WORKING DOCUMENT

FOR THE

JOINT MEETING

OF

THE 17TH ANNUAL CARIBBEAN PLANT HEALTH DIRECTORS (CPHD) FORUM AND THE 2024 IPPC REGIONAL WORKSHOP

PORT OF SPAIN
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
AUGUST 26TH – 30TH 2024

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17th CPHD AGENDA

The Joint Meetings of the 17th Caribbean Plant Health Directors Forum and

2024 The International Plant Protection Convention – Regional Workshop for the Caribbean Region

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Radisson Hotel

August 26th – 30th 2024

Draft Provisional Agenda

Day One: Monday 26th August 2024 9:00 am – 6:00 pm					
Official Opening Ceremony of the 17th Annual CPHD Meeting and the IPPC Regional Workshop for the Caribbean 9:00 am – 10:30 am **Tea Break – 10:30 – 10:40 am** **Zoom Link:** https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsceGgqTIrHUbSd6iYRBATg3_6JuEOS8A					
No#	**Agenda Item**	**Presenters / Facilitator**	**Time (mins)**	**Document**	**Comments**
1.0	**OPENING REMARKS**				
1.1	Chairman's Opening Remarks	Nelson Laville, Dominica	8 mins	n/a	Start Time 10:45 am
2.0	**MEETING ARRANGEMENTS AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS**				
2.1	Adoption of the 17th CPHD Agenda	*All*	2 mins	n/a	

2.2	Procedural Matters	Damian Rowe, Jamaica	5 mins	n/a	
3.0	**INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL PLANT HEALTH SAFEGUARDING DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (RECAP)**				
3.1	Recap of Recommendations of the 16th CPHD and other Relevant COTED Decisions	Juliet Goldsmith, CAHFSA	20 mins	PPT	11:00 – 11:20
3.2.	Governance and Strategy (CPM, CPM Bureau)	Diego QUIROGA, CPM Bureau Member	20 mins	Virtual	11:20 – 11:40
3.3	Update from IPPC Secretariat on Communications (IDPH & Comms Networks)	Diego QUIROGA, CPM Bureau Member	15 mins	Virtual	11:40 – 11:55
4.0	**REPORTS FROM TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS (TWGs) AND NEW INITIATIVES**				
4.1	**Update of the CPHD and GICSV Technical Working Groups (TWGs)**				
4.1.1	The Safeguarding TWG Report	Karen Barrett Christie, Jamaica	15 mins	PPT	11:55 – 12:10
4.1.2	The Caribbean Pest Diagnostics Network (CPDN) Safeguarding Sub-working Group report	Deanne Ramroop, Trinidad and Tobago	15 mins	PPT	12:10 – 12:25
4.1.3	The Regional Priory Pest List Committee (RPPL) Safeguarding Sub-working Group report	Naitram Ramnanan, CABI, Trinidad and Tobago	15 mins	PPT	12:25 – 12:40
4.1.4	The Emergency Response and Preparedness Technical Working Group report	Janil Gore Francis, Antigua and Barbuda	15 mins	PPT	12:40 – 12:55
LUNCH BREAK					

4.1.5	The Fruit Fly Technical Working Groups	Alies van Sauers Muller, Suriname	20 mins	PPT	2:00 – 2:20
4.1.6	The Musa and TR4 Technical Working Groups	Nelson Laville, Dominica	20 mins	PPT	2:20 – 2:40
4.1.6.1	Update on TR4 Global Coordination	Francisco Gutierrez /IC Member	15 mins	PPT	2:40 – 2:55
4.1.6.2	Economic Analysis of *Fusarium oxysporum f.sp. cubense* Tropical Race 4 in the Caribbean.	Dr. Adam Daignault, University of Maine, USA	20 mins	Virtual PPT	2:55 – 3:15
4.1.7	Report from the GICSV Co-ordinating Committee	Xavier Isaac Euceda (OIRSA)	15 mins	PPT	3:15 – 3:30
TEA BREAK (15 mins)					
4.1.8	ePhyto (global update)	Damian Rowe, Jamaica	20 mins	PPT	3:45 – 4:05
4.1.9	Locust Update	Nadia Ramtahal Singh, Trinidad and Tobago	10 mins	PPT	4:05 – 4:15
5.0	**CPHD EXECUTIVE LED INITIATIVES – ENHANCING CPHD'S GOVERNANCE, STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION**				
5.1	Proposal to restructure the CPHD Technical Working Groups – "Fit for Purpose"	Damian Rowe, Jamaica and Janil Gore Francis, Antigua & Barbuda	45 mins (with discussions)	PPT	4:15 – 5:00
5.2	CPHD's 5-year Strategic Operational Plan and 2024 work plan	Nelson Laville, Dominica	15 mins	PPT	5:00 – 5:15
5.3	Overview of the approved CPHD/ GCSI funded FY 2024 – 2025 Projects	Nelson Laville, Dominica	25 mins	PPT	5:15 - 5:40
Special Event: Signing of the MOU between the University of Florida and the Caribbean Plant Health Director Forum For The Caribbean Pest Diagnostics Network (CPDN)					

Day Two: Tuesday 27th August 2024 ***9:00 am – 6:30pm*** **Zoom Link:** https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsceGgqTIrHUbSd6iYRBATg3_6JuEOS8A					
No#	**Agenda Item**	**Presenters / Facilitator**	**Time (mins)**	**Document**	**Comments**
6.0	**INITIATIVES TOWARDS STRENGTHENING AND ADDRESSING PHYTOSANITARY SYSTEMS IN THE CARIBBEAN**				
6.1	**International and Regional efforts to coordinate responses to pest outbreaks**				
6.1.1	Update on the IPPC Developmental Agenda Item - Pest Outbreak and Response Systems (POARS)	Juliet Goldsmith POARS SC rep	20 mins	PPT	9:00 – 9:20
6.1.2	Conceptualizing the Regional Multi Agency Committee for Incident Command Systems in the Caribbean	Janil Gore Francis, Antigua and Barbuda	20mins	PPT	9:20 – 9:40 **TBD**
6.1.3	A preliminary assessment of the risks for Invasive Alien Species introduction into Barbados and the OECS from two high risk pathways: International Trade and Passenger Luggage	Naitram Ramnanan, CABI, Trinidad and Tobago	20 mins	PPT	9:40 – 10:00
6.2	**Update on the CPHD's Safeguarding tools and Databases**				
6.2.1	Update on CPHD FFMS CBIS and PeST Caribbean	Avenesh Ali, CPHD Website and Database Developer	45 mins	PPT / Video	10:00 – 10:45
TEA BREAK (15 mins)					
6.2.2	Presentation on a tool being developed by CIRAD under the AUSCAR 2 project and feedback.	Alejandro Solis (CIRAD)	15 mins	Virtual PPT	11:00 – 11:15 **TBD**

6.3	**SPS Capacity evaluation tools**				
6.3.1	Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluations (PCE) and latest developments	Fitzroy White, IPPC Sec	30 mins	PPT	11:15 – 11:45
6.3.2	The Rapid SPS Assessment Tool (R-SAT)	Chagema **Kedera** (COLEAD)	15 mins	PPT	11:45 – 12:00
6.3.3	P-IMA (Case study)	Aichetou Ba, STDF	15 mins	Virtual PPT	12:00 – 12:15
7.0	**TOPICS OF INTEREST FOR THE REGION**				
7.1	An Informative and Interactive Session aimed at identifying and addressing through regional discussion. topics of interest to the Caribbean region **50 MINS**				
LUNCH BREAK (1 HOUR)					
8.0	**CAPACITY BUILDING & REGIONAL INITIATIVES: REPORTS FROM PARTNER ORGANISATIONS AND COLLABORATING AGENCIES ON PLANT HEALTH PROJECTS AND FUTURE PLANNING**				
8.1	APHIS GCSI	Dennis Martin, USDA GCSI	15 mins	PPT	2:05– 2:20
8.2	FAO	Anne Desrochers, FAO	15 mins	PPT	2:20 – 2:35
8.3	IICA	Sharon Jones, IICA	15 mins	PPT	2:35 – 2:50
8.4	OIRSA	Xavier Isaac Euceda (OIRSA)	15 mins	PPT	2:50 – 3:05
8.5	RPPO Activities	Juliet Goldsmith, CAHFSA	15 mins	PPT	3:05 – 3:20
TEA BREAK (15 mins)					

8.6	CARCIOM Secretariat	Milagro Matus, CARICOM Sec	15 mins	PPT	3:35 – 3:50
8.7	CABI	Naitram Ramnanan, CABI, Trinidad and Tobago	15 mins	PPT	3:50 – 4:05
8.8	CARDI	Dionne Clarke Harris, CARDI	15 mins	PPT	4:05– 4:20
8.9	CIRAD	Catherine Abadie, CIRAD	15 mins	PPT	4:20 – 4:35
8.10	UWI	Augustus Thomas, UWI	15 mins	PPT	4:35 – 4:50
8.11	AGROSAVIA	Monica Betancourt Vasquez, AGROSAVIA	15 mins	PPT	4:50 – 5:05 **TBD**
8.12	University of Guyana	Dillon Husbands, UG	15 mins	PPT	5:05- 5:20
9.0	**THE GREATER CARIBBEAN SAFEGUARDING INITIATIVE (GCSI)**				
9.1	The “Don’t Pack a Pest’ Public Outreach Initiative – update	Dennis Martin, USDA GCSI	15 mins	Virtual PPT	5:20 - 5:35

Day Three: Wednesday 28th August 2024 ***9:00 am – 5:00pm*** **Zoom Link:** https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsceGgqTIrHUbSd6iYRBATg3_6JuEOS8A					
No#	**Agenda Item**	**Presenters / Facilitator**	**Time (mins)**	**Document**	**Comments**
10.0	**SPECIAL JOINT TECHNICAL SESSION**				
10.1	**Ongoing Pest Exclusion, Management and Safeguarding Activities**				
10.1.1	Update on the detection and management of temporary introduction of the Mediterranean fly in the Dominican Republic – Medfly experience in the DR: how the emergency was addressed, lessons learnt and best practices, declaration of pest-free status	Rosa Lazala, Dominican Republic	20 mins	PPT	9:00 – 9:20 **Moved to Day 2**
10.1.2	Overview on the Management of Croton Scale in Grenada	Thaddeaus Peters, Grenada	15 mins	PPT	9:20- 9:35
10.1.3	Systems Approach for Mango Export in Suriname	Rewish Somai, Suriname	15 mins	PPT	9:35 – 9:50
10.1.4	Update on *P. absoluta* management efforts in Trinidad and Tobago	Rishi Mohansingh, Trinidad and Tobago	15 mins	PPT	9:50 -10:05
10.1.5	Update on Locust management in Trinidad and Tobago	Nadia Ramtahal Singh, Trinidad and Tobago	15 mins	PPT	10:05 – 10:20 **Combined with 4.1.9**
TEA BREAK (15 mins)					

10.2	**Emerging Priority Plant Pest Issues for the Caribbean**				
10.2.1	Overview of the Brown Rugose Virus and its implications for the Caribbean Region and Trade	Peta Gaye Chang, Jamaica	40 mins	Virtual PPT	10:35 -11:15
10.2.2	Cotton Jassid (*Amrasca biguttula)* an Emerging Pest in the Caribbean	Todd Gilligan, USDA APHIS	40 mins	Virtual PPT	11:15 – 11:55
10.2.3	Getting familiar with *Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. Palmarum*	Braham Dhillon, University of Florida	15 mins	Virtual PPT	11:55 – 12:10
10.2.4	Overview of the Yam Rust Disease (*Goplana dioscorea)*, implications, prevention, and phytosanitary measures	Nelson Laville, Dominica	45 mins	PPT	12:10 – 12:55
LUNCH BREAK (1 HOUR)					
10.3	**International Standards and Guides**				
10.3.1	IPPC E-commerce Guide for plants, plant products and other regulated articles in international trade	IPPC Sec / IC Member	40mins	PPT and discussion session	1:55 – 2:35
10.3.2	Safe Provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid (FGSA). Towards the development of an ISPM	Nelson Laville, Dominica	40 min	PPT and Discussion Session	2:35 – 3:15
10.3.3	IPPC commodity standards: - Key Principles Overview Call for information material for new commodity standards	Matias Buttera, SC Member	10 min	PPT	3:15 – 3:25

TEA BREAK (15 MINS)					
10.4	**Other relevant Plant Health Protection and Production Activities – Networks and Concepts**				
10.4.1	U.S. Market Access Process and Phytosanitary Irradiation	Pati Abad, USDA PIM	20 mins	PPT	3:40 – 4:00
10.4.2	Nematode Prioritization concept	Gideon Alake, University of Florida	15 mins	PPT	4:00 – 4:15
10.4.3	Strengthening plant diagnostics in the region: National Agricultural Diagnostic Facility, St Lucia	Stephie Ramine, St Lucia	15 mins	PPT	4:15 – 4:30
10.4.4	New Fungal Threat to Greenheart Seeds (*Chlorocardium spp*)	Dillon Husbands, UOG	15 mins	PPT	4:30 – 4:45
10.4.5	Network Introduction to the International Organisation of Biological Control (IOBC)	Fernanda Cingolani, President, IOBC-NTRS	15 mins	Virtual PPT	4:45 – 5:00
10.4.6	Can One Health be helpful for the plant health and vice versa	Craig Stephen	15 mins	Virtual PPT	5:00 – 5:15
10.4.7	One Health community of practices in the Caribbean	Eric Etter, CIRAD	15 mins	Virtual PPT	5:15 – 5:30
10.4.8	IICAs Strategy on One Health	José H. Urdaz, IICA	15 mins	Virtual PPT	5:30 – 5:45
11.0	**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**				
11.1	Summary of Meeting Recommendation for submission to COTED	Damian Rowe, Jamaica	15 mins		5:45 – 6:00

AGENDA FOR THE 2024 IPPC REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

29TH – 30TH AUGUST 2024, 9.00 TO 18.00 EASTERN CARIBBEAN TIME

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

(Updated: 18/06/2024)

No	Item	Presenter / Facilitator	Time (min.)	Document
Thursday 29th August 2024 (Day 4), morning Opening session: (XX minutes)				
1	**Opening of the Session**		**10**	
1.1	Welcome remarks: RPPO	Fitzroy WHITE Juliet GOLDSMITH	5 5	
2	**Meeting Arrangements**		**15**	
2.1	Election of Chair	Juliet GOLDSMITH	5	
2.2	Election of the Rapporteur	Chair	5	
2.3	Adoption of the Agenda	Chair	5	Doc
3	**Administrative Matters**	Juliet GOLDSMITH	**5**	
3.1	Participants list			Doc
4.	**Updates on Governance and Strategic issues**		**30**	
4.1	Update from SC	SC Member	15	PPT
4.2	Update from IC	IC Member	15	PPT
Morning tea break (20 mins)				

5	**Section 1: Discuss substantive comments on draft standards and recommendations** (this will involve presentations, discussion and questions from workshop's participants)			
5.1	Draft ISPM under 1st Consultation Draft annex Field inspection (2021-018) to ISPM 23 (Guidelines for inspection)	SC Member	120	Presentation
Lunch (1 hour)				
Thursday 29th August 2024 (Day 4), afternoon				
5.2	Draft ISPM under 1st Consultation: Draft revision of ISPM 26 (Establishment of pest free areas for fruit flies (Tephritidae)) (2021-010)	RPPO -Sairah Stippel	120	Presentation
Afternoon tea break (10 mins)				
5.3	Draft ISPM under 1st Consultation: Draft on annex Design and use of systems approaches for phytosanitary certification of seeds (2018-009) to ISPM 38 (International movement of seeds)	SC Member	120	Presentation

Friday 30th August 2024 (Day 5) morning				
5.4	Draft ISPM under 2nd Consultation: Draft annex International Movement of Mango (*Mangifera indica*) Fruit (2021-011) to ISPM 46	RPPO-Sairah Stippel	60	Presentation
5.5	Draft ISPM under 2nd Consultation: Draft annex Use of systems approaches in managing the pest risks associated with the movement of wood (2015-004) to ISPM 39 (International movement of wood)	NPPO Suriname	60	Presentation
Morning tea break (20 mins)				
5.6	Draft Specification for ISPMs under consultation: Draft specification on Revision of the draft reorganized pest risk analysis ISPM (2023-037)	SC Member	60	Presentation
6	**Section 2: Section 2: Implementing and raising awareness in the framework of FAO/ RPPOs** This section will consist of presentations followed by discussion and questions from the participants			
6.1	IPPC call for topics: lessons learned and future topic submissions	IC and SC Regional representatives	30	PPT + Discussion
Lunch Break (1hour)				
7	**Section 3: Moving together from ideas to action (facilitated session)** This section will consist of presentations followed by discussion and questions from the participants			
7.1	New IPPC Guides and e-learning courses	IPPC Secretariat / IC member	20	
7.2	- - National Reporting Obligations	IPPC Secretariat Lead/ IC member	30	

8	**Conclusion of the workshop/ Date and Venue of the Next Meeting**	Chair	**5**	
9	**Online survey of the workshop**	All participants	**5**	
10	**Adoption of the Report (**Procedure to be decided**)**	All participants	**5**	
11	**Close of the meeting**	Chair	**5**	

AGENDA ITEM 2.2 - PROCEDURAL MATTERS

The meeting will

- determine its hours of work and the manner in which it will conduct its business.
- Note the Participants Reception Cocktail time and dress code.
- Note the use of online / virtual translation services via zoom

AGENDA ITEM 3.0 – INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL PANT HEALTH SAFEGUARDING DECISION AND RECOMMENDATIONS (RECAP)

3.1 RECAP OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 16TH CPHD AND OTHER RELEVANT COTED DECISIONS (CAHFSA)

The 109th meeting of the COTED Agriculture was held on 13 October 2023 in the Bahamas. Matters to Plant Health and Recommendations from the CPHD tabled included:

- High alert for *Fusarium oxysporum fsp cubense* Tropical Race 4 (Foc TR4)
- The Regional Priority Pest List (RPPL) 2022/2024
- CPHD Operational Work Plan
- Optimising Trade Facilitation through the use and adoption of Plant Health Digital Tools

COTED Decisions

- Recognizing the importance of plant health to food security and the impact of plant pests on global food production;
- Also recognising the efforts of CAHFSA and CPHD to enhance the phytosanitary capacity of our National Plant Protection Organizations and safeguard regional plant health;
- Noting the presence of FoC TR4 in neighbouring countries, its threat to food security and the need for urgent action to prevent the entry of this devasting disease into the Caribbean region
- Urged all Member States to declare FoC TR4 a priority pest/pest of quarantine importance and enact the necessary legislation to ensure exclusion.
- Encouraged Member States to provide the requisite financial and logistical support needed to implement the regional plans and programmes for the prevention of the entry of this dreaded disease.
- Supported the adoption and implementation of the CPHD Operational Work Plan;
- Mandated the CARICOM Secretariat to work with CAHFSA and the CPHD to establish a TWG that will focus on facilitating safe trade with emerging markets;
- Encouraged regional research agencies and institutions to support CAHFSA and CPHD in the development and implementation of a regional plant health research agenda;
- Agreed and also mandated Member States to adopt, consistently use and share information generated from plant health digital tools such as the CBIS, the CPDN, the FFMS, and the PeST Caribbean, and to utilize the E-Phyto solution.

AGENDA ITEM 4.0: REPORTS FORM TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS (TWGs) AND NEW INITIATIVES

4.1 UPDATE ON THE CPHD AND GICSV TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS (TWGs)

4.1.1 THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP REPORT – SAFEGUARDING (JAM)

To assist in providing technical and policy recommendations to the CPHDs towards safeguarding the Caribbean economies (and sectors such as Agriculture, Tourism and the Environment) from the impact of introduction and spread of plant pests.

Membership: 9 Member States (Jamaica, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, Grenada, Cayman Islands, Aruba) + 7 Partner Agencies (CARICOM Secretariat, USDA-APHIS, CABI, CARDI, FAO, IICA, CAHFSA)

Four meetings held to date: 1st Meeting -Tortola BVI, January 4-7, 2011, **2nd Meeting** – Barbados, June 28, 2012, 3rd **Meeting** -Aruba, December 4-5, 2014, 4thMeeting -Barbados, June 3, 2016

Work Programme 2024-2025

1. Develop and implement a sustainable training programme for pest diagnosis in the Region
2. Implement a sustainable training programme for the Conduct of Pest Risk Analyses
3. Develop a prioritized list of ISPMs for adoption and implementation.
4. Early Warning System/Pest Exclusion- develop surveillance protocols for pest on the priority pest list
5. Recommend and prepare documents for the development of Diagnostic Protocols for priority pest
6. Develop mechanism for countries in the development of country and regulated pest list
7. Develop inspection protocols for commodities to be use at ports of entry
8. Identify regional resources and subject matter experts to provide guidance on quarantine issues.
9. Make recommendations on a systems approach for pest mitigation
10. Conduct needs assessment to streamline activities of the TWG

Next Steps of the TWG

- To be discussed at CPHD 17

Constraints

- Many of the lead participants are generally consumed with national responsibilities and the time and effort needed to undertake task of the TWG is limited
- Limited resources and meetings not structured

Recommendations

- Rationalization of the Working Group with a possible name change and structure
- Revamp TWG and link membership to area of expertise

Acknowledgements

- The continued Financial, Technical & Administrative support of USDA- APHIS and the other Partner Agencies.
- Excellent mentoring support provided to the group by the USDA-APHIS

AGENDA ITEM 4.0: REPORTS FORM TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS (TWGs) AND NEW INITIATIVES

4.1 UPDATE ON THE CPHD AND GICSV TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS (TWGs)

4.1.2 THE SUB-TECHNICAL WORKING (SAFEGUARDING TWG) GROUP REPORT – THE CARIBBEAN PEST DIAGNOSTICS NETWORK (TTO)

Caribbean Pest Diagnostics Network
Chair: Ms. Deanne V. Ramroop

The Caribbean Pest Diagnostic Network (CPDN) is a network and an internet-based Lab Information Management System (LIMS), which facilitates the digital upload of samples obtained in the field for rapid diagnosis and pest identification. The members of the Technical Working Group (TWG) include representatives from Barbados, Dominican Republic, St. Lucia, Guyana and Jamaica.

The Caribbean Plant Health Directors (CPHD) forum through the work of the CPHD Secretariat and the Chairman of the CPDN coordinated and facilitated a number of meetings, dialogues and other activities with the member states and the University of Florida (UFL). Thirty-two (32) member states benefit with free access to rapid (within 24 hours) distance digital diagnostics via CPDN.

The CPDN operates as both a network and an online database, allowing for efficient communication and information sharing among plant inspectors, agricultural experts, and diagnosticians. The key functions include the rapid pest identification which utilizes field data and digital media to quickly diagnose plant diseases, insect infestations, weeds, and invasive species. Expert consultation allows for the connection of field personnel with specialists from the UFL for accurate diagnosis and best management practices.

The CPDN facilitates knowledge sharing and builds a comprehensive database of pest information for research, education, and future reference. It also facilitates Early Warning Systems by assisting in early detection of new pests and pathogens thereby enabling timely intervention measures. The CPDN also provides compliance support by assisting member states in meeting international sanitary and phytosanitary reporting requirements.

The TWG CPDN is currently engaged in capacity building for member countries through training and education and raising public awareness about the importance of plant health and the role of the CPDN. Activities also include the publication of a scientific paper on the CPDN; the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Renewal between the CPHD and the UFL; activities leading to a wider outreach with CPDN expansion; re-training/capacity building opportunities and CPDN site upgrades.

A survey of member countries to assess the use of a network and the challenges associated was conducted in early 2024. The objective was to determine the extent to which countries are utilizing the network; identify usage patterns among countries; evaluate the benefits and outcomes of network usage; discover

common and country-specific obstacles hindering network utilization and provide data-driven insights for enhancing the network's functionality and value.

By fostering collaboration and information sharing, the CPDN strengthens the Caribbean's capacity to address plant health challenges and protect its valuable agricultural resources.

AGENDA ITEM 4.0: REPORTS FORM TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS (TWGs) AND NEW INITIATIVES

4.1 UPDATE ON THE CPHD AND GICSV TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS (TWGs)

4.1.3 THE SUB-TECHNICAL WORKING (SAFEGUARDING TWG) GROUP REPORT – THE REGIONAL PRIORITY PEST LIST COMMITTEE (RPPL) (CABI)

AGENDA ITEM 4.0 REPORTS FROM THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS (TWGs) AND INITIATIVES

4.1 UPDATE ON THE CPHD AND GICSV TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS (TWGs)

4.1.4 THE TECHNICAL WOKING GROUP REPORT – EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS (ANT)

THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP REPORT – CPHD17

Prepared by Dr. Janil Gore-Francis, Chairperson – TWG-ERPPMR

The Technical Working Group on Emergency Response Preparedness Plans and Mechanisms for Response (TWG-ERPPMR) of the Caribbean Plant Health Director's (CPHD) Forum was formed at the second meeting of the Forum. Upon establishment, the TWG was mandated to focus on safeguarding of the Greater Caribbean from threats and/or the impacts from the introduction, establishment, and spread of plant pests. The working group provides support to achieve synergies within the overall work plan of the CPHD Forum through collaboration with other Technical Working Groups and participation in Forum activities as required.

Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago comprise the members of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Technical Working Group. The TWG has been chaired by Antigua and Barbuda from its inception and is now mentored by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). The TWG has met five (5) times to date – 4 face-to-face and 1 virtual session.

Work is ongoing at the Executive Committee level to rationalise the structure of the CPHD Forum's TWGs – inclusive of that of this Technical Working Group – with a view to improving efficiency and effectiveness of the Forum through a more fit-for-purpose structure. Additionally, in the context of the 2023-2028 CPHD Strategic Plan, the work of this TWG over the past year was focussed primarily on streamlining its work programme along the lines of the four (4) strategic pillars of the Plan for the upcoming two (2) years. These recommended activities are as listed below.

Strategic Pillar 1: Advocacy & Awareness Raising

- To champion the establishment of a Phytosanitary Emergency Fund in each Member State;
- To prioritize the work on Regional Priority Pests within the context of the 14 plant commodities identified by the CARICOM Secretariat for facilitation of intra-regional trade;
- To develop a process of information transfer an communication geared towards policymakers, using appropriate language to elicit the desired outcomes for plant health, and
- To promote the roll out of the "Don't Pack A Pest" Initiative in the remaining Member States who have not already done so.

Strategic Pillar 2: Capacity Building of National Bodies

- To assess the status of plant quarantine facilities at the Ports of Entry of Member States and to develop relevant biosecurity guidelines.
- To determine appropriate ways through which to promote the upgrade of all legislation within Member States such that they are compliant with the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (i.e., the SPS Agreement) and in keeping with the obligations of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), and
- To encourage and support the use of existing Emergency Response Plans for regional priority pests and the conduct of tabletop simulations at the national level.
-

Strategic Pillar 3: Technical Norms & Process Development

- To support and contribute to the development of regional guidelines – for adoption at the national level – for plant quarantine stations at ports of entry designated for entry of regulated plant material.
- To support the work of the Regional Priority Pest (RPP) List Committee through the development of Emergency Response Plans, identification of tolerant crop cultivars and the development of treatment programs for priority pests.
- To develop treatment programs for RPPs.
- To develop a regional process in support of the movement of disaster relief goods using IPPC Guidelines, and
- To align the work of the TWG in support of regional and international initiatives (e.g., CARICOM, SDGs, etc.).
-

Strategic Pillar 4: Organizational Development

- To participate in the process of review of the format and terms of reference for the streamlined TWGs of the CPHD Forum;
- To contribute to the requirements for experts to sit on the respective TWGs, and
- To contribute to the process of streamlining linkages and lines of communication with CPHD partner emergency committees and groups.

The Emergency Response TWG also was represented through participation in, and contribution to, a USDA-facilitated workshop held in Trinidad (March 18-21, 2024) to address the possible formation of a regional Multi-Agency Committee for Incident Command Systems (MAC-ICS). Work on the concept continues.

Going forward, several additional general priority core areas of concentration are proposed to be as follows:

(i) Formation, in the short-term, of the regional MultiAgency Committee for Incident Command Systems in the Caribbean (MAC-ICS);

(ii) Development of technical content for brochures, guidelines and emergency response plans for new pests as they are added to the Regional Priority Pest List;

(iii) Development of posters for the top 10 RPPs using the concept of the "dirty dozen", and

(iv) Horizon scanning for new candidates to be considered for the RPPL as well as for new and emerging markets and the attendant pest risks to the region.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The TWG-ERPPMR acknowledges with gratitude the continued financial and technical support of its partners as well as the wider membership of the Caribbean Plant Health Directors Forum.

ACTION REQUIRED

The meeting is invited to:

1. Consider and approve the emergency activities proposed to be conducted under the four strategic pillars of the 2023-2028 CPHD Strategic Plan, and
2. Approve of the formation of a MAC-ICS for the Caribbean region.

AGENDA ITEM 4.0 REPORTS FROM THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS (TWGs) AND INITIATIVES

4.1 UPDATE ON THE CPHD AND GICSV TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS (TWGs)

4.1.5 THE TECHNICAL WOKING GROUP REPORT – FRUIT FLIES (SUR)

Based on an agreement at the First meeting of the Caribbean Plant Health Directors (CPHD), held from 23 to 25 April in 2008, the Technical Working Group (TWG) for Tephritid Fruit Flies was established to address relevant issues.

The members of the technical working group are Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Martinique, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, CABI International, Caribbean Agricultural Research Development Institute (CARDI), CARICOM Secretariat, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United States Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS) and the Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). FAO provided mentorship to this TWG.

The Chair of the 1st meeting was Trinidad and Tobago; the Chair of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th meeting was Suriname. After the 4th Meeting of the FFTWG, June 2015, Trinidad and Tobago, no further TWGs meetings were held due to shortage of funds. Modern techniques can enable the group to meet on-line, e.g. through skype, WhatsApp or other media and would be explored greater.

Objectives:

The objective of this Working Group is to safeguard the Caribbean from the threats and/ or impacts of introduction, economic damage and spread of the Tephritid Fruit Fly through scientific investigation/research and the provision of advice on all matters related to the Fruit Fly. Special objectives of this working group are to investigate the biology and distribution of the TFF through:

1) Compilation of a list of the existing confirmed species. A compiled list has been finalized and added to the CPHD webpage. As fruit fly situations change, any new finds or eradications have to be sent to the secretariat and chair of the FFWG to update this list.

2) Identification of newly introduced spp.

3) Geographic distribution of the confirmed spp. (specific location within national borders) in the region as far as possible; see the compiled list under 1).

4) Determination of the pathways of introduction, and the manner of spread

5) Listing of species existing outside the region which pose a threat to the Region

6) Confirmation of the host list of the existing fruit fly species in each country, by continuing or starting fruit collection. This part is important in the process of exporting/importing fruit between the Caribbean countries

Trapping material

In 2024, trapping material again will be distributed to several Caribbean countries to help with ongoing trapping activities.

Training activities

No training activities were held in the past year.

Fruit fly hemisphere meeting

The 11th Western Hemisphere fruit fly meeting was held in Montego Bay, Jamaica, from July 3-7, 2024. This was the first meeting to be held in the Caribbean area and thanks to IAEA a number of persons from different islands was able to participate and experience a direct contact with research on fruit fly management, trapping, biology, identification, treatments, SIT, biological control and many more subjects. From the Caribbean, persons from Jamaica, St. Lucia, Nevis, St Vincent, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada and Suriname participated. A total of 193 persons participated, as well in person as virtual. One poster regarding fruit fly monitoring in the Caribbean was eventually presented in a power point presentation.

Sharing trapping data

Six countries, Cayman Islands, Guyana, Jamaica, Nevis, St. Lucia and Suriname are now sharing data on the website of the CPHD.

GICSV

In September 2023, a new coordinator for the fruit fly working group was elected. In the previous two years, Alies van Sauers-Muller coordinated the meetings, assisted by Arturo Bello (Mexico). As no persons stepped forward, Arturo now is coordinator, assisted by Alies as Co-coordinator.

The work programme 2023-2025 was discussed and finalized.

One of the activities is a special meeting to discuss Annex 37. This zoom meeting was held on March 22, 2024 and the presenting expert was Cory Penca (USDA).

The database on fruit flies, generated from the responses in the questionnaire, is now completed. However, over time, certain aspects will change, so the database needs to be updated on a regular base.

Recommendations for consideration by the Caribbean Plant Health Directors

1. Consider actively stimulating the increased usage of the FFMS for countries that so far have not made use of this data base.
2. Consider urging the countries that are not sharing data to participate in this activity. Sharing fruit fly trapping data within the region is important as a way to improve control strategies and improve trade.

3. Consider the project aimed at better understanding the biology of the West Indian fruit fly, part of it is to research the host status in each of the countries. Implementing and/or improving host rearing programs in the region could be supported by training through zoom meetings.
4. Consider including fruit rearing data in the data management system to make reporting between the countries as comparable as possible, following instructions using ISPM standards.
5. Consider restructuring the working groups but ensuring the continuation of the positive results of the working groups.

AGENDA ITEM 4.0 REPORTS FROM THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS (TWGs) AND INITIATIVES

4.1 UPDATE ON THE CPHD AND GICSV TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS (TWGs)

4.1.6.2 ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF *FUSARIUM OXYSPORUM F. SP. CUBENSE* TROPICAL RACE 4 IN THE CARIBBEAN (UNI. OF MAINE, USA)

Economic Analysis of *Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp. *cubense* Tropical race 4 in the Caribbean

Adam Daigneault, University of Maine, USA

Fusarium oxysporum f.sp. cubense Tropical race 4 (FocTR4) has the potential to affect 1.70 million hectares (18%) of banana area worldwide by 2040. The disease can disrupt the local and international consumption and trade of bananas, which has global production valued at around than $120 billion, by generating losses to consumers globally and producers in affected countries. However, banana producers in countries which are (and can remain) unaffected have the potential to gain additional revenues through improved trade standing. FocTR4 has not yet reached the Caribbean, but if were to become established there, then impacts are likely to be a mix of economic (banana production and trade), social (cultural, livelihoods, poverty), and environmental (biodiversity). In response to this emerging threat, we conducted an economic analysis to estimate the potential impacts of FocTR4 to each country in the region. The analysis evaluated five possible scenarios ranging from 'do nothing' to implementing practices that improved surveillance and containment, integrated crop disease management, and breeding *Fusarium* resistant banana cultivars. We found that all FocTR4 management options resulted in better economic returns relative to the do-nothing case. Implementing a region-wide quarantine program proved to be the most effective option, but was relatively costly, thereby yielding a net economic benefit of about $400/ha over the 30-year project timeframe. On the other hand, the integrated crop and disease management option yielded the highest net present value, yielding about $3,000/ha. These findings suggest that it makes economic sense to implement policies that promote management practices to prevent and control the spread of FocTR4 across the Caribbean.

AGENDA ITEM 4.0 REPORTS FROM THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS (TWGs) AND INITIATIVES

4.1 UPDATE ON THE CPHD AND GICSV TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS (TWGs)

4.1.9 LOCUST UPDATE (TTO)

GICSV Orthoptera Technical Working Group & Status of Locust/Grasshopper in T&T

Orthoptera Technical Working Group Objective:
To promote regional actions to prevent introduction and spread of regional-significant pests (Locust/grasshoppers)

Technical Working Group (TWG) Members:

- **CAN:** Ricardo Solano (Working Group Coordinator) and Katthy Rojas
- **OIRSA:** Mario Poot Pech and Xavier Euceda
- **COSAVE:** Hector Medina and Gustavo Zagaglia
- **NAPPO:** Alonso Suazo
- **CAHFSA:** Nadia Ramtahal-Singh

Workplan March 2023 – March 2025

- Activity 3.4.1 - Verify / confirm the list of delegates who will be part of the working group.
- Activity 3.4.2 – Schedule meetings, development of meeting Agendas and generate minutes - WG coordinator
- Activity 3.4.3 - Promote information exchange on events, technical documents, and other issues to update GICSV website.
- Activity 3.4.4 – Harmonize manuals on surveillance and control and regional emergency plans for locust/grasshoppers
- Activity 3.4.5 – Promote the use of models and forecast for the management of locust/grasshoppers (seminars, workshops, Technical docs.)
- Activity 3.4.6 – Promote and validate the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) for monitoring and control of locusts/grasshoppers ((seminars, workshops, Technical docs.)
- Activity 3.4.7 – Analyse existing locusts/grasshoppers management information systems in the region.
- Activity 3.4.8 – Launching and Dissemination activity of "GICSV statement due to the lack of authorised pesticides for locust control – **Completed in 2023**

Update / progress of TWG:

- **Activity 3.4.3 – TWG** shared and discuss a proposed structure for the National Information Template to be used to summarize the Locust/Grasshopper situation in the region at a country level.
- The template was finalized by the members of the working group and each country is to submit their report on a quarterly basis.
- The first submission period for 2024 incorporated the first two quarters Jan to March and April to June 2024 which was due July 07th 2024.

Update from members:

COSAVE:

- Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay- new outbreaks reported
- Uruguay and Brazil – implementing Regional Locust Alert System

OIRSA:

- Pest status is low
- Nicaragua and Mexico – medium population due to the occurrence of fires
- Held an event in June 2024 – "Phytosanitary Day, phytosanitary emergency management in the face of possible outbreaks of the Central American Locust" – was held in Mexico over a 5-day period with simulation exercises.

CAN:

- Ecuador and Colombia - no reports of pest's presence
- Peru – evaluation and control is ongoing, exploring the use of new active ingredients

NAPPO:

- Mexico - high density swarms reported – (800m to 2000m) known to not occur in the past

CAHFSA:

Trinidad & Tobago

- Outbreaks of Moruga grasshopper and movement into new areas reported
- No outbreaks of the Cedros grasshopper for the period
- Evaluation of a potential biological pesticide was conducted in both laboratory and field using Novacrid (*Metarhizum acridum*) to control *Coscinueta virens* (Moruga Grasshopper) in 2023 and 2024.
- Sensitization workshops highlighting the results with stakeholders are ongoing

Submitted by:

Nadia Ramtahal-Singh
Agricultural Entomologist (Ag.)
Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries
Research Division

AGENDA ITEM 5.0 CPHD EXECUTIVE INITIATIVES – ENHANCING CPHD'S GOVERNANCE, STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION

5.1 PROPOSAL TO RESTRUCTURE THE CPHD TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS – "FIT FOR PURPOSE" (JAM & ANT)

Please refer to Appendix 1 page #

AGENDA ITEM 5.0 CPHD EXECUTIVE INITIATIVES – ENHANCING CPHD'S GOVERNANCE, STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION

5.2. CPHD'S 5-YEAR STRATEGIC OPERATIONAL PLAN AND 2024 WORK PLAN (DOM)

Please refer to Appendix 1 page #

AGENDA ITEM 5.0 CPHD EXECUTIVE INITIATIVES – ENHANCING CPHD'S GOVERNANCE, STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION

5.3. OVERVIEW OF THE APPROVED CPHD/ GCSI FUNDED FY 2024 – 2025 PROJECTS (DOM)

Update on upcoming CPHD/ GCSI 2024 – 2025 Safeguarding Initiatives and Projects

On December 14th, 2023, the GCSI Cross Functional Working Group (CFWG) sent out a call to Regional Partners, Member States, Organizations and all other interested parties to submit Regional Safeguarding Projects for funding considerations in 2024, with a deadline for project submissions being February 16th 2024.

On February 14th 2024, CPHD submitted seven (7) regional safeguarding project proposals, totaling approximately USD $548,753.00 to the GCSI CFWG for consideration. Projects submitted all seek to address mutual priorities identified in the CPHD Strategic Plan and those articulated within the GCSI 2024 Operational Plan.

The GCSI CFWG reviewed projects submitted, considered its congruence to the GCSI operational plan and past achievements. Available funds were allocated appropriately. All seven (7) CPHD submitted projects were deemed feasible for support by the GCSI CFWG, however due to financial constraints and the volume of projects submitted to GCSI for consideration – CPHD projects either received full or partial funding.

The IICA / GCSI Cooperative Agreement for FY 2024 - 2025 has been finalized and signed for a period of 18 months starting from June 2024 to November 2025. As such project implementation will actively betake place from August 2024 – October 2025.

The projects receiving funding and being implemented in FY 2024 – 2025 by the CPHD Executive and Secretariat include :

Project Title	Funding Received	Expected Outputs and impacts under the Projects
Hosting of the 17th Annual Meeting of the Caribbean Plant Health Directors Forum and 2024 IPPC Regional Workshop for the Caribbean	$ 104 966.00	• Hosting of the 17th Annual Meeting of the Caribbean Plant Health Directors Forum and 2024 IPPC Regional Workshop for the Caribbean
Supporting Regional Early Warning and Safeguarding initiatives for Priority Pest of Mutual Concern to the USA and the Caribbean	$ 81,533.00	• Fruit Flies ○ Establishing an Indigenous Biological Control Study for the Caribbean Region

		○ Conducting Technical visits to two (2) Northern Caribbean Islands (Bahamas and TCI) • Tuta absoluta ○ Supply of trapping surveillance material ○ Focused training for 7- 8 high risk CPHD MS in trapping and surveillance • MLN and BBTV – supply of surveillance material • Capacity building - hosting a 3-day diagnostics and surveillance workshop for 5 – 6 CPHD MS high risk countries for the selected Priority Pest of Mutual Concern
Supporting Regional Emergency Preparedness and Response Mechanisms Initiatives for Pest of Mutual Concern	$ 12,000.00	• Development of 2 Regional Pest Risk Analysis for Priority Pest of Mutual Concern
Supporting Resource Strategies and Communication Networks for effective knowledge sharing and shared successes	$ 32, 776.00	• The Development and Publication of 1 Scientific Paper (reduction by 1 paper) • The Development and/ or collation of downstream technical knowledge material for priority pest. • Hosting of bilingual Technical Webinars and Training Initiatives • Hosting the Annual CPHD Steering Committee and Regional Partnership Planning Meeting
Building an effective Safeguarding Continuum for the Greater Caribbean Region by Supporting the Regional Pest Prioritization Exercise - Determining pest of mutual concern for the Caribbean and the USA	$ 31, 524.00	• Hosting the 5th Meeting of the CPHDs Regional Priority Pest Listing (RPPL) – Working Group • Development of the Regional Top 10 List of Priority Pest • Rationale / basis for resource allocation and work plan development with respect to a harmonized approach to regional early warning, pest exclusion and safeguarding efforts
Supporting ongoing Regional Tropical Race 4 Pest Exclusion and Response Initiatives – A Collaborative Approach	$ 54, 916.00	• Development of a scalable Caribbean Field Simulation Guide for TR4 • Development of Regional TR 4 Emergency Response Schematic

		• Collaborate with FAO to Host – the Caribbean TR4 Farmer Field School Initiative
The Management and Maintenance of CPHD Digital Presence and Tools for an Improved Safeguarding System for/in the Greater Caribbean Region	$ 119,850.00	• Up to date CPHD website (software and products as provided) • Completion of the necessary backups for existing data on the website including CBIS, FFMS, pest Surveillance tool • CPHD website managed and populated with relevant information as provided by the CPHD Executive and Secretariat which supports and enhances CPHD's goal of being a knowledge network. • The maintenance of the domain for 1 year, Training in website use for the CPHD Communications TWG members and Secretariat • Maintenance and adaptions to and sensitization and training for CPHD MS in the use of the CBIS and Pest Surveillance Tool • The maintenance and regional access to 4 COTED endorsed Safeguarding Tools – FFMS, CBIS, PeST and CPDN • AI forecasting for FFMS and RBS for CBIS

AGENDA ITEM 6.0 INITIATIVES TOWARDS STRENGTHENING AND ADDRESSING PHYTOSANITARY SYSTEMS IN THE CARIBBEAN

6.1 INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL EFFORTS TOWARDS COORDINATE RESPONSE TO PEST OUTBREAKS

6.1.3 A PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF THE RISKS FOR INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES INTRODUCTION INTO BARBADOS AND THE OECS FROM TWO HIGH RISK PATHWAYS: INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND PASSENGER LUGGAGE (CABI)

Assessment of risks posed via agricultural commodities, used equipment and vehicles, tyres, wood and wood products and passenger luggage for the introduction of IAS into and between Barbados and the OECS.

Phillip Taylor[1], Kelvin Hughes[2] and Naitram Ramnanan[1]

The report related to the extent to which Barbados and the OECS countries were able to adhere to the ISPM standards for Food stuffs ISPM 23, Wooden packaging materials ISPM 15, Vehicles and equipment, ISPM 4. Philip Taylor, Kelvin Hughes and Naitram Ramnanan, visited the region in July 2023 interviewing phytosanitary staff and inspecting their facilities. Data was collected whereby Phytosanitary inspectors were asked to record all inspections for 3 months and submit data to CABI for analysis.

The bulk of fresh food imported to the islands is from outside the region, mostly from the USA, relatively little amounts are traded within the region. Whereas most of the consignments were pest-free there was a greater proportion of significant finds of pests and diseases on the material traded within the region. Over the course of the inspection period one country reported nearly 10% of inspected imports had an issue of some kind. There was little communication between Customs and excise with all Phytosanitary inspectors, reporting difficulty in getting data from customs. It would appear that only a very small proportion of the imported fresh produce was inspected. Number of inspections per country ranged between 6 and 1 per day.

The accommodation and the equipment provided for phytosanitary staff was generally poor with no internet access at ports in many cases. No literature or photos were provided for their benefit. Whilst all the countries had a quarantine pest list that identifies pest and diseases that would become invasive species were they to arrive, no pest risk analysis had taken place to identify the most likely pathways to increase surveillance activities. This situation was compounded by the fact that there was very little data sharing between the countries with regard quarantine pest lists and invasives already present.

The precision and accuracy of the diagnosis was poor, once a problem had been seen, often precision was at the phylum level and in several cases quite clearly incorrect. Generally, the physical and human resources seem inadequate to allow for the basic minimum levels of inspections to take place in a bio-secure facility to prevent the introduction of new invasive species into these islands. It seems that the NPO needed permission from policy makers as prior to informing other NPOs and International Agencies. Inspectors need to have the same level of authority as customs to do their jobs properly as arguments with importers were frequent.

Inspection of vehicles, tyres and wood packaging was not so well documented but many of the same problems were apparent. There were no recorded issues of biosecurity risks associated with these

commodities but certainly some of the dunnage was not treated. Those importing cars commercially had cleaned the cars extensively whereas those who were importing privately did not.

In a separate study the luggage of passengers arriving into the countries was selected and random and searched for biosecurity issues. The number of finds which had not been declared were low but nevertheless significant. It would appear that passengers bringing in biological material is a real albeit minor route for the potential entry of IAS.

AGENDA ITEM 6.0 INITIATIVES TOWARDS STRENGTHENING AND ADDRESSING PHYTOSANITARY SYSTEMS IN THE CARIBBEAN

6.2 UPDATE ON THE CPHD'S SAFEGUARDING TOOLS AND DATABASES

6.2.1 UPDATE OF THE CPHD FFMS, CBIS AND PeST CARIBBEAN (A. ALI)

Summary 2024 - CPHD Forum Website (www.cphdforum.org)

Background

Based on discussions and meetings held with the CPHD Executive, the decision was made to develop an independent website for the CPHD Forum, and as such, at the 8th Meeting of the CPHDForum the CPHD Website was launched with the domain name cphdforum.org. The website was developed with two separate portals; one portal for public viewing with the sole purpose of portraying the works and achievements of the CPHD to its stakeholders, whilst the second for secured members accessible only to registered members and authorized stakeholders of the CPHD Forum. This latter portal allows members to share technical information/documents and be kept updated on the progress of each of the Technical Working Groups and Sub-committees.

With the growth in the usage of social media for the broadcasting of information and public awareness, the CPHD strongly believes that this was an area in which to capitalize on. It is increasingly important that the Forum maintain a presence in this digital space and accordingly proposed an additional objective for 2019 be the creation, maintenance and content production of a CPHD Facebook page. The Facebook page was launched in 2019 and has been maintained since. Social media management, via Facebook, involves the creation of monthly content plans (10 posts per week).

The website is of importance since the formation of the CPHD Communications TWG at the 4th CPHD meeting in 2019. Since its launch, the websites (public and member) have:

- Increased the outreach for the forum;
- Provided a virtual window where the public and members can readily access
- CPHD information, as well as access links to websites of other regional organizations;
- Allowed for the generation of an automated monthly newsletter, with highlights of the
- latest news, events and content.

Since the launch of the CPHD Facebook page the public and members have benefited from the;

- Sharing of content relevant to the goals of the CPHD Forum to stakeholders and public;
- Promotion of activities/features of the CPHD Forum's members and partner organizations; and
- Response to user comments and forwarding and the response to questions posted;

Moreover, in 2020, a new data sharing platform was implemented which allowed all members of

the CPHD to access open aggregated shared fruit fly trapping data in the region. Also, a management reporting tool was included on the Online FFMS Sharing platform which displays high level statistics on FFMS usage.

In the latter part of 2023, we welcomed Guyana as the latest CPHD membership country to be participating in the Fruit Fly Monitoring System Online Open Sharing initiative.

The CPHD website platforms will continue to be a key communication tool for the:

- Implementation of the ongoing strategic changes and decisions coming out of the
- CPHD Communications and Visibility Plan and Strategic Plan.
- Maintenance of current pest alert guidance documents; emergency response plans, pest surveillance information, market access, and all other technical documentation
- Detailed listing of NPPO Contact Point information;
- Access to other related regional organizations including CAHFSA, CGPC, IPPC, etc.;
- Increased accessibility of pest information as provided by the CPHD Forum membership;
- Increased awareness of the CPHD by the public, members, internal and external stakeholders;
- Improved communication within the CPHD, thereby allowing the TWG's to more effectively complete annual work programs and produce desired deliverables with reduced need for face-to-face meetings;

2024 Update:

- ✓ Updated Public and Members websites with content provided
- ✓ Website Administration - Backup and Domain Maintenance and Administration
- ✓ Social (Facebook) Media Management
- ✓ Design of CPHD Forum bi-annual newsletters as a pro bono service
- ✓ Guyana was added to the Fruit Fly Regional Data Sharing Platform

Summary 2024 - Fruit Fly Monitoring System

Background

Fruit flies, from the genera Anastrepha, Ceratitis, and Bactrocera have been widespread throughout North America, Latin America and the Caribbean for many years and several species have been identified as restricting the export of tropical fruits from the region. To ensure safe trade of agricultural material from the Caribbean Region to the US and to provide scientific baseline data to support this much needed intra and extra regional trade, a database is needed to capture and standardize the diverse trapping data.

The Fruit Fly Monitoring System (FFMS) database is a cooperative initiative of the USDA APHIS IS Office and the CPHD Fruit Fly Technical Working Group. Its purpose is to store, display, and report on data from the Fruit Fly Trapping Program. The FFMS project followed the training sessions on trapping field methods, data collection, and identification in each of the participating countries, and included workshops on the use of a traditional Fruit Fly Database in 2012 - 2013, by the USDA APHIS.

The FFMS was developed to capture fruit fly trapping data in a centralized database. The system is an online secure web interface that allows users in their respective countries to enter fruit fly trapping data, generate monthly reports, create distribution maps and more. It is currently hosted on the new CPHD forum website and can only be accessed by authorized persons. The website is located at: https://www.fruitfly.cphdforum.org/.

Key features of the Fruit Fly Monitoring System are:

- Web-based application developed for the region
- Users can enter and validate Fruit Fly data
- Provide accessibility of information to all authorized users within each respective country
- To be used in the dynamic creation of reports and data analysis
- To be used as a management tool to review the performance of trappers and to easily view the status of Fruit Fly species within each country
- A centralized online database for the region

With the assistance of the countries participating in the exercise, the project was able to tighten the standardization of trapping data being collected by each of the participating countries.

In the upcoming year the FFMS will be enhanced in order to utilize the existing fruit fly data along with pertinent climate data to forecast the spread of fruit flies over a period of time.

This tool will allow the CPHD Member countries to foresee how the Fruit Fly population would spread due to climate change and will be a key early warning system for agricultural professionals, and policymakers about potential fruit fly outbreaks and spread. It will also allow for development and refinement of fruit fly management strategies thereby reducing economic losses due to reduced crop yields and quality and ensuring that agricultural products meet the phytosanitary standards required for export.

2024 Update

Since its inception, a total of 127,020 records of inspection data are in the system and this continues to grow daily.

- ✓ Continued support and training via Zoom
- ✓ Weekly administrative website and database backups
- ✓ Daily and weekly administrative website and database backups were performed
- ✓ Modification of the front-end interface (on Production Environment)

Enhancement of the Caribbean's capacity to collect, analyze and Report issues of Non-Compliance utilizing the Caribbean Biosecurity Interceptions System (CBIS)

Background

The CBIS is a database to log interceptions at ports of entry and was developed under the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI) under the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Project: "*Preventing the COSTS of IAS in Barbados and the OECS*". It is an Online (Web-based) system whereby member countries can record interceptions of various biosecurity risks encountered in their routine surveillance at their main ports of entry, in real time.

The main objective of the Caribbean Biosecurity Interceptions System is to provide accurate timely reports to identify recurring issues, reduce workload for staff and facilitate easier accessibility for all registered users. The data generated over time can then be used as a reliable source of information to assist with risk assessments; and better target surveillance. Indirectly, it will provide evidence of the biosecurity risks present in trading partners worldwide.

The system has standardized plant quarantine inspections data capture across participating countries, providing online interception data for easier access and reporting. Having an online system provides an alternative storage of interception data and an improvement in reporting capabilities in order to improve response to emergency situations.

Coming out of the 14th CPHD Forum's annual meeting, the CBIS was adopted for use in the Caribbean region and the project was formally handed over to the CPHD for ownership and long-term sustainability since the GEF/CABI project funding for the CBIS project ended.

CBIS was enhanced in 2022 with the purpose of being used as a tool for non-compliance reporting in the Region, and a pilot was conducted with Cayman Islands and Jamaica to test the system. In February 2023, a virtual training session on using the enhanced CBIS Application was conducted with seventeen (17) CPHD membership countries over a three (3) day period, with a total of thirty-eight (38) participants taking part in the sessions.

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) makes provision for contracting parties to report significant instances of non-compliance of consignments under the provisions for National Reporting Obligations (NROs). To enhance this provision the IPPC made available *International Standard for Phytosanitary Measure #13 (ISPM 13)* and the publication *The guide to National Reporting Obligations* (fao.org). With this underpinning knowledge, and the terms of reference of the project, a third phase of the project was embarked on to concretely assess the knowledge and practices of fulfilling of the National Reporting Obligations (NRO) of reporting the non-compliance of imported agricultural products with phytosanitary import requirements, including those related to documentation or to report appropriate emergency action, which is taken on the detection of pests in an imported consignment, in the 20 CPHD member counties.

The CBIS provides a range of functionalities and its **database structure** includes:

1. Capturing of Interception data at the Customs and Excise level, this includes wildlife/animals along with pest and diseases. The system also catered for accommodating a linkage with the University of the West Indies – Center for Biosecurity Studies (UWI-CBS) and the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (CARICOM IMPACS) Wildlife Crime database.
2. Capturing Inspection data at the Plant Quarantine level and the actions taken with the intercepted biomaterial.
3. Capturing National Non-Compliance data, analysis and reporting, based on the completed gap analysis
4. Managing Pest information along with the status of the Pest in the applicable Caribbean country such as if it is Regulated or Quarantined.
5. Various Reporting and Charting capabilities showing interception and inspection information. Charts displaying the analytical data on intercepted pests which shows the most prevalent or least prevalent pest/disease that has been intercepted over a period.

The system also provides a map which shows the intercepted pests by origin country. This would provide key analytical data on if a country has been a high exporter of pest/diseases or illegal animals.

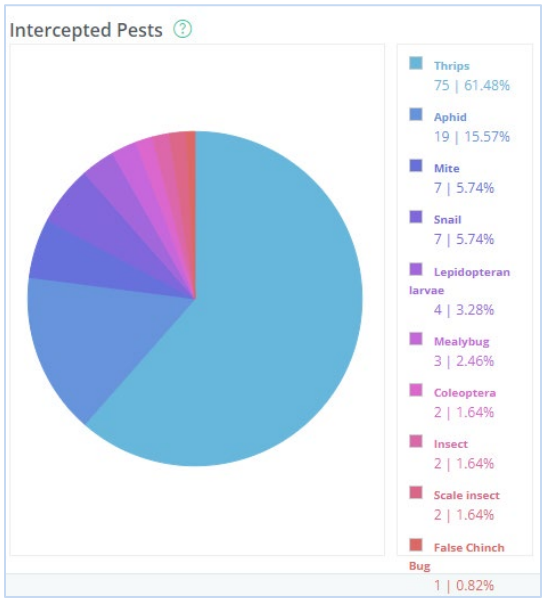
The addition of non-compliance reporting to the CBIS database can potentially provide a renewed focus on National Reporting Obligations (NROs) – i.e Non-Compliance recording and reporting, an alternative facility for storage of interception data, with secured access for data entry on any device at any location (e.g. ports) and an improvement in reporting capabilities in order to improve response to emergency situations related to trade. It can also provide analysis of non-compliance issues over time with an aim of measuring and calculating risk in a more meaningful way. Due to its mapping capabilities, it will provide data to better identify and analyze risk pathways for entry of pest, and if used to its full potential, enable linkages to other functional agencies – customs and animal health in one database. The Non-Compliance component which included the major Non-Compliance data capture form, email capability and reports were also added to the system.

Countries using CBIS
Antigua and Barbuda
Barbados
Cayman Islands
Dominica
Grenada
Guyana
Jamaica

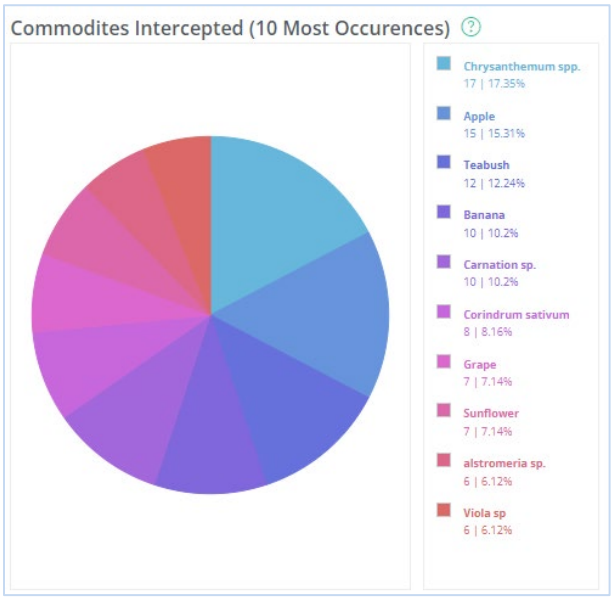
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

CBIS Usage as of July 2024

The CBIS Sharing Portal was also developed which allows members to view high-level interception information across membership countries.



Sharing Portal: Top Intercepted Pests as of July 2024



Sharing Portal: Top Intercepted Commodities as of July 2024

Going forward, the CBIS will be further enhanced to cater for Risk-based Sampling, building off the RBS concept paper done in FY 2021 and other RBS information and the USDA RBS Manual.

The inclusion of the RBS into CBIS will allow for full inspection of a statistically derived sample size which will offer a comprehensive view of non-compliance and enables more detailed analyses. Such analyses can better determine the frequency of pest detections, the effectiveness of interventions for a specific pathway, entity, or country, and the infestation levels within a shipment. This approach enhances the accuracy and reliability of assessments related to compliance and risk management.

This enhancement will realize the long-term vision of the CBIS informing and supporting the Risk Based Sampling considerations fueling results that will entail more efficient use of resources by focusing inspection effort on higher risk imports and less on lower risk imports.

Pest Surveillance Database for the Caribbean (PeST-Caribbean) – Update

Background

The Caribbean Plant Health Directors Forum has, through significant support and collaboration from the Greater Caribbean Safeguarding Initiative (GCSI), United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS IS), The University of the West Indies (UWI), Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI) and Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA), enabled countries in the Caribbean region to develop and/ or update their respective national pest lists. These national lists were further prioritized under the work plan of the Regional Priority Pest List (RPPL) – Working Group, a sub group of the CPHD Safeguarding Technical Working Group, to create the top 10 priority pest list for the Caribbean, which was later formally endorsed by the CPHD and then by COTED in 2018. The Caribbean top 10 priority pest list was subsequently compared to the USDA's 2015 Off Shore Pest List, which resulted in five (5) pests of mutual concern being identified in 2019. They were the Mediterranean Fruit Fly, the Tomato Leaf Miner, Bacteria Wilt of Potatoes, Citrus Canker and Citrus Leprosis virus.

To establish a more synchronized effort towards the creation of a region-wide defensive perimeter to prevent the introduction of, and to control, high-risk plant pests in the Greater Caribbean Region (GCR), as identified in both the Regional Priority Pest List and the Priority Pest List of Mutual Concern, the CPHD together with its regional partners began to rationalize and streamline the region's resources, efforts and activities geared towards early warning systems for its prioritized pest.

As a result, since 2019 to present, the CPHD has focused its safeguarding activities and projects on six organisms considered to pose significant threats the region, including the Mediterranean Fruit Fly, the Tomato Leaf Miner, Bacteria Wilt of Potatoes, Citrus Canker, Citrus Leprosis virus and Fusarium Wilt Tropical Race 4. Safeguarding activities comprise of a series of key components including; conducting pest risk analyses, providing training in pest diagnostics and surveillance for nineteen (19) countries, conducting surveillance activities for two (2) priority pests in fourteen (14) countries, preparing four (4) emergency response plans and conducting table top simulation exercises.

To further expand and build on the foundation laid through these coordinated and ongoing safeguarding initiatives, in 2021, the CPHD Forum developed and piloted, with the assistance of the CPHD's Web Developer, a tool on the CPHD members website designed similar to that of the USDA Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) and (NAPIS) programs, where the prioritization activity is conducted and priority pests are identified for focused attention, the ERPs for each pest is posted, surveillance protocols for each priority pest is developed and posted, identification tools/ resources are listed, and finally a surveillance data page / table designed to provide "at a glance" surveillance information per country based on several parameters including but not limited to – pest identification capacity (trained / not trained), surveillance activity/ phase e.g.- detection, delimiting etc., number of areas under surveillance, number of traps in the field, areas under surveillance (ports, fields etc.), and point of contact.

This information will be populated monthly and will most importantly, give the region a quick overview of aggregate and relevant key surveillance information for priority pests.

The system was built with data entry forms that enable capture of high-level pest surveillance tracking data and training was conducted for, and pilot initiated in the chosen pilot country, St. Kitts and Nevis in 2022. In February 2024, the Pest-Caribbean system was rolled out to CPHD membership countries via virtual training sessions conducted over a 3-day period with forty-five accounts being created. The Pest-Caribbean Sharing Portal was also developed which allows members to view high-level survey information being conducted across membership countries.

Note that the survey data being shown in this portal do not indicate whether or not a pest/disease is present or absent in the countries but instead, showcases the survey efforts being undertaken in the countries as part of their safeguarding activities.

AGENDA ITEM 8.0 CAPACITY BUILDING & REGIONAL INITIATIVES: REPORTS FROM PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS AND COLLABORATING AGENCIES ON PLANT HEALTH PROJECTS AND FUTURE PLANNING

8.3 IICA

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR THE COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA) – PLANT HEALTH INTERVENTIONS IN THE CARIBBEAN REGION

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is the specialized agency for agriculture of the Inter-American System that supports the efforts of Member States to achieve agricultural development and rural well-being. IICA delivers it made through four strategic objectives and seven programmes.

The Agricultural Health, Safety and Agrifood Quality Programme under which plant health interventions fall focuses on: (i) promoting agrifood systems, (ii) operating in a productive, competitive and sustainable agriculture sector and (iii) supplying safe food to local, regional and global markets, through the development, improvement and implementation of policies on agricultural health, safety and agrifood quality. The Programme has the following goals:

i. Foster technical and institutional improvements in agricultural health and food safety systems (AHFS).
ii. Harmonize, update and implement science-based health, safety and quality standards.
iii. Develop capacities to adopt best practices and to tackle emerging issues.

Technical cooperation actions are reported within the context of the three goals outlined.

FOSTER TECHNICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL IMPROVEMENTS IN AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY SYSTEMS (AHFS)

(i) Greater Caribbean Safeguarding Initiative (GCSI)

Since 2012, IICA has worked with APHIS PPQ and IS to implement the Greater Caribbean Safeguarding Initiative (GCSI) which aims to protect the United States and the Caribbean against the entry, establishment and spread of pests and facilitate the safe trade of agricultural products through capacity building actions. In 2023-2024, under the GCSI IICA led projects, key achievements included:

- Strengthened Capacity of National Emergency Response Systems. Towards improving the capacity countries to assess their emergency response systems as it relates to priority pests of mutual concern to the Caribbean and the United States a series of tools (training materials, videos) are being developed. These tools complement the Emergency Response Plans for Priority Pests (Citrus Canker, Citrus Leprosis, Tomato Leaf Miner and Potato Brown Rot) and the Guidelines for the conduct of Tabletop Exercises developed (2020-2021). Towards further strengthening safeguarding systems in the region, a tabletop simulation was conducted in Barbados for the Tomato Leaf Miner. Six countries

have now evaluated their emergency response systems for incursions by priority pests. Currently an additional four countries are being targeted to conduct these important simulations.

- Improved the Capacity of the Caribbean Region to Identify Plant Parasitic Nematodes Impacting Productivity and Trade. Given the importance of plant parasitic nematodes to the region, in collaboration with the University of Florida, over the past two years efforts have been made to improve the capacity of countries in the areas of diagnostics and surveillance. In October 2023, the capacity of the staff of National Plant Protection Organisations (NPPOs) was built in the diagnostics, surveillance, and management of plant parasitic nematodes through a study tour (to the Department of Entomology and Nematology, University of Florida). Four countries participated – Belize, Guyana, Jamaica and Saint Lucia. All participants rated the capacity building action as "excellent" and identified the areas in which they would utilise the new knowledge gained. This intervention has further strengthened the cadre of plant health professionals who are able to work on nematodes impacting production and trade.

- Safeguarding the coconut industry through improved preparedness to manage pest incursions. In collaboration with CARDI, IICA is undertaking activities to safeguard the coconut industry in the Greater Caribbean by improving the preparedness of countries to manage potential incursions of the Red Ring Nematode, *Rhadinaphelenchus cocophilus* and its vector, the South American Palm Weevil, *Rhynchophorus palmarum*. This will be achieved through the development of an Emergency Response Plan and the conduct of tabletop simulation exercise for this important pest complex.

- Strengthened pest exclusion: fusarium oxysporum f. sp. cubense tropical race 4 (foc tr 4) exclusion in the Caribbean region**.** Towards preparing countries to safeguard their borders from Foc TR4, under a CPHD Forum led project 5,000 plantlets of suitable TR4 tolerant banana plants variety Formosana F-218 were procured from Galiltec (Honduras) and shipped to 5 countries for evaluation; including St Kitts and Nevis. IICA has technical oversight for the trial in St Kitts and Nevis and received the plants (in vitro) in November 2023. The plants were transplanted into seedling trays and of the 1,000 plants received, 874 survived. The plants were planted on farms in both St Kitts and Nevis (May-July 2024).

(ii) ***11th European Development Fund (EDF) Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures Project***

The 11th EDF Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures Project for which IICA served as the executing agency came to an end on July 31, 2024. The Project sought to increase compliance by CARIFORUM States with international SPS measures, standards and procedures to increase international and regional market access. The Project focused on: i) furthering the development of the SPS regulatory environment in CARIFORUM Countries; ii) strengthening public and private sector capacity to comply with SPS measures, standards, and procedures; and iii) strengthening SPS capacity in the fisheries sector. In relation to plant health related activities, project achievements during the period 2023-2024 included:

- Improved AHFS Policy Advocacy. In relation to strengthening the regional regulatory environment, a Regional AHFS Policy and Action Plan and a National AHFS Policy Framework were developed and endorsed by COTED in 2022. In April 2024, a Regional Policy Advocacy workshop was held

"*Strengthening Regional and National AHFS Policy Coherence through Advocacy*" in Trinidad and Tobago to further support the implementation of the Regional and National AHFS Policy.

- Improved Coordination of AHFS Services. The status of National AHFS Coordination was evaluated using the 28-element self-assessment tool that was previously developed. This tool was first used in 2021 and reapplied between May and June 2024. Ten countries participated in the exercise and all countries showed some level of improvement in one or more areas of AHFS Coordination. The top three areas where countries showed improvement included the areas of Harmonization, Responses to AHFS emergencies and the choice of intervention strategies and approaches. Common areas for improvement included record keeping and information sharing as well as traceability of products.

- Improved capacity in GAP Audit. Towards strengthening the competence of public and private sector professionals in the area of GAP Auditing, an e-course and Manual were developed. The course covers the principles and practice of GAP Auditing and targets in the main extension and field officers, and producers. This course has been offered twice and will continue to be available via IICA's e-learning platform.

- Strengthened laboratory testing capacity for improved market access. A study was successfully completed to document the tests required for the trade of agricultural commodities (plant and animal products, fresh and processed) in local, regional, and international markets and the capability and capacity of national, and regional laboratories to provide these required tests. As a result of this study four laboratories were upgraded to improve their capacities for undertaking the required tests.

- Improved Capacity to Support Manage Cadmium Levels in Cocoa (Trinidad and Tobago). In response to the introduction of European Union (EU) regulations that stipulate stringent maximum levels (MLs) for cadmium content in chocolate and cocoa products imported into the EU market interventions were undertaken to strengthen knowledge sharing across cocoa growing countries and the mitigation of cadmium in cocoa and cocoa products.

HARMONIZE, UPDATE AND IMPLEMENT SCIENCE-BASED HEALTH, SAFETY AND QUALITY STANDARDS

(i) IPPC Standards Review Sessions and Inter-American Group for Coordination in Plant Health (GICSV)

- For several years FAO, IPPC Secretariat, CAHFSA and IICA have promoted active and effective participation of Caribbean countries in the multi-lateral trade regulatory system. Within this context, IICA collaborated with these partners to successfully host the IPPC Regional Workshop for the Caribbean in August 2023.

- The Inter-American Group for Plant Health Coordination (GICSV, as abbreviated in Spanish) aligns with and builds off these events, providing a forum for RPPOs of the Americas to develop technical work plans, address key and emerging issues, and improve coordination in strategic areas. IICA continued to serve as the Technical Secretariat of the group.

(ii) ***Representation at international SPS fora***

- Towards strengthening the capacities of Member Countries for effective implementation of the WTO SPS Agreement and active, useful participation of member countries in international SPS forums a series of actions were conducted. IICA's on-going Codex Initiative during the past year, hosted Regional virtual meetings on specific Codex standards.

DEVELOP CAPACITIES TO ADOPT BEST PRACTICES AND TO TACKLE EMERGING ISSUES

- Evaluating the Impact of Pesticide Maximum Residue Levels on trade. With support from the Government of Canada, a study is being conducted to determine the issues facing CARICOM countries as it relates to compliance of pesticide MRLs and possible solutions to mitigate the challenges identified. Based on the outcomes of the study, a pilot to address one of the priorities issues identified will be undertaken.

AGENDA ITEM 8.0 CAPACITY BUILDING & REGIONAL INITIATIVES: REPORTS FROM PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS AND COLLABORATING AGENCIES ON PLANT HEALTH PROJECTS AND FUTURE PLANNING

8.8 CARDI

Summary of Plant Health- relevant activities in CARDI's Current Work Programme

Plant health is not a stand-alone programme in CARDI's Strategic Plan but rather a component among relevant value chain services, towards commodity development. The priority plant commodities of focus for CARDI, remain, Coconut, Roots and Tuber Crops, Hot Pepper and Cereals and Grain Legumes. CARDI seeks to contribute to the development of a more resilient, innovative and sustainable agro-food system, which adequately meets the region's food security and nutritional needs as well as to support the '25 by 2025' regional initiative.

The Institute's core activities continue to involve making required interventions along the value chain for farm to market impact. Other components of the Institute's corporate strategy are: communication for knowledge dissemination and public education; digital transformation; and continuous institutional strengthening.

The portfolio of relevant projects for this reporting period includes continuing and new initiatives. The EU-funded regional coconut project emphasizing Integrated Pest Management, planting material availability, climate smart agriculture and value-addition; wrapped up field activities in April 2024. However, focus on coconut continues under the HIT RESET[1] project, evaluating the use IoTree sensors for early warning and real-time digital monitoring of South American Palm Weevil infestation in coconut fields. Another innovative solution tested, was a solar-powered wailer/bird squawker sound deterrent system to reduce losses (in vegetables, cocoa, and other tree crops) caused by Cocrico and parrots in Tobago. The CDB-funded regional sweet potato value chain project is also continuing, with the implementation of activities towards improved technology transfer and adoption and increased availability of market preferred- *(climate resilient, high productivity and suitable for processing)* varieties. Other challenges in root crops, being addressed through research include: postharvest losses in dasheen and the emergent problem of yam rust in the region, affecting production of *Dioscorea* species and availability of planting material in some countries.

Soil fertility management is a key component in mitigating adverse effects of pest pressure on plants. Efforts are underway to utilize Sargassum seaweed as a resource for developing fertilizers and compost while addressing environmental impacts.

[1] *HIT RESET* -Harnessing Innovative Technologies to Support Resilient Settlements on the Coastal Zones of the Caribbean

Other notable projects include an integrated land management project in The Bahamas, geared towards combatting land degradation and enhancing food security through restorative practices. Vegetable evaluation projects are also being conducted in multiple countries to identify suitable varieties to improve local production and productivity and for climate adaptability. In Barbados, some work is being done to improve productivity of papaya in the face of decline due to bunchy top.

Regional collaborations have also been undertaken between and among organizations. In 2022, the Regional Pest Prioritization (RPPL) Technical Working Group of the Caribbean Plant Health Directors Forum, updated the regional Priority Pest List for the Caribbean. The Red Ring Nematode, *Rhadinaphelenchus cocophilus* was prioritized in the top ten pests of concern. Its vector, *Rhynchophorus palmarum* (South American Palm Weevil) was also previously prioritized. To improve the preparedness of countries in the Greater Caribbean Region to safeguard their borders from these incursions, IICA has partnered with CARDI to develop an Emergency Response Plan and conduct tabletop simulations. This will be funded under the Greater Caribbean Safeguarding Initiative (GCSI) Cooperative Agreement 2024.

Within and the Caribbean region, there are concerns about emerging pests and diseases (e.g. African Swine Fever -ASF, *Fusarium oxysporum f. cubense* Tropical Race 4 -TR4, and Lethal Yellowing of Coconuts and the Giant African Snail) which have the potential of stymying the achievement of food nutrition security goals, economic development, trade and the ecosystems of countries.

A hybrid session was convened by CAHFSA in partnership with CARDI, IICA and CPHD during CWA 2023, to create greater awareness of these important transboundary diseases among agricultural stakeholders. Also, a technical session funded by the Coconut project, was convened to provide an interactive forum to sensitize the wider public to the challenges regarding the movement of commodity and commodity planting material within the Region and amongst member states and introduce them to available guidelines and ongoing initiatives.

These projects and collaborations collectively, seek to safeguard the region, strengthen the region's adaptability to climate change, improve food production and support rural agricultural communities.

AGENDA ITEM 8.0 CAPACITY BUILDING & REGIONAL INITIATIVES: REPORTS FROM PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS AND COLLABORATING AGENCIES ON PLANT HEALTH PROJECTS AND FUTURE PLANNING

8.12 UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA

University of Guyana: Plant Health Focus.

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The University of Guyana (UG) has positioned itself as a crucial institution in South America and the Caribbean, particularly in the area of agricultural sciences and plant health. Understanding the importance of sustainable agriculture for food security and environmental stability and the need to be viable in regional and international trade, the University has always made plant health a key area of research and academic emphasis.

Out of the 42 courses available in the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry (FAF), approximately 15 focus on the importance of plant health. key courses in this area include Principles of Crop Production, Principles of Plant Breeding, Agricultural Microbiology, Plant Pathology, Soil and Plant Nutrition, Soil Chemistry, and Forest Protection, among others.

The university's commitment to plant health extends beyond academic instructions. The academic staff and students at the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry are actively involved in various research projects. These include the utilization of botanical and microbial solutions for managing insect pests and diseases, virus indexing of sweet potato cultivars, exploring the ecology and biology of pathogens to protect the forests, and the clonal propagation of certain fruit crops. Additionally, optimizing fertilizer application rates to improve both plant and soil health, to widen our understanding of the factors that affect crop productivity are among some of our research activities.

We also partner with local agricultural agencies such as, but not limited to, the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institution (NAREI) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) as well as international universities such as Purdue University and University of Arkansas–Pine Bluff to facilitate research initiatives that aim to address the specific needs within the agricultural sector. These collaborative efforts are essential in fostering innovation and promoting plant health.

This interdisciplinary approach not only nurtures research and education but also contributes to the development of effective strategies to combat some of the challenges of plant health in agricultural Guyana.

AGENDA ITEM 10.0 SPECIAL JOINT TECHNICAL PRESENTATION SESSION

10.1 ONGOING PEST EXCLUSION, MANAGEMENT AND SAFEGUARDING ACTIVITIES

10.1.1. UPDATE ON THE DETECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF TEMPORARY INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN FLY IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC – MEDFLY EXPERIENCE IN THE DR: HOW THE EMERGENCY WAS ADDRESSED, LESSONS LEARNT AND BEST PRACTICES, DECLARATION OF PEST-FREE STATUS (DOM REP)

Background: On November 2014 Ceratitis *capitata* (Mediterranean fruit fly or Medfly) was detected in Punta Cana during regular surveillance activities. In March 2015 Medfly was officially reported and an eradication protocol was activated. In March 2015 the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued a federal order prohibiting the importation of 18 agricultural products from the DR. The MOSCAMED-RD program was developed to respond to the emergency and implement control/eradication activities. The program received international cooperation USDA/APHIS, IAEA, FAO, OIRSA, IICA, MOSCAMED (USA-Guatemala and Mexico). The DR successfully eradicated the pest and declared itself free in July 2017. The MOSCAMED-RD program continued with an extensive nationwide trapping and surveillance network.

Current situation: the national surveillance system detected a specimen of *Ceratitis capitata* on December 28, 2023 in Punta Cana. Within the first 10 days of detection the specimen was confirmed and organizations were officially notified, including USDA/ APHIS, OIRSA , FAO. On January 5, 2024, the emergency plan for eradication was activated and included several activities. **Trapping/fruit sampling included:** Jackson traps with multilure (20 traps/km^2), Phase-4 trap with biolure (5 traps/km^2), during the sterile male medfly release phase, and C&C trap with trimelure (20 traps/km^2). **Chemical control:** using spinosad sprays and bait stations with hydrolyzed protein. **Release of sterile males:** 72 million in total released by ground. **Internal quarantine:** 3 vehicle checkpoints were stablished. **Laboratory:** identification of adults, immature stages, and differentiation of wild/sterile specimens. **Outreach/communication:** official information for the public. **A Subregional Simulation Exercise "*RD success story in the eradication of the Mediterranean fly"*** was held in Punta Cana (DR) from July 15-19, 2024, with the participation of 13 countries. From January 23, 2024, to date there have been no detections of *Ceratitis capitata.* Twenty-Four (24) weeks of sterile male releases have been completed as established by the protocol. Verification trapping will be carried out to declare the eradication of the temporary introduction of *Ceratitis capitata* in mid-September 2024.

AGENDA ITEM 10.0 SPECIAL JOINT TECHNICAL PRESENTATION SESSION

10.1 ONGOING PEST EXCLUSION, MANAGEMENT AND SAFEGUARDING ACTIVITIES

10.1.2. OVERVIEW ON THE MANAGEMENT OF CROTON SCALE IN GRENADA (GRD)

Management of the Croton Scale Insect (*Phalacrococcus howertoni*) in Grenada

By

Thaddeaus Peters, Pest Management Officer

Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry and Marine Resources

INTRODUCTION

The Croton Scale Insect infestation was first detected in Grenada in May 2020 and was later confirmed as *Phalacrococcus howertoni* (Hodges and Hodgson 2010) by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, USA. The initial infestation was in the St. George's parish in the south of the island with simultaneous interceptions in the nearby villages of La Mode, Tempe and River Road. The infestation moved gradually to the north along the east and west coasts. The pathway of introduction was determined to be ornamental plants imported from the USA.

HOST

Over 70 plant species have been described as host to the Croton scale (Hodges and Hodgson 2010). Although a comprehensive study on host was not undertaken in Grenada, the following plants were the main ones infested:
Croton (*Codiaeum variegatum*), soursop (*Annona muricata*), mango (*Mangifera indica*), plums (*Spondias purpurea*), guava (*Psidium guajava*), sugar apple (*Annona squamosa*), avocado (*Persea americana*), frangipani.

DESCRIPTION

Left: Croton scale infested soursop, plums, mango
Photo: T. Peters

PHYTOSANITARY RESPONSE

Pest Identification: Three sets of samples each taken from separate locations were submitted to Dr Mohammad Ahmed of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. They were all identified as *Phalacrococcus howertoni*

Rapid survey: A rapid survey was conducted to determine the initial distribution of the pest.

Training Technical Staff: Training sessions were held with MOA technical staff at the Extension district level.

Pesticide treatments: The initial response included the use of insecticides to reduce the very high levels of infestation. The range of products used were effective at killing the croton scale. They included the products listed in the table below.

Table 1: List of Insecticides used to treat Croton scale infestation in Grenada

Trade name	Common name	Group	MoA
Protect	Imidicloprid	Neo-nicotinoid	Systemic
Caprid	Acetamiprid	Neo-nicotinoid	Systemic
Delta M	Deltamethrin	Pyrethroid	Contact
Fastac	Alpa-Cypermethrin	Pyrethroid	Contact
Advance 10	Pyriproxyfen	IGR	
Neemex/Bioneem	Azadirachtin	Botanical	Contact
Cure	Abamectin	Avermectin	Contact/Systemic
Citrus soluble Oil	Mineral Oil	Horticultural Oil	Contact

- Two cycle treatments at 10-14 day intervals were applied
- The pyrethroids were mainly used in situations where there was a high infestation of ants
- Observations indicate that there was a faster removal of sooty mold with Neem products
- During the early outbreak, re-infestation occurred within 3- 5 months

Biological: At least three species of ladybird beetles were found associated with croton scale infestation. Among them were *Cryptolaemus montrouzieri* and *Chilocorus sp*. The former was released extensively between 1995 and 1997 during the Pink hibiscus mealybug (*Maconellicoccus hirsutus*) outbreak. Twenty-five thousand *C. montrouzieri* was imported from Associate Insectary, California, USA and released to augment the local population.

In 2022 a natural enemy of Croton scale survey was conducted with technical support from CABI, Plantwise program. This was repeated in May 2024. Two parasitoids and a snout moth (determined to be *Laetilia sp*) were among the natural enemies detected.

Public Awareness:

- One 45 infomercial video was aired on commercial stations and social media
- A 5-minute video has also been prepared for on GIS and social media
- A technical factsheet distributed to stakeholders at exhibitions and other events

Infestation status: Currently, the situation has vastly improved, with no signs of croton scale in previously infested areas. In places where it is found the intensity is much lower and economically manageable.

CONCLUSION: The combination of selective pesticides use and the work of biological control agents have contributed to the significant decline of the Croton scale population in Grenada.

ACKNOWLEGDEMENTS: Thanks to the Ministry of Agriculture-Grenada, Technical and administrative staff; The CABI Plantwise personnel (Dr. Yelitza Colmenarez, Guilherme Trivellato, Dr. Guillermo Cabrera Walsh); Dr. Mohammad Ahmed (FDACS).

AGENDA ITEM 10.0 SPECIAL JOINT TECHNICAL PRESENTATION SESSION

10.1 ONGOING PEST EXCLUSION, MANAGEMENT AND SAFEGUARDING ACTIVITIES

10.1.3 SYSTEMS APPROACH FOR MANGO EXPORT IN SURINAME (SUR)

Authors: Alies van Sauers-Muller, Rewish Somai
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Background and Rationale

Prior to 2016, mango export from Suriname to the European Union (EU) involved fruit harvested from various districts. Due to multiple notifications regarding fruit fly infestations, the origin of the mangoes was restricted to district Nickerie district starting in 2016, where fruit fly populations are naturally low. This resulted in zero notifications in subsequent years.

Regulatory Changes

With the introduction of the new directive ((EC) 2019/523) and regulation (EU 2019/2072), the EU mandated that mango exports comply with specific phytosanitary standards, ranging from Pest Free Area (PFA) to Systems Approach (SA). Suriname temporarily halted mango exports to establish a comprehensive trapping system and implement additional phytosanitary measures.

Phytosanitary Measures

Low Pest Prevalence Area (ALPP): District Nickerie characterized by wet clay soils and wetland rice culture, inherently supports low fruit fly populations.

Mango Variety: Only the 'Roodborstje' variety, less susceptible to fruit fly infestation, is approved for export.
Fruit Sorting: Exporters conduct thorough sorting to ensure fruit quality.
Traceability: The NPPO employs a traceability system linking farmers, buyers, exporters, and the NPPO.

Resumption of Mango Export

In December 2023, mango exports resumed under the Systems Approach, combining an ALPP for fruit flies (***Bactrocera carambolae*** and ***Anastrepha obliqua***) and a PFA for mango seed weevil (***Sternochetus mangiferae***).

AGENDA ITEM 10.0 SPECIAL JOINT TECHNICAL PRESENTATION SESSION

10.1 ONGOING PEST EXCLUSION, MANAGEMENT AND SAFEGUARDING ACTIVITIES

10.1.4 UPDATE OF *P. ABSOLUTA* MANAGEMENT EFFORTS IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO (TTO)

Phthorimaea absoluta, formally called *Tuta absoluta* or tomato leaf miner was confirmed to be present in Trinidad in 2022. This pest has not been recorded to be present in Tobago.
This moth is an invasive pest of solanaceous crops including; tomato, peppers and melongene with the main host being tomato.

Phthorimaea absoluta damages solanaceous plants at all stages of growth (seedlings, immature, mature) by mining and boring into buds, stems, leaves and fruits. Affected fruits become unmarketable and can result in 80 -100% yield losses.

Since confirmation the Research Division, Ministry of Agriculture Land and Fisheries implemented an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programme to combat this invasive species. This included public awareness campaigns (to educate farmers and stakeholders), implementation of pheromone mass-trapping (as a method of control), execution of monitoring/ surveillance activities, promotion of cultural practices (crop rotation, field sanitation) and chemical control.
Mass-trapping, monitoring and surveillance activities continue in 2024 since, the pest is under regulated control.

AGENDA ITEM 10.0 SPECIAL JOINT TECHNICAL PRESENTATION SESSION

10.2 EMERGING PRIORITY PLANT PEST ISSUES FOR THE CARIBBEAN

10.2.1 OVERVIEW OF THE BROWN RUGOSE VIRUS AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CARIBBEAN REGION AND TRADE (JAM)

Presentation abstract – *Tomato brown rugose fruit virus*

Tomato brown rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV) is fast becoming of one the most important viruses affecting tomato and pepper production worldwide. First isolated on greenhouse tomatoes in Israel in 2014, it has since spread to other countries, with new detections almost every year. As with other Tobamoviruses, it is stable outside of its host and can remain infectious on numerous surfaces over long periods of time, which contributed to its rapid spread. What makes this virus significant, is its ability to overcome the Tm resistance genes (three) in tomato and the L resistant alleles (two) in pepper, leading to devastating outbreaks, severe reduction in yields, and very unmarketable produce when formed. In this presentation we discuss the characteristics of ToBRFV, including its discovery and distribution, current detection methods and, of major importance, prevention and management strategies that could help mitigate ToBRFV if detected within the Region.

AGENDA ITEM 10.0 SPECIAL JOINT TECHNICAL PRESENTATION SESSION

10.2 EMERGING PRIORITY PLANT PEST ISSUES FOR THE CARIBBEAN

10.2.2 COTTON JASSID (*AMRASCA BIGUTTULA*) AN EMERGING PEST IN THE CARIBBEAN (USDA APHIS)

Presenters:
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In 2023, an outbreak of the cotton jassid*, Amrasca biguttula*, was discovered near the town of Juana Díaz in southern Puerto Rico. Females, males, and nymphs were observed feeding on and damaging leaves of cotton plants. In 2024, cotton jassid was also detected in Barbados and the U.S. Virgin Islands. These are the first official reports of cotton jassid in the Western Hemisphere.

Cotton jassid is native to northern Africa, the Middle East, and much of Asia. In addition to the Caribbean, it has also been recently reported from several countries in West Africa. Cotton jassids are polyphagous and feed on a wide variety of plants, including weeds, ornamentals, crops, fruits, and vegetables. The primary hosts on which cotton jassid causes economic damage include cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum*), eggplant/brinjal/aubergine (*Solanum melongena*), okra (*Abelmoschus esculentus*), and sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*). Feeding on host plants by the cotton jassid causes chlorosis and discoloration of leaves, damage that is often referred to as “hopperburn.” Although there is no evidence that this species vectors viruses or pathogens, direct yield loss due to damage by cotton jassid has been reported to be as high as 40% in cotton and as high as 55–75% in okra. Cotton jassid can become resistant to insecticides, so an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach is needed for effective control.

Identification of cotton jassid can be difficult because of its small size and overall similarity to other leafhoppers. Cotton jassids are pale green, 2.4–3.0 mm in length, and have a pair of small black dots on the head and a single dark mark on each forewing. This combination of characters is sufficient to identify a specimen as a possible cotton jassid, but examination of the male genitalia by a specialist is required for positive identification. Other species of leafhoppers in the same tribe (Empoascini) found in the Caribbean include the potato leafhopper, *Empoasca fabae*, which is similar in size and appearance but lacks the black spots on the head and wings. Because of its small size, plant damage caused by cotton jassid may be noticed before the actual insects are detected. Surveying and monitoring for cotton jassid involves general methods used for collecting leafhoppers, including sweep nets, light traps, and yellow sticky cards.

Suspect cotton jassids can be submitted to the Caribbean Pest Diagnostic Network (CPDN) for further determination. Submissions should be placed through the registered CPDN user(s) for your specific country. Initial submissions of digital photos should attempt to show the size and colour of the

specimen(s) and any markings on the head or wings. If specimens are needed, be sure to collect enough specimens to ensure one or more adult males are present. Information on CPDN and instructions for submission are found here: https://cpdn.ifas.ufl.edu.

AGENDA ITEM 10.0 SPECIAL JOINT TECHNICAL PRESENTATION SESSION

10.2 EMERGING PRIORITY PLANT PEST ISSUES FOR THE CARIBBEAN

10.2.3 GETTING FAMILIAR WITH *FUSARIUM OXYSPORUM F. SP. PALMARUM* (UFL)

***Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp. *palmarum*: a new disease of ornamental palm trees**

Since 2004, a new lethal disease of two ornamental palm species, *Syagrus romanzoffiana* (queen palm) and Washingtonia robusta (Mexican fan palm), has been observed in the South of Florida (US). S. *romanzoffia*na and *W. robusta* are widely planted in Florida landscapes because they are relatively cold tolerant and resistant to Coconut lethal yellowing phytoplasma. On affected S. romanzoffiana and W. robusta, the initial foliar symptom is a one-sided chlorosis or necrosis of older palms, with a distinct reddish-brown stripe along the petiole and rachis, associated with a discoloration of internal tissues. The entire canopy then becomes desiccated and necrotic but does not collapse. Palms are rapidly killed within 2 to 3 months of the onset of symptoms.

Studies (morphology, molecular characteristics, pathogenicity) showed that the causal agent is a new forma specialis of *Fusarium oxysporum* which has been designated as *Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp. palmarum. Comparison with other Fusarium wilt disease agents (i.e. *F. oxysporum f.sp. albedinis, F. oxysporum f.sp. canariensis, F. oxysporum f.sp. elaeidis*) showed that its closest relative was *F. oxysporum* f.sp. albedinis. In these studies, most samples were obtained from palms that had been planted in the landscape for 5 to 20 years. However, some juvenile palms showing disease symptoms have also been found in three nurseries (1 container nursery and 2 field nurseries), but as affected plants quickly died, they could not be marketed.

Detection of Fusarium oxysporum from diseased samples is routinely conducted using a molecular diagnostic assay based on the translation elongation factor (tef1) gene, but it cannot distinguish between the four formae speciales. Efforts to identify unique regions in the mitochondrial and nuclear genome sequences of Fusarium oxysporum f.sp. palmarum and leverage those to develop an effective and specific diagnostic assay are ongoing.

It is not known how the disease spreads in the landscape, but it is suspected that wind-blown spores could play a major role and that contaminated pruning tools could also transmit the pathogen from one palm to another. More studies are needed to better understand the epidemiology of the disease and to determine possible control measures.

AGENDA ITEM 10.0 SPECIAL JOINT TECHNICAL PRESENTATION SESSION

10.4 OTHER RELEVANT PLANT HEALTH PROTECTION AND PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES – NETWORKS AND CONCEPTS

10.4.1 U.S. MARKET ACCESS PROCESS AND PHYTOSANITARY IRRADIATION

Patricia Abad, Deputy Director for the Western Hemisphere, Phytosanitary Issues Management

The mission of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is to safeguard U.S. agricultural and natural resources by preventing the entry and spread of exotic pests and diseases of animals and plants. Within APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), the national plant protection organization of the United States, the unit within PPQ that is responsible for communication with other national plant protection organizations is Phytosanitary Issues Management (PIM). PIM works to resolve import and export phytosanitary issues for plants and plant products in collaboration with other units in PPQ and APHIS. The types of trade issues covered include new market access for plant products, the expansion of existing markets, and the retention of markets. Phytosanitary Issues Management sends official letters that are delivered through our USDA APHIS International Services (IS) members in the region.

On the imports' side, APHIS' Agricultural Commodity Import Requirements (ACIR) database provides a listing of the approved agricultural commodities into the United States by country. To obtain market access to the United States for a fruit, vegetable, plant, or plant product that is not already an approved commodity from a particular country, the commodity must go through APHIS' Plant Commodity Import Approval Process, which can be a multi-step and multi-year process due to the scientific, technical and regulatory steps involved, in accordance with international standards. This process may begin with the competent authority of a foreign government officially requesting market access for a particular commodity. APHIS conducts its commodity approval process in accordance with science/ technical information, its available resources, the priority based on the competent authority of the foreign government, and while balancing multiple import-related requests from 180 plus trading partners.

APHIS' Plant Commodity Import Approval Process begins with a formal request from the exporting country/ trading partner's national plant protection organization (NPPO) for U.S. market access that includes prerequisite technical information about the commodity, including a pest list. In accordance with priorities and resources, APHIS then conducts a Pest Risk Assessment for the commodity which once developed and approved, is shared with the public and the exporting country for a 30-day stakeholder comment period. APHIS then provides proposed risk management measures (import requirements) for the commodity to the trading partner. After completion of the Pest Risk Assessment and Risk Management phases (where the exporting country has agreed to the import requirements), the Regulatory Administrative Process begins. APHIS will then develop and publish, upon approvals, an Initial Federal Register notice with 60 days for stakeholder comments, and once comments are addressed, this is followed by the development, approval and publication of a Final Federal Register notice. PPQ will also work with the exporting country to sign any operational work plans or other agreements, and to complete operational steps, as needed.

The United States supports the use of irradiation as a phytosanitary treatment for plant products. There are several technical, regulatory, and operational actions to complete before a commodity can be approved to be shipped to the United States using irradiation as a phytosanitary treatment option. In addition to requiring a technical evaluation and APHIS' Regulatory Administrative notice-based process, APHIS also requires several bilaterally signed documents including a Framework Equivalency Work Plan, an operation work plan for irradiation, and an addendum for the specific commodity. Please feel free to reach out to PIM, including via APHIS-IS, if you have any phytosanitary trade inquiries on import or export topics.

AGENDA ITEM 10.0 SPECIAL JOINT TECHNICAL PRESENTATION SESSION

10.4 OTHER RELEVANT PLANT HEALTH PROTECTION AND PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES – NETWORKS AND CONCEPTS

10.4.2 NEMATODE PRIORITIZATION CONCEPT (UFL)

Priority Nematode Pests in Global and Caribbean Agriculture

Plant-parasitic nematodes (PPN) are a diverse group of pests that significantly impact agricultural systems worldwide. These pests damage a wide range of crops and ornamental plants, causing substantial economic losses for farmers and posing a significant threat to global food security. Developing sustainable management options to minimize their impact on crops and improve yields can be challenging due to the wide host range, life cycles, and feeding strategies. Knowledge about these nematodes is critical in managing them and minimizing yield losses. Accurate nematode identification and understanding of their life cycles, preferred hosts, and dispersal methods can help farmers implement targeted control measures. We conducted a comprehensive analysis of nematode research over six decades. This involved extracting and in-depth analysis of nematode-related keywords from a comprehensive corpus of journal articles. We utilized custom Python and R scripts to process, analyze, and visualize the data.
The primary objective of this study is to identify the most economically impactful PPN in global and Caribbean agriculture based on their frequency of mentions in scientific literature. This study has the following potential significance for the Caribbean region:

- Highlight the ongoing challenges posed by nematodes to Caribbean agriculture and provide a more accurate assessment of their impact. This will also help identify the most studied PPN species.
- Provide valuable insights into nematode research priorities in the region in addressing common nematode challenges.
- Inform the development of more sustainable and targeted nematode management interventions that align with the regional agroecosystem.
- Identify the areas in the Caribbean where additional training or expertise in nematology is required and provide guidance for the development of educational or professional programs.

AGENDA ITEM 10.0 SPECIAL JOINT TECHNICAL PRESENTATION SESSION

10.4 OTHER RELEVANT PLANT HEALTH PROTECTION AND PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES – NETWORKS AND CONCEPTS

10.4.4. NEW FUNGAL THREAT TO GREENHEART SEEDS (*CHLOROCARDIUM SPP*)

Xylaria karyophthora: **a new threat to the Greenheart industry in Guyana.**

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Greenheart (*Chlorocardium spp*.) is one of Guyana's most merchantable timber. It is greatly desired for dock and harbor applications since it produces one of the densest wood in the world. It is also regarded as durable because it is almost immune to decay, resistant to termite damage, and can withstand excess moisture for long periods. Greenheart seeds contain volatile secondary compounds implicated in defense against seed predation by other organisms.

In 2010 and 2011 an unusual fungal species belonging to the genus *Xylaria* sp. was documented growing from morbid seeds both of *C. rodiei and C. Venenosum.* This fungus was reported from both natural and logged forests in several Greenheart growing concessions from Guyana. Combined teleomorphic and molecular characteristics indicated that the fungus represented an undescribed *Xylaria* species, which we subsequently described as *Xylaria Karyophthora*. We further observed disease infection caused by this fungus on ca. 80 percent of dispersed seeds and a correlated reduction in seedling germination. We, therefore, hypothesize that *X. karyophthora* is a pathogen of Greenheart seeds responsible for this reduction. To test this, we sequenced and annotated the genome of *X. karyophthora*. We then focused on identifying and characterizing secretomes, viz. carbohydrate-active enzymes (CAZymes), with particular emphasis on cell wall degrading enzymes (CWDEs) as well as secondary metabolites biosynthetic gene clusters (SMBGCs).

Molecular evidence suggests that *X. karyophthora* kills its host by secreting an arsenal of cell wall-degrading enzymes and toxins aggressively consuming the host cells for energy. This is the first record of a fungal colonist from Guyana associated with an economically important timber species (Husbands et al., 2018; Husbands and Aime, 2018).

The economic importance of the host and the novelty of *X. karyophthora* elicit many questions. Is this fungus a pathogen? If it is, then what are the mechanisms of infection? How is it being spread? What are the population structure and dispersal biology of this fungus? Establishing management strategies to deal with phytopathogens like *X. karyophthora* requires a comprehensive understanding of disease development, including knowledge of the pathogen's reproductive biology, its pathogenicity mechanism, and the genetic structure of the pathogen populations. Our future research work will endeavor to answer many of these looming questions as well as to document other species that are likely to cause plant health problems.

AGENDA ITEM 10.0 SPECIAL JOINT TECHNICAL PRESENTATION SESSION

10.4 OTHER RELEVANT PLANT HEALTH PROTECTION AND PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES – NETWORKS AND CONCEPTS

10.4.5. NETWORK INTRODUCTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION OF BIOLOGICAL CONTROL (IOBC)

IOBC-NTRS: International Organization for Biological Control - Neotropical Section

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The IOBC-NTRS is the Neotropical Region Section of the International Organization for Biological Control (IOBC), a non-for-profit organization whose mission is to promote the development of biological control, and its use in integrated pest management programs all over the world. The IOBC provides an international platform to share information on biological control that has represented the research and application of this management strategy worldwide for more than 50 years. In this sense, IOBC members are part of a renowned organization which is represented in several important global entities such as FAO, WHO, CGIAR (Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers), IUBS (International Union of Biological Sciences), and various plant protection institutions.

In particular, the IOBC-NTRS aims to promote connection and cooperation among people interested in biological control in Latin America and the Caribbean. We greatly appreciate the interdisciplinary work with institutions for educational and research purposes as universities and academic societies, government entities, extension services, NGOs, growers and private companies which pursue similar objectives. In this sense, we promote the establishment of contact with representatives from the different countries in our region, who contribute as "focal points" for the exchange of information, building of cooperation, and working on joint initiatives among IOBC-NTRS and people from the given country. They help us keep actualized the information about the development of biological control in their countries (i.e., people and organizations working on the topic, courses and events to be held in relation to the topic, calls for activities, advances and perspectives, etc.)

Besides, the journal BioControl is the official publication of the IOBC, publishing original research in all areas of biological pest and disease control. Interdisciplinary papers with a global perspective on the use of biological control in integrated pest management systems, are welcomed. Additionally, some of the initiatives of IOBC are channeled through several working groups. Our region has two Working Groups, one on *Parasitoids of the Neotropical Region* and one on *Conservation Biological Control*, which congregates people with shared interest on the topic. We also offer webinars and refresher courses, and we promote joint participation in symposiums specialized in the topics of the working groups, conferences

and other scientific and extension events. Some of these activities are open to the public in general, and some others are a special benefit for IOBC-NTRS members.

IOBC-NTRS is committed to continue consolidating the development of biological control and its use in integrated management programs in Latin America and the Caribbean, as environmentally safe methods for the control of harmful organisms.

AGENDA ITEM 10.0 SPECIAL JOINT TECHNICAL PRESENTATION SESSION

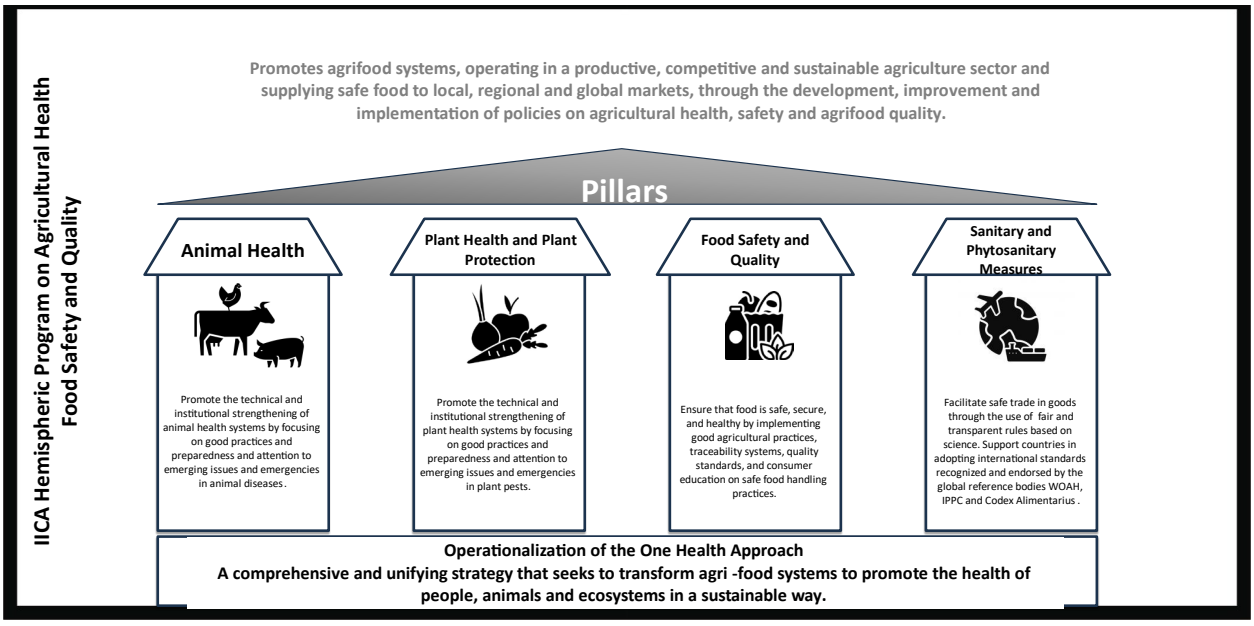
10.4 OTHER RELEVANT PLANT HEALTH PROTECTION AND PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES – NETWORKS AND CONCEPTS

10.4.8. IICA'S STRATEGY ON ONE HEALTH

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR THE COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA) – ONE HEALTH STRATEGY

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is the specialized agency for agriculture of the Inter-American System that supports the efforts of Member States to achieve agricultural development and rural well-being. IICA delivers it made through four strategic objectives and seven programmes.

The Agricultural Health, Safety and Agrifood Quality Programme under which plant health interventions fall focuses on promoting agrifood systems, operating in a productive, competitive and sustainable agriculture sector and supplying safe food to local, regional and global markets, through the development, improvement and implementation of policies on agricultural health, safety and agrifood quality. The programme has four pillars in the areas of animal health, plant health food safety and quality and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. The One Health approach is viewed as integral for promoting the health of people, animals, and ecosystems in a sustainable manner.



Key elements of IICA's One-Health Strategy include: (i) promotion of inter-institutional public policies and regulations in the practical use of the One Health approach in order to strengthen the channels of communication, coordination and joint work between the institutions and the relevant ministries of a country. (ii) promotion of One Health communities of practice in rural settings and (iii) advocacy for greater investment and funding for operationalization of the One Health approach.

Appendix # 1

Proposed CPHD TWGs Restructuring

(position paper)

Caribbean Plant Health Directors Forum (CPHD) and

Caribbean Agriculture Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA)

Proposed re-organization of the Technical Working Groups (TWG)

1.0 Overview

The Caribbean Plant Health Directors Forum (CPHD) serves as the technical advisory body to the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA), the Caribbean's Regional Plant Protection Organization (RPPO). As such, the CPHD plays a pivotal role in safeguarding the region's agriculture and biodiversity by providing expert technical guidance and support on phytosanitary threats, and emerging issues. Recognizing the evolving nature of threats and the need for enhanced effectiveness, the CPHD Forum has made an executive decision to revise and align its Technical Working Groups to achieve the following:

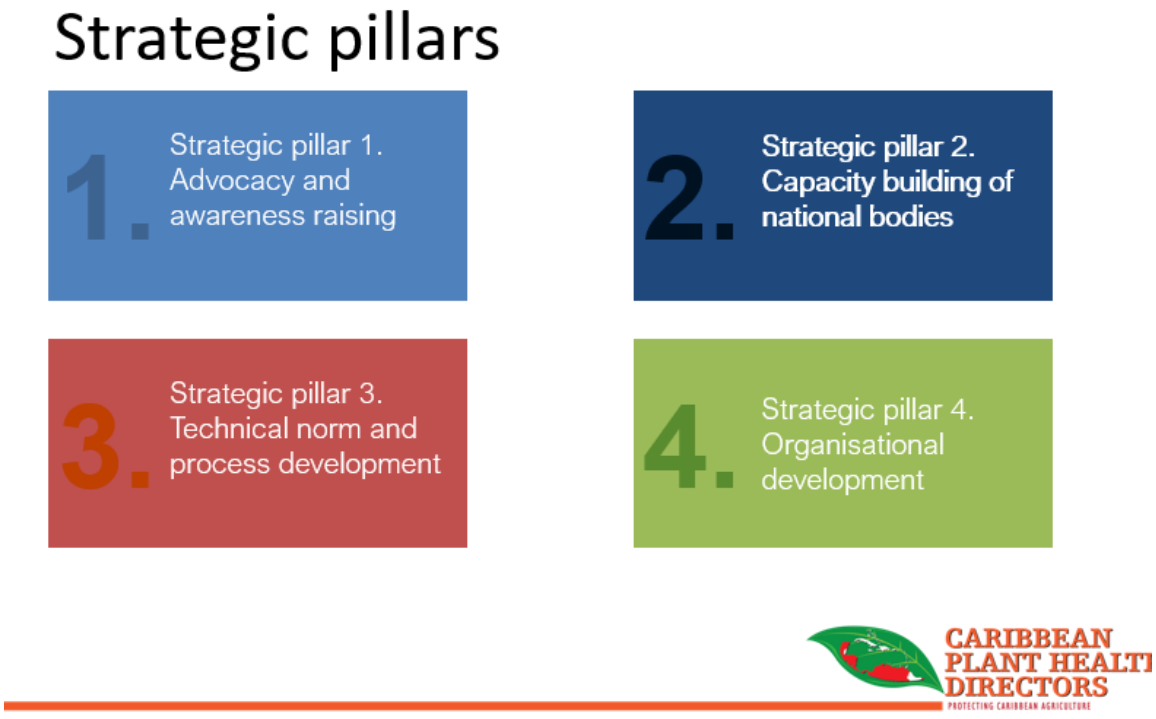
- Ensure fitness for purpose,
- Better alignment with and response to national, regional, and international obligations, trends and concepts,
- A more coordinated technical and strategic response to evolving threats,
- Ensure resource efficiency, and
- Enhanced regional communication and outreach.

Considering the four (4) strategic pillars of CPHD (see figure 1), the Executive Steering Committee reorganized the TWGs into four (4) proposed Technical Panels. The panels are:

I. Pest Prevention and Risk Management
II. Preparedness and Response
III. Phytosanitary Measures and Trade Facilitation
IV. Communications and Outreach

This proposed TWG Restructure paper/ proposal will be tabled at the CPHD for review, recommendations and feedback by all Member States to determine the way forward.

Figure # 1: The CPHD 5-year Strategic Plan – Strategic Pillars



2.0 Pest Prevention and Risk Management (PPRP) Panel

2.1 Scope of Work

The Pest Prevention and Risk Management Panel (PPRP) will serve the forum by providing expert advice and **recommendations on strategies to prevent** the introduction and establishment of plant pests, and to mitigate the spread and **impacts** of new and or existing pest risks within in the Greater Caribbean Region.

The Panel will focus on:

- Pests of quarantine significance that threaten the region's agricultural production, food security, environment and human health.
- Emerging and Transboundary Pests - those new to the region or have the potential to spread across regional borders.
- Difficult to Manage Pests – those requiring a multi-pronged approach, regional and international cooperation and coordination for effective management through utilizing frameworks such as the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Regional Incident Command System (R – ICS).

2.2 Objectives

The Pest Prevention and Risk Management Panel (PPRP) will strive to achieve the following:

1. Provide strategic guidance and oversight to (4) four focused and specialized Technical Working Groups which has defined operational goals that support specific outputs relevant to addressing pest prevention and risk management concepts and activities, including:
    - The Regional Priority Pest Listing (RPPL) Working Group
    - The Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) Mentoring Committee
    - Surveillance and Diagnostics Technical Working Group
    - The Caribbean Pest Diagnostics Network (CPDN) Technical Working Group

2. Improved Pest Risk Analysis
    - Strengthen the capacity of regional stakeholders to conduct pest risk assessments.
    - Encourage the sharing of PRAs conducted by Member States to be maintained in an accessible database.
    - Provide mentorship for the development of national Pest Risk Assessments
    - Development of Regional Pest Risk Assessments for priority pests

3. Develop Pest Prevention and Management Strategies:
    - Develop and implement effective pest management plans for high-risk pests.
    - Promote the adoption of sustainable and environmentally friendly pest management practices.
    - Develop and promote best practices for pest prevention, including biosecurity measures and import controls.

- Evaluate and recommend appropriate pest management strategies, considering economic, environmental, and social impacts.
- Promote integrated pest management (IPM) approaches.

4. Promote Early Warning Systems
   - Develop and implement a robust early warning system for detecting and responding to pest outbreaks.
   - Establish surveillance and monitoring programs to track pest presence, populations, and movements.
   - Establish a Regional Surveillance and Diagnostics Technical Working Group
   - Promote rapid information sharing among stakeholders

5. Enhanced Regional Coordination:
   - Foster communication and collaboration among stakeholders on pest risk management.
   - Develop and implement joint strategies to prevent and manage pest risks.
   - Share information and best practices for effective pest risk management.
   - Establish a Regional Incident Management System to respond to pest outbreak

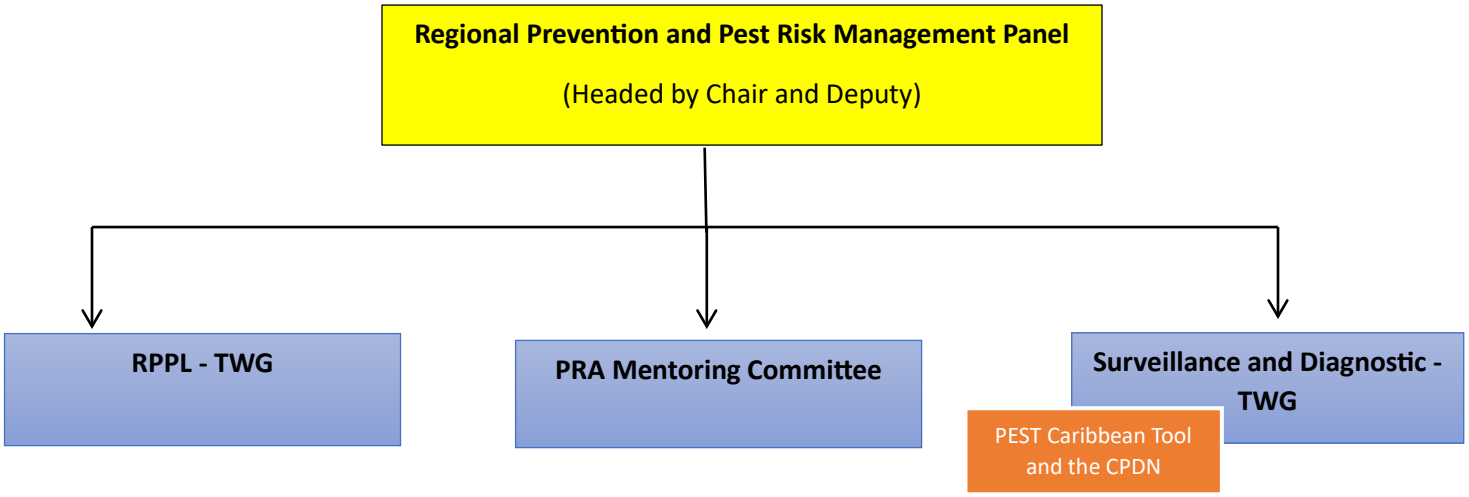
6. Enhance Public Awareness and Education through collaboration with the Communications Panel to
   - Raise awareness about pest risks and the importance of prevention.
   - Educate stakeholders on appropriate pest management techniques.
   - Promote responsible pest management practices among the stakeholders.

7. Support Policy Development and Implementation:
   - Provide expert advice and recommendations on phytosanitary policies.
   - Provide support for and utilize Impact Assessment Studies to bolster advocacy for the adoption of effective pest prevention and management regulations.
   - Monitor the implementation of pest management policies and identify areas for improvement.

8. Facilitate Research and Innovation:
   - Identify research priorities and support the development of innovative pest management solutions.
   - Foster collaboration between research institutions and stakeholders to develop practical applications.
   - Promote the use of technology and digital tools developed by the CPHD and partners to improve pest management.

9. Capacity Building:
   - Develop and deliver training programs on pest prevention and management for relevant stakeholders.
   - Facilitate knowledge sharing and technology transfer among experts.
   - Build the capacity of national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) to implement effective pest management programs

2.3 Chart outlining the structure of the Pest Prevention and Risk Management (PPRP) Panel



3.0 Regional Preparedness and Response Panel (RPRP)

3.1 Scope

The Regional Preparedness and Response Panel will serve the forum by enhancing the Region's capacity to effectively prepare for and **respond to plant pest emergencies** through the development of comprehensive and scalable regional emergency preparedness plans, strategic response efforts and recovery plans and mechanisms for implementation to manage and mitigate pest outbreaks in the Greater Caribbean Region.

The Panel will focus on:

- Pest outbreaks and emergencies
- Climate change impact on pest distribution
- Development of emergency response and implementation plans to suppress, manage or eradicate pests, particularly those identified as regional priority pests.
- Establishment of a Contingency plan mechanism to manage pest outbreaks.
- Establishment and application of the Regional Multi Agency Coordination - Incident Command System

3.2 Objectives

1. Provide strategic guidance and oversight to existing pest specific Technical Working Groups which is focused on high priority pests and as part of it defined operational goals addresses regional preparedness and response concepts and activities, including:
    - The Fruit Fly Technical Working Group
    - The Musa Technical Working Group

2. Improved Regional Preparedness Planning
    - Develop comprehensive regional preparedness plans addressing a wide range of potential pest risks and incorporating risk assessment outcomes from the Pest Prevention and Risk Management Panel (PPRP)
    - Develop and conduct field and tabletop simulation exercises to test and refine preparedness plans and response protocols.

3. Enhanced Regional Emergency Response
    - Develop standardized response protocols and procedures for various types of plant health emergencies.
    - Establish the Regional MAC – ICS to support communication and coordination mechanisms among regional partners and NPPOs, to facilitate rapid response and resource mobilization during outbreaks.

4. Capacity Building and Training
    - Strengthen regional response capabilities - Enhance the capacity of regional entities and member states to effectively respond to emergencies by providing training, equipment, and resources.

5. Partnership and Collaboration:
    - Develop collaborative partnerships - Promote cooperation and collaboration between government agencies in member states, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, private sector entities, and community groups.
    - Enhance regional coordination - Strengthen communication and coordination mechanisms between regional entities to ensure an effective and unified response.

6. Resource Mobilization and Funding:
    - Identify resource gaps - Assess the available resources and identify critical gaps in preparedness and response capabilities.
    - Develop funding strategies (contingency fund) - Advocate for and secure funding to address identified resource gaps and support regional preparedness and response efforts.
    - Leverage existing resources - Maximize the use of existing resources and explore opportunities for cost-effective solutions.

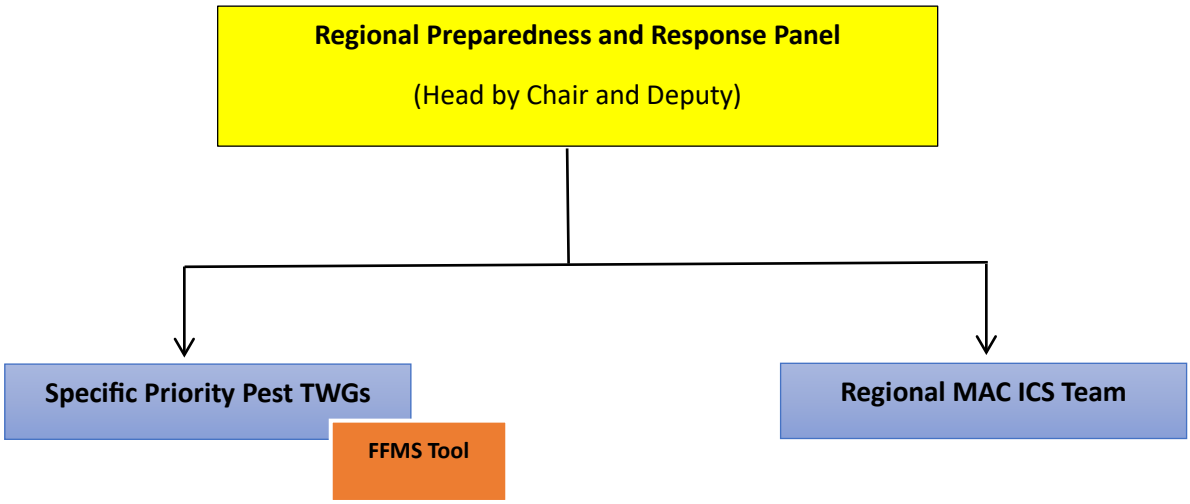
7. Leveraging Technical Expertise for Effective Communication and Outreach

    - Transforming Technical Content: The Communication and Outreach Panel will refashion the technical outputs and resources developed by the Regional Preparedness and Response Panel into clear and engaging communication materials which will:
        - Promote Preparedness Education: Develop educational materials (e.g., brochures, infographics, social media content) to raise public awareness about potential pest threats, the importance of preparedness, and individual actions to protect agricultural systems.
        - Cultivate a Culture of Preparedness: Create messaging that emphasizes the value of proactive measures and builds a culture of awareness and resilience within the region.

8. Monitoring and Evaluation (forms part of an accountability and reporting mechanism to the CPHD Executive)
    - Track the effectiveness of preparedness and response activities.
    - Evaluate the impact of plant health emergencies on the region.
    - Identify opportunities for improvement and adjust strategies accordingly.

By achieving these objectives, the Regional Preparedness and Response Panel will contribute to building a safer and more resilient community capable of effectively mitigating the impact of future emergencies.

3.3. Chart outlining the structure of the Regional Preparedness and Response Panel



4.0 Phytosanitary Measures and Trade Facilitation Panel

4.1 Scope

This panel will focus on the intersection of phytosanitary measures and trade facilitation, aiming to identify and address challenges, promote best practices, and facilitate trade while safeguarding plant health. This panel will provide a platform for open discussion, knowledge exchange, and collaboration towards achieving a balance between effective plant protection efforts and facilitating international trade.

The panel will focus on:

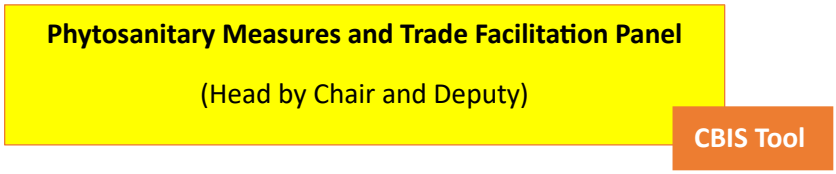
- **Phytosanitary Measures** - Examining the role of phytosanitary regulations in protecting plant health, including pest and disease surveillance, import/export requirements, and certification processes.
- **Trade Facilitation** - Analyzing the impact of phytosanitary measures on trade flow, identifying potential barriers and bottlenecks, and exploring ways to streamline procedures for efficient and transparent trade. *This provision is in keeping with the member states obligation to the trade facilitation agreement.*
- **Integrated border management** - optimizing trade facilitation while safeguarding plant health, through fostering collaboration among border management authorities /agencies to develop and implement integrated phytosanitary infrastructure and procedures. This approach will streamline processes, reduce trade-related delays, and enhance the ability to prevent the introduction of harmful pests and diseases.
- **Boost Regional Engagement in International Standards:** Enhance regional participation in the development and implementation of international standards, including evaluating the effectiveness of these standards in shaping phytosanitary measures and facilitating trade from a regional context.
- **Emerging Technologies** - Exploring the potential of new technologies, including digital tools and data analytics, in enhancing phytosanitary measures and trade facilitation.
- **Capacity Building** - Addressing the need for capacity building in member states to implement effective phytosanitary measures and participate effectively in international trade.

4.2 Objectives:

1. Identify and Analyze Challenges and Gaps:
    - Facilitate dialogue to identify and analyze the challenges posed by phytosanitary measures on trade facilitation, including regulatory burdens, compliance costs, and lack of harmonization.
    - Bridging the Infrastructure gaps through collaboration with border management agencies to identify strategic and sustainable initiatives to address the lack of infrastructure and equipment at facilities to support safeguarding initiatives and facilitate trade.

2. Promote Best Practices:
    - Share best practices and innovative approaches for implementing effective phytosanitary measures while minimizing trade barriers and facilitating smooth trade flows.
3. Strengthen international cooperation:
    - Foster collaboration among stakeholders, including governments, industry players, and international organizations, to enhance cooperation and coordination in the areas of phytosanitary measures and trade facilitation.
4. Promote Harmonization:
    - Promote harmonization of phytosanitary standards and regulations at the regional and international level to ensure consistency and reduce trade barriers.
    - Advocate for member states to actively participate in the development of international standards.
5. Increase Transparency and Predictability:
    - Enhance transparency and predictability in phytosanitary regulations and procedures to facilitate trade and reduce uncertainty for businesses.
6. Promote Capacity Building:
    - Develop and implement capacity building programs for developing countries to strengthen their phytosanitary systems and participate effectively in international trade.
7. Advance the Use of Technology:
    - Explore and promote the adoption of new technologies to enhance efficiency, accuracy, and transparency in phytosanitary measures and trade facilitation.

4.3 Chart outlining the structure of the Phytosanitary Measures & Trade Facilitation Panel



** NB: To effectively address specific priorities and thematic areas, agile project teams or working groups will be established on an as-needed basis

5.0 Regional Phytosanitary Communication and Outreach Panel

5.1 Scope

The Regional Phytosanitary Communication and Outreach Panel will focus on facilitating effective communication and outreach efforts related to plant health and phytosanitary issues within the Greater Caribbean region. The Panel will operate as a collaborative platform for NPPOs, stakeholders, and industry partners.

The panel will focus on:

- **Enhanced Communication** - Promote open and transparent communication channels between NPPOs, stakeholders, and the public regarding phytosanitary matters.
- **Communication Materials Development**: work closely with other Technical Working Groups (TWGs) to transform technical information into engaging and accessible public outreach materials, bridging the gap between scientific expertise and public understanding of plant health issues.
- **Dissemination of Information** - Effectively disseminate relevant published information on plant health threats, regulations, best practices, and emerging issues (e.g., Pest Alerts, Pest Bulletins, PadiWeb, and Pest Lens).
- **Building Capacity** - Provide training and resources to stakeholders, including farmers, importers, exporters, and industry representatives, on phytosanitary regulations, pest identification, pest emergencies and mitigation strategies.
- **Promoting Awareness** - Raise public and policy makers awareness about the importance of plant health and the role of phytosanitary measures in protecting agricultural production and biodiversity.
- **Fostering Collaboration** - Encourage collaboration and knowledge sharing among NPPOs, stakeholders, and research institutions within the region.

5.2 Objectives:

1. **Enhanced Communication:**

    - Develop and implement a regional communication strategy for phytosanitary matters.
    - Creation of content to populate existing online platforms or portals for information sharing and resource access.
    - Organize regular meetings, workshops, and webinars to facilitate communication and knowledge exchange.
    - Foster strong relationships with media outlets to ensure timely and accurate reporting of phytosanitary issues.

2. **Effective Information Dissemination:**

    - Develop and distribute informative materials, including brochures, fact sheets, newsletters and online resources, on relevant phytosanitary topics.

- Facilitate the translation of key information into local languages to ensure understanding and accessibility for all stakeholders
- Utilize social media and other digital channels to reach a wider audience and promote awareness.
- Maintain and update the CPHD website and social media channels with relevant and timely public information.
- Implement a proactive approach to addressing misinformation and rumors related to plant health.

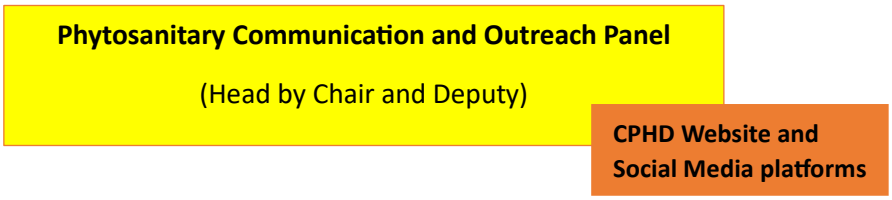
3. **Supporting National Communication**

- Provide technical assistance and support to NPPOs in implementing effective communication and outreach strategies.
- Develop and implement public awareness campaigns on the importance of plant health and the role of phytosanitary measures.
- Partner with educational institutions, community groups, and other stakeholders to promote plant health awareness.

4. **Promoting Collaboration:**

- Facilitate regular communication and coordination among NPPOs in the region.
- Encourage joint initiatives and collaborations between NPPOs, stakeholders, and research institutions.
- Promote the sharing of best practices and experiences in communication and outreach.
- Advocate for the development of regional policies and strategies to support plant health and phytosanitary efforts.

5.3 Chart outlining the structure of the structure of the Phytosanitary Communications and Outreach Panel



6.0 Key Notes:

- There are areas where all panels share similar objectives, including capacity building and stakeholder and public awareness. Collaboration among the panels must be fostered to ensure greater resource utilization, effectiveness, and efficiency in delivery.
- Existing TWGs will not be dissolved until the proposed revised TWG structure is fully agreed to, defined, staffed, piloted and operational.
- Streamlined Panel Structure:
    - Focus on Continuity and Leadership: Each panel will have a designated Chair and Deputy Chair to ensure smooth operation and decision-making.
    - Prioritized Action Plans: Chairs and Deputies will work collaboratively to develop operational work plans. These plans will identify 3-5 key areas or gaps to be addressed, ensuring achievable and impactful initiatives.
    - Flexible Expertise Integration: Panels can invite subject matter experts on an ad-hoc basis to address specific gaps or deliver high-impact outputs.
- Transparent and Efficient Recruitment:
    - Targeted Recruitment: The CPHD Secretariat will facilitate a "Call for Nominees" process. This process will involve:
    - Clear Terms of Reference (TOR): Each call will be accompanied by a clear TOR outlining the panel's objectives, desired skill sets, and expected time commitment.
    - Targeted outreach: To attract qualified candidates, the Secretariat will share the call through relevant regional networks and channels.
    - Streamlined Selection Process: A transparent and efficient selection process, based on pre-defined criteria, will ensure the appointment of the most qualified individuals.

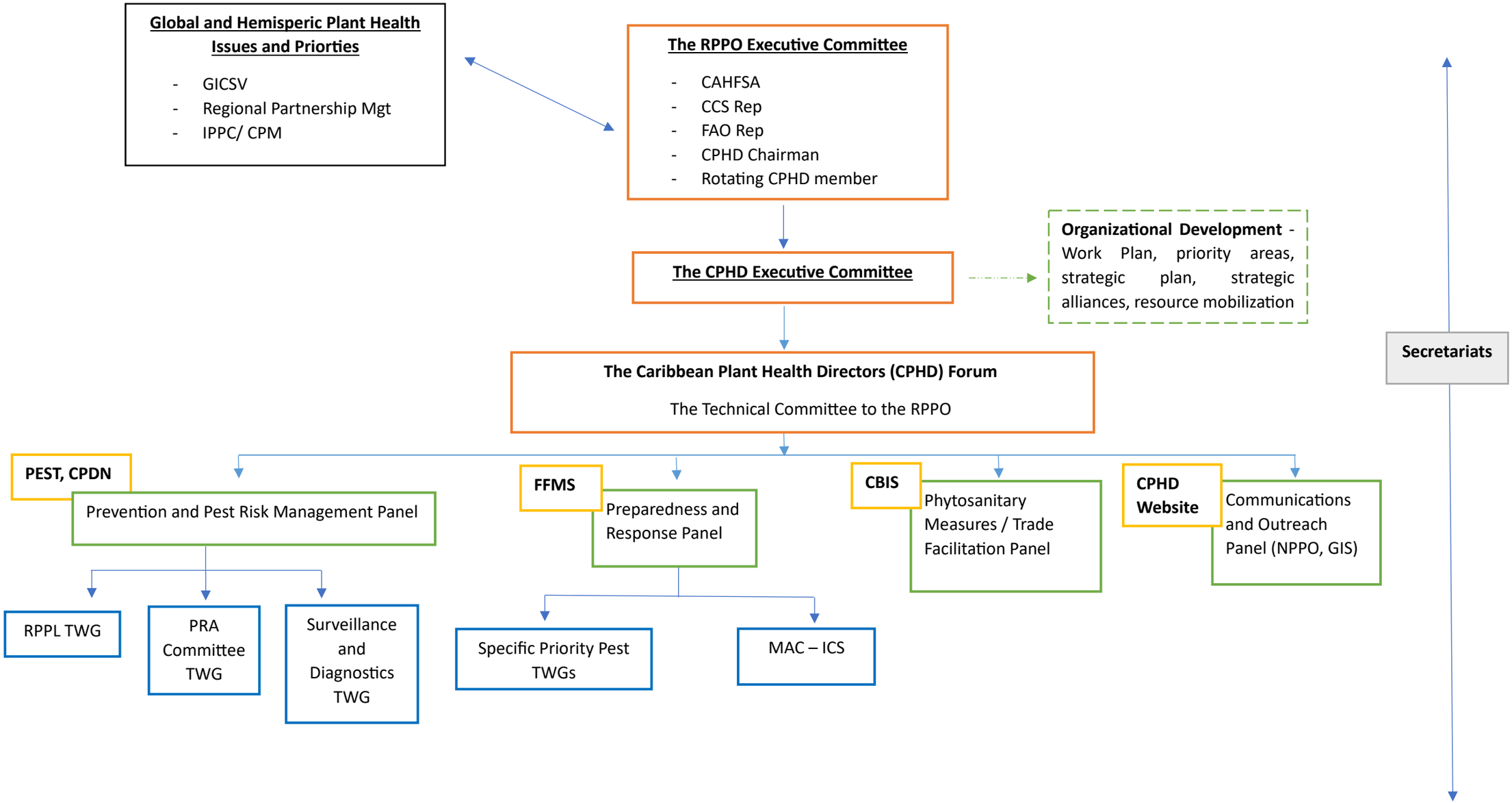


Figure # 2: The Proposed Revised Structure to the CPHD TWGs

Appendix # 2

CPHD 5-year strategic plan update

2024- 2025 - Targets and Key activities

Strategic Pillar 1: Advocacy and Awareness Raising		
Strategic objective 1. People understand that healthy plants are good for human life.		
	Key result 1.1. Surveys show 100% of policymakers in the region are aware of the link between plant health, food security, environment and human health	**Key result 1.2. Surveys show 50% of CPHD external and internal stakeholders in the region feel positively about the value of plants to sustain life and livelihoods**
Target level 2028	Key policymakers responsive to awareness raising campaign and advocate	CPHD Stakeholders promote and/or adopt practices that are beneficial for production and trade of plants and plant products.
Key actions: • Projects • Activities • Initiatives	• Design and execution of a survey • Implementation of campaigns to improve the understanding of the linkages between plant health, food security, environment and human health	• Design and execution of a survey targeting key stakeholders • Implementation of campaigns to provide key stakeholders with information that promotes sound plant health practices
Target level 2024	Enhance policymakers' understanding of the connections between plant health and human well-being and develop a system for monitoring and evaluating the implementation and outcomes of COTED decisions on plant health	Achieve a 25% increase over 2024 -2025 in Greater Caribbean region stakeholder engagement activities, including (i) educational outreach and (ii) information gathering and exchange
Key actions: • Projects • Activities • Initiatives	**Enhance policymakers understanding of the connections between plant health and human well-being.** • Complete work on the 2023-2024 activity of a cost:benefit analysis for priority pests through the evaluation, adaptation and adoption of an appropriate Economic Impact Assessment Tool *(responsible: CABI, Musa TWG, USDA-IS)* • Conduct advocacy actions aimed at policymakers to highlight the role of the CPHD as the Technical Advisory Committee to the RPPO (*responsible:* CAHFSA, CPHD Exec, CARICOM and USDA IS) • An explanatory letter / note to PSs from CAHFSA advising of the RPPO Structure and noting that requests could originate directly from the CPHD • include in the letter an updated CPHD brochure or 2 pager	• Support the implementation of the GCSI Funded CPHD project tilted – "Supporting Resource Strategies and Communication Networks for effective knowledge sharing and shared successes" through targeted publications and strategic virtual outreach initiatives / training. • Support implementation of the GCSI-funded CPHD project titled: "Supporting Regional Emergency Preparedness and Response Mechanisms Initiatives for Pest of Mutual Concern" through the selection of at least one priority commodity and pest (guided by the 14 commodities identified as priority for the CARICOM Member States & the CPHD-RPPL) for informational gathering and exchange [*Lead: TWGs – RPPL, Safeguarding, Emergency Response, USDA-IS]* • IDPH 2025 Activity – Select 2-3 Regional Priority Pests on which to raise awareness through pest alerts/bulletins, webinars, etc. which should also be posted on relevant websites *[responsible: CABI, CPHD Forum, CAHFSA, Member States]* • Continue development & update of CAHFSA Database of Experts (including survey to be administered during CPHD17) *[Lead: CAHFSA, TWGs]*

	• Identify a strong strategic champion for the CPHD that has the ears of PS and Ministers e.g. CARICOM • Convene a sensitization intervention webinar for key stakeholders and policymakers on the relationship between, and the work of the CPHD and CAHFSA. • Develop a template for a general policy brief format for communication between internal stakeholders (ref. TR4 policy brief developed in 2023 as a template for this document) (*responsible: IICA, CPHD Exec, USDA IS and CAHFSA)* **System for monitoring and evaluating the implementation and outcomes of COTED decisions on plant health** • Define & implement a mechanism for the channeling and implementation of COTED decisions at the Member State level *(proposed leads: CAHFSA & Permanent Secretaries of Member States)* • Incorporate decisions of COTED into the program of work of Member States for implementation at the national level *(responsible: Member States Plant Health Directors)*, • Establish and implement a mechanism for monitoring the implementation rate and output of COTED decisions *(responsible: CPHD Executive, IT programmer)*. • Hosting of the Joint meetings of the Annual CPHD Forum & the IPPC Regional Workshop *(responsible: USDA-IS, CPHD Executive, Trinidad and Tobago)* and presentation of recommendations to COTED *(responsible: CAHFSA)* • Conduct mid-term assessment of progress towards achieving the 2028 target of Key Result 1.1	• Identify, adopt and/or adapt web scraping tools (e.g Padi Web) to gather and collate targeted pest and disease information on a monthly basis for distribution to CPHDs and NPPOs • Identify and empower social influencers to develop and deliver “easy to consume” messages. • Conduct a seminar or appropriate forum to share the results of the CABI/UNEP-GEF Project “The Cost of Invasive Alien Species in Barbados and the OECS” • Support the CPHD TR4 Farmer Field School Initiative and the development of the Regional Farmer Field School Guide based on best practices

Strategic Pillar 2: Capacity Building of National Bodies		
Strategic objective 2. Appropriate knowledge is readily available for practical use		
	Key result 2.1. An effective regional knowledge and information system is 100% operational.	**Key result 2.2. The CPHD Forum serves as the regional network coordinating plant health capacity building needs of national bodies.**
Target level 2028	Established Knowledge and Information Management/e-Learning Hub which houses resources on key plant health priorities for the region (for e.g. standards and guidelines, courses and trade data)	A network which will proactively respond to emerging safeguarding needs and achieves an average annual 5 % increase in plant health specialists in key priority areas.
Key actions: • Projects • Activities • Initiatives	• Creating partnerships and alliances for knowledge and information sharing (project): Expand course offerings from regional and international academia/organizations (activity) • Create linkages with other established regional and international plant health and trade databases (activity) • Strategic communications for increased awareness (project): An awareness strategy to sensitize/promote the Knowledge Information Management/e-Learning Hub for key stakeholders (activity)	• A completed digital database mapping the Plant Health network • Signed Agreements in place to Improve partnerships and alliances to increase the number of available experts to address Plant Health matters / needs • Operationalisation of a regional Incident Command Response System
Target level 2024	Develop a comprehensive framework consisting of content plan & resource proposal for the full implementation of the Knowledge & Information Management/e-Learning Hub	Complete the formalization of the MAC-ICS for the Caribbean Region and identify/project preparation for at least 2 priority areas needing capacity building throughout the region

Key actions:
• Projects
• Activities
• Initiatives
	• Hosting of the Joint Meetings of the Annual CPHD Forum and the IPPC Regional Workshop *(responsible: USDA-IS, CPHD Executive, CAHFSA, Trinidad and Tobago)*
	• Develop asynchronous training courses for select pests *(Lead: UWI, University of Florida, CPHD Executive)*
	• For new and/or existing tools such as CBIS, PeST-C and the CPDN:-
	  • Conduct ongoing capacity building seminars/fora on their use
	  • Conduct a survey to determine the reasons for the low rate of uptake
	• Support the implementation of the GCSI-funded CPHD project tilted "*Supporting Regional Early Warning and Safeguarding initiatives for Priority Pest of Mutual Concern to*
		• Reference report on the CABI/UNEP-GEF Project "The Cost of Invasive Alien Species in Barbados and the OECS" to identify areas for capacity building at the national and regional levels as well as the means through which required capacity can be built *(responsible: CABI, USDA-IS, CPHD Executive)*
		• Formalise Incident Command Committee for the Caribbean Region and develop Terms of reference *(responsible: CPHD Secretariat & Executive Committee)*
		• Formulation of a regional strategic work plan for mitigation & management of *Tuta absoluta* in the Caribbean, using strategies learned in the MAC-ICS 2024 training *[responsible: Expert Working Committee – CAHFSA, TWGs (Safeguarding, Emergency Response, GICSV rep, USDA-IS, GCSI)]*

	the USA and the Caribbean" which will aim at building the regions' capacity in surveillance, monitoring and trapping of priority pests	• Support implementation of the GCSI-funded CPHD project titled: "*Supporting Regional Emergency Preparedness and Response Mechanisms Initiatives for Pest of Mutual Concern"* which will aid regional response capacity through the development of Regional PRAs

Strategic Pillar 3: Technical Norm and Process Development			
Strategic objective 3. All the IPPC Standards reflect the region's interest and are implemented fully.			
	Key result 3.1. All PP Bodies are in compliance with the IPPC National Reporting obligations	**Key result 3.2. The PP network has developed its capacity to empower its members to actively participate in IPPC processes.**	**Key result 3.3. All relevant IPPC standards have been implemented in the region**
Target level 2028	To have at least 75% of members meeting their National Reporting Obligations	At least 50% of members actively participating in the IPPC meetings / activities	All applicable IPPC Standards have been adopted by members
Key actions: • Projects • Activities • Initiatives	• Conduct a survey to determine how many PP bodies have improved / meet their NRO's • Formulate a mechanism that will provide oversight to regularly validate/ verify the accuracy of the Info on the IPP (international Plant Health Portal)	• Decision by IPPC on virtual participation communicated • Sustainability plan to be developed - documenting the success / impact of participation to ensure funding *et al continues*	• Decision by IPPC on virtual participation communicated • Sustainability plan to be developed - documenting the success / impact of participation to ensure funding *et al* continues
Target level 2024	Have a minimum of 5 member states improve their status on 3-5 key priorities NROs principles	At least one data-driven advocacy campaign framework specifically designed to influence policymakers on issue of national/ regional participation, developed and implemented.	A Prioritized List of ISPMs developed and the status of implementation in member states determined.
Key actions: • Projects • Activities • Initiatives	• Conduct a Baseline Assessment: Generate IPPC status report on NROs for the Caribbean and identify gaps and areas for improvement. (responsible: CAHFSA) • Prioritize Key Areas: Determine 3-5 key NRO priorities for improvement based on assessment findings (*responsible: CPHD Exec, CAHFSA, USDA IS*) • Actively participate and support the restructuring and reorganization of the CPHD TWGs – to align with the effective	• Conduct cost benefit analysis of participation of CARICOM Member States (qualitative or quantitative) (*responsible: CABI, CPHD exec, CAHFSA, CARICOM*) • Gather Relevant Data: Collect literature and research on the impact and implications of the lack of participation by developing countries in SPS-related areas. (*responsible: FAO, IICA, CPHD exec, CAHFSA, CARICOM)* • Craft Evidence-Based Messages: *Develop and deliver* compelling and data-driven messages that effectively communicate the importance of the issues and proposed solutions to policymakers *at a high-impact*	• Develop criteria to prioritize list of ISPMs e.g., export dependent. (*responsible: FAO, CPHD exec, CAHFSA)* • Develop and execute a strategic work program to raise awareness and update each country on the adoption and implementation of the prioritized ISPMs (*responsible: CPHD exec, CAHFSA, FAO USDA IS, IICA)*

	implementation and adoption of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs). *(responsible: CPHD Exec, CAHFSA, USDA IS)* • Develop a framework to guide Capacity Building and Technical Support interventions toward improving the status of the identified NRO principles (*responsible: CPHD Exec, CAHFSA, FAO, USDA IS*) • Continue to support and campaign for the full use and adoption of the various CPHD Safeguarding tools into national systems. *(responsible: CPHD Exec, CAHFSA, USDA IS)*	*regional forum (e.g., COTED or CWA) based on the completed study* (*responsible: CPHD exec, CAHFSA, USDA IS)*	

Strategic Pillar 4: Organizational Development			
Strategic objective 4. CPHD has all the capacities it needs to deliver on its mandate			
	Key result 4.1. CPHD has access to and the capacity to obtain financial resources to cover its annual operational and technical activity plan.	**Key result 4.2. CPHD has in place mechanisms necessary to obtain the human resources required to implement its activities.**	**Key result 4.3. CPHD has in place the technology platforms and tools required to deliver on its mandate**
Target level 2028	At least 3 new donors contribute to fund an expanded operational plan.	Systems in place to facilitate access to experts, additional staffing, and avenues for research to support CPHD programmes / mandate	100% adoption of all existing technological platforms and tools for an advanced regional plant health system and 1-3 new tools at various stages of development and adoption.
Key actions: • Projects • Activities • Initiatives	• Institutionalized Financial Mgmt Team • New / updated Strat plan and/ or operational work plan – formulated • Established Annual Reporting formats/ systems / structures highlighting the achievements of CPHD to donor orgs	• Institutionalized Financial Mgmt Team • New / updated Strat plan and/ or operational work plan – formulated • Established Annual Reporting formats/ systems / structures highlighting the achievements of CPHD to donor orgs	• Institutionalized Financial Mgmt Team • New / updated Strat plan and/ or operational work plan – formulated. • Established Annual Reporting formats/ systems / structures highlighting the achievements of CPHD to donor orgs
Target level 2024	An annual budgetary guideline and forecast for CPHD operational and technical activity activities developed	Completed HR needs assessment for the CPHD and an updated Lists of regional and international experts available to the Caribbean Region made available	Complete an assessment of CPHD's current tools and identify additional technological tools and interventions for an advanced regional plant health system
Key actions: • Projects • Activities • Initiatives	• Noting 2024 activities, create an operational budget for the CPHD, clearly identifying reoccurring costs, cost centers and overheads *(responsible CPHD Exec, USDA IS, IICA, CAHFSA)* • Review past IICA budgets to better provide the data for the refinement of CPHD overhead costs *(responsible CPHD Exec, USDA IS, IICA, CAHFSA)* • Conceptualize a presentation centered on the theme: *Return on Investment: Assessing the Impact of CPHD Investments in the Region" (responsible CPHD Exec, USDA IS)*	• Establish a comprehensive consolidated Regional Expert Database for Plant Health by updating and integrating CAHFSA's Database with rosters/ databases from Partner Agencies and Institutions e.g., FAO, IPPC, GICSV (*responsible: CAHFSA*) • Conduct a Human Resource Needs Assessment for the CPHD MS to identify national capacities and competencies. *(responsible CPHD Exec, CAHFSA)* • Based on regional priorities/ projects for FY 2024 - 25, develop a regional technical assistance framework whereby experts are identified, contacted, and engaged for assistance (*responsible: CPHD Exec, CAHFSA, IICA, FAO, USDA IS*)	• Collate a list of open access digital tools and apps to support plant health (*responsible: CPHD Exec, and TWGs, UWI, UFL, CIRAD)* • Identify needs of NPPO's and by extension additional tools that can be developed (*responsible: CAHFSA, CPHD Exec)* • Develop a strategy to increase the uptake and usage of CPHD tools and resources *(responsible: CAHFSA, CPHD Exec, USDA IS)* • Encourage NPPO's to fully incorporate these digital tools into their national work programs *(responsible: CAHFSA, CPHD Exec, USDA IS)*

		• Support the development of asynchronous training courses for select pests (*Lead: UWI, University of Florida, CPHD Executive*)	