



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



ورشة عمل خطط الطوارئ كتمرين محاكاة عملي

## Contingency Exercise Workshop

*Xylella fastidiosa*

Hammamet, Tunisia, 26 – 28 May 2025

# Contingency planning for pest outbreaks

**Rob Tanner (EPPO):** Organising Committee: Ms Olga Tikka (EPPO), Mr Mohamed Habib Ben Jamâa (NEPPO), Ms Marie-Agnes Jacques (INRA, FR), Mr Antonio Vicent (ivia, ES), Mr Sybren Vos (EFSA, IT), Mr Thaer Yaseen (FAO, EG), Ms Olfa Ezzine (NEPPO), Ms Lisa Perez (EPPO)



# Overview

- Introduction to contingency planning
- Essential elements
- Testing a contingency plan
- Simulation exercise



Symptoms on olive trees. EPPO Global Database, courtesy of Jaap Janse (NL)



# Contingency plans

- Contingency plans aim to ensure a rapid and effective response to an outbreak of a pest which has been assessed as likely to cause major economic and/or environmental impact,
- They can help organisations involved in the eradication of an outbreak to be prepared, especially when several parties need to cooperate.

PM 9/10 (1) Generic elements for contingency plans. *EPPO Bulletin* **39**, 471-474.



AI generated image (2025-05-02)

## 12 essential elements



- Background information on the pest
- Initiation of a contingency plan
- Official actions on presumptive diagnostics
- Official actions to eradicate the pest
- Review of measures in case of prolonged official action
- Determining completion of statutory action
- Command structure
- Stakeholder consultation
- Internal communication
- External communication
- Testing and training of personnel
- Evaluation and revision of contingency plan

# Testing a contingency plan

- Simulate the experience of a phytosanitary emergency
- Test if the EPPO Standard PM 9/10 and the Tunisian contingency plan are 'fit for purpose'
- Evaluate the availability of other resources
- Work as a team



Test



## Types of simulation exercises

Realism

Live play: Exercise activity

Simulation: control centre exercise

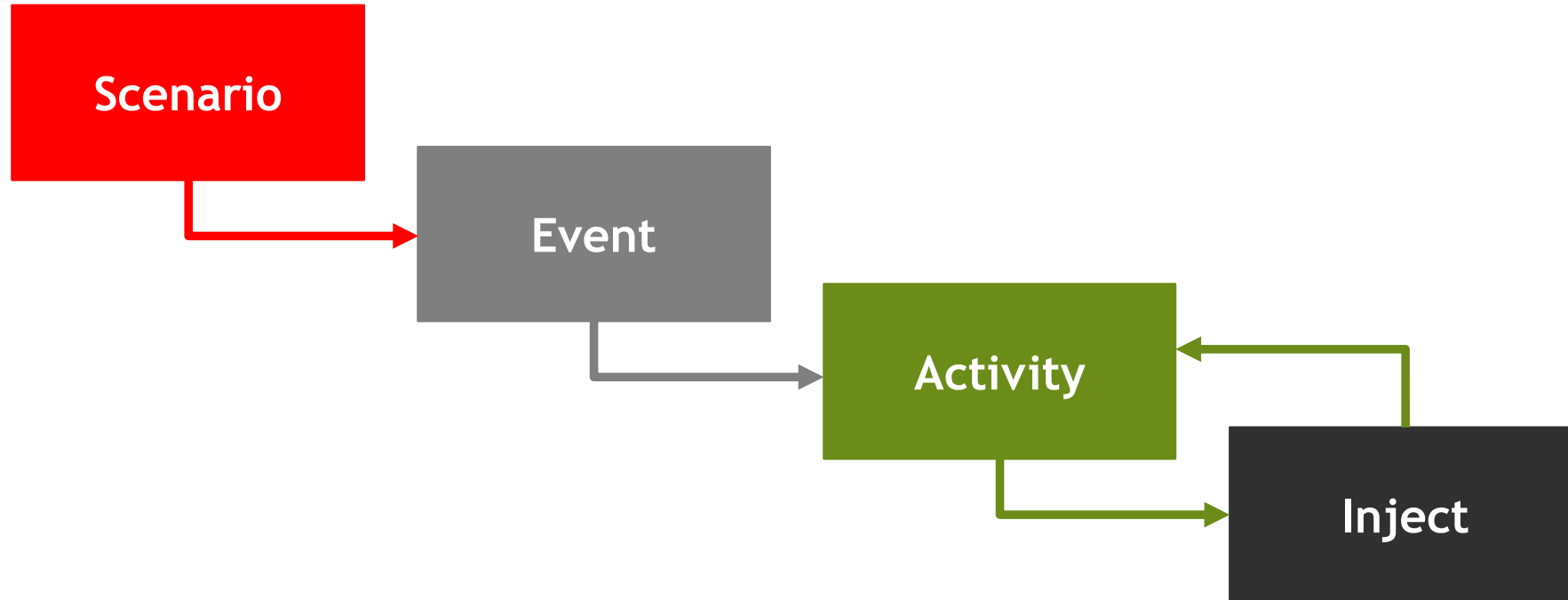
Table-top: Facilitated exercise ~ can be complex

Discussion: evaluates shared understanding

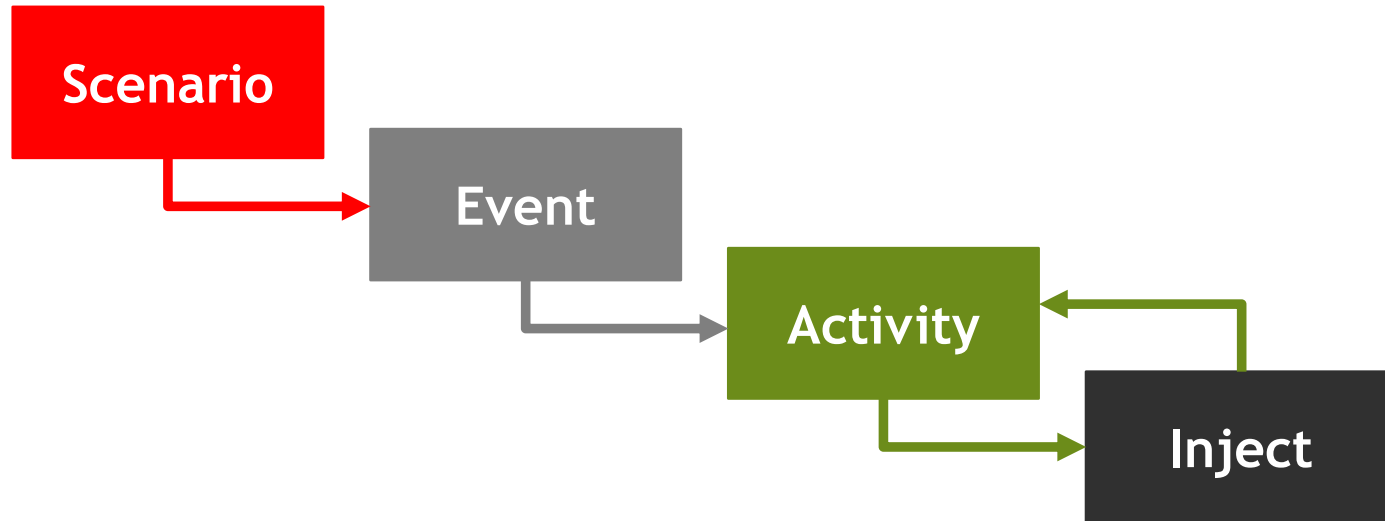
Drill: simple co-ordinated

Challenge

# Structure of a simulation exercise



# The scenario

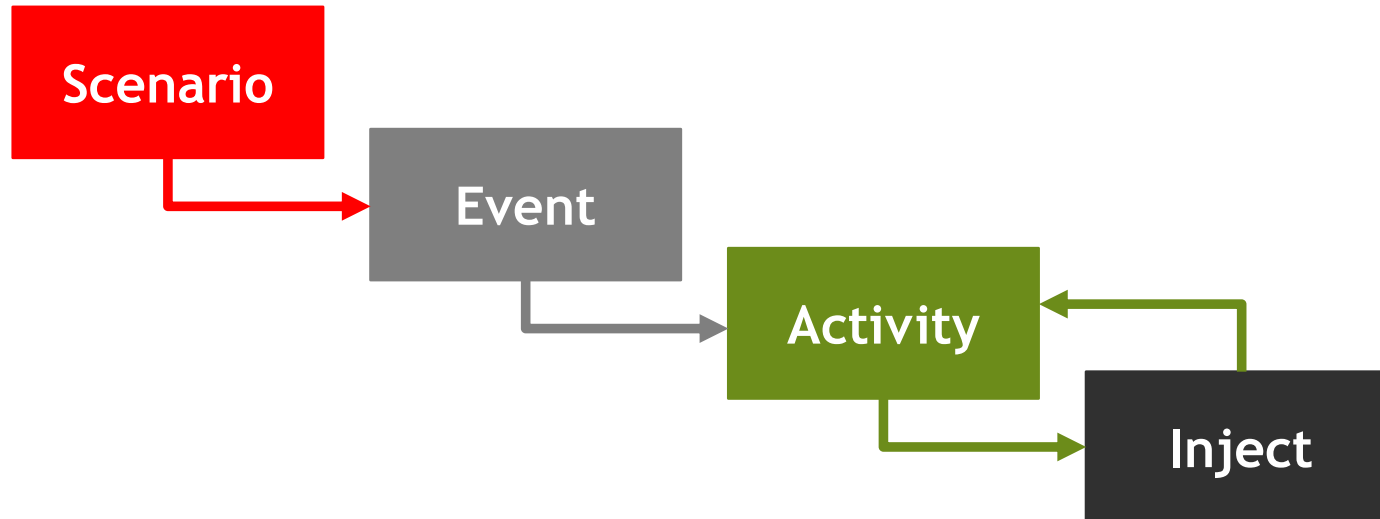


The **scenario** is the common theme for the exercise



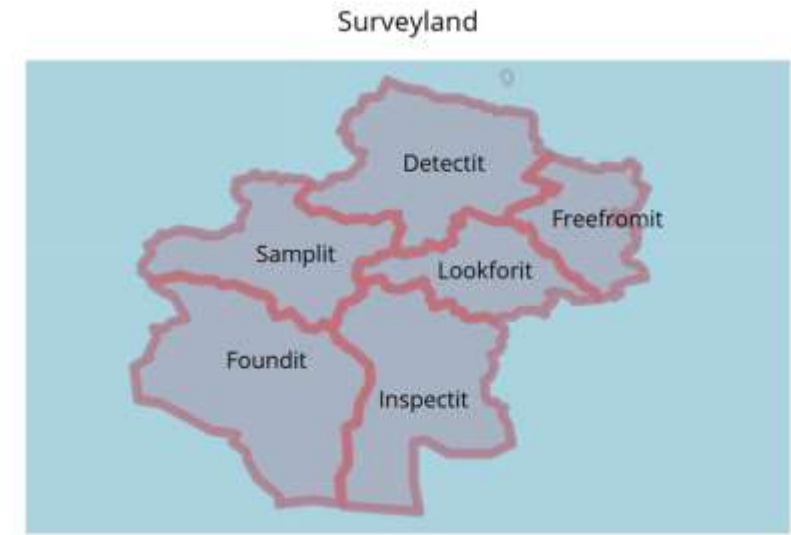


# The scenario



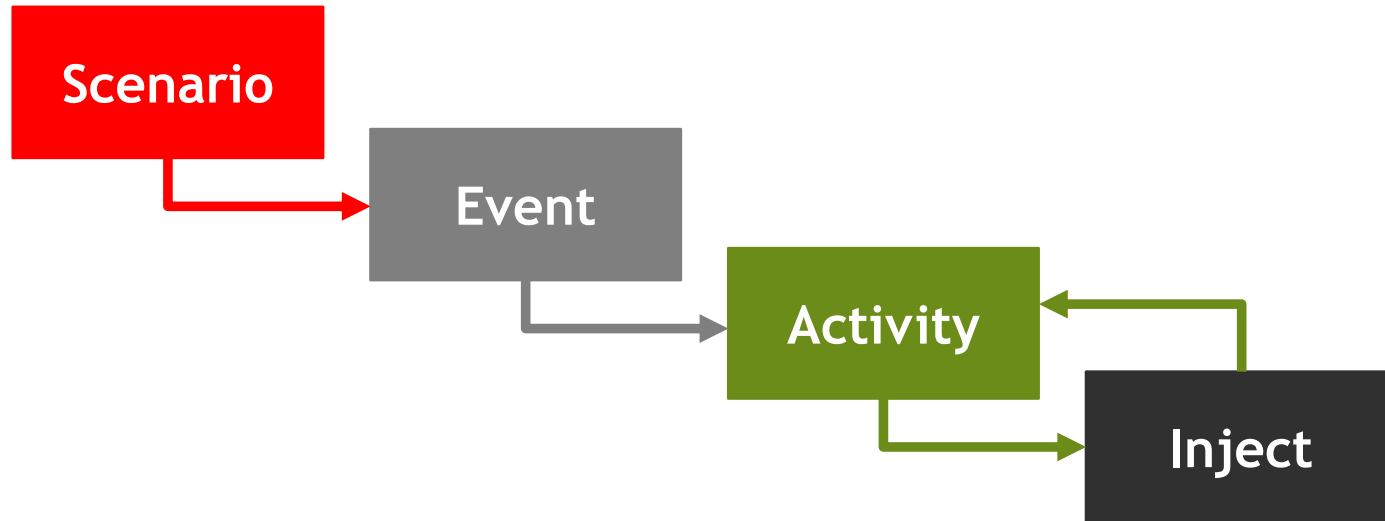
The **scenario** is the common theme for the exercise

The first handouts will set the **scenario**



AI generated image (2025-05-02)

# An event



An **event** occurs as a result of the **scenario**.

For example:

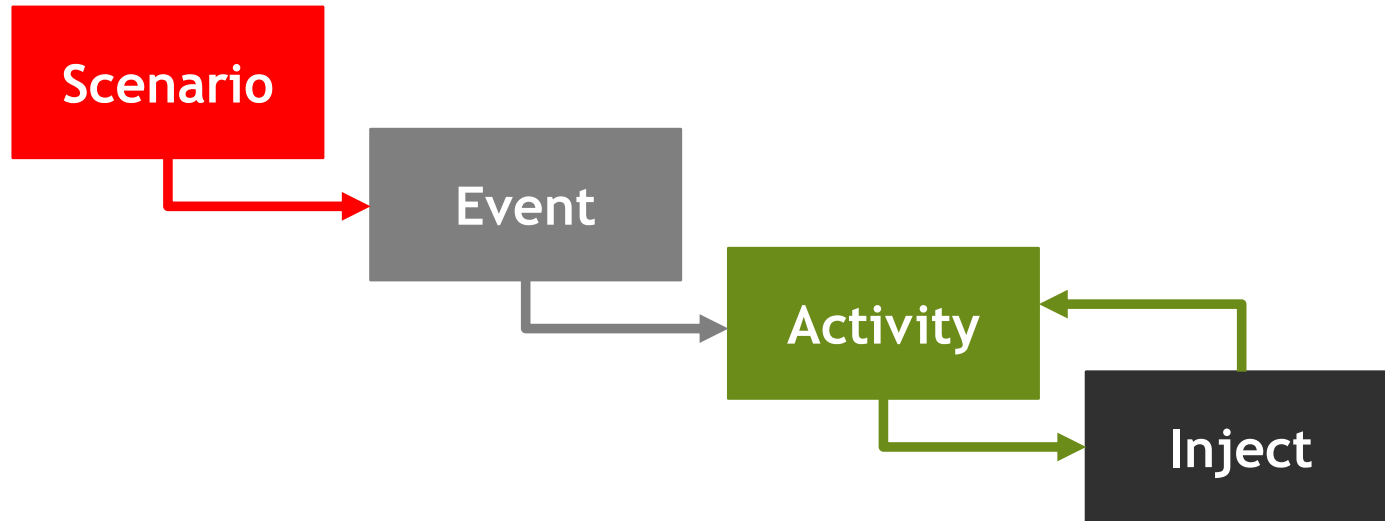
*X.f* suspected in a new orchard

*X.f* detected in samples in the laboratory



AI generated image (2025-05-02)

# An activity



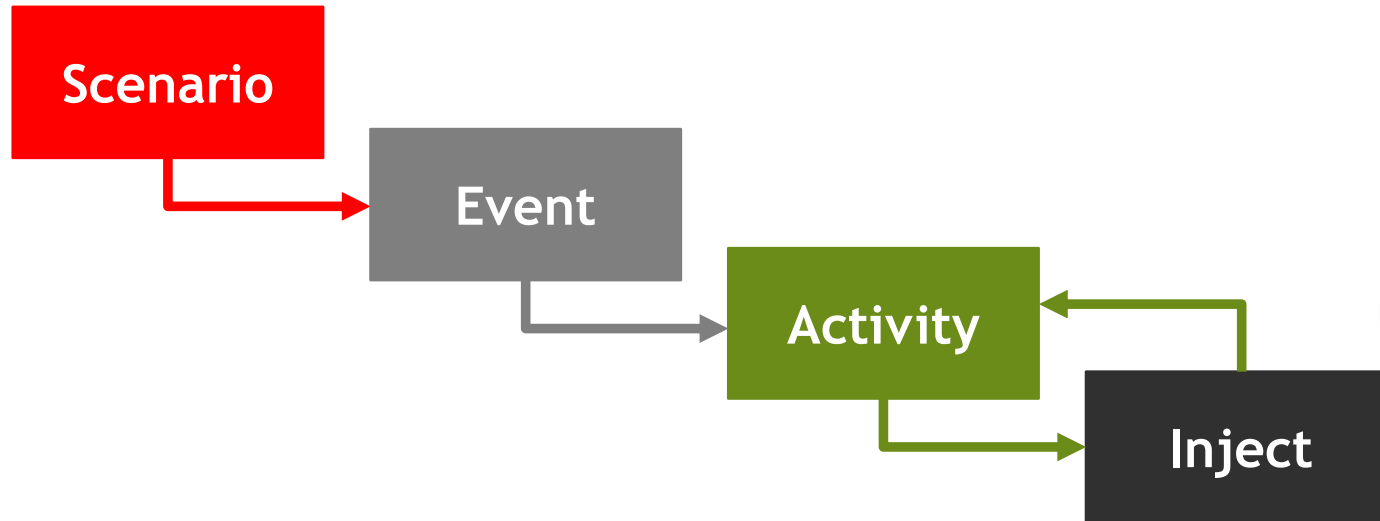
An **activity** is performed to address an **event**.

- Delimiting surveys,
- Restrictions on movement of host plants,
- Communication campaigns.



AI generated image (2025-05-02)

## An output



An **inject** is an occurrence that is designed to test the contingency plan and the Outbreak Management Team

Destruction of removal of trees, **inject** = refusal of access

Communication plan, **inject** = key stakeholders disseminating incorrect



## The exercise



Six groups

Each group is an 'Outbreak Management Team'

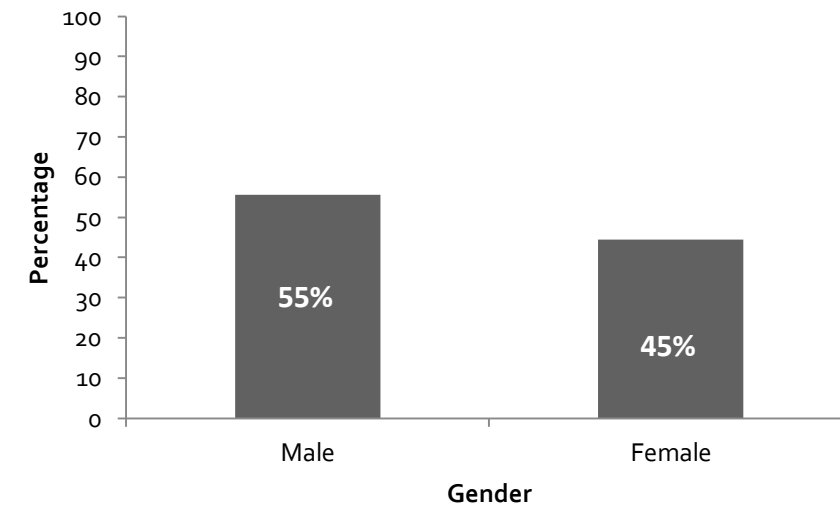
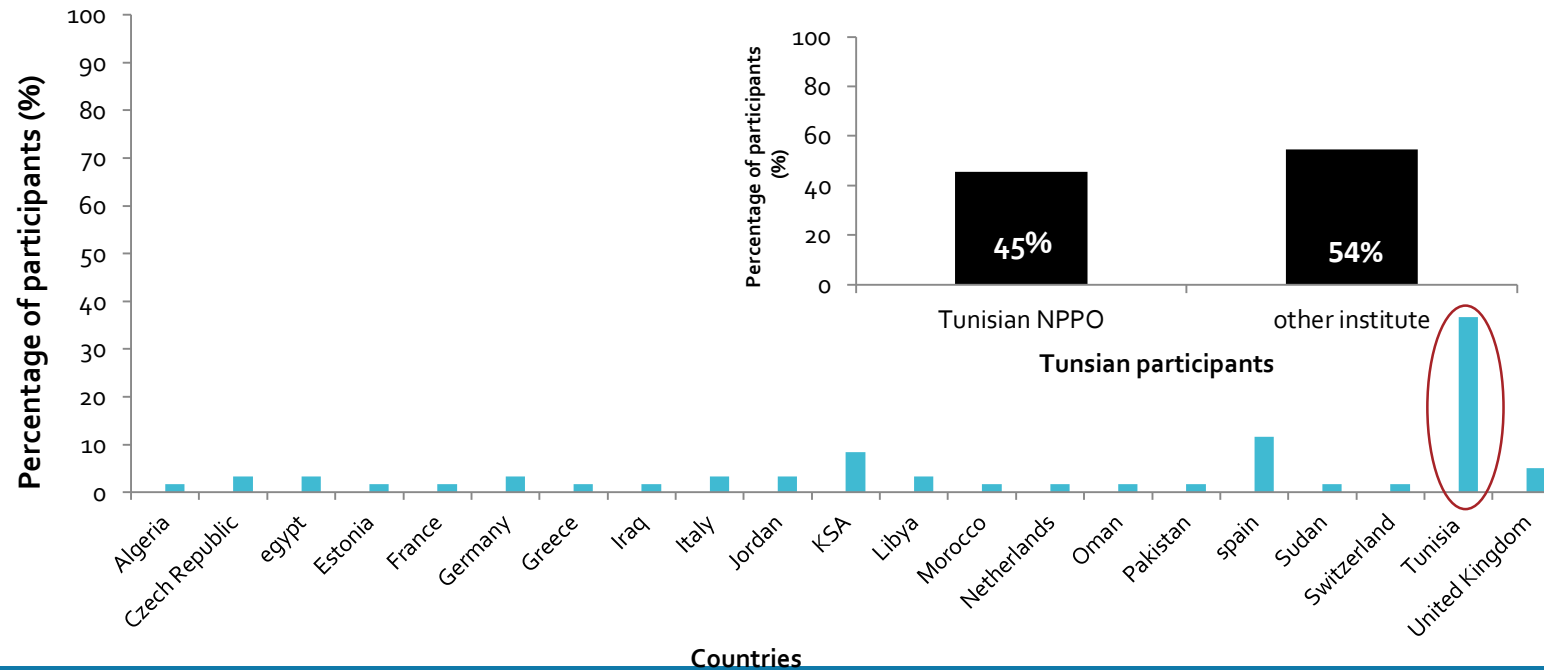
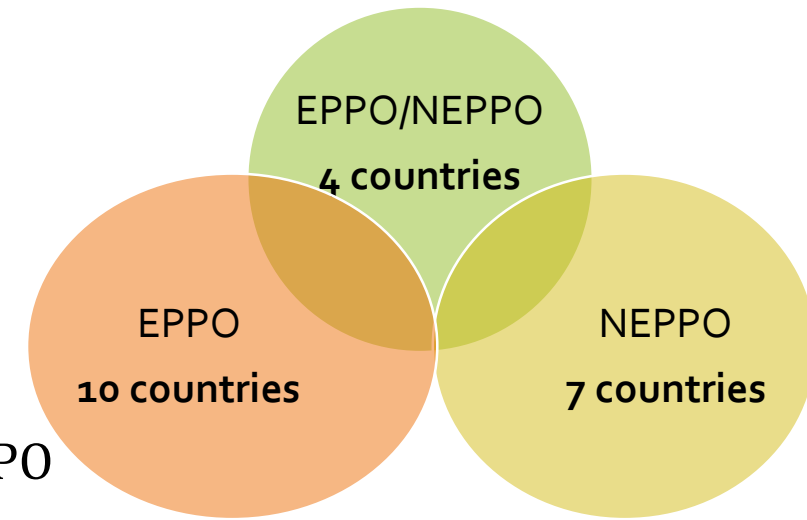
The scenario develops over time

Inputs from the field, laboratory and from the headquarters

The groups decide their responses and actions

# Participation

- **72** specialists in plant protection
- Participants belong to **21** countries
- Between 1 and 22 participants from each country
- **5** partners are involved in this workshop: BeXyl, EFSA, EPPO, FAO and NEPPO
- Distribution of gender is almost **50%**





# Resources

- The groups (**You!**) – lots of expertise
- EPPO Extranet – key documents in English and Arabic
- Examples of contingency plans French and Spanish
- EFSA Pest survey card
- EPPO Global Database
- Etc.....



AI generated image (2025-05-02)



# The Programme

## Meeting agenda

### Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May

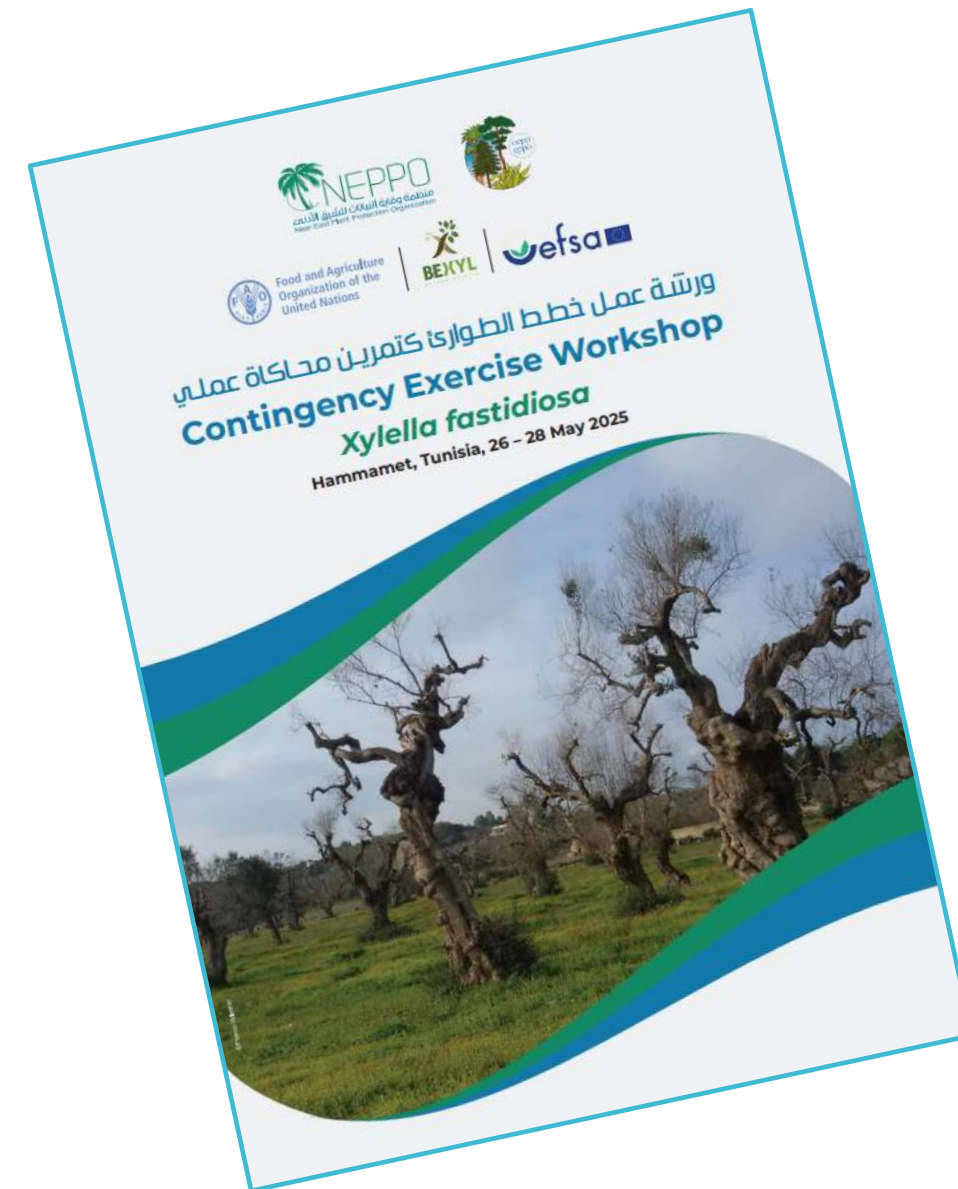
08:00	<b>Registration</b>
08:45	<b>Opening and welcome</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Representative from Minister of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries, Tunisia</li> <li>» Mohamed Habib Ben Jamâa, NEPP0 Executive Director</li> <li>» Olga Tikka, EPPO Director-General</li> <li>» Naima Mahfoudhi, DGSVCIA Director General (NPPO Tunisia)</li> </ul>
<b>Setting the scene – presentations</b>	
09:00	<b>Multi-partner collaborations can build resilience in preventing and mitigating pest outbreaks in the Mediterranean basin</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Olga Tikka (EPPO)</li> </ul>
09:20	<b>The approaches of NEPP0 for the emerging pests in NENA Region</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Mohamed Habib Ben Jamâa (NEPP0)</li> </ul>
09:40	<b>Contingency planning for pest outbreaks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Rob Tanner (EPPO)</li> </ul>
10:00	<b>Contingency plan for <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i>: Tunisian case</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Mohamed Habib Ben Jamâa (NEPP0)</li> </ul>
10:15	<b>Scientific knowledge required for preparing contingency plans for <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Sybren Vos (EFSA)</li> </ul>
10:30	<b>BEXYL project: Beyond <i>Xylella</i>, Integrated Management Strategies for Mitigating <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> impact in Europe</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Juan Navas-Cortes (BeXyl)</li> </ul>
10:45	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>Contingency planning – the simulation exercise</b>	
11:10	<b>Break into groups for the contingency exercise</b>
13:00	<b>Lunch</b>
14:00	<b>Group exercise (RIPEST)</b>
16:00	<b>Coffee break</b>
16:30	<b>Group exercise continued</b>
17:00	<b>Biology and ecology of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Marie-Agnès Jacques (IRHS-INRAE, FR)</li> </ul>
17:15	<b>Aphrophoridae candidate vectors of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> in Tunisia</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Sonia Boukhris-Bouhachem (INRAT)</li> </ul>
17:30	<b>Group exercise continued</b>
18:00	<b>Tunisian NPPO and introduction to the field trip</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Naima Mahfoudhi (DGSVCIA)</li> </ul>
18:30	<b>Close of the day</b>

### Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May (Field trip)

06:45	<b>Meet in hotel lobby to depart</b>
07:00	<b>Depart from hotel to Sadira (Mornag)</b>
08:30	<b>Arrive at Sadira</b>
08:30	<b>Presentation of the region</b>
09:00	<b>Field inspection and sampling (see page 9 for details)</b>
10:30	<b>Coffee break</b>
11:00	<b>Depart to DGPVCIA</b>
11:45	<b>Arrive at DGPVCIA</b>
11:45	<b>Presentation of the DGPVCIA</b>
12:00	<b>Laboratory exercise</b>
15:00	<b>Packed lunch</b>
16:00	<b>Visit to old city (Tunis)</b>
18:30	<b>Depart to hotel</b>
20:00	<b>Arrive at hotel and dinner</b>

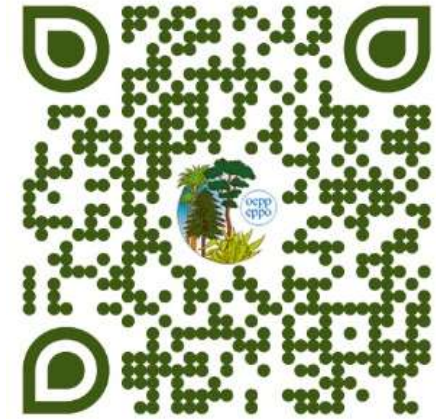
### Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May

08:00	<b>Group exercise</b>
10:00	<b>Economic impacts of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> for Europe</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Antonio Vicent (IVA, ES)</li> </ul>
10:15	<b>Exploring the Potential Socio-Economic Impacts of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> in the NENA Region</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Thaer Yaseen (FAO-RNE, Egypt)</li> </ul>
10:30	<b>Coffee break</b>
11:00	<b>Group exercise</b>
13:00	<b>Lunch</b>
14:00	<b>Group presentations</b>
15:30	<b>Summary and conclusions</b>
16:00	<b>Close</b>



## Thanks for listening

- Enjoy – it's an exercise
- Its not real: it's a fictitious scenario
- Get involved



<https://www.eppo.int/>

