EPPO Platform on PRAs

(Document prepared by EPPO)

1. Pest Risk Analyses (PRAs) are produced at national level and regionally within the EPPO region. These PRAs are not always easily accessible. Therefore, EPPO developed a platform to share PRAs. This development was done in 2017 and 2018. Now more than 800 PRAs are available on the platform and can be retrieved by different criteria (e.g. scientific names of pest or commodity, country, keywords). These PRAs are either full PRAs, express PRAs, interception PRAs, quick scans or commodity PRAs in different languages and cover also invasive plants as pests. The platform is linked to the EPPO Database, so basic information on pests is easy to consult.
2. NPPOs from the EPPO region can register with the EPPO Secretariat to get access to the PRA platform. Then the registered NPPO can upload their PRAs and has access to the PRAs available on the platform. However, National PRAs are not always produced by the NPPO. The NPPOs should decide whether they post PRAs prepared by other institutes within their country under the name of the NPPO or whether individual institutes in their country should be allowed to be registered to the platform and upload PRAs themselves. The registration of any institute will be submitted to the NPPO of the country concerned for approval. This may be decided differently for different countries as in some cases agencies publish PRAs on their website whereas in other countries, PRAs are only made available by the NPPO.
3. EPPO is not responsible for the quality of the PRAs shared on the platform, it is considered the role of the PRA analyst to analyse the documents available on the platform and to decide whether to use it in their work or not. The platform has three levels of access, restricted to users in the NPPO/Institute that uploaded the PRA, open to all registered users or made publicly available. The registered user that uploads the PRA decides for each PRA what level of access is applicable (and this can be modified later).
4. When the platform was advertised in late 2018, experts from outside the EPPO region asked whether they could also be involved and share PRAs via the platform. EPPO is very much in favor of sharing PRAs globally and share experience in this way. However, EPPO is an RPPO for the European and Mediterranean region. Before giving access to countries outside this region, EPPO would like to discuss whether other RPPOs have plans for or have a similar platform. If not, then EPPO would like to know whether other RPPOs agree to register NPPOs from their region and agree with the approach EPPO would like to take to not actively promote the PRA platform outside the EPPO region but register NPPOs from outside the EPPO region upon their request.
5. Upon registration of NPPOs from non-EPPO countries, they will receive a login to post their PRA on the platform and they can indicate whether the PRA should be accessible only by registered users or be publicly available . Moreover, other organizations within their country may then be authorized by the NPPO to upload PRAs on the platform. This is the same procedure as used within the EPPO region.
6. During the TC-RPPO EPPO will demonstrate the PRA platform to the RPPOs.