

**Interamerican Coordinating Group in Plant Protection**  
**GICSV**  
**Working Group on Fruit Flies**  
**Meeting minutes - August 2020**

- Date:** August 21, 2020
- Time:** 08:00 hrs. El Salvador; 09:00 hrs. Lima, Bogota, and Mexico City; 10:00 hrs. in Castries and East US, and 11:00 hrs. in Paramaribo and Montevideo.
- Location:** Video conference. Zoom
- Link to the meeting** <https://iica.zoom.us/j/99930137794?pwd=c3hoMFJ5cEt6MzgxN2J3Vm9MSnlkUT09>
- Participants:** Delegates from CAHFSA Alices van Sauers; from CAN Emilio Arévalo, Ramón Canizares and Camilo Beltrán; from COSAVE Carlos Rivera, James Pazo, Luis Aquino and Enne Carrillo; from NAPPO Richard Johnson, Walter Gould, Francisco Hernández, Arturo Bello, Patricia Abad (observer), Alonso Suazo (observer), Stephanie Bloem and Nedelka Marín-Martínez; from OIRSA Marlon Vilella 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 Secretary, 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 Fruit Flies, a pest of permanent concern to the GICSV region. He also wished the grouped success on their tasks.

## 2. Topics discussed

### 2.1. Election of a group coordinator

The TS reminded participants that the Working Group on Fruit Flies has not assigned a coordinator. Therefore, the proposal was to start the topics to be discussed assigning the WG Coordinator, and RPPOs were invited to present proposals and provide comments.

COSAVE's CS stressed out the importance of having different WG Coordinators among the RPPOs members of GICSV. After exchanging comments, the delegates proposed the representative from CAHFSA as the coordinator. This RPPO is recently participating in the WG activities, that way they will be more involved in the GICSV's WG dynamics.

CAHFSA's delegate thanked the participants for offering her the coordination. However, due to her workload, she requested a shared Coordination, which the group agreed to. In this sense, NAPPO and CAN delegates offered their support in the coordination activities, if CAHFSA accept the position. The result was a Coordinating team of the WG on Fruit Flies where Mrs. Alices van Sauers from CAHFSA will be helped by Mr. Arturo Bello from NAPPO and Mr. Emilio Arévalo from CAN.

## 2.2. Setting the WG workplan and timelines

The TS presented the proposed Work Plan developed by the WG in 2019, which considered two general objectives: 1) Facilitate sharing information on species of interest for the GICSV region, their status, management and other related topics, technical-scientific information, outreach materials, events and other activities, regulatory aspects, changes, and innovations and 2) Promote coordination and collaboration among fruit flies' programs from different NPPOs and RPPOs members of GICSV. Activities proposed for each of the objectives were reviewed.

After the participants' contributions, the RPPOs agreed to approve the proposed Work Plan, its objectives, and activities to develop them during 2020 and 2021. The Workplan is attached to the minutes.

CAN's delegate stated that part of the Workplan activities can be completed with the International Atomic Energy Agency Project. This Project seeks to strengthen surveillance programs of exotic flies in 17 countries in the Americas. By reinforcing the surveillance scheme, a protection block against exotic flies in the Americas could be created.

## 2.3. Activities foreseen for 2020

Regarding activity 1.1 from the Workplan "Sharing information on plans or programs aimed at preventing the entry of exotic pests, manage pests under official control and respond to emergencies (outbreaks)", CAN suggested developing a survey to get to know the countries' status on surveillance of exotic flies species, as well the FF programs each country has. This information will facilitate identification of gaps and synergies and therefore, topics on collaboration that may contribute to strengthening the region's capability on this topic.

The survey will also cover the FF plans or programs from countries within the GICSV's region. The objective of the questionnaire is to get to know the pest status, and prevention and control programs in the region, as well as the capability for emergency response, identifying gaps among programs to determine lines of collaboration and to strengthen what is needed. The latter will help move forward with activity 1.2. "Coordination of regional programs to prevent and manage fruit flies".

The WG approved the development of the survey. The coordinating team will develop a proposed structure and fields for the survey. They will share it with the group through the TS for feedback at the beginning of October. The survey is expected to be defined and shared in 2020, and to gather and process responses in 2021.

Regarding activity 2.3 "Develop guidelines to support implementation of processes to establish and recognize pest free areas (PFA), based on relevant ISPMs", the CAHFSA delegate indicated that the IPPC developed a guideline for the establishment of free areas which will be presented during the IPPC Regional Workshop for Latin America where information will be provided on this guideline. It was agreed to leave the topic on standby to check if the IPPC guideline meets the requirements expected by the region. This analysis will be done in 2021 and if the IPPC guideline is deemed appropriate to the region's needs, then activities targeted to the promotion and support of the guideline implementation will take place in 2021. Otherwise, other supplements will be explored.

## 3. Other topics

CAN's delegate informed that the American Congress on Fruit Flies was going to be held on March 16, 2020 in Colombia. However, due to COVID-19, the event will be held virtually on November 2-6, 2020 and all delegates

from the WG on Fruit Flies were invited to participate. The event will take place within the framework of the 2020 International Year of Plant Health.

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 translation of the meeting minutes. They also expressed their special gratitude to Mrs. Nedelka Marín-Martínez 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.