Integrated Production, Protection and Biocontrol Commission for North African Countries

Report on activities from October 2011 to October 2013

Convenor: Mohammed Besri
NEEDS, ROLE, TERMS OF REFERENCE AND ORGANISATION OF THE IOBC/WPRS COMMISSION FOR NORTH AFRICA

- Described in the brochure “Integrated Production, Protection and Biocontrol Commission for North African Countries”

Web site: http://www.iobc-wprs.org/expert_groups/c_ip_north-africa.html
Brochure on “Integrated Production, Protection and Biocontrol Commission for North African Countries”

- Aims and objectives of IOBC/WPRS
- Structure of IOBC global and IOBC/WPRS
- Membership of IOBC/WPRS
- IOBC/WPRS working groups, study groups and commissions
- IOBC/WPRS IP &IPM
- Publications of IOBC related to WPRS
- Needs, role, terms of reference and organisation of the IOBC/WPRS commission for north Africa

http://www.iobc-wprs.org/expert_groups/c_ip_north-africa.html

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Commissions members

A list of the commission members has been proposed and accepted by the Executive committee

- Mohamed Besri: convenor, Morocco
- Claire Villemant: liaison officer, France (resigned)
- Bouzid Nasraoui, Tunisia, deputy convenor
- Ahmed Mazih, Morocco
- Moumene Khaled, Algeria
- Ibrahim El-Ghariani, Libya
- Medhat Kamel Ali, Egypt
- Eric Bureau, Crop Life
- Michel Guillon, IBMA
Identification of the main pests problems in North Africa

To identify crop protection problems in North Africa and assist the region to develop and implement sustainable solutions, a survey in North African countries was conducted (Morocco to Egypt).

The questions asked to the countries' representatives are:

1. What do you expect from the IOBC commission?
2. What topics would you like to be addressed by the commission?
3. What are the two major phytosanitary problems that your country faces and that you would like to be addressed by the commission?
4. Would you like to organise some regional activities (workshops, training, information exchange...) to solve these problems? If yes, please describe these activities and report what will be the scientific and financial contribution of your country in the organisation.
5. List the potential public and private institutes, companies, associations etc... that may be interested in participating to the commission activities and in joining IOBC. For each

*Tuta absoluta* appeared to be a challenge for Tomato production in the region.

The NA commission decided to organise two Symposia on this pest.
**Symposium 1:** Joint international symposium management of *Tuta absoluta* (tomato borer)

**Symposium 2:** Regional Symposium on the Management of Fruit Flies in Near East Countries

- **Venue and dates:** Agadir, Morocco, 16-18 November 2011
  - Partners: EPPO/IOBC/FAO/NEPPO/IRAC/IBMA
  - Number of participants: 450
  - Countries represented: 37
  - Number of oral presentations: 42
  - Number of posters: 56
  - Meeting attended by Liaison Officer? No
  - Presentation of IOBC: Yes

- **Venue and dates:** Hammamet, Tunisia, 6-8 November 2012
  - Partners: EPPO/IOBC/FAO/NEPPO/IRAC/IBMA
  - Number of participants: 137
  - Countries represented: 25
  - Number of oral presentations: 37
  - Number of posters: 17
  - Meeting attended by Liaison Officer? No
  - Presentation of IOBC: Yes
Status of the proceedings


Symposia evaluation

The two symposia organised in Agadir and in Tunisia were very successful. The commission is very important for North Africa mainly for the following reasons:

- North African countries are poorly represented in the different IOBC/WPRS activities carried out by the working groups, study groups and the commissions. In addition, most of the convenors and of the liaison officers are from the northern part of the Mediterranean sea.

- The North African countries are regularly facing new diseases and pests. A cooperation among the North African countries and with European countries is more and more needed.

- North Africa needs to identify in each country the main agricultural universities, research institutions, associations/societies that are involved in agriculture and sustainable plant protection.

- There is a need to establish networks among North African countries to promote biocontrol, IPM and IP in the region.

- The potential stakeholders should be contacted (such as government bodies, research institutes, commercial organizations and industries related to plant protection, production and exports) to make them familiar with the major activities and results of IOBC/WPRS.

- Special crop protection problems in North African countries should be identified in order to assist the region to develop and implement sustainable solutions.
Specific messages to Executive Committee/Council

1. Reorganisation & Revitalisation of IOBC-WPRS-Commission IP and Biocontrol in North-African countries

2. Ideas for future activities

3. Implementation of activities

4. New members
Message 1:
Reorganisation & Revitalisation of IOBC-WPRS-Commission IP and Biocontrol in North-African countries

- Proposal to **re-name the Commission as “Near-East Commission”** (North Africa and Middle East)
  Discussion: if renamed, new members from the relevant countries have to be included and the Commission has to be enlarged.

- Proposal to **include Arab Society of Plant Protection, FAO regional office, NEPPO, OADA…. as members**

- Member fees: **Actual member fees are too high**, both for individuals as well as for universities or some organisations (supporting members). IOBC-WPRS Treasurer was asked to discuss this problem with the executive Committee and to propose a solution. Special fees should also be proposed for students.

- **Request for official invitation letter to institutions** (e.g. Irak) from the president of IOBC-WPRS
Message 2: Ideas for future activities

- **Red Palm weevil** most urgent problem; **regional meeting** for relevant producing countries (together with FAO, EPPO; NEPPO) proposed to be organised in 2013

- **Updating the status of natural enemies in the commission countries**

- **Joint research on regional Huang long bin (Citrus greening) vectors and their IPM/biocontrol options**

- **Effects of climatic changes** on pests development in the Near East

- **Crops oriented propositions**: date palms, vegetables, olives etc...
Message 3:  
Implementation of activities

- **Involvement** of the IOBC-WPRS working groups in all the **commission activities**

- **Establishment**, if necessary of **new study groups**

- **Organise regional conferences, training sessions, round tables, workshops**  
  **in collaboration** with national, regional and international organisations  
  (examples: *Tuta absoluta* meeting 2011 in Agadir, Regional fruit fly meeting 2012 in Hammamet)
Message 4: New members

- how to find and encourage interested individual scientists, organisations, institutions to join IOBC
  - Assistance of Arab Society of Plant Protection and of other organisations
  - Direct official invitation letters
Specific messages to Executive Committee/ Council

- The Ex Com was very efficient in the organisation of the two symposia. All the the EX Com recommendations have been considered.
- The two symposia were organised in collaboration with EPPO/IOBC/FAO/NEPPO/IRAC/IBMA
- The IOBC WG and commissions have never been involved in the NA Commission activities
- The NA commission could help, upon request, the IOBC WG and commissions and regional international organizations (FAO, IAPPS, ...) in organising regional symposia, workshops etc.. No request has been made
- IOBC membership is very low. More efforts should be made.
- Reorganisation & Revitalisation of IOBC-WPRS-Commission IP and Biocontrol in North-African countries: it is proposed to re-name the Commission as North Africa and Middle East commission)
Thank you for your attention

Comment and propositions are welcome