

Assessment and prioritisation of pathways

Funding

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Research consortium

Defra (GB), ILVO (BE), CFIA (CA), ANSES (FR), CREA (IT), APHIS (US), AUT (AL)

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Goals

The upcoming EU Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 puts an increased emphasis on pathways for introduction of plant pests and diseases compared to the current legislation. To achieve this, the pathways approach to plant health requires different methodologies and sources of information; in particular, it requires improved information on transport history and nature of trade in plants and plant products, for which cooperation between trading nations in collating this information is key.

The goal of the project is to begin building an international network to allow cooperation in performing risk assessment of pathways for the introduction of plant pests and diseases.

Objectives

The project has 4 objectives:

- Identify current systems and methodologies used to assess new and emerging horticultural trade pathways
- Identify knowledge gaps regarding current industry practices in exporting countries
- Develop proposals to overcome existing difficulties in assessing pathways
- Provide a report on options for the systematic evaluation and prioritisation of pathways

Key outputs and results

The key outcomes from this project will be:

- Development of a new international cooperative network for pathways risk assessment in plant health.
- Improved understanding and cooperation between project member countries on systems and methodologies applied for pathways risk assessments.
- A report including
 - descriptions of the plant trade with key third country partners including identifying existing plant pest management systems
 - identification of the knowledge gaps and difficulties in identifying and assessing pathways, and suggested methods to address these.
 - a future programme of activities to improve the systems used for pathway risk assessment.