



联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Organisation des Nations
Unies pour l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Sixteenth Session

Virtual Meeting, 5, 7 and 21 April 2022

**Written reports from international organizations - European Food Safety
Authority (EFSA) Activities**

Agenda item 16.2

Prepared by European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)

English only



EFSA activities and resources for Plant Health Risk Assessment

The [European Food Safety Authority \(EFSA\)](#) is an agency of the European Union (EU) responsible for independent risk assessment and communication in the areas of food safety, animal health and plant health. Most of EFSA's work is undertaken in response to requests for scientific advice from the European Commission, the European Parliament and EU Member States, however EFSA can also carry out scientific work on our own initiative ("self-tasking"). In the area of plant health risk assessment, EFSA conducts commodity risk assessment, pest categorisation and quantitative pest risk assessment for new and emerging plant pests. EFSA also conducts data collection and promote cooperation and research.

Commodity risk assessment

Since 2019 EFSA is conducting commodity risk assessment on selected plants and plants product, indicated as "High Risk Plants", to be imported from non-EU Countries. Detailed information on the rules and procedures for the assessment by EFSA of the High Risk Plants dossiers can be found in the [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1882](#). In addition, EFSA has published a [Technical Report on](#) "Information required for dossiers to support demands for import of high risk plants, plant products and other objects as foreseen in Article 42 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031" and a ["Guidance on commodity risk assessment for the evaluation of high risk plants dossiers"](#) .

EFSA has also produced three webinars to assist non-EU countries in the preparation of their dossiers which can be found on the EFSA website:

- [High-risk plants – how does the EU carry out risk assessment of plant commodities?](#)
- [How to prepare dossiers to support demands for import of high-risk plants and plant products](#)
- [How to prepare a pest list for a commodity and a dossier for Momordica fruits.](#)

A repository of the Scientific Opinions and Technical Report on High Risk Plants and commodity risk assessments published so far can be found in the [EFSA Journal Virtual Issue on Commodity Risk Assessment](#)

Pest categorisation and pest risk assessment

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performs pest categorisations and pest risk assessments to support the EU risk managers in preparing secondary legislation under the new EU Plant Health Law [Regulation \(EU\) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament of the Council of 26 October 2016 on protective measures against pests of plants](#). A pest categorisation is the first phase of the risk assessment for a plant pest. The categorisations succinctly describe the pest identity and taxonomy, biology, intraspecific diversity, detection and identification, distribution, regulatory status, host range, ability to enter, establish and spread in the EU, potential consequences and availability and limits of mitigation measures. The categorization concludes with a statement on whether the pests fulfil the criteria assessed by EFSA for consideration as potential quarantine pests, with identification of the main associated uncertainties. If these requirements are fulfilled, following a fit for purpose two-phases approach, a pest categorisation (phase 1) can be followed by a quantitative pest risk assessment (phase 2). A quantitative method has been developed by the EFSA Plant Health Panel to assess the risks of introduction (entry and establishment) and subsequent spread and impact of invasive plant pests in the European Union. This EFSA methodology is based upon a quantitative population-based

approach. At each stage of the assessment, a distribution is derived based on the estimation of five quantiles. Different scenarios can be developed to compare the consequences of a combination of risk-reducing measures with the phytosanitary measures currently in place. EFSA has published a "[Guidance on quantitative pest risk assessment](#)".

A repository of the Scientific Opinions on pest categorisation and quantitative pest risk assessment published so far can be found in the [EFSA Journal Virtual Issue on Pest Categorisation](#) and the [EFSA Journal Virtual Issue on Quantitative Pest Risk Assessment](#).

Data collection and promotion of cooperation and research on new and emerging plant pests: *Xylella fastidiosa*

Since its first outbreak in southern Apulia in October 2013, EFSA has been issuing pest categorisation, pest risk assessment and technical and scientific advice to support risk managers in their measures against the emerging plant pathogen *Xylella fastidiosa*. EFSA has created and regularly updates a [global database of host plant species of Xylella spp.](#). As part of EFSA activities to mark the International Year of Plant Health, EFSA has produced a webinar on the *Xylella* host plants database which can be found on the EFSA website:

- [The EFSA host plant database of Xylella spp.](#)

EFSA also organises European conferences on *X. fastidiosa* research to provide a platform to scientists, stakeholders, risk assessors and risk managers for in-depth discussion on the results of research into *X. fastidiosa* and its vectors and on the future research needs and priorities:

- [3rd European conference on Xylella fastidiosa and XFactors final meeting, online 26-30 April 2021](#)
- [2nd European conference on Xylella fastidiosa, Ajaccio \(FR\) 29-30 October 2019](#)
- [1st European conference on Xylella fastidiosa: finding answers to a global problem, Palma de Mallorca \(ES\) 13-15 November 2017](#)
- [Workshop on Xylella fastidiosa: knowledge gaps and research priorities for the EU, Brussels \(BE\), 12 November 2015](#)

A repository of EFSA work on *X. fastidiosa* published so far can be found in the [EFSA Journal Virtual Issue on Xylella fastidiosa](#).

EFSA Conference: "Thematic Session on Plant Health" and Workshop on "How does antibiotics resistance in plant pathogenic bacteria impact 'One Health'?"

From 21 to 24 of June 2022 EFSA is organizing a Scientific Conference ([ONE – Health, Environment, Society](#)) where a Thematic Session will be on Plant Health. The session, [Protecting Plants in the Era of Global Change](#), aims to identify what will be the scenario and the challenges in the near future and how the improvement of risk assessment and risk management could allow to tackle them.

On 21 June 2022, as side event of the EFSA ONE conference, a workshop will be organized on ["How does antibiotics resistance in plant pathogenic bacteria impact 'One Health'?"](#). The objective of the workshop is to encourage the exchange and collection of data on: i) the use of antibiotics for controlling plant pathogenic bacteria; ii) the antibiotic resistance in plant pathogenic bacteria; and iii) alternative measures for controlling plant pathogenic bacteria, with an emphasis on data gaps and key questions for improving risk assessment. The workshop also aims to establish the basis for a network on the topic, connecting with established networks in the areas of animal and human health. As part of the workshop, global inventories of antibiotics used as plant protection products and information on antimicrobial resistance associated with the use of antibiotics in plant protection will be presented, as collected in the framework of the EFSA funded PLANTBIO project carried on by the Université Catholique de Louvain.

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