NAPPO
North American Plant Protection Organization
Organización Norteamericana de Protección a las Plantas
MEXICO-USA-CANADA

NAPPO BULLETIN

SPECIAL EDITION

MEXICO CITY · DECEMBER 1–4, 2026

49th NAPPO Annual Meeting

Hotel Camino Real Polanco · Celebrating 50 years of NAPPO

Join us as we celebrate a major milestone: 50 years of NAPPO's leadership in plant protection and phytosanitary cooperation across North America and beyond.

Dear NAPPO Stakeholders, the 49th NAPPO Annual Meeting is fast approaching, and we invite you to join us in Mexico City. Government officials, industry representatives, researchers and other stakeholders will gather to reflect on NAPPO's achievements over the past five decades and explore the opportunities and challenges that will shape the future of regional plant health collaboration.

The meeting is hosted at the Hotel Camino Real Polanco. NAPPO governance meetings will be held on November 29 and 30, immediately before the Annual Meeting.

Visit www.nappo.org for more information, or email nappo@nappo.org with questions about registration.

KEY DATES

Nov 29–30
NAPPO governance meetings

Dec 1
Opening ceremonies and welcome remarks

Dec 3
NAPPO's 50th Anniversary program

Dec 4
Final day of the Annual Meeting

MEXICO CITY · DECEMBER 1–4

What's on the program

After the opening ceremonies and welcome remarks on **December 1**, participants will discuss key issues affecting the North American phytosanitary community. The program will include:

- Country and industry reports
- Emerging technologies for phytosanitary applications
- Developments related to the Sea Container Initiative
- E-phyto
- Other emerging phytosanitary issues of regional importance
- Highlights of the NAPPO Work Program
- Updates from the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)
- E-commerce and plant health
- Cross-border collaboration

DECEMBER 3

NAPPO's 50th Anniversary

A dedicated program will commemorate NAPPO's contributions to plant protection and safe trade over five decades, with reflections from current and former experts and collaborators. Attendees can also learn about NAPPO's next **Strategic Plan** and contribute ideas for the next five years.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Please reserve early: December is a busy time in Mexico City, and rooms may run short. Booking details are on www.nappo.org, under the Annual Meeting tab in the homepage carousel.

The NAPPO Secretariat looks forward to welcoming you to Mexico City.

50 YEARS OF COOPERATION

NAPPO at 50 Years



BY JOHN GREIFER
Former APHIS professional and Delegate to IPPC and NAPPO

Fifty years ago, the plant health authorities of Canada, Mexico and the United States came together to foster a collaborative approach to high-impact agricultural pests of mutual concern.

Over these 50 years, plant health officials in the three countries have shared and integrated their technical, scientific, regulatory and operational knowledge. The work later broadened to risk analysis, inspection, harmonized trade standards, export certification, and forest and aquatic pests.

NAPPO built a structure with agreed-upon rules and procedures, plus active links with private-sector and agricultural groups in all three countries.

The result is a unique forum where regulators, scientists, academics and industry respond in real time to new pest incursions and trade disruptions.

Looking ahead

NAPPO has been an important technical and diplomatic resource, helping make North America a vibrant horticultural region and a model of plant health collaboration for other regions. The three economies will keep relying on healthy horticulture and safe trade, yesterday and tomorrow.

New challenges are certain, from changing weather and pest distribution to new production and marketing practices and evolving trade relationships. NAPPO and its stakeholders will need to stick together.

Here is to another 50 years of NAPPO teamwork, ensuring high phytosanitary standards and a safe, thriving agricultural region in North America.

NAPPO FORESTRY PANEL

They get things done!

Eric Allen · Panel/Expert Group member, 2000–2026

"There's something about the NAPPO forestry group; they work well together and get things done!"

That is a comment made over many years by group participants and outside observers alike. Trust, respect, cooperation — whatever the special formula, it continues to work as NAPPO's forestry experts collaborate to get tasks done.

NAPPO has played an important role in forest phytosanitary issues since the organization began in 1976, working with the North American Forestry Commission (NAFC) and its Insect and Disease Working Group, established in 1961.

In the 1980s, the pinewood nematode emerged as a significant trade issue. The 1986 NAPPO Position Paper PP-6 became an important technical document, bringing science to trade policy discussions.

Then came 1996: the detection of the Asian Longhorned Beetle in Brooklyn, New York, a turning point. Turn the page.

MILESTONES

1976
NAPPO founded; forest phytosanitary work begins

1986
Position Paper PP-6 on the pinewood nematode

1996
Asian Longhorned Beetle detected in Brooklyn, NY

2002
ISPM 15 adopted, built on NAPPO's RSPM 11

2019
Standing panels give way to expert working groups

1996 – 2002

From a beetle to a global standard

The 1996 detection of *Anoplophora glabripennis*, the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB), in Brooklyn, New York galvanized regulators and scientists from NAFC and NAPPO. Together they set out to quantify the scope of the problem and to find tools to mitigate its economic and ecological effects.

In 1997, NAPPO forestry experts began drafting a “dunnage standard.” It evolved into RSPM 11, published in 2001, which immediately served as the template for ISPM 15, adopted in March 2002 at ICPM-04.

RSPM 11

Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade

2001
RSPM 11 published

2002
ISPM 15 adopted

SPREADING THE WORD · ISPM 15 WORKSHOPS

2004
Mexico and Argentina

2005
Canada

2006
Peru

2014
China, with APPPC

2016
Costa Rica



2005 NAPPO Forestry Panel, Mexico City

A permanent panel

In 1998, the NAFC Insect and Disease Working Group asked that the forestry group become a permanent panel. Working closely with the NAFC’s Research Coordinating Committee on technical justification for treatments, the new Forestry Panel helped create the International Forest Quarantine Research Group (IFQRG) in 2003. That cooperation continues to this day.

THE WORK PROGRAM

Standards the panel built

The Forestry Panel's work program was extensive, leading to the development of several regional standards.

RSPM 33
Guidelines for Regulating the Movement of Vessels from Areas Infested with the Asian Gypsy Moth*

RSPM 37
Integrated Measures for the Trade of Christmas Trees

RSPM 38
Importation of Certain Wooden and Bamboo Commodities into a NAPPO Member Country

RSPM 41
Guidelines for Using a Systems Approach to Manage Pest Risks Associated with the Movement of Forest Products

*The common name has since been updated to flighted spongy moth complex.



2011 NAPPO FP, Valle de Bravo, Mexico

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DOCUMENTS

ST 05 Heat Treatment of Wood Commodities

ST 08 Contaminating Organisms Affecting Trade of Forestry Commodities

Beyond the standards

Other significant outputs included a concept paper, *Risks from Unknown Quarantine Organisms posed by the Importation of Plant Commodities*, support to the Emerald Ash Borer technical advisory group (EAB-TAG), and contributions to a *Concept Paper on Movement of Propagative Material*.

Concerns about plants for planting, first raised by the Forestry Panel, led to a separate Plants for Planting Panel and to RSPM 24, *Integrated Pest Risk Management Measures for the Importation of Plants for Planting into NAPPO Member Countries*.

SINCE 2019

Forestry groups at work today

In 2019, NAPPO moved from standing expert panels to expert working groups, created as needed. The first forestry group led development of ST 08. Several are active now.

Forest Quarantine Research Group (FQRG)

Brings together industry, government and academic experts to prioritize forest market issues, exchange technical data, and draft regional standards or science and technology papers.

Water Bath Ring Test Group

Focuses on designing standard operating procedures and manuals to test and record water bath heat treatment methods for wood product pests.

Alternatives to Methyl Bromide

Evaluates safe and efficient alternative treatments, like ethane dinitrile, to replace methyl bromide for wood products and quarantine compliance.

ISPM 15 and Wood Packaging Compliance

Reviews and develops regional standards to manage risks associated with wood packaging materials moving through international borders.

NAPPO has served, and continues to serve, as a meeting place for North American forestry experts from regulatory bodies, science and industry to seek solutions to critical forest phytosanitary issues.

One of the panel's main strengths has been the commitment of remarkable people who give their time, expertise and enthusiasm, not just to talking about problems but to finding solutions.



PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

2026 NAPPO Work Program

As 2026 concludes, NAPPO has advanced projects that support regional plant health, safe trade and collaboration among Canada, Mexico and the United States.

EXPERT GROUP PROJECTS

Alternatives to Methyl Bromide Discussion document	The Expert Group met in Raleigh to finalize the document. After a final review, it goes to the Executive Committee in spring 2027.
Revision of RSPM 26 Biological control agents	Work has resumed. The certification letter stays in the revised standard, and the group meets virtually every three weeks.
Phthorimaea absoluta Discussion document	The initial draft on how member countries should prepare is complete. English and Spanish versions come next, then consultation in early 2027.
Revision of RSPM 8 Authorizing certificate issuers	English and Spanish versions are ready. After a final Expert Group review, it goes to the Executive Committee for approval.
FIFA 2026 Project Completed July 2026	It strengthened regional coordination on plant health requirements tied to the World Cup. A summary of outcomes and lessons learned is in preparation.
Wood Packaging Material Discussion document	The first draft on the risks of different wood packaging types, to improve ISPM 15 compliance, is done. Consultation follows in early 2027.
RSPM 35 pest tables Virus and fungi review	Revision criteria and timelines are set. The review should finish in early 2027, followed by targeted consultation.

ONGOING REGIONAL COOPERATION

Phytosanitary Alert System PAS Expert Group	The group exchanged country updates and will share its work in a poster at the 49th Annual Meeting in Mexico City.
ePhyto Expert Group	Continues to support electronic phytosanitary certification across the region, with regular meetings on implementation.
GICSV Interamerican Coordinating Group	Resumed work on locusts, emergencies, fruit flies and cassava witches' broom. A webinar is planned for late 2026, and its committee meets in December.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Advisory and Management Committee July to November 2026	Coordinated Expert Groups, helped plan the Annual Meeting and 2027 work program, and advanced the Standards Setting document for 2027 approval.

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA · NOVEMBER 4–5

Alternatives to Methyl Bromide



Expert Group members and the NAPPO Secretariat working on the discussion document.



Left to right: Adrián Ruiz Vázquez and Víctor Manuel Gutiérrez Palomares (SENASICA), Bob Baca (USDA APHIS PPQ), Naima Ait Oumejjout (CFIA), Adnan Uzunovic (Canadian industry).

Members of the Expert Group met in Raleigh to address comments from country consultation on their discussion document. Participants came from SENASICA (Mexico), CFIA and Canada Woods (Canada) and USDA APHIS PPQ (United States). Bob Baca, President of the Expert Group, chaired the meeting.

Productive discussions produced a near-final version. After a brief final review, it goes to the Executive Committee. If approved at the Spring 2027 governance meetings, it will be published on the NAPPO website.

With methyl bromide being phased out globally, alternatives matter more every year. The document is a comprehensive reference on alternative phytosanitary treatments for various commodities.



WELCOME TO THE SECRETARIAT

Daniela Villamizar

New Administrative Assistant, effective July 1, 2026

Daniela brings experience in the public sector, project management, administration, budgeting and accounting. Her training in journalism adds strong communication and organizational skills that will enhance the services NAPPO provides to member countries, expert groups, industry representatives and partners. Please join us in welcoming her and wishing her every success.