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LATEST UPDATES - 46th NAPPO Annual Meeting



What – NAPPO's 46th Annual Meeting
Where – Mérida, Yucatán, México
When – Monday, Dec. 4 through Thursday, December 7, 2023

Since our last newsletter, the NAPPO Secretariat and the host country have been working very hard to finalize the logistics for the annual meeting. We are happy to report that the webpage with all the necessary information to get you ready to attend the 46th NAPPO Annual Meeting is **now live!**

Please click [here](#) to access the webpage where you will find:

- **The Meeting Registration Form including ability to effect payment via Pay-Pal**
- **The latest version of the Meeting Agenda.**

- **Information on Hotels you can [select and book yourself](#) that are within walking distance of the meeting venue – International Convention Center - 33 502 S Street between 60 A and 62 Col. Centro, C.P. 97000 Mérida, Yucatán**
- **A personal letter of invitation from Ing. Francisco Ramírez y Ramírez, Plant Health General Director for the NPPO of Mexico, Chair of the NAPPO Executive Committee and host of the 46th NAPPO Annual Meeting**
- **How to reserve meeting rooms for your side meetings**
- **Weather, tourist attractions, and other useful information**
- **How to download the 2023 Annual Meeting logo(s)**



Merida International Convention Center

Please plan to arrive in Mérida in time to attend the welcome reception scheduled for the evening of Dec. 4th at the meeting venue. The first full day of meetings – Tuesday, Dec. 5 - will feature welcome remarks by Mexican dignitaries, status reports from NAPPO member country government and industry representatives, a Secretariat update from Executive Director Bloem, and a status report on global plant health by the IPPC Secretary. The afternoon is reserved for NAPPO member country government, industry, and combined government-industry meetings.

The second day – Wednesday, Dec. 6 – will feature project updates from the NAPPO Expert Groups (EGs), four different knowledge topics with North American, interregional, global, and trade focus, as well as two invited presentations on plant diagnostics and phytosanitary safeguarding. At the end of day 2 the United States will announce the location and dates for the 2024 NAPPO Annual Meeting. An Awards Dinner is scheduled for the evening of day 2.

The third day – Thursday, Dec. 7 – will feature an all-day Symposium entitled ***International and Regional Phytosanitary Issues that impact the NAPPO region***. The Symposium is divided into two sections. The global implementation of the 2020-2030 IPPC Strategic Framework (SF) is well underway and is the focus of Section 1. The SF identifies eight development programs (or agendas) that will address and advance initiatives and approaches that directly impact the protection of plant resources and the conduct of safe trade in the NAPPO region.

Several of these development programs are well advanced in their implementation, including e-Phyto, the development of commodity-based standards, guidance on the e-commerce pathway(s), and the use of third-party entities to perform phytosanitary services. Others are still in the planning stages, including three that will be presented in this Symposium. This offers participants an opportunity to contribute ideas to the implementation of these future SF programs. The last presentation in Section 1, on the impacts of climate change will update Symposium participants on the latest advancements from the IPPC Focus Group and address NAPPO regional efforts towards predicting the impacts of climate change on regionally significant pests.

Section 2 will take the form of a “conversation” about pests of concern or emerging pests in the NAPPO region. Subject matter experts will answer questions concerning each pest and will provide the latest information available for each one. After each Section, participants will form breakout groups to address specific questions and collect insights and perspectives that will be presented back to the plenary.

As we said back in March, we certainly hope to see you ALL in Merida! It will be wonderful to reconnect with friends and colleagues from the NAPPO region and beyond! See you in December!

NAPPO Management Team met in Raleigh, NC, in March and in San Diego, CA, in June 2023

The NAPPO Management Team (Executive Committee (EC), Advisory and Management Committee (AMC), Industry Advisory Group (IAG)) and NAPPO Secretariat met for the Spring and Summer governance meetings. Government and industry updates for each NAPPO member country were provided. Highlights of meeting discussions included:

- Plans for the 46th Annual Meeting, including the draft agenda, suggested speakers and topics, logistic arrangements, and recommendations on how to continue providing impactful meetings to our stakeholders.
- NAPPO Work Program updates, including progress reports for each project, and the addition of “*Alternatives to the use of Methyl Bromide*” as a new project for 2023.

- Timelines for the 2023 country consultation process.
- The Executive Director (ED) succession planning, including timelines and immigration issues related to hiring the new ED.
- Secretariat updates including the 2023 projected budget, calendar of activities and projected travel.
- IPPC updates relevant to NAPPO including the latest information from the Standards and Implementation Committees.
- Logistics and planning for the 35th TC-RPPO meeting planned for 23-26 October in Bogotá, Colombia. More information on this can be found in a separate article in this issue.
- The next governance meeting is scheduled on the margins of the 46th Annual Meeting in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico in December 2023.



Members of the NAPPO Management Team (EC, AMC, IAG and Secretariat) meeting in San Diego, California.

NAPPO will be hiring a new Executive Director

Stephanie Bloem will be retiring from the position of NAPPO Executive Director (ED) at the end of June 2024, after completing nine years of service with the organization. The NAPPO Management Team (Executive Committee, Advisory and Management Committee, Industry Advisory Group and Secretariat) has worked to update the ED Position Description which will be posted on the NAPPO website in the coming weeks. The job will be open to qualified candidates from Canada, the United States and Mexico. The NAPPO Secretariat will remain in Raleigh, NC, and the NAPPO Management Team hopes to have the new NAPPO ED in place in early June 2024 to allow for some overlap between outgoing and incoming EDs.

Please be on the lookout for this important announcement!

Specific questions about the position can be addressed by contacting the NAPPO AMC members representing the NPPOs of NAPPO member countries:

CANADA - Tanya Staffen
tanya.staffen@inspection.gc.ca

UNITED STATES - Stephanie Dubon
stephanie.m.dubon@usda.gov

MEXICO - Ana Lilia Montealegre
ana.montealegre@senasica.gob.mx

Updates to NAPPO Governance Documents

The ink amendments to the NAPPO **Constitution and By-Laws (C&BL)** were completed by the NAPPO AMC. The amended C&BL will be uploaded to the NAPPO website after signature by all EC members.



Changes to the NAPPO Management Team – Steve Côté is the new Executive Committee Member Representing Canada

In June 2023, Steve Côté was named Canada's representative on the NAPPO Executive Committee. Steve joined the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) in 2002 in the Plant Protection Division working on domestic, import, and export phytosanitary issues. He also has experience working with the CFIA and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada on various market access issues. Since 2018, Steve has been the national manager of the International Phytosanitary Standards Section of the Plant Export Division. In this role, Steve is responsible for overseeing CFIA's engagement in the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO).

Steve previously served as a member of the NAPPO Advisory and Management Committee (AMC) and was involved in the development and revision of various NAPPO Regional Standards for

Phytosanitary Measures.

He is currently a member of the IPPC Standards Committee which is responsible for overseeing the IPPC standard-setting process, managing the development of international standards for phytosanitary measures (ISPMs), and providing guidance and oversight to the work of technical panels and expert working groups.



The NAPPO Secretariat would like to congratulate and welcome Steve as the new EC member representing Canada and thank Greg Wolff for his work and contributions as a former Executive committee member.

NAPPO Work Program for 2023 and Call for New Project Proposals in 2024

The 2023 NAPPO Work Program is now available on our website – it can be accessed [here](#).

Several projects on the 2022 Work Program were successfully completed including the update to the arthropod pest tables of RSPM 35 – *Guidelines for the Movement of Propagative Plant Material of Stone and Pome Fruit Trees and Grapevines into a NAPPO Member Country*, translation and construction of the Risk-Based Sampling Inspector Training Module in Spanish (will soon be available on the NAPPO website), and the translation of the Risk-Based Sampling Manual – Part 2 into Spanish. In addition, the Expert Group conducting the pilot for harmonization of diagnostic protocols for seed pests focused on tomato brown rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV) successfully concluded the experimental and analysis phases of the ring test. More information on this project is provided under Expert Group news in this newsletter.



The 2023 NAPPO Work Program has two new projects: A discussion document on how NAPPO member countries should prepare for the threat posed by *Tuta absoluta* and a discussion document on alternatives to the use of Methyl Bromide with a

possible goal of creating a regionally agreed position aligned to international standards.

Because the IPPC's Implementation and Capacity Development Committee has just published a guide on Regulation of Wood Packaging Material (<https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc5059en>), the NAPPO Secretariat is expecting to receive a modified proposal for one of our waitlisted projects focused on ISPM 15. The new IPPC Guide provides information on approved treatment options for wood packaging material (WPM), applying the ISPM 15-mark, manufacturing, repairing and reusing WPM, import inspection procedures, and phytosanitary

actions in response to ISPM 15 non-compliance. It also includes several case studies that highlight approaches to challenges associated with implementing ISPM 15. In addition, the NAPPO Forestry Quarantine Research Group will be submitting a new project proposal for consideration by the NAPPO Executive Committee.

The next open call for new project proposals for NAPPO will take place in summer of 2024. Please note - submitting new projects to NAPPO will be one of the Knowledge Topics at the 46th NAPPO Annual Meeting in Merida.

UPDATE - Easy to Read Summaries of NAPPO Regional Plant Health Standards

As we informed you in the March newsletter, we have a project to develop and make available easy to read summaries of NAPPO Regionals Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (RSPMs) to improve their implementation and utilization, thereby promoting the harmonization of phytosanitary approaches in the NAPPO region. We are happy to inform you that six RSPM summaries were completed, illustrated, reviewed, and translated, and are now available on the NAPPO website. They correspond to the following RSPMs:

- **RSPM 41** - Use of Systems Approaches to Manage Pest Risks Associated with the Movement of Forest Products
- **RSPM 40** - Principles of Pest Risk Management for the Import of Commodities
- **RSPM 38** - Importation of Certain Wooden and Bamboo Commodities into a NAPPO Member Country
- **RSPM 33** - Guidelines for Regulating the Movement of Vessels from Areas Infested with the Asian Gypsy Moth
- **RSPM 31** - General Guidelines for Pathway Risk Analysis
- **RSPM 09** - Authorization of Laboratories for Performing Phytosanitary Testing

Please click [here](#) to access the summaries!

Summaries for the following RSPMs have been

written and are currently under review. We are hoping to complete and post all RSPM summaries by the end of 2023.

- **RSPM 35** - Guidelines for the Movement of Propagative Plant Material of Stone Fruit, Pome Fruit, and Grapevine into a NAPPO Member Country.
- **RSPM 28** - Authorization of Entities to Perform Phytosanitary Services.
- **RSPM 22** - Guidelines for the Design, Construction, and Operation of a Containment Facility for Insects and Mites used as Biological Control Agents.
- **RSPM 12** - Guidelines for Petition for First Release of Non-Indigenous Entomophagous Biological Control Agents.
- **RSPM 07** - Guidelines for Petition for First Release of Non-Indigenous Phytophagous or Phytopathogenic Biological Control Agents.



NAPPO Continues Participating in the GICSV after Transferring the Coordination Role to OIRSA

NAPPO, as outgoing coordinator for the Interamerican Coordinating Group in Plant Protection (GICSV), transferred this role to the *Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria* (OIRSA). The transfer took place in Rome on the margins of the 17th session of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) on March 31, 2023.

At this meeting, the NAPPO Executive Director provided a final workplan report and all supporting documentation for the activities accomplished during the March 2021-2023 biennium. Recommendations on the way forward were also provided to the new coordinator.

NAPPO will continue to participate in steering committee meetings, and in meetings of the GICSV working groups - FOC R4T, locusts, fruit flies, and ePhyto. OIRSA reviewed, alongside the working group coordinators and steering committee, the activities of the HLB and *Tuta absoluta* working groups and decided to disband them once they finish their current tasks. Exit webinars will be held for each of these groups to summarize their activities and deliverables under the GICSV framework.

Lastly, the new coordination proposed two new working groups: **phytosanitary emergencies** and

biological control. The RPPOs members of the GICSV will suggest proposed objectives and possible workplans for these new groups



Transfer ceremony of GICSV coordination from NAPPO to OIRSA. Top left: Stephanie Bloem (NAPPO Executive Director), Carlos Urias (OIRSA representative), and Lourdes Fonalleras (IICA) signing the official documents to transfer the coordination to OIRSA. Bottom: GICSV and IPPC Secretariat (Osama El-Lissy and Sarah Brunel) meeting attendees.

NAPPO progress in organizing the 35th Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations -TC-RPPOs

As planned, COSAVE transferred the Chair of the TC-RPPO to NAPPO at the last meeting of the 34th TC-RPPO held on the margins of the 17th session of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) at the end of March 2023 in Rome, Italy. As such, NAPPO is organizing a face-to-face meeting of the 35th TC-RPPO to be held in the city of Bogotá, Colombia.

During this meeting, RPPOs analyze and coordinate regional phytosanitary actions to achieve the objectives of the IPPC and identify opportunities to collaborate on shared objectives with other international organizations.

The IPPC Secretariat, together with NAPPO, sent invitation letters to representatives from the 10 RPPOs and to relevant international phytosanitary organizations such as the Food and Agriculture

Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Interamerican Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Colombian dignitaries such as the Minister of Agriculture and officers from the Colombian NPPO, the Colombian Agricultural Institute (ICA).

The event will be held October 23-27, 2023, at the CONNECTA 26 event center. In addition, a field trip to a cape gooseberry (*Physalis peruviana* L.) orchard and export packing house, located in a

municipality near Bogotá, is planned.

Each participant will cover their travel expenses as well as their hotel accommodation. NAPPO, as the current Chair of the TC-RPPO and event organizer, will cover the costs of the event.

Please contact Dr. Stephanie Bloem, stephanie.bloem@nappo.org, if you are interested in participating in this meeting.

NAPPO Attends ePhyto Regional Workshop

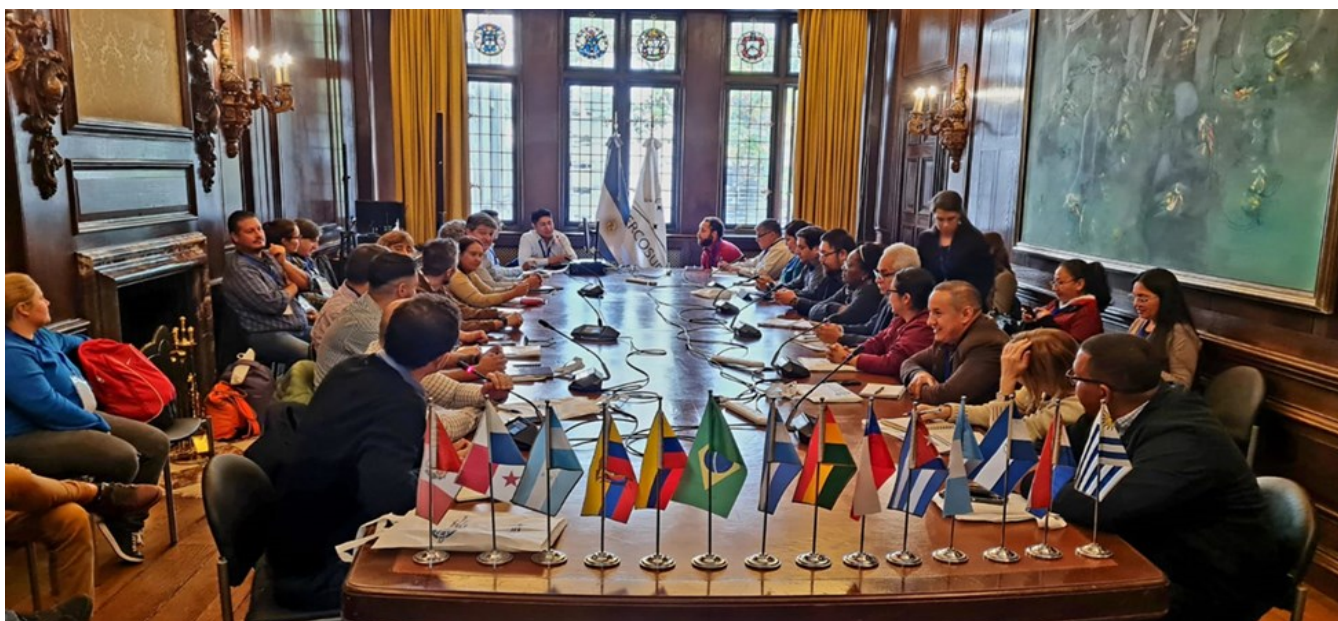
The workshop was jointly organized by the NPPO of Argentina (the National Service of Agrifood Health and Quality – SENASA), COSAVE (Plant Health Committee of the Southern Cone), one of the RPPOs in South America, and IICA (Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture). The event was held 18-20 April 2023 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The workshop was designed to improve participants' knowledge of electronic phytosanitary certification; increase the participation of countries in the region; exchange information among countries; promote networks of experts and identify areas for cooperation. NAPPO was invited to present an update on implementation of the ePhyto

solution by its member countries.

Members of the IPPC Secretariat made presentations on the newest improvements to the Hub and the GeNS and provided live demonstrations of both systems. Industry presentations highlighted the many benefits of using ePhyto including improved timeliness, significant monetary savings, and avoidance of fraud.

The workshop included breakout sessions during day 2 to discuss IT implementation challenges and phytosanitary concerns including issues related to Single Windows, future tools, and contingency plans when systems are non-operational, long-term financing of the ePhyto solution, and current internal obstacles to successful implementation.



Participants of the SENASA, COSAVE, IICA ePhyto workshop held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in April 2023.

NAPPO Attended the 17th Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-17) in Rome, Italy

The NAPPO Executive and Technical Directors and the Scientific Officer attended the first in-person CPM since 2019, held at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy from March 27-31 2023. More than 400 participants attended the meeting.

Updates were presented by the CPM Chairperson, IPPC Secretariat, and IPPC strategic planning group (SPG), as well as the Standards and Implementation and Capacity Development Committees. Four International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) were adopted by CPM-17:

- 1) Annex to ISPM 20: *Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system: Use of specific import authorizations.*
- 2) Revision of ISPM 18: *Requirements for the use of irradiation as a phytosanitary measure.*
- 3) 2021 amendments to ISPM 5: *Glossary of phytosanitary terms*, and
- 4) Annex to ISPM 28: *Irradiation treatment for *Pseudococcus jackbeardsleyi*.*

For more information on CPM-17, click here to access the [CPM-17 webpage](#) on the IPPC International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP).

Several events important to NAPPO took place on the margins of CPM-17:

- *NAPPO-EPPO pre-CPM meeting on March 26* to discuss the CPM-17 agenda and share positions on different issues including ePhyto sustainable funding.
- *Seed Association of the Americas (SAA)-NAPPO meeting on March 30.* Representatives of SAA and NAPPO met to discuss the possibility of an Annex to ISPM 46 on a specific seed commodity.
- *TC-RPPO transfer of Chair meeting on March 27.* Diego Quiroga - COSAVE, transferred the Chair to Stephanie Bloem. NAPPO will Chair the TC-RPPO until October of 2023.
- *Transfer of the GICSV coordination from NAPPO to OIRSA on March 31.* See article in this newsletter.

Outstanding Contribution Awards awarded at CPM-17

Drs. Lucien Kouame Konan (Outgoing CPM Bureau Chair) and Osama El-Lissy (IPPC Secretary) recognized John Greifer (USDA-APHIS PPQ) and Stephanie Bloem (NAPPO Executive Director) for outstanding contributions to the IPPC.

John served in the IPPC Bureau from 2018 to 2022 and Stephanie as RPPO representative to the Implementation Committee from 2017 to 2023. Congratulations to John and Stephanie!



Stephanie (left-middle) and John (right-middle) receiving their recognitions at CPM-17.

Greg Wolff, Former NAPPO Executive Committee Member representing Canada, Elected Chair of the IPPC Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM)

The NAPPO Secretariat would like to congratulate Greg Wolff on his appointment as CPM Chair. Greg has been actively involved in the work of the IPPC for many years including as Chair of the Sea Container Task Force. Greg has worked on plant health and international trade issues for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency since 2000 and served as the NAPPO Executive Committee member representing Canada from 2018 until June 2023.

NAPPO acknowledges and thanks Greg for his contributions as NAPPO EC member and wishes him much success in his new role.



The IPPC Standards Committee (SC) and Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) meet in May in Rome

During their May meeting, the SC recommended the adoption of the revised ISPM 4 – *Requirements for the establishment of pest free areas* – to the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures. Adoption of ISPM 4 would take place during CPM-18 which is scheduled for April 15-19, 2024. The SC also approved several documents for first country consultation, including the draft standard that revised and reorganized the pest risk analysis standards, the draft annex to ISPM 46 – *Commodity-based standards for phytosanitary measures: International movement of mango (Mangifera indica)*, and the draft annex to ISPM 39 – *International movement of wood: Use of systems approaches in managing the pest risks associated with the movement of wood*. The annex to ISPM 39

relied heavily on information contained in the NAPPO Science and Technology document 08 – *Contaminating Organisms Affecting Trade of Forestry Commodities*.

During their May meeting, the IC discussed ways to improve the collaboration between the SC and the IC, the status of guides and training materials, worked to identify gaps in implementation and capacity building resources, discussed the upcoming IPPC regional workshops, and identified new leads for topics, subgroups, and teams from the incoming regional and expert members of the IC. The IC also re-elected Dominique Pelletier (representing the North American region) as Chair and elected Thorwald Geuze (representing Europe) as the new Vice-Chair for this committee.



Implementation Committees members at the IPPC in Rome, Italy

The Working Group to draft the Risk-Based Inspection Guide meets in Rome

A group of experts on the topic of risk-based inspection met at FAO headquarters in Rome the week of May 22, 2023, to begin drafting an IPPC guide on Risk-Based Inspection. The meeting was facilitated by members of the Implementation and

Facilitation Unit of the IPPC and supported by two members of the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee. All the NAPPO materials and resources on Risk-Based Sampling were made available to the group in order to support their work.

NEWS FROM EXPERT GROUPS

Tuta absoluta (Discussion document on how NAPPO member countries should prepare for the threat posed by Tuta absoluta). The EG will develop a discussion document highlighting the phytosanitary requirements in countries where the pest is present, the impact of *Tuta absoluta* in NAPPO member countries, and a harmonized response plan to mitigate such impact. The EG has met twice to outline the draft document. *Tuta absoluta* is an economically important pest of tomatoes currently not found in the NAPPO region but already present in Central and South America. The document will provide valuable information for implementation of an emergency response plan in the event the pest is detected in our region.

Seeds-ToBRFV. A final report was drafted by the Secretariat and selected EG members and approved by the NAPPO Executive Committee (EC) during the summer governance meetings. [The final report](#) and the final [terms of reference](#) are now available on the NAPPO website. The final report includes recommendations based on ring test results, suggested next steps and lessons learned from this project. A writing subgroup will draft a scientific manuscript for publication in a peer reviewed journal. Following manuscript publication, the Secretariat will draft a Decision Document on selected protocols for signature by the NAPPO EC.

Guidance for improving the regional implementation of ISPM 25 (Consignments in-transit). The draft guidance document was completed by the writing subgroup. The document will be reviewed by the entire EG before it is sent for a 60-day country consultation later this year.

RSPM 35 (Guidelines for the movement of propagative material of Stone and Pome Fruit Trees and Grapevines into a NAPPO Member Country) - arthropod pest tables. Arthropod pest tables were completed and added as ink amendments to the RSPM. Copies of RSPM 35 are available on the NAPPO website. As agreed by the NAPPO AMC, the virus and fungal pest tables of RSPM 35 will be reviewed in 2026. The NAPPO Secretariat wants to thank all EG members for their work on this important standard.

RSPM 26 (Certification of commercial arthropod BCAs or non-Apis pollinators moving into NAPPO member countries). The EG is in the process of discussing their background document which provides information on potential sections to update, outlines implementation issues, and provides recommendations going forward.

Citrus Greening (DD05: Management of Huanglongbing and its Vector, the Asian Citrus Psyllid, *Diaphorina citri*). Additional EG members were identified by the U. S. and Mexico. EG members are working independently to collect and add country-specific updated information. The NAPPO Secretariat would like to welcome the following new members: Francisco Javier Márquez Pérez (SENASICA), Michael Hennessey (APHIS PPQ), Mayra Arredondo (APHIS PPQ), and Cathy Sue Katsar (APHIS PPQ).

Phytosanitary Alert System. The EG continues meeting the IPPC Pest Reporting Obligations by managing and publishing Official Pest Reports (OPRs) for NAPPO member countries. Nine OPRs

have been published (7 from the U. S., 1 from Canada and 1 from Mexico) in 2023.

The PAS EG was invited to present at a webinar on Pest Reporting organized by the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO). Ignacio Baez (EG Chairperson) and Stephanie Bloem (NAPPO Executive Director) presented details on how pest reporting is managed in our region and how the NAPPO PAS platform operates. The webinar, on June 6, was attended by more than 100 participants.

Forest Quarantine Research Group (FQRG). The group provided an update to the NAPPO AMC on May 2, 2023, and informed about possible future NAPPO project proposals in forest quarantine. Current FQRG discussion topics include heat treatment parameters for wood products and how to harmonize their use in our region and globally.

Furthering the implementation of Risk-Based Sampling (RBS). Work on the translation and development of the RBS training module for inspectors has been completed and will soon be uploaded to the NAPPO website.

Welcome New Expert Group Members

Tuta absoluta (Discussion document on how NAPPO member countries should prepare for the threat posed by Tuta absoluta)

Miguel Angel Juárez Maya. Miguel is a native of Veracruz, Mexico. He has a degree in Agronomy with a major in Agricultural Pests from Chapingo Autonomous University, and a Masters in Plant Protection, Entomology and Acarology from the School of Graduate Studies in Mexico. He currently works at the Plant Protection Directorate, Department of Economically Important Programs, and is in charge of the sorghum *Melanaphis sacchari* management campaign. He also was responsible for confirming the detection of the black fig fly *Silba adipate* (Diptera: Lonchaeidae) in Mexico. He published an article on the Toxicity and Selectivity of Insecticides for Pink Hibiscus Mealybug and its Natural Enemies in *Southwestern Entomologist*.



Julie Paillat. Julie Paillat is the National Coordinator for the greenhouse vegetable sector at the Fruit and Vegetable Growers of Canada (FVGC). Her leadership and commitment to developing national policy objectives with analysis and, persuasive rationale and robust recommendations has included a wide range of federal policy and regulatory issues. She manages various national initiatives that promote excellence, research and innovation, sustainability, competitiveness and growth of the sector. She brings her professionalism and entrepreneurial experience to her approach to strategic planning, consensus-building, and delivering results with and for key stakeholders.

She demonstrates a strong work ethic and passion for agriculture that was initiated growing up on the family farm. After graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from the University of Manitoba, she gained experience in research and development within plant breeding and agricultural crop protection, before spending several years in the seed potato sector in Manitoba and Quebec.



Todd Gilligan. Dr. Todd M. Gilligan is a National Policy Manager with USDA-APHIS-PPQ's Emergency and Domestic Programs, where he evaluates and manages domestic pest detections. Prior to this position, he managed a molecular laboratory for PPQ and developed cutting-edge molecular diagnostic procedures for invasive plant pests. Todd has a Ph.D. from Colorado State University in Lepidoptera systematics, and he has authored or coauthored 60+ peer-reviewed publications, including five books, mostly on the systematics of Tortricidae. He has received numerous awards for his professional work, the most notable including the USDA-APHIS Scientist of the Year Award in 2021.



Melanie Gautier. Mélanie is a program specialist with the Horticulture Section at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Her files include, amongst other things, fresh fruits and vegetables. Mélanie graduated from Laval University (Québec, Canada), and started working with the Agency in 2001, where she has occupied different positions in Plant Production and Plant Health. This will be her first time participating in a NAPPO expert group, and she is excited to contribute and learn from the experience.



Ignacio Baez. *Staff Scientist, United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine, Science and Technology*

Ignacio is part of a team that provides coordination of scientific support for pest domestic programs and emergency responses lead by USDA's Plant Protection and Quarantine. Under his portfolio he provides scientific support coordination for box tree moth, coconut rhinoceros beetle, and the tomato leaf miner. He is currently a member and chair of the NAPPO Phytosanitary Alert System expert group that manages regional pest reporting and informs on emerging pest threats to the NAPPO region. Most recently, joined the expert group to participate in the development of a discussion paper on how NAPPO member countries should prepare for the threat posed by *Phthorimea (Tuta) absoluta*.



Eutyclus Kariuki. Eutyclus Kariuki is a Risk Manager with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine. He joined USDA-APHIS-PPQ in 2021. One of his main responsibilities is to determine pest mitigation measures for safe importation of fruits and vegetables into the United States. Prior to joining USDA-APHIS-PPQ, he was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Florida, working on biological control of invasive weeds. He holds a master's degree in Agricultural Sciences from Florida A&M University and a Ph.D. degree in Entomology jointly from Florida A&M University and the University of Florida.



Eduardo Sánchez García. He is an Agronomist with specialization on agriculturally important pests from the Chapingo Autonomous University. He has worked in pest and disease management of organic and conventional horticultural crops, as well as trapping and pest sampling. He currently works at the National Phytosanitary Reference Center as part of the operational team of the Plant Health General Directorate, Epidemiological Surveillance Program which coordinates and follows up the operational strategies within Mexico for the timely detection of pests not present in the country.



Timothy Westbrook. Timothy Westbrook has worked for PPQ since 2007 including various roles in Field Operations, Pest Exclusion and Import Programs, and most recently in Emergency and Domestic Programs. His range of experience includes expertise in leading operational responses in eradication programs, applying phytosanitary treatment and inspection methods focused on mitigating pest risk offshore in foreign countries of origin, and developing policy to respond to new plant pests detected domestically in the United States. Timothy has worked overseas on multiple assignments in India, South Korea, Vietnam, and Guatemala and has delivered training to foreign NPPOs and industry leaders in several countries on the use of irradiation as a phytosanitary treatment to support offshore irradiation programs around the globe.



Citrus Greening (DD05: Management of Huanglongbing and its Vector, the Asian Citrus Psyllid, *Diaphorina citri*)

Mayra Arredondo. Mayra Arredondo is a Plant Protection and Quarantine Supervisor in South Texas. She helps sustain the United States citrus industry through The Citrus Health Response Program that safeguards citrus-producing areas against invasive citrus diseases and pests of concern, preventing the establishment of pathogens and pests like Huanglongbing and its vector the Asian Citrus Psyllid.

She began her career with USDA in 2001 as a PPQ Officer and has travelled the world as a preclearance officer overseeing many commodity programs. She is a Biochemist and has a master's degree in plant and soil science from Texas A&M Kingsville.



Cathy Sue Katsar. Dr. Catherine (Cathy Sue) Katsar is a Senior Risk Manager with USDA-APHIS-PPQ Plants for Planting Policy. She holds a B.S. degree in Plant Sciences from Cornell University, an M.S. in Plant Pathology & Microbiology, and a Ph.D. in Entomology from Texas A&M University. She also holds a Professional Certificate in Big Data and Data Science and Six Sigma Black Belt certifications. Dr. Katsar has also worked in academia and industry and has been a research scientist with the USDA Agricultural Research Service.



NAPPO Newsletter

Published by the North American Plant Protection Organization

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