

**Scientific Consultation and High-Level Meeting on Red Palm Weevil Management
Rome, 29-31 March, 2017**

DRAFT DECLARATION

We, the global leaders and representatives of private business and companies developing tools and solutions to manage, suppress, control and eradicate the Red Palm Weevil have met in Rome at the Food and Agriculture Organization Headquarters in this High-Level Meeting on Red Palm Weevil Management convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, together with the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), to seek ways of achieving world food security and, in this context, to discuss the challenges and the successes leading to the effective management, containment of the spread, and ultimate eradication of this pest from specific geographies.

Would like to applaud the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) for the initiative in providing all stakeholders from around the globe that are concerned or involved in Red Palm Weevil management with an excellent venue where they can openly discuss their challenges and the successes in executing integrated pest management programs directed at this pest.

Express our gratitude to the event organizers for inviting the private sector to this High-Level Meeting, and for their thoughtful preparation for the meeting, providing a clear shared platform of knowledge from where to base our discussions, in a well-designed program following a series of events that involved briefs, discussions and working sessions, in an outstanding venue that fostered the energetic and undefended sharing of technology, knowledge and experience by stakeholders from all different fields of knowledge and geographical regions.

Affirm the commitment of the pest control industry is dedicated to provide safer, more effective, efficient and economical tools and solutions to manage the Red Palm Weevil, renewing the ability of the global palm industry to protect its trees and crops from this devastating pest. The loss of every single palm tree to the Red Palm Weevil constitutes into the loss of a valuable asset that impinges in the reduction of income, food security, and quality of life not only of its owner, but also of the members of that community. Compounding changes due to the evolution of Red Palm Weevil infestations create an enduring negative effect on the future of new generations in the affected areas.

Emphasize that cooperation in science, technology and innovation, together with uninterrupted funding of the market, are key drivers for the pest control industry to invest in research and development to provide ever safer, effective tools and solutions to control the Red Palm Weevil that are constantly evolving to provide easier to use, less expensive and more efficient management solutions that are relevant to every stakeholder. It is important for the success of local Red Palm

Weevil Management Programs that the legislation and regulatory agencies in the geography support the rapid, unobstructed, registration of new tools and solutions, so they can be available in the market.

Recognize the importance of the active involvement and participation of the pest management industry in management programs and we express our commitment to the research and development of more effective and efficient tools and solutions that are sustainable, operationally viable and easy to use for the successful control and containment of RPW.

Express our readiness for the cooperation and partnership to provide the tools and solutions necessary to support the implementation of the recommendations and outcomes of this event.