

Summary of EPPO Strategic plan 2021 – 2025.

Introduction

The aims of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) are according to the EPPO Convention:

- to support the Member Governments in their aim of assuring plant health,
- to pursue and develop, by cooperation between the Member Governments, the protection of plants and plant products against pests and the prevention of their international spread,
- to develop internationally harmonized phytosanitary and other official plant protection measures,
- to present the collective views of the Member Governments, as appropriate, to international organizations.

EPPO has two core areas of responsibility:

- Phytosanitary Regulation, including invasive alien plants,
- Plant Protection.

Areas in which EPPO has significant capabilities that support or supplement the work in the two core areas are information services, research co-ordination, regulated non-quarantine pests (RNQPs), efficacy evaluation of plant protection products and biological control agents.

To achieve its aims, EPPO has six Strategic Objectives, five of them are similar to those in previous years and a new one was included, on Communication.

COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have massive impacts, globally, regionally and also on the work of EPPO. EPPO will monitor the impact of the pandemic and other similar events and use its experience and flexibility to adjust its way of working to achieve its Strategic Objectives or adjust them, if needed.

Strategic Objective 1: Improving Protection of Plant Health

Technical work to protect plant health will continue to be the main activity for EPPO. EPPO aims to remain an authority in this area. Within the area of Phytosanitary Regulations, EPPO will continue to work on horizon scanning, pest listing, pest risk analysis (PRA), pest reporting and Standard development. Moreover, the work on invasive alien plants and biological control agents will continue. The work on biological control agents will be broadened to also cover biological control of invasive alien plants. In the area of Plant Protection, EPPO will continue to develop standards on efficacy evaluation and will also focus on zonal authorization, low risk products and alternatives for chemical plant protection products, minor uses and resistance management, incorporating where applicable new technological developments. EPPO will explore where it can have added value by supporting its member countries in the area of integrated pest management (IPM). EPPO will continue to develop synergy between the work in the area of Phytosanitary Regulation and Plant Protection.

Strategic Objective 2: Communication to NPPOs and stakeholders

The availability of up-to-date information is essential for plant health. EPPO has worked for many years on collection of information and making it available to its member countries. EPPO will focus on making up-to-date information readily available and on effective communication, to the authorities in its member countries but also to other stakeholders. EPPO will also continue to support its member countries in how they can communicate to operators and the general public about the importance of plant health and the risks.

Strategic Objective 3: Maintaining and strengthening relationships

EPPO will strongly encourage continued input of experts from EPPO member countries in its activities, because their contribution is essential for the work of EPPO. EPPO will also continue to offer a platform for experts to exchange experiences and increase and widen their expertise and build networks with other experts. EPPO will continue to be an active Regional Plant Protection Organization (RPPO) and to coordinate the European positions and representation in International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) bodies. EPPO will develop further its relationship with the European Commission (EC), the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), EU Reference Laboratories (EURL) and the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC), and for plant protection products (PPP), the relationship with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). EPPO will seek complementarity with these organizations and avoid overlap in work delivered. In the area of research, EPPO will strengthen its relationships with Euphresco and, in the area of PPP, with the Minor Uses Coordination Facility (MUCF).

Strategic Objective 4: Building capability to participate in projects

EPPO will continue to participate in research projects, as long as they are linked to the core work of EPPO and are of benefit for its member countries. In these projects, EPPO will make full use of its role as an authority in the protection of plant health, its existing ways of disseminating information and its possibilities to offer a platform for experts to exchange expertise. The role of project coordinators within the EPPO Secretariat will be further developed.

Strategic Objective 5: Improving processes

EPPO will formalize more processes and write down more procedures and instructions, where useful, to allow for smooth operations and further improved transparency, but the administrative burden should be kept manageable.

Strategic Objective 6: Securing the future of EPPO

EPPO depends for most of its funding on annual contributions of its member countries. They will be encouraged to pay their contributions in time and the benefits of membership will be made clear to them. Moreover, only a small percentage of the salaries of permanent staff should depend on project funding. Active participation of member countries in EPPO's work will be encouraged and procedures and instructions will be developed or revised. It is essential for the future of the organization that the EPPO Secretariat works in a timely manner on transition of the work of staff members that will leave the organization in the coming five years.