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**FELA**  
Federación de Entomología  
Latino Americana

## **NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL FEDERATION OF LATIN AMERICA (FELA)**

The Entomological Federation of Latin American (FELA) is integrated by nine entomological societies: Sociedad Entomológica de Brasil (SEB), Sociedad Entomológica Argentina (SEA), Sociedad Boliviana de Entomología (SBE), Sociedad Colombiana de Entomología (SOCOLEN), Sociedad Chilena de Entomología (SCHE), Sociedad Entomológica Ecuatoriana (SEE), Sociedad Mexicana de Entomología (SME), Sociedad Panameña de Entomología (SEPAM), and



New Executive Board of FELA: Bruno Zachrisson, Lucía Claps, Norma Nolazco, Juana María Coronado Blanco, and María Stella Zerbino.

Sociedad Entomológica del Perú (SEP). During the XI Argentinian Congress of Entomology and the XII Latin American Congress of Entomology (La Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina, October 24–28), FELA held its first ordinary assembly, where representatives of the member societies voted the new Executive Board. Welcomed members of the Board are Juana María Coronado Blanco (President), Bruno Zachrisson (Vice-President), Lucía Claps (Secretary), Norma Nolazco (Vocal), and María Stella Zerbino (Past President). The city of Uberlandia (Minas Gerais, Brazil) was designated to host the XIII Latin American Congress of Entomology (CLAE), that will be held in 2024.

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## TRAINING PROGRAM ON INVASIVE *PTHORIMAEA ABSOLUTA* IN TOMATO FOR ASEAN MEMBER STATES

The World Vegetable Center (WorldVeg) has organized a training on **Improved Coordination and Strengthened Capacity to deal with the invasive insect pest, *Phthorimaea absoluta* in mainland Southeast Asia**, during December 4-17, 2022, at WorldVeg – East and Southeast Asia’s Research and Training Station, in Kasetsart University, Kamphaeng Saen, Thailand. This project has been supported by the Government of Japan through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF).

*Phthorimaea absoluta* (earlier known as *Tuta absoluta*) is one of the major pests of tomato in both open-field and protected cultivation, causing 80-100% losses, if left uncontrolled. This invasive pest has been recorded in several countries of Asia including Myanmar, China, and Taiwan. Therefore, other ASEAN member states are at high risk in the immediate future. In addition to tomato, this insect pest can also damage other Solanaceous crops including eggplant and potato. Therefore, this training aimed to provide participants with strategies to diagnose this invasive pest, the importance of a proper phytosanitary process, sampling, inspection, monitoring, identification of main pathways for invasion, and management strategies after the arrival of the pest.



A total of 27 participants from ten countries (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam) attended this training. The training covered proper identification of *P. absoluta*, including morphological and molecular diagnosis, sampling, data management, monitoring and mass trapping systems with the use of pheromone traps, ecology and biology of *P. absoluta*, host plants and integrated pest management approaches. The training included a blend of theory and practice through lectures, class exercises, laboratory demonstrations as well as practical learning, and field visits. The training was offered by WorldVeg experts (Dr. Paola Sotelo-Cardona, Dr. Sopana Yule and Dr.

Srinivasan Ramasamy), Dr. Malini Periasamy (an Independent Consultant for Molecular Biology) and other experts from the Department of Agriculture, Thailand (Ms. Chonticha Rakkrai and Mr. Alongkot Phodee).

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## **PAPUA NEW GUINEA TASK FORCE ON INVASIVE COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLE MEETS**

An invasive wave of coconut rhinoceros beetle (*Oryctes rhinoceros*) (CRB) is spreading on the south coast of the island of New Guinea. First noticed in Port Moresby in 2009, the invasive CRB-G variant has now spread along most of the coastline and is causing severe damage to village and plantation coconuts leading to yield loss and scarcity in the markets. A Papua New Guinea (PNG) CRB Task Force has been formed to respond to the pest invasion. The Task Force comprises members of the coconut industry (Kokonas Industri Koporesen, KIK), the oil palm industry (Papua New Guinea Oil Palm Research Association, PNG OPRA) and the



National Agriculture and Quarantine Inspection Authority (NAQIA), supported by the Pacific Community's (SPC) Land Resources Division (LRD) and AgResearch, New Zealand. Funding support is provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), New Zealand. At the Task Force meeting, members shared information and set priorities for coordinated surveillance and control activities. Methods were compared for monitoring and damage assessment (typical damage symptoms on the left picture) and tests of biological

control agents reviewed. The Task Force will meet regularly to coordinate activities to limit the spread and control damage from CRB-G.

## **PACIFIC ECOLOGICAL SECURITY CONFERENCE (PESC)**

The inaugural Pacific Ecological Security Conference (PESC) was held in Palau, October 2022, bringing together over 100 island leaders, policymakers, natural resource managers, and global and regional invasive species experts to raise awareness of the critical issue of terrestrial invasive species in the Pacific region. Invasive species of insect pests, weeds and microorganisms causing plant disease are causing devastation in many Pacific islands. The invaders damage native biodiversity, threaten food security and economic development of Pacific Island states

which lack the resources to confront them. The situation is exacerbated by climate change on these fragile islands.

The PESC delegates shared information and confirmed that invasive species are a major threat to the Pacific and action is urgently needed. They called for regional actions, led by the Pacific states and their organisations, to increase awareness of the dangers of invasive pests, provide training for border and post-border control, and to focus research on Pacific problems.

Resources are needed for these Pacific-wide initiatives. Three region-wide problems, invasive ants, weed biocontrol, and coconut rhinoceros beetle, were prioritised and strategic action plans developed for recognition, containment and control of the problem species. Plans were aimed at achieving control to protect and enhance ecosystem sustainability, island livelihoods, cultures, food security, and resilience to climate change.

PESC aims to meet again in two years and become the premier regional conference confronting invasive species that are undermining environmental sustainability and the economic well-being of peoples of the Pacific. For more info: <https://www.pacificrisa.org/pesc/>

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**IAPPS Mission: to provide a global forum for the purpose of identifying, evaluating, integrating, and promoting plant protection concepts, technologies, and policies that are economically, environmentally, and socially acceptable.**

**It seeks to provide a global umbrella for the plant protection sciences to facilitate and promote the application of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to the world's crop and forest ecosystems.**

**Membership Information: IAPPS has four classes of membership (individual, affiliate, associate, and corporate) which are described in the IAPPS Web Site [www.plantprotection.org](http://www.plantprotection.org).**

**The *IAPPS Newsletter* welcomes news, letters, and other items of interest from individuals and organizations. Address correspondence and information to:**

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