



Minibiographies for the NAPPO Annual Meeting – Tucson, AZ

Marina Zlotina

IPPC Technical Director for Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) at USDA-APHIS

Marina Zlotina works as the IPPC Technical Director for Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) at USDA-APHIS. Part of her responsibilities is to serve on the IPPC Standards Committee and provide stewardship for International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) under development. Previously, she worked as a risk analyst, conducting pest risk assessments (PRAs) and providing leadership for a team revising the USDA PRA guidelines for imported fruits and vegetables. Marina served as an expert on the NAPPO PRA panel (2004-2014) and EFSA Plant Health Panel (2009-2012). She also worked at the IPPC Secretariat in Rome with the Standards Setting Unit. Marina received PhD from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, specializing in Entomology.

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. He is also part of the expert group that is developing a discussion paper on how NAPPO member countries should prepare for the threat posed by the tomato leafminer, *Phthorimaea (Tuta) absoluta*.

Melanie Gauthier

Fresh fruit and vegetable leader, Horticulture Section, Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Mélanie started working with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in 2001, after she graduated from Laval University (Québec, Canada). She has held various positions at the CFIA, all related to Plant Production or Plant Protection. In 2020, Mélanie joined the Horticulture Section as a program specialist and is now leading the fresh fruit and vegetable file, amongst other things.

Virna Stillwaugh

Vice President for Scientific Affairs, Northwest Horticultural Council (NHC)

Dr. Virna Stillwaugh is the Vice President for Scientific Affairs at the Northwest Horticultural Council (NHC) where she is an industry leader on pesticide regulatory policy and other scientific matters. She has a PhD in Entomology from North Carolina State University. Upon graduation she went to work for the private industry on Research and Development of pesticides. Prior to joining the NHC, she worked as a Senior Entomologist at the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Pesticides for over four years. She is currently a member of the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) Methyl Bromide Alternatives Expert Group.

Bruno Gallant

Senior Legislative Officer, Canadian Food Inspection Agency's Invasive Alien Species and Domestic Programs

Bruno is a Senior Legislative Officer with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's Invasive Alien Species and Domestic Programs section. Since joining the CFIA in 2006, he has been involved in designing, developing, and implementing plant health programs, as well as engaging in national, regional, and international initiatives related to CFIA's plant protection mandate.

Ethan Holmes

Senior Policy Advisor for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS PPQ).

Previously, Holmes served as a Senior Agricultural Policy Advisor and Deputy Assistant for the United States Trade Representative for Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement at the Office of the United States Trade Representative. There, he advised Ambassador Katherine Tai on the agency's agricultural policy and handled the private sector engagement. Before that, Holmes was an Economic Policy Advisor in the Office of U.S. Representative Ron Kind (WI-03). Holmes holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy, sociology, and international politics from DePaul University and a Master of Science in international political theory from the University of Edinburgh.

Fan Wang-Cahill

Trade Director, United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine, International Phytosanitary Management & Standards Programs

Fan facilitates safe agricultural trade through collaborations with APHIS PPQ programs, APHIS International Services, U.S. industries, as well as CFIA to prevent introduction and spread of quarantine pests and resolve trade issues between the United States and Canada. She is part of the APHIS-CFIA Joint Agency Group for the implementation of the U.S.-Canada Coordinated Phytosanitary Mitigation Framework, which provides a broad and holistic approach to safeguard North America. She serves as a resource for the U.S.-Canada Harmonization of Cross-Border Pest Response initiative.

Dr. Mark L Davidson

Deputy Administrator, United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine

As the head of the NPPO for the United States, Mark leads and directs a nationally dispersed staff that safeguards U.S. agriculture and natural resources against the entry, establishment, and spread of economically and environmentally significant pests and diseases and facilitates the safe global trade of agricultural products.

Jessica Mahalingappa

Associate Deputy Administrator, United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine, International Phytosanitary Management & Standards Programs

Jessica provides executive-level management to harmonize international rules of trade to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive pests and diseases; facilitate safe trade; and to establish fair, science-based plant health requirements for imported and exported plant commodities. Jessica is the U.S. representative to the NAPPO Executive Committee.

Stephanie Dubon

PPQ NAPPO Technical Director, United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine, International Phytosanitary Management & Standards Programs

Stephanie coordinates and oversees the APHIS participation in the NAPPO standard-setting program and helps advance U.S. harmonization priorities at NAPPO. Stephanie is the U.S. representative to the NAPPO Advisory and Management Committee.

Ezequiel Ferro

International Phytosanitary Affairs Officer. SENASA, Argentina

He is currently the lead for International Phytosanitary Affairs at the National Directorate for Plant Protection from the Argentina NPPO (SENASA), carrying out activities such as the management of Argentina phytosanitary issues with the different markets as well as the regional and multilateral agreements follow-up in the phytosanitary sphere. He is also currently the Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean on the IPPC Implementation and Capacity Development Committee.

In the past, he has served in the Argentina NPPO as head of pest risk system approach programs for the export of fruits, as manager of national programs for pest control, along with the development of national phytosanitary regulations.

He was a member of the IPPC Standards Committee for 9 years (2013-2022) and Chairperson of this Committee for 5 years (2017-2022). He has also been a member of several IPPC working groups, such as the National Reporting Obligation Advisory Group, Task Force on Topics, and Focus Group on Commodity and Pathway Standards.

He has also served as Coordination Secretary of the COSAVE RPPO (Southern Cone Plant Health Committee).

Alonso Suazo

Alonso is the NAPPO Technical Director since July 2016. Before NAPPO, Alonso worked for five years as the State Regulatory Entomologist with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, where he was responsible for the coordination, implementation, and supervision of multiple state and federal programs aimed at protecting the state's agriculture and forest resources from invasive insect species.

Alonso has also developed New Pest Response Guidelines for the US Department of Agriculture-Animal Plant Health Inspection Services (USDA-APHIS) on forest pest species of concern to the United States and worked on research in multiple areas including population genetics of Africanized honeybees, development of chemical attractants for the small hive beetle *Aethina tumida* a pest of honeybees, biological control of the Mexican bromeliad weevil *Metamasius callizona*, and gene mapping of aphid resistance genes in lupin *Medicago truncatula*. Alonso also has experience in international consultancy work in beekeeping, outreach, and teaching.

He graduated with a general degree in Agriculture at the Panamerican School of Agriculture in Honduras and a PhD in Entomology at the University of Florida.

Andrew Morse

Andrew completed an M.Sc. in Environmental Biology from the University of Guelph in 2009. Andrew's thesis work focused on pollination of greenhouse crops, and the impact of floral volatiles on pollinator foraging decisions.

Andrew began working with Flowers Canada Growers in 2011 through two projects related to management of phytosanitary risks – one focusing on Chrysanthemum White Rust and the other focusing on soil contamination in international shipments of flower bulbs. In 2015 Andrew was named one of Greenhouse Canada Magazine's "top ten under forty", and was promoted to Executive Director of both Flowers Canada Growers and Flowers Canada (Ontario).

Andrew has worked to represent Canadian flower growers through partnering with regulators on a wide array of issues aimed at improving both regulatory compliance and business success.

Andrew has contributed to numerous regulatory consultations, participated in collaborative development of industry training and certification programs, and continues to engage with both industry stakeholders and government partners in Canada and abroad.

Brad Gething

Brad became a member of the National Wooden Pallet and Container Association (NWPCA) staff in July 2013 and serves as Vice President of Science and Technology. Brad's role includes participation in various standards and regulatory bodies, direction and promotion of research and development, and support on other technical issues related to the wood packaging industry.

In addition to serving on various NAPPO Forestry Expert Groups, Gething is also a member of the International Forestry Quarantine Research Group (IFQRG) and has participated in expert working groups for the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

Before joining the NWPCA team, Brad worked as a postdoctoral scholar at Penn State University, researching issues related to the phytosanitation of wood packaging and ISPM 15. Brad earned an MS and PhD degree in Materials from Penn State University and a BS degree in chemical engineering from Bucknell University.

Mario Puente

Mario has 20 years of experience in phytosanitary policies, standards, and regulations for the international trade of agricultural commodities. He held several positions within Mexico's NPPO (SENASICA). He also worked for the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), coordinating plant health projects.

He presently holds the following positions:

- Executive Director for the Mexican Seeds Association (AMSAC)
- Vice-chair for the National Agricultural Council (CAN), Agri-Food Health and Safety
- **Mr. Puente** serves as Mexican industry advisory group representative for the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO).

Tanya Staffen

Tanya began working with the Operations Branch of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) in 2000, where she was involved in the delivery of domestic, import and export plant health and plant production programs in Western Canada.

She has led several teams that developed inspection procedures supporting Canada's plant programs, particularly those in the seed sector.

This has included the redesign of Canada's domestic seed crop inspection program that now employs an alternative service delivery model. She has worked in numerous roles of increasing responsibility within the CFIA in areas of program development and management. She is currently working with CFIA's International Affairs Branch where she contributes to Canada's engagement in NAPPO and the IPPC.

Ana Lilia Montealegre

Ana Lilia is a Biologist who serves as the Deputy Director for Harmonization and International Evaluation at the Plant Health General Directorate, Phytosanitary Regulation Section of Senasica. She has worked for 30 years at Senasica, an entity of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development, where she has actively contributed to different internationally recognized plant protection activities.

Ana Lilia has been engaged in the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) since 1998 representing Mexico on the NAPPO Advisory and Management Committee. She is also part of OIRSA's Regional Technical Group which reviews international standards. Ana Lilia has participated in several national and international phytosanitary meetings, classes, training events, workshops, and symposia. She was a member of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Standards Committee, a subsidiary body of the IPPC Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM). In 2020, she was awarded Mexico's National Award for Plant Health, under the category: Phytosanitary Merit.

Javier Trujillo

Javier began his professional career in phytosanitary regulation programs at the Mexican NPPO where he worked for 30 years. During this time, he held the position of National Plant Protection Officer for 15 years, while representing his country as a member of the NAPPO Executive Committee.

Regarding the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) activities, he represented Latin America as a member of the Bureau for three periods and was Chair of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) from 2018 to 2021.

In 1987, he obtained his PhD at the University of California, Berkeley. While he was a graduate student at UC Berkeley, he had the opportunity to work on sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) programs, where he was able to appreciate and master the operation of phytosanitary regulatory programs from a different operational perspective to those in Mexico.

After completing his regulatory career and establishing strong links with industry stakeholders in the three NAPPO member countries, he decided to apply for the NAPPO position. He is motivated to extend his professional life to leverage his vast experiences to benefit plant health in the NAPPO region.

Steve Côté

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.

In June 2023, Steve was named Canada's representative on the NAPPO Executive Committee.

Francisco Ramírez y Ramírez

Mr. Ramírez y Ramírez is an agronomist specializing in parasitology from Chapingo Autonomous University. He has 37 years of professional experience in phytosanitary issues at the state and federal levels, having occupied several high-profile positions in the Plant Health General Directorate at SENASICA.

He served as director of the National Phytosanitary Reference Center where he was responsible for the development and deployment of the National System for Phytosanitary Epidemiological Surveillance (SINAVEF); later, he assumed the General Directorate for Agriculture and Livestock in San Luis Potosí. Most recently, Francisco worked at the Directorate for Domestic Fruit Fly Programs where he focused on the implementation of fruit fly free areas and maintaining Mexico's Mediterranean fruit fly-free status. In 2017, he received the Plant Health National Award for Phytosanitary Merit.

Francisco is Mexico's representative on the NAPPO Executive Committee.