



Subcommittee on National Plant Health Surveillance Communiqué – SNPHS19

The Subcommittee on National Plant Health Surveillance (SNPHS) held its 19th meeting virtually from 14 – 15 September 2021. Topics considered by SNPHS are detailed below:

▪ **Digital Systems Update**

The Subcommittee noted that activities to support the operational deployment of AUSPestCheck™ are continuing, as is work to nationalise MyPestGuide™ Reporter, through a Working Group established by Plant Health Committee (PHC). The Subcommittee also noted that Plant Health Australia (PHA) has projects underway to redevelop and redeploy the Australian Plant Pest Database (APPD) and the Pest and Disease Image Library (PaDIL).

▪ **Industry Surveillance Programs**

The Subcommittee discussed a range of industry-led surveillance initiatives including activities occurring to establish the National Forest Pest Surveillance Program, National Bee Pest Surveillance Program and Biosecurity Preparedness Program.

The Subcommittee also discussed CitrusWatch, a new citrus surveillance and biosecurity preparedness program. This program has been funded by Horticulture Innovation and the citrus industry PHA Health levy, and over the next five years, will provide national coverage of surveillance for high priority pests of the citrus industry.

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

The Subcommittee noted that Plant Health Committee has endorsed a National People Capability Framework. To progress the implementation of the framework, the Subcommittee discussed undertaking a gap analysis and identification of priority areas.

▪ **National Surveillance Protocols**

The Subcommittee noted that the new National Surveillance Protocol Working Group is currently drafting a Terms of Reference and Work Plan for endorsement, and has commenced a review of the Reference Standard for Development and Approval of 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 also noted that the Plant Surveillance Network Working Group will organise the Annual Surveillance Workshop (ASW) 2021 for 25-26 November 2021 with the theme of 'A Climate of Change' with four key themes for the workshop: 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.



Planning is also underway for the 2022 Annual Surveillance Workshop (ASW) and SNPHS has endorsed the proposal to have a joint Annual Surveillance Workshop and Annual Diagnostics Workshop. The suggested theme is 'Developing and Achieving a Community of Excellence to Inspire, Discover, Deliver and Engage'.

- **National Plant Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy**

The Subcommittee supported the National Plant Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy 2021-2031 (and the implementation plan for the strategy) and its progression to Plant Health Committee for endorsement. The Subcommittee also welcomed the proposal to form a National Plant Biosecurity Strategy Implementation Group to oversee implementation across the suite of national plant biosecurity strategies.

- **Next Meeting**

The Subcommittee will plan to hold its 20th meeting on 3-4 May 2022 in Darwin.