Mark your calendars: 2017 NAPPO Annual Meeting

The 41st NAPPO Annual Meeting will take place from October 16-19 at the Hotel Fiesta Americana in the City of Merida, Yucatan, Mexico. This year the meeting will be hosted by the Servicio Nacional de Sanidad, Inocuidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria (SENASICA), Mexico and organized in collaboration with the NAPPO Secretariat and the NAPPO Advisory and Management Committee (AMC). SENASICA, NAPPO and the NAPPO AMC are actively working on logistics and organization to insure the meeting will be a success.

IMPORTANT - The annual meeting will start with a half day training session on Monday October 16, on the international agreements that provide the foundation and guiding principles to protect plant resources. The theme of the 2017 meeting will be Agriculture Trade: The “Americas” Experience.

Three knowledge topics and a symposium on Surveillance programs in NAPPO member countries will build on the meeting’s theme. The Symposium will highlight how member countries prioritize and conduct survey activities and will also discuss the revision of ISPM 6, the international standard on surveillance.

Invited speakers from the NAPPO region and other RPPOs will address the plenary session. NAPPO Expert groups will provide updates on their projects.

Meeting and Hotel Registration is open until (6:00pm EDT) September 22. Please visit our website (www.nappo.org) or call the NAPPO Secretariat (919-617-4041) to register or learn more about the meeting, the venue and the city of Merida. Hotel reservations can also be made by calling the Fiesta Americana: 1-800 FIESTA1 if you are calling from the U.S. or Canada or 00.52.55.53.26.69.00 if you are calling from Mexico, Europe or Asia.
The International Symposium for Risk-Based Sampling (RBS) organized by the NAPPO RBS Steering Committee and the NAPPO Secretariat with assistance from USDA-APHIS successfully concluded on June 30, 2017. The primary objective of the Symposium was to promote harmonization through a common understanding and shared experiences in the implementation of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) 23 (Guidelines for Inspection) and 31 (Methodologies for sampling of consignments).

The symposium was attended by 122 participants from 27 countries around the world. Symposium speakers and participants included professionals representing 31 government agencies, 4 academic institutions, 15 industries and 3 international organizations. Inspection is the most frequently employed phytosanitary measure and “next steps” for hundreds of consignments in ports around the world are decided every day based on inspection of both the certification of exports and the clearance of imports. By designing inspection processes around basic statistical concepts, inspection programs are able to better identify and rank non-compliant imports. Ranking based on pest interceptions that require action helps inspectors and policy makers identify riskier imports and then adjust resources and policies to maximize the effectiveness of inspection. Highlights from the Symposium included an introduction by Dr. Jingyuan Xia, Secretary of the IPPC; welcoming remarks by both Osama El-Lissy, Deputy Administrator for USDA-APHIS-PPQ, and Dr. Francisco Javier Trujillo Arriaga, Director General de Sanidad Vegetal, SENASICA, Mexico; a cognitive mapping exercise on RBS led by Dr. Neil McRoberts from UC Davis; a practical exercise comparing the results of RBS and traditional percentage-based inspection led by Dr. Christina Devorshak of APHIS-PPQ; and an informal session moderated by Lois Ransom, Assistant Secretary Plant Import Operations, Australia where selected participants provided ideas towards the design of a practical manual to implement Risk-Based Sampling.

For more information about the RBS symposium please visit the NAPPO website(www.nappo.org)
NAPPO TD participates in the 2nd North American Invasive Species Forum

From May 9-11, 2017, the NAPPO Technical Director represented NAPPO at the second NAIS Forum, organized by the University of Georgia Extension Service and held at The Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens in Savannah, GA, US. The forum provided a platform for information exchange and collaboration opportunities for different agencies and organizations concerning management, research and regulatory issues related to invasive species.

Speakers from all three NAPPO countries provided information on their response and policies towards invasive species, described successful eradication cases as a result of early detection/rapid response, and provided information on management and eradication of invasive animal and plant species through interagency collaboration in all three countries.

Participating entities included the University of Wisconsin, the National Invasive Species Council, the Mexican National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO), the US Geological Survey, the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON), the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the North American Invasive Species Management Association, the North American Invasive Species Network, the National Association of Invasive Plant Councils, the Reduced Risk from Invasive Species Coalition, the Canadian Council of Invasive Species, the Great Lakes Commission, the Center for Invasive Species Prevention, US Customs and Border Protection and US Army Corps of Engineers, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Forest Health and Semio-chemical Consulting, the Nature Conservancy, and the MN Dept. of Natural Resources.

The NAPPO TD’s presentation included the mission, organization and roles of NAPPO, described the different NAPPO projects and provided information to encourage participants to submit new project proposals to NAPPO.

NAPPO attends the 12th Commission on Phytosanitary Measures – CPM-12

The 12th Commission on Phytosanitary Measures was held from April 5-11, 2017, at the Songdo Convensia Convention Center in Incheon, Republic of Korea. Delegations of 123 out of 183 Contracting Parties to the International Plant Protection Convention were in attendance, alongside representatives from all 9 Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs) and several partner organizations to the IPPC including the Convention on Biological Diversity, the World Customs Organization, the World Trade Organization and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture, as well as industry observers from the American Seed Trade Association, and the Seed Society of the Americas among others.

During the meeting four new international standards, a new annex to ISPM 20, ten diagnostic protocols and ten new phytosanitary treatments were adopted by the Contracting parties. Also, the revised RPPOs roles and functions document was adopted by the Commission, which strengthens the position of RPPOs as collaborative partners in international phytosanitary activities. Several side meetings were also attended by the NAPPO Executive Director including a meeting with the RPPOs of the Americas (GICSV, which includes COSAVE, CAN, OIRSA and NAPPO), a meeting with all of the RPPOs and a meeting with the IPPC Capacity Development Committee responsible for organizing the IPPC Regional Workshops. NAPPO also organized and hosted a meeting with EPPO and attended the 2nd International Year of Plant Health Steering Committee Meeting where NAPPO represents the RPPOs.
When the earliest NAPPO ancestors decided that their neighbors had something they wanted, they either traded for it through barter or took it in battle. Then the Aztecs came along and started using cacao beans as a form of money to “buy” goods from friendly trading partners while at the same time continuing to expand and refine the great tradition of war as another way to enrich their culture. Generations later, the concept of money was embellished with multiple forms of paper and metal, followed by the concept of credit and “bills” paid with “checks” or pieces of plastic, resulting in many more transactions. By the time trading partners developed the capability to completely obliterate each other in battle, the idea emerged that general economic prosperity was probably important to reduce tension in the global neighborhood – “global cooling” in a trade sense.

This gave rise to the concepts of free, fair, and safe trade which fueled globalization. It worked. Trade grew phenomenally with a boost from technology in the great facility of paying electronically – no cacao beans, no cash, and no credit cards. Unfortunately, however, the number and complexity of trade requirements associated with the growing multitude of transactions also made it critical to have simplified processes which could also be electronic and married to the transactions. This is the new frontier.

Contemporary descendants of the NAPPO ancestors are witnessing the collision of the era of globalization with the digital age. NAPPO’s charge to foster a deeper understanding of the role of the phytosanitary community in reducing trade tension associated with plant pest risks, build phytosanitary capacity in the region, and promote harmonization regionally and internationally, is now inextricably linked to the “fast trade” movement.

Many governments and the private sector have been moving incrementally in this direction, but the newest actor on this stage is the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) which came into force for all WTO Members in February, 2017. The TFA is the first and only product of the Doha Development Round of Trade Negotiations initiated by the WTO in 2001.

The central objective of the TFA is reducing bureaucratic barriers to trade. Its key provision is the establishment of the “single window” system that allows parties involved in trade and transport to submit standardized information and documents with a single-entry point to fulfill all import, export, and transit-related regulatory requirements.

Two crucial aspects to understand about the single window system are: (1) Customs authorities are responsible for its implementation, and (2) the system is digital.

The bottom line for NAPPO countries is that all future designs for phytosanitary systems associated with trade must be implementable within the single window system and must be digital. NPPOs cannot create requirements, forms, information systems, procedures or processes applied to trade that are incompatible with the single window system unless they expect to operate outside the system.

The TFA adds an important new element to the relationship of NPPOs with Customs and substantially reshapes the role of phytosanitary...
The International Symposium for Risk-based Sampling covered a key risk management concept explicitly linked to provisions of the TFA, and the Trade Facilitation theme of the 41st NAPPO Annual Meeting will broadly address some key issues and challenges associated with trade facilitation in the Americas.

By Bob Griffin, APHIS-PPQ-AQI

The North American Sea Container Initiative

Millions of sea containers crisscross the globe daily and often times unwanted plant pests are traveling in and on these sea containers. New Zealand initiated a proposal to develop an International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) standard on minimizing plant pest movement by sea containers based on their inspection results at ports of arrival. However due to overwhelming concerns from national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) and industry about the complexities of sea container movement, this standard has been placed on hold.

In the meantime, the United States, Canada, and several North American maritime industry groups have started work on the North American Sea Container Initiative (NASCI). The goal of NASCI is to develop a collaborative program for mitigating the pest risks associated with the sea container pathway. Members of the NASCI Working Group include government representatives from USDA-Plant Protection & Quarantine, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Coast Guard, and Transport Canada. The group also includes industry representatives from the World Shipping Council, Global Shippers Forum, International Cargo Handling Coordination Association, and Institute of International Container Lessors. In the future, the group will engage Mexican government and industry officials and possibly expand to other regions.

The NASCI working group had its first meeting in February 2017 in Riverdale, MD, USA, to develop an action plan and determine next steps towards implementing the plan. The plan calls for collecting data and measuring the current and future state of container cleanliness from a phytosanitary risk perspective, developing outreach materials and a targeted outreach plan to increase awareness of the phytosanitary risks posed by sea containers, and expanding...
international awareness and encouraging adoption of this type of initiative. The NASCI Working Group recently held a teleconference in May and is planning a meeting for late summer to continue to advance this important and exciting initiative.

By Wendy Beltz, USDA-APHIS-PPQ

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**Irradiation of Fresh Produce - New Database Will Help Determine the Right Disinfestation Dose**

What is the correct irradiation dose for disinfesting fresh products to eliminate the risk of carrying new invasive pests into importing countries? A new database developed by the IAEA, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), will help regulators and the industry better answer that question. Fresh produce such as fruits, vegetables and cut flowers must be disinfested of regulated pests before being shipped out of infested areas. The most commonly used phytosanitary treatments are cold, heat, chemical fumigants and, increasingly, ionizing radiation. With increasing restrictions placed on the use of chemical fumigants, the use of commercial phytosanitary irradiation is steadily rising.

The new International Database on Commodity Tolerance (IDCT) (https://nucleus.iaea.org/sites/naipc/IDCT/Pages/default.aspx) screens and interprets technical information from the scientific literature concerning the quality of fruits and vegetables after being treated with ionizing radiation as a phytosanitary treatment.

The data can be used to determine the maximum doses of radiation that different types of fresh commodities including fruits, vegetables and cut flowers can tolerate. The database already contains information on 89 fresh commodities and more are being added. “This information will help users optimize radiation doses without having to go through hundreds of research papers on the topic,” said Guy Hallman, research entomologist at the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture, and one of the information architects of the database.

Compared to other commercial treatments, irradiation has several important advantages. “Each of the traditional phytosanitary treatments work only for certain types of commodities. For example, methyl bromide fumigation is well tolerated by citrus fruits, grapes and cut flowers, but not by most tropical fruit,” he said. In contrast, fresh fruits and vegetables tolerate irradiation better than when treated with any other method. “Phytosanitary irradiation is an effective and safe method.” Despite recent growth in the use of phytosanitary irradiation,
which is now accepted by more than 60 importing countries, the total amount of fresh produce disinfested through irradiation remains rather small.

In 2016, around 30 000 metric tons of fresh produce was irradiated worldwide, while 350 000 tons of mangoes were disinfested with a hot water treatment in Mexico alone. Barriers to the expansion of irradiation treatment include steep initial investment costs, strict government regulation and general perceptions of irradiation technology. “Several countries do not accept irradiated fresh produce at all,” said Hallman – even though the method leaves no residue in the produce undergoing treatment.

By Guy Hallman, Emilia Bustos Griffin, Abdel Bakri and Walther Enkerlin

The NAPPO Corner

Thanks. The NAPPO Secretariat would like to thank Katharine Church for her contributions to NAPPO while serving as an Advisory and Management Committee (AMC) member representing Canada. Katharine left the AMC early this year to work on other projects within the CFIA.

NAPPO also wants to thank the following expert group members for their work on different NAPPO projects: Gericke Cook, formerly with USDA-APHIS PPQ. Gericke left the Lymantriid EG in February as she took a new position with another group within APHIS. Gericke was instrumental in developing the current risk analysis approach being used to rank Lymantriid species of concern to the NAPPO region based on their economic impact and introduction and establishment potential in the NAPPO region. Brendon Reardon, USDA-APHIS PPQ. Brendon left the Asian Gypsy Moth Expert Group in February, 2017 as a consequence of a job promotion to a new position within PPQ. The NAPPO Secretariat would like to thank Brendon for his contributions to the AGM EG and congratulate him on his promotion.

NAPPO Country Consultation. Expert Group documents on Likelihood of Establishment, Diversion from Intended Use, Criteria for Evaluating Phytosanitary Seed Treatments and a draft regional standard on Forest Product-Systems Approach (RSPM 41), were completed, formatted, translated and uploaded to the NAPPO website for country consultation from April 1 to June 30. Comments received from all three NAPPO countries as well as international comments have been compiled and translated by the NAPPO Secretariat. The Expert Groups and the NAPPO AMC will work together on next steps.

Call for new NAPPO project proposals. The deadline to submit project proposals for new or for continuation of existing NAPPO projects is July 31. All project proposals will be compiled and translated by the NAPPO Secretariat and provided to the Executive Committee and the AMC. Project proposals will be...
Welcome. The NAPPO Secretariat welcomes Rajesh Ramarathnam in his new role as a member of the NAPPO AMC representing Canada. Rajesh is the Senior International Phytosanitary Standards Specialist with the CFIA, with experience in development, consultation and adoption of phytosanitary standards and vast knowledge on the role and functions of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). Rajesh is a Canadian member of the IPPC Standards Committee.

In his previous role as Grains and Oilseeds Specialist, Rajesh was involved in the development of import and domestic plant health policies for the grains and oilseeds sector, and participated in technical negotiations with major trading partners for Canadian grain market access. Rajesh has been a NAPPO AMC member since April, 2017.

News from the NAPPO Expert Groups

The Asian Gypsy Moth EG recently made a small amendment to RSPM 33 to better define the regulated area for vessels that have visited source countries in Asia. RSPM 33 now states “North of Shanghai, defined as all ports on or North of 31°15’ North Latitude” instead of “North of the port of Shanghai”. Look for the amended RSPM 33 on the NAPPO website.

The Lymantriids EG selected Dave Holden (CFIA) as the Chairperson and Eduardo Jimenez Quiroz (SEMARNAT) as Co-Chair. Eduardo Jimenez Quiroz, Paul Chaloux (APHIS PPQ) and Glenn Fowler (APHIS PPQ) became new members of the EG in the last six months.
Clemente de Jesús García Avila. Has been working in pest management in Mexico since 2011. He obtained his degree in Agroecology, a Masters in Plant Pathology and a Doctorate in Horticulture at the Chapingo Autonomous University in Mexico. For the last six years, he has been providing support to the National Service for Plant Health, Safety and Agri-food Quality (SENASICA), the National Plant Protection Organization in Tecamac, State of México, developing and participating in several projects related to management of pests of quarantine concern at the national level. Before joining SENASICA, he worked as research assistant at the Chapingo Autonomous University. He is presently the coordinator for the Phytosanitary Specialist Group at the Plant Health General Directorate.

Ronald D. Weeks, Jr. is the Biological Control and Farm Bill Coordinator for the USDA-APHIS-PPQ, Science and Technology Program. Dr. Weeks got his Ph.D. in Entomology from Texas A&M University conducting research on the foraging ecology of polygyne red imported fire ants, Solenopsis invicta (Hymenoptera: Formicidae). As a USDA employee, Dr. Weeks has been responsible for methods development research at the imported fire ant laboratory; coordinating implementation of biological control programs of fire ants. As a National Operations Manager in USDA PPQ Field Operations he coordinated activities with the USDA APHIS PPQ National Incident Management Team.

Dr. Weeks has actively participated in the development and management of domestic plant health programs, development and coordination of science and technology in support of domestic programs and participated as coordinator in technical working groups (biological control of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetles, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Harrisia Cactus Mealybug). Dr. Weeks has also conducted Geographic Information Systems and Spatial Analyses (GIS) work, participating in the development of mobile data collection technologies in support of emergency responses with federal and state governments. Ron recently joined the NAPPO Biological Control Expert Group.
Paul Chaloux has had a life-long interest in plants and plant health, and especially trees and forests. After graduating high school, he worked in the lawn care and landscape maintenance industry for 10 years. Paul then completed his Bachelor’s Degree in Environmental Protection and Master’s Degree in Forest Pathology at West Virginia University. In January, 2000, Paul accepted a Position as a Plant Pathologist with APHIS PPQ, working on the Citrus Canker Eradication Program (now the Citrus Health Response Program) in Florida.

After two and a half years in that position he became a Supervisory Officer for PPQ, also in Florida. Paul began his present duties as a National Policy Manager at APHIS headquarters in November, 2008, supporting APHIS’S Emerald Ash Borer, Gypsy Moth, and most recently, Asian Longhorned Beetle Programs.

Baode Wang. Baode started working for USDA APHIS in 1997 as a post-doctoral research associate after he earned his Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He joined the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service as an Entomologist and project leader in 2007. He was an APHIS attaché working in the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, China in 2015-2016 covering phytosanitary issues related to trade of plant and plant products.

Dr. Wang’s research primarily focused on invasive species, especially those that are related to international trade, including pests that may hitch-hike through wood packaging materials such as the Asian longhorned beetle (Anoplophora glabripennis), ocean bound vessels such as the Asian gypsy moth (Lymantria dispar asiatica, etc.) as well as agricultural and forestry products. Dr. Wang has led quite a few cooperative efforts internationally to develop methods for mitigating risks of various invasive insect pests and to develop integrated pest management strategies for eradicating exotic invasive insect pests in the United States.


**Eduardo Jiménez Quiroz** obtained his degree in Biology from the Mexico’s Autonomous National University at Iztacala. He worked as laboratory assistant, participated in forestry entomology projects and research in the Chapingo School of Graduate Studies (COLPOS) at Montecillo, Plant Protection Institute (IFIT), Forestry Entomology Laboratory, where he also obtained his Master degree in Entomology and Acarology. Afterwards, he worked in food safety at the National Service for Plant Health, Safety and Agri-food Quality (SENASICA), evaluating the biological effectiveness of pesticides for agricultural use, later on at the Plant Health General Directorate, Agricultural Entomology Laboratory, for the same agency, doing taxonomic determination of pests of agriculture and quarantine importance.

He is presently the Chief, Entomology Department, Forest Health Analysis and Reference Laboratory (LARSF) at the Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) in Mexico. He supports Forest Health staff from different agencies by performing taxonomic determination of native forest insects and exotic insects intercepted at points of entry in Mexico, pests of forestry and quarantine importance in addition to support in pest management. He works on updates and revisions of different regulatory documents in terms of phytosanitary quality of imported forestry products and byproducts. Eduardo is in charge of the reference collection of insects of forestry and quarantine importance. He provides support and does peer reviews for publications from the Mexican Society of Entomology (SME). He has offered training and workshops to inspectors in Mexico’s point of entry.

**Glenn Fowler** is a risk analyst with the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS), Plant Protection and Quarantine, Center for Plant Health Science and Technology, Plant Epidemiology and Risk Analysis Laboratory (PERAL) and has experience generating risk assessments that inform regulatory policy regarding invasive plant pests. His areas of interest include predictive mapping, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and quantitative risk analysis.

Glenn has worked on domestic and international regulatory issues, participated in bilateral technical discussions, provided GIS support during USDA-APHIS emergency operations and given training in GIS, predictive mapping and probabilistic modeling.
Meghan Noseworthy is a Research Biologist with the Canadian Forest Service (CFS) Entomology and Phytosanitary Research Group. She has an MSc in insect ecology and 15 years of experience working in forest entomology. Meghan’s work focuses on non-native insect movement via international trade by monitoring Canadian forests and investigating pest biology and mitigation measures. Working closely with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and industry she provides science support for the development of phytosanitary measures to limit the spread of quarantine pests globally.

Meghan leads the development of the scientific explanatory document for the NAPPO Standard, RSPM-41 on The Use of Systems Approaches in Managing Pest Risks Associated with the Movement of Forest Products. Ms. Noseworthy joined the NAPPO Systems Approach expert working group in 2016.
# UPCOMING MEETINGS OF INTEREST

Color-coded table: scientific societies – green; industry – yellow; international – orange; inside the U.S. – white; NAPPO meetings - blue

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<th>What</th>
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<tr>
<td>American Phytopathological Society – APS Annual Meeting</td>
<td>Aug. 5-9, 2017</td>
<td>San Antonio, TX, US</td>
<td><a href="https://www.apsnet.org/meetings/annual/Pages/default.aspx">https://www.apsnet.org/meetings/annual/Pages/default.aspx</a></td>
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<td><strong>6th</strong> Seed Congress of the Americas - SAA</td>
<td>Sept. 5-7, 2017</td>
<td>Cartagena, Colombia</td>
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<td>IPPC Regional Workshop for Latin America</td>
<td>Sept. 5-8, 2017</td>
<td>Cusco, Perú</td>
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<td>Entomological Society of America – ESA Annual Meeting</td>
<td>Nov. 5-8, 2017</td>
<td>Denver, CO, US</td>
<td><a href="http://www.entsoc.org/events/annual-meeting">http://www.entsoc.org/events/annual-meeting</a></td>
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<td>IPPC Standards Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Nov. 13-17, 2017</td>
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<td>13th Commission on Phytosanitary Measures – CPM-13</td>
<td>April 16-20, 2018</td>
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<td>Cultivate’18</td>
<td>July 14-17, 2018</td>
<td>Columbus, OH, US</td>
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INDUSTRY CORNER

We invite all industry stakeholders to make use of the Industry Corner on the NAPPO website. Send us your information about events, meetings or any other information of interest to our stakeholders. We will gladly upload it to our website.

REGISTRATION FOR THE 41ST NAPPO ANNUAL MEETING IS NOW OPEN!!

ATTENTION

NAPPO stakeholders,

The 41st Annual Meeting is only 2 ½ months away, so please register and book your Hotel early!!