

## PROCINORTE Plant Health Task Force

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### Webinar on **THE BIOVIGILANCE CONTINUUM FOR PLANT HEALTH**

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**May 12th, 2025**



On the occasion of International Plant Health Day, the Plant Health Task Force of PROCINORTE invites you to a webinar on “The Biovigilance Continuum for Plant Health.” The webinar aims to enhance understanding of ongoing research activities on biovigilance for plant health protection in Canada, the United States, and Mexico.

This webinar will feature presentations by scientists from the three countries actively engaged in research on biovigilance of insect pests, plant diseases, and weed species that impact agricultural crop production across North America. The forum will provide an opportunity for cooperation and the exchange of information on biovigilance research, challenges, and opportunities for developing innovative solutions.

The webinar will be held virtually over Zoom and delivered in English and Spanish. We hope you can join the webinar to learn more about this topic.

## AGENDA

**MAY 12th**  
(Eastern Time)

Facilitator: Dr. Yazmín Rivera, USDA

11:00 - 11:05	<b>OPENING REMARKS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Jean-Charles Le Vallée</b> IICA Canada Representative &amp; Executive Secretary of PROCINORTE</li> </ul>
11:05 - 11:25	<b>AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA'S BIOVIGILANCE NETWORK</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Brent McCallum</b> Research Scientist, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada</li> </ul>
11:25 - 11:45	<b>MONITORING DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL POPULATIONS OF CEREAL RUST PATHOGENS AT THE USDA-ARS CEREAL DISEASE LABORATORY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Pablo Olivera Firpo</b> Research Plant Pathologist, USDA-ARS Cereal Disease Laboratory</li> </ul>
11:45 - 12:05	<b>RELEVANCE OF THE PHYTOSANITARY EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM FOR THE EARLY DETECTION OF PESTS IN MEXICO</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Ángel Ramírez Suárez</b> Research Scientist, National Institute of Forestry, Agricultural and Livestock Research of Mexico (INIFAP)</li> </ul>
12:05 - 12:25	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
12:25 - 12:30	<b>WRAP UP</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Aman Deep</b> Plant Health Task Force Leader, AAFC</li> </ul>

## LEARN ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS



## Dr. Brent McCallum

Dr. Brent McCallum is a research scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada at the Morden Research and Development Centre in Morden, Manitoba. He received his Ph.D in Plant Pathology from the University of Minnesota in 1995 and started working at AAFC in Winnipeg in 1996. His research focus is on wheat leaf rust disease in Canada. He conducts an annual national virulence survey in Canada to track changes in the pathogen population that could affect the wheat crop in Canada. He is involved in developing sources of resistance to use in future wheat cultivars and understanding the genetics of disease resistance. He also leads the AAFC Prairie Biovigilance Network in collaboration with a multidisciplinary team of researchers.



## Dr. Pablo Olivera Firpo

Dr. Olivera is a Research Plant Pathologist at the USDA-ARS Cereal Disease Laboratory, in Minnesota USA. Originally from Montevideo, Uruguay, he earned his BS in Agronomy from the University of the Republic in 1997. In 2002, he relocated to Minnesota, where he completed his Ph.D. in Plant Pathology at the University of Minnesota in 2008. After a postdoctoral research appointment, he joined the faculty at the Department of Plant Pathology as a Research Assistant Professor in 2017, and in 2023 as a Research Associate Professor. Dr. Olivera Firpo joined USDA-ARS in 2024 with a research focus on three primary areas: 1) identifying and characterizing resistance in wheat and barley to stem rust and leaf rust; 2) incorporating combinations of rust resistance genes into adapted US germplasm for breeding programs; and 3) improving resistance to Ug99 stem rust in US wheat and barley by screening advanced breeding lines both in East Africa and the United States. He is also involved in the surveillance and race analysis of stem rust samples from East Africa and other key wheat-growing regions worldwide. His research is conducted in close collaboration with multiple international partners.



## Dr. Ángel Ramírez Suárez

Agricultural Engineer specialized in Agricultural Parasitology from the Chapingo University, with a Master's Degree in Phytopathology from the Colegio de Postgraduados and a PhD in Agronomy from the University of Nebraska, USA. Specialist in Phytopathology.

He served as Technical Coordinator of the National Phytosanitary Reference Center of the General Directorate of Plant Health. He was a member of the Technical Advisory Group on nematodes of the grapevine and potato panel, as well as of the Seed Expert Group of the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO). In addition, he was a member of the National System of Researchers of Conacyt level C and I. He also participated as Conacyt Professor, assigned to the National Metrology Center in the project "Development of Reference Materials of Microorganisms and Viruses of Importance in Agriculture and Food Safety". He has published several articles and phytopathological reports in journals.

He currently serves as Director of Integration and Sanitary Analysis of SENASICA, an area in charge of facilitating Mexican exports of vegetables.





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