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Three weeks to go before we see each other at the 46th NAPPO Annual Meeting in Mérida, Yucatán, México!

Dear NAPPO Stakeholders,

As you can imagine, the NAPPO Secretariat and our host country Mexico are extremely busy with the final preparations for our first in-person NAPPO Annual Meeting since 2019. Speaker presentations have started to come into the Secretariat, registration numbers continue to increase - as of November 3 we have 125 registered participants!! -, our planning team has scheduled their final meeting on Nov. 16th, our meeting facilitator is busy preparing his "minute by minute" script, award speeches are being written, catering numbers are being reconfirmed, nametags are being printed, and the meeting Agenda is being finalized, among other arrangements.

The entire NAPPO Secretariat is looking forward to seeing you in Mérida. As outgoing NAPPO Executive Director, it will be my last opportunity to greet you and present to you the status report on NAPPO and our outlook for 2024. Remember to book your travel considering our welcome reception scheduled for the evening of Monday, Dec. 4. Safe travels everyone!

Stephanie Bloem
NAPPO Executive Director



Kíimak 'oolal

(Welcome in Yucatec Maya)

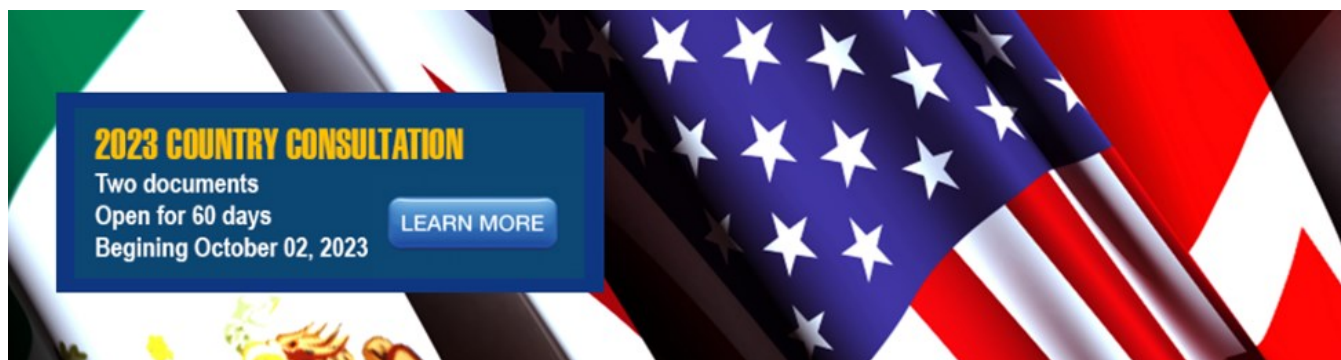


Two NAPPO products/documents developed by NAPPO Expert Groups (EG) are out for Country Consultation

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the HLB NAPPO EG (<https://www.nappo.org/english/directory/expert-groups/Huanglongbing>) an updated version of **Discussion Document 05 (DD 05) entitled “Management of Huanglongbing and its Vector, the Asian Citrus Psyllid, *Diaphorina citri*”**, went out for Country Consultation on October 2, 2023. The initial version of DD 05 was published in 2016. Since that time, an expansion of the disease has occurred in North America and new regulations and management practices have been developed and implemented. As such, updating DD05 was a priority for our region.

The EG that developed the **Guidance Document on “Standardization of responsibilities and actions for safeguarding consignments that have transited one NAPPO country to enter another NAPPO country”** (<https://www.nappo.org/english/country-consultation-2023/NAPPO-Guidance-document>) to improve the implementation of International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) 25 – Consignments in Transit, also finalized their document so that it could undergo Country Consultation.

Comments will be accepted until December 1, 2023. After this, both EGs will review the comments received and incorporate those that improve/enrich the documents. The NAPPO Secretariat expects these important products to be available to our stakeholders in their final form in early 2024.



35th Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations (35th TC-RPPO) - Oct. 24-27, 2023 – Bogota, Colombia

The 35th TC-RPPO was held from 24-27 October 2023 in Bogotá, Colombia. Stephanie Bloem chaired the event in her role as Chair of the 35th TC-RPPO. Welcome remarks were provided by Juan Fernando Roa Ortiz, Deputy Director General of ICA (the National Plant Protection Organization of Colombia) and Diego Mora García, FAO Representative and Program Officer in Colombia. The IPPC Secretary, Dr. Osama El-Lissy, welcomed the participants via a recorded video.

There was active participation by representatives from the 10 RPPOs: Asia and Pacific Plant

Protection Commission (APPPC) (recorded presentation), Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA), Andean Community (CAN), Comité Regional de Sanidad Vegetal del Cono Sur (COSAVE), European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO), Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC), North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO), Near East Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO), Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA) and Pacific Plant Protection Organization (PPPO).

Additionally, the 35th TC-RPPO was attended by representatives from the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), as well as from international organizations, among which were the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Colombian Agricultural Institute (ICA) and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

The meeting Agenda included a discussion of several IPPC strategic issues and focused on the role of RPPOs in this respect. In addition, each RPPO presented updates from their regions and engaged in active discussions after hearing the reports and updates from the Bureau of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures, the IPPC Standards and Implementation and Capacity Development committees, the IPPC Observatory, sea containers, ePhyto, IPPC communications activities, coordination of the global action FOC TR4 and the 2023 IPPC regional workshops.

Different phytosanitary issues of global interest were discussed to encourage the application of international standards that protect plant health and promote safe international trade by facilitating collaboration and coordination among RPPOs. In addition, the 2024 action plan of the TC-RPPO, which specifies the strategic actions of RPPOs in the implementation of the eight development agenda items of the IPPC Strategic Framework, was discussed on the last day of the meeting.

A technical visit to Frutireyes farm and packinghouse facility - to learn about the Colombian cape gooseberry export program – took place on October 26th. ICA and a representative from the ANALDEX Cape Gooseberry Exporters Committee accompanied the meeting participants and made presentations on the programs as part of this technical visit.

The meeting concluded with the identification of several commitments from the RPPOs and the IPPC Secretariat, and finally, the Chair was transferred to Dr. Carlos Urías, from OIRSA.

For more information, please [click here](#).



Participants at the 35th TC-RPPO meeting in Bogotá, Colombia. Photo by María Alejandra Ruiz Rico.

The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) Strategic Planning Group (SPG) met at FAO Headquarters in early October

The SPG provides strategic perspective to the work of the IPPC and recommendations and advice to the CPM on ongoing and future phytosanitary challenges and opportunities. The SPG meets once per year to review the ongoing work and planned activities of the IPPC Secretariat. During the October meeting, the SPG was updated on and discussed issues such as the position of Plant Health in the One Health Agenda, the need for a sustainable funding model for the IPPC ePhyto solution, the proposed Terms of Reference for new CPM focus groups for two Strategic Framework Development Agenda Items, coordination activities on *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *ubense* (TR4), the 35th Technical Consultation among regional plant protection organizations, the International Day of Plant Health (IDPH) and the Agenda structure for CPM-18, among others.

During the meeting, Dr. Osama El-Lissy, IPPC Secretary, provided an update on the initial pilot phase of the Africa Phytosanitary Programme (APP). The SPG proposed some key issues for discussion at the 35th TC-RPPO, including One Health, ePhyto, and how to enhance coordination among the RPPOs in implementing the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030. In addition, the SPG requested that the Agenda for CPM-18 include an additional presentation on the role of RPPOs in shaping plant health. Another SPG recommendation was to add the IDPH as a standing Agenda item for their meetings to improve coordination and themes for this important awareness-raising activity. The SPG encouraged the IPPC Secretary to engage FAO and other global organizations to underscore the importance of plant health in the context of One Health, including facilitating the submission of a paper to the Eighth One Health World Congress in September 2024 and to CPM-18.

Prior to the SPG meeting, some members of the NAPPO Executive Committee alongside the NAPPO Executive Director met with their counterparts from EPPO (European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization) to compare and harmonize positions on key issues that would be discussed at the SPG.



Participants at the IPPC CPM SPG in the IPPC headquarters in Rome, Italy. Photo by Lorenzo Monterosa, FAO.

NEW IPPC guide on e-commerce has been published

October marks the publication of the much-awaited IPPC guide on *E-commerce: A guide to managing the pest risk posed by goods ordered online and distributed through postal and courier pathways*. E-commerce remains a key priority for NAPPO, and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) supported both the development and implementation of this IPPC guide. E-commerce is also a development agenda item in the IPPC's 2020-2030 Strategic Framework, highlighting the global importance of this topic. We encourage you all to download the guide [here](#), currently available in English.

The guide highlights some of the key challenges that national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) face in managing the pest risk associated with e-commerce trade, where small parcels containing plants, plant products and other regulated articles are ordered online and distributed internationally through postal and courier pathways. It provides practical guidance for improving cooperation and collaboration with key stakeholders involved in e-commerce supply chains, including national customs administrations, postal operators, courier services, e-commerce platforms and marketplaces, and the [general public](#). The guide also highlights pre-border and border activities, including risk-based phytosanitary inspection, that NPPOs may use to help mitigate pest risk on postal and courier pathways, how to identify and respond to non-compliance, and the importance of monitoring regulated articles moving on postal and courier pathways to respond to [new technologies](#) and trends. Case studies are provided from around the world, highlighting some of the risks to plant health associated with e-commerce trade and the innovative approaches being taken by NPPOs to address these risks.

To access all IPPC guides and training materials please click [here](#) and we look forward to our March 2024 NAPPO newsletter where we will be doing a more in-depth feature on e-commerce.



NAPPO participates in the IPPC Webinar on October 19

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) held a two-hour webinar on October 19 on guides, training materials, and several capacity-building tools useful and available to national and regional plant protection organizations as part of the IPPC key implementation and capacity development resources for the phytosanitary community. Steve Côté, a member of the NAPPO Executive Committee from Canada, provided information on how the NPPOs and RPPOs can participate in developing new IPPC guides and training materials. The webinar titled “*New IPPC guides and e-learning courses – key implementation and capacity development resources for the phytosanitary community*” was offered in English with Spanish interpretation thanks to NAPPO in-kind interpretation services.

The IPPC Secretariat plans to hold this kind of event, annually, to update phytosanitary experts about new tools available. Kudos for this initiative!

NAPPO participates in the 2023 National Plant Board Meeting

The NAPPO Technical Director (TD) attended the 2023 National Plant Board meeting held in Little Rock, Arkansas from August 1 to 3, 2023. An overview of NAPPO was presented including the organization structure, role, and how NAPPO collaborates at the regional, hemispheric, and global levels. Following a brief introduction, the TD provided updates on the NAPPO work program, including project reports and updates on governance documents. Collaboration of the National Plant Board with NAPPO projects, project submissions, country consultation, and representation in different NAPPO Expert Groups was emphasized.

The NPB meeting, organized by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture, provided an opportunity to highlight NAPPO's work. Dr. Ibrahim Shaqir, Associate Deputy Administrator, International Phytosanitary Management and Standards Program, United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine (USDA-APHIS-PPQ), acknowledged the collaboration of APHIS PPQ with NAPPO and thanked NAPPO for all the work they do to safeguard agriculture and facilitate trade in the NAPPO region. Dr. Anthony Anyia, Chief Plant Health Officer, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) also acknowledged NAPPO's contributions to the North American region.

News from Expert Groups

Seeds-ToBRFV - A pilot for harmonization of diagnostic protocols for seed pests focused on ToBRFV. The EG presented a poster at the International Congress of Plant Pathology in Lyon, France, from August 20-25, 2023. NAPPO would like to thank Yazmin Rivera (APHIS-PPQ) for presenting on behalf of the EG, Vessela Mavrodieva for preparing the poster, and the EG for providing comments. The EG is drafting a manuscript for publication, expected to be completed by the first quarter of 2024. A NAPPO Decision document will be drafted and signed by the NAPPO Executive Committee after the manuscript is accepted for publication. A detailed presentation will be provided at the upcoming NAPPO Annual Meeting in December 2023 in Merida, Mexico.

Guidance for the regional implementation of ISPM 25 (*Consignment in-transit*). The document "*Standardization of responsibilities and actions for safeguarding consignments that have transited one NAPPO country to enter another NAPPO country*" was completed and is available for stakeholder comments during the country consultation period from October 1 to December 1, 2023.

This guidance document specifically seeks to standardize the responsibilities and actions for safeguarding consignments presented for entry by the NPPO of the transit country to the NPPO of the

importing country in the NAPPO region and that have been found non-compliant by the NPPO of the importing country. Stakeholders can download a copy of the document from the NAPPO website (www.nappo.org) along with instructions on how to submit comments.

Revision of RSPM 26 (Certification of commercial arthropod BCAs or non-*Apis* pollinators moving into NAPPO member countries). The EG has completed the discussions on a “*Background Study*” paper, developed to provide background information on RSPM 26, to identify potential areas to update, provide the implementation status of RSPM 26, and provide recommendations for updates. More specific discussions on the updates to RSPM 26 will follow. A progress report will be provided at the 46th NAPPO Annual Meeting in Merida, Mexico.

Revision of NAPPO Discussion Document 5 (DD05: Management of Huanglongbing and its Vector, the Asian Citrus Psyllid, *Diaphorina citri*). The updates on DD05 were completed, and the document has been made available for country consultation on the NAPPO website (www.nappo.org). The country consultation period will end on December 1st, 2023. Additional information and instructions to comment are available on the NAPPO website (www.nappo.org).

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 countries. Thirteen Official Pest Reports have been published (12 from the US and 1 from Mexico) since July 1, 2023.

Electronic Phytosanitary Certification (ePhyto). The ePhyto system continues to be a success in the NAPPO region and the world. Canada plans to send ePhytos to the United States in early 2024. Mexico seeks to finalize exchanges with OIRSA countries, start exchanges with the European Union and Canada, and explore the possibility to start exchanges with Asian countries. The US is now sending ePhytos to 98 countries and receiving from 76.

Forest Quarantine Research Group (FQRG). EG activities continue to be self-managed. Current discussions of the FQRG include heat treatment parameters for wood products and finding a way to get consensus through scientific data collection. EG will continue discussions and considerations for NAPPO project proposals.

Furthering the implementation of Risk-Based Sampling (RBS). The translation of the RBS USDA training module into Spanish to further the implementation of RBS in Latin America has been completed. The module is available on the NAPPO website (www.nappo.org).

The module is a useful tool for Spanish-speaking stakeholders interested in facilitating RBS implementation in their countries and promoting technically justified inspections to achieve fair and secure trade.

***Tuta absoluta*.** The EG continues making progress in developing a discussion document to provide information on an emergency response in case *Tuta absoluta* is detected in the NAPPO region. A draft document is expected to be ready for country consultation in the first half of 2024.

Alternatives to methyl bromide. This project was recently added to the 2023 NAPPO work program. The EG was formed and held its first meeting on September 25, 2023. The EG was tasked with:

- Identifying major uses of MeBr for all three NAPPO member countries (e.g., commodity, quantity).
- Collating existing research and alternative treatments.
- Identifying priority MeBr alternative treatments that all three NAPPO member countries can use.
- Identifying gaps and opportunities for collaboration.
- Identifying priority areas that would benefit from information sharing, as well as monitoring, evaluating, and supporting promising alternative treatments.
- Considering what is occurring in other fora so we avoid redundancy.
- Identifying policy-level factors that may affect the implementation of alternative treatments.

Inter-American Coordinating Group in Plant Protection (GICSV, because of its Spanish acronym). NAPPO continues participating in GICSV meetings, providing interpretation services, and translating relevant documents. The Contingency Plan for Phytosanitary Electronic Certification was reviewed and will be available on the [GICSV website](#). GICSV is coordinating a webinar on a proposed Annex to ISPM 37 (*Determination of host status of fruit to fruit flies (Tephritidae)*). The webinar will be presented by Trace Hardin (USDA-APHIS-PPQ) on November 22, 2023. Details about the webinar will be provided shortly on the [GICSV web page](#).

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