



NAPPO

North American Plant Protection Organization
Organización Norteamericana de Protección a las Plantas

NAPPO Conference Call Report

Expert Group:	Seeds ToBRFV – Subgroup 3	
Location:	Videoconference – Zoom meeting	
Date:	July 19, 2021	
Chairperson	Beatriz Xoconostle (CINVESTAV)	
Participants:		
Jennifer Nickerson (CFIA)	Marlene Ortiz (AMSAC)	Maribel Hurtado (NAPPO)
Ángel Ramírez Suárez (SENASICA)	Geoffrey Dennis (USDA-APHIS-PPQ)	Vessela Mavrodieva (USDA-APHIS-PPQ)
Kevin Ong (TA&MU)	Nedelka Marín-Martínez (NAPPO)	Stephanie Bloem (NAPPO)
Alonso Suazo (NAPPO)		
Summary		
Project:	A pilot for harmonization of diagnostic protocols for seed pests focused on ToBRFV.	
General comments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome remarks provided by NAPPO and the subgroup leader.• The TD requested permission to record the videoconference for report purposes.• The TD agreed to take notes and draft the videoconference call report.	
Item 1:	Participating labs	
Consensus:	<p>The subgroup leader presented a list of nine participating labs, three from each country. The subgroup leader:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indicated the original list from the US had nine laboratories but only those prioritized as 1-3 in the original list were included in the list presented.• Indicated that only eight labs are required for the ring test and the subgroup could consider eliminating one from the list presented. <p>The US indicated that the original list contained nine labs including 5 laboratories from the industry. The US will send a prioritized list. The US also reminded the subgroup that the consensus was to include a minimum of eight laboratories, but more labs could also be considered to improve the validation of the ring tests.</p> <p>The subgroup leader agreed to include all laboratories in the list including an additional laboratory that will be added by Mexico (total labs in the list = 16). However, the number of participating laboratories will be decided depending on seed availability.</p>	

	<p>Kevin Ong indicated that each country should prioritize the labs that will participate in the ring tests. If there is sufficient material more labs could be included. The US will provide the list, following internal consultation with the US EG members.</p> <p>Vessela Mavrodieva indicated that the US would like to give the opportunity to labs from the industry, government, and academia to participate.</p>
Item 2:	Seeds required for the ring test
Consensus:	<p>Kevin Ong informed that Vessela Mavrodieva, Samantha Thomas, and Marlene Ortiz had a discussion on the availability of seed for the ring tests from the industry. Kevin:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informed that Samantha Thomas is in the process to determine how much infected tomato seeds has the industry available. • Informed that Vessela Mavrodieva has enough infested pepper seeds. The infested lot needs to be verified. • Informed that Marlene Ortiz and Samantha Thomas will check for the availability of healthy tomato and pepper seeds. • Informed that it is a challenge to find seeds that will be used for the cross-reacting analytical samples controls. • Indicated that there is a possibility to get tomato seeds infested with ToMV. Kevin also indicated that there might be enough seeds for the 8 participating labs and possibly for additional labs that might be participating. • Indicated that enough seeds should be available but there is still work to be done to determine the level of infestation and quality of the samples. <p>Marlene Ortiz indicated that she had already placed a request for the availability of infested seeds with the industry in Mexico and expected an answer within a week.</p> <p>Vessela indicated the priority of the subgroup now is to know what material and amount is available, and where it is available. The quality of the material and the preparation of panels will follow.</p> <p>Ángel Ramírez expressed concerns about the homogenization of seeds when they are distributed to the different labs. He proposed the CENAM laboratory in Mexico to assess sample homogeneity; however, it has an associated cost. The subgroup agreed that homogenization is important and added that the lab responsible for seed distribution will also have to conduct tests to verify the sample quality.</p> <p>Geoffrey Dennis suggested to correct “Sample C: Healthy Seed + ToMV” with “Sample C: Seed extract + ToMV”. The proposed</p>

	change was accepted.
Item 3:	Additional tasks for the subgroup – request for volunteers.
Consensus:	<p>The subgroup leader proposed the subgroup to provide information related to the permits required for the movement of seeds between NAPPO countries. An example was provided for the movement of material from Mexico.</p> <p>The subgroup agreed that each country should provide the details for the permit's requirements.</p> <p>Vessela Mavrodieva indicated that it is important for the subgroup to put the protocols together into one document and requested EG members to provide this information.</p>

Next Steps

Responsible Person	Action	Date
Vessela Mavrodieva, Beatriz Xoconostle, Jennifer Nickerson	Share detection protocols used by Canada, US, and Mexico. Vessela will share the format with Beatriz Xoconostle first. The US format will be used as a reference for Mexico and Canada to provide their protocols.	
SG members	Collect and share information on the permits requirements to move seeds from and to each NAPPO country.	

Next Meeting

Location:	Videoconference – Zoom meeting
Date:	August 20 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm EST

Proposed Agenda Items

1. Update on seed availability to determine number of participating labs.
2. Review of laboratory list and selection of participants based on the countries' priorities.
3. Compilation of protocols and proposed format.
4. Selection of a laboratory for preparation of biological material
5. Selection of a laboratory for aliquoting primers, probes
6. Considering the country of origin, requirements for importing biologicals