EPPO Workshop for Inspectors: Innovative Strategies for Phytosanitary Inspections

Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority – NVWA

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature,
Bezuidenhoutseweg 73,
2594 AC Den Haag,
The Netherlands

18-20 November 2025

Acknowledgements

EPPO gratefully acknowledges our local Workshop organisers

Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature

EPPO gratefully acknowledges our organising committee and collaborators on the Workshop

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Julius Kühn-Institut
Bundesforschungsinstitut für Kulturpflanzen
Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants

Front cover images: *Popillia japonica* trap Courtesy: Plant Protection Service of Lombardy Region, Italy; *Neoleucinodes elegantalis* on *Solanum betaceum* from Colombia Courtesy: Blandine Delbourse, Roissy CDG airport, France; Production of tomato plants, Antalya (TR) Courtesy: Camille Picard (EPPO)

Programme

EPPO Workshop for Inspectors: Innovative Strategies for Phytosanitary Inspections

Tuesday, November 18 – Day 1

13:30 **Registration**

14:00 Opening (Olga Tikka (EPPO) and Corné van Alphen NPPO-NL))

Session 1: New technologies for inspection (Chair: Max Anders, NL)

14:10 Use of loop mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP) at border control posts (Ben Walpole, GB)

14:30 Use of ArcGIS digital tools in the proactive surveillance of fruit flies and the facilitation of access to international trade (Neakoh Mengyi, CM)

14:50 EFSA's support for more effective plant health inspections (Francesca Salinari & Sybren Vos, EFSA)

15:10 SmartGrape project (Meredith Schuman, CH)

15:30 UK perspective of using new technologies and what is restricting further implementation (Kelvin Hughes, GB)

15:50 Coffee break

16:15 Practical session 1

17:15 Open discussion

17:30 **Close of day**

EPPO Workshop for Phytosanitary Inspectors

Programme

EPPO Workshop for Inspectors: Innovative Strategies for Phytosanitary Inspections

Wednesday, November 19

Session 2: Inspection of passenger luggage at points of entry (Maikel Aveskamp, NL)

09:00 Official controls of passenger luggage at points of entry (Katrin Kaminski, DE)

09:30 Passenger baggage plant health checks upon entry to Dublin airport (Ciarán Cullen, IE)

09:50 Strengthening Biosecurity at the Air Border. New Zealand's Current and Future State (Allanah Gilbert, Gavin Eiloart, NZ)

10:10 Conducting passenger baggage inspections for international arrivals (Andrew Palmer, AU)

10:30 Coffee

11:00 Practical session 2

12:15 Open discussion

12:30 **Lunch**

Programme

EPPO Workshop for Inspectors: Innovative Strategies for Phytosanitary Inspections

Wednesday, November 19

Session 3: eCommerce (Chair: Lis Stenstrup, DK)

13:30 eCommerce: IPPC tools and activities (Thorwald Geuze, NL)

13:50 Safeguarding Plant health in Ireland: Navigating the E-Commerce challenge together (John Eivers, IE)

14:10 Chinese Unsolicited Seed - United Kingdoms NPPO experience (Paul Bratby, GB)

14:30 Addressing Agricultural Smuggling in the United States (Julie Hong-Sakowski, USA)

14:50 Introduction to practical session (Rachel Barker, GB)

15:00 Open discussion

15:15 Coffee

15:45 Practical session 3

17:15 Open discussion

17:30 **Close of day**

19:00 Workshop dinner

Programme

EPPO Workshop for Inspectors: Innovative Strategies for Phytosanitary Inspections

Thursday, November 20

Session 4: Information and communication for inspectors (Chair: Rachel Barker, GB)

09:00 EPPO guides on information and communication: available materials and examples of innovative ways to communicate (Katrin Kaminski, DE & Hans Meerman, NL)

09:20 EPPO PM 3 Standards - disseminating information to inspectors in the EPPO region (Rob Tanner, EPPO)

09:40 Communication for phytosanitary inspections: case study in Lombardy Region (Alessandro Bianchi, IT)

10:00 Practical session introduction (Rob Tanner, EPPO)

10:30 Coffee

11:00 Practical session 4

12:45 Wrap-up

13:00 **Close**

Acknowledgements

EPPO would like to acknowledge and thank the local organisers for all of their work in preparing and facilitating this inspectors Workshop

EPPO Inspectors technical Workshop

Book of Abstracts
Oral Presentation

Book of Abstracts
Oral Presentation

Use of loop mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP) at border control posts

Ben Walpole

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), GB

Loop-Mediated Isothermal Amplification (LAMP) has emerged as a powerful molecular diagnostic technique offering rapid, sensitive, and field-deployable detection of plant pests (including diseases). Unlike conventional PCR, LAMP operates under isothermal (one temperature) conditions, eliminating the need for complex thermal cycling equipment and enabling on-site diagnostics with minimal infrastructure and cost. LAMP has been utilised for on-site diagnosis at border control posts in England to minimise the dwell time of imported plants and plant products due to its ability to achieve actionable results in under 90 minutes. Industry stakeholders have expressed a strong interest in APHA introducing and developing LAMP and other on-site diagnostic techniques at the border. This presentation explores the principles and practical applications of LAMP in plant pest diagnosis, highlighting its advantages and exploring its limitations. We will discuss the design of LAMP primers targeting pest-specific genetic markers, and the integration of colorimetric and fluorescence-based detection methods for visual readouts. By enabling rapid, reliable, and cost-effective pest diagnostics, LAMP holds promise for empowering plant health inspectors to inform decision making. Introducing LAMP is just one stage of advancing integrated pest management strategies with new and emerging technologies.

Keywords: diagnostics, imports, samples, future-proofing

Use of ArcGIS tools (Field Maps and Survey123) in the proactive surveillance of fruit flies and the facilitation of access to international trade

NEAKOH Roland MENGYI,

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, CM

Cameroon's fruit and vegetable international trade is rapidly growing given the attractive export market in the European Union (EU). However, the country faces major impediments (notifications and destruction of consignments) from the EU pushing the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) to sometimes temporarily suspend the export of mangoes. In order to facilitate access to international trade, the NPPO has obtained consignments of pheromone traps, (methyl eugenol, alpha terpinyl acetate, cue-lure and trimedlure), food baits (JF120, Torula Yeast) and hand lenses from the International Atomic Agency (IAEA). A proactive risk-based surveillance system targeting export orchards was put into place. The ArcGIS Field Maps and ArcGIS Survey123 applications of the African Phytosanitary Programme were used on weekly basis for data collection and reporting via an internet connection. In areas without internet connection, digital offline maps were downloaded. Data analysis and interpretation indicate the presence of six major species of fruit flies of economic importance. Three species, Bactrocera dorsalis, Ceratitis capitata and B. zonata which are of quarantine importance. The numbers of flies per trap per day (FTD) were very high during the fruit maturation season (April-May). Within the range of 100-300 m above sea level, fruit fly population prevalence was extremely high compared to higher altitudes. During January to March, fruit flies were not detected at the low altitudes of the Wouri and Nkam divisions. The use of food baits significantly reduced the FTD and were recommended for consideration to export.

Keywords: surveillance, ArcGIS Field Map, ArcGIS Survey123, pheromones, food baits, Bactrocera, Ceratitis, flies per trap per day.

EFSA's support for more effective plant health inspections

Francesca Salinari & Sybren Vos

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), IT

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) is developing new approaches to support EU Member States in improving the early detection of Union Quarantine Pests (UQP), which pose serious threats to crops, forests, and ecosystems. EFSA will focus in the near future on three key areas to enhance inspection effectiveness:

i) Traps for UQP
EFSA will review the range of traps currently used to catch insect pests. The aim is to assess which traps are most effective, understand their strengths and limitations, and explore how they can be better deployed in different contexts. This will help Member States select the most suitable traps for early detection of quarantine insects.

ii) Satellite Images in Support of Pest Detection
EFSA will investigate how remote sensing imagery can help identify areas where host plants of quarantine pests are present. This will improve survey planning, allow better targeted inspections, save time and resources, and enable earlier detection of outbreaks.

iii) eDNA in Support of Pest Detection
EFSA will also explore the use of environmental DNA (eDNA)—traces of DNA left by pests in soil, water, or air—as a complementary tool in pest surveys. Detecting these traces can indicate past or current pest presence and support early detection efforts alongside traditional methods.

These innovative strategies aim to make plant health inspections faster, smarter, and more effective helping to safeguard Europe's agriculture and natural environment for the future.

Keywords: Union Quarantine Pests, trapping, remote sensing, eDNA, early detection

Book of Abstracts
Oral Presentation

SmartGrape: Smart monitoring of cicada-borne grapevine disease for systematic detection and spread prevention

Jeremiah Huggel[1], Linus Reichert[1], Lionel Christen[2], Kathleen Mackie-Haas[2], Patrik Kehrli[3], Christophe Debonneville[3], Stefano Mintchev[4], Christian Geckeler[4], Sergio Ramos[1], Salome Schneider[5], Lukas Bertschinger[6], Meredith Christine Schuman[1]

[1]Department of Geography, University of Zurich, Zurich, CH
[2]Department of Chemistry, University of Zurich, Zurich, CH
[3]Agroscope, 8820 Wädenswil, CH
[4]Agroscope Changins, 1260 Nyon, CH
[5]Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich, 8092 Zürich, CH
[6]Weinbauzentrum Wädenswil, 8820 Wädenswil, CH

Bois noir is a cicada-borne grapevine disease first reported in France in 1961 and first found in Switzerland in the 1990s, now causing up to 50% loss of yield and vines in Swiss vineyards. It is caused by 'Candidatus Phytoplasma solani' (16SrXII-A), transferred from host plants common in vineyard ground cover, to grapevines (Vitis vinifera), by the cicada Hyalesthes obsoletus Signoret (Hemiptera: Cixiidae). Diseased plants cannot be cured, and climate change-related temperature anomalies increase infection risk. In Switzerland, bois noir is a "regulated non-quarantine organism", a classification for "a non-quarantine pest whose presence in plants affects the intended use of those plants with an economically unacceptable impact" (FAO International Plant Protection Convention). Because there are no options for direct control of bois noir, practical methods for early detection and prevention are urgently needed. The SmartGrape project is developing a smart package of innovative methods for both immediate practical use and near-term development. We will show results of case-control measurements in vineyards using handheld and drone-based hyper- and multispectral sensors and sensing of plant volatiles related to Phytoplasma infection. We will discuss steps we have taken towards development of systematic and early detection measures while improving knowledge of disease progression and impacts in a trans-disciplinary, co-creative process with winegrowers and representatives of the Swiss German Wine industry. In areas where the cicada-transmitted quarantine disease grapevine flavescence dorée phytoplasma ('Candidatus Phytoplasma vitis') is not yet present, bois noir detection and spread prevention will be strategically important to avoid establishment of, and costly measures against flavescence dorée. We will report first results regarding the applicability of SmartGrape measures to flavescence dorée detection.

Keywords: bois noir, flavescence dorée, grapevine yellows, plant disease detection, remote sensing, chemical ecology

United Kingdom perspective of using new technologies and factors which may restrict further implementation

Kelvin Hughes

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), GB

For decades, many new technologies have been shown to be field deployable for the detection and in some cases identification of plant pests. Despite this there are few examples where technology has been developed into field tests, and even fewer examples of tests which are routinely used by inspection services. This presentation describes steps involved in taking a new technology from concept to field deployment. It also describes factors for consideration which have been identified as barriers to deployment as well as using examples where deployment has been successful.

Keywords: Detection, inspection, new technologies.

Book of Abstracts
Oral Presentation

Official controls of passenger luggage at points of entry

Katrin Kaminski

Julius Kühn-Institut for National and International Plant Health, Braunschweig, DE

International passenger luggage can contain plants or plant products (e.g. cuttings, fruit, vegetables, cut flowers, and wood products) and other regulated articles (e.g. soil) (hereafter referred to as plants or plant products unless otherwise stated) that can be infested with pests. Such items may be intended for planting, private consumption (either during travel or upon entry), as souvenirs, or for sale in the country of destination. The EPPO Standard PM 3/96 Official controls of passenger luggage at points of entry was developed by the EPPO Panel on Phytosanitary Inspections. The Standard provides recommendations to National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) on the process for passenger luggage checks, including risk profiling, at airport points of entry. The EPPO Standard also provides guidance on inspection of plants or plant products and other regulated articles found in passenger luggage. Some elements of the Standard may also be applicable to passengers using other forms of travel (e.g. ship, train or by road). Guidance on cooperation with relevant authorities such as customs and general guidance to NPPOs on awareness raising for passengers is also included in the Standard and may be key factors for effective controls of passenger luggage. It is challenging to decrease the phytosanitary risk of passenger luggage in global air travel in view of the immense passenger numbers. Consistent checks and awareness raising activities can contribute to risk mitigation. Permanent information such as posters and videos at points of entry or temporary awareness raising campaigns help to ensure travelers are well informed on the subject, are aware of the potential consequences and adhere to the import regulations as far as possible. The EPPO Standard is described in the presentation with implementation examples from Germany.

Keywords: PM 3/96 EPPO Standard, EPPO Panel on Phytosanitary Inspections, awareness raising activities

Book of Abstracts
Oral Presentation

Passenger baggage plant health checks upon entry to Dublin airport

Ciarán Cullen

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, IE

This presentation outlines the procedure for inspecting passenger baggage at entry points in Ireland to protect plant health and prevent the introduction of harmful pests (including diseases). Upon arrival, baggage is screened visually for signs of any plant products. Some baggage is selected to be screened by X-ray to detect plants, plant products, or other regulated articles that may pose phytosanitary risks. Trained dogs or other targeted screening tools may be used to identify undeclared high-risk items. When plant material is detected, trained plant health inspectors conduct detailed documentary and visual examinations and, where needed, samples are taken for laboratory analysis. Items found to be non-compliant with phytosanitary regulations are seized and destroyed according to national and EU standards. All inspections are documented digitally to ensure traceability and support rapid reporting of interceptions. This systematic approach helps safeguard agriculture, forestry and biodiversity by preventing the accidental entry of regulated pests (including pathogens) through passenger baggage.

Keywords: X-ray detection, detection dogs, points of entry, visual examination

Book of Abstracts
Oral Presentation

Strengthening Biosecurity at the Air Border. New Zealand's Current and Future State

Allanah Gilbert & Gavin Eiloart

The Ministry For Primary Industries, NZ

New Zealand's biosecurity system is globally recognised for its rigorous approach to protecting our unique environment, economy, and way of life. This presentation will provide an overview of the current state of biosecurity at the air border, highlighting the use of tools such as Import Health Standards, risk assessment, baggage inspection, Xray screening and detector dogs. We will explore how pre-border and post-border activities work in tandem to manage biosecurity risks, ensuring threats are identified and mitigated at multiple stages of the journey. The presentation will also outline future focused enhancements, particularly in the digital space, that aim to streamline and strengthen border processes. A key initiative is the New Zealand Traveller Declaration (NZTD), which is paving the way for a more seamless and contactless journey for low-risk passengers. By leveraging digital tools and data driven insights, New Zealand is working towards a smarter, more responsive biosecurity system that maintains high biosecurity standards while improving efficiency and traveller experience.

Keywords: Pre-border, post-border, contactless journey, digital, New Zealand traveller declaration

Conducting Passenger Baggage Inspections for International Arrivals

Andrew Palmer

Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, AU

In Australia, biosecurity is everyone's responsibility. Effective biosecurity systems safeguard Australia's unique environment, public health, economy and culture from harmful exotic pests and diseases. Intended for operational and policy staff from National Plant Protection Organisations, this presentation offers a practical overview of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry's approach to conducting arriving passenger baggage checks. The presentation will cover traveller education, screening checks and management of biosecurity risk materials and non-compliance. Screening tools such as X-ray machines, biosecurity detector dogs, incoming passenger cards, manual inspections and questioning are used to assess biosecurity risks at points of entry. The session will outline the strengths and limitations of x-ray technology and biosecurity detector dogs and briefly highlight traveller awareness campaigns used to encourage the identification and declaration of biosecurity risks. Passenger announcements, bin stickers and incoming passenger cards are also used to inform travellers of their biosecurity obligations. A brief overview of the effectiveness of these tools in supporting compliance will be provided. This presentation will share insights into Australia's passenger baggage screening processes at international points of entry, highlighting key screening methods, their effectiveness and learnings from a multifaceted approach.

Keywords: biosecurity, traveller education, detector dogs, x-ray screening, risk assessment, compliance tools

Book of Abstracts
Oral Presentation

eCommerce: IPPC tools and activities

Thorwald Geuze

NPPO The Netherlands, Vice chair of IPPC Implementing and Capacity Development Committee, NL

The IPPC Implementing and Capacity Development Committee (IC) has produced a guide on eCommerce, explaining what eCommerce is and how it works. This guide was first published in 2023 and is now available in English, French and Spanish. Besides a more theoretical explanation, the guide contains several case studies from various countries that show how these countries (NPPOs) deal with eCommerce in practice. The IPPC has also published a video on eCommerce and takes part in several working groups and international bodies of e.g. the Universal Postal Union and the World Customs Organization to promote the importance of Plant Health in these bodies. The IPPC has also conducted a survey on eCommerce among Contracting Parties.

Keywords: IPPC guide, case studies, video, WCO, UPU, Survey

Safeguarding Plant health in Ireland: Navigating the E-Commerce challenge together

John Eivers

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, IE

The global rise of eCommerce has presented significant challenges for NPPOs, with the difficulty in detecting parcels containing items that pose a phytosanitary risk or do not meet import requirements. The challenge is compounded by the sheer volume of parcels, limited information on their contents and misrepresentation of parcel information, all of which greatly increases the inherent complexity and diversity of trade through e-commerce. In Ireland over 1000 interceptions annually are made on eCommerce shipments, but we suspect that many more are going undetected. To tackle this issue, Ireland has implemented a multifaceted approach. We are collaborating closely with Customs, raising awareness among platform providers and logistics companies, and engaging with the public. Education and communication are powerful tools that can help promote compliance and mitigate pest risk. Additionally, we are exploring the potential of AI solutions in data gathering and risk profiling that help identify high risk parcels and to further strengthen our efforts in addressing the growing eCommerce challenge.

Keywords: Trade, pests, parcels, seeds

Chinese Unsolicited Seed - United Kingdoms NPPO Experience

Paul Bratby

FERA, GB

During 2020, the United Kingdom experienced an upturn of consignments of unsolicited packages of seed being sent to households. The number of consignments rose rapidly during 2020-21 during the height of the Covid pandemic when there were significant lockdowns and the population had restricted access to retail stores. Reports from other countries illustrated a similar situation and it became apparent that such deliveries were the result of a 'brushing scam'. A brushing scam is an e-commerce fraud when a seller on an e-commerce platform sends unsolicited packages - often misdescribed to avoid interception at border control posts to a random individuals to create positive reviews for their products. Scammers obtain personal addresses from data breaches or other public sources, create fake accounts on e-commerce sites, order low-cost products to be sent to these addresses and then post fake reviews from the those accounts to boost their products' ratings and perceived popularity. The UK NPPO, via social media and other communication tools asked members of public (and businesses) who received unsolicited packages to report them and send the packages to a central address. The packages were all individually opened, and the contents examined. A proportion of the packages were sent to the Government laboratories for identification of the seed and testing for seed pathogens. During 2020-2021 over 5 000 packages were received, amounting to over 20 000 individual packages of seed. During 2025 the United Kingdom has been experiencing another upsurge of unsolicited seed originating from China.

Keywords: eCommerce, brushing scam, international mail, inspection

Addressing Agricultural Smuggling in the United States

Julie Hong-Sakowski

United States Department of Agriculture, USA

The United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine's Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance Program (USDA APHIS PPQ SITC) leads PPQ's efforts in combating agricultural smuggling that is facilitated by eCommerce. SITC activities combine online and field investigatory work with collaborative efforts with online platforms, other regulatory agencies, domestic and international partnerships and the logistics industry to identify the modus operandi of agriculture commodity mis-manifestations. This presentation addresses the challenges of regulating agricultural movement in the era of eCommerce, areas for international collaboration, and local activities that could positively achieve compliance for safeguarding agriculture and the natural environmental resources across borders moving forward.

Keywords: USDA, APHIS, PPQ, SITC, international partnerships

Book of Abstracts
Oral Presentation

eCommerce: Introduction to practical session

Rachel Barker

Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, GB

eCommerce is the buying and selling of goods over the internet and can result in the physical movement of parcels across international borders. For National Plant Protection Organisations (NPPOs), it is difficult to effectively target the material traded via eCommerce that will pose the greatest threat to plant health in their country. This is mainly due to the volumes being imported and the complexity of the trade. The IPPC have produced a comprehensive guide on this topic and in recent years the EPPO Panel on Phytosanitary Inspection has discussed the benefits of producing their own guidance.

Through practical sessions and presentations from experts in eCommerce from across the EPPO region, inspectors will better understand the risk eCommerce poses to plant health, its complexities and how NPPOs and inspectors can go about addressing the threat.

Keywords: IPPC guide, case studies, video

Book of Abstracts
Oral Presentation

EPPO guides on information and communication: available materials and examples of innovative ways to communicate

Katrin Kaminski[1] & Hans Meerman[2]

[1]Julius Kühn Institute, DE
[2]Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority, NL

Communication plays a key role in plant health, with communication with the public and professional operators each requiring their own specific approach. Awareness of plant health issues should encourage and facilitate the early reporting of findings by all relevant stakeholders. Two EPPO Standards provide guidelines on when and how to raise awareness. The EPPO Standard PM 3/94 Raising professional operators' awareness of regulated and emerging pests provides guidance to NPPOs on how to raise awareness amongst professional operators. The second Standard, PM 3/86 Raising public awareness of quarantine and emerging pests focuses on the importance of involving the public in plant health issues. The EPPO Platform on Communication Material (https://media.eppo.int/index) was launched to facilitate exchange of ideas and experiences on awareness raising activities between NPPOs of EPPO member countries. Its objective is to share material (e.g. posters, videos, flyers, pictures, concepts and ideas) that have been prepared during communication campaigns on plant health topics and provide inspiration for future campaigns to inform the relevant target audiences. Communication in plant health should be designed, targeted and disseminated to the audience. For example, an innovative way to communicate plant health and involve the audience in sharing information on the importance of plant health is the concept of the Carrot Cake recipe for the Plant health cookbook.

Keywords: Awareness raising, general public, professional operators, regulated and emerging pests, plant health

Book of Abstracts
Oral Presentation

EPPO PM 3 Standards - disseminating information to inspectors in the EPPO region

Rob Tanner

European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization, EPPO

The EPPO Panel on Phytosanitary Inspections is responsible for (1) developing inspection procedures, including sampling for visual examination and laboratory testing, (2) to review all phytosanitary requirements recommended by EPPO and identify and prioritize those which depend on an 'EPPO-recommended procedure', (3) to review existing PM3 Standards and plan their revision and, (4) to determine priorities for new Standards and to identify a Steward responsible for the preparation of the Standard, and to suggest possible experts to participate in an ad hoc group. In recent years, the Panel has produced a number of PM3 Standards related to inspections of consignments and inspections of places of production. This presentation will highlight the EPPO process to develop these Standards and detail their scope, application and use.

Keywords: Guidance, place of production, consignments

Book of Abstracts
Oral Presentation

Communication for phytosanitary inspections: case study in Lombardy Region

Alessandro Bianchi

Lombardy Region Planth Health Service, IT

This presentation highlights the role of effective communication in phytosanitary inspections within Lombardy, a region with extensive experience in managing quarantine pests such as the Japanese beetle (Popillia japonica), Asian longhorn beetle (Anoplophora glabripennis), Citrus long-horned beetle (Anoplophora chinensis), and red neck longhorned beetle (Aromia bungii). The Plant Protection Service (PPS) of Lombardy has developed strong pest management strategies, recognizing that public awareness and clear communication are essential for successful eradication and containment efforts. Through a detailed case study, we examine how targeted and transparent communication strategies can significantly enhance phytosanitary measures. Emphasizing stakeholder engagement, the presentation shows how well-designed communication protocols can promote compliance with regulations, reduce the spread of invasive pests, and support early detection efforts. The concepts presented are intended to illustrate best practices and evidence-based approaches for effective communication within plant protection activities. This includes using digital tools like mobile applications and online platforms, organizing public awareness campaigns, and training personnel involved in pest control. The presentation also discusses challenges such as combating misinformation, ensuring message clarity, and taking care of effective collaboration among stakeholders. Ultimately, it underscores that effective communication is not just an auxiliary element but constitutes a fundamental phytosanitary measure for managing pests sustainably. These principles are applicable not only in Lombardy but also in other regions facing similar phytosanitary challenges.

Keywords: Public awareness, Information campaign, Pest management, Stakeholder management, Digital Tools

Introduction to practical sessions

Practical session 1

New technologies for inspection

SmartGrape project

The SmartGrape project is developing a smart package of innovative methods for both immediate practical use and near-term development. We will show results of case-control measurements in vineyards using handheld and drone-based hyper- and multispectral sensors and sensing of plant volatiles related to Phytoplasma infection. We will then demonstrate the application of field spectroscopy to screen for symptoms. This demonstration will be hands-on.

Demonstration of the OptiGene Genie MDX4A Point of Entry Molecular Diagnostic Platform

OptiGene a molecular diagnostics company dedicated to real-time detection & identification of pests and diseases through use of easy to use, on-site, real-time molecular diagnostic platforms will be demonstrating its new automated, microfluidic cartridge-based MDX4A diagnostic platform. Developed for on-site, point of entry identification of regulated pests and diseases the MDX4A and innovative microfluidic cartridge system forms part of the Port Screen 2 project, a project consortium that includes OptiSense Limited, Fera Science Limited and APHA (Animal and Plant Health Agency). The Port Screen 2 project with MDX4A provides a solution for enhanced border and in-land inspections while addressing the real-life challenges of detection and identification of regulated pests and diseases by improving sampling accuracy and detection rates while addressing time and resource efficiency for inspectors.

Practical session 2

Passenger luggage

Checking passenger luggage remains a challenge for NPPOs. The general public is mostly unaware of both the risks and the regulations regarding international transport of plant products. Experience shows that travellers bring high volumes of plant material in their luggage, as souvenir plants or exotic fruit and vegetables. But inspectors are also confronted with professional operators who try to avoid official import procedures and inspections.

In this practical exercise lead by field inspectors of the NPPO of the Netherlands, participants will roleplay phytosanitary inspectors during inspections of passenger luggage. They will be confronted with typical and less typical situations based upon real-life cases.

Practical session 3

eCommerce

eCommerce is the buying and selling of goods over the internet and can result in the physical movement of parcels across international borders. For National Plant Protection Organisations (NPPOs), it is difficult to effectively target the material traded via eCommerce that will pose the greatest threat to plant health in their country. This is mainly due to the volumes being imported and the complexity of the trade. The IPPC have produced a comprehensive guide on this topic and in recent years the EPPO panel on phytosanitary inspections have discussed the benefits of producing their own guidance.

Through practical sessions and presentations from experts in eCommerce from across the EPPO region, inspectors will better understand the risk eCommerce poses to plant health, its complexities and how NPPOs and inspectors can go about addressing the threat.

The practical session will be split into two sessions.

Part a: eCommerce adverts

The first session will focus on the internet trade and will require groups to discuss material they expect or know has been traded via the internet. Groups will be presented with real eCommerce adverts that contain plants, plant products or other regulated articles. Each group will identify which adverts contain material of concern to plant health. Following this, each group will assess the risk posed by the articles and if there are any potential pest issues. Finally, each group will place the adverts in order of risk and justify why action should be taken.

Part b: Identification of risk and inspection

The second session will see each group assess a list of keywords to identify parcels of plant health relevance at points of entry. Following this each group will inspect the contents of high risk articles and decide whether they are compliant or non-compliant.

Following the two sessions each group will feedback their key results to all groups.

Practical session 4

Information and communication

Communicating key, timely information to stakeholders during a pest outbreak is essential to raise awareness and ensure all parties are working together to mitigate the potential impact.

The EPPO Standard PM 9/10 Generic elements for contingency planning describes internal communication and documentation, and external communication as two of the 12 essential elements in a contingency plan. For inspectors and managers, clear and concise internal communication is required during the initial stages of a pest outbreak, from the first detection of a pest at a point of entry or place of production to communicating the results of a deliming survey in an outbreak area. Similarly, inspectors are expected to communicate with external stakeholders, whether to nursery owners or land-managers explain the reason to gain access or to the general public explaining their work.

Two EPPO Standards provide information on how to raise awareness with stakeholders. PM 3/94 Raising professional operators' awareness of regulated and emerging pests provides guidance to NPPOs on how to raise awareness amongst professional operators. PM 3/86 Raising public awareness of quarantine and emerging pests focuses on the importance of involving the public in plant health issues. Both of these Standards provide key information on how, when and why to raise awareness.

The session - Communicating during a pest outbreak will see groups consider all aspects of communication during a pest outbreak.

Groups will be presented with different communication issues an inspector may come across during a pest outbreak.

Each group will discuss how to manage the communication issue and agree what action should be taken.

Notes

Notes

Notes

Travel to The Hague

It is advised to travel to the meeting venue by public transport, as traffic in The Hague may be congested and parking space is limited.

The most likely point of entry in the Netherlands will probably be Schiphol Airport Amsterdam (with a railway station underneath the main entrance), or alternatively the railway stations of Rotterdam or Utrecht. Either way, one may need to travel by train to The Hague Central Station (or in short Den Haag CS).
From al the above locations trains run all day directly to Den Haag CS. It is advised to buy tickets in advance via https://www.ns.nl/en/tickets. Purchased tickets are valid for all trains to the Hague.

Travel from The Hague Central Station to the meeting venue

IMPORTANT*: ATTENDEES MUST PRESENT A VALID PASSPORT FOR BUILDING ENTRY *EACH DAY

The meeting venue is easily reachable on foot from the railway station:
Exit the railway station through the main exit and turn right. Walk along the cycle path for approximately 500 meter (+/- 7 minutes). The venue is in the first building at your right hand side after crossing the Motorway viaduct.

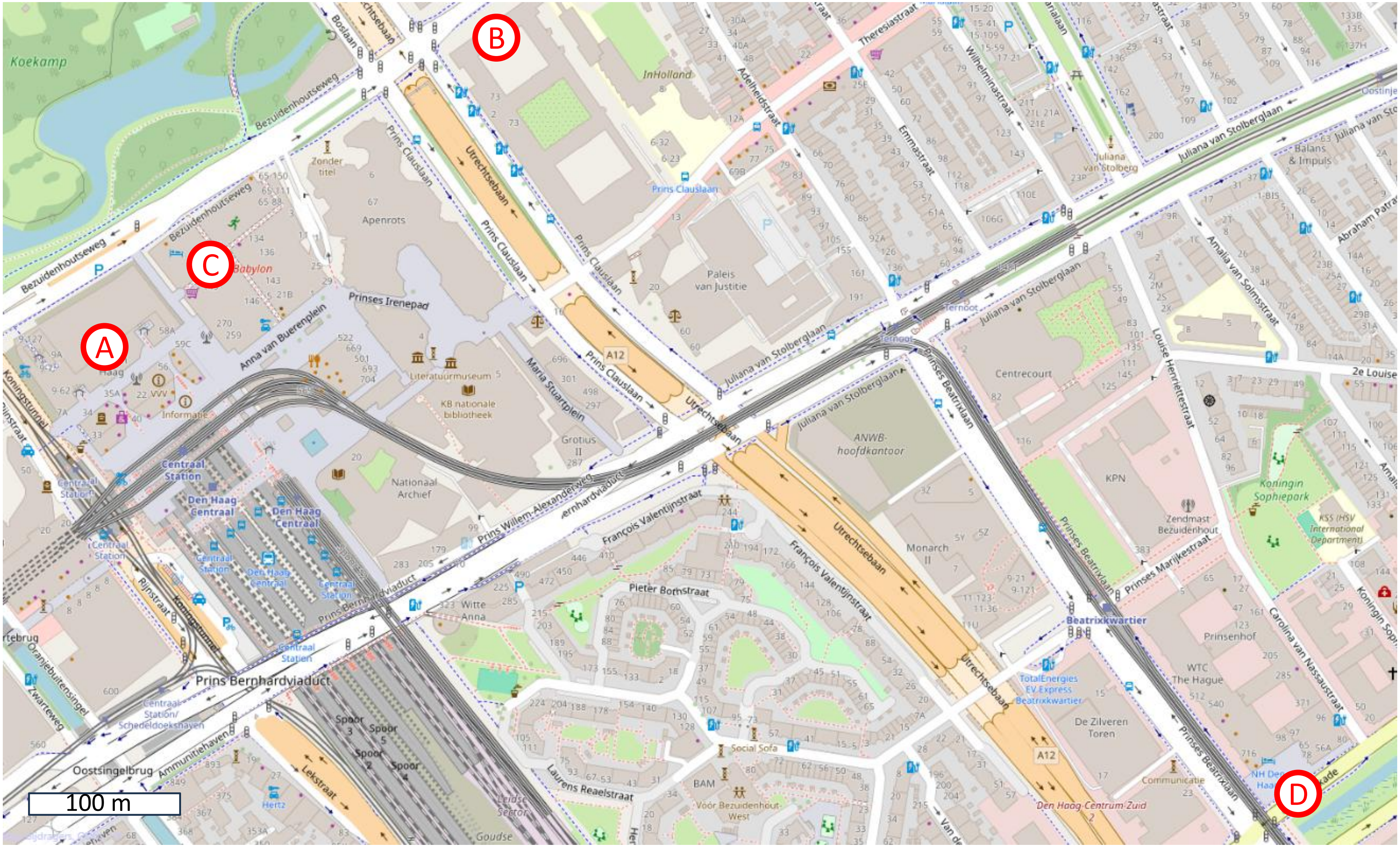
A: The Hague Central Station

B: Meeting Venue:
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries,
Food Security and Nature,
Bezuidenhoutseweg 73
2594 AC Den Haag

Accomodation:

C: Hotel:
Leonardo Hotel Den Haag Babylon
Address: Bezuidenhoutseweg 53
2594 AC - The Hague
Phone: +31 (0)70 381 49 01
E-mail: info.babylon@leonardo-hotels.nl

D: Hotel
NH Hotel Den Haag
Address: Prinses Margrietplantsoen 100,
2595 BR - The Hague
Phone: +31 70 381 2345
E-mail: nhdenhaag@nh-hotels.com

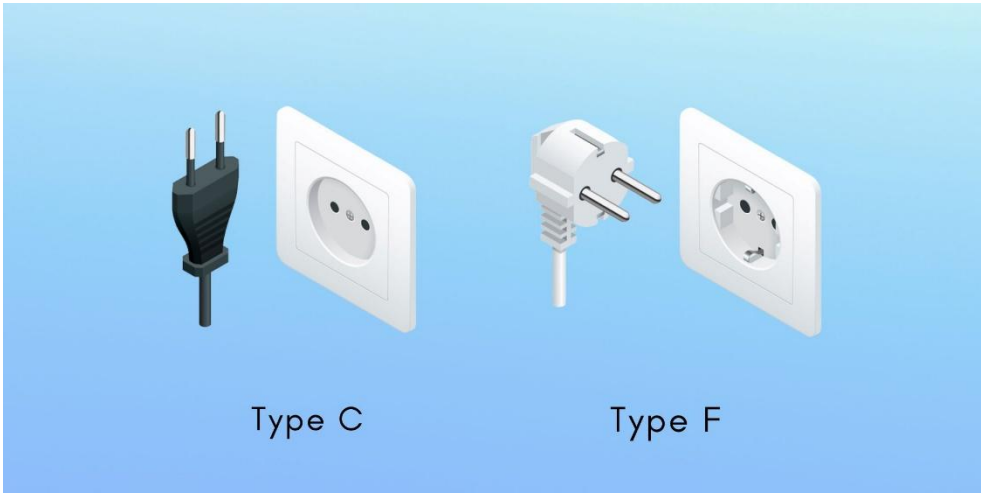

A
B
C
D
100 m
Koekamp
Bezuidenhoutseweg
Centraal Station
Den Haag Centraal
Prins Bernhardviaduct
Anna van Buerenplein
Prinses Irenepad
Apenrots
Nationaal Archief
KB nationale bibliotheek
Literatuurmuseum
Paleis van Justitie
Prins Clauslaan
Utrechtsebaan
Juliana van Stolbergplein
Juliana van Stolberglaan
ANWB-hoofdkantoor
Centrecourt
KPN
Prinses Beatrixlaan
Beatrixkwartier
WTC The Hague
Prinsenhof
De Zilveren Toren
Koningin Sophiepark
Den Haag Centrum Zuid
François Valentijnstraat
Pieter Bothstraat
Laurens Reaelstraat
Lekstraat
Oostsingelbrug
Rijnstraat
Koningstunnel
Theresiastraat
Adelheidstraat
Emmastraat
Wilhelminastraat
Amalia van Solmsstraat
Louise Henriettestraat
Carolina van Nassaustraat
Prinses Marijkestraat
Maria Stuartplein
InHolland
A12

Useful Information

Plug sockets

In the Netherlands, there are two types of plug sockets, Type C and Type F (see image below)

Please remember to bring an adapter if you need one.



WiFi

There is free WiFi available at the venue. Delegates will be provided with a login for the GovRoam network.

Coats/Bags

Coats may be stored on the coat rack in the meeting venue. Please keep bags/suitcases with you in the meeting room.

Information for presenters

Please send your presentations to rt@eppo.int ahead of the Workshop in both PowerPoint and PDF format.

Lunches and coffee break

Lunches and coffee break will be provided at the workshop venue

Workshop Dinner

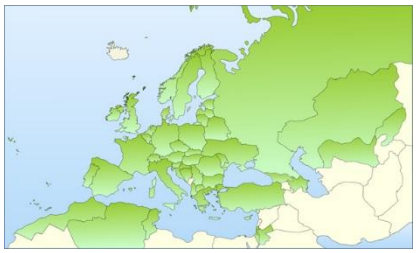
The Workshop dinner will be held at GARUDA by Ron Gastrobar (Kneuterdijk 18A, 2514 EN The Hague, https://www.garuda-denhaag.nl/ on Wednesday 19th November at 19.00h. The Restaurant is approximately 20 minutes walk from the workshop venue.

The European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization

What is EPPO?

EPPO is an intergovernmental organization responsible for international cooperation in plant protection in the European and Mediterranean region. In the sense of the article IX of the FAO International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), it is the Regional Plant Protection Organization for Europe.

Founded in 1951 with 15 member governments, it now has 52 member governments including nearly every country of Western and Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean region (in green on the map).



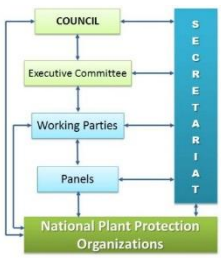
Aims of EPPO

EPPO has two main areas of activity: plant quarantine and pest control. Its main aims are:

- To protect plant health in agriculture, forestry and the uncultivated environment.
- To develop an international strategy against the introduction and spread of pests (including invasive alien plants) that damage cultivated and wild plants, in natural and agricultural ecosystems.
- To encourage harmonization of phytosanitary regulations and all other areas of official plant protection action.
- To promote the use of modern, safe, and effective pest control methods.
- To provide a documentation service on plant protection.

EPPO Structure

The Organization is administered by its Council (representatives of all member governments) and Executive Committee (7 governments elected on a rotational basis). A Secretariat of 14 persons is based in Paris. EPPO is financed directly by annual contributions from its member governments. Its official languages are English, French and for certain purposes Russian. The technical work is overseen by the Working Parties and Panels (experts are nominated by their National Plant Protection Organization).



EPPO Council Session

EPPO Standards

As a result of the work being done within the different technical bodies, EPPO makes recommendations to the National Plant Protection Organizations of its member governments. These recommendations are considered as Regional Standards in the sense of the IPPC.

Standards on plant protection products:

- Efficacy evaluation of plant protection products
- Good plant protection practice
- Environmental risk assessment of plant protection products

Standards on phytosanitary measures:

- General phytosanitary measures
- Phytosanitary procedures
- Production of healthy plants for planting
- Pest Risk Analysis (PRA)
- Safe use of biological control
- Diagnostic protocols
- Commodity-specific phytosanitary measures
- National regulatory control systems
- Phytosanitary treatments

EPPO information services

EPPO provides many information services to its members, most of them are freely available from the EPPO website:

www.eppo.int

Examples of EPPO publications and databases:

- EPPO Bulletin (official journal of the Organization)
- EPPO Global Database / PQR (the EPPO database on quarantine pests)
- Pest Risk Analyses and CAPRA software
- EPPO database on diagnostic expertise
- EPPO Reporting Service (monthly newsletter)
- Datasheets on quarantine pests and pictures
- EPPO Alert List …

EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATION
21 Bd Richard Lenoir, 75011 Paris - www.eppo.int

Anne-Sophie Roy (EPPO Information Officer, roy@eppo.int)