



42nd NAPPO Annual Meeting



Time to start making your travel plans! - **the 42nd NAPPO Annual Meeting is only 4 ½ months away!** The meeting, scheduled for Oct. 22-25, 2018, will be held at the beautiful Westward Look Wyndham Grand Resort and Spa in Tucson, Arizona.

Please take note - the webpages for the Annual Meeting are now active. You can access them by clicking on the first link under **NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS** on the NAPPO website or on the 2018 NAPPO Annual Meeting logo on the website carousel - www.NAPPO.org

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In addition to the latest version of the Draft Agenda, the webpages contain information on meeting registration, booking your Hotel, requesting meeting rooms for side meetings and information to plan your trip including airport, taxis and shuttles, weather and attractions.

The 42nd Annual Meeting will feature a one-day symposium on Thursday, October 25 titled **Less is More: Precision Safeguarding**. The symposium will explore strategies for leveraging data, analytics, and technology to optimize plant protection services and focus safeguarding activities and resources on higher risks. As part of the Symposium, be ready to see **exciting precision agriculture/safeguarding demos and props**.



NAPPO Secretariat attends national and international meetings of strategic importance

As budget and time allows, members of the NAPPO Secretariat attend national and international meetings that are important to advance the strategic objectives and priorities of our Regional Plant Protection Organization and align/complement our program of work with that of others around the world. As such, we want to inform our stakeholders that in the first half of 2018, the NAPPO Secretariat attended the following meetings:

The North American Sea Container Initiative (NASCI) meeting Feb. 27th – Riverdale, MD

The NPPOs of the United States (USDA-APHIS-PPQ) and Canada (CFIA) are working with U.S. and Canadian border protection agencies, and global shipping companies to develop and implement guidance for cleaning and inspecting sea containers. This guidance complements the International Maritime Organization's Code of Practice for Packing Cargo Transport Units (CTU Code). NAPPO is interested in engaging the NPPO, as well as border authorities and shippers in Mexico to join this important initiative to make it a continent-wide effort. Resulting from discussions at this meeting, a knowledge topic on ***Sea Containers – North American and International Efforts to address this important pest pathway***, jointly delivered by NPPO and industry stakeholders is planned for the NAPPO Annual Meeting in Tucson and is scheduled for Wednesday morning, Oct. 24.

For more information on the NASCI please click on - <http://www.nappo.org/index.php?cID=817>

The thirteenth meeting of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-13) – April 16-20 – Rome, Italy

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM), established under Article XII of the New Revised Text of the IPPC (1997), serves as the Convention's governing body. The CPM meets each year at FAO headquarters to promote cooperation to help implement the objectives of the IPPC. At this meeting, the CPM:

- reviews the state of plant protection around the world
- identifies action(s) to control the spread of pests into new areas
- develops and adopts international plant health standards, and
- cooperates with international organizations on matters covered by the Convention.

The members of CPM are the contracting parties to the Convention and are responsible for implementing the work program of standards and information exchange.

CPM is attended by contracting parties (currently 183 countries are contracting parties to the IPPC) and by observers from organizations such as the Regional Plant Protection Organizations, the WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary Committee, the Standards and Trade Development Facility, and the Convention on Biological Diversity. CPM also organizes and hosts scientific sessions.

The meeting report for CPM-13 is available (in English) at - https://www.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2018/06/CPM_13_Report_withISPMs-2018-06-08.pdf

The IPPC Standards Committee Meeting – May 14-18 – Rome, Italy

From May 14-18 the NAPPO TD participated as an observer in the 31st Standards Committee (SC) meeting at the FAO headquarters. At this meeting the SC:

- approved the following four draft standards for submission to the first consultation period (July 1 to Sept. 30, 2018):
 - Revision of ISPM 8: *Determination of pest status in an area*
 - Authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions
 - Requirements for the use of modified atmosphere treatments as a phytosanitary measure and
 - Draft amendments to ISPM 5: *Glossary of phytosanitary terms*.
- decided to continue discussions on a draft specification on “Likelihood of establishment” as a component of a pest risk analysis for quarantine pests via e-forum.
- discussed issues regarding areas of collaboration between the SC and the new Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC).
- approved the 2018 workplan for the five technical panels under their remit: Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT), Technical Panel for the Glossary (TPG), Technical Panel for Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP), Technical Panel on Pest Free Areas and Systems Approaches for Fruit Flies (TPFF) and Technical Panel on Forest Quarantine (TPFQ).
- added 24 new phytosanitary treatments to the TPPT work program.

During the SC, NAPPO, on behalf of all the RPPOs, presented for consideration the inclusion of the term “*emerging pest*” to the TPG work program; the suggestion was accepted by the SC.

At the end of the meeting the IPPC Secretary thanked SC members that were finishing their terms including Ms. Ana Lilia Montealegre who is a member of the NAPPO Advisory and Management Committee (AMC) representing Mexico. The NAPPO Secretariat would like to acknowledge and thank Ana Lilia for her important work on the SC including her role as steward for the Cut Flowers and Foliage draft standard and working tirelessly to adopt Annex 1 of ISPM 20.

The meeting report for the May Standards Committee Meeting is available (in English) at - https://www.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2018/06/Report_SC_2018_May_2018-06-04.pdf



Standards Committee meeting participants. Photo courtesy of the IPPC.

Second meeting of the IPPC Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) – May 21-25 – Rome, Italy

The IC is a relatively new committee that resulted from recommendations made by the Enhancement Evaluation study of the IPPC Secretariat. The IC has 12 full members and 2 representatives one each for the Standards Committee and the Regional Plant Protection Organizations. NAPPO is the RPPO representative to the IC. Under the guidance of the CPM, the IC provides technical oversight of activities to enhance the capacities of contracting parties to implement the IPPC and meet the strategic objectives agreed-to by CPM. The IC:

- identifies and reviews the baseline capacity and capability required by contracting parties to implement the IPPC
- analyses issues constraining the effective implementation of the IPPC and develops innovative ways to address impediments
- develops and facilitates delivery of an implementation support program to enable contracting parties to meet and surpass the baseline capacity and capability, and
- oversees national reporting obligation and dispute avoidance and settlement processes.

The meeting report for the May Implementation and Capacity Development Committee Meeting is available (in English) at:

https://www.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2018/06/Report_IC_May_2018_2018-06-07_REV01.pdf

COSAVE-SAA workshop on Systems Approach for Seeds as part of implementation of ISPM 38 – June 18-19 – Montevideo, Uruguay

From June 18-19 the NAPPO TD attended a two-day workshop on the implementation of ISPM 38 jointly organized by the Plant Health Committee of the Southern Cone (COSAVE in Spanish) and the Seed Association of the Americas (SAA).

Thirty-four NPPOs and industry participants from all COSAVE member countries (Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, Bolivia and Peru), plus participants from Colombia and U.S. industry exchanged information and opinions on ISPM 38.

Future drafting of a COSAVE regional standard on a systems approach for seeds was also discussed during the workshop.

The NAPPO TD informed the group on work by the NAPPO EG organizing a future workshop on the implementation of ISPM 38.

Specific topics discussed included:

- harmonization and validation of pest detection protocols for seed pests
- harmonization of regulatory systems in COSAVE countries
- communication and data sharing between NPPOs in the COSAVE region
- phytosanitary measures to include in a systems approach
- pest lists specific to seeds
- importance of pest risk analyses (accessibility to information and updated PRAs)
- common vision and implementation plan for ISPM 38 for the COSAVE region
- expectations from the NPPOs and industry on how to implement ISPM 38

The NEW NAPPO Website Calendar Tab

The NAPPO Secretariat invites you to explore the new “**Calendar**” tab on the NAPPO website. The “**Calendar**” Tab provides our stakeholders with additional information on meetings of interest to the NAPPO community as well as official statutory holidays for the three NAPPO member countries. Specific information about the posted meetings includes location, meeting dates and links to additional information when available. The Secretariat would like to encourage our stakeholders to send information on upcoming meetings/events they would like to see posted to the NAPPO website.



PAST MEETINGS GOVERNANCE DOCUMENTS NEWSLETTERS PEST ALERTS NAPPO FORMS PRODUCTS CALLS / MEETING REPORTS **CALENDAR** TOOLS

Technical Articles

IPPC's Global Electronic Certificate Exchange Goes Live

The International Plant Protection Convention's (IPPC) Global ePhyto Solution just took a huge step forward. This visionary initiative is a paperless, global, digital exchange for electronic phytosanitary certificates called "ePhytos." It has two parts: a single point of certificate exchange called the "Hub," and a generic ePhyto system called "GeNS." On June 15, the IPPC announced that the Hub is open for business.

"The Hub is like an international switchboard for ePhyto exchange," said Christian Dellis with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) program, who serves as chair of NAPPO's Electronic Certification Expert Group. "Countries can connect to it using their own national ePhyto systems, or they can use the generic system (GeNS) that IPPC has developed."

The GeNS is designed primarily for countries without national systems. It allows them to send and receive ePhytos by using certificate generation software housed in the Hub.

"The ePhyto Solution which includes the Hub and GeNS, will transform international agricultural trade," Dellis explained. "Currently, PPQ has



Last year, PPQ issued more than 738,625 certificates to support U.S. agricultural exports valued at more than \$138 billion.

its own electronic certification system, which can exchange ePhytos bilaterally with some countries. But arranging bilateral exchanges with more than one hundred countries around the world — each with different technical parameters — would be too time-consuming and costly. Other countries face the same challenge, and that is why we need the ePhyto Solution."

Once implemented, the ePhyto solution will allow participating countries to exchange fraud-resistant electronic phytosanitary certificates quickly, accurately, and multilaterally. Each country's computerized trade system will share a common, harmonized technical vocabulary and a set of established phytosanitary rules. That means time savings and reduced costs to exporters. There also would be fewer shipments detained at foreign ports of entry.

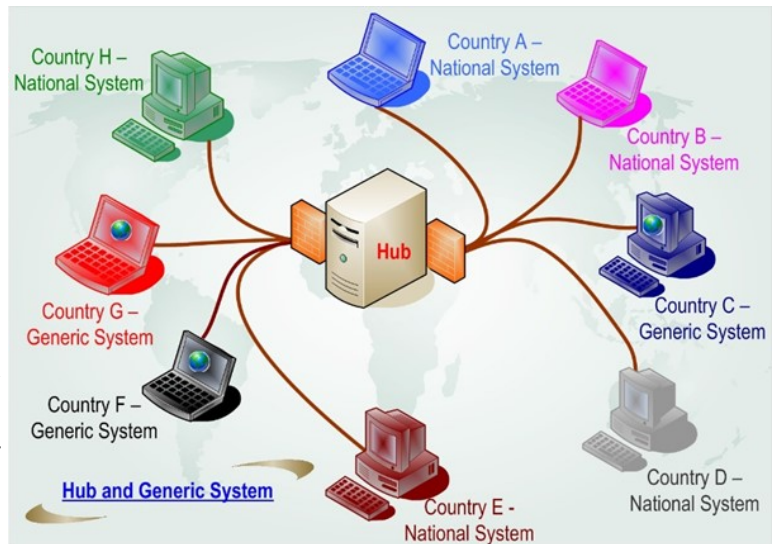
"Shipments that are detained can be released in minutes rather than days, eliminating the need to pay costly port charges," Dellis said. "ePhytos will also result in quicker and clearer communications, helping to eliminate costs that can arise from documentation errors, misunderstandings, and disputes."

USDA-APHIS-PPQ has been providing funds and technical expertise to this project, working actively with IPPC's ePhyto Steering Group.

To date, PPQ has successfully sent and received test ePhytos through the Hub with nine countries participating in a pilot project, which ended with great success in March 2018. The United States and Argentina have implemented the live exchange of ePhytos through the ePhyto Solution. PPQ is now working on case studies and a pilot that will test ePhyto shipments without a paper certificate.

This year, PPQ intends to exchange ePhytos with at least three other trading partners with national systems and will continue to promote and expand the ePhyto Solution. During the 2018 annual meeting in Tucson, AZ, NAPPO will host an ePhyto session to provide updates and demonstrate a live ePhyto exchange between PPQ and Argentina's national plant protection organization.

IPPC has scheduled a GeNS pilot to begin in September 2018. Many countries without national systems have expressed great interest in joining the generic system. Once the pilot is complete, those countries will be able to leverage this new technology to speed-up the entry of their exports as well as imports from the United States.



The new ePhyto Solution will be an interconnected electronic certification exchange system for trade.

Greg Rosenthal | USDA-APHIS-PPQ Communications Specialist

Mexico intercepts *Trogoderma granarium* on international consignments

Trogoderma granarium Everts or khapra beetle is a pest that is **absent from the NAPPO region** and is considered of high concern to grains and many stored products. Under favorable conditions, it develops large populations in short periods of time, which decreases the weight and quality of affected products. Its importance is not only because of the economic damage it causes to stored products, but also because of export restrictions to those countries that have established khapra beetle populations.

Khapra beetle is **absent in Mexico**. However, in 2017 and 2018, there were frequent interceptions of this pest at different Mexican points of entry on consignments of dried pepper (*Capsicum* sp.) from India; dried hibiscus flowers (*Hibiscus sabdariffa*) from Nigeria, Sudan, and Burkina Faso; and rice (*Oryza sativa*) from Pakistan. Although the pest can be present on a wide range of dried commodities, it is concerning that it was detected infesting non-traditional hosts such as dried pepper and hibiscus flowers, since these are new hosts for khapra beetle and therefore, new pathways. Furthermore, it is important to recognize the risk of introduction via other pathways, i.e., packing materials such as cardboard, conveyances, travelers and their luggage and through natural pest spread.

Organizational Changes at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) Plant Health and Biosecurity Directorate has recently undergone some organizational changes. Following completion of **Canada's Plant and Animal Health Strategy** in 2017, the Strategic Initiatives Division that had been dedicated to this work was disbanded, freeing up some much-needed resources. This allowed for the directorate's plant protection work to be reallocated more evenly under two directors:

- The Plant Protection Division, currently led by Patricia McAllister, is broadly responsible for commodity-specific bilateral activities and domestic work, including pest responses.
- The Plant Health Strategic Partnerships Division, currently led by Greg Wolff, is responsible for multilateral plant health work (principally the IPPC and NAPPO), horizontal export and invasive species policies, and implementing the plant-related parts of the Plant and Animal Health Strategy.

Canada also has a new Chief Plant Health Officer:

- Darlene Blair, formerly Director of the Plant Protection Division and Chief Plant Health Officer, has taken on a temporary role outside of the directorate, leading the CFIA's part of the Government of Canada's regulatory review.
- Dr. William Anderson, Executive Director of the Plant Health and Biosecurity Directorate, has now been appointed as Canada's Chief Plant Health Officer.

Broader organizational changes of relevance to NAPPO include the creation, earlier in 2018, of a new, joint CFIA-Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) International Affairs Branch focused on international market access and regulatory trade issues. This change is based on the complementary roles of AAFC and CFIA in international engagement and will maximize the use of the government's resources and better support Canada's agriculture, seafood and agri-food exports. Fred Gorrell, formerly Assistant Deputy Minister of AAFC's Market and Industry Services Branch, will lead the new branch and be responsible for both CFIA and AAFC international activities.

Other important changes are coming for the CFIA's involvement with NAPPO and the IPPC.

Marie-Claude Forest has announced her retirement later this year. Having held the role of International Standards Advisor for over 10 years, "M-C", as she has become affectionately known to those who work with her, very much "owned" her role. During her tenure she has increasingly developed the position to maximize its positive influence and to adapt to the ever-changing internal and external organization and global situations. She has been active in almost every NAPPO and IPPC committee and has significantly advanced North America's position in plant health multilateral work. Significant roles for M-C have included serving on NAPPO's Executive Committee and former Working Group and the IPPC's Bureau, Finance Committee and Standards Committee, chairing the IPPC's Sea Containers Task Force, and participating and leading numerous expert working groups in both NAPPO and the IPPC.

The work of both NAPPO and the IPPC is fundamental to plant health risk prevention and management. The CFIA's plant health program remains committed to working with and supporting NAPPO and the IPPC and our plant health leads look forward to the next opportunities for advancing plant protection regionally and internationally.



NAPPO Corner

New NAPPO Editors

The Secretariat is pleased to inform that two new editors will be assisting NAPPO in reviewing documents developed by our Expert Groups for editorial and linguistic consistency. We are quite fortunate in that, in addition to being excellent writers, our editors are quite familiar with NAPPO and also have extensive phytosanitary experience.

Please join us in **welcoming Lesley Cree and Lottie Erikson.**

Lesley enjoyed a long and fulfilling career in plant protection, working for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in various roles over 30+ years. In that time, Lesley conducted laboratory tests for seed-borne diseases, researched and wrote pest risk assessments on plant pathogens, helped to develop Canada's national strategy for invasive alien species, and contributed to the development and implementation of programs designed to prevent the introduction and spread of unwanted plant pests into and within Canada, or internationally. Lesley served on several expert working groups of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and NAPPO. Lesley retired from her position as National Manager, Plant Health Risk Assessment in 2015 but continues to follow with interest the international dialogue on plant protection.



Before retiring from Federal service in 2017, **Lottie** worked on plant health issues for USDA-APHIS-PPQ in many different important capacities: in the Policy Management Section as a trade director for Japan and India; in the Center for Plant Health Science and Technology Plant Epidemiology and Risk Analysis Laboratory as Assistant Director for exports; and, during that time also serving as a member of the APHIS-PPQ Harmonization Advisory Group, part of the International Phytosanitary Standards Group. During her career, Lottie worked at the IPPC Secretariat in Rome on development and implementation of international plant health standards. Most recently, Lottie was an SPS Advisor at the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan managing animal and plant health projects and teaching a course on International plant health standards.



Changes in the NAPPO AMC

The NAPPO Secretariat welcomes Steve Côté (CFIA, Canada) as a returning member of the NAPPO Advisory and Management Committee (AMC). Steve will replace outgoing AMC member Rajesh Ramarathnam. Steve joined the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in 2002 in the grain and oilseed section of the Plant Protection Division. In this role, Steve was responsible for the development of inspection procedures and various plant protection policies.

From 2005 to 2015, Steve worked in the International Phytosanitary Standards Section as the Senior Plant Health Standards Officer. During this period, he was one of Canada's representatives on the NAPPO AMC, formerly known as the NAPPO Working Group.

Over this period, Steve was involved in the development and revision of various NAPPO Regional Standards for Phytosanitary Measures. For the last two and a half years, Steve has been on assignment with the Forestry Section working on various market access issues impacting this sector. Steve has recently returned to the International Phytosanitary Standards Section as Acting National Manager and International Standards Advisor and represents Canada on the NAPPO AMC. Welcome back to the AMC Steve!!



The NAPPO Secretariat also would like to acknowledge and thank Rajesh Ramarathnam for his service and contributions as a NAPPO AMC member. Rajesh joined the AMC in the fall of 2016 and will leave the AMC in early July 2018 to focus his work as CFIA representative in different IPPC community initiatives and projects.

Rajesh's experience with the development and adoption of international plant health standards was instrumental in providing guidance for the drafting of the newest NAPPO draft regional standard *Use of Systems Approaches to Manage Pest Risks Associated with the Movement of Forest Products* (RSPM 41). The NAPPO Secretariat wishes Rajesh the best of luck in his future endeavors. Thank you Rajesh!

News from the NAPPO Expert Groups

The year 2018 has been a transition year for NAPPO Expert Groups as projects from previous years are inching closer to completion and new NAPPO projects are launched as part of the 2018 NAPPO work program. The NAPPO Secretariat acknowledges the contributions of all outgoing EG members and welcomes the new experts for our recently launched projects – revision of RSPM 9 (*Authorization of Laboratories for Phytosanitary Testing*); revision of RSPM 35 (*Guidelines for the movement of Stone and Pome Fruit Trees and Grapevines into a NAPPO Member Country*) and developing and offering an Americas-focused workshop on the implementation of ISPM 38 (*International Movement of Seeds*).

Below are some news highlights on selected ongoing projects.

Asian Gypsy Moth. Experts from the AGM project – *Validation of specific risk periods for regulated AGM in countries of origin* - met with delegations from several of the regulated Asian countries to discuss data availability and sharing. A proposed AGM face-to-face EG meeting in Aug. 2018 will focus on reviewing and analyzing shared data to fine tune the risk

periods for AGM. The NAPPO Secretariat would like to welcome Maria Eugenia Guerrero Alarcón, Norma Patricia Miranda González and Eduardo Jiménez Quiroz (SEMARNAT, MX) to the AGM EG and thank outgoing member Sara Cabrera (SEMARNAT, MX) for her outstanding contributions to the project.

Biological Control. The NAPPO Secretariat has completed translation of the RSPM 12 module materials into Spanish. Next steps will be to construct the Module and uploaded to the NAPPO website.

ePhyto. The EG, Chaired by Christian Dellis (USDA-APHIS-PPQ), is also a member of the ePhyto Steering Committee perfecting the ePhyto Solution (see technical article in this newsletter). The project has achieved important breakthroughs and real-time exchange of ePhytos between several countries including between the U.S. and Argentina. A demo will be performed at the NAPPO annual meeting.

Forestry. The EG completed the work of incorporating the explanatory document as an Appendix to the draft Regional Standard for Phytosanitary Measures 41 (RSPM 41) - ***Use of Systems Approaches to Manage Pest Risks Associated with the Movement of Forest Products***. The final document will go for a 60-day country consultation – August 1 – Sept. 30, 2018.

The NAPPO Secretariat would like to welcome Sara Cabrera Ramírez and Norma Patricia Miranda Gonzáles (SEMARNAT, MX) as new members of this EG.

Khapra Beetle. A small subset of the khapra beetle EG held a 2-day face-to-face meeting in Raleigh NC in early June. Significant progress was made towards completing the Discussion Document – ***A North American Approach to Preventing Introduction, Establishment and Spread of Khapra Beetle (Trogoderma granarium) in Various Pathways***. The final document will go for a 60-day country consultation.

The NAPPO Secretariat would like to welcome Mr. Jason Murphy (CFIA, Canada) as a new member of this EG.

Lymantriids. The Lymantriids EG continues to make progress towards completion of the risk analyses of lymantriid species of concern to the NAPPO region. The EG expects to begin drafting the Science and Technology document – ***Risks Associated with Lymantriids of***

Potential Concern to the NAPPO Region, Identifying Potential Species and Pathways of Concern - in the second half of 2018.

The NAPPO Secretariat would like to welcome Thierry Poiré (CFIA, Canada), Sara Cabrera Ramírez and Norma Patricia Miranda (SEMARNAT, MX) as new EG members. The NAPPO Secretariat gratefully acknowledges the contributions of Mr. Dave Holden (CFIA, Canada) during his tenure as EG Chair.

Risk-Based Sampling (RBS). Work on the English version of the Risk-Based Sampling Proceedings has been completed and is currently being reviewed by one of the NAPPO Editors. The RBS Proceedings will be translated into Spanish and published in the fall 2018. The RBS manual is still a work in progress.

The NAPPO Secretariat wants to thank Xu Yan for her contributions in coordinating the chapter contributions for the RBS manual.

Revision of RSPMs 9 and 35. Work on the revision of RSPM 9 – *Authorization of Laboratories for Phytosanitary Testing*- and the revision of RSPM 35 – *Guidelines for the Movement of Stone and Pome Fruit Trees and Grapevines into a NAPPO Member Country*- has been initiated. María del Rocío Hernández (SENASICA, MX) was elected EG Chair of the RSPM 9 EG and Sarika Negi (USDA-APHIS-PPQ) is serving as Vice-Chair. Sarah Brearey (CFIA, Canada) and Margarita Bateman (USDA-APHIS-PPQ) were elected Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the RSPM 35 EG.

ISPM 38 implementation workshop. The EG has started the planning of a ***Hemispheric Workshop (Americas Focused) to Promote the Implementation of ISPM 38: International Movement of Seeds***” Edward Podleckis (USDA-APHIS-PPQ) was elected as the group’s Chairperson and Mario Puente from the Mexican seed industry will serve as Vice-Chair.

Welcome New NAPPO EG Members

Claudio Feulner is the Regulatory Affairs and Policy Coordinator for the Canadian Seed Trade Association (CSTA), reporting directly to the Executive Director. He acts as the technical and scientific lead for the association. Additionally, he keeps the committees engaged all year to ensure progress on work plan items.

Claudio holds a Master's of Science in plant science and cell biology from RWTH Aachen University in Germany. Prior to joining CSTA in September 2017, Claudio focused on phytopathology and plant stress physiology during his studies. He accumulated three years of practical research laboratory experience including work with CRISPR-Cas9. A certificate in integrated pest management was also part of his education. He is a new member of the ISPM 38 EG.



Isabel Adali Celis Gonzáles. Isabel studied biology at the National Autonomous University (UNAM), Faculty of Sciences in Mexico. After finishing her degree, she worked for the UNAM in projects related to Mexico and North America's fauna diversity. In 2015, she started working at the National Service for Plant Health, Safety and Agri-food Quality (SENASICA), Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fish and Food (SAGARPA), with the Sanitary Intelligence Unit (UIS) as Integration Coordinator for the analysis of sanitary information with emphasis in agricultural pests and diseases in Mexico. In 2016, she moved to the Pest Risk Analysis Department where she presently works on risk assessments for importation of agricultural commodities, mainly grains and seeds, to Mexico. Isabel is a member of the NAPPO EG that will update RSPM 35: *Guidelines for the movement of stone and pome fruit trees and grapevines into a NAPPO member country.*



Sarah Brearey is a Horticulture Program Specialist with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and is located in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. She completed her postsecondary education at the University of Guelph, earning a B.Sc and M.Sc in Biological Sciences with a focus in Molecular Biology. Sarah joined the CFIA in 2007, as a Diagnostic Nematology Technician in the Ottawa Plant Laboratory, and later as a Nematology Biologist. After nine years in the lab, she moved to the Policy and Programs Branch of the Plant Health and Biosecurity Directorate, where she continues to work today.

Sarah's current role as a program specialist focuses on certification programs for fruit trees, grapevines and small fruit plants; as well as the interpretation and application of phytosanitary standards to support Canadian exports of Horticulture products. Sarah is a new member and Chair of the EG that will revise and update RSPM 35: *Guidelines for the movement of Stone and Pome Fruit Trees and Grapevines into a NAPPO Member Country.*



Francisco Javier Márquez Pérez. Francisco is originally from Nayarit, Mexico. He obtained a degree in Agronomy with specialization in Agricultural Parasitology from the Chapingo Autonomous University in Mexico.

He is presently an officer with the National Service for Plant Health, Safety and Agri-food Quality (SENASICA) in Mexico, which is part of the Plant Health General Directorate and he is in charge of the Management Unit for Plant Products and Byproducts Exports.

He is also a Phytosanitary Officer authorized by the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fish and Food (SAGARPA) to issue phytosanitary certificates. He is a Plant Health observer in the development and implementation of electronic phytosanitary certificates in Mexico.

In February 2018, he became member of the Electronic Phytosanitary Certification EG.



Omar Hernández Romero is the chief of the Department of Monitoring, Alert, Epidemiology and Phytosanitary Evaluation of the DGSV-SENASICA. He obtained a degree in Agronomy with specialization in Agricultural Parasitology from the Chapingo Autonomous University in Mexico. He also obtained a Master's in Science with specialization in Entomology and Acarology at the School of Graduate Studies.

He has worked in many different capacities:

- Technician, Guerrero's Plant Health State Committee
- Technician, Morelos Plant Health State Committee
- Operator of the training and advisory projects for agri-food health and safety at the School of Graduate Studies, Montecillo
- Regional Analyst for Phytosanitary Programs Control and Follow-up at the DGSV-SENASICA- High level liaison for monitoring, alert, epidemiology and phytosanitary evaluation. He is a new member of the RSPM 35 EG.



Avtar Virk. Avtar is a Grains and Oilseeds Specialist with Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). He is active in the development of Canadian export and domestic plant health policies in the grains and oilseeds sector, and participates in technical plant health negotiations with Canada's major trading partners. He works closely with CFIA operational staff, providing interpretation on export programs and foreign plant quarantine import requirements on seed, forages, grain and processed grain products.

In his previous roles within the CFIA as both a Regional Program Officer (Plant Health) and Area Program Specialist (Forestry), Avtar actively participated in the development and implementation of domestic and export plant program projects. He has extensive experience implementing various plant health policies for grains and field crops, forage crops, seed, forestry and seed potatoes. Avtar acquired a wide knowledge base on seed export and import issues while working in Southern Alberta. This area is a seed production hub around which Canada's hybrid canola seed industry is based.



He has participated on various technical working groups for the development of export, import and domestic plant health policies and operational guidance documents.

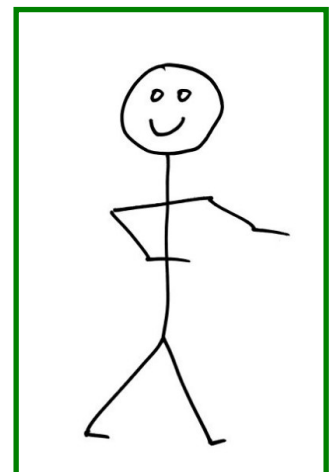
Avtar earned a Master's degree in Agronomy (Crop Science) from Punjab Agricultural University, India in 1997. After completing his education, he worked with a major crop life company as a Weed Scientist with his major focus on herbicide resistance management and zero tillage technology. He is a new member of the ISPM 38 EG.

Nancy Osterbauer. Nancy joined the USDA-APHIS-PPQ Plant Epidemiology and Risk Analysis Laboratory (PERAL) in August 2016, as the Assistant Director overseeing the development of risk assessments for imported plants or plant parts for propagation, which includes seed and plant species Not Authorized Pending Pest Risk Analysis. She serves on PPQ's Seed Health Cross Functional Working Group that is developing the Regulatory Framework for Seed Health. She also represents PPQ on the Quads Collaboration Working Group for Seed Health. Prior to joining PERAL, Dr. Osterbauer worked for the Oregon Department of Agriculture for 18-years, managing the Plant Health Program and Laboratory from 2004-2016. The laboratory conducted all official phytosanitary testing of seed crops (specialty and vegetable seed) exported from the state. She also oversaw the official *Phytophthora ramorum* nursery inspection and testing, virus certification of ornamental and fruit tree nursery stock, and seed field inspection programs. She served on the National Clean Plant Network – Fruit Tree Tier II Committee and helped develop draft national standards for the interstate movement of virus certified fruit tree and strawberry nursery plants. Within Oregon, she oversaw the development of voluntary programs for nurseries that use systems approaches to mitigate the risk of boxwood blight and *Phytophthora* diseases in exported nursery stock. In her spare time, she and her spouse chase after their four cats and four dogs, usually with a towel for muddy paws and the vacuum cleaner for hair/fur. She is a new member of the ISPM 38 EG.



Edward Podleckis. A native of New Jersey, Ed P. graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Plant Science from Cook College, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey in 1979. He went on to earn a Master of Science degree in Plant Science at the University of Delaware in 1981. In 1986, after receiving a doctorate in Plant Virology/Plant Pathology from the University of Maryland where his dissertation research involved characterizing unknown viruses in grapevines, Ed P. returned to Rutgers as a faculty research associate. He spent two years researching viral diseases of blueberries.

In 1988, Ed P. accepted a postdoctoral research associate position in the Molecular Plant Pathology Laboratory of the USDA Agricultural



Research Service in Beltsville, Maryland. For the next six years he was involved in developing methods for detecting viruses and viroids in quarantine germplasm, particularly pome fruits and potatoes. Ed joined the APHIS, Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) Commodity Risk Analysis Staff in 1994. His major responsibility on the Commodity Risk Analysis staff was to conduct plant pest risk assessments that are used by APHIS to make recommendations on the entry status of agriculture imports. He has also worked on plant pest risk assessments involving domestic regulatory issues such as Karnal bunt of wheat and foreign quarantines such as flag smut of wheat as well as pest-initiated risk assessments to determine quarantine status.

In July of 2002, he left his position as Team Leader for Commodity Risk Analysis to accept a position as Lead Risk Mitigation Specialist on the newly created APHIS, Plant Health Programs Risk Management Support Staff. This staff provides technical support in the selection, development and implementation of risk mitigation measures for plant imports and exports. In February of this year Ed left PPQ to join the Risk Analysis Systems Staff in APHIS, Policy and Program Development (PPD). His position is Senior Entomologist.

In addition to his current membership on the Plants for Planting Committee, Ed has served on the NAPPO Pest Risk Analysis and Ad hoc Grains Panels. He is a new member and Chair of the ISPM 38 EG.

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