

PLANT PEST SURVEILLANCE NETWORK

Minutes of the 7th meeting



17-18 June 2026

09:00-18:00 / 09:00-16:45

Minutes agreed on 06 July 2026

Location: EFSA - Parma (Board Room; workshop day 1 in 00/B07, 00/M01, 00/M02, 00/M015; workshop day 2 in 00/M01, 00/M02, 00/M06b, 00/M015, 00/M17) and Webconference (for EFSA staff)

Attendees:

- Network Participants:

Country	Member State Organisation
Austria	• Styrian Plant Protection Service (Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of the Styrian Provincial Government)
Belgium	• Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain
Bulgaria	• Central laboratory for plant quarantine, BFSA
Croatia	• Croatian Forest Research Institute
Czech Republic	• Central Control and Testing Institute in Agriculture ÚKZÚZ
Denmark	• The Danish Veterinary, Food, Agriculture and Fisheries Agency
Estonia	• Agriculture and Food Board
Finland	• Finnish Food Authority
France	• Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'agro-alimentaire et de la souveraineté alimentaire
Germany	• Landwirtschaftskammer Nordrhein-Westfalen • Julius Kühn Institute (JKI)
Greece	• Benaki Phytopathological Institute • Nppo of greece - directorate of plant production protection under the hellenic ministry of rural development and food
Hungary	• Ministry of Agriculture
Ireland	• Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Italy	• Ersu - Servizio Fitosanitario Friuli Venezia Giulia • Marche Agricoltura e Pesca
Latvia	• State Plant Protection Service of Latvia
Netherlands	• Nederlandse Voedsel- en Warenautoriteit (NVWA) (NL-NPPO)
Norway	• Norwegian food safety authority
Poland	• Institute of Plant Protection - National Research Institute
Portugal	• DGAV
Slovenia	• Administration of the RS for Food Safety, Veterinary Sector and Plant Protection
Spain	• Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Sweden	• Swedish Board of Agriculture



- Observers:
Administration of Bosnia and Herzegovina for Plant Health Protection (Bosnia and Herzegovina); Food and Veterinary Agency of Kosovo (Kosovo); Administration for Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Affairs (Montenegro); Phytosanitary Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy (North Macedonia); University of Belgrade - Faculty of Agriculture (Serbia); Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, General Directorate of Food and Control, Department of Plant Health and Quarantine (Turkey). Federal Office for Agriculture, NPPO (Switzerland).
- Hearing Experts:
Juan NAVAS-CORTES; Martijn SCHENK; Hans-Hermann THULKE (agenda items 5-10). Filippo CASINI; Heinrich DENZER, Spyros FOUNTAS; Elena LÁZARO; Juan NAVAS-CORTES; Fernando PINACHO; Martijn SCHENK; Marc SCHETELIG; Francesca SCOLARI; Hans-Hermann THULKE; Gal YAACOBI; Davide RASSATI; Gabriele VALENTINI (agenda items 22 & 23).
- European Commission:
Maria MIRAZCHIYSKA; Gisela QUAGLIA.
- International organisations :
European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO)
- EFSA:
ASSESS Department: Guilhem DE SEZE.
MESE Unit: José CORTINAS ABRAHANTES.
PLANTS Unit: Efterpi ADAMOU; Etienne BABIN; Paula CALUSINSKA; Alice DELBIANCO; Maria Grazie IEVA; Tomasz KALUSKI; Florian KUNTZE; Alexandre NOUGADERE; Tobin ROBINSON ; Agnès RORTAIS (Chair); Daria RZEPECKA; Francesca SALINARI; Sara TRAMONTINI; Sybren VOS; Beatriz WINTER.



1. Welcome

Guilhem de Seze welcomed the participants and opened the meeting. The Chair welcomed the participants and introduced the new nominated members of the Network.

2. Apologies for absence and adoption of agenda

Apologies for absence were received from Christos Arampatzis, Naim Delijaj, Mart Kinkar, Emanuela Maurizi, Julien Reiners, Martijn Schenk (2nd day) and Francesca Scolari (1st day). The agenda was adopted without changes.

2b. Agreement of the minutes of the 6th Network meeting held on 29 – 31 October 2025, in Parma

The minutes of the 6th Network meeting had been previously agreed by written procedure on 19 November 2025 and published on the EFSA website on 19 November 2025.

3. Risk-based survey of *Popillia japonica* in Austria

Jasmin Wilhelm presented statistically sound and risk-based survey design in Austria for *Popillia japonica*. The target population with the main open data sources used were presented. The survey design was developed using the RiBESS+ tool to support trap allocation. Risk factors, including proximity to transport-related locations and topography, were considered. Furthermore, the value of geospatial data and the importance of a harmonised approach across Austria's federal structure was highlighted.

4. Risk-based survey of *Popillia japonica* in Belgium

Wim Jennes presented statistically sound and risk-based detection survey for *Popillia japonica* in Belgium. The development of the Belgian survey was presented over time with the current design focusing on humid grassland near risk locations. The survey design was developed using RiPEST and considered transport-related risk locations, including major import infrastructure, highway service areas and industrial parks. The use of geospatial data for survey design and possible future refinements to improve trap placement were presented.

5. Detection survey of *Popillia japonica* - demo on RiPEST

Hans-Hermann Thulke presented a methodological review of the survey designs discussed for *Popillia japonica* and used a demo in RiPEST to illustrate key design choices. In the hitchhiking scenario, grassland is an appropriate trapping habitat, and parameters such as trapping area and method sensitivity can have an important effect on the survey outcome. The convenience sampling and relative risk, considering that relative risk values should only be used when supported by a quantitative basis, were explained. In the presentation, finally, it was underlined that



survey design choices can affect the reliability of the results and should therefore be carefully justified.

6. Delimiting survey - concept and demo

Martijn Schenk presented the concept of delimiting surveys and the main steps for their design and implementation in the RiPEST tool. Delimiting surveys are used to establish the boundaries of an infested area following the detection of a pest in an area where it was previously thought to be absent. Key elements of the process, including identification of the potential source, establishment of the potential infested zone, survey implementation and survey conclusions were presented. Practical considerations related to preparation, spread assumptions, survey accuracy, demarcation and uncertainty on the source of infestation were provided.

Following the presentation, participants discussed the use of traps in relation to pest biology, noting that their effectiveness depends on factors such as pest phenology, trapping period and target life stage. It was highlighted that trap effectiveness should be interpreted carefully and cannot be applied uniformly across different situations. Key survey parameters were also discussed, including relative risk, trapping efficiency, design prevalence and confidence level, with participants noting uncertainties in their estimation and application in practice. A discussion took place on delimiting strategies, including inward and outward approaches. It was highlighted that starting from outer areas may reduce the risk of missing the spread, while starting closer to known infestations may be more resource efficient. However, defining the boundary of the infested area remains a challenge, requiring assumptions on pest spread and timing of introduction. Participants also highlighted the importance of understanding pest phenology in different regions, as variations in flight periods may affect survey timing and interpretation of results.

7. Scenarios for group exercise

Juan A. Navas-Cortés and Elena Lázaro introduced the scenario for the group exercise on delimiting surveys for *P. japonica*. The exercise was based on a hypothetical outbreak scenario involving two linked findings detected during the same regional detection survey. The objective of the exercise was to plan a protocol for delimiting survey using RiPEST, following a step-by-step workflow and a set of common assumptions provided to all groups. The participants were provided with standardized templates and supporting files to guide the exercise.

8. Introduction to the breakout group discussions

Efterpi Adamou introduced the breakout group discussions and presented the practical arrangements for the workshop of the first day. The introduction covered the group structure and composition, room assignments, timing of the exercise and reporting back to plenary. It was also noted that the exercise was mainly intended for Member States, while participants from the Horizon Europe projects presented on the second day were welcome to join on a voluntary basis.

9. Group exercise



Participants worked in five groups on a practical exercise to design a delimiting survey for *P. japonica*, based on the same hypothetical outbreak scenario in “Surveyland”. The exercise focused on two linked findings detected during a regional survey and required participants to plan the delimiting survey using RiPEST. The groups followed a step-by-step workflow covering the initiation, preparation, design and implementation phases of the survey. The exercise considered different host plants and environmental components and included visual examination and soil sampling as survey components targeting different life stages of the pest.

10. Report to plenary & final discussion

Rapporteurs from the breakout groups presented the main points discussed during the group exercise, focusing on both the survey design and the challenges encountered when applying the methodology and tools. Discussions highlighted difficulties in defining input parameters, including population size, sampling effectiveness and method sensitivity, which influenced the estimation of sample size and survey design. Differences in assumptions across groups led to variations in results, despite a common overall framework. Participants also discussed the application of different survey components (visual examination and soil sampling), including their sequencing, timing and integration in the survey design. The plenary discussion allowed participants to compare approaches, clarify methodological aspects and reflect on how the design choices affect survey outcomes.

11. Surveillance and outbreak of *Anoplophora chinensis* in Croatia: Identification of risk locations and potential sources of infestation related to the import, trade and storage of host plants for planting

Tomislav Krcivoj presented the surveillance of *Anoplophora chinensis* in Croatia and the main risk locations considered for introduction and spread of the pest. Surveillance is carried out by the Croatian Forest Research Institute, the State Inspectorate – Phytosanitary Inspection and the Croatian Agency for Agriculture and Food – Centre for Plant Protection, using visual inspection and pheromone traps. The first record in Croatia was made in 2007 in Biograd na Moru (through infected plant material from private gardens and a garden centre). More recent findings were made, including detections in a forest near Biograd, where the pest was confirmed and eradication measures were subsequently implemented. It was reported that only a few specimens were caught in 2024 and 2025, indicating that the population is low but still present, and that monitoring will continue after completion of the eradication measures.

12. Survey plan of *Anoplophora glabripennis* into practice in Finland: Identification of risk locations with focus on wood packaging material, storage sites and the wood industry

Aino-Maija Mustalahti presented experience from Finland in applying a survey plan for *Anoplophora glabripennis* in practice, building on the 2015 outbreak in Vantaa.



The target population consisted of broad-leaved and mixed forests in selected administrative areas, and high-risk entry sites included urban, industrial and commercial areas, ports, airports, dump sites, construction sites, and sites handling or storing wood packaging material. It was noted that risk locations were identified using inspector expertise, supporting data, stakeholder cooperation and available mapping tools. It was explained how the information was used in practice, including random selection of risk locations, tree climbing and visual inspection with binoculars. Results from the 2025 survey implementation were presented, including the inspection of trees in high-risk and baseline areas at an achieved confidence level of 87%. Practical challenges and possible improvements for future surveys were also highlighted.

13. Survey Planning for *Agrilus planipennis* in Poland: Identification of risk locations with focus on high-risk areas related to neighbouring outbreaks and border regions

Agata Olejniczak presented the survey planning in Poland for *Agrilus planipennis* with a focus on the identification of risk locations linked to neighbouring outbreaks and border regions. Risk locations included border crossing points, airports and seaports which were used to define high-risk areas for the survey. It was noted that the survey design was based on host data for ash species, sticky green prism traps with lure and a risk-based allocation approach using RiPEST. The presentation also highlighted methodological challenges, including how to address border-related risk factors and whether different categories of risk points could be graded according to threat level.

14. Discussion and Q&A

The discussion focused on methodological and practical aspects raised during the presentations from Croatia, Finland and Poland. Questions were raised on how to handle risk factors that are not defined as point locations, such as border areas or natural spread from neighbouring outbreaks. It was discussed that, in such cases, the risk area may need to be considered as a belt or buffer zone along the border, based on the expected spread distance of the pest, rather than as a circular area around a point location. Participants, also, discussed how methods such as tree climbing and visual inspection with binoculars could be combined, considering their different detection effectiveness, operational feasibility and resource requirements. The possible use of drones was also mentioned, although practical limitations in tall trees or dense canopies were noted. Further questions concerned the interpretation and use of relative risk values in survey design. The discussion highlighted the need for clarity on how such values are derived and how they should be applied when defining high-risk areas. In relation to the Croatian case, it was clarified that national methodologies had been used for survey planning, reflecting the specific context and timing of the outbreak.

15. Pest surveillance activities in Serbia with emphasis on *Phytophthora ramorum* and *Fusarium circinatum*



Aleksandra Bulajić presented Serbia's pest surveillance activities, with a focus on *Phytophthora ramorum* and *Fusarium circinatum*. She outlined the strategic, legislative and institutional framework supporting surveillance activities in Serbia, as well as the role of annual inspector training and risk-based sampling. For *P. ramorum*, it was explained that Serbia had an outbreak in 2008 and has continued annual surveillance since then. It was also stated that the pest has been eradicated in Serbia and that surveillance will continue. For *F. circinatum*, she described the host plants, sampling strategy and detection methods used in surveillance. It was reported that risk-based sampling has been conducted from 2012 to 2025 and that no positive findings have been recorded. She concluded by noting that Serbia faces challenges similar to those of EU Member States, including international trade, climate change, limited resources, and the need for risk assessment, laboratory capacity and contingency planning.

16. Preliminary results from using multi-lure traps in QP surveys 2025

Adrian Vallin presented preliminary results from the use of multi-lure traps in quarantine pest surveys in Sweden. The method was tested as an alternative to species-specific traps, allowing the detection of a broader range of wood-boring insects within the same survey design. It was shown that multi-lure traps were deployed in harbours, urban areas and forest environments, with an increased number of traps compared to previous years. He highlighted that the approach simplified field work by reducing the number of trap types and protocols, although it may be less efficient for detecting certain species. It was concluded that, while promising, the method requires further evaluation before broader application.

17. DISQS Database for surveys

Fabian Schuppan presented the Digital Information System for Quarantine Pests (DISQS), a web-based tool developed by the German NPPO to support inspectors during surveys. He explained that the tool was designed to provide easy and quick access to relevant pest information during field inspections, addressing the challenge that large amounts of information are available but not always easily usable in practice. It was shown that the system allows users to search for pests, host plants or inspection criteria and provides structured information on pest biology, life stages, host plants, inspection methods and potential pathways of spread. The tool offers different levels of detail, allowing inspectors to access key information immediately or explore more detailed content when needed. It was highlighted that the system integrates information from existing sources, including EFSA survey cards and the EPPO Global Database, and is accessible via mobile devices for use in the field. It was noted that DISQS is already in use by inspectors, although full integration with survey applications is still under development.

18. Instructions for reaching the restaurant for the Network dinner and group photo

Instructions were provided to the participants to reach the place of venue for the dinner, and a group photo was taken at the EFSA premises.



19. Welcome & apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants to the second day of the meeting. Apologies were received from Martijn Schenk.

20. Introduction by EFSA

Tobin Robinson welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of in-person participation for effective discussion and interaction within the Network. The importance of strengthening collaboration between research and implementation, noting that closer interaction can help ensure that research activities address practical needs in risk assessment and plant health surveillance, was underlined. Participants were encouraged to actively contribute to discussions, share their experience, and provide feedback to support the development of effective and resource-efficient surveillance approaches.

21. Introduction by DG AGRI

Gisela Quaglia introduced the EU-funded research and innovation activities on plant health. The European Commission has been supporting research on plant health for several years, with increasing investment and a stronger focus on regulated and emerging pests. Under Horizon Europe, dedicated topics have been developed to address areas such as pest outbreaks, emerging risks, and digital technologies for surveillance. She highlighted that recent projects aim to support practical needs in plant pest surveillance, including the development of tools, technologies and methods for early detection and monitoring, often in collaboration with initiatives such as the European Space Agency. The structure of the session was then presented, including project presentations, showcasing tools and technologies for pest surveillance and demonstration sessions on the integration of these tools. Additional material on the projects was made available to participants for further information.

22. Showcase tools and technologies for pest surveillance with Q&A

FORSAID project: Davide Rassati presented selected tools from the FORSAID project, which focuses on the use of artificial intelligence and digital technologies for forest pest surveillance. The project aims to develop digital tools for the early detection and monitoring of regulated forest pests, including insect traps, image analysis, robotic barcoding devices, drones and remote sensing approaches. The presentation focused on trapping approaches for wood-boring beetles, including multi-lure blends and multi-coloured traps for multi-pest surveillance. An image-based identification tool, Entomoscope, was also presented as a tool to support the identification of specimens collected in traps.

EUFAWREADY project: Fernando Pinacho presented selected activities from the EUFAWREADY project which aims to strengthen Europe's preparedness for the management of fall armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*). The project addresses awareness, biology of European populations, early detection, monitoring and management options for this pest. The presentation focused on the development of automated traps for monitoring *S. frugiperda*. The trap system combines pheromone



lures, sensors, image capture and remote data transmission, and includes a mechanism for changing sticky surfaces. Image-based recognition algorithms were also described as part of the monitoring approach.

IPM-Popillia project: Heinrich Denzer presented selected work from the IPM-Popillia project, which addressed the integrated management of the invasive Japanese beetle, *Popillia japonica*. The project included activities on monitoring tools, citizen science and integrated pest management approaches for this pest. The presentation focused on the adaptation of an electronic camera-based trap system, iSCOUT, for *P. japonica*. The system uses pheromone lures, image capture, remote image transmission and image recognition to support monitoring and counting of specimens collected in traps.

REACT project: Gal Yaacobi presented selected activities from the REACT project, which focuses on response strategies for invasive fruit fly pests, including *Bactrocera dorsalis* and *Bactrocera zonata*. The project aims to strengthen prevention, identification, monitoring and control capacity, including approaches linked to sterile insect technique programmes. The presentation focused on a CRISPR-Cas12a-based detection workflow for the identification of fruit fly larvae. The workflow combines sample preparation, DNA extraction, isothermal amplification and CRISPR-based detection and was presented together with a prototype portable interception kit intended to support on-site analysis.

BEXYL project: Juan A. Navas-Cortés presented selected activities from the BeXyl project, which focuses on integrated management strategies to mitigate the impact of *Xylella fastidiosa* in Europe. The project addresses prevention and control strategies, including surveillance, early detection, trade of plant propagation material, outbreak management, vector control and knowledge transfer. The presentation focused on proximal plant phenotyping and remote sensing approaches for the detection and monitoring of *X. fastidiosa*. The approaches combine data from leaf, plant, tree, plot and regional scales, including hyperspectral and thermal imaging, proximal sensors, airborne platforms and satellite remote sensing. In the presentation it was also described how these data can support the prioritisation of areas or plants for inspection and confirmatory testing.

23. Demo on integration of technologies for multi-source pest surveillance & Q&A

Cerberus project: Gabriele Valentini presented a multi-platform approach for crop health surveillance, focusing on early detection of pests and diseases in crops such as citrus, olives and grapevines. A methodology combining data from multiple sources, including conventional traps, IoT-based smart traps and Copernicus satellite data, illustrated through a case study in a vineyard in Italy was described. Remote sensing data were used to derive vegetation indices (e.g. NDVI, NDMI, mARI) to characterise plant condition and distinguish between biotic and abiotic stress. These data were combined with trap monitoring data within the CERBERUS platform. A demonstration of the platform was also provided, showing the integration of different data sources and the generation of outputs such as monitoring data, risk maps and prescription maps. Preliminary results were presented, including comparisons between conventional and IoT traps and the monitoring of pest and vector populations.



STELLA project: Spyros Fountas presented the development of a real-time Pest Surveillance System (PSS) integrating early warning, pest detection and pest response. The system combines data from multiple sources, including IoT sensors, satellite and drone imagery, smart traps and field observations. These data are processed through modelling approaches to generate outputs such as risk indices, detection maps and field-level evidence. He described three main components of the system: early warning based on forecasting models and weather data, pest detection using image- and sensor-based approaches, and pest response providing recommendations for surveillance and phytosanitary actions. It was indicated that the system is being tested through several use-case pilots across different crops and countries, covering multiple regulated pests. He also highlighted the integration of different monitoring technologies into a common workflow and the potential for collaboration, including the connection of external models, data exchange and validation of tools in operational settings.

24. Introduction to the breakout group discussions

Efterpi Adamou introduced the organisation of the breakout group discussions, including group composition, logistics and reporting arrangements. Participants were invited to discuss the tools presented by the Horizon Europe projects, focusing on their applicability, interoperability and level of maturity, and to identify potential uses and remaining gaps. The chair presented an overview table on “tools readiness level (TRL)” for both trapping and remote sensing technologies. This table was pre-filled by Horizon Europe project leaders and provided level of readiness of the tools developed in terms of applicability to surveillance and interoperability with EFSA’s methodological framework for plant pest surveys.

25. Breakout group discussions

The participants were divided into 5 discussion groups. The groups were moderated by EFSA and EC staff and project leaders from Horizon Europe projects were assigned in each of these groups as rapporteurs. The network members of the 5 groups addressed the same topics which were focused on 1) needs and gaps (i.e. “which of your needs are met by these technologies?”; “Is there any gaps for its transfer into your area of work?”, “Which are the needs which are not met by these technologies?”), 2) barriers (i.e. “what could be the barriers for their adoption in your Member State?”) and 3) from research into practice (i.e. do you foresee any integration of those technologies into your surveillance programme?”, “would you be willing to test them?”, “what are your training needs to implement those technologies?”).

26. Report to plenary & final discussion

Rapporteurs from each breakout group presented a summary of the discussions, highlighting key needs, gaps and barriers related to the tools presented. Across the groups, discussions focused on the potential use of digital tools (e.g. smart traps, remote sensing, and molecular methods), as well as limitations related to performance, costs, data availability and operational constraints. Training needs and requests for further testing and validation were also highlighted. Several participants expressed interest in exploring the integration of these tools into surveillance activities. A final discussion followed, allowing participants to exchange views on the



applicability of the tools and identify priorities for future work. In some cases, some Member States expressed interest in participating as end-users in testing and piloting these new technologies.

27. Closing

Closing remarks were delivered by Gisela Quaglia, Maria Mirazchiyska and Sybren Vos. The discussion highlighted the importance of strengthening collaboration between research projects and end users, supporting the transfer of research outputs into practice, and identifying future needs for research and innovation. Participants and project representatives were thanked for their contributions and active engagement.

28. Developing regional standards to mitigate risks of plant pests in the EPPO region

Rob Tanner presented an overview of the development of regional standards by the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) to support the management of plant pest risks across its member countries, on behalf of the EPPO Secretariat and in collaboration with Charlotte Trontin. EPPO's role as an intergovernmental organisation providing recommendations to National Plant Protection Organizations with standards covering areas such as phytosanitary procedures (PM3) and diagnostic protocols (PM7) was outlined. PM3 standards support inspection and survey activities, including sampling and detection procedures, while PM7 standards provide harmonised diagnostic protocols for regulated pests. Standard development process, including expert involvement, consultation with Member countries and approval procedures were also described. It was noted that diagnostic standards aim to ensure reliable detection and identification of pests through validated and widely accessible methods, and that many standards have already been developed and are regularly updated. Finally, ongoing work on the revision and development of new standards and the use of EPPO diagnostic databases to support laboratory capacity and harmonisation were highlighted. During the discussion that followed, participants asked about the timeline for developing EPPO standards and the procedures for approval. It was explained that the duration may vary depending on the complexity of the standard and the availability of expert resources, ranging from around 18 months to a few years. It was also clarified that fast-track procedures apply mainly to pest-specific diagnostic standards, where expertise is available within the expert panels, while other standards require consultation with Member countries. Participants further asked for clarification on horizontal standards, which were described as general standards covering common inspection elements such as hygiene, lot identification and basic procedures applicable across different contexts.

29. Pest survey cards

Francesca Salinari presented the progress and ongoing activities related to Pest Survey Cards (PSCs). In total, 175 PSCs and 162 Story Maps have been published, covering 418 entities, mainly regulated pests, with 38 new cards delivered since October 2025. Ongoing work includes the development of new cards under current



grants and the update of existing PSCs. The updates aim to keep the content aligned with legislation and recent scientific developments and to include survey parameters to support survey design. The update process involves literature review, expert consultation and alignment with EU Reference Laboratories on detection and identification methods. Updates for priority pests are in progress, with initial publications expected in 2026 and completion in 2027, while other updates will be prioritised based on new information.

30. Survey parameters

Alexandre Nougadère presented an update on the project Pest Survey Parameters which aims to generate key data for the EFSA Plant Pest Survey Toolkit for the 20 priority pests. The project assesses sampling effectiveness for visual examination, asymptomatic sampling and trapping effectiveness, design prevalence using the proxy 'maximum infestation radius compatible with eradication', and it characterises risk areas around risk locations. From mid-2025, parameter values have been estimated for 18 priority pests, and the work is expected to continue until the end of 2026. The first published outputs include the EFSA Methodology for estimating survey parameters and the Pest Survey Reports on *Agrilus anxius*, *Agrilus planipennis*, *Anoplophora chinensis*, *Anoplophora glabripennis*, *Aromia bungii*, *Dendrolimus sibiricus*, *Spodoptera frugiperda* and *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*. The elicited values generated through this project are used in EFSA's statistical tools for designing detection surveys for priority pests and in ongoing EFSA webinars on their application.

31. Statistical tools & webinars

Étienne Babin, Paula Calusinska, Tomasz Kaluski and Beatriz Winter presented an update on EFSA's statistical tools, as well as training and knowledge-sharing activities related to plant pest surveillance. An update on the EFSA survey toolkit, including RiPEST, RiBESS, OptiPest and RiSKER was provided. RiSKER is a newly developed tool used to model pest spread at early stages and to estimate risk areas and relative risk around risk locations, supporting surveillance design. Results from the EU Survey questionnaire sent to the Network members ahead of the meeting were also presented, summarising training activities carried out by Member States in 2025. Training mainly targeted phytosanitary and field inspectors and covered survey planning, inspection, sampling and the use of surveillance tools. An update of the EFSA's webinar series, developed in collaboration with experts to support knowledge sharing and the practical application of the methodological framework and survey tools was provided. The webinars cover the use of the survey toolkit and related applications and are available via the EU Academy platform and EFSA's online channels. It was also noted that an e-learning course on pest surveillance is under development. The course will include modular training with practical exercises and a final certificate and is expected to be available in 2026 on the EU Academy platform.

32. Horizon scanning

Florian Kuntze presented an update on EFSA's horizon scanning activities, using *Potexvirus citriflavivenae* (citrus yellow vein clearing virus) as an example. Horizon scanning aims to identify and monitor plant pest threats to the EU territory,



supporting early warning, surveillance and rapid response by EU risk managers. The activity has been carried out since 2017 at the request of the European Commission, in collaboration with ANSES and the JRC. The workflow includes automated collection of information from open sources (via the EIOS platform), followed by expert screening, selection of relevant items and publication in a monthly newsletter shared with stakeholders. It was also explained that PeMo screening is used as a rapid assessment tool to identify potential threats from non-listed pests by comparing pest characteristics against a reference system using a set of criteria, while not replacing a full pest risk analysis. Using *P. citriflavivenae* as a case study, it was shown that horizon scanning enabled early identification of the pest, including a positive PeMo assessment several years before its detection in the EU, and continuous monitoring of its spread and developments. During the discussion, it was noted that the mandate for horizon scanning activities has been extended until 2031, ensuring the continuation of this work. It was also highlighted that engagement within the EIOS plant health community will continue, and Member States were encouraged to participate and make use of the available tools and training opportunities.

33. Any Other Business & Conclusions

Sybren Vos provided an update on ongoing and future EFSA activities under the two main mandates on horizon scanning and surveillance. For horizon scanning, the current mandate has been extended to the period 2027–2031, ensuring continuity of activities, including newsletter production, dashboards and methodological updates. It was noted that collaboration with ANSES will end in 2026, with a new grant to be launched in 2026/27, while cooperation will continue with the JRC and the WHO through the EIOS platform. For surveillance activities, a new mandate covering 2027–2030 was presented. This will include updating pest survey cards, maintaining and further developing the survey toolkit, and continuing training activities. Current work includes the development of new pest survey cards, experimental protocols for priority pests, and training activities (webinars and e-learning). Looking ahead, the proposed dates for the upcoming meetings were presented:

8th Network meeting: 20–21 October 2026

9th Network meeting: 12–13 May 2027

10th Network meeting: 3–4 November 2027

These dates will be confirmed to the Network members.

The meeting concluded with acknowledgements to all participants, and to Network members and representatives of IPA countries, European Commission representatives, EU Horizon project leaders, and EFSA's Plant Health Monitoring Team for their contributions to the meeting.