

IPPC Seminar : Scientific Consultation and High-Level Meeting on Red Palm Weevil Management 29th to 31,March 2017 Management of RPW in infested area and Measures taken to prevent its propagation in date paim production zone in Tunisia Fethia Hellalli

History

Red palm weevil (RPW) was recorded in Tunisia for the first time in December 2011, in the north of the capital city Tunis (Carthage), then the weevil moved to other areas of the capital and other governorate (04) in 2014 ; All the infestation was recorded in *Phoenix canariensis*.

Cause of dissemination: lack of work plan and a clear strategy; Lack of funding

National Strategy to control RPW; Approved on Sep 2015 and based on:

- Field Control of RPW in infested area
- Systematic prospection and GIS localization of palm trees
- Preventives actions to avoid spread of RPW in buffer area
- Preventives actions to avoid spread of RPW in free area: date zone
- Awareness and information
- Research program

Legal procedures:

- Issue of an Order of Ministry of Agriculture on October 24, 2012. Obligation to fight RPW
- Establishment of a National Committee in order to develop and implement a work plan for the management of RPW in infested areas.
- Establishment of a technical Committee to sustain the National committee and to supervise the implementation of the national strategy.

1- Field Control of RPW in infested area

Foliar Spray

- Foliar Spray every month for all palms in the infestation area.
- by chlopyriphos ethyl or imidachloprid



Endotherapy injection

The endotherapy injection is applyed every 6 months to all palms in infestated area



Mass Trapping

Mass trapping is used as a method to control RPW

□ Data of traps are converted 2 weeks on graphic, to follow the RPW's population dynamic and evaluate the infesting situation and this is used as a tool to guide and orientate inspection

□ All traps are geolocalized





2- Prospecting, geolocalization

Decide which action to take





Cutting and sanitation of infested trees, management and sorting of waste and leftover palms





Result



In 2016, the number of infested palm trees declined by 65% as compared to 2015.

Infestation is reduced in 2016 (Marsa, Carthage, La Goulette; kram) and is about 0.5 %;

In some area RPW is totally eradicated.

However, the spread of the RPW outside of the confined areas is still possible.

Preventive actions to avoid the spread of the pest in the buffer area

- □ Field inspection
- Nurseries inspection
- Geolocalization of all palm trees
- Awareness campaigns about RPW issue, symptom; steps of infestation; biology of the pest; economic and environmental impacts.

Preventives actions to avoid the spread of the pest in free areas: date palm zone

- Establishment of regional committees for vigilance composed of the southern departments of the Ministry of Agriculture GIF;CTD; UTAP professional organizations (in the region of production of dates).
 Awareness of different stakeholders.
- Organization of Field days and training workshops for farmers
- □ Publication of brochures on RPW (identification of symptoms on the date palm trees and how to control it).
- □ Involvement of farmers and professional organizations in the drafting of the regional strategy to prevent the spread of RPW in the southern Governorate of Tunisia (date palm trees).
- Preparation and submission of a regional strategy aims to protect the oasis from the damage of RPW to the Ministerial Council and approval of the budget. The strategy is based on Phytosanitary prospection of oases (*Phoenix dactylifera*) and of urban area (*Phoenix canariensis*); Awareness and information; Monitoring Network.

Awareness and information

Awareness campaigns about RPW issue, for palm trees producers and importers, garden owners (especially hotels, nurseries) as well as common citizens.

Organization of workshop and Training session on symptom and control of RPW for staff involved in survey and monitoring

- Spot in TV
- Free Phone Number
- Publishing brochures on RPW.







Research activities

The main topics are:

- □ Improvements of the eradication procedure
- Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Attract and Kill Gel
- Comparison of effectiveness of different pheromones
- Comparison of efficiency of traps used in controlling RPW (number and color)
- Comparison of the effectiveness and persistence of pesticide used as
- foliar or Endotherapy treatments
- □The efficiency and persistence of certain biological products (Beauveria bassiana, bioweevil,...)

Main constraints facing RPW management practices

The main constraints facing the management practices: Accessibility to infested palm (private garden and Embassies) because of lack of awareness of some citizens

Insufficient number of inspectors in charge of the RPW management and phytosanitary survey

□ Lack in framing of workers witch induces the non conformity of procedure applied

Need to do and repeat treatments within the required time frame

problem of early detection

□ Implementation of the national strategy and execution of works is challenging at both logistical and financial levels.



Needs to overcome the challenges of RPW management and to improve the management programmes

✓Improvement of early detection of RPW

✓Improve the informatics tools for registration infestations and recording traps and improve use of satellite for prospection

✓ Improve method of foliar treatments and to sanitize the inaccessible infested trees

 ✓ Provide a manageable budget with more administrative procedures flexibility in recruitment of casual farmworker and to repair equipment's

➤More facilities and logistic equipment.

