15, 2022. Fourteen proposals were submitted by stakeholders from NPPOs and industry as well as from Expert Groups and the NAPPO Secretariat. The breakdown of new proposals is as follows:

**Canada:** 2 proposals from government and 1 from industry

**United States:** 1 proposal from government and 1 from industry

**Mexico:** 1 proposal from government and 2 from industry

**NAPPO Secretariat:** 2 proposals

**Expert Groups:** 4 proposals

The new Project proposals will be ranked based on the following criteria:

- Project fits under the mandate / regulatory authority of NAPPO member NPPOs.
- Project advances the phytosanitary capacity and promotes harmonization of phytosanitary measures in the region.
- Project aligns with the strategic priorities of NAPPO and member NPPOs.
- Project identifies availability of technical and scientific expertise required for the Project.

The proposals are being reviewed and preliminarily ranked by the NAPPO Advisory and Management Committee (AMC) who will discuss their assessment with the Executive Committee and the Industry Advisory Group at the next Management Team meeting in late March. Proposal ranking as well as the total number of projects that NAPPO can efficiently manage will determine the composition of the 2022 Work Program. The 2022 Work Program will be posted on the NAPPO website ([www.nappo.org](http://www.nappo.org)) and announced to all stakeholders via email and will be featured in next issue of the Newsletter.

The NAPPO Secretariat wants to take this opportunity to thank all stakeholders for their interest in submitting new Project proposals.

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## Updating the NAPPO Five-year Strategic Plan

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As we reported in the November 2021 NAPPO Newsletter (Vol. 41[3]), work on updating the NAPPO five-year Strategic Plan (SP) is underway and progressing nicely. After meeting in early December to review the different documents and suggestions gathered by our 3-member country NPPOs, the NAPPO Advisory and Management Committee met virtually three times in January and twice in February to begin integrating the gathered intelligence into the SP. We just completed a solid first draft of the updated SP and have shared it with the NAPPO Industry Advisory Group (IAG) for their review and input. Once the IAGs viewpoints and ideas are added to the document a second draft will be shared with the NAPPO Executive Committee for their review and comments.



I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank my fellow NAPPO AMC members for their hard work and good humor during our work sessions! They are Steve Côté and Tanya Staffen from CFIA, Stephanie Dubon from USDA-APHIS-PPQ, Ana Lilia Montealegre from SENASICA and Alonso Suazo from the NAPPO Secretariat. Maribel Hurtado, the NAPPO Scientific Officer, has joined most work sessions as an observer.

## **The 33<sup>rd</sup> Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations – RPPOs - met Virtually on February 3, 2022**

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The meeting Agenda included:

- an update on the activities of the IPPC Focus Group on Climate Change delivered by its Chair, Mr. Chris Dale from Australia
- Short presentations by each RPPO highlighting their current activities and future challenges
- The election of the new TC-RPPO Chair and
- Possible dates for the 34<sup>th</sup> TC-RPPO meeting.



The next TC-RPPO Chair will be the incoming Executive Director of COSAVE – Comité de Sanidad Vegetal – Mr. Diego Quiroga from SENASA, Argentina. COSAVE represents seven South American countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay). The RPPOs thanked the outgoing Chair, Mr. Visoni Timote from the Pacific Plant Protection Organization – PPPO. The 34<sup>th</sup> TC-RPPO meeting is being planned for Sept. or Oct. 2022.

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## **The IPPC Implementation and Capacity Development Committee – IC – met Virtually on February 3, 2022**

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During this first meeting of 2022 the IC discussed, reviewed, and approved the final report of the Sea Containers Task Force (SCTF). The SCTF final report will form part of the 16<sup>th</sup> Commission on Phytosanitary Measures - CPM-16 - document dossier. CPM-16 is scheduled for:

5 April 2022: AM 10:00-12:30 + PM 14:00-16:30 (Rome time)

7 April 2022: AM 10:00-12:30 + PM 14:00-16:30 (Rome time)

21 April 2022: AM 10:00-12:30 + PM 14:00-16:30 (Rome time)

The IC was also requested to review and agree with the SCTF recommendations to CPM-16 and note their recommendations to all stakeholders and to a future CPM Focus Group if one is established by CPM-16.

During the second half of the meeting, the IC reviewed their workload for 2022 and discussed possible approaches to improve the distribution of tasks among IC members. They also reviewed and endorsed the schedule and Agenda items for future meetings in 2022. The IC will meet again virtually in mid-March and will hold their Spring and Fall multi-day meetings on 16-20 May and 21-25 November.

# NEWS from Expert Groups

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**Seeds ToBRFV pilot** Preparations to initiate the seed pilot on harmonization of diagnostic protocols for the detection of ToBRFV are underway. The Expert Group is finalizing the last details and project logistics including panel preparation, shipping, protocol instructions, and data collection. A terms of reference (ToR) document describing the general approach for the pilot is being prepared by the EG Chairperson and will be presented to the Executive Committee at its upcoming meeting in late March.

The ring test will include 5 PCR-based protocols (3 conventional and 2 real-time PCR) and involve 8-10 laboratories in the NAPPO region. Materials, reagents, and seed panels will be prepared and shipped to each participating laboratory. Details on data collection, storage and analysis, instructional materials for the participating laboratories and required permits are being discussed by the EG.

**ISPM 25 Guidance** (*Standardization of responsibilities and actions for safeguarding consignments that have transited one NAPPO country to enter another NAPPO country*). The EG is making good progress on drafting the guidance document. The document:

- Provides insights into the roles and responsibilities of the in-transit parties in the NAPPO region (government and industry)
- Describes the communication components and harmonizes in-transit terminology
- Identifies potential gaps in non-compliance issues related to consignments in-transit, and
- Provides recommendations on streamlining communications and addressing non-compliance issues in the NAPPO region.

The guidance document will support the implementation of ISPM 25 in the NAPPO region.

**Forestry** (ST 08: *Contaminating organisms affecting trade of forestry commodities*). Additional editorial changes have been incorporated into the document including a title adjustment. The final version is being reviewed by the EG and will be submitted for approval by the NAPPO Executive Committee at the end of March. Copies of the final document will be uploaded to the NAPPO website and all stakeholders will be notified.

**Update of RSPM 35** (*Guidelines for the movement of stone and pome fruit trees and grapevines into a NAPPO member country*). A decision to further review and harmonize the pest status categories in selected pest tables has resulted in a step-wise approval for RSPM 35. First, the body of the standard included harmonized pest tables will be presented for approval by the Executive Committee (EC) in late March. Second, once the pest tables that need further revision are completed, they will be added to the body of the standard as ink amendments. Discussions between the EG and the NAPPO AMC on a periodic review of selected pest tables (*i.e.*, viruses and fungi) are underway.

**Electronic Certification**. The U.S. is currently sending ePhytos to 56 countries and receiving ePhytos from 26 countries. The U.S. is assisting Paraguay and Ecuador so they can begin exchanging ePhytos. Mexico began exchanging ePhytos with France and is

assisting other countries in Europe and America. Canada continues to work on their system and hopes to exchange ePhytos with the U.S. and Mexico in the near future.

**Phytosanitary Alert System.** The EG continues meeting the IPPC Pest Reporting Obligations and facilitating awareness, detection, prevention and management of exotic plant pest species within North America by managing and publishing the Official Pest Reports from all NAPPO member countries.

Since Nov. 2021, the PAS EG has posted 14 Official Pest Reports and the system automatically notifies subscribers.

In Jan. 2022 Canada updated the PAS EG membership. We want to thank Rajesh Ramarathnam for his contributions to the EG and welcome Naima Ait Oumejjout as a new PAS EG member.

**Risk-Based Sampling.** We are pleased to inform you that the Risk-Based Sampling Manual - Part II was completed in English, and will be uploaded to the NAPPO website very soon. In 2021, the RBS Expert Group, with support from the various co-authors, worked on drafting and consolidating the RBS Manual Part II. The document is under editorial review, and we expect to have the Spanish translation completed by July 2022. The RBS Manual Part II includes the following chapters: important considerations when implementing RBS, data and tools, sampling methods, and how to design, implement and maintain a new risk-based sampling program.

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## Welcome to new NAPPO EG Members

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**Cara Grant.** Cara began her career in Plant Health with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) in 2000 after obtaining her Bachelor of Science degree in Ecology. Cara is an International Phytosanitary Standards Specialist with the Plant Export Division of the CFIA. Throughout her career she has been extensively involved in leading, coordinating and facilitating plant health inspections, pest surveys and phytosanitary operations in the Ontario Area. NAPPO welcomes Cara as a new member of the Electronic Certification expert group.





**Paul Newman.** Paul is Canada Wood's Executive Director of Market Access and Trade responsible for international market access and development efforts. He holds a BSc. In Forestry in from the University of British Columbia and an Executive MBA from Simon Fraser University. Paul's career started with an eight-year stint with a major trade association, including five years in Europe. In 1993 he worked for plywood manufacturer Evans Forest Products Ltd. Paul then had a 3-year assignment with the Bank of Nova Scotia where he advised commercial bankers on lending to the forest sector. In 1999 he joined Canada Wood Group.

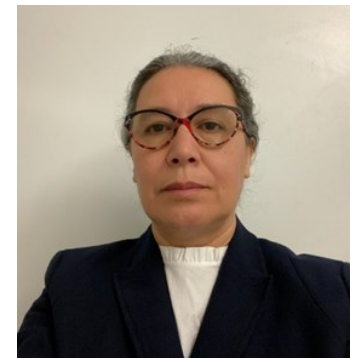


Starting in 2000 Paul was instrumental in establishing a comprehensive market development initiative for Canadian wood products in China. He also established offices in Korea and Taiwan and was responsible for activities in Japan. He is a founder and two-term past-President and Director of the Canada Wood Group, a non-profit organization representing Canadian producers overseas.

Paul previously had exposure to phytosanitary matters during his European stint and more recently has focused on plant health issues as they relate to forest product exports to Asian markets.

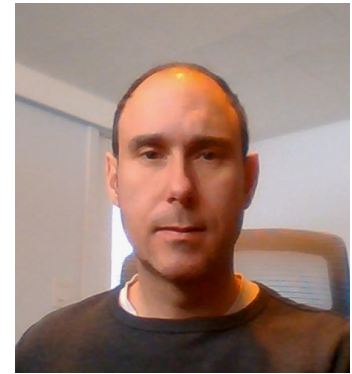
He appreciates the opportunity to participate in NAPPO work and looks forward to a long association with the organization. NAPPO welcomes Paul as a new member of the Electronic Certification expert group.

**Naima Ait Oumejjout.** Naima is currently on assignment with the International Phytosanitary Standards Section of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) Plant Import/Export Division.



Naima started with the CFIA in 2005 as the forest pest emergency response officer within the Plant Protection Division. She was the program lead of the eradication of the Asian long-horned beetle and the slow the spread program of the Emerald Ash Borer. This involved working with several internal and external partners including other government departments, cities and municipalities, industry as well as the USDA-APHIS-PPQ. She also worked on import programs including the issuance of import permits and led the development of a firewood campaign with the CFIA's Communications and Public Affairs Branch. In 2014, she became the foreign legislation specialist for export certification of forestry products. In 2018, she moved to the CFIA's International Affairs Branch as the forestry market access specialist with the Plant Import/Export Division. NAPPO welcomes Naima as a new member of the Phytosanitary Alert Systems (PAS) Expert Group.

**Alexandre Blain.** Alexander joined the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) in 2009 as a botanist at the Ottawa Plant Laboratory. He has identified and catalogued more than 7,500 specimens of plants collected by inspectors and himself throughout Canada and the world. He also established CFIA's herbarium collection. From 2018 to 2020 he worked as a horticulture program specialist where he managed the risks associated with horticultural commodities. Since 2020 he is working as a botanist in CFIA's Plant Health Risk Assessment unit. His main task is to evaluate and predict the distribution of plant species which could potentially pose harm to Canada's economy and environment. NAPPO welcomes Alexandre as a new member of the Phytosanitary Alert Systems (PAS) Expert Group.



## Webinars Developed under the auspices of the Interamerican Coordinating Group in Plant Health (GICSV, for its acronym in Spanish) and NAPPO

To continue with outreach and knowledge transfer activities within the Interamerican Coordinating Group in Plant Health (GICSV), the following events took place during the first quarter of 2022. Simultaneous interpretation in English and Spanish was available for both events.

### 1. Risk-Based sampling - RBS: Available tools and their use

In order to provide information on the Risk-Based Sampling (RBS) tools compiled and developed by NAPPO and to guide the Regional and National Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs and NPPOs) in their implementation, NAPPO developed and delivered a webinar on the topic hosted by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the GICSV. The five RPPOs of the Americas and the Caribbean - NAPPO, OIRSA, CAN, COSAVE and CAHFSA - integrate the GICSV. The webinar took place on February 2, 2022 and had over 160 participants from different countries including Argentina, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, United States, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Surinam, and Uruguay, among others. The webinar included a Q&A session, where participants were able to interact



CLICK BELOW TO ACCESS RESOURCES AND TOOLS TO HELP YOU LEARN MORE ABOUT RISK-BASED SAMPLING

|                        |                 |            |                |
|------------------------|-----------------|------------|----------------|
| HG Tables              | Webinar Video   |            | Proceedings    |
| Sample Size Calculator | RBS Video       |            |                |
|                        |                 | References | Manual Part I  |
| Practical Exercise     | Training Module |            | Manual Part II |

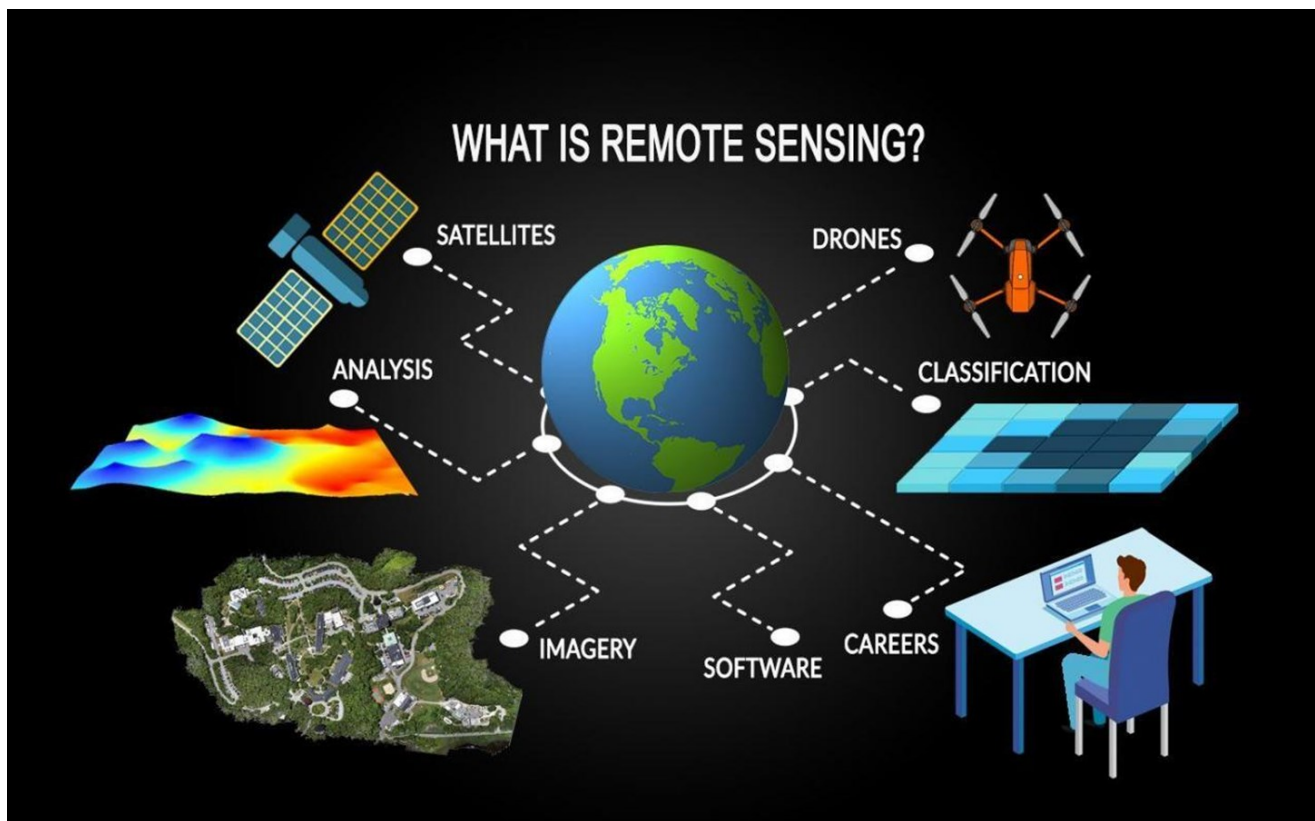


with NAPPO RBS experts —Stephanie Bloem, Robert Griffin, and Maribel Hurtado. The webinar was recorded and is available at this link [Virtual Seminar on Risk-based Sampling RBS: available tools and their use](#). In addition, the tools presented during the webinar can be accessed from the NAPPO website or by clicking [here](#).

## 2. Application of remote-sensing for orthopteran pests

Because orthopteran pests, also known as locusts, are pests of major concern to agriculture in the Americas and the Caribbean, a webinar on the “Application of remote sensing for orthopteran pests” was developed and delivered on February 23, 2022. GICSV, with IICA’s and NAPPO’s support, organized the webinar where experts from USDA APHIS, USDA ARS, CONAE Argentina, CESVY-SENASICA-OIRSA, and FAO shared their expertise and information on the practical applications of remote sensing to manage these important pests.

More than 130 participants had the opportunity to interact with the speakers on this important topic. In addition, there was wide participation through social media live streaming. The seminar was recorded and will be available very soon on IICA’s and GICSV’s websites.



Source: GISGeography, 2021  
<https://gisgeography.com/remote-sensing-earth-observation-guide/>

# Best Wishes to Darlene Blair on her retirement!

Darlene Blair, Director of the Plant Protection Division at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) retired in January, 2022 after an interesting, rewarding, and stellar thirty-year public service career.

She has had many different jobs with the CFIA over the years. She started out as a fertilizer efficacy evaluator and soon became National Manager of that group. She took on a couple of assignments acting as Plant Program Network Director for Ontario. She was responsible for field implementation of several plant protection programs including plant protection, seed, fertilizer, and food of plant origin, leading emergency responses (e.g. emerald ash borer) and building relationships with provincial counterparts.

After a stint as Director of Strategic Policy and Domestic Policy, she returned to Plant Health as the Director of Plant Production and then on to Director of Plant Protection which, for a time, included the role of Chief Plant Health Officer. Darlene has practical experience along with passion and strong understanding of agriculture and forestry production and plant health science. This background and expertise positioned her to support her team in designing federal plant protection programs to keep new plant pests out of Canada, to keep introduced pests from moving from areas where they are found in Canada and for working with other countries to establish plant health requirements for Canadian exports. She often said that it is a job that kept her up at night but also made her leap out of bed in the morning to see what exciting opportunities the new day would bring.

Darlene's pragmatic, no-nonsense approach to all the things that came at her every day was appreciated by her colleagues. She inspired her teams to think critically, to question what seemed wrong, and to do the right thing even in difficult situations. Her experience in various roles within the CFIA contributed to her ability to see the big picture while not losing sight of the details.

On the international scene, Darlene had a unique way of removing barriers, creating alliances, and dispensing with unnecessary formalities when appropriate. This instilled a climate of confidence and greatly contributed to the advancement of multilateral initiatives in the IPPC, NAPPO, and PH Quads realms. Her ability to look at issues from a different angle,



and to identify ways of resolving them was greatly admired by her international colleagues. She also embraced the customs of the countries she visited and could sometimes be heard saying: "I don't know what I'm eating, but I'm eating it!".

Attendees of the 2019 NAPPO annual meeting in Montreal may remember her as "Lumberjack Woman" at the Sucrerie de la Montagne event. That appearance is typical of her ability to rise to any occasion with confidence and good humour.

All the best in your upcoming adventures Darlene and congratulations on your 30 years of remarkable public service!

*From her Plant Health colleagues at CFIA*

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## **NAPPO Executive Committee Member Dr. Osama El-Lissy retires from Federal Service**

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On Friday, December 31, 2021, our friend and colleague, Osama El-Lissy, retired as Deputy Administrator of USDA-APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ). Dr. Mark Davidson, one of APHIS' Associate Administrators, will serve as Acting Deputy Administrator.



The NAPPO community would like to recognize Osama for his insights, engagement, and contributions as the NAPPO Executive Committee member for the United States from 2014 to 2021. Ibrahim Shaqir, PPQ's Associate Deputy Administrator for Trade and Lead of the PPQ International Phytosanitary Management and Standards Programs is now serving as the NAPPO Executive Committee member for the United States.

Dr. El-Lissy served APHIS for almost 22 years, with cooperators and stakeholders from across the agricultural sector, forging strong relationships with producers, businesses, industry associations, non-governmental organizations, trading partners, government agencies at all levels, extension, academia, and many segments of the public.

At the start of his career, Osama spent more than 12 years in the private sector managing large-scale pest control and eradication programs. In 1994, he became director of the Texas boll weevil eradication program where he led one of the largest pest eradication programs in the world, overseeing millions of acres of cotton and assisting several thousand cotton producers and landowners.

Osama joined APHIS in 2000 and served as the National Coordinator for cotton pest programs, coordinating activities in the United States and Mexico, including the Boll Weevil and Pink Bollworm eradication. He went on to direct PPQ's emergency management efforts by providing national coordination in the preparedness, response, and recovery from plant health emergencies in the United States. This included working with a wide variety of stakeholders and subject matter experts to develop and implement comprehensive plans designed to safeguard American agriculture against invasive pest outbreaks.

Before becoming PPQ's Deputy Administrator in 2013, Dr. El-Lissy was the program's Associate Deputy Administrator responsible for policy and financial management. As Deputy Administrator, he led a diverse staff that achieved new market access for U.S. commodities; implemented the global ePhyto system; eradicated a variety of plant pests and diseases from the United States including European grapevine moth, Pink Bollworm from commercial U.S. cotton, plum pox virus, *Ralstonia solanacearum*, among others; and modernized the fight against these pests and diseases by using alternatives to chemical treatments, mobile applications, canines, and more.

For his accomplishments throughout his career, Osama received a variety of awards, including a Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Service, two USDA Under Secretary's Awards, the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal (Finalist for Management Excellence), and the American Seed Trade Association Award for Distinguished Service.

We thank Osama for his service and dedication to NAPPO and North American agriculture. Please join NAPPO in wishing him all the best as he begins this new stage in his life.

*From his colleagues at APHIS-PPQ*

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## **Announcement: First International Plant Health Conference**

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The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) of the United Kingdom announce the first International Plant Health conference (IPHC) that will take place from September 21 to 23, 2022 at the Queen Elizabeth II Center in London, UK. For more information please check the IPPC website ([www.ippc.int](http://www.ippc.int)) or click the following link <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/press-release-the-first-international-plant-health-conference/>

## NAPPO Newsletter

Published by the North American Plant Protection Organization

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