



External Cooperation written reports from relevant international organizations -Report from the International Quarantine Research Group (IGQRG)

The International Forestry Quarantine Research Group (IFQRG) is an independent science group that carries out analysis and scientific research in response to international forest phytosanitary issues identified by quarantine bodies. IFQRG was created in 2003 following discussions with the IPPC secretariat to be an advisory body to the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM), Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPO), and National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPO) providing scientific analysis and review of global phytosanitary issues and new information.

Since then, the IPPC – Technical Panel on Forest Quarantine (TPFQ) and the CPM Standards Committee have utilized the IFQRG in obtaining answers to key science questions raised in the process of standards development, in particular ISPMs 15, 28, 38, and 39. IFQRG has had participation from over 200 delegates from 40 countries providing scientific input from academic, government, industry and regulatory perspectives. The most recent meetings of the group, IFQRG-19 and 20, were held as virtual symposia in October 2022 and November 2023.

I. Scientific Research and Analysis

IFQRG 20 in 2023 included a session on carbon accounting in forests and the carbon impacts of pest and diseases. Presentations covered recent developments and challenges in forest carbon accounting, carbon and the wood packing industry, and the impacts of pests and diseases on forest carbon sequestration. Two sessions further focused on developing alternative treatments to methyl bromide for wood and wood products. In discussions participants identified several ways to resolve some of the roadblocks to developing new treatments.

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.
- Supporting the development of new tools and technology in forest pest surveillance.
- 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 and formation of a IFQRG Molecular Tools working group to identify opportunities, challenges and knowledge gaps with using molecular detection tools in forestry/forest products

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

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.

The next formal IFQRG meeting will be a face-to-face meeting in November 4-8, 2024 at the FAO in Rome. Contracting parties are invited to encourage specialists to participate in this meeting. Contact the Chair, Dr Mike Ormsby (michael.ormsby@mpi.govt.nz) or the Secretary, Meghan Noseworthy (meghan.noseworthy@NRCan-RNCan.gc.ca) for further details.

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