

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

Introduction

The North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) provides an important, established forum for government, industry and non-government organizations to deal with current and emerging pests that may threaten the plant resources of Canada, the United States and Mexico. It was created in 1976 as a regional plant protection organization under the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Later, NAPPO was recognized by the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) as the relevant phytosanitary standard setting organization in North America. NAPPO focuses its efforts on three areas:

- **Standards for plant protection**—NAPPO has a well established and widely recognized regional and international reputation for phytosanitary standard setting. Numerous NAPPO standards (pest risk assessment, pest free areas, areas of low pest prevalence, wood packaging, transit, fruit flies, etc.) have contributed to key international standards. While NAPPO maintains a science-based dispute settlement mechanism, its standards are designed to promote regional harmonization and avoid dispute.
- **Information Exchange**—NAPPO provides a forum for information exchange on pests and other quarantine topics of concern. It encourages the development of common North American approaches on global phytosanitary issues. It also maintains an online Phytosanitary Alert System to report on and monitor global pest outbreaks.
- **Technology Use**—In working to harmonize regional phytosanitary measures, NAPPO promotes the use of the most effective technologies for surveillance, diagnostic protocols and treatments.

NAPPO's Mission

Provide a forum for public and private sectors in Canada, the United States and Mexico to collaborate in the regional protection of agricultural, forest, other plant resources, and the environment while facilitating trade. Plant protection and trade facilitation are achieved through the development and implementation of science-based standards and related plant protection activities directed towards preventing the introduction and spread of regulated plant pests.

Strategic Challenges—In continuing its effective pursuit of plant protection NAPPO is faced with challenges in

- A. **Addressing resource constraints:** Since the last update of the NAPPO strategic plan was published in 2008, a severe global recession and its aftermath continue to constrain both government and industry resources. This has had the direct effect, among the three NAPPO countries, of declining government funding and staffing, and has limited industry's capacity to engage and contribute to efforts outside of their main missions. Countries are exploring new ways to open and expand export markets increasing the need for export certification even though reduced resources are available. The work of National and Regional Plant Protection Organizations has become more important to ensure phytosanitary issues are not used as trade barriers. It has also caused governments and industries to seek more efficient approaches to their work. Strategic

alliances of government and industry such as NAPPO must also develop streamlined approaches on issues of mutual concern.

- B. **Adjusting to changing trade and travel patterns:** Changes in international trade patterns occur over time. With events like the recent recession and trends like the increased interest in more diverse commodities from a wider array of new origins, and the growth of international internet-based trade, the recent changes have been more sudden and dramatic. These changes, along with continued overall increases in trade and travel, have put more pressure on efforts to protect plant resources. New commodities, origins and pathways, new and often unknown pests, and new stakeholders unfamiliar with phytosanitary requirements all challenge the protection of plant resources by NAPPO member countries. NAPPO as a regional alliance can help its member countries to effectively address this challenge jointly.
- C. **Adopting effective approaches and technologies:** Existing and emerging approaches and technology can help address both the issues of resource constraints and new pest risks due to shifts in trade patterns. Some examples include 1) electronic certification, 2) systems approaches to plant protection and 3) new detection and diagnostic technology. By providing a forum for information exchange, NAPPO can encourage the use of these technologies and help identify issues that inhibit regional and global use of these technologies. Adopting and promoting new technology will ultimately assist stakeholders in efficiently managing pests and promoting safe trade.
- D. **Refocusing NAPPO governance to address challenges:** Since its establishment, NAPPO has effectively engaged industry and contributed to international standards. In light of current resource constraints, NAPPO must streamline and focus its approaches and regularly review its priorities.
- E. **Competing for resources with other important agendas:** Climate change, food security and safety, animal health, and other topics, while important, often seem to overshadow plant protection. However, plant production and use, along with trade in plant-related products, comprise a significant sector of the economies of the three countries and represent a critical resource that must be protected. NAPPO should promote the importance of plant protection to generate more support from internal and external stakeholders.

Strategic Goals 2013-15

International movement of commodities and people continues to increase at a rapid pace and effective protection of North American plant resources requires regional cooperation and harmonization, while working to influence international efforts positively. Plant pests do not respect international boundaries. NAPPO is effective in coordinating the efforts among Canada, the United States and Mexico to protect their plant resources from the entry, establishment and spread of regulated pests, while facilitating intraregional and interregional trade. A key component of the NAPPO's strategic goals is to significantly improve awareness and communication regarding the importance and activities of the NAPPO. The strategic goals and the means for accomplishing them over the next 3 years are described below.

- 1. Protect North American plant resources, including the environment, from the introduction and spread of regulated plant pests**
 - a. Apply a regional NAPPO approach for phytosanitary measures, especially by developing standards and providing a framework/mechanism for implementing them
 - b. Identify offshore threats (particular pests or pathways or both) that present significant risks to the NAPPO member countries and develop a scientific and technically sound harmonized approach to manage them, including where possible a regional approach to pest risk analysis
- 2. Harmonize phytosanitary measures while facilitating trade and protecting the environment in the region**
 - a. Develop high priority NAPPO standards and other NAPPO documents using science-based information
 - b. Perform a comprehensive review to determine what standards should be developed, maintained, updated or archived. Review and update existing NAPPO standards using a priority and project-driven approach.
 - c. Monitor and promote the implementation of NAPPO standards
- 3. Provide leadership in the international phytosanitary community**
 - a. Promote the development of IPPC standards relevant to NAPPO member countries
 - b. Present and advocate for the use of relevant NAPPO standards as models for IPPC standards
 - c. Conduct workshops in support of NAPPO strategic goals
 - d. Participate and collaborate with the Inter-American Coordinating Group in Plant Protection, RPPOs, and other international organizations (e.g., NAFTA, IPPC, industry organizations) relevant to NAPPO activities
 - e. Contribute leadership at the Technical Consultation of RPPOs.
- 4. Promote and maintain the scientific and technical basis of NAPPO plant protection activities and phytosanitary measures**
 - a. Provide and promote a dynamic mechanism for the timely exchange of scientific and technically sound information among members
 - b. Promote the use and work to facilitate the implementation of effective technologies (e.g., ePhyto, pest detection & identification and information exchange)
 - c. Strengthen partnerships with relevant research organizations to identify research needs which support NAPPO activities
- 5. Adopt a focused, priority and project-driven approach, within available resources**
 - a. Ensure that NAPPO processes and procedures are responsive to and reflect shared member country priorities and emerging issues (e.g., unexpected pest threats)

- b. Establish procedures and/or mechanisms to organize resources (e.g., human and financial) to support this project-driven approach
- 6. Maintain Active Industry/Stakeholder Engagement in NAPPO Activity**
- a. Establish procedures for soliciting and considering Industry/stakeholder input on NAPPO priorities and future annual work plans. This may include specific activities at the Annual Meeting
 - b. Develop and adopt terms of reference for future NAPPO expert groups which ensure consistent Industry/stakeholder representation, as appropriate
 - c. Adopt other practical approaches to foster ongoing dialogue with industry/stakeholders on plant protection and trade harmonization issues through the IAG and its standing commodity group
- 7. Develop and implement ongoing NAPPO communication and promotion strategies**
- a. Clearly demonstrate and communicate the relevance and importance of NAPPO work and the importance of plant resources to:
 - i. Senior officials in each member country
 - ii. Industry associations
 - iii. Other stakeholders
 - b. Promote NAPPO's role in plant protection and trade facilitation in NPPO budget considerations and advocate for appropriate resource provisions. Explore alternative communication mechanisms to disseminate information
- 8. Modernize the business practices of NAPPO**
- a. Implement this strategic plan
 - i. Develop, monitor and report on annual work plans to achieve these strategic goals
 - ii. Establish a transparent annual work program and prioritization procedure linked to the strategic goals and plan
 - iii. Establish a clear and predictable decision-making process to support a project-driven approach (e.g. identifying priorities)
 - b. Review and revise the annual meeting objective and format to reflect government and stakeholder needs and resources taking into account the project-driven approach
 - c. Review the feasibility of adding French as another official NAPPO language in order to include North America's francophone community and to expand the international influence of NAPPO.
 - d. Identify technological gaps and needs in the Secretariat to improve efficiency in the dissemination of information, etc.
 - e. Enhance processes supporting overall transparency and accountability