



44th NAPPO Annual Meeting, post meeting survey and 2022 Annual Meeting

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Dear NAPPO stakeholders,

Hello from the NAPPO Secretariat and thanks so much for joining us last week!

I hope that like us, you enjoyed the first ever virtual NAPPO annual meeting even though we had a few glitches and challenges during delivery!

As a reminder, the meeting platform brought together just north of 500 registered participants from 30+ countries representing numerous National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) and other Federal level, State, and Provincial



government agencies, Regional and International Plant Protection Organizations, Universities and Academic Institutions, and a very large and diverse group of industry stakeholders representing several commodity sectors – from horticulture to seeds to fruits and vegetables to wood products to commercially available biological control agents, among others.

If for some reason you missed part or all of the 44th NAPPO Annual Meeting, please click on this link - [44TH NAPPO ANNUAL MEETING \(nappoannualmeeting2021.com\)](https://nappoannualmeeting2021.com) - and use your registration credentials (your *email* + your *password*) to enter the platform and view the recorded meeting and presentations in their entirety.

We'd like to acknowledge and thank USDA-APHIS Administrator Shea and MRP Undersecretary Moffitt for officially opening our meeting. Their remarks on the importance of healthy plants certainly set the stage for what was to come in the meeting sessions.

We hope the country reports provided you with a glimpse of the plant health challenges and issues that are front-and-center in our three NAPPO member NPPOs. We trust that the information shared by Osama (U.S.), Greg (Canada) and Israel (Mexico) informed industry discussions as well as combined government-industry discussions on Wednesday.

Don't know about you, but we very much enjoyed the presentations delivered during the Knowledge Topic on *Emerging Issues and Pests of Concern to our Region* as well as those delivered as part of the Seminar on *Systems Approaches*. We are indeed very fortunate in NAPPO to have such knowledgeable, dedicated, and eloquent speakers in our member countries.

The presentations during the Knowledge Topic further highlighted the phytosanitary challenges that are before us – climate change, succession planning, diminishing resources, numerous emerging pests – and got us thinking of opportunities to collaborate in this space. The presentations that were part of the Seminar on Systems Approaches also provided “food for thought” for us to develop future “clever” risk management designs for dealing with plant health issues in the face of diminishing risk management tools in our toolbox.

We hoped you enjoyed listening to the progress reports from all the NAPPO Expert Groups. The phytosanitary experts from industry, government and academia that form our Expert Groups are the machinery that keep our projects moving forward - on time and with excellence! Kudos to all of them for a job well done!

We loved visiting the eight stakeholder kiosks expertly put together by the following partner organizations to NAPPO -

1. *Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA)*
2. *Colegio de Postgraduados (COLPOS)*
3. *EUPHRESCO*
4. *International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC)/ North American Export Grain Assoc. (NAEGA)*
5. *Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura (IICA)*
6. *International Society of Plant Pathology (ISPP)*
7. *National Invasive Species Council (NISC)*
8. *Cooperative Program in Research and Technology for the Northern Region (PROCINORTE)*

and we hoped you enjoyed them as well! We thank the kiosk organizers for providing such rich and interactive content to display in their space.

We again thanks all our friends and colleagues that had a hand in making the meeting a successful event.

Lastly, we remind all our meeting participants to **please complete the post meeting survey**. Rest assured that the NAPPO Secretariat wants to “hear it all”!!

As such, please give kudos where it is deserved but, most importantly, provide us with suggestions of what/ where we can improve so we can make the 2022 45th NAPPO Annual Meeting an event to remember!

Stephanie Bloem

NAPPO Executive Director.



Completed NAPPO projects in 2021 and call for new NAPPO project proposals

Those of you that attended the 44th NAPPO Annual Meeting already know that four NAPPO projects were completed in 2021. The NAPPO Expert Group that oversaw awareness-raising for the **International Year of Plant Health** finished their tasks in June 2021 and the Expert Group was disbanded. We again thank them for their excellent contributions to this international endeavor.

Three additional project documents were approved by the NAPPO Executive Committee at our Nov. 10th governance meeting. These are:

NAPPO Position Document 07 (*Asian gypsy moth (AGM) specified risk periods in Japan, Russia, Republic of Korea, and China*)

Update of RSPM 22 (*Guidelines for Design, Construction and Operation of a Containment Facility for Insects and Mites used as Biological Control Agents*)

Update of RSPM 38 (*Importation of certain wooden and bamboo commodities into a NAPPO member country*).

Signed copies of these documents will be uploaded to the NAPPO website and notifications provided to all stakeholders. The group members will receive acknowledgement letters and the Expert Groups will be disbanded, as per NAPPO internal procedures.

Please be aware that the NAPPO Secretariat is also expecting that two additional projects will be finalized before the end of 2021. These are:

Update of RSPM 35 (*Guidelines for the movement of propagative plant material of stone fruit and pome fruit trees and grapevines into a NAPPO member country*), and

Forestry Science and Technology Document on *Contaminating organisms affecting trade in wood commodities and forestry products*.

The above information is important for you as **NAPPO officially opens the call for new project proposals today – November 15th. The open period will close on Jan. 15th, 2022.**

Completing five NAPPO projects by the end of 2021 will provide you with the opportunity to shape the future work of our Regional Plant Protection Organization!!

For example ...

Do you believe that one (or more) of the NAPPO Regional Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (RSPM) need updating?

Might you have a suggestion for a new RSPM that would make your plant health work easier? More agile? More predictable?

Are there new topics that would benefit from having a new Science and Technology, Discussion or other NAPPO document?

Are there NAPPO Science and Technology, Discussion or other documents that should be updated?

Might there be a particular phytosanitary issue that we should harmonize as a region?

Is it a pest that is absent in all our member countries?

Is it a phytosanitary action, procedure, or measure?

Do we need to pay special attention to a particular traded plant, plant product or other regulated article?



Could our region benefit from improving our capacity on a particular phytosanitary topic?
Do we need to consider organizing a workshop that will address an emerging phytosanitary challenge?

We invite you to submit your strategic/novel/insightful ideas for consideration as new projects for NAPPO in 2022. We suggest that you work closely with the Advisory and Management Group member from your respective country. Their contact information can be found here - <https://www.nappo.org/english/directory/advisory-and-management-committee>

The form to submit new project proposals, the instruction on how to complete the form and the ranking criteria for new proposals can be found here - <https://www.nappo.org/english/nappo-forms/project-proposals>

Developing the new NAPPO five-year Strategic Plan

Government and industry stakeholders in the NAPPO region are gathering relevant documents, intelligence, and novel ideas/approaches to be considered for inclusion in the new NAPPO five-year Strategic Plan.

Among the documents that will be consulted/considered during the update is the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency Plant and Animal Health Strategy, the 2019-2023 USDA-APHIS Strategic Plan, the USDA-APHIS-PPQ Strategic Plan 2020-2021 bridge, and other similar documents from our member countries.

The NAPPO Advisory and Management Committee will meet on December 2 to review the documents and begin outlining the approach and charting next steps. Additional meetings involving the Executive Committee and Industry Advisory Group are expected in January 2022.

Because of work/travel disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the active life of the 2016-2020 NAPPO Strategic Plan was extended by consensus for one year (until the end of 2021) by the NAPPO Executive Committee. The 2016-2020 NAPPO Strategic Plan as well as the yearly reports on how well the NAPPO yearly work program meets the goals and subgoals of the Strategic Plan can be found here - <https://www.nappo.org/english/governance/strategic-plan>



XX Forest Pest Management Virtual Symposium – Aguascalientes, Mexico – Oct. 20-22, 2021



NAPPO was invited to develop and deliver a keynote presentation as part of the XX Forest Pest Management Symposium this past October. The presentation addressed ***the role of NAPPO in the regional and international protection of forestry resources***. This opportunity allowed NAPPO to highlight the Regional Standards for Phytosanitary Measures that deal with wood products and pests that can affect forestry resources. It also allowed us to highlight the role of NAPPO in having many of its regional plant health standards serve as basis for the development of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures or ISPMs that are used as global, rather than regional guidance.

The Symposium brought together more than 100 participants from all over Mexico representing government and academic organizations working on forestry issues. The NAPPO presentation was well received and generated several questions including the suggestion for eventual collaboration with several forest research institutions in Mexico.

NAPPO promotes the Seeds EG project on the Harmonization of detection protocols for *ToBRFV*

The NAPPO project on harmonization of diagnostic protocols for the detection of Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus (*ToBRFV*), a regulated pest of tomato and pepper seeds, will facilitate seed trade, reduce costs related to seed trade in the NAPPO region, and provide a model for future protocol harmonization projects for other seed transmitted pests.

Due to interest in this project by other countries and regions around the world, NAPPO has delivered a series of presentations on this important project. On September 9, a presentation was given to the Cross-border Seed Workshop, a joint meeting between the Mexican Seed Association (AMSAC) and the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA). Similarly, a project update was provided on September 29 to the Seed Associa-

tion of the Americas (SAA).

The historical background of the NAPPO SeedToBRFV project was given, and the project description and objectives were explained. Recent updates were also provided including the selection of protocols that will be evaluated (Standard and qRT-PCR), the validation criteria used, the experimental design for the ring test and procedures and tools for data collection, storage, and analysis. The presentations described future work by the EG, including developing the terms of reference document (ToR) for review and approval by the NAPPO Executive Committee.

News from Expert Groups

NAPPO continues developing high quality products thanks to the hard work and dedication of subject matter experts in all three NAPPO member countries. On November 10, 2021, the NAPPO Executive Committee approved three NAPPO documents:

Update of RSPM 22 (*Guidelines for the Design, Construction and Operation of a Containment Facility for Insects and Mites used as Biological Control Agents*)

Update of RSPM 38 (*Importation of Certain Wooden and Bamboo Commodities into a NAPPO Member Country*) and

NAPPO Position Document 07 (*Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM) Specified Risk Periods in Japan, Russia, Republic of Korea, and China*).

These expert groups will be disbanded soon, and copies of the approved documents will be uploaded to the NAPPO website (www.nappo.org).

Two additional projects (**Update of RSPM 35** (*Guidelines for the Movement of Stone and Pome Fruit Trees and Grapevine into a NAPPO Member Country*) and the **Science and Technology Document 08** (*Contaminating Organisms Affecting Trade in Wood Commodities*) will be completed and approved during the fourth quarter of 2021.

Seeds – Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus (ToBRFV) Pilot. EG members have made significant progress on the logistics required to develop the terms of reference for the pilot project. Participating laboratories, necessary equipment, sources and type of reference material, permit logistics, and tools for data collection and analysis have been determined. In addition, the EG is developing a reference document that will guide participating laboratories during the conduct of the ring test.

ISPM 25 Guidance (*Consignments in-transit*). The EG writing subgroup has been actively working on the draft guidance document. The writing subgroup is receiving constant

feedback from the broader EG. This process will continue until a final version of the document is completed.

Mike Tamilia (Former Sr. Manager, Customs and Transborder Operations - Canadian National Railway – and NAPPO Industry representative in the EG) has officially retired. The NAPPO Secretariat would like to express their gratitude to Mike for his contributions to this project. We wish him an enjoyable retirement.

Risk-Based Sampling (RBS). A first draft of Part 2 of the RBS manual was assembled. The draft will be reviewed and we are expecting completion by the fourth quarter of 2021.

PAS. The EG continues to meet the IPPC Pest Reporting obligations for the NAPPO region. Eight additional official pest reports have been published since July 2021. In addition, the EG completed a set of guidelines for using the updated online PAS platform.

The PAS EG had a recent change in experts from Canada. The NAPPO Secretariat thanks Heather Cumming (CFIA) for her contributions and welcomes Alexandre Blaine (CFIA) to the EG.

Electronic Certification. EPhyto continues to gain momentum due to the pandemic. More than 50 countries are exchanging ePhytos with the U.S., with the Bahamas, Dominican Republic and Panama being the latest countries exchanging ePhytos. Mexico is also actively exchanging with the U.S. and other countries. Canada is finalizing internal testing and will soon begin exchanging ePhytos with the U.S. The NAPPO ePhyto EG continues to stay in close contact with the IPPC ePhyto steering group.

The NAPPO Secretariat acknowledges and

thanks Tim Cunningham (USDA-APHIS-PPQ) for his service to this EG and welcomes Cara Grant (CFIA) and Paul Newman (Canada Wood) to the ePhyto Expert Group.

Revision/update of RSPM 35
(Guidelines for the movement of stone and pome fruit trees and grapevines into a NAPPO member country). The EG is finalizing the review of all comments to RSPM 35 received during country consultation.

The NAPPO Secretariat acknowledges and thanks Nicolas Martínez (formerly with SENASICA) for his contributions to this project.

Revision/update of RSPM 22
(Guidelines for the Design, Construction and Operation of a Containment Facility for Insects and Mites used as Biological Control Agents).

The NAPPO Secretariat acknowledges and thanks Hugo Arredondo (formerly with SENASICA) for his contributions to this and many other projects as a member of the NAPPO Biological Control Expert Group. Hugo is now working with industry.

Webinar and workshop offered as part of the activities of the Interamerican Coordinating Group in Plant Protection (GICSV)

Under the activities of the Interamerican Coordinating Group in Plant Protection (GICSV), currently coordinated by NAPPO, the following events were held with English and Spanish interpretation:

Webinar: Sea Container and Cargo Cleanliness: Your Say

On August 11, 2021, the North American Sea Container Initiative (NASCI) in collaboration with industry and the governments of Australia and New Zealand, and with support from NAPPO and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), offered a webinar entitled “*Sea Container and Cargo Cleanliness: Your Say*”. The webinar was attended by over 150 participants from RPPOs, NPPOs and industry.

Representatives from NASCI, the World Shipping Council, the Global Shippers Forum, the Australian Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment and the Ministry of Primary Industries of New Zealand provided their experiences, points of view and ideas on actions to mitigate pest risk on sea containers and their cargoes, as well as highlighted the consequences that pest presence may have on the countries’ phytosanitary status and economies. At the end of the webinar, participants discussed various with speakers. The webinar was recorded, and is available here: [Sea Container and Cargo Cleanliness: Your say - YouTube \(https://youtu.be/UakZilc8fAI English version\)](https://youtu.be/UakZilc8fAI)

ePhyto Workshop: "HUB/IPPC Connection: practical issues"

On October 21, 2021, the GICSV with support from COSAVE, NAPPO, IICA and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) ePhyto Steering Committee presented a workshop on electronic certification (ePhyto) "*HUB/IPPC connection: practical issues*" that shared successful country experiences on connection and operation of ePhyto through their own national systems or through the GeNs. Experts from the United States, Mexico, Panama, and Dominican Republic shared their expertise to facilitate and streamline ePhyto operations for countries wishing to connect. The workshop had over sixty participants, who interacted with speakers through the Q&A sessions. In addition, experts from different countries made available their guidance to those who requested it. For further information, please visit this link <https://www.ippc.int/es/ephyto/>

NAPPO Welcomes New Advisory and Management Committee (AMC) members from the United States and Canada

The NAPPO Secretariat officially welcomes Stephanie Dubon (USDA-APHIS-PPQ) and Tanya Staffen (CFIA) as new NAPPO AMC members from the U.S. and Canada.

Stephanie Dubon, once an alternate AMC member for the U.S. joined the AMC as a full member in July, when she became the USDA-APHIS-PPQ Acting NAPPO Technical Director replacing Patricia Abad. Stephanie coordinates international and regional standard setting issues within PPQ, as well as interacts with domestic stakeholders, other U.S. government agencies, and foreign counterparts. Stephanie has been with the USDA-APHIS-PPQ International Phytosanitary Standards (IPS) team since it was established in 2012



From 2009-2012, Stephanie was an Associate Professional Officer in the Standard Setting Unit at the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) in Rome, Italy. While there, she managed expert drafting groups for different draft standards, two technical panels, and managed IPPC regional workshops for Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Near East. She also implemented virtual platforms to facilitate the work of the technical panels. She developed and implemented the first version of the IPPC Online Commenting System, which allows all stakeholders to enter and the IPPC Secretariat to automatically compile thousands of comments on draft standards received during country consultation.

Stephanie began her career with USDA-APHIS-PPQ in 2005 as a Biological Sciences Technician with the Science and Technology Risk Analysis Laboratory. While there, she independently authored or co-authored six pest risk assessments, 24 New Pest Advisory Group (NPAG) pest reports and served as the NPAG Coordinator.

She has a bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences, with a focus in Ecology, from the University of Illinois.

Tanya Staffen recently joined NAPPO as a member of the Advisory and Management Committee for Canada. Tanya works for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) in the International Affairs Branch where she contributes to Canada's engagement in NAPPO and the IPPC.

Tanya began working with the operations branch of the CFIA in 2000. She spent several years as an inspector where she was involved in the delivery of domestic import and export plant health and plant production programs in Western Canada. As an operations specialist, Tanya has led several teams that have worked on the development of inspection procedures supporting Canada's plant programs. In addition, she helped develop and deliver training programs for seed and plant biosafety programs. Tanya has served as an advisor to the board of the Saskatchewan Seed Growers from 2008-2018 where she gained valuable experience engaging with seed and agriculture industry in Saskatchewan.

Tanya has been passionate about plants since she was very young. From setting up her own garden in high school to working as a timber cruiser in British Columbia's interior forests she has always tried to stay connected to the world of plants. Tanya studied at the University of British Columbia where she obtained a degree in environmental biology. As part of her degree, Tanya also had the unique experience of studying for a year at the University of California, Davis.

Tanya currently lives in Saskatoon with her husband and two children.



Dr. Richard Zink Retires

Richard Zink retired in August 2021 after 16 years with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ). Rick served as the laboratory director for the APHIS PPQ Science and Technology's Pest Identification Technology Lab in Fort Collins, CO. Rick dedicated 48 years to advancing potato issues, as a researcher, an educator, and a leader.

Rick worked tirelessly with NAPPO for 25 years. Starting in 1994 as Associate Professor with Colorado State University, Rick was part of an APHIS-led team that conducted a pest survey across several potato production areas in Mexico. From this survey, a U.S., Canada, and Mexico working group was formed to develop a potato pest list for North America. In 1998, the working group was formally named the NAPPO Potato Panel. The panel drafted what would become the NAPPO Regional Standard for Phytosanitary Measures 03 (RSPM 03; *Movement of Potatoes into a NAPPO Member Country*).

Rick was elected Chairperson of the NAPPO Potato Panel in 2003 and served in that leadership role for 10 years. After 2013, Rick co-chaired the Potato Panel with Canada until its decommission in 2019. Rick was a member of the National Potato Council's Trade Affairs Committee, along with several potato technical advisory committees. Rick published numerous manuscripts and potato industry reports, and he chaired and organized many NAPPO Potato Panel Meetings over the course of his career.

Rick has been recognized for his dedication to the potato industry. In 1997, the National Potato Council awarded Rick the Industry Award for Service, Concern and Dedication to the Potato Industry. In 2014, Rick was awarded the APHIS Administrator's Award for his contributions to expand market access for U.S. potatoes to Mexico, contributing to increased global food security.

Rick's dedication to APHIS, NAPPO, and the potato industry will be missed. The NAPPO Secretariat wishes Rick an enjoyable retirement.

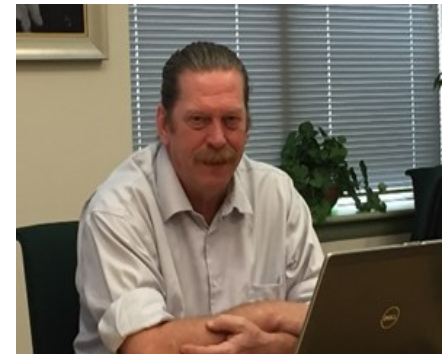
Missed but NEVER forgotten

Paul Chaloux. It is with great sadness that we inform the NAPPO community about the recent passing of Paul Chaloux. During his 20-year career with USDA-APHIS-PPQ Paul participated as an Expert Group member for NAPPO in forestry-related projects including the lymantriids Science and Technology Document and NAPPO RSPM 41 (*Use of Systems Approaches to Manage Pest Risks Associated with the Movement of Forest Products*).

Paul began his career with USDA-APHIS-PPQ in January 2000, after finishing an M.Sc. in plant pathology, with a concentration in forest pathology, from West Virginia University. Before that he received a B.Sc. in environmental protection. Paul joined USDA-APHIS-PPQ as a Plant Pathologist with the Citrus Canker Eradication Program (CCEP), now the Citrus Health Response Program, in Florida. In this position, he was responsible for performing field and laboratory diagnostic work and for training new and existing employees in the identification of citrus varieties and citrus diseases.

In May 2002, Paul was promoted to a Supervisory Officer position with CCEP. In this role, he was the Officer-in-Charge at the CCEP's Palm Beach County office, supervising a staff of approximately 20 officers, technicians, and administrative personnel, performing regulatory work and survey activities in residential and commercial settings in southeast Florida.

In November 2008, Paul moved to the Riverdale, MD, USDA-APHIS-PPQ headquarters to become the National Program Manager for the Emerald Ash Borer Program. This launched his involvement with numerous Tree and Wood Pest programs, including Gypsy Moth, European Larch Canker, and, more recently, Asian Long horned Beetle (ALB). Paul was the point of contact for numerous forests pests, including but not limited to shot hole borers and Oak wilt. If not for the detection of ALB in South Carolina, he would have retired earlier in 2021 but ended up serving in his capacity until May 21, 2021.



It's no wonder that the National Plant Board presented Paul with a President's Award in 2015 for his "contributions in working collaboratively with the [board] in safeguarding American agriculture and the environment from invasive, exotic, or harmful pests. Paul was a mentor to many. He took time to check on many of his colleagues, and he reminded us all every so often about fiscal responsibility because he cared how we spent taxpayers' money.

In his personal life, Paul was an avid online car racer who competed professionally. He was also a lover of nature and an accomplished woodworker, turning wood on a lathe and making bowls, rolling pins, candle sticks, and beautiful inlaid furniture. A true bibliophile, he filled his living room with thousands of books—all of which he read. Paul loved to visit his family's cabin in West Virginia and became renown there for putting-on some great fireworks shows. As an accomplished baker, he specialized in all pies, insisting on crust made from scratch. He was also an enthusiastic "disk golf" player. He never did anything half-way, but also loved to joke, tease, and make a good time for everyone.

He is survived by his daughter, Lauren Chaharbakhshi, and son-in-law Albert; two grandchildren; four siblings, David Chaloux, Anne Fox, Patricia Chaloux, and Suzanne Enyeby; and his mother, Harriet Chaloux.

I would like to leave you with this quote from Paul's goodbye email to USDA-APHIS-PPQ on the day of his retirement. It conveys deep wisdom and captures his personality so well.

“I have worked with so many people over my years with the agency, each of whom has taught me valuable lessons. Some of those lessons were about the programs I have worked with and some were about the importance of the relationships we have with others. I want to thank all of you for your insights. Take care and keep up the good work all of you do on a daily basis.”



Members of the NAPPO RSPM 41 Expert Group in 2017. Left to right: John Tyrone Jones (APHIS-PPQ), Alonso Suazo (NAPPO), Scott Myers (APHIS – PPQ), Brad Gething (Natl. Wooden Pallet and Containers Association), Meghan Noseworthy (NR Canada), Russel Reck (deceased), Nedelka Marín-Martínez (NAPPO), Paul Chaloux (deceased), Eric Allen (NR Canada – now retired), Faith Campbell (Center for Invasive Species Prevention), Patricia Abad (APHIS – PPQ), Steve Côté (CFIA) and Gustavo Gonzalez (formerly SEMARNAT, MX).

NAPPO Newsletter

Published by the North American Plant Protection Organization

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