

Interamerican Coordinating Group in Plant Protection

GICSV

Working Group on HLB

Meeting minutes - August 2020

Date: August 20, 2020

Time: 08:00 hrs. El Salvador, 09:00 hrs. Lima, Quito, and Mexico City, 10:00 hrs. Castries, Eastern US, and Asunción and 11:00 hrs. Buenos Aires and Montevideo.

Location: Video conference - Zoom

Link to the meeting <https://iica.zoom.us/j/99930137794?pwd=c3hoMFJ5cEt6MzgxN2J3Vm9MSnlkUT09>

Participants: Delegates from CAHFSA Damian Rowe and Nelson Laville, from CAN Iván García, Ramón Canizares and Camilo Beltrán, from COSAVE Julián Jezierski, James Pazo, Luis Aquino and Enne Carrillo, from NAPPO José Hernández, John Bienapfl, Alonso Suazo NAPPO, Patricia Abad, Stephanie Bloom and Nedelka Marín – Martínez, from OIRSA Marlon Vilella and Benjamin Muñoz and from IICA (TS) Lourdes Fonalleras.

1. Meeting opening and agenda

After the initial greetings, the GICSV Technical Secretariat (TS) invited Mr. James Pazo, COSAVE Coordination Secretariat, to formally open the meeting on behalf of Mr. César De La Cruz, GICSV's Coordinator and Chair of COSAVE's Steering Committee. Mr. Pazo stressed the importance of the Working Group on HLB, a pest of permanent concern to citrus producing countries. He also wished the grouped success on their tasks.



2. Topics discussed

2.1. Election of a Coordinator

The WG Coordinator, José Hernández, indicated that due to increasing responsibilities, including his participation in other international working groups, his supervisor suggested that he ceases the coordination of this WG. The NAPPO Secretariat and the WG thanked Mr. Hernández for his effort and management.

The TS discussed with the participants the election of a new Coordinator and it was agreed to do it at this meeting. OIRSA's representative, Marlon Villela, expressed interest and OIRSA's willingness to assume the coordination. The proposal was welcomed by the participants and Mr. Xavier Euceda is the new Coordinator.

2.2. Setting the WG workplan and timelines

The TS detailed the topics prioritized at the last meeting (2019), which focused on information sharing. The topics proposed in 2019 were reviewed. The Coordinator requested the RPPOs to provide comments to determine which topics will be covered this year and which topics will be discussed in 2021.

2.2.1. Information sharing

As per NAPPO's suggestion, the WG agreed to work this year on:

- Sharing information and experiences on pest status for GICSV's countries and regions, regulatory changes, management strategies, production of clean propagative material, lessons learned, innovations and others.
- Sharing information on training or outreach events such as workshops, seminars, publications on HLB.
- Information or documents related to carrying out these activities will be shared through the TS on the GICSV's webpage.

2.2.2. Prevention and outreach materials

This was suggested by CAN based on their own experience. They consider useful and necessary that messages from countries on this topic are harmonized, which allows for a better understanding of the population, especially in border areas. The WG agreed this activity will take place in 2021.

2.2.3. MEIS methodology

The TS reminded participants about the tool developed by COSAVE – IICA. The TS indicated that in 2019, as per IICA and COSAVE's suggestions, the Evaluation Methodology on the Socio-economic Impact of Phytosanitary Measures (MEIS, as per the Spanish acronym) and its application guideline and the Case study applied to "Phytosanitary Measures for Huanglongbing in Brazil for seedling production in protected environment" were shared. These documents can be found under the Technical documents section of GICSV's webpage: <http://apps.iica.int/GICSV/default.aspx>.

The TS remembered that the methodology and case studies were suggested to be presented. The WG agreed to do it this year, therefore the TS will coordinate with COSAVE a virtual session in November. The WG also approved the TS proposal to include the NPPOs as observers on the virtual call, however they should make comments and consultations through their RPPO. NPPOs will be invited through their RPPOs.

The group also agreed on moving forward with the application of the MEIS in 2021.

2.2.4. USDA procedures to obtain clean propagative material

Obtaining clean plant material, the techniques used and its distribution to the private sector are of interest to the group and therefore they will be kept in the Work Plan, and a specific activity will be incorporated. There is interest on 1) the procedure and 2) the relationship with the private sector and the interaction to obtain clean material.

NAPPO shared information related to the topic:

- Approved in 2012 – Diagnostic Protocol – Citrus Huanglongbing in English:
http://www.napppo.org/files/3114/3782/1532/NAPPO_HLB_DP_2_2012-04-10-e.pdf
- Approved in 2012 – Protocolo de diagnóstico – Huanglongbing de los cítricos in Spanish:
http://www.napppo.org/files/6614/4043/0498/DP_2_HLB_04-10-2012-s.pdf

2.2.5. Technical Material

OIRSA informed that they shared with the WG, through the TS, the **Compendium on integrated management of HLB**, which can be found on GICSV's web page: <http://apps.iica.int/GICSV/default.aspx>.

In addition, OIRSA proposed developing a **Technical Manual or Protocol for the GICSV's region** with basic information on production of healthy plants, management, surveillance techniques and others.

NAPPO indicated that a manual which includes several aspects is very complex and even more if it is developed in both languages. NAPPO also suggested that some activities to work jointly may be identified. OIRSA accepted the suggestion and will take it into account.

In this regard, the WG agreed to use OIRSA's compendium and NAPPO's document as the basis. OIRSA will identify points to be analyzed by the group, which could be of interest to be included in a draft version of the document. This will require the RPPO's collaboration and will initiate a harmonized basis document as a result of the group's work. Estimated date, last two weeks in November.

In addition, OIRSA informed that they are developing a **Field guideline** and they will share it with the RPPOs through the TS. The draft will be ready in the **last two weeks in November**.

2.3. Other topics

The Coordinator informed that the II Citrus Forum was held in 2019, and the next one will be held in 2021. Guatemala and Nicaragua were interested in being the host of the event. However, an official proposal has not been received, therefore the venue has not been determined. Everyone will be informed once a decision is taken.

The Technical Secretariat and the group express their gratitude to NAPPO for their important contribution to the meeting by providing interpretation services and helping with the translation of the meeting minutes. They also expressed their special gratitude to Mrs. Nedelka Marín- Martinez for her effort in providing interpretation services during the meeting.

They express their gratitude to COSAVE Coordination Secretariat for helping prepare the minutes for this and other meetings.