COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

NINETEENTH SESSION

REPORT FROM THE

INTERNATIONAL PEST RISK RESEARCH GROUP (IPRRG)

AGENDA ITEM 21.3

(*Prepared by the IPRRG*)

1. The International Pest Risk Research Group (IPRRG) consists of scientists mostly working for, or with, National Plant Protection Organizations in Government agencies or institutions. Members have expertise in plant pest risk analysis (PRA) and related matters. Some of the members of IPRRG were previously in the International Advisory Group for Pest Risk Analysis (IAGPRA). IAGPRA provided expert advice and support to the CPM, its subsidiary bodies, contracting parties and the IPPC Secretariat on PRA related issues, in particular with respect to building capacity for PRA. IPRRG has now taken on this role (Agenda item 14.3 from CPM 14 refers).

2. Text describing IPRRG and its role as an external cooperating organization is available on its IPPC webpage[1].

3. Members of IPRRG contributed to a series of papers published in March 2024 in a special issue of the *EPPO Bulletin* concerning climate change and PRA[2]. The special issue drew attention to the importance of the effects of climate change on plant pests. Papers in the special issue summarise reports of pests changing their distribution in response to climate change and review modelling tools for use in PRA that incorporate climate change. Papers also discussed climate change projections and uncertainty as well as issues around the integration of climate change into PRA.

4. The IPRRG webinar series on pest risks and related issues paused during 2024 but plans to continue in 2025.Webinars from previous years are available to view at https://pestrisk.org/iprrg-webinar-series/

5. The 16th annual IPRRG conference took place in association with the Spanish National Research Council, the University of Malaga, CABI and Cervantes Agritech in Torre del Mar, Malaga, Spain, 17th – 20th September 2024. Participants attended from Asia, Europe, Oceania and North America. There were also representatives of an RPPO (EPPO) as well as scientists from CABI and EFSA (European Food Safety Authority). The conference consisted of 19 scientific and technical talks; a number of scientific posters were also presented. Topics included descriptions of horizon scanning efforts resulting in the initiation of PRAs, use of computer tools and modelling to aid PRA and to estimate pest impacts. Studies to make use of limited resources to optimise pest monitoring and surveillance were also presented, as was the results of a sea container hygiene scheme – a bilateral arrangement seeking to reduce the likelihood that sea containers introduce invasive pests. A technical session focussing on earth observation (EO) and PRA was of particular note. It described projects using EO datasets to support PRA activities and was followed by workshop activities with participants discussing data gaps, data quality and data availability challenges as well as how EO technology can support pest management.

6. Conference participants took part in field visits to la Mayora Experimental Station and the germplasm collections of subtropical fruit crops. The IPRRG website provides the detailed meeting agenda and

[1] IPRRG webpage within the IPPC site: https://www.ippc.int/en/partners/organizations-page-in-ipp/internationalpestriskresearchgroup/

[2] The issue is online only, and all papers are Open Access and can be found at the following link: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/13652338/2024/54/S1

abstracts to the presentations and posters. The IPRRG conference provided an ideal opportunity to network and foster collaboration among researchers, policymakers and the private sector working in plant health and wider biosecurity sphere.

7. The next meeting of IPRRG will take place in Raleigh, North Carolina, in late October 2025. You can find out more about IPRRG on its own dedicated web page: https://pestrisk.org/

Dr. Alan MacLeod

(Defra, York, United Kingdom) contact and liaison point between IPPC Secretariat and IPRRG.