

PROPOSED MULTI-DISCIPLINARY AND MULTI-REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF RED PALM WEEVIL

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Red Palm Weevil (RPW) *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (Olivier) (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) is a key pest of palms originating from South and South East Asian Countries that has significantly expanded its geographical and host range during the last three decades. In the Near East and North Africa Region, RPW is causing wide spread damage to date palm *Phoenix dactylifera* L. and having both economic impacts on date production and environmental impacts. It is also present on Canary Island palm *P. canariensis* in few cities of Morocco and Tunisia presenting a serious threat to the southern oasis. RPW has been spreading globally and has not been effectively managed in spite of several efforts and resources provided by countries and organizations. Extensive research has also been conducted on the management of RPW. Weak implementation of quarantine procedures, difficulties in the early detection of RPW-infested plant materials and insufficient involvement of the farmers have contributed to its rapid spread.

The proposed strategy was developed based on the analysis of the current management programs of RPW in different countries and identified challenges and weaknesses. The proposed strategy aims to support efforts/programs of countries to contain the spread and eradicate the pest, and create a framework for cooperation and coordination of efforts at the regional and inter-regional level for supporting the integrated and sustainable management programs to control RPW; and to reduce its devastating effects on the environment and food security, and socio-economic impact on rural communities.

The Proposed Multi-disciplinary and Multi-regional Strategy for the Management of Red Palm Weevil was developed by a team of FAO, CIHEAM, IPPC, NEPPO and other international experts.

The presentation will present both components of the strategy; the national component that aims at improving the ongoing national programs for the effective management of RPW at country level and the regional component of the strategy that aims at creating an enabling environment for cooperation and coordination for improvement of the RPW management strategy at the regional and inter-regional level through establishment of a regional RPW platform/program with support of FAO and other specialized international and regional organizations.