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43rd Annual Meeting Highlights

The 43rd NAPPO Annual Meeting successfully concluded on November 1st, 2019. One hundred and thirty-one participants from governments, industry and non-government organizations attended the meeting. The meeting featured seven knowledge topics and a symposium entitled “*Evaluation of next steps for an exotic pest once its presence has been confirmed in a NAPPO member country*”. Opening remarks were provided by Dr. Bill Anderson - Executive Director, Plant Health and Biosecurity Directorate, Policy and Programs Branch, CFIA, Mr. Jacques Beaupré from the Québec Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPAQ in French) and Stephanie Bloem, NAPPO ED.

The NAPPO Secretariat wants to take this opportunity to thank the 28 industry partners from Canada, the United States and Mexico that attended the meetings including Bayer Crop Science, Canada Wood, Canadian Horticultural Council, Canadian Lumber Standards Accreditation Board (CLSAB), Canadian Nursery and Landscape Association, Canadian National Potato Council, Canadian Seed Growers Association, Canadian Seed Trade Association (CSTA), Canadian Wood Pallet and Container Association, Conseil de L’industrie Forestière du Québec, Flowers Canada



43rd NAPPO Annual Meeting participants.

Growers, Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers, Prince Edward Island Potato Board, American Lumber Standard Committee (ALSC), American Seed Trade Association (ASTA), AmericanHort, Avocado Producers and Exporting Packers Association, Brambles, California Citrus Quality Council, Consolidated Central Valley Table Grape Pest and Disease Control District, Corteva Agriscience, HM Clause, National Wooden Pallet and Container Association (NWPCA), Asociación de Proveedores de Productores Agropecuarios de México, Asociación Mexicana de Semilleros (AMSAC), Citrison S.A de C.V. and the Unión Agrícola Regional de Fruticultores del Estado de Chihuahua.

Knowledge topics included the new NAFTA, World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute settlement in the sanitary phytosanitary area (SPS), updates from the IPPC standards (SC) and implementation and capacity development committees (IC), outcomes from the 2018 combined Entomological Society of America (ESA), Entomological Society of Canada (ESC) and the Entomological Society of British Columbia (ESBC) meetings, a live *ePhyto* demonstration, government and industry interactions facing the impact of the Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus (*ToBRFV*), an emerging pest, and updates on the North American Sea Container Initiative (NASCI).

During the symposium, experts from each NAPPO member country provided information on the approaches, responses and communication strategies when an exotic pest is detected in their country. Discussion panels provided opportunities for participants to ask questions. The NAPPO Forestry Expert Group organized a face to face meeting on the margins of the Annual Meeting to advance their work on the Science and Technology document on Contaminant Pests.

Dr. Eric Allen (Research Manager, Natural Resources Canada) was recognized by NAPPO for his lifetime contributions to the phytosanitary community around the world, including his work on several regional and international standards. Furthermore, the “*ISPM 38 – International movement of seeds*” Expert Group (Patricia McAllister, Loretta Moysey, and Avtar Virk (CFIA); Ed Podleckis and Nancy Osterbauer (APHIS PPQ); José Ulises García Romero (SENASICA); Claudio Feulner (CSTA), Rick Dunkle (ASTA), Mario Puente and Marlene Ortiz Berrocal (AMSAC)) was recognized for their work in organizing and delivering the ISPM 38 implementation workshop in San José, Costa Rica in March 2019. Sarah Brearey (CFIA), Chairperson of the “*RSPM 35 – Guidelines for the movement of stone and pome fruit trees and grapevines into a NAPPO member country*” EG was also recognized for her outstanding leadership in this EG.

The NAPPO Secretariat thanks Mirko Montuori (IPPC Secretariat) for providing updates on the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH), Damian Rowe (Senior Plant Quarantine Officer, Ministry of Industry Commerce Agriculture and Fisheries, Jamaica) for his participation in the *ePhyto* demonstration and all those who in any way contributed to the success of this event.

More information about the 43rd NAPPO Annual Meeting will soon be available in the NAPPO website (www.nappo.org).

Do not forget to mark your calendars for the 44th NAPPO Annual Meeting that will be hosted by Mexico at the Fiesta Americana Hotel in Merida, Yucatán, Mexico from November 16-19, 2020.

The Science of Compliance

In October 1997, a thick blanket of fog prevented many flights from landing in Seattle and so a determined group of NAPPO delegates from Victoria Canada hopped on a big Sikorsky helicopter capable of negotiating the inclement weather. On board was Dr. Eric Allen, a young scientist with the Canadian Forest Service, eager to share his research group's recent findings on the hazards of pest-infested wood packaging. The Asian long horned beetle had recently been found in New York and scientists and regulators were scrambling to understand and react to the threat. Allen's work was incorporated into the development of RSPM 11, which led to his role as a science advisor to the drafting of ISPM 15, the IPPC wood packaging standard. Infected with the excitement of analyzing and conducting scientific research to address real-world phytosanitary problems, Eric joined the NAPPO Forestry Panel, contributing to the development of a number of worthwhile standards including RSPM 33 (Gypsy Moth), RSPM 37 (Christmas trees), RSPM 38 (Wooden and Bamboo Commodities), and most recently chairing the expert group that wrote RSPM 41 (Forestry Systems Approach). He also led the Forestry Panel development of ST-05 the NAPPO Science and Technology document on Heat Treatment and is currently contributing to the expert group on Contaminating Pests of Wood.



Recognizing the value of international cooperation in phytosanitary work, in 2003 Eric created IFQRG, the International Forestry Quarantine Research Group, serving as chair until 2017, while also serving on the IPPC Technical Panel on Forest Quarantine. With analysis and research support from IFQRG, the Technical Panel drafted and contributed to a number of forestry-related international standards including IPSP 15 (Wood Packaging), ISPM 28 (Treatments), ISPM 38 (International Movement of Seeds), and ISPM 39 (International Movement of Wood).

Although he has worn out several computer keyboards conducting NAPPO work from his office in Victoria, much of this effort was carried out in far-flung locations. Eric helped organize and participated in NAPPO-led workshops on the implementation of ISPM 15, held in Mexico City and Buenos Aires in 2004, Beijing in 2014 and San Jose, Costa Rica in 2016, and has participated in many productive meetings of the Forestry Panel in Canada Mexico and the US.

For his work with NAPPO, Eric has been the proud recipient of several NAPPO awards; a 2006 "Green Kryptonite" award, a special recognition award in 2015 and in 2017, an award of excellence as chair and member of the Forest Systems Approach expert group.

Eric has always emphasized the value of teamwork and collaboration and has sought to bring together global experts from science, industry and regulatory communities. "Our

accomplishments in NAPPO and the IPPC have come from the remarkable group of people who, over the years brought their expertise, intellect and creative energies to standards development. It's been an honour to work with people who have become worthy colleagues and good friends”.

Now, 22 years after that foggy introduction to NAPPO, Eric is retiring to pursue interests in food, family, fitness, music and art (in no particular order).

NAPPO participates in 7th Congress of the Seed Association of the Americas – SAA - in Buenos Aires, Argentina (Sept. 9-12, 2019)

NAPPO was invited to speak at the session entitled Facilitating Safe Trade concerning the role and vision of regional plant protection organizations in the implementation of ISPM 38 – International Movement of Seed. The NAPPO ED highlighted the many deliverables emerging from the “Americas focused” ISPM 38 Implementation workshop organized by NAPPO and held in San Jose, Costa Rica in March 2019. She also informed that collaborative work continues between industry and government towards harmonization of seed terminology and sharing of pest information through the actions of two ad-hoc working groups formed as a result of the workshop.

During this same session, a colleague from the NPPO of Argentina (SENASA) indicated that they, in close collaboration with the Argentinian Seed Association (ASA), have recently launched a pilot project with the objective of gathering the data necessary for a future systems approach for corn seed (*Zea mays*) that focuses on one regulated pest – *Pantoea stewartii*, the causal agent of Stewart’s wilt. They indicated that the impetus for moving forward with this project came from attending the NAPPO workshop on Implementation of ISPM 38.

NAPPO was also invited to participate in the SAA Phytosanitary working group that met on Thursday to discuss harmonized actions between industry and government towards achieving “seed movement between countries with managed risk, with technically justified and predictable phytosanitary requirements and without undue phytosanitary restrictions and delays”.



Stephanie Bloem (Executive Director) speaking at the SAA Congress about NAPPO and the role of RPPOs in the implementation of ISPM 38.

The RSPM 9 *The Authorization of Laboratories for Phytosanitary Testing* Expert Group (EG) completes the first draft revision of the standard

Members of the RSPM 9 EG met in late June at the NAPPO Secretariat offices in Raleigh, NC to finalize the first draft of the revision of RSPM 9. RSPM 9 describes the criteria and processes for the authorization of a laboratory to perform specific phytosanitary activities on behalf of the NPPO and is critical to facilitate certification and movement of regulated plant products in the NAPPO region. During the face-to-face meeting the EG took into consideration information on the most recently adopted ISPMs and other standards (ISO and ISTA). The final draft of the revised RSPM 9 will be sent for a 90-day country consultation in early 2020 and will likely be presented for signature and approval by the NAPPO EC at their Spring 2020 meeting.



From left to right: Sarika Negi (APHIS-PPQ), Sharon Berthelet (CFIA), Geoffrey Dennis (APHIS-PPQ), Alonso Suazo (NAPPO) and Patricia Abad (NAPPO AMC / APHIS-PPQ).

NAPPO Participates in the 93rd National Plant Board Meeting

The NAPPO Technical Director and a member of the Advisory and Management Committee (AMC) from the USDA-APHIS-PPQ attended the 2019 National Plant Board held in Kalispell, Montana in mid-August. They presented information on the role and mission of NAPPO, and the NAPPO management team which includes the Executive Committee, Advisory and Management Committee, and the Industry Advisory Group. Updates were also provided on all NAPPO projects that form part of the 2019 work program and on the 43rd NAPPO annual meeting. The presentation emphasized and provided details on the National Plant Board collaboration with NAPPO including their participation in new project submissions, country consultation and representation in different NAPPO Expert Groups.

The NPB meeting, organized by the Montana Department of Agriculture, provided an opportunity to highlight NAPPO's work, most notably the impact of the "ISPM 38 (*International Movement of Seeds*) implementation workshop" and progress with electronic phytosanitary certification.

During the awards banquet, Ann Gibbs (Director of the Maine Dept. of Agriculture and former NPB President) and Aurelio Posadas (NPB Facilitator) received a recognition award for their services to the National Plant Board. Mr. John Caravetta (Associate Director of Plant Services for the Arizona Dept of Agriculture) was welcomed as the new NPB President. Awards were presented by Osama El-Lissy, Deputy Administrator of USDA-APHIS-PPQ and NAPPO Executive Committee member.

NAPPO participates as an observer in the 3rd meeting of the IPPC Sea Containers Task Force (SCTF) – in Baltimore, Maryland (Sept. 23-27, 2019)

The meeting was jointly organized by the IPPC Secretariat and the NPPO of the United States – USDA-APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine. Participants included SCTF members representing several contracting parties - Australia, China, Kenya and the United States – as well as Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs), the CPM Bureau (North America Region), the IPPC Standards Committee, the IPPC Implementation and Capacity Development Committee, and the IPPC Secretariat. Experts from the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) were also in attendance. Observers included representatives from the Container Owners Association (COA), the World Shipping Council (WSC), the World Bank (WB), the United States National Industrial Transportation League (NITL), the Chinese Industry (COSCO Shipping Lines), the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and NAPPO.

The meeting participants reviewed the SCTF Terms of Reference and discussed the current status, future action items, timelines and expected outcomes for the Sea Containers Task Force multi-year action plan. The group addressed the disappointing results of the questionnaire sent to contracting parties on the issue of sea container cleanliness. Discussions were enriched by several presentations, for example, on the use of WCO data models to track information on sea container cleanliness, an update from the IMO on the Cargo Transport Units (CTU) code of practices, promotion of the CTU code cleanliness aspects to shippers and packers and updates on activities related to sea container cleanliness from the World Bank and several contracting parties. There were interesting exchanges concerning whether the CTU code, specifically the section on pest contamination, should be made mandatory. Information on the North American Sea Container Initiative (NASCI) was shared with the group by NPPO representatives from the U.S. and Canada. The group reviewed and updated the guidance document on reducing the spread of invasive

pests by sea containers and developed the SCTF work plan for 2019-2020. The SCTF meeting report will be available on the International Plant Protection Convention website in at <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/sea-containers/> in the near future.



Participants of the 3rd IPPC SCTF meeting in Baltimore, Maryland, US.

NAPPO attends the 31st Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations (TC-RPPO) in Abuja, Nigeria

NAPPO joined representatives from six other RPPOs (Comunidad Andina - CAN, Caribbean Agriculture, Health and Food Safety Authority - CAHFSA, European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization - EPPO, Inter-African Phytosanitary Council - IAPSC, Near East Plant Protection Organization - NEPPO and the Pacific Plant Protection Organization - PPPO) at the Ladi Kwali Hall at the Sheraton Hotel for the 31st TC-RPPO, held from Oct. 21-25, 2019 in Abuja, Nigeria. Also in attendance were staff from the IPPC Secretariat, a subject matter expert from the Center for Agriculture and Bioscience International - CABI and several phytosanitary officials from the Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service - NAQS which is the National Plant Protection Organization for Nigeria.

The group discussed the draft Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure for the TC-RPPO and agreed that interaction with FAO legal services should be an important component of the next TC-RPPO meeting in order to clarify some procedural and governance questions. The group agreed to hold its next meeting on the margins of the next Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-15), which will be held at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy in late March 2020. Because all Secretariat updates will be provided during CPM-15, the 32nd TC-RPPO will meet for 3 days only. It is hoped that by having the TC-RPPO in Rome all ten RPPOs will be present. Decisions on rotation/location for future TC-RPPO meetings will be discussed/decided at that meeting.

During the week, the TC-RPPO focused on how to best collaborate and contribute to several IPPC initiatives and activities including ePhyto, implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 and the IYPH. Each RPPO made a short presentation on projects, initiatives and pests of concern in their region, after which common goals and future collaborative activities were identified. The group welcomed updates from the IPPC Secretariat on activities of the Standards and Implementation Committees, the IPPC Regional Workshops and other topics. The TC-RPPO also updated their 2019-2020 workplan.



Photo Credits: Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Services (NAQS) media.

NAPPO and the IPPC Spanish language review group

As part of the support that RPPOs provide to the IPPC Secretariat and Community at large, we are happy to report that NAPPO recently participated in the review of the translation of three IPPC documents: two International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) - *Requirements for the use of fumigation as a phytosanitary measure* and the *Glossary of phytosanitary terms* - and one *Diagnostic Protocol for ISPM 27: Plum pox virus*. The documents were approved by CPM-14 last April.

Back in 2010, the IPPC established Language Review Groups (LRGs) for the FAO official languages other than English. Each group is composed of experts from the different NPPOs

who are bilingual – in English and in their native language. Members of these groups are tasked with reviewing the translation of documents adopted by CPM to identify the preferred phytosanitary terminology or to highlight possible concerns with the translations. Initial document translation is done by FAO in-house translators.

Once all members of the LRG have provided their input on the translated document(s), the groups' coordinator compiles the comments. The coordinator has three months to submit comments. The reviewed document(s) are returned to FAO Translation Services. The final version of the translated document(s) is posted by the IPPC Secretariat on the IPP (International Phytosanitary Portal).

The Spanish LRG is composed of members from different Spanish speaking countries and their task is more challenging than for any other group due to the different variants of Spanish; to give you a brief example with a common term, “peanut”, in Mexico and some Central American countries is known as “cacahuate”, but “maní” is the term used in most other Latin American countries. In Spain peanut is known as “cacahuete”. This showcases the challenges with reaching consensus on Spanish terms as all the above examples are correct from the usage point of view.

This process, although more involved than for English version of IPPC documents, has demonstrated that since the creation of the LRGs users of IPPC documents are more satisfied with the final product. The NAPPO Secretariat is very pleased to contribute to this endeavor.

NAPPO Management Team met in July in Raleigh, NC and in October in Montreal, Quebec on the margins of the 43rd Annual Meeting

The Management Team (Executive Committee, Advisory and Management Committee, Industry Advisory Group and Executive and Technical Directors) met in Raleigh, NC and in Montreal, Quebec. During the meetings, government and industry updates were provided, the NAPPO 2019 Work Program was reviewed, and the logistics for the 43rd Annual Meeting were discussed. Discussions also included the International Year of Plant Health in 2020 and the role that the NAPPO IYPH EG will play in supporting this initiative. During the October meeting prioritization of new project proposals received for consideration for the 2020 Work Program and progress on ongoing NAPPO projects was discussed.

The NAPPO Management Team will meet again in March 2020 in Mexico City, Mexico.



NAPPO Management Team Meetings, October 28 2019, Montreal Canada

News from Expert Groups

Biological Control. EG members have started the revision of RSPM 22 *Guidelines for the construction and operation of a containment facility for insects and mites used as biological control agents*. The EG has formed subgroups to deal with regulatory and research issues pertaining to this revision.

ePhyto. Great progress has been made with the electronic certification project. ePhytos are being exchanged between the U.S. and 4 countries using the Hub, ePhyto exchange using the generic system (GeNS) is taking place with 3 countries. Additional work on the GeNS continues with 16 countries in the Caribbean and 30 countries in the Pacific. The EG chairperson and a representative from the Jamaican NPPO gave a demo using the GeNS at the 43rd NAPPO Annual Meeting.

Forestry. The Forestry EG is drafting a science and technology document on *Inspection Guidance following the Detection of Pests in Certified Wood Packaging Material and Wood Commodities* using the outline agreed on by the EG. The group scheduled a face-to-face meeting on the margins of the 43rd Annual Meeting to progress their work.

Lymantriids. The Lymantriid EG has completed the work of compiling the data sheets for 80 Lymantriid species. Work on data organization and analysis as well as

in drafting the S&T document continues. A day-long conference call will be scheduled in December to finalize a first draft of the S&T document.

Risk-Based Sampling. A completed first draft of the risk-based sampling manual is expected to be ready before the end of 2019.

Revision of RSPM 35 *Movement of stone and pome fruit and grapevines*. The RSPM 35 EG is almost finished with the first draft of the revised standard. The EG is planning a face-to-face meeting to finalize the draft in the first quarter of 2020. Excellent progress has been made with updating the numerous pest tables that form part of RSPM 35. Furthermore, the EG is developing a new pest table for arthropods that will be added to the revised standard.

Phytosanitary Alert System. The North Carolina State University contractor has almost completed the work on updating the platform for the PAS. This will provide more cybersecurity and improved navigation capabilities. The new platform will be incorporated to the NAPPO website.

IYPH. The NAPPO IYPH EG has been developing a list of activities that each member country will deliver to support the International Year of Plant Health in the NAPPO region.

The EG will promote activities and disseminate information using social media platforms.

Asian gypsy moth. The EG continues to analyze data from AGM regulated countries to determine if there is a need to modify the “specified risk periods” for AGM and amend RSPM 33. A document with recommendations will be drafted and first shared with the NPPOs of regulated countries. A face-to-face meeting with EG members will probably take place in the first half of 2020

Revision of RSPM 17 *Guidelines for the establishment, maintenance and verification of fruit fly free areas in North America*. The RSPM 17 EG completed their evaluation and discussions on the revision of RSPM 17. A consensus was reached to archive the standard and provide a “recommendation statement” to the NAPPO AMC and EC for consideration. The EG unanimously decided to archive RSPM 17 because more up to date standards have been adopted by the IPPC including ISPM 26 *Establishment of pest free areas for fruit flies (Tephritidae)*. NAPPO countries now use ISPM 26 instead of RSPM 17 for quarantine actions on fruit flies.

Mark your calendars for the 44th NAPPO Annual Meeting

November 16 to 19, 2020



NAPPO 2020
REUNIÓN ANUAL

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AÑO INTERNACIONAL DE LA SANIDAD VEGETAL

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