Pest Risk Assessment
Science in support of phytosanitary decision making in the European Community

Objectives of the Colloquium

Jan Schans
Chair of Panel on Plant Health
Objectives of the Colloquium

• to discuss in an open scientific debate,
• aspects of the pest risk assessment process that the EFSA Panel of Plant Health (PLH) should consider,
• when providing scientific advice to the European Commission for phytosanitary decision making purposes.
Context of pest risk assessment

• Framework for phytosanitary decision making:
  – Directive 2000/29/EC:
    “on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community”
  – International agreements (IPPC, WTO-SPS) require:
    • Technical justification of protective measures, based on scientific principles and evidence
    • Pest Risk Analysis (PRA)
    • Based on International Standards (ISPM 11)
Context of pest risk assessment

• EU Food Safety (including plant health)
  – Principal of strict separation between:
    • Risk management (decision and implementation)
    • Risk assessment
  – EFSA PLH Panel:
    • Focus on Pest Risk Assessments
    • Stage 2 of Pest Risk Analysis (ISPM 11)
    • Challenge:
      – Provide unambiguous scientific advice to risk managers, fit for decision making
• Pest risk assessment (ISPM 11):
  – Probability of introduction and spread
  – Potential economic consequences

• Broad sense:
  – Direct and indirect pest effects
  – Cultivated plants
  – Uncultivated/unmanaged plants
  – Effects on environment
  – Effects on plants through effects on other organisms
Context of pest risk assessment

- Pest risk assessment (ISPM 11; PRA stage 2):
  - Probability of introduction and spread
  - Potential economic consequences

- For both aspects:
  - Difficult to formulate conclusions as advice to risk manager
  - Not scientific proof, but scientific likelihood must be established
  - Uncertainty is complex
  - Methodology is insufficiently developed
Challenge for the Colloquium

• To discuss:
  – The state of art in pest risk assessment methodology
  – Particular attention on uncertainty aspects

• To recommend:
  – Readily improvement of pest risk assessment
    • Identify existing new techniques
  – Priorities for research
    • Identify techniques to be developed
Program of the colloquium

• Keynote speeches
  – Current state of art
  – Highlighting problem areas

• Discussion groups
  – Introduction potential
  – Changes in climate and global trade
  – Pest impacts
  – Evidence and uncertainties