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منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Fifteenth Session

Virtual Meeting, 16, 18 March and 1 April 2021

**Written reports from international organizations - Phytosanitary Measures
Research Group (PMRG)**

Agenda item 15.2

**Prepared by the Chair of the Phytosanitary Measures Research Group
(PMRG)**

1. The Phytosanitary Measures Research Group (PMRG) was initially established as the Expert Consultation on Cold Treatments (ECCT) before becoming the Phytosanitary Temperature Treatment Expert Group (PTTEG). The PMRG was created to be an independent group that could consider all temperature related phytosanitary treatments. It is a forum where critical phytosanitary treatment issues can be addressed through discussion and collaborative research and where global phytosanitary treatments issues can be scientific analysed and reviewed. The PMRG mission is to harmonize research on phytosanitary treatments and other measures with application to international trade of horticultural commodities to support IPPC Technical Panels, plant protection organizations, and researchers.
2. The PMRG also works to provide support to the IPPC Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT), to help address any issues that are identified during the development of annexes to ISPM 28 (Phytosanitary treatments for regulated pests). Although established in 2015, a recent time frame, the PMRG made significant contributions to the IPPC TPPT and to IPPC community. For example, studies in collaboration with Joint FAO/IAEA Division and MAFF-Japan (Research Center Yokohama), on how economic important fruit fly populations from different geographical regions of the world responded to cold and vapour heat treatments, which led to the adoption of several annexes to the ISPM 28 by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM).
3. The PMRG currently has 101 active members from 31 countries (up from 83 members from 28 countries in 2018) collaborating on research and analysis addressing phytosanitary issues. Summaries of activities for 2019 and 2020 follow:
 - 1) Research guidelines for both vapour heat treatment and cold treatment have been developed in 2019 and are available at the PMRG webpage. These guidelines will help researchers, from all around the globe, to have a better understanding on technical procedures that might be used to support vapour heat and cold treatments research against fruit fly species in host commodities. These documents are living documents and are updated by the group regularly. In the case of heat treatments, the guidelines are currently being expanded to include hot water dipping in addition to advice on how to undertake vapour heat treatment research. For cold treatments more examples on monitoring requirements for cold treatment research are being provided.
 - 2) Research guidelines for fumigation are completed in 2020 and are available at the PMRG webpage. New guidelines on heat treatments for pests other than fruit fly are being developed.
5. The entire IPPC community, with its national and regional plant protection organizations are welcomed to contact and utilize the expertise offered by the PMRG. The PMRG is to continue to help and to contribute to the work of the IPPC technical panels and Standards Committee to help protect plant health on a global scale. The PMRG is ready to contribute to the development of phytosanitary measures, to wide up the options to countries to boost safe trade and to protect the environment, and to help enhance countries capacities.
6. The 2020 meeting was scheduled to be held from the 22 to 25 September 2020 in Rome, Italy hosted by the International Plant Protection Convention at the United Nation Food and Agriculture Organization's (UN/FAO) Headquarters but had to be postponed to 2021. The PMRG invites all national and regional plant protection organizations to support the participation of its experts in the group's activities and to attend the PMRG meetings, to ensure a global representation.

7. For more information on PMRG or to find out how to become a member, please check the PMRG web page on the IPP (<https://www.ippc.int/en/external-cooperation/organizations-page-in-ipp/phytosanitarymeasuresresearchgroup/>).