NAPPO STAKEHOLDERS PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

The United States national plant protection organization – USDA-APHIS-PPQ – in collaboration with the NAPPO Secretariat will host the first ever virtual NAPPO Annual Meeting in 2021.

2021. The schedule will include 2-hour morning and 2-hour afternoon sessions each day.

The 2021 NAPPO Annual Meeting webpage – including registration forms and other pertinent information - as well as this year's Agenda are “under construction” and will soon be available on the NAPPO website. PLEASE STAY TUNED!

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the 84 respondents to the survey sent out in January soliciting your input and ideas to guide/assist us with virtual meeting planning.

Based on your feedback, the NAPPO Annual Meeting dates have been confirmed for Wednesday-Friday Nov. 3-5,
News on 2021 NAPPO Activities and Annual Work Program

We informed you in late January that despite the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, NAPPO has continued to fulfill its mission of safeguarding North American plant resources and facilitating safe inter-and intra-regional trade without interruption. As 2021 unfolds, the NAPPO Secretariat and its member countries, including its governance committees and expert groups, will continue to proactively manage and effectively progress NAPPO’s Annual Work Program.

NAPPO continues to manage a good number of projects/activities under the 2021 NAPPO Annual Work Program with the assistance/cooperation of more than one hundred plant health government, industry, and academic experts from our three member countries.

Furthermore, in 2021, NAPPO and its member countries will continue advancing the NAPPO Annual Work Program priorities including:

1. Continuing to revise and finalize regional standards that provide guidelines for the movement of stone and pome fruit trees and grapevines into NAPPO member countries (RSPM 35); construction and operation of containment facilities for biological control agents (RSPM 22); and the import of wooden and bamboo commodities (RSPM 38).

2. Progressing technical documents on forestry or forest pests - such as AGM and contaminant pests affecting trade in wood commodities and forestry products.

3. Supporting seed health and diagnostics through a pilot project for the harmonization of diagnostic protocols for seed pests, focusing on the tomato brown rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV).

4. Developing guidance materials to improve understanding and implementation of regional and international standards on consignments-in-transit as well as finalizing Part II of a multi-authored manual on risk-based sampling (RBS).

5. Continuing to support the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH), which will conclude in mid-2021.

6. Continuing pest reporting through the NAPPO Phytosanitary Alert System.

7. Continuing the revision and update of the NAPPO foundational and procedural documents.

We anticipate that documents on many of the above-referenced topics will be ready for country consultation in 2021, and that engaging you and ensuring your effective review/input to these documents will be critical for our organization.

NAPPO will also continue to support and advance other key North American strategic priorities including the implementation of ePhyto and the activities of the North American Sea Container Initiative (NASCI).

NAPPO will also continue to be engaged in strategic discussions and international
collaboration with the IPPC community at large as well as with regional plant protection organizations in Europe (EPPO) and the Western Hemisphere (OIRSA, CAHFSA, CAN and COSAVE).

Apart from the programmatic updates noted above, new activities in 2021 will include:

1. Updating selected NAPPO governance documents that reference the newly ratified USMCA Free Trade Agreement.
2. Progressing work on the revision/update of the 5-year NAPPO Strategic Plan.
4. Launching a comprehensive review/update of quality management-related terminology within NAPPO’s glossary of phytosanitary terms (RSPM 5), with the goal of developing harmonized and consistent terminology for the NAPPO region. The project will positively impact many important NPPO and IPPC-level initiatives.
5. Leading the governance and strategic direction (for the biennium 2021-2022), as well as continuing our active participation in the six technical working groups within the Inter-American Coordinating Group in Plant Protection (GICSV).
6. Conducting other stakeholder outreach.

As you can see, the NAPPO plate is full of exciting activities/deliverables and we look forward to engaging you in these, including as we develop ideas for inclusion into the new five-year NAPPO Strategic Plan (2022-2027).

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**2021 call for new NAPPO project proposals - will open on November 15, 2021 – for 90 days.**

Because of the ongoing and new NAPPO strategic, programmatic, and project-related activities planned for 2021 and detailed above and in the attached 2021 NAPPO Annual Work Program, the NAPPO Management Team thought it was prudent to be conservative in the timing for the open call for new NAPPO project proposals.

As such, NAPPO has decided to open the call for new project proposals on November 15, 2021 for a 90-day period. This approach will help us balance the various efforts noted for 2021 and allow us to concentrate on completing several ongoing projects thereby creating more room for new projects to potentially be considered for 2022. Please remember that you are still encouraged to propose new NAPPO projects outside of the open period.

We are excited about engaging you in several of our activities in 2021 and look forward to your ideas for new NAPPO projects!

Please be on the lookout for a NAPPO announcement on the call later this year.
NAPPO Management Team Meetings 2020 and 2021

Even though it has not been possible to hold face-to-face NAPPO governance meetings, we want to assure our stakeholders that virtual NAPPO Management Team Meetings (NMT) continue to be regularly scheduled!! The NAPPO Executive Committee (EC), Advisory and Management Committee (AMC), Industry Advisory Group (IAG) and Secretariat met virtually on July 16th and again on December 1st, 2020. In addition, the first virtual NMT meeting for this year is scheduled for March 30, 2021.

Shorter and more targeted NMT meetings are possible because the NAPPO AMC diligently prepares for NMT meetings the day before. The AMC reviews all documents, discusses strategic issues, recommends positions, and drafts suggested next steps, and the AMC NPPO members communicate these outcomes to their respective EC member(s). In this respect, as NAPPO Executive Director and Chair of the AMC, I wish to acknowledge and thank Steve Côté from Canada, Pati Abad and Steph Dubon from the United States, Ana Lilia Montealegre from Mexico, and Alonso Suazo from NAPPO for their laser-focused work.

Standing NMT meeting Agenda items include updates from Government and industry, status and decisions related to the NAPPO Work Program including a review of how project deliverables are meeting the goals of the NAPPO Strategic Plan (SP), budget reporting, timing/approach for future governance processes, for example revision/update of the NAPPO SP, country consultation, call for new project proposals and future Annual Meetings. Newly identified regional and global strategic issues are also discussed after an update on the latest international initiatives is provided.

In addition, when NAPPO project deliverables are completed – such as the revision/update of a regional standard or the finalization of a discussion or science and technology document – the Executive Committee approves/signs these documents during NMT meetings. Given the current limitations on face-to-face meetings we developed a virtual process for the EC to approve the completed products to avoid undue delays. We fully expect that the EC will approve the following three deliverables at our March meeting:

1. Updated RSPM 9: **Authorization of Laboratories for Phytosanitary Testing.**
2. Science and Technology document: **Risks associated with Lymantriids of concern to the NAPPO region.**
3. Updated RSPM 5: **NAPPO Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms.**

Members of the NAPPO management team (Advisory and Management Committee, Industry Advisory Group and the NAPPO Executive Committee) in a face-to-face meeting in Montreal, Canada.
The IPPC Standards and Implementation and Capacity Development Committees

The Standards Committee (SC) consists of 25 members representing each of the seven Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Regions. The remit of the SC includes overseeing the IPPC standard setting process, managing the development of ISPMs, and providing guidance and oversight to the work of Technical Panels and Expert Working Groups. The work of the SC is facilitated by the Standard Setting Unit of the IPPC Secretariat. The current SC members from our region include Steve Côté from Canada and Marina Zlotina from the United States.

The Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) includes seven FAO regional representatives, five implementation/capacity development experts and one representative each from the SC and the regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs). Under the guidance of the CPM, the IC provides technical oversight of activities that enhance the capacities of contracting parties to implement the IPPC and its ISPMs and meet the strategic objectives agreed by CPM. The work of the IC is facilitated by the Implementation Facilitation Unit of the IPPC Secretariat. The current IC members from our region include Dominique Pelletier from Canada, who serves as Chair of the IC, and Stephanie Bloem who represents the RPPOs. Wendy Beltz from the United States is an alternate/replacement IC member.

Normally the SC and IC have two face-to-face meetings per year; however, in 2020 both Committees transitioned to virtual meetings in order to continue progressing their work. In 2020 the SC had three and the IC had six virtual meetings. In addition, numerous e-decisions and document review virtual sessions were part of the 2020 SC and IC activities.

Upcoming Virtual Meeting of the Commission of Phytosanitary Measures – CPM-15

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is governed by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM). CPM normally holds a yearly week-long face-to-face meeting in March or April at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy, to promote cooperation among the 184 IPPC contracting parties and relevant stakeholders in meeting the objectives of the IPPC.
At these meetings, the Commission reviews the state of plant protection around the world; reviews and adopts international standards; and cooperates with international organizations on matters covered relevant to the IPPC. Commission meetings are attended by IPPC contracting parties and by observers from organizations such as the Regional Plant Protection Organizations, the World Customs Organization, and the World Trade Organization, among others.

Given the travel restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, CPM-15 is scheduled to take place virtually. Meeting dates are March 16, March 18, and April 1, 2021. Sessions will take place daily via Zoom from 10:00 am to 13:00 (CET), and from 15:00 to 18:00 (CET). Documents that will inform CPM-15 can be found here - https://www.ippc.int/en/cpm-sessions/cpm-15/

Important to our NAPPO stakeholders is that the IPPC Strategic Framework for 2020-2030 is up for adoption during CPM-15.

In addition, four draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) and seven phytosanitary treatments (that will become Annexes to ISPM 28 Phytosanitary Treatments) will be also presented for adoption during CPM-15. The draft ISPMs up for adoption are:


Brochure on the role of ISPMs

The IPPC Secretariat recently published a new brochure on the role of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs). It describes the role of ISPMs in contributing to plant health and to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), provides examples of how ISPMs are used, and highlights possible ways for stakeholders to contribute to a transparent and inclusive standard setting process. The brochure is available in all six FAO languages and can be accessed here: https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/89400/
Congratulations to our friend and colleague Ana Lilia Montealegre Lara on receiving the prestigious 2020 Mexican National Award in Plant Health, which was awarded by the Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER) of Mexico on November 27, 2020. The award is given once a year to a professional that has made outstanding contributions to the prevention, control, and eradication of agricultural pests and, who has a minimum of 25 years of phytosanitary experience.

Ana Lilia is a biologist who has worked at SADER-SENASICA for 28 years serving in many different plant health-related positions. She is a former Latin American and Caribbean representative to the International Plant Protection Convention - Standards Committee (IPPC - SC) and a current and longtime member of the NAPPO Advisory and Management Committee (AMC). Ana Lilia is breaking the glass ceiling in Mexico as the first female to receive this prestigious award. It is also significant that she was honored in 2020, the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH). Ana Lilia's contributions to plant protection go well beyond the borders of Mexico. Her wealth of knowledge and experience in phytosanitary issues has been a critical resource for NAPPO and has contributed to the development and successful implementation of many NAPPO projects. In addition, in her role as AMC member, Ana Lilia participates in the prioritization of new NAPPO project proposals and provides strategic advice to the NAPPO Executive Committee.

NAPPO is privileged to have Ana Lilia as an AMC member and we acknowledge her many important contributions. We wish Ana Lilia continued success in her career with SADER-SENASICA in Mexico as well as with NAPPO.

Retirement of Marcel Dawson, a Man who Dedicated his Career to the Protection of Forests and to Market Access of Canadian Forest Products

After over 35 years of service, Marcel Dawson, National Manager of the Forestry and Horticulture Section in the Plant Import and Export Division at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, retired in December 2020. Marcel spent most of his career working on forestry files. He worked closely with USDA-APHIS on various plant pest files, such as the Asian longhorned beetle, the emerald ash borer, the Asian and European gypsy moths and pine shoot beetle. He also worked closely
with USDA-APHIS on wood packaging material and lumber phytosanitary requirements between the US and Canada.

In 1996 Marcel joined the NAPPO Forestry Panel. He served as the Chair of that panel from 1997 to 2000. During this period, the NAPPO Forestry Panel developed the RSPM 11 - Import requirements for wood dunnage and other wood packing materials into a NAPPO member country. This regional standard laid the foundation for an international standard for phytosanitary measures: ISPM 15: Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade which was adopted in 2002.

Marcel was also a member of the NAPPO Grains panel in the early 2000s. Marcel has participated in multiple NAPPO Annual meetings. Participants of the 2019 Annual Meeting in Montreal will most likely remember the joyful entertainment he provided during the dinner at the Sucrerie de la Montagne!

Throughout his career, Marcel received multiple CFIA awards and recognitions. Marcel was recognized by NAPPO a few years ago for the work he did in protecting plant resources in North America while facilitating trade in the region. In 1999 his team received the Head of Public Service Award for the development and implementation of the Canadian marine port inspection program for wood packaging material. Marcel also served on the IPPC working group from 2000 to 2002 which developed ISPM 15.

Marcel will certainly be remembered for his dedication and passion in Forestry and the work of the CFIA. Known as a good man who really cares about his work and the people he worked with, his career has been full of challenges but also great achievements. He always had that ability of getting things done while having an inclusive approach, being sensitive to the needs of others whilst being authentic.

All the best in your upcoming adventures Marcel!

**New Scientific Officer Working for NAPPO**

We are pleased to announce that in January 2021 Maribel Hurtado Sepulveda joined the NAPPO Secretariat team as a short-term Scientific Officer.

Maribel has an undergraduate degree in Agronomy and a Master’s in Project Development and Management. From 2007-2009 she worked as a plant protection and phytosanitary treatments specialist for the Phytosanitary Center of Excellence in Colombia, a cooperative venture
between ICA (= Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario - the NPPO of Colombia), IICA, USDA-APHIS and USAID. From 2009-2012 she worked for the USDA-APHIS-PPQ Center for Plant Health Science and Technology satellite office in Colombia, researching phytosanitary treatments and pest mitigation options for fresh commodities exported from Colombia to the United States. From 2012-2017, she worked for ICA in the Epidemiology and Surveillance section, leading research projects, developing export work plans and supporting bilateral negotiations to open international markets.

From 2017-2020 Maribel was a consultant/advisor for the Agency for Rural Development within the office of Productive Integration. Her work specifically addressed the Planning and Development of Rural Agriculture and Agri-food Projects, Technical Assistance, Commercialization and Land Stewardship.

Since early 2018 she has been part of the NAPPO Expert Group responsible for promoting the adoption of Risk-Based Sampling, including the development of training materials, chapter authorship as well as project management and compilation of the Manuals for Risk-Based Sampling.

In her role as Scientific Officer, Maribel will be responsible for providing expertise/guidance to USDA-APHIS-PPQ and the NAPPO Secretariat as we plan the 2021 virtual NAPPO Annual Meeting, managing the Governance and activities of the six technical working groups for the Interamerican Group on Cooperation in Plant Health (GICSV) on behalf of NAPPO; continuing work on the Risk-Based Sampling Manuals and training materials; re-engaging and progressing the ISPM 38 seed ad-hoc groups on terminology and communication and other duties as appropriate. Please join us in welcoming Maribel to NAPPO! She can be reached at Maribel.Hurtado@NAPPO.org

**News on Ongoing NAPPO Projects**

**Revision of RSPM 22 - Guidelines for the construction and operation of a containment facility for insects and mites, used as biological control agents.** The expert group completed the revision of RSPM 22. The updated regional standard will go out for country consultation in May 2021. During the 90-day consultation open period, NAPPO stakeholders will have an opportunity to provide feedback for consideration by the EG before the document is finalized and approved by the NAPPO EC.

**Forestry.** The completion of the Science & Technology document “Contaminating organisms affecting trade in wood commodities and forestry products”, expected by the end of spring 2021. As above, this document will go out for country consultation in May 2021. The document discusses different types of contaminating organisms in wood commodities, wood packaging materials, and conveyances as well as the main
pathways associated with their movements. Guidance to implement phytosanitary measures is also provided in the document.

**Seeds - Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus (ToBRFV).** Significant progress has been made by the EG in establishing a framework for harmonization of ToBRFV diagnostic protocols in the NAPPO region. Five protocols have been selected for additional examination including three conventional and two real-time PCR-based protocols. Method validation criteria for ring tests and identification of NAPPO region laboratories to participate in the diagnostic analyses are current topics of discussion by the EG. The NAPPO Secretariat would like to take this opportunity to welcome Dr. Huimin Xu (CFIA) as an *ad-hoc* member of this EG. Dr. Xu has valuable expertise in method validation for ring tests and in molecular virus identification.

**Lymantriids.** The Science and Technology document “Risks associated with the introduction of exotic tussock moths of potential concern to the NAPPO region” will be ready for approval by the NAPPO Executive Committee in spring 2021. The NAPPO Secretariat acknowledges and thanks the EG members for their contributions to this document, which uses a practical risk-assessment methodology to screen large numbers of potentially harmful tussock moth species.

**Revision of RSPM 9 - Authorization of laboratories for phytosanitary testing.** The EG completed the revision of the standard. The standard will be ready for approval by the NAPPO Executive Committee in spring 2021. The NAPPO Secretariat would like to acknowledge and thank the EG for hard work in revising this standard.

**Revision of RSPM 35 - Guidelines for the movement of stone and pome fruit trees and grapevine into a NAPPO member country.** The EG has completed the update of the standard including revised pest tables with current pest status categories as per the revised ISPM 8 (*Determination of pest status in an area*). The document will go out for country consultation in May 2021 during which NAPPO stakeholders will have the opportunity to provide comments and feedback for consideration.

**Revision of RSPM 5 - NAPPO glossary of phytosanitary terms.** The NAPPO Advisory and Management Committee completed the revision of RSPM 5. The document will be ready for approval by the NAPPO Executive Committee in spring 2021.

**Revision of RSPM 38 - Importation of certain wooden and bamboo commodities into a NAPPO member country.** A first draft of the revised standard has been completed; the EG is currently discussing the possibility of expanding the scope of the standard based on pest interception data from all three NAPPO countries.

**Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM).** Analysis of AGM interception data from regulated countries to evaluate possible changes to the specified risks periods (SRPs) and corresponding amendments to RSPM 33 “Guidelines for the movement of vessels from areas infested with the Asian gypsy moth”, continues. In addition, the EG continues to provide updates on the AGM programs in each NAPPO member country.

**ISPM 25 Guidance.** The EG is tasked with developing an ISPM 25 “Consignments
in transit” guidelines document for the NAPPO region. The EG is currently analyzing movement scenarios for consignments within the NAPPO region to assist in determining different stakeholder roles and responsibilities in the consignment transit pathways. Critical information on communication aspects is also being collected by the EG. The information generated will be used as the basis for drafting the ISPM 25 guidance document.

**Phytosanitary Alert System (PAS).** The EG is currently developing user guidelines for the new PAS interface. The guidelines will assist EG members in uploading official pest alerts or pest alerts to the site.

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**NAPPO Expert Group (EG) on the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH): Contributions in 2020**

In 2020, the NAPPO IYPH-EG was actively involved in promoting and planning IYPH activities. They published monthly articles on regional plant health initiatives and coordinated activities such as illumination of monuments and/or buildings to raise awareness on plant health in the region. The short articles are available in English, Spanish, and French on the IYPH webpage [https://planthealth.nappo.org/](https://planthealth.nappo.org/). The EG is using social media (Facebook, Tweeter and LinkedIn) for outreach purposes to further disseminate this information. The articles include:

**NAPPO 101: How 3 nations protect plant health across a continent.** The article provides information on the basics of NAPPOs organizational structure and its regional and global contributions to plant health. It is an important resource to better understand how NAPPO functions as a regional plant protection organization.

**120 years of plant health in Mexico.** The article details the events that formed part of the celebration of the 120th anniversary of Mexico’s plant health efforts.

**Electronic phytosanitary certification.** The article describes the processes for ePhyto and highlights the benefits of using ePhyto to facilitate safe trade.

**Globe-trotting tree pests.** The article highlights the importance and negative impact of introducing invasive species through a variety of pathways.

**How NAPPO is contributing to healthy seed trade.** The article provides an overview of seed health and need for harmonization of detection protocols for viruses in seed commodities.

**NAPPO IYPH country accomplishments in 2020.** The article summarizes the different efforts to raise awareness of plant health in each NAPPO member country.

The EG is currently involved in securing the simultaneous illumination of selected buildings and monuments in green in each NAPPO member country. The “green building illumination” project will further promote the IYPH in the region.
### Upcoming Meetings and Events

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<tr>
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** Most meetings for the NAPPO Management Team, CPM Bureau, Standards Committee and Implementation and Capacity Development Committee are being conducted virtually.

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**Note:** The International Plant Health Conference in Helsinki was cancelled amid continued COVID-19 restrictions.
### Upcoming Meetings and Events (Cont.)

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<td><strong>December</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>CPM Bureau Meeting**</td>
<td>IPPC</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Rome, Italy</td>
<td>Tentative</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** Most meetings for the NAPPO Management Team, CPM Bureau, Standards Committee and Implementation and Capacity Development Committee are being conducted virtually