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47th NAPPO Annual Meeting

October 22-24, 2024



Dear NAPPO Stakeholders,

The 47th NAPPO Annual Meeting will be hosted by the United States from October 22-24 in Tucson, Arizona. The NAPPO Secretariat is pleased to inform you that the Annual Meeting website is now available and includes the draft agenda, a welcome and invitation letter, hotel information, meeting room requests for side meetings, local information including transportation, and more.

For more information visit the NAPPO website (www.napppo.org) and select the annual meeting box in the home page carousel. The Secretariat will send a broadcast email notification when registration opens.

The 47th NAPPO Annual Meeting will provide networking opportunities and will allow participants to meet Dr. Javier Trujillo Arriaga, the new Chief Scientist and leader of NAPPO, and Jessica Mahalingappa, the new NAPPO Executive Committee member for the United States.

Government, industry, and concurrent government-industry meetings will take place on the morning of Tuesday, October 22. The meeting will officially begin that afternoon, with welcome remarks provided by Dr. Mike Watson (APHIS Deputy Administrator), and Jessica Mahalingappa (Chair of the NAPPO Executive Committee). Dr. Juan Villanueva, the Director General of the Colegio de Post Graduados (COLPOS) in Mexico, will be our keynote speaker, providing insight into the agricultural research program of the most prestigious agricultural research center in Mexico. NAPPO updates will be provided by Dr. Javier Trujillo Arriaga. On October 23, the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretary and Greg Wolff (Chair of the IPPC Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM)) will provide virtual updates on IPPC activities.

Other annual meeting topics include the contribution of NAPPO and its member countries to the IPPC, NAPPO collaboration with other regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs), and updates on the NAPPO work program. The meeting will conclude on Thursday, October 24, with a symposium with two topics: 1)

Implementation of NAPPO products and 2) Reducing methyl bromide through a risk-based approach.

Stay tuned for more information!

Important dates and deadlines for the 2024 NAPPO Annual Meeting

Meeting dates	October 22-24
Early registration deadline (US\$350.00)	August 31, 2024
Late registration (US\$375.00)	Starts on September 1, 2024
Side-meeting room reservation deadline	September 27, 2024
Hotel preferential rate – Reserve by	September 27, 2024
Online registration deadline	October 15, 2024
Deadline to cancel registration (\$150 non-refundable cancellation fee)	October 18, 2024

NAPPO Welcomes its New Leader, Dr. Francisco Javier Trujillo Arriaga

Dr. Javier Trujillo Arriaga began his position as the new NAPPO leader on July 1, 2024. Dr. Trujillo Arriaga will step into the role held by our colleague, Dr. Stephanie Bloem, who retired at the end of June 2024. He will lead the fulfillment of the NAPPO Strategic Plan (2022-2026) and the NAPPO work program, as well as the Executive Committee’s priority plant health goals for North America.

He brings a wealth of scientific and international plant health experience, leadership, and credibility to NAPPO, and has a demonstrated commitment to advancing the collective interests of North America through the development and application of science-based harmonized approaches to plant health.

Dr. Trujillo Arriaga has many years of experience as a senior policy official in the Mexican agricultural ministry as it relates to leading large scale plant pest control and eradication programs



as well as being a key member of the government's international phytosanitary trade negotiating team.

From 2018-2022 he was the Chief Director of the Servicio Nacional de Sanidad, Inocuidad, y Calidad Agroalimentaria (SENASICA) and from 2006-2018 he served as Director General of Plant Health in Mexico.

Dr. Trujillo Arriaga was Chair of the IPPC CPM from 2018-2020 and Vice Chair from 2016-2017. Dr. Trujillo Arriaga has served NAPPO as the Mexico representative to the Executive Committee and as part of the Working Group (now known as the Advisory Management Committee).

Dr. Trujillo Arriaga has been a leader in plant health science at both the domestic and international levels. He has a Doctoral degree in Entomology from the University of California, Berkeley, and a degree in Agronomy from the Autonomous University of Chapingo in Mexico.

Please join NAPPO in welcoming Dr. Trujillo Arriaga to his new position.

The NAPPO Executive Committee

NAPPO Management Team Meeting

The NAPPO Executive Committee (EC), joined by the Advisory and Management Committee (AMC), Industry Advisory Group (IAG), and Secretariat, convened in Raleigh, North Carolina on May 30, 2024. The EC provides leadership and strategic direction for NAPPO. The main outcomes of the meeting included:

1. The EC reviewed the 2024 NAPPO work program and added two projects:
 - a new regional standard on seed systems approaches. The expert group will include an observer from the RPPO of the Southern Cone Plant Health Committee (COSAVE, for its acronym in Spanish).
 - a new science and technology document on testing the heat treatment dose for wood product pests in North America—a water bath ring study. The expert group is expected to start the project later in 2024.
2. Review updates to the 2024 NAPPO budget, travel and calendar.
3. Receive updates on the meeting preparations for the 2024 NAPPO Annual Meeting, hosted by the United States in Tucson, AZ.
4. Approved the ink amendments to the NAPPO Constitution and by-laws, which reflects NAPPO's latest organizational changes.

Stephanie Bloem (former NAPPO Executive Director) received recognition for her contributions and leadership in NAPPO.

Ibrahim Shaqir (U.S. NAPPO Executive Committee member) announced his departure from his role and John Greifer announced his upcoming retirement from APHIS PPQ in August 2024.

All participants thanked Stephanie, Ibrahim, and John for their contributions to NAPPO and wished Stephanie and John a happy retirement.



NAPPO Management Team participants (from left to right): Nedelka Marín-Martínez (NAPPO Secretariat); Brad Gething (U.S. Industry Advisory Group (IAG)); Alonso Suazo (NAPPO Secretariat); Andrew Morse (Canada IAG); Michelle (Shelley) Gray (U.S. Advisory and Management Committee (AMC)); Javier Trujillo Arriaga (NAPPO Chief Scientist); Stephanie Dubon (U.S. AMC); Ibrahim Shaqir (U.S. Executive Committee (EC)); John Greifer (U.S. EC); Sofía Báez (NAPPO Secretariat); Stephanie Bloem (NAPPO Executive Director); Lilia Cruz (Representing Mexico EC and AMC); Steve Côté (Canada EC); Mario Puente Raya (Mexico IAG), and Tanya Staffen (Canada AMC).

NOW AVAILABLE – One-Page Summaries of all NAPPO Regional Plant Health Standards!

Thanks to the excellent work of one of our NAPPO editors, Lottie Erikson, and the translation services of NAPPO's own Nedelka Marín-Martínez we now have [one-page summaries](#) of all of our active NAPPO Regional Standards for Phytosanitary Measures or RSPMs.

The summaries clearly state the purpose and contents of each RSPM and highlight the usefulness of each section or annex(es) that form part of the standard(s).

These summaries will be useful to new NAPPO stakeholders that are beginning to explore our products. They will improve the implementation of guidance provided by the RSPMs whose overall objective is to harmonize the application of phytosanitary measures and approaches in our region.



Updated 2024 NAPPO Work Program on the NAPPO Website

An [updated version](#) of the 2024 NAPPO Work Program (WP) is now available on the NAPPO website. The updated WP has 14 projects, two of which are near completion.

In addition, it includes the two new projects that were added at the May NAPPO Management Team meeting:

- New NAPPO Regional Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (RSPM) - [*Use of systems approach as a framework for phytosanitary certification of seeds*](#)
- New NAPPO Science and Technology Document - [*Testing the heat treatment dose for wood product pests in North America – water bath ring study*](#)

The new projects will be initiated as soon as Expert Group members are confirmed.



NAPPO Call for Project Proposals Ended June 30, 2024

The NAPPO call for project proposals concluded on June 30. The NAPPO Secretariat thanks stakeholders for submitting project proposals. Based on established criteria, the NAPPO AMC will prioritize and rank these proposals to make recommendations to the NAPPO Executive Committee. Selected proposals approved by the NAPPO Executive Committee will be included in the 2025 NAPPO work program or the waitlist, taking into consideration the Secretariat's current workload.

Report on the International Symposium on Grapevine Epidemic Diseases

On May 17th 2024 the International Symposium on Grapevine Epidemic Diseases took place in Austin, Texas. This event was co-hosted by the International Organization of Vine and Wine (OIV) and the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) and brought together international experts to discuss the phytosanitary, regulatory, economic, and social aspects of major grapevine epidemic diseases and identify opportunities for a coordinated international approach to manage grapevine health.

The symposium consisted of four scientific and technical sessions: (1) diseases epidemiology and the impact of climate change, (2) diseases monitoring and control: international standards, (3) diseases monitoring and control: regulatory frames, and (4) mitigation strategies and economic impact. This was followed by two round table sessions discussing the relevance of collective strategies and developing a coordinated international approach to grapevine health and protection. Throughout the day, participants heard from a number of researchers, as well as representatives from OIV, EPPO, USDA-APHIS, DG SANTE (European Union), DAFF (Australia), DRAAF SRAL (France), and the Crop Health Services of Australia.

As the former chair of the RSPM 35 (Guidelines for the Movement of Propagative Plant Material of Stone Fruit, Pome Fruit, and Grapevine into a NAPPO Member country) expert group, which recently reviewed and updated this regional standard, I had the pleasure of attending this event and giving a presentation on behalf of NAPPO during the international standards session, as well as participating in one of the round table panel discussions. The presentation highlighted the role of NAPPO as well as the scope and essential elements of RSPM 35, specifically with respect to grapevine certification. It was a great event, and a wonderful opportunity to highlight the work of NAPPO and the recent North American advances in grapevine phytosanitary standard setting.

A full summary of the Symposium can be found here: [Press Release](#).

By Sarah Brearey, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)



Symposium participants. Sarah Brearey (CFIA, front row, third from left to right), Chairperson of the NAPPO Revision of RSPM 35 expert group presented the work on the role of NAPPO and the scope of RSPM 35 with respect to grapevine certification.

News from NAPPO Expert Groups

NAPPO expert groups consistently deliver high-quality products for the NAPPO community.

Updates from select expert groups (EGs):

Forestry-ISPM 15 compliance (Evaluating the risk associated with different types of wood packaging materials-opportunities to improve ISPM 15 compliance). The EG is collecting inspection data on forest pests from North America and other regions to evaluate the risks of forest pest introduction associated with different types of wood packaging materials.

Alternatives to methyl bromide. Work is underway to develop a discussion document on alternatives to methyl bromide in the NAPPO region. The EG has formed a writing subgroup to produce a draft that will be ready for country consultation.

***Tuta absoluta*.** The EG is actively working on the draft discussion document concerning the threat and impact of *Tuta absoluta* introduction to the NAPPO region. The EG is discussing different scenarios to consider for an emergency response in each NAPPO country and determine what measures can be harmonized.

Revision of NAPPO RSPM 26 (Certification of commercial arthropods biological control agents or non-*Apis* pollinators moving into NAPPO member countries). The expert group is discussing relevant points to include in an updated RSPM 26. The EG agreed to remove non-*Apis* pollinators as part of the standard.

Seeds ToBRFV. The EG finalized the manuscript titled "*Pilot for harmonization of*

diagnostic protocols for Tomato brown rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV) in tomato and pepper seeds" and submitted it for publication in the journal "PhytoFrontiers" Focus Issue 'Diagnostic Assay Development and Validation: The Science of Getting It Right II'. Following the publication of the manuscript, the NAPPO Executive Committee will sign a decision sheet recommending selected protocols for detecting ToBRFV in tomato and pepper seeds in the NAPPO region.

Phytosanitary Alert System (PAS). Eleven Official Pest Reports (OPRs) were published between March 27 and July 1, 2024. The PAS EG continues to meet the IPPC reporting obligations and publishing OPRs from NAPPO member countries.

Inter-American Coordinating Group in Plant Protection (GICSV, because of its Spanish acronym). NAPPO experts are actively participating in various GICSV working groups. The ePhyto expert working group is organizing an international symposium on electronic phytosanitary certification in Puerto Varas, Chile scheduled for November 11-14, 2024. Additionally, the fruit fly expert working group is coordinating a webinar to share experiences on the use of sterile insect techniques; the webinar date is yet to be determined. Further details on the different GICSV working groups can be accessed via [this link](#). The International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health (OIRSA, because of its Spanish acronym) is currently coordinating GICSV activities.

NAPPO Welcomes Jessica Mahalingappa as Associate Deputy Administrator for the International Phytosanitary Management and Standards Program

Please join us in welcoming Jessica Mahalingappa, who started as the Associate Deputy Administrator of International Phytosanitary Management and Standards Program, Plant Protection and Quarantine, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) on July 1. Jessica will be playing an executive role on the NAPPO Executive Committee as well as overseeing and directing U.S. phytosanitary bilateral negotiations.

Jessica began her APHIS career working for Policy and Program Development in 1999. She also worked in the International Services program as Chief of Staff, and as the International Technical and Regulatory Capacity Building Center's Assistant Director. From 2013 to 2018, she was appointed APHIS' Assistant Deputy Administrator for Trade and Capacity Building, and eventually became Associate Deputy Administrator for Trade. Jessica has been serving as the Associate Deputy Administrator in APHIS' Biotechnology Regulatory Services since 2021.

In addition to her APHIS experience, Jessica served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Turkmenistan. She holds a B.A. in International Relations from Bucknell University and an M.A. in International Relations from Johns Hopkins University.



The NAPPO Executive Committee

Farewell to Ibrahim Shaqir - U.S. Representative to the NAPPO Executive Committee

Ibrahim Shaqir has represented the U.S. Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) program on the NAPPO Executive Committee since 2021. During this time, he provided key leadership for PPQ in the international arena, helping to maintain continuity of PPQ services and support for the Department's broader trade mission while meeting APHIS' plant health safeguarding objectives. He provided active leadership and strategic guidance on the NAPPO Executive Committee and contributed significantly to making NAPPO a strong, strategically relevant organization.

As of June 17, 2024, Ibrahim is serving in a new leadership position with the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) as the



Center Director of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, located in Beltsville, Maryland. Ibrahim will be responsible for USDA's largest scientific installation and the highly interdisciplinary scientific community that carries out research and develops technologies that improves agricultural crops and animal health and production; clean and renewable natural resources; sustainable agricultural systems; and agricultural commodities and products.

We want to thank Ibrahim for his contributions and strong sense of collegiality to the work and mission of NAPPO and wish him the very best success in his new appointment. ARS is very lucky to have Ibrahim.

The NAPPO Executive Committee

Stephanie Bloem was Awarded the “Distinguished Service Award” by the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA)

Stephanie Bloem was honored with the prestigious “Distinguished Service Award” by ASTA for her contributions to the seed industry. During her tenure as NAPPO Executive Director, Stephanie played a key role in developing a hemispheric workshop on the implementation of ISPM 38 (International Movement of Seeds) held in San José, Costa Rica in 2019. She also strongly supported the development and implementation of seed systems approaches as alternatives to existing phytosanitary certification systems for the international movement of seeds.



NAPPO Wishes Stephanie Bloem the Best in her Retirement

Our dear friend and colleague, Dr. Stephanie Bloem, officially retired as the NAPPO Executive Director on June 28, 2024.

The NAPPO Executive Committee would like to recognize Dr. Bloem for her outstanding contributions as the NAPPO Executive Director for the last nine years, since 2015. While Executive Director, Dr. Bloem led the NAPPO organization in advancing regional, hemispheric and global priorities, and engaging industry and other key plant protection entities from across the

region and beyond. She has made NAPPO one of the most respected regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) in the plant health community.

Under her leadership, she oversaw the following activities:

- Adoption of 15 new or revised Regional Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (RSPMs); six Decision documents; two Position papers; three Science and Technology documents; one Guidance document, and organized and successfully delivered six Workshops and Symposia
- Development of RSPM one-page summaries to raise awareness and promote the use of NAPPO regional plant health standards with stakeholders that may be newcomers to NAPPO
- Organization and successful delivery of nine NAPPO Annual Meetings
- Implementation of multiple NAPPO Work Programs
- Revision of the NAPPO Constitution and By-Laws and other important foundational documents
- Development of the NAPPO Strategic Plans for 2016-2020 and 2022-2026, including implementation of the primary goals outlined in those plans
- Building strong relationships and providing a leadership role among regional plant protection organizations
- Representing the regional plant protection organizations in IPPC subsidiary bodies and *ad hoc* groups, including the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee, the Sea Containers Task Force and various Steering Committees
- Serving as a language expert for English on the IPPC Technical Panel for the Glossary
- Chairing two Technical Consultations among Regional Plant Protection Organizations (TC-RPPOs) – in 2015 in Memphis, TN and again in 2023 in Bogota, Colombia
- Coordinating the activities during the biennium 2021-2023 for the five working groups from the RPPOs of the Americas (NAPPO, OIRSA, CAHFSA, CAN and COSAVE) that function under the Interamerican Coordination Group in Plant Protection (GICSV, because of its acronym in Spanish)

Stephanie played an enormously important role in relocating the NAPPO Secretariat office to Raleigh, North Carolina, hiring new staff members, and establishing our RPPO as a fully independent non-profit organization. Today, the NAPPO office is well established, and its functions are built on sound operating procedures and practices. We thank Stephanie for her leadership in building the NAPPO infrastructure we have today, which has placed the organization in a position for success in the years to come.

We wish Stephanie the very best in her next life adventures. Please join NAPPO in wishing her all the best as she begins this new life chapter.

Stephanie can be reached at tita.bloem@gmail.com and 919-480-4761.

The NAPPO Executive Committee

Changes to CFIA Senior leadership

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) welcomed new president Paul MacKinnon on January 27, 2024. Paul previously served as Executive Vice-President of the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA). He was also Assistant Deputy Minister of Strategic and Program Policy, at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada from 2016 to 2019 and served as Assistant Deputy Minister of Portfolio Affairs and Communications at Public Safety Canada from 2011 to 2016. Former President, Dr. Harpreet S. Kochhar has taken on the role of Deputy Minister of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship.

In addition, there were several changes in leadership in the fall of 2023. On October 23, Debbie Beresford-Green joined the CFIA as the Vice-President, Operations Branch. Debbie was previously Senior Assistant Deputy Minister of the Corporate Services Branch at Health Canada. Effective October 16, Robert Ianiro became the new Vice-President, Policy and Programs Branch (PPB) and in September, Dr. David Nanang took on the role of Vice-President Science after several years with Operations Branch.



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