

SCIENTIFIC NETWORK FOR RISK ASSESSMENT IN PLANT HEALTH

Minutes of the 19th meeting



14-15 June 2023

09:00-18:00 / 09:00-13:00

Minutes agreed on 21 July 2023

Location: EFSA - Parma (Board room) and Online

Attendees:

- Network Participants:

Country	Name
Austria	Sylvia Bluemel
Belgium	Kristien Braeken; Olivier Wilmart
Bulgaria	Nikolay Spasov; Tatyana Tankova
Croatia	Dario Ivić
Cyprus	Kypros Hadjianfxentis
Czech Republic	Petr Kapitola
Denmark	Jørgen Søgaard Hansen; Christine Gundelach Rannes
Estonia	Birger Ilau
Finland	Salla Hannunen
France	Emmanuel Gachet
Germany	Ernst Pfeilstetter
Greece	Christos Arampatzis; Stavroula Ioannidou
Hungary	Angéla Bodor-Zanker
Ireland	Andy Bourke; Conor McGee
Latvia	Gunita Skupele
Lithuania	Monika Linkevičiūtė
Netherlands	Dirk Jan van der Gaag
Norway	Daniel Flø; Micael Wendell
Poland	Magdalena Gawlak
Portugal	Paula Cruz Garcia; Maria Teresa Messias Afonso
Slovak Republic	Martin Pastirčák
Slovenia	Alenka Zupančič
Spain	Laura Hernandez Dato
Sweden	Niklas Björklund

- Observers: Barbara Colucci (Switzerland); Hasenem Ertas (IPA country: Türkiye); Tamara Popović (IPA country: Montenegro); Aleksa Obradović (IPA country: Serbia); Katica Arar (IPA country: Bosnia and Herzegovina); Nico Horn (EPPO) and Muriel Suffert (EPPO)
- Hearing Experts: Matteo Marchioro (item 4.2), Miguel Ángel Miranda Chueca (item 5.1); Miriam Rivera (item 5.1); Antonio Vincent Civera (item 6.2); Claude Bragard (item 6.3); Marie Verhagen (item 6.3)
- European Commission/Other EU Agencies representatives: Panagiota Mylona (DG SANTE)



- EFSA:
PLANTS Unit: Alexia Antoniou, João Filipe Cavalheiro, Matteo Crotta, Ewelina Czwienczek, Alice Delbianco, Spyridoula Dimitropoulou, Ciro Gardi, Alex Gobbi, Agata Kaczmarek, Paraskevi Kariampa, Virag Kertesz, Julia Lopez Mercadal, Andrea Maiorano, Marco Pautasso, Tobin Robinson, Eugenio Rossi, Giuseppe Stancanelli, Franz Streissl, Emanuela Tacci.
RAL Unit: Ana Lambergar
COMMUNICATION Unit: Irene Zanetti

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair Giuseppe Stancanelli (EFSA) welcomed the participants attending both onsite and online.

The agenda was presented in the order of the works, and the different topics were introduced along with their respective presenters.

Additionally, the Chair informed the attendees about the scheduled film exhibition titled "Era of Giants" on the subject of *Xylella fastidiosa*. Following the exhibition, there will be a discussion, conducted in Italian. For Network members and observers attending online, a link will be provided to watch the movie.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Agreement of the minutes of the 19th Network meeting held on 14-15 June 2023, in Parma or via web-conference

The Chair informed the participants that the minutes of the 18th Network meeting were made available on EFSA PLH network Sharepoint, to be agreed by written procedure by 23 June 2023. It was highlighted that in Annex 1 (Q&A), the questions received during the 18th Network meeting were referred to by the Network Member State name.

The minutes of the 19th Network meeting will be also agreed by written procedure soon after this meeting.

4. Plant health risk assessment

4.1. Pest categorisation of new and emerging plant pests: achievements from first batch of categorisations 2021-2023 and ongoing activities

The achievements of the pest categorisation mandate (2021-2026) made over the past two years were emphasized, and updates on the latest developments were presented during the meeting.

The two dedicated WGs (Arthropods and Pathogens) involve a diverse and extensive group of experts, including panel members, external experts, ISA experts and EFSA staff from the Plants Unit. The legal background of the mandate was briefly



introduced. The mandate stems from the necessity to decide on possible regulation of new and emerging plant pests identified by the MS interceptions and outbreaks, by the EFSA Horizon Scanning, and the commodity risk assessments of high risk plants (actionable pests).

It was highlighted that 31 arthropod pest categorisations have been conducted and published. Only *Resseliella maxima* did not meet the criteria to be considered a potential quarantine pest. As for pathogens, 17 pathogen pest categorizations have been conducted and published, with *Apium virus Y* (ApVY) being the only pest not qualified as a quarantine pest.

An update was provided on the ongoing categorisation of 14 Arthropods and 6 Pathogens, which are expected to be completed by the end of 2023. The urgent mandate concerning *Blissus insularis* was also introduced. Additionally, the future activities of pest categorisations and the availability of information on these pests through online platforms such as the EFSA Journal and the EPPO platform were explained.

4.2. Data collection for the pest categorisation on the non-EU Scolytinae of broadleaved trees: an update

Matteo Marchioro (Padova University) provided an update on the EFSA Art. 36 data collection project supporting the pest categorisation of non-EU Scolytinae of broadleaved trees. The presentation began with an overview of how alien invasive species enter and establish in the EU. It was emphasized that among alien species, arthropods are the most significant group, with Coleoptera being the most successful invaders worldwide as well as in the EU.

The primary objective of the project is to compile a global list of Scolytinae species residing on broadleaved trees. For the species information on taxonomy, distribution, host plants and reproduction is collected following a systematic literature search. The number of publications on a species is used as an indicator for economic importance. An overview of the sources of information was provided, with specific emphasis on the "Catalog of Scolytidae and Platypodidae" by Wood & Bright which is a major source used.

To date, over 6,000 species have already been processed. Among these, approximately 5,500 species feed on broadleaved plants, around 350 species feed on conifers, and only about 150 species feed on both types of trees. The results were further presented based on host plants, biology and origin. Notably, 48% of the species originate from Palearctic Asia and Oriental areas. To facilitate the collection and organization of such large amounts of data, an online database was created. A brief introduction to the platform by navigating through the menus online, demonstrating its functionality and features was provided.

4.3. Commodity risk assessment for High-Risk Plants & other plant commodities: an update



Ciro Gardi (EFSA) briefly presented the commodity risk assessments for High Risk Plants (HRP) dossiers and for derogation requests to provisions of the EU plant health law, highlighting the changes that occurred after the Regulation EU 2016/2031 on Plant Import Regime came into force.

It was mentioned that in addition to the traditional Commodity Risk Assessment of HRP, commodity risk assessments based on specific derogation requests are also conducted. Examples of such requests include Petunia and Calibrachoa cuttings and Ash logs treated with sulphuryl fluoride.

The current status of HRP and derogation requests was presented. Additionally, an overview of HRP dossiers from the UK was provided, specifically addressing *Malus domestica* and *Acer* spp. An update was given on the activities of the Working Group on HRP 1, which focuses on ornamental plants. Examples of ongoing work were presented, including the status on the pest lists for *Cornus alba* and *Cornus sanguinea* plants from UK.

Franz Streissl (EFSA) presented the updates from the Working Group on High Risk Plants 2, which focuses on forest plants. It was highlighted that the opinions adopted in the last plenary on *Acer campestre*, *A. pseudoplatanus*, *A. platanoides* and *A. palmatum* plants from the UK are in phase of publication. Additionally, it was mentioned that work was ongoing on the assessment of 25-year-old trees, for which information was received in May. This new information will result in a different output currently forecasted for the adoption in September plenary.

An update was provided on the ongoing dossier concerning *Fagus sylvatica* from the UK. During the update, it was highlighted that four actionable pests had been identified in the dossier. Additionally, an update was given on the dossiers for *Quercus robur* and *Q. petraea* from UK.

Agata Kaczmarek (EFSA) presented the activities from the Working Group on High Risk Plants 3, which focuses on agriculture plants. An update was provided on the current status of the commodity risk assessments on *Prunus* spp. from Moldova, on *Malus domestica* from Bosnia and Herzegovina, and on *Prunus avium* from UK.

4.4. Quantitative pest risk assessment for new and emerging plant pests: an update

Matteo Crotta and Júlia López Mercadal (EFSA) presented the current activities of the quantitative pest risk assessment (QPRA) working groups. Firstly, Mandate and Terms or Reference were shown. Then, an overview was given of the finalised opinions about *Citripestis sagittiferella* (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae), *Resseliella citrifrugis* (Diptera:Cecidomyiidae), and *Elasmopalpus lignosellus* (Lepidoptera:Pyralidae). Also the recent mandate and partial risk assessment (covering only: entry via the cut roses import pathway; and establishment) for *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (Lepidoptera:Tortricidae) was briefly presented.

The current QPRA methodology was presented to show the new improvements in the procedure namely the usage of Distiller for the data extraction (methodology developed with climate suitability group), the shared methodology for extra and intra trade, and the quantitative modelling of the waste management.



Finally, an update was given of the ongoing opinions about *Retithrips syriacus* (Thysanoptera:Thripidae), *Leucinodes orbonalis* (Lepidoptera:Crambidae) and *Phlyctinus callosus* (Coleoptera:Curculionidae).

4.5. Climate suitability (incl. piloting climate change scenarios) for pest categorisation and quantitative pest risk assessment: an update on activities and data sharing

Alex Gobbi and Eugenio Rossi (EFSA) presented how climate suitability analysis is included in both Pest Categorisations and Quantitative Pest Risk Assessments. The climate suitability analysis starts with a systematic literature review followed by the extraction of data from the relevant sources. For Pest Categorisations and Quantitative Pest Risk Assessments, data on pest distribution and host-range are recorded. For Quantitative Pest Risk Assessments only, data on spread, impact, pest biology, and control methods are also recorded in a standardized manner developed in collaboration with the QPRA WG groups. Following this, a detailed example of the Quantitative Pest Risk Assessment on *Elasmopalpus lignosellus* was presented, including the climate change scenario analysis. The number of documents retrieved through the systematic search and the data extracted from it were illustrated. Following this, the parameterization of the CLIMEX model and its results were illustrated. These included the climate change simulations run with four regional climate models for the period 2040-2059 under the RCP8.5. Finally, statistical data on the outputs produced in 2023 were presented to the Network, including the number of assessments performed, the total references screened, and the number of maps produced. The publication of the Climate Suitability Assessment reports on ZENODO was also highlighted, followed by the future challenges and development of analysis and outputs.

4.6. Update on the EFSA SEED project (Spatial Explicit Environmental Data for the integrated spatial analysis in risk assessment)

Alex Gobbi (EFSA) presented the SEED Project (Spatially Explicit Environmental Data), on behalf of the Business Manager of the project Andrea Maiorano (EFSA). In the presentation an overview on SEED project purpose, structure and timeline was shown, including the different web-services and tools that will be developed and implemented for the different EFSA Units, and that will be accessible to internal and external stakeholders. A specific focus was given to the tools that will be developed for Plant Health Risk Assessment. In this focus, Alex Gobbi presented a list of agro-meteorological indicators and the Species Distribution Model (SDM). A discussion was then opened with the Network in order to receive feedback, comments, opinions and suggestions about the project. A few comments and questions were asked by the Network and were answered by Andrea Maiorano

5. Topic Communication in plant health

5.1 Communicating plant health to the broad public: the making of the *Xylella* comic

The PLH Network was informed about the first EFSA *Xylella fastidiosa* comic, which is available now on the [EFSA website](#). The story of comics creation was explained by



the authors: Miguel Angel Miranda (UIB), Miriam Rivera (the scientific illustrator at Biomiics) and EFSA staff: Maria Terejo, Ewelina Czwieneczek and Giuseppe Stancanelli. This novel method of scientific communication has a purpose to attract and inform a broad audience.

5.2. Upcoming EU plant health awareness campaign

The PLH Network was informed about the upcoming awareness-raising campaign on Plant Health risks, for which EFSA received a mandate from the European Commission. The 3-year campaign will be launched in July 2023. In 2023, 10 EU and 2 IPA countries will 'fully participate'; the campaign assets will be produced in all the EU languages and disseminated across the EU. The research informing the campaign target audience and communication strategy was presented, alongside the tactics and channels to be used. By monitoring the outcome and impact of the first year, the strategy for 2024 will be further refined and optimized. The Network members were encouraged to explore the participation of other Member States in the following years 2024 and 2025.

5.3. The EPPO platform for sharing plant health communication

Muriel Suffert (EPPO) explained the aim of the platform, which is to concentrate information on plant protection and raise awareness among the general public. The features of the platform were shown, and an induction to the navigation was provided. It was highlighted that aligning communication in plant health throughout the different Member States and EPPOs is crucial. This includes sharing materials developed in communication campaigns on plant health, sharing good ideas, and providing various types of materials such as leaflets, videos, posters, pictures, and PDFs. Appreciation was expressed to the 19 countries and to EFSA that have already shared materials.

6. Cooperation in plant health

Tobin Robinson (Head of EFSA's Plant Health, Environmental Risk Assessment and Ecotoxicology Unit) welcomed all the participants attending onsite and online. An overview of reorganization and its *raison d'être* was provided. It was highlighted that collaborations in the field of alternatives to chemical plant protection products already started to materialise. After a brief explanation of his background, the HoU expressed the pleasure of chairing the last session of the Plant Health Network. Additionally, the topics planned for the rest of the session were introduced

6.1 An update on EFSA plant health Art. 36 Grants (ongoing and planned)

Giuseppe Stancanelli (EFSA) provided an update on EFSA's grants and explained that competent organisations designated by Member States (EU27, Iceland and Norway), are eligible to apply for calls. The purpose of the Art. 36 framework partnership agreements and tasking grants is the cooperation with MS to support the risk assessment and scientific and technical advice by EFSA and its Panels; the purpose of Art. 36 cooperation grants in plant health research is to facilitate the generation of new scientific knowledge and capacity building.

The calls for proposals are publicly announced on EFSA's website. Details about the various types of funding available were shown.



A list of recent EFSA Art. 36 projects was presented, highlighting that the aim of these projects is to reduce the risk assessment uncertainty, fill up knowledge gaps and improve methodology. More detailed presentation was given regarding the open call published on EFSA's website on "Experimental and observational evidence to reduce knowledge gaps for risk assessment of new and emerging plant pests" (with three lots: two on the fungal plant pathogens *Phyllosticta citricarpa* and *Colletotrichum* spp., one on the American sharpshooter *Draeculacephala robinsoni*, insect vector of *Xylella fastidiosa*) Additionally, information was shared about the Call for proposals for the EFSA art 36 grant designed to provide support for urgent authorizations on Plant Health and Pesticides, as well as the grant aimed at supporting surveillance through Pest Survey Cards. Furthermore, it was noted that for new calls the application process will be done digitally.

6.2 Citrus black spot epidemiology in Tunisia: an update from an EFSA Art. 36 Grant project

Antonio Vincent (IVIA, ES) presented the objectives, activities and preliminary results of the EFSA art 36 project GP/EFSA/ALPHA/2019/04 on citrus black spot in Mediterranean citrus growing areas in Tunisia. This project was funded by EFSA following a call for proposals launched soon after the first report of the fungus *Phyllosticta citricarpa* in Tunisia in 2019. The biology, the primary and secondary infection cycles, the spread mechanisms and impact of this pest on citrus. An update was provided on current outbreak in Tunisia as well as on the severity of the symptoms. The various partner institutions working on the project from the EU and from Tunisia were introduced, explaining in detail the objectives and activities of the project. It was also highlighted the important role of EFSA in rapid and agile support of research soon after the first report of this outbreak.

The generic infection model applied to model the infections by this fungus in the Tunisian outbreak was presented, highlighting that such model has been already used by EFSA in its scientific opinions. Within this project, this model was also run worldwide in the different citrus regions where the pathogen is present. The network members were informed that these first results were published open access in Nature Scientific Reports.

6.3 Plantibio Project - Reduce risk assessment uncertainties: data collection on antibiotics for control of plant pathogenic bacteria

Claude Bragard and Marie Verhegen (UC Louvain, BE) presented the objectives and achievements of the EFSA Art. 36 project PLANTIBIO on a global data collection on antimicrobials use and antimicrobial resistance in plant pathogenic bacteria. highlighted that there are reports of cases where antibiotic resistance has been identified, majority for streptomycin (98 reports). While there are not a lot of resistance reports when they are reported usually involves countries where the Streptomycin is used. During the meeting, Claude Bragard introduced the Plantbio project and the team. An overview of the impacts of bacteria on plants was presented, emphasizing the importance of antibiotic resistance and its consequences. The discussion also covered the problems arising from antibiotic resistance in both humans and plants, particularly the transfer of resistant genes.



Although the research primarily focuses on using antibiotics for controlling plant pathogenic bacteria (PPB) and exploring alternative treatments, there was an additional emphasis on communication and raising awareness about the issue.

The methodology used to investigate the use of antibiotics in plant health was explained, along with its limitations. A map illustrating the worldwide authorizations for antibiotic use was presented. Claude highlighted that there have been reports of antibiotic resistance, with the majority of cases involving streptomycin (98 reports). Although resistance reports are not widespread, they tend to be concentrated in countries where streptomycin is commonly used.

The key take-home message from the meeting was to emphasize the importance of considering the methodology, countries involved, and plant protection products when addressing antibiotic resistance. Furthermore, Claude presented the PLANTBIO communications strategy, including participation in various conferences and high-level meetings. Notably, the interaction with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) was highlighted as a significant aspect of the project.

7. Items proposed by Member States

7.1. Wrap up and general discussion

Tobin Robinson (PLANTS Head of Unit) invited the participants to provide feedback, particularly related to the agenda, including the items listed, presentations, and any other forms of communication used during the session.

The participants expressed their appreciation for the organisation of the network plenary and emphasized the need for increased collaboration between Member States and EFSA. It was suggested to receive presentations in advance for better preparation. The technical visit was considered a valuable and innovative addition to the meeting.

Giuseppe Stancanelli thanked Ana Lambergar from RAL Unit and the colleagues from Service Desk for their support in organizing the network meeting.

Tobin Robinson apologized for not being present on the first meeting day due to a mission and emphasized the importance of listening to Member States feedback and needs and the EFSA's role to facilitate partnerships.

8. Any Other Business

- Date for next meeting
 - Network members expressed their preference for Hybrid meetings, preferably on:
 - 5, 6 and 7 December 2023 Hybrid Parma
 - 22, 23 and 24 April 2024.



ANNEX

Replies to questions:

Question 1 referring to item: 4.2

Finland – Can the link to the DAFNAE database be share?

Answer 1

Matteo Marchioro and Giuseppe Stancanelli (EFSA) – DAFNAE platform is property of EFSA. Currently is not possible to be shared since the project is still ongoing, however once the project is finished it will be made public. However, if needed a MS may ask permission to Virag Kertesz for exceptional access.

Question 2 referring to item: 4.1

Austria – Are the soybeans also traded freshly cut plants?

Answer 2

Virag Kertesz (EFSA) – No supporting data or evidence was found to support the idea that soybeans are traded as freshly cut plants, therefore, we believe they are not.

Question 3 referring to item: 4.1

Germany – From all the pest categorizations conducted, only two did not meet the criteria to be considered a potential quarantine pest. Is there a need to strengthen these criteria? What is the position of EFSA?

Answer 3

Virag Kertesz (EFSA) – We have discussed this issue within the WGs, however we are using standard criteria for the categorizations, and in these particular cases, we are dealing with emerging pests and a high level of uncertainty. It is important to mention that this is not the final decision; it is essentially an option.

Question 4 referring to item: 4.3

Germany – When can we expect the finalization of dossier regarding the commodity risk assessment of Petunia and Calibrachoa?

Answer 4

Ciro Gardi (EFSA) – We have been working on it. The cultivation is in very protected environments nevertheless, impact of introducing of a particular virus in Europe may represent great economic losses, therefore the assessment has to be particularly careful. The first assessment to be finalized will be for Guatemala. Once the methodology for evaluating such derogation requests is established, subsequent



opinions will be completed more efficiently. The opinions have experienced additional delays due to communication challenges, as certain countries take a long time to respond to our inquiries.

Question 5 referring to item: 4.3

Germany – We are concerned about the older trees, specifically those that are 25 years old. These larger trees with extensive soil carry higher risks. Considering these old trees may potentially pave the way for the introduction of other tree types, such as from China. Have you already formulated a plan on how to handle applications from the UK in order to prevent future issues with other countries?

Answer 5

Franz Streissl (EFSA) – In both working groups, we have been continuously discussing this issue. We specifically requested information from the UK regarding the soil and potential pathogens present, but we were not satisfied with the answers received. A meeting with the Commission is scheduled soon to determine the next steps. Although the assessment is still ongoing, the working groups are fully aware of the concerns surrounding this issue.

Giuseppe Stancanelli (EFSA) - The approach is to handle all these old trees separately using a different methodology.

Question 6 referring to item: 4.4

Netherlands – Do you consider any criteria when the entrance is beyond the commercial pathways ie, for plants for research. How is that regulated measure for quarantine pest?

Answer 6

Giuseppe Stancanelli (EFSA) - Yes, when applicable, we also consider non-commercial pathways; for example in the opinion on *Xanthomonas citri* pv *viticola* the entry pathway of plants for research/breeding purposes was also assessed..

Virag Kertesz (EFSA) – We have a list of pathways defined together with the Commission, that we apply generally.

Question 7 referring to item: 4.5

Sweden – The presenters were asked to elaborate more about the extreme events? What does it entail?

Answer 7

Eugenio Rossi (EFSA) - We have recently begun exploring the option of considering the effects of climate change and extreme events on the establishment of pests. However, we do not yet have a methodology or work plan in place to further investigate this aspect. It is possible that the increasing frequency of extreme events



due to climate change may have an impact on the establishment of pests. Unfortunately, I cannot provide a complete answer at this time, as we are still determining how to incorporate this factor when assessing the probability of pest establishment.

Alex Gobbi (EFSA) - The inclusion of extreme events is also part of the services provided by the SEED project and GMO field trials. However, the specific details of implementation are still being developed as we are in the ongoing development phase.

Giuseppe Stancanelli (EFSA) - Yes, this is why we are starting to take into account the potential impacts of climate change in our risk assessments. With the updated Köppen-Geiger model, we already incorporate some of the effects of climate change. However, as time progresses, we continue to experience further effects. While I agree that using models would be beneficial, currently we are not utilizing them in our assessments.

Question 9 referring to item: 4.5 and 4.6

Austria – When you consider extreme weather events, will you also consider continuing updating the scale? This is especially relevant since these events are happening more often at regional or even local level. How can this aspect be included or considered in the model?

Answer 9

Andrea Maiorano (EFSA) - Regarding extreme events, we are still in the exploratory phase. It is worth noting that some extreme events are highly localized. In our efforts, we are trying to utilize high-resolution data, such as the 9km radius Copernicus dataset. We will need to strike a balance in our approach, and our initial focus will be on temperature, as it is relatively easier to predict compared to hail events.

Question 10 referring to item: 4.6

Croatia – How do you address protected climates? Pests have been known to establish themselves in greenhouses and glasshouses. We have historical data indicating that certain pests have the potential to establish in these environments. In several pest risk assessments conducted by the EPPO, the conclusion states that the pests in question may indeed establish themselves. This can be particularly significant for certain countries or specific pests.

Answer 10

Andrea Maiorano (EFSA) - When it comes to climate suitability, protected environments such as greenhouses are not currently considered. Analyzing the specific suitability of pests in different greenhouses is challenging, as it can vary from one greenhouse to another. However, our pest risk assessment includes a general discussion on the possibility of pests reaching a greenhouse.



Chair (Giuseppe Stancanelli) - We are in alignment with EPPO, but we are not developing a specific model for assessing pests in protected environments like greenhouses as it is a very complex task.

Question 11 referring to item: 4.6

Sweden – Before a pest can be regulated, it must demonstrate the capability to establish itself. This raises the question of how this requirement aligns with the issue of extreme events, particularly considering their infrequent and brief occurrence.

Answer 11

Chair (Giuseppe Stancanelli) - It has been explained that when discussing extreme events, the focus is often on how they can contribute to the spread of a pathogen rather than its establishment. The case of *Citrus canker* was given to exemplify how a plant can be infected by a pathogen through an extreme event.

Andrea Maiorano (EFSA) - It is also true that the growing frequency of extreme events can create conditions that increase the suitability for pests, thereby raising the probability of the pest finding suitable conditions for establishment.

Question 12 referring to item: 4.5 and 4.6

Chair (Giuseppe Stancanelli) – The representatives of the MS were asked if they find useful to include climate change scenarios in a systematic manner in EFSA's assessments? In particular to pests on the borderline with the EU.

Answer 12

Netherlands - I believe it is important to take climate change into account. The current climate is already warmer than the average of the period 1991 – 2020. We want to assess the establishment potential of pests for the current period and the future. Thus, it may be better to use climate predictions for example the period 2021 – 2040 in pest risk assessments rather than the long-term average of the past 30 years.

Germany - I believe it is not necessary to include climate change predictions in every categorization, particularly for pests that are not significantly affected by climate conditions. The necessity of incorporating climate change predictions depends on the pest in question, as some pests may occur independent of climate change. In our view it only makes sense if the pests are tropical or subtropical as it may enlarge the endangered area, but again, it depends on the pest.

Question 13 referring to item: 4.4

Spain – As the EU functions as a unified market, the quantitative climate risk pest analysis evaluates the risk of spread from unsuitable areas within the EU to other countries where conditions are suitable for the specific pest.

Answer 13



Matteo Crotta (EFSA) - This aspect is normally considered in the process of estimation the probability of spreading however, is not mechanistically modelled.

Question 14 referring to item: 5.1

Croatia – Congratulations on this particular campaign on *Xylella fastidiosa* comic. But are you aware that in the US there are very successful public campaigns based on Youtube videos which are called “Hungry Pests”. Is it considered making Youtube for EU’s campaigns?

Answer 14

Maria Tejero Martín (EFSA) - Yes, we are aware of new ways of communicating science to general public. We also produced a podcast which all of you are invited to check and listen.

Question 15 referring to item: 5.2

Miguel Miranda Chueca – Is there a particular target group for the awareness raising campaign for plant health? E.g. tourists.

Answer 15

Irene Zanetti (EFSA) – Yes, international travellers are a key target for the campaign. For this year due to time constrains EFSA will focus on commonly used platforms for booking travels such as Skyscanner or Momondo. The idea is that travellers start receiving multiple alerts on different stages of customer journeys related to plant health behaviour, as social research shows that we need to reach travellers before they make the choice to bring back home a plant.

Question 16 referring to item: 5.2

Austria – How do you guarantee that the 4 developed personas do not access alternative sources concurrent to EFSA’s campaign? Is there any way of ensuring this?

Answer 16

Irene Zanetti (EFSA) – For the first part we are profiling our audience based on their interests, and in line with the outcome of the social research. We select media outlets per country in order to target our audience with the appropriate channels. The second question is not so easy to answer, but applying marketing-mix approach we will try to ensure that the target group is exposed to our content.

Question 16 referring to item: 5.2

Germany – Is this campaign planned to be a permanent activity of EFSA or limited for a couple of years?

Answer 16



Irene Zanetti (EFSA) – The campaign is currently planned as a 3-year initiative, aligning with the mandate received from the Commission. However, the continuity of the campaign will depend on the impact measurement figures, which will evaluate its effectiveness. While I cannot speculate on the future, an important element for the campaign's duration is likely to be the participation of even more countries in years 2 and 3.

Question 17 referring to item: 5.3

Austria – Will there be a revival of the “BEASTIE the Bug”?

Answer 17

Muriel Suffert (EPPO) - We are not sure if we will make a revival of the beastie, but maybe a comic but again depends on time and resources.

Austria - I believe we should further emphasize the connection between the university and communication efforts. It might be interesting to engage and involve students from the university in the development of such initiatives.

Question 18 referring to item: 6.2

Muriel Suffert (EPPO) – Are there any plans to publish an update on the distribution of Citrus black spot epidemiology in Tunisia? Or in the case of not being planned, can we share some of the content of this presentation?

Answer 18

Antonio Vincent - It is anticipated that the research results will be published in the near future. However, the information is currently under review. To obtain permission, EPPO may be contacted.

Giuseppe Stancanelli (EFSA) – Kindly reminded the network members not to quote the meeting minutes as source.

Question 19 referring to item: 6.3

Austria - Is the report solely focused on resistance against plant pathogens, or does it also consider resistance against human pathogens, bacteria, and other related pathogens? Some of the presented substances are available for a long time. I wonder if the resistance might have been developed while they were still in use.

Answer 19

Claude Bragard - For example, the resistance to *Stratomyces* is spreading globally. While it is not authorized as a plant pathogen in the EU, the concern arises from the fact that the bacteria carrying the resistance can move across borders, potentially leading to the emergence of strains resistant to *Stratomyces*. Although the primary



focus is on plant pathogens, it is important to acknowledge that this resistance can also be present in plant pathogenic bacteria but also affecting humans.

Question 20 referring to item: 6.2

Portugal – It was not fully understood if there are differences on suitability of cbs between different types citrus? Are there any differences?

Answer 20

Antonio Vincent - There are noticeable variations in Tunisia when it comes to different cultivars and even different ages of citrus and oranges. Therefore, it is challenging to provide a definitive answer. However, based on available data, it appears that lemons are more susceptible to this issue.

Question 21 referring to item: 6.2

Agata Kaczmarek (EFSA) – Technical question about the spore dispersion. Where the spores on the trap tapes quantified?

Answer 21

Antonio Vincent – The trap tape is divided in two. One sent to Slovenia, and one remains in Tunisia. Currently, the spores are not quantified but in the future is intended for quantification to be conducted.

Question 22 referring to item: 7.0

Croatia - Considering the new sustainable use of pesticides will this topic be part of the plant health network?

Answer 22

Tobin Robinson (HoU Plants) - We are currently awaiting the Commission's request for EFSA's scientific support in terms of sustainable agriculture. The specific areas of interest will heavily influence the nature of the collaboration. However, we anticipate that there will be future interactions between the Plant Health and Pesticide Units, considering their relevance to the topic.