



IPPC Plant health emergency response: Investing in a sustainable future

Plant pest outbreaks can cause devastation comparable to the impacts of natural disasters, pandemics, or even financial crises.

Early detection and rapid response to plant pest outbreaks are key to avoiding or limiting their impact.

The IPPC community expects to have a plant health emergency response system in place by 2030, ready to facilitate timely action against pest incursions and support countries with emergency response systems tools and knowledge.

About the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

The IPPC is a multilateral treaty established to protect the world's plants, agricultural products and natural resources from plant pests. Established in 1951, IPPC is ratified by 185 countries.

The IPPC Secretariat and community are focusing on eight **development agenda items (DAIs)** to achieve the objectives in the [IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030](#).

These agenda items, in various stages of implementation, are:

1. harmonization of electronic data exchange;
2. commodity- and pathway-specific International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs);
3. management of e-commerce and postal and courier pathways;
4. developing guidance on the use of third-party entities;
5. strengthening pest outbreak alert and response systems (POARS);
6. assessment and management of climate change impacts on plant health;
7. global phytosanitary research coordination; and
8. diagnostic laboratory networking.



Challenges

- » The lack of reporting changes in the condition of quarantine pests reduces understanding of their distribution and increases the risk of introduction and establishment.
- » When NPPOs do not receive quarantine pest risk alerts on time, it impedes the implementation of essential prevention, preparedness, and response measures.
- » Limited adaptation of phytosanitary systems to change pests' condition results in unnecessary threats to food security, the environment, and trade.



Solution

Making operational a feasible global mechanism for a **Pest Outbreak Alert and Response System (POARS)** to address pests of global concern and improving the National Reporting Obligations (NROs) by:

- » Evaluating and ranking emerging plant pests.
- » Developing surveillance and response tools.
- » Developing national pest reporting, including the design of a horizon scanning system for collecting information.
- » Establishing a system for communicating alerts.

Benefits

- » Strengthening countries' capacity to prevent, prepare, detect, and respond to outbreaks, leading to a more efficient and effective response to pest emergencies.
- » Preventing the spread of pests across different regions and reducing their economic, environmental, and social impact to preserve biodiversity and food security.
- » Global and regional collaboration will aid Contracting Parties (CPs) and NPPOs to act timelier during pest outbreaks and new pest incursions.



Current status and opportunity to invest

The projected budget for the period 2024–2030 to implement the solution is estimated to be USD 3.24 million.



Why your investment matters

Your investment will directly impact the operationalization of the Pest Outbreak Alert and Response System (POARS) and will contribute to improve the National Reporting Obligation, which, in turn, will help preserve biodiversity and food security.



Funding mechanism

Contact us on how you can contribute financially or in kind by sending an email to ippc-dai@fao.org.

For other inquiries, please email Sarah Brunel at sarah.brunel@fao.org.

Make a difference by supporting countries to prevent, prepare and respond to plant pest outbreaks. Invest in POARS, invest in a sustainable future!

CONTACT US

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