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48th NAPPO Annual Meeting



NAPPO 2025

ANNUAL MEETING | RÉUNION ANNUELLE | REUNIÓN ANUAL
21-23 OCTOBER | 21-23 OCTOBRE | 21-23 DE OCTUBRE
OTTAWA > ONTARIO > CANADA

Dear NAPPO stakeholders,

The North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) is delighted to invite stakeholders including industry, government, and academia to its **Annual Meeting**, taking place at the **Delta Hotels Ottawa City Centre**, Canada, from **October 21 to 23, 2025**.

October 21: Kick-off with Industry and Government Meetings
The meeting begins on Tuesday morning with focused discussions among **industry and government representatives**, setting the stage for collaborative insights and strategic planning.

Opening Remarks from NAPPO Leaders

We are honored to welcome these distinguished voices as part of our opening session:

- **Ms. Hannah Fraser**, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness.
- **Mr. Steve Côté**, Chair of the NAPPO Executive Committee
- **Mr. Javier Trujillo**, NAPPO Chief Scientist



Delta Hotels, Ottawa City Center, Canada

Their remarks will reflect on our collective progress and aspirations for plant health protection across North America.

October 22: Expert groups project updates and knowledge topics on plant health learning resources, and regulated non-quarantine pests. Throughout the event, NAPPO's expert groups members will provide updates on ongoing and upcoming initiatives, share accomplishments, and solicit stakeholder input to help shape future

work plans.

October 23 Symposium: Exploring AI in Plant Protection

This year's featured symposium—held on **Thursday, October 23**—dives into the transformative world of **Artificial Intelligence**. Join us as we explore:

- **Risks:** Understanding challenges and limitations of AI in protecting plant resources
- **Rewards:** Showcasing innovative applications that boost plant protection efforts
- **Realities:** Grounding expectations in current research, policy, and practice

More Information Available Online

Visit the [NAPPO website](http://www.nappo.org) (www.nappo.org) for more information including:

- The **draft agenda**
- The **host country invitation**
- **Hotel details** and accommodation booking info
- **Meeting registration**

Important dates for the 2025 NAPPO Annual Meeting

Meeting dates	October 21-23
Early registration deadline (US\$400.00)	September 14, 2025
Late registration (US\$450.00)	Starts on September 15, 2025
Side-meeting room reservation deadline	September 22, 2025
Hotel preferential rate – Reserve by	September 16, 2025
Online registration deadline	October 6, 2025

We look forward to welcoming you in Ottawa—where ideas blossom, partnerships grow, and the future of plant protection takes root.

Best regards,

Javier Trujillo Arriaga
NAPPO Chief Scientist
Javier.Trujillo@nappo.org

Highlights from the NAPPO Executive Committee Meetings in February and July 2025

The North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) Executive Committee (EC) met virtually in **February and July 2025**. **Steve Côté** of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, chaired the meetings, which focused on work program updates, scientific harmonization, and international collaboration.



Key Decisions and Highlights:

- **Government and Industry updates.** Members of the NAPPO Industry Advisory Group (IAG) and the Executive Committee provided updates on their respective countries.
- **2025 Secretariat Budget and Planning Approved.** The Committee updated and approved the NAPPO **2025 budget**, endorsed the **Secretariat's travel plan**, and adjusted the 2025 **work program**, ensuring coordinated actions and effective resource management.
- **Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus Protocols Adopted.** In February, the NAPPO Executive Committee adopted NAPPO Decision Sheet 8 (*Decision on Diagnostic Protocols for Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus (ToBRFV) in Tomato and Pepper Seeds in the NAPPO region*). The Secretariat commenced implementing the Decision Document on the diagnostic protocols for **ToBRFV** in tomato and pepper seeds. The decision follows recommendations from the Expert Group to ensure accurate and harmonized identification across NAPPO member countries. A copy of this document is available on the NAPPO website (www.napppo.org).
- **Empowering Bilateral Projects.** The Committee endorsed a new **Business Process Improvement document**, empowering the Secretariat and Advisory and Management Committee to initiate **bilateral collaborations**, strengthening partnerships and agility in project execution.
- **Supporting Secretariat Staff.** NAPPO funds were allocated to provide **health insurance** for the Secretariat staff, reinforcing the organization's commitment to staff well-being and sustainability.
- **Engaging Globally.** Members discussed deeper engagement with global partners, including the **International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)** and other **regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs)**, reaffirming NAPPO's dedication to international cooperation.

These strategic actions underscore NAPPO's role as a leader in regional coordination and innovation for plant protection

Hoffmann Blassio Sánchez and Lydia González Trinidad - New Members of the NAPPO Advisory and Management Committee

The NAPPO Secretariat is pleased to welcome Lydia González Trinidad and Hoffmann Blassio Sánchez as the new NAPPO AMC members representing Mexico. As part of the AMC, Lydia and Hoffmann will take part in discussions to help develop strategic recommendations for the Executive Committee, provide feedback on NAPPO's financial and technical documents, assist in prioritizing NAPPO project proposals, and review documents for approval by the Executive Committee, among other responsibilities of the NAPPO AMC. We extend a warm welcome to Lydia and Hoffmann and wish them success in their new roles as NAPPO AMC members.

Hoffmann Blassio Sánchez is the Deputy Director of the Harmonization and International Evaluation Section at SENASICA. He began his professional career at the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of Mexico after he graduated with a degree in Agronomy with a focus in Agricultural Parasitology from the Universidad Autónoma Chapingo, Mexico. Hoffmann participated in the development and monitoring of negotiations and agreements established to remove phytosanitary barriers to the trade of plant products and byproducts with other countries, as well as in proposals to sign agreements between Mexico and several countries on phytosanitary issues to facilitate trade.



He also manages and verifies phytosanitary pre-clearance programs for imported commodities that Mexico considers high-risk and for which requirements are established in Work Plans, Mexican Official Standards, and other applicable legal provisions on plant health to maintain an appropriate level of phytosanitary protection.

Lydia González Trinidad is the Head of the Department of International Plant Protection Organizations at the Plant Health General Directorate, part of the National Service for Agrifood Health, Safety, and Quality (SENASICA). Lydia holds a degree in Agronomy from the Autonomous University of Chapingo, with a specialization in Seed Production, and a Master of Science in Agricultural Biotechnology. In her role at SENASICA, Lydia works to align phytosanitary regulations in Mexico with both international and regional standards to promote safe agricultural trade. She has also worked in the private sector on issues related to agricultural biotechnology, seeds, and crop protection inputs. Her experience encompasses regulatory affairs, quality processes, project management, and international cooperation.



Ana Lilia Montealegre Lara – Mexico's Representative to the IPPC and NAPPO Retires

After 32 years of dedicated service with Mexico's national plant protection organization (NPPO), *Servicio Nacional de Sanidad, Inocuidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria* (SENASICA), Ana Lilia Montealegre Lara retired earlier this year. A trained biologist, Ana Lilia applied her technical expertise and commitment to plant health to make a significant impact at the national, regional, and international levels.

Ana Lilia served on the International Plant Protection Convention Secretariat (IPPC) Standards Committee, representing Latin America and the Caribbean. She joined the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) in 1998, where she contributed to several panels, including the Working Group (now AMC), the Standards Panel, the International Transit Panel, the Pest Alert Panel, the Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) Panel, and the



NAPPO Advisory and Management Committee (AMC). Her influence on Mexico's NPPO and the IPPC has been truly remarkable. Her leadership was vital in turning regional and international phytosanitary standards that once seemed impossible into reality, leaving a lasting and invaluable legacy.

In 2020, she received the prestigious National Plant Health Award for Phytosanitary Merit. Ana Lilia was the first woman in Mexico to be honored with this distinguished award.

The NAPPO community is genuinely grateful and proud of Ana Lilia's talent and dedication. She embodies the spirit of plant health, demonstrating that hard work and selfless effort can transcend boundaries and bring about meaningful change.

We celebrate not only her significant professional achievements but also the beginning of a new chapter in her life. We wish her success in her personal pursuits and in everything that brings her happiness and fulfillment in this new phase.

The NAPPO Community

Updates on the 2025 NAPPO Work Program

NAPPO extends its gratitude to the Expert Group members, including those who have retired and left their organizations, for their exceptional contributions to NAPPO and our regional plant health harmonization efforts in 2025. These regional standards and documents, which expert group members helped develop, form the cornerstone of a harmonized, safe global trade system and are essential to our stakeholders by providing benchmarks for negotiating market issues, offering new options for managing pest risks, and expanding export opportunities. Expert group members' expertise and time were crucial in ensuring the development, production, and adoption of scientifically sound and operationally feasible plant health standards. NAPPO sincerely appreciates their valuable service and wishes them all the best in their future endeavors.

Revision of NAPPO Regional Standard for Phytosanitary Measures 8 (Authorization of Individuals to Issue Phytosanitary Certificates). The first expert group meeting occurred on June 23, 2025. The members discussed the project's objectives and timelines and elected Anna Birmingham (CFIA) as the Chairperson, who will oversee the expert group's work in collaboration with the NAPPO Secretariat.

Alternatives to methyl bromide. The expert group has completed the initial draft of the discussion document. The draft is now being prepared for country consultation (review and commenting), which is expected to begin in mid-September for 60 days.

Seeds ToBRFV Diagnostic Protocols. The expert group has published a manuscript titled *Pilot for Harmonization of Diagnostic Protocols for Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus (ToBRFV) in Tomato and Pepper Seeds* (Mavrodieva et al., 2025, PhytoFrontiers 5(2): 187–196).

On February 26, 2025, the Executive Committee adopted Decision Document 8 (*Decision on Diagnostic Protocols for Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus (ToBRFV) in Tomato and Pepper Seeds in the NAPPO Region*). This document supports the expert group's recommendation to implement three diagnostic protocols for ToBRFV detection across the three NAPPO member countries. Details about this project's results, including the expert group's terms of reference, final report, poster, Decision Sheet 08, and a copy of the manuscript, are available on the NAPPO website (www.nappo.org).

The NAPPO Secretariat wishes to thank the expert group members and laboratory personnel who participated in this project, including Canada: CFIA Charlottetown Laboratory and CFIA Ottawa Laboratory; the United States: USDA Plant Pathogen Confirmatory

Diagnostic Laboratory (PPCDL), Iowa State University Seeds Science Center, California Seed and Plant Laboratory (SPL), and the University of Florida Plant Diagnostic Center; and Mexico: Laboratorio de Virología – Centro Nacional de Referencia Fitosanitaria (CNRF), SENASICA, Laboratorio de Biología Molecular y Genómica Funcional – Centro de Investigación en Alimentación y Desarrollo (CIAD), and Laboratorio Integral de Diagnóstico Integral Fitosanitario (LADIFIT).

The Secretariat also wants to thank Beatriz Xoconostle Cazares and the staff of the Centro de Investigación y Estudios Avanzados (CINVESTAV), Mexico, for their contribution in preparing constructs and additional material for this project.

RSPM on Seeds Systems Approaches. The Expert Group was tasked with developing a new Regional Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (RSPM) focused on seed system approaches. In response to a request from APHIS PPQ, the group agreed to pause the project until fall 2026, when data from the pilot systems approach conducted with Chile will be available. This information will be crucial for developing the standard.

Revision of NAPPO Regional Standard for Phytosanitary Measures 26 (RSPM 26) (*Certification of commercial arthropod biological control agents or non-Apis pollinators moving into NAPPO member countries*).

The expert group continues to make progress in the revision of RSPM 26. A draft document for country consultation is expected to be ready in the fourth quarter of 2025. The NAPPO Secretariat welcomes Ignacio Báez (APHIS PPQ) and Kristen Dyer (APHIS PPQ) as new members of the expert group.

International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) 15 compliance (Evaluating the risk associated with different types of wood packaging materials - opportunities to improve ISPM 15 compliance). The Expert Group continues collecting inspection data on forest pests from the NAPPO region and other regions to evaluate the risks of forest pest introduction associated with different types of wood packaging materials.

Forestry. Water Bath Interlaboratory Test. The expert group is reviewing the experimental design, terminology, equipment, and methodology for water bath heat treatment testing at various laboratories within the NAPPO region. They are also creating a list of forest pests—including arthropods, fungi, and nematodes—for consideration in the study. Additionally, a standard operating procedure (SOP) for heat treatment, covering bath construction, temperature monitoring, data collection, and results analysis, is being developed. The main goal of this project is to create an SOP that details the procedures for testing and documenting water bath heat treatment experiments related to wood product pests of concern to the NAPPO region.

Phytosanitary Alert System (PAS). Between March 27 and July 1, 2025, the NAPPO

member countries published 24 Official Pest Reports (OPRs) (22 from the United States and 2 from Canada). The Expert Group continues meeting the IPPC reporting obligations and publishing OPRs.

Electronic Phytosanitary Certification (ePhyto). The expert group continues to provide updates regarding electronic phytosanitary certificate exchanges between countries, including progress reports, challenges with mixed commodities shipments, IPPC updates, and system implementations.

***Phthorimaea absoluta*.** The expert group has made significant progress in drafting a discussion document on the emergency response to *Phthorimaea absoluta*. Emergency response flowcharts from each country are used to identify commonalities and differences, with the goal of finding aspects that can be standardized at the regional level. The NAPPO Secretariat welcomes Javier Maldonado (CFIA) and Paul Lewis (U.S. Industry) as new members of the expert group.

News from the IPPC

The IPPC Plant Health Campus



In March 2025, the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), officially unveiled the IPPC Plant Health Campus—a groundbreaking online platform

dedicated to strengthening global phytosanitary capacity. This innovative e-learning campus was created to address the growing challenges of plant health, safe trade, and environmental protection, offering dynamic, free, and multilingual training courses for everyone from national plant protection organization (NPPO) staff to academics and early-career professionals. This platform is available in English and French but will soon expand to additional FAO languages to ensure more equitable participation and learning across regions.

The IPPC Plant Health Campus key features include:

- **Certified e-learning modules** on pest risk analysis, the IPPC, NPPO management, surveillance, emergency response, communication and partnership, imports and exports, and international market access

- **Interactive tools and case studies** tailored to real-world scenarios
- **Digital badges** for verified learning achievements
- **Offline access** for greater inclusion, especially in bandwidth-limited regions

Whether you're an inspector, a policymaker shaping international trade policy, or a student eager to dive into the world of plant health, the IPPC Campus is a portal to growth and opportunity. To learn more, visit the [IPPC Plant Health Campus](http://www.ippc.int) on the IPPC website (www.ippc.int)

Working Together: Clean Containers and Safe Trade - Symposium on Plant and Biodiversity Protection: Mitigating Risks of Pest Contamination in the International Containerized Supply Chain



The **IPPC Secretariat**, together with the **Danish NPPO**, is partnering with the **Bureau International des Containers (BIC)**, the **World Shipping Council (WSC)**, and **Danish Shipping** to organize a **Symposium on Plant and Biodiversity Protection**. The event focuses on strategies to mitigate pest contamination risks in the **international containerized supply chain**.

Event details:

- **Dates:** Tuesday, October 7 – Wednesday, October 8, 2025
- **Location:** Danish Shipping, Copenhagen, Denmark

- **Cost:** Free to attend (limited seats; registration required for confirmation)

Who should attend?

The symposium is tailored for:

- **Supply chain stakeholders:** ocean carriers, shippers, forwarders
- **Phytosanitary professionals:** plant protection regulators, biodiversity experts
- **Industry leaders:** C-level executives, senior operations/logistics staff, sustainability officers

This is a key opportunity for cross-sector collaboration on safeguarding biodiversity through better container handling practices. For more information including a copy of the agenda and registration to the [symposium](#), visit the IPPC website (www.ippc.int)

IPPC International Forestry Quarantine Research Group Meeting

September 29 to October 3, 2025

The 22nd meeting of the International Forestry Quarantine Research Group (IFQRG) will be held at ANSES (Agence Nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail/ the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety), in Mason-Alfort, France (14 Pierre et Marie Curie 94700 Maison-Alfort) from September 29 to October 3, 2025.

Apart from sharing forest quarantine-related updates from various international fora, the meeting will be organized by topic. Tentatively, these are:

- Molecular tools – detection, diagnostics and enhancing international collaboration
- Research to support the development of commodity standards
- Risks in trade from plants for planting
- Risks from pathogens in the trade of seeds and wood products

Two virtual sessions will be available within the meeting:

- Tuesday, September 30 – Day 2 – 14:00 to 17:00 CET: [Risk of international trade in plants for planting](#)
- Thursday, October 2 – Day 4 – 14:00 to 17:00 CET: New tools, technology and research

To register or get more details about the meeting or the virtual sessions, please email IFQRG Secretary Meghan Noseworthy: meghan.noseworthy@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca.

Remembering Howard Singletary

Howard M. Singletary, Jr., a stalwart leader in the plant protection community, passed away in March of this year. Born, raised, and educated in North Carolina, Howard was initially employed by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) as a Plant Ecologist and later promoted to the position of Plant Pest Administrator of the Plant Industry Division-Plant Protection Section. In 1987, he was appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture to serve as the Division Director for the Plant Industry Division and continued in this role until his retirement from NCDA&CS in 1997.



As Division Director, he provided regulatory seed, fertilizer, and plant pest expertise to numerous local, state, and national associations. Howard was most known for his unique ability to work across state and agency barriers to address regulatory plant pest issues. His approach was not only innovative but highly collaborative, given that plant pests were being introduced at a rapid pace due to expanded US trade. In his early career in North Carolina, Howard played a critical role in the area-wide project to eradicate the boll weevil from North and South Carolina. He worked to ensure the National Cotton Council's draft enabling legislation was modified such that North Carolina could participate in the area-wide Boll Weevil Eradication Trial. This eradication trial was highly successful, resulting in the elimination of the boll weevil from North Carolina in 1983, along with a continuing surveillance and monitoring system that enabled rapid response in the event of a pest reintroduction. Under Howard's leadership, this program has served as a model for other states.

During his career, he served as the President of the Southern Plant Board and of the National Plant Board from 1996-97, an organization of plant pest regulatory agencies from the US states and territories. Howard chaired the state/federal/industry effort to develop and implement a national quarantine harmonization plan for Japanese beetle. He was a frequent participant in meetings and activities of the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO).

In 1993, Howard received the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) James A. Graham Award for his contributions to regulatory agriculture. Following retirement from the NCDA&CS, Howard continued his service to agriculture by serving as

the executive director for the Plant Food Association of North Carolina.

Aside from his work with quarantine insects, plant pathogens, and weeds, he served as a pioneer and laid much of the groundwork for the listing and protection of North Carolina's endangered and threatened plant species. He laid the groundwork for establishing a system of 26 Plant Conservation Preserves, which now permanently protects the state's native flora along with their habitats. Howard also operated Singletary's Plant Nursery in Raleigh for many years.

We who were fortunate to call him a professional colleague remember Howard as a hard-working, tough, patient, kind, purpose-driven, and respected thought leader. He was a doer and a statesman who understood how to cultivate trust. As a friend, he was fun-loving and loyal, with passions ranging from fishing to knives, pottery, and yes, bourbon. His legacy lives on in the many professionals he mentored over his career.

By Gene Cross and Craig Regelbrugge

NAPPO Newsletter

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