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منظمة  
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للأمم المتحدة

# COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

<b>Eleventh Session</b>
<b>Rome, 4-8 April 2016</b>
<b>Written reports from international organizations – Report from the Phytosanitary Measures Research Group Activities for 2015</b>
<b>Agenda item 11.2.4</b>
<b>Prepared by Guy Hallman, Chairperson of the Phytosanitary Measures Research Group (PMRG)</b>
<b>English only</b>

1. The Phytosanitary Measures Research Group (PMRG) was initially established at the Expert Consultation on Cold Treatments (ECCT) in December 2013<sup>1</sup> as the Phytosanitary Temperature Treatment Expert Group (PTTEG). The group was created to be an independent group that will consider all temperature related phytosanitary treatments and serve as a forum where critical phytosanitary treatment issues can be addressed through discussion and collaborative research and where scientific analysis and review of global phytosanitary treatments issues and new information can be provided. The IPPC Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) have already utilized PMRG in obtaining answers to key science questions. During 2015, the PTTEG advanced several phytosanitary assignments and had its first meeting in South Africa, at which the name was changed to reflect the broadened scope

<sup>1</sup> ECCT 2013 meeting report:

<https://www.ippc.int/en/partners/phytosanitarymeasuresresearchgroup/publications/2014/11/2013-december-ecct-meeting-report/>

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*[www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)*

of the group<sup>2</sup>. The terms of reference of the PMRG is presented in Appendix 4 of the PTTEG meeting report.

2. The PMRG currently has 47 active members from over 14 countries collaborating on research and analysis addressing phytosanitary issues. Summaries of activities for 2015 that arose from the ECCT meeting follow:

- 1) Some terminology not existing in the International Standard on Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*) but of confusing use in the literature, specifically on phytosanitary treatments, was discussed and agreed.
- 2) A list of existing cold treatment schedules was assembled and made available to all PMRG members, in the PMRG work area on the web. The aim is to make this information publically available soon.
- 3) The possible effect of fruit variety/cultivar on efficacy of cold treatments was analyzed and it was concluded that differences existing at lower levels of efficacy disappears at the very high levels of efficacy demanded of phytosanitary treatments.
- 4) The possibility of developing cold treatments schedules  $> 3.2^{\circ}\text{C}$  was analysed and decided impractical for the time being. However, suggestions for further consideration were made.
- 5) A database of publications on cold treatment was established and made available in the PMRG work area to all PMRG members. The aim is to make this information publically available soon. A heat treatment database is also under the work programme of the group and will also be developed.
- 6) Cold treatment research guidelines were developed and it is expected to be published in a scientific journal.
- 7) A review paper on “Phytosanitary treatments against *Bactrocera dorsalis* (Diptera: Tephritidae): current situation and future prospects” is foreseen to be published soon.
- 8) The possibility for generic cold treatments was explored and considered possible under limited circumstances, such as generic for groups of pests and/or commodities.

3. A series of new research areas was identified and discussed at this first meeting of the PTTEG/PMRG. These include databases for other treatments besides cold, development of commercially viable temperature-controlled atmosphere treatments, explore modelling of treatments, phytosanitary systems as there are few literature available, determinations of alternative to acute mortality endpoints for treatment efficacy, treatment of mixed loads, and novel treatment technologies.

4. A periodic newsletter on the PMRG project progress will be developed. The next meeting of the PMRG will be held during the middle of 2017 in Wageningen, Netherlands.

5. With the mission to harmonize research on phytosanitary treatments and other measures with application to international trade of horticultural commodities to support IPPC Technical Panels, plant protection organizations, and researchers, the PMRG will continue to respond to the needs of the IPPC community to provide a sound scientific basis for the development of new phytosanitary treatments.

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<sup>2</sup> PTTEG 2015 meeting report:

<https://www.ippc.int/en/partners/phytosanitarymeasuresresearchgroup/publications/2016/02/ptteg-meeting-report-2015/>

6. For more information on PMRG or to find out how to become a member, please check the PMRG web page on the IPP<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> PMRG page on the IPP (public page):  
<https://www.ippc.int/en/liason/organizations/phytosanitarymeasuresresearchgroup/>