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منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Sixteenth Session

Virtual Meeting, 5, 7 and 21 April 2022

**Written reports from international organizations - The International
Forestry Quarantine Research Group (IFQRG) Update**

Agenda item 16.2

**Prepared by The International Forestry Quarantine Research Group
(IFQRG)**

English only

1. The International Forestry Quarantine Research Group (IFQRG), formed in 2003, is an independent science group that carries out analysis and scientific research in response to international forest phytosanitary issues identified by quarantine bodies. The IPPC – Technical Panel on Forest Quarantine (TPFQ) and the CPM Standards Committee have utilized the IFQRG in obtaining answers to key science questions. IFQRG has had participation from over 180 delegates from 40 countries providing scientific input from academic, government, industry and regulatory perspectives. The most recent meetings of the group, IFQRG-17 and 18, were held as virtual symposia in October 2020 (an IYPH affiliated event) and 2021.

I. Scientific Research and Analysis

2. In response to specific questions from the Standards Committee and the need for alternative treatments in ISPM 15 (2018): *Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade*, the IFQRG continues to address the challenges in developing the IPPC draft appendix to ISPM 15 (2009) *Revision of ISPM 15: Criteria for treatments for wood packaging material in international trade*. A scientific journal paper written by international experts has been submitted for publication that will outline the scientific basis for test sample sizes and efficacy targets for species groups in the treatment criteria for ISPM 15. Publication in a peer-reviewed journal provides significant endorsement for inclusion of the criteria in the draft annex to ISPM previously prepared by the TPFQ.

3. Other ongoing IFQRG work includes:

- Providing science support to RPPOs and the IPPC for the development of systems approaches for pest risk reduction in wood products
- Further evaluating efficacy requirements for test organisms used in treatment development, linking with the IPPC Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT)
- Synthesizing knowledge and addressing potential knowledge gaps through coordination of collaborative research on the efficacy of treatments (e.g., heat, methyl bromide, ethane dinitrile, dielectric heating, pressure steam heating) on key pest taxa
- Identifying the mode of action of heat and other treatments on pests in wood, dose/delivery dynamics, and significance of sublethal effects.
- Working closely with the IPPC Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC), providing scientific information for the development of guidance documents for new and existing treatments and provide capacity development support where needed and requested
- Evaluating tactics for responding to the emergence of new pests in forest systems globally
- Evaluating the use of molecular tools in invasive forest pest management.

4. Meeting reports are available on the IFQRG website (<https://www.ippc.int/en/external-cooperation/organizations-page-in-ipp/internationalforestryquarantineresearchgroup/>).

5. Scientific activities that are pursued throughout the year in research institutions around the world support the work of IFQRG. NPPOs are invited to utilize the technical expertise offered by IFQRG and are encouraged to support their scientists' participation in meetings and research activities. IFQRG strongly encourages the participation of a wide geographical representation including developing countries to ensure that all perspectives on phytosanitary issues and pest management are considered. Holding the annual IFQRG meetings virtually has enabled greater participation from developing countries. **The IFQRG will continue to respond to the needs of IPPC bodies and Regional Plant Protection Organizations to provide a sound scientific basis for the development of new standards.**

6. The next formal IFQRG meeting is expected to be a virtual symposium in October 2022. Contracting parties are invited to encourage specialists to participate in this meeting. Contact the chair, Dr. Mike Ormsby, at michael.ormsby@mpi.govt.nz for details.