

IPPC Webinar on FAW Prevention

speaker biographies



Arop Deng

Dr Deng works as Agricultural Officer and an Integration and Support Team Leader at the FAO-based Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). He currently leads a team in charge of coordination of governance meetings, communication and information management and partnership. He worked as FAOSS National Project Coordinator for management of FAW (2018/2019), Professor/ Dean Postgraduate College, University of Juba (2015-2019), Secretary General, Government of Jonglei State, South Sudan (2009-2015), Lecturer/Associate Professor, Egerton University, Kenya (1996-2010), Postgraduate Research Associate, ICIPE Research Centre, Nairobi, Kenya (1995-1997) and Agricultural Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Upper Nile Region, Sudan (1985-1992).



Jingyuan Xia

Dr Xia is the Director of Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP) of the FAO. Prior to his present position, from 2015-2019, he was the Secretary to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) at FAO Headquarters in Rome. Before joining the FAO, from 2012 to 2014, Dr Xia was serving as Permanent Representative and Minister Plenipotentiary at the China Mission to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture in Rome. Between 2001 and 2011, he served as Director General and Extension Professor at the National Agro-Tech Extension and Service Center (NATESC) of the Ministry of Agriculture in Beijing. He also worked as Assistant Director General, Deputy Director General and Director General at the China Cotton Research Institute (CCRI) of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) in Anyang.



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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
PLANT HEALTH
2020

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Avetik Nersisyan

Dr Nersisyan works as Agricultural Officer and Standards Setting Unit Lead at the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). As current Officer in charge IPPC Secretary for daily matters, he coordinates and oversees the work of the IPPC Secretariat. Before joining FAO and the IPPC Secretariat, he managed the implementation of Strategic Programme SP2 in FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia. He initiated a new Regional Initiative under SP2 and led its implementation team for sustainable management of natural resources under climate change. In parallel, he acted as alternative FAO Representative for Moldova and was the responsible FAO Technical Officer for Plant Production and Protection in the region.



Chris Dale

Mr Chris Dale is the Assistant Director of Plant Health Surveillance and Diagnostics within the Australian National Plant Protection Organisation (Department of Agriculture, Water, and the Environment). He is a member of the FAO Fall Armyworm Technical Committee, Chair of the Fall Armyworm Phytosanitary and Quarantine Measures Technical Working Group, and technical lead of the International Agricultural Biosecurity Technical Working Group supporting FAW preparedness and response initiatives across the Asia Pacific. Chris is also Vice Chair of the IPPC Implementation and Capacity Development Committee and represents Australia within the Asia Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) and Pacific Plant Protection Organisation (PPPO).



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Organization of the
United Nations



International
Plant Protection
Convention



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2020

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speaker biographies



Sarah Brunel

As the Implementation Facilitation Unit Deputy Lead within the IPPC Secretariat, Ms Brunel manages important IPPC implementation and capacity development projects, such as the IPPC Global Project on Capacity Development under the framework of the FAO-China South-South Cooperation Programme. She analyzes global and country specific requirements and relevant technical issue through backstopping to FAO projects in developing countries of all continents, particularly to apply Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluations (PCE). She is also the lead within the IPPC Secretariat for the new programme on “Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems”. Ms Brunel is the Vice-Chair of the Technical Working Group on Quarantine and Phytosanitary Measures and the IPPC-Regional Plant Protection Organizations Task Force on Fall Armyworm.



Mekki Chouibani

Dr Mekki Chouibani is the Executive Director of the Near East Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO). In 2009, he is in charge of the Plant Protection Department at National Food Security Office (Office National de la Sécurité Sanitaire des produits Alimentaires -ONSSA). In 2002, as the head of the Technical Control and Plant Protection Department of the Directorate of Plant Protection, Technical Control and Fraud Control at the Ministry of Agriculture of Morocco, Dr Chouibani was responsible for the pesticide's registration, surveillance, quarantine and phytosanitary inspection, forest protection, control of birds and rodents, registration and certification of seeds and seedlings, and the protection of plant varieties. He is a founding member of the Moroccan Protection of Plants Association.



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Organization of the
United Nations



International
Plant Protection
Convention



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PLANT HEALTH
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speaker biographies



Visoni Motofaga Timote

Dr Timote is a Plant Pathologist and currently working for the Pacific Community (SPC) as the Integrated Programme Coordinator (Biosecurity, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards). He is the current Executive Secretary for the Pacific Plant Protection Organisation (PPPO), which consists of 26 member countries and territories in the South West Pacific region. Dr Timote is also one of the six current developing country experts for the Standards Trade and Development Facility (STDF). He has over 20 years' experience as a border officer for the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF) – leaving BAF as the Chief Plant Protection Officer. He holds a PhD in Agricultural Science and is a graduate from Tokyo University of Agriculture (TUA), Japan majoring in Plant Pathology.



Valerio Lucchesi

Valerio Lucchesi works as Scientific Officer for the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) since 2013, working on pesticide efficacy evaluation and plant protection product authorisation issues. In addition to assisting in the work of the EPPO Panels and Expert Working Groups in the PPP area, Mr Lucchesi follows the activities of the EPPO Panel on Global Affairs dealing with the relations with the IPPC community. He is an agronomist specialized in Agricultural Development with professional experience in Plant Health & Protection, International Agriculture Policy, Agro-environmental Policy, Agriculture Statistics and Technical Cooperation.



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Organization of the
United Nations



International
Plant Protection
Convention



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
PLANT HEALTH
2020

IPPC Webinar on FAW Prevention

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Mariangela Ciampitti

Ms Ciampitti graduated in Agricultural Sciences and specialized in Plant Protection and IPM. She has been working for 29 years for the Lombardy Plant Protection Service and the National Plant Protection Organization of Italy. She is in charge of managing outbreaks of quarantine pests, planning and implementing survey programmes, and developing pest control strategies with low environmental impact. Member of technical working groups on Plant Health and Plant Protection Products at international level, Ms Ciampitti is Involved as an expert in several projects in the Balkan area and North Africa. She is also a member of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) Standards Committee.



Nilesh Ami Chand

Nilesh A Chand is the Chief Plant Protection Officer for Biosecurity Authority of Fiji. He joined the Fiji Quarantine services 25 years ago and has worked up the ranks to being the organizations Entomologist for 3 years prior to assuming this position. Nilesh has obtained his Masters in Plant Health & Biosecurity degree from University of Adelaide and Masters in Biochemistry degree from Macquarie University in Sydney Australia. He manages Plants Division of BAF and is involved with Risk Assessments, Horizon scanning, monitoring, surveillances and mitigations for exotic emerging plant pests and pathogens to Fiji.



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Organization of the
United Nations



International
Plant Protection
Convention



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PLANT HEALTH
2020

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speaker biographies



Hichem Asses

Since 2013, Mr Asses works as principal agricultural engineer at the General Directorate of Plant Health and Control of Agricultural Inputs of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water resources and Fisheries of Tunisia. Mr Asses is the Fall Armyworm national focal point for Tunisia and is also responsible for the development of an action plan to prevent the introduction of Fall Armyworm into Tunisia.



Tek Tay

Dr Tay is a Senior Research Scientist at CSIRO Health and Biosecurity Business Unit's Risk Evaluation and Preparedness Program. His work centres on population genomics and molecular ecology of major invasive arthropods including *Bemisia tabaci* cryptic species and *Helicoverpa* species to assist with national and international agricultural biosecurity preparedness and understanding management options.



Allison Watson

Dr Watson has worked on the development and implementation of multistakeholder partnerships in the agricultural sector over the last fifteen years. She currently manages the ASEAN Action Plan on Fall Armyworm Control.



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