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**Concept of emerging pests and emergency issues - Summary Report on:
International Conference Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) –
Phytosanitary Regulatory Framework**

Agenda item 8.8

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English only



I. Purpose

1. The paper aims to present a report to CPM-14 on the ‘International Conference Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) - Phytosanitary Regulatory Framework’ held on 11-14 March 2019, Tbilisi, Georgia with the goal to raise awareness of the risks associated with the introduction and spread of BMSB and support discussions on emergencies and emerging pests.

II. Conference Outline

2. The Conference was focused on the impact, management and control of the emerging pest *Halyomorpha halys* (brown marmorated stink bug). It was promoted with the aim of discussing and sharing experience and best practices on pre-, at- and post-border aspects of the pest control and regulatory options across the entire spectrum of varying pest status in countries around the world.
3. More than 80 attendees from universities, research organizations, industry representatives, government officials and national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) attended the Conference. There were representatives from various countries including Georgia, Australia, Germany, New Zealand, Norway, South Korea, Russia, Slovenia, Azerbaijan, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States of America. European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) was also represented. The Conference was supported by the European Union funded Comprehensive Institutional Building (CIB) Programme for the National Food Agency (NFA) of Georgia.

III. Conference Proceedings and Key Aspects

4. Given the majority of presenters were from countries that BMSB had invaded the main themes of the presentations were focused on:
 - Field control - strategies and tools, integrated measures in a systems approach, and
 - Biological control - options, production and implementation.
5. There is a good level of research being conducted in these areas across multiple countries and the sharing of this information was valuable, a lot of this research would not be readily available if not for this Conference. There are the clear challenges being faced by Georgia with the ongoing use of insecticides, the lack of in-depth research in appropriate biological control, and the balance between chemical solutions and organic integrated pest management strategies.
6. The sharing of on-ground activities and strategies used to monitor, control and manage the impact of BMSB proved insightful to all participants, as this showed real examples of successes and challenges faced in managing this important pest. The approaches to manage BMSB and minimize its impact proved beneficial even for countries that are currently free of BMSB.
7. The Conference also covered topics such as:
 - Biology and epidemiology - life cycle, host range, impact;
 - Surveillance - detection, delimitation, monitoring, strategies and tools, data collection and management, reporting;
 - Eradication - technical feasibility, response strategies;
 - Phytosanitary treatments - options, application, regulatory oversight, certification;
 - Management in trade - regulated articles, BMSB as a contaminant pest.

8. These subjects were covered by presenters from Australia, South Korea and New Zealand highlighting how the whole plant protection system should respond at different points to complexity of BMSB issues.

IV. Challenges Facing NPPOs in Dealing with BMSB

9. The use of insecticides to reduce population numbers as an immediate solution to protect harvests was a key focus point. While the use of insecticides is recognized as necessary there is concern that there is over reliance of insecticides as a management measure and that proper application is not occurring, which could lead to human health issues and potential insect resistance. This is an area all NPPOs should recognize when it comes to managing pests and diseases.
10. The use of biological controls especially parasitic insects. There was a lot of discussion around the use of biological controls, and integrated pest management systems, however there appear to be challenges, such as public perception of biological controls, to implement these management tools across countries.
11. There may be possible environmental impacts when insecticides and biological control are used against this pest, these should be assessed.
12. The use of exclusion, attract and kill, and repellent techniques is in its infancy and needs further work to be widely effective.
13. Public involvement is considered essential to successful control given the significant nuisance factor of this bug, such as during the BMSB overwintering period.
14. The ownership of non-plant pathways. BMSB is a contaminating pest, management of these types of pests is not widely nor consistently approached by NPPOs. This is a major gap in most plant biosecurity systems, especially dealing with pests like BMSB.
15. This harmful pest is widely recognized as difficult to detect, contain and control.
16. Availability and access to information is challenging when not presented in fora such as this Conference. Information sharing, as and when necessary, should be facilitated as per National Reporting Obligations (NROs).

V. The Value of the Conference

17. Most attendees were interested in learning more about the management of BMSB, and key learnings from research organizations, as well as understanding practical experiences. This was a key focus of the Conference as Georgia is endeavoring to manage the impact of BMSB.
18. Even representatives that are managing the phytosanitary risk of BMSB in countries where it has not established there was general feedback that the Conference provided valuable information in the approach used in managing establishing populations. Understanding what worked well and what didn't was a key outcome; these lessons can be used by countries planning surveillance and response activities.
19. Presentations around regulating pre-border and border actions gave context to the wider environment, and had an interest factor. If more regulators had attended, this could have been more valuable. Having attendees from multiple points across the plant protection system from a government and industry stance did provide depth to conversations and highlight the multilayered system.
20. Involvement by a range of academic and research institutions would ensure continuing education around plant quarantine and plant protection.

21. Importantly a key theme to emerge was the importance of industry and public engagement to help manage BMSB. Given the nature of BMSB as a plant pest and public nuisance pest this wider communication and involvement is critical.

VI. A Model for Future Use?

22. The value of this type of conferences is often determined by the makeup of the audience, in-conference engagement levels and the subject matter. BMSB is a high priority pest across many countries, so there was always going to be a high level of interest in demonstrating the significant problems faced by all sectors in managing BMSB.
23. Future conferences may be beneficial in dealing with the challenges of high priority emerging pests that multiple NPPOs are facing. The exchange of experiences is one of the most important outcomes, especially with the range of people attending and from numerous backgrounds.
24. It is recommended that future conferences should be considered, targeting high priority emerging pests that multiple countries are dealing with at various stages with the emphasis on the regulatory framework.
25. The establishment of a permanent working group should be considered to continue to exchange information.