



Information Note

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

29-31 March, 2017

FAO, Rome, Italy

I. BACKGROUND

1. 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 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 significant socio-economic impact on the date palm production sector and livelihoods of farmers in affected areas.

2. 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 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.

A. Event Information

3. A Scientific Consultation and High Level Meeting on Red Palm Weevil Management will be co-organized with the International Centre 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.

4. The Scientific Consultation will bring together representatives of the regulatory authorities and 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, 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.

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

6. A High-Level Meeting will follow 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.

B. Venue of the event

7. FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy, Green Room.

C. Date of the event

8. 29-31 March, 2017

D. Languages

9. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in Arabic, English and French. The documents of the meeting will also be issued in these three languages.

E. Correspondence

10. All correspondence concerning the **Scientific Consultation and High-Level Meeting on Red Palm Weevil Management** should be addressed to the meeting Secretariat as follows:

Mr. Shoki AlDobai

Meeting Secretary

Regional Crop Protection Officer

FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa, P.O. Box 2223, Cairo, Egypt

Tel.: (+202) 3331 6000, Ext. 2808

Fax: (+202) 37495981 or (+202) 33373419

E-mail: RNE-TC-HLM-RPW@FAO.ORG

Copied to:

Ms. Heba Tokali

Meeting Assistant

Technical Programme Assistant

FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa, P.O. Box 2223, Cairo, Egypt

Tel.: (+202) 3331 6000, Ext. 2819

Fax: (+202) 37495981 or (+202) 33373419

Cellular Phone: (+20) 100 141 0366

E-mail: RNE-TC-HLM-RPW@FAO.ORG

E-mail: Heba.tokali@fao.org

Ms. Ines DeLaVara

Intern/Assistant

FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa, P.O. Box 2223, Cairo, Egypt

Tel.: (+202) 3331 6000, Ext. 2606

Fax: (+202) 37495981 or (+202) 33373419

E-mail: RNE-TC-HLM-RPW@FAO.ORG

Meeting Focal Point in Rome:

Ms. Mona Chaya

Senior Coordinator, AGDD

Mobile: 0039 349 311 6717

E-mail: Mona.Chaya@fao.org

II. TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

A. Formalities for Entry into Italy

11. Participants requiring entry visa to Italy, are advised to apply for their visas from the Italian Consulate or competent Diplomatic Mission in their country before leaving for Rome, **minimum of three weeks prior to the date of travel**. Participants from countries with no diplomatic mission for Italy should seek assistance from other Schengen embassies

12. Participants are advised to provide, at least two weeks prior to arrival, the name of carrier, flight number, time of arrival and other related information to the Meeting Secretariat, to the organising committee at RNE on: E-mail: RNE-TC-HLM-RPW@FAO.ORG

B. Hotels

13. For participants supported by FAO, the organisation will be responsible for providing a hotel accommodation, as per the rules and regulations in this regards. The hotel cost will be deducted from the daily allowance that will be disbursed to FAO supported participants.

For other self-funded participants, they may consider contacting, among others, Carlson Wagonlit Travel (CWT), e-mail: faotravel@cwtbook.it; tel. (+39) 06 57055970.

C. Travel Facilities/Daily Allowance

14. For participants supported by FAO, the organisation will be responsible for providing round trip tickets on the most economic and direct flights, as per the rules and regulations in this regards. All Meeting participants are advised to finalize, at an early date, their travel arrangements. CWT at the Meeting venue may provide assistance, as needed.

15. The daily allowance (DSA), for FAO supported participants, will be disbursed at FAO HQ through the Cashier's Office. The DSA is covering lunch, dinner and incidentals as per the rate of the UN.

The Cashier's Office is located in room D202 open from 9.00 to 11.00, Monday to Friday. In individual cases, some of FAO supported participants will receive their Daily allowance through bank transfer (*will be communicated individually*).

D. Foreign Exchange and Banking

16. The national currency in Italy is the Euro (EUR). In daily dealings, foreign currency can be exchanged at the official rate at hotels or banks. Internationally-recognized travellers' cheques and credit cards are accepted in hotels, major shops and restaurants.

E. Medical Services and Security

17. Medical and first aid services will be available at the Meeting premises. For medical emergencies, dial 30 from all in-house telephones. For all other medical services, call extension 53577 from in-house telephones (06-5705-3577 from outside FAO Headquarters).

18. Strict security measures are observed at the FAO Headquarters. Metal detectors are in operation at the Building A entrance. Participants are requested to wear their Building Passes at all times. Participants are advised not to leave briefcases or any valuable items unattended in meeting rooms.

19. Participants are advised to carry their valuables in a safe place, especially on public transport. There might be pickpockets on the street, the underground and on buses and trams. Once Participants have checked into their hotels, it is advisable to leave important documents such as passports in the hotel safe and to carry a photocopy.

20. The following numbers may be useful in case of emergency outside FAO Headquarters: Medical Emergencies/ Ambulance 118; General Emergencies 113; Fire 115; City Physician on Call (Medico di Guardia) 06-58201030.

III. LOGISTICS

A. Registration

21. All participants are required to register by sending the attached registration form to the meeting organising committee at the following e-mail address: **RNE-TC-HLM-RPW@fao.org**

22. The check-in and delivery of badges will be held at FAO HQs. Opening hours will be from **7.30am - 4pm, from 29th March to 31st March 2017.**

In order to avoid unnecessary delays and long queues on Wednesday 29th March morning prior to the start of the meeting, it is strongly recommended that the meeting badges be collected in advance, if applicable. For this reason a pre-registration is foreseen on 28th from 9am to 1pm and from 2pm to 4pm hours at the FAO HQs reception area, if applicable to some participants.

Only registered participants will be issued a badge, which will allow access to the Building and to the meeting halls.

23. Access to the Headquarters will be only through the main gate in Viale Aventino entrance, next to the metro station. Participants will be invited by Security personnel to proceed through scanning equipment in the Visitors Centre. Furthermore, we inform all participants that last minute attendances requests, as well as incomplete registrations cases, will be managed only after the delivery of all ready-to-collect badges.

24. A valid identity document/passport must be presented to security staff for identification purposes whenever requested at checkpoints for the entire duration of the meeting

25. Lost Building Passes should be reported without delay to the FAO Security Office.

B. Access to Meeting Venue

26. FAO Headquarters is located on Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, in front of the Circo Massimo. It can be reached by car, bus, tram and metro line B (Circo Massimo stop).
27. There are six buildings in FAO Headquarters, all interconnected. The Green Room is in Building A.
28. Pass-holding visitors may use the Building A Main Entrance (Viale Aventino, Metro exit) to enter the site. No other entry/exit points in other parts of the buildings can be used. They may return through the scanning machines in the Visitors Centre.

IV. MEETING VENUES

A. Catering and Dining Facilities

29. The FAO Headquarters offers dining and snack bar facilities where participants may sit down for a meal, or order a quick snack and beverage. On the other hand, many of the local restaurants and shops are located on Viale Aventino.
30. The FAO Cafeteria, located on the eighth floor, Building B, is available to Participants from 12.00 hours to 14.30 hours for lunch. The free-flow cafeteria offers a selection of hors d'oeuvres, first and second courses, grill and salads.
31. The FAO Restaurant, located on the eighth floor, Building C, offers a daily menu and à la carte service. Please telephone ext. 56823 (Tel. 06-5705-6823) for reservations.

B. Wifi Coverage

32. FAO offers WiFi coverage in all Meeting Rooms.
33. WiFi coverage is available in all meeting rooms, the Atrium and catering facilities. Select “guest_internet”. Password: wifi2internet

V. Banking and Currency Exchange Facilities

34. The currency of Italy is the Euro. The Banca Intesa San Paolo, located on the Ground Floor, Building B, is open from 08:35 hours to 16:35 hours. The Banca Popolare di Sondrio, located on the Ground Floor, Building D, is open from 08:30 to 16:30 hours. In addition to the banks, the Italian Post Office located next to the Banca Intesa San Paolo also processes postal/money orders. Cash dispensers (ATM) for credit card withdrawals are located at the entrance of the Banks and the Post Office.

VI. Event Website

35. Meetings' documents and other information will be available under:

www.fao.org/food-chain-crisis

VII. Prayer Room

36. Prayer Room is available for use by Meeting participants in Room A250 Ter.

APPENDIX A

REGISTRATION FORM

This form should be submitted together with a recent passport size photo digital format (JPEG), which should correspond to the following requirements: white background, 26 mm (width) x 33 mm (height) or 190 pixels (width) x 248 pixels (height) not to exceed 100 kb and a passport scanned copy



PERSONAL DATA

Name of Organization:

Family Name:

First Name:

Ms

Mr

Official Title:

Official Address:

Nationality

Arrival date (City):

Departure date:

Telephone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Date

APPENDIX B

PASSPORT DETAILS

First Name	
Father's Name	
Family Name	
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	
Nationality	
Type of Passport	
Passport No.	
Date & Place of Issue	
Expiry Date	
Occupation	
Place visa to be issued	
Duration of stay in Italy	
The last entry date to Italy	
Travel itinerary (must not include any other Schengen country)	
Details of arrival flight	Flight Number: Date and hour of arrival: