



First Announcement

Scientific Consultation and High-Level Meeting on Red Palm Weevil Management

29-31 March, 2017
FAO, Rome, Italy

Background:

Red Palm Weevil (RPW) *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* is one of the world's major invasive pest species and is the single most destructive pest of some 40 palm species worldwide. It was detected in the Gulf region during the mid-eighties, and has significantly expanded westwards over the last three decades to cover almost all countries of the Near East and North Africa (NENA) region. It has also reached some Southern European countries in the Mediterranean Basin as well as a few countries in Central America and Caribbean. RPW has a significant socio-economic impact on the date palm production sector and the livelihoods of farmers in affected areas.

Over the years, FAO has provided technical assistance to enhance cooperation and knowledge sharing between countries in the NENA Region, and to strengthen the capacities of the countries for the management of RPW in order to reduce and prevent its spread. Several projects have been implemented by FAO to assist countries in RPW management as well as *ad hoc* technical support missions, training and other capacity building activities.

Event Information:

The event will be co-organized with the International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) to respond to the concern raised by a number of Members from the Near East and North Africa Region in relation to the increasing risk of Red Palm Weevil infestation in their countries and their request to FAO to provide support to cope with this pest.

A Scientific Consultation will bring together representatives of the regulatory authorities (National Plant Protection Organisations, NPPOs) as well as experts from the affected countries, international scientists, developers of technologies involved in RPW management and other stakeholders to discuss the challenges facing the successful management and containment of the spread of RPW and share their experience, knowledge and innovative technologies to control RPW. Technical discussions will focus on the effectiveness and prioritisation of the options for sustainable pest management including monitoring and surveillance approaches, opportunities for cooperation and information sharing, integrated pest management and eradication practices, innovative approaches, information systems, phytosanitary measures and capacity building.

The expected outcome of the Scientific Consultation is a defined multi-disciplinary and multi-regional programme and strategy for the management and containment of RPW for endorsement by decision-makers.

A High-Level Meeting will follow the Scientific Consultation to allow decision makers to review the proposed multi-disciplinary and multi-regional programme and strategy for effective management of RPW, and to express the required political will to implement the programme and make the necessary commitments/pledges on behalf of their government.

Venue of the event:

- FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy.

Date of the event:

- 29-31 March, 2017.

The Information Note, Provisional Agenda and Timetable may be downloaded from the following link: www.fao.org/food-chain-crisis

Request for attendance is to be sent by email to: RNE-TC-HLM-RPW@fao.org