



## Subcommittee on National Plant Health Surveillance Communiqué

### SNPHS20

The Subcommittee on National Plant Health Surveillance (SNPHS) held its 20<sup>th</sup> meeting in Darwin from 3 – 4 May 2022. Topics considered by SNPHS are detailed below:

#### ▪ **Digital Systems Update**

The Subcommittee noted that activities to support the national deployment of AUSPestCheck™, including a review of governance and changes to the permission structure. The Subcommittee also noted the work undertaken by the Systems Working Group to progress national deployment of MyPestGuide™ by resolving privacy and Intellectual Property considerations.

The Subcommittee also discussed the upload of fruit fly data collected outside the National Plant Health Surveillance Program to AUSPestCheck™ to share data nationally.

#### ▪ **Industry Surveillance Programs**

The Subcommittee noted the update on activities in industry-led surveillance programs, including CitrusWatch, the National Bee Pest Surveillance Program and, tropical plant biosecurity forums with industry and government partners to progress development of surveillance partnerships and an update on developments towards the establishment of a National Forest Pest Surveillance Program.

Draft Data Standards developed for CitrusWatch and the National Bee Pest Surveillance Program were discussed, with this development providing important steps in improving consistency of national data capture, collation, and assessment across these industry/government partnerships.

#### ▪ **National People Capability Framework for Plant Biosecurity Surveillance**

The Subcommittee noted that recommendations in the National People Capability Framework for Plant Biosecurity Surveillance were used by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) to create a field officers survey as part of commencing a capability gap analysis.

The Subcommittee also agreed for DAFF to roll out the survey to Commonwealth officers and to review the findings and amendments that may be appropriate to the survey.

#### ▪ **National Surveillance Protocols**

The Subcommittee noted that the new National Surveillance Protocol Working Group have endorsed the Reference Standard for development and approval of National Surveillance Protocols in March 2022.

The Subcommittee also noted the first three National Surveillance Protocols (NSPs) have been subjected to the review process as per the workflow in the Reference Standard and were submitted to SNPHS for endorsement at SNPHS 20.

The Subcommittee has agreed that endorsed National Surveillance Protocols should be uploaded to the Plant Surveillance Network Australasia-Pacific (PSNAP) public facing website and, the National Surveillance Protocol Working Group has now commenced drafting a process for prioritising the development of new National Surveillance Protocols.



- **Plant Surveillance Network**

The Subcommittee endorsed a third 2021 Plant Surveillance Network Australasia–Pacific (PSNAP) Surveillance Residential round to promote intrastate professional development opportunities.

The Subcommittee noted the 2021 Annual Surveillance Workshop (ASW) ‘A Climate of Change’ was held virtually on 25-26 November 2021. The four key themes for the workshop were the impacts of climate change on surveillance, emerging plant pest risks (natural and regulated pathway risks), adapting surveillance during the COVID pandemic, and emerging surveillance technologies. There were 135 attendees.

Planning is underway for the joint Annual Surveillance Workshop/Annual Diagnosticians Workshop 2022. The workshop will be held in Melbourne at the end of August with a theme of “Surveillance and Diagnostics – integrated to inspire and innovate. SNPHS will continue to work with SPHD as well as the Diagnostics and Surveillance Network coordinator to progress the workshop.

- **National Plant Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy**

The Subcommittee noted the progress made by Plant Health Australia to establish the National Plant Biosecurity Strategy Implementation Group.

Plant Health Australia is progressing work to finalise membership of the implementation group as a priority and with Plant Health Australia arranging most representatives and, discussions are continuing to confirm a member from a non-government organisation with environmental and/or community interests

Once established, the implementation group will play a key role in guiding the development of a detailed action plan for the strategy. The action plan will provide key information on the specific tasks for each action to deliver against the strategy.

- **Announcement of new Subcommittee Chair and Deputy Chair**

The Subcommittee noted that Veronica Hayes (Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Tasmania) has been appointed as Chair of the Subcommittee on National Plant Health Surveillance and Tim Hurst (Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions, Victoria) as Deputy Chair.

- **Next Meeting**

The Subcommittee will plan to hold its 21<sup>st</sup> meeting from 26-27 October 2022 in Canberra.