

**COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES****TWENTIETH SESSION****REPORT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL FORESTRY QUARANTINE RESEARCH GROUP (IFQRG)****AGENDA ITEM 22.3**

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. Since 2004, IFQRG has responded to requests for scientific information on forestry quarantine issues from the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures, the Standards Committee, Implementation Committee and the associated Technical Panels and Expert Working Groups. IFQRG supports the IPPC Community by addressing critical forestry quarantine issues for the global plant protection community through scientific analysis, discussion and collaborative research.

The IFQRG has been utilized to obtain answers to key science questions raised in the process of standards development, in particular ISPMs 15, 28, 38, and 39. The IFQRG has had participation from over 200 delegates from 40 countries providing scientific input from academic, government, industry and regulatory perspectives. The most recent meeting of the group, IFQRG-22, was held as a hybrid meeting (virtual for two half-days and in-person the whole week) at the Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (Anses) in Maisons-Alfort in September-October 2025 with 51 participants from 20 countries.

**I. Scientific Research and Analysis**

IFQRG-22 in 2025 included reports on developments in forestry quarantine from represented RPPOs, and sessions on new treatments for forest products, alternatives for methyl bromide, forest germplasm as a pathway, international movement of fungi associated with forest products, EPPO development of guidance on the safe trade of wood chips, phytosanitary challenges in forestry and a virtual session focused on the use of molecular tools in forestry and trade. A report from the IFQRG Molecular Tools Working Group was also presented to the meeting.

IFQRG participated in the CPM research coordination working group interview and look forward to the outcomes of the group's report to the CPM.

Ongoing IFQRG work includes:

- Evaluating tactics for responding to the emergence of new pests in forest systems globally.
- Supporting the development of new tools and technology in forest pest surveillance.
- 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.
- Providing science support to RPPOs and the IPPC for the development of systems approaches for pest risk reduction in wood products including wood chips.
- 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 phytosanitary treatments towards key forest pest taxa, including those that are promising alternatives to methyl bromide

- 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.

IFQRG internal working groups:

- Risk assessment of wood chips in close cooperation with EPPO,
- Molecular Tools Working Group,
- Science Steering Committee.

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

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 of the IFQRG and are encouraged to support their scientists' and regulatory officer's 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. Facilitating virtual attendance at annual IFQRG meetings has enabled greater participation from developing countries.

The next formal IFQRG meeting will be a face-to-face meeting in October 2026. Contracting parties are invited to encourage specialists to participate in this meeting. Contact the Chair, Dr Mike Ormsby ([michael.ormsby@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:michael.ormsby@mpi.govt.nz)) or the Secretary, Meghan Noseworthy ([meghan.noseworthy@nrcan.gc.ca](mailto:meghan.noseworthy@nrcan.gc.ca)) for further details. We would be delighted if new participants and those who have attended virtually over the past few years could take part in the 2026 IFQRG-23 meeting in person.

To summarize, 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.

Dr Michael Ormsby  
Chair, International Forest Quarantine Research Group