EFSA develops scientifically based survey guidelines for EU Member States

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EFSA was requested (article 31 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002) by the Commission of the European Union (EU) to facilitate EU Member States in their planning and execution of their survey activities by

- providing practical and concise outputs
- addressing all pests of the survey work program 2018-2020
- providing detailed guidelines for surveillance for 3 pilot organisms

Outputs (already available: https://bit.ly/2Yg5cmh)

1. **Workplan and methods** for EFSA to develop plant pest survey guidelines for EU Member States (March 2018, EFSA Journal).
2. **"Pest survey cards"** with all necessary information for scientifically and technically based surveys. Already available: 7 Citrus cards for 12 pests, 8 Potato cards for 13 pests, 2 Miscellaneous card for 2 pest. In preparation: 12 cards for 13 forest pests, 15 cards for 15 miscellaneous pests.
3. **General and specific guidelines, pest survey cards for three pilot pests:** *Agrilus planipennis, Phyllosticta citricarpa* and *Xylella fastidiosa.* Already available: pest survey card *for Xylella fastidiosa*.

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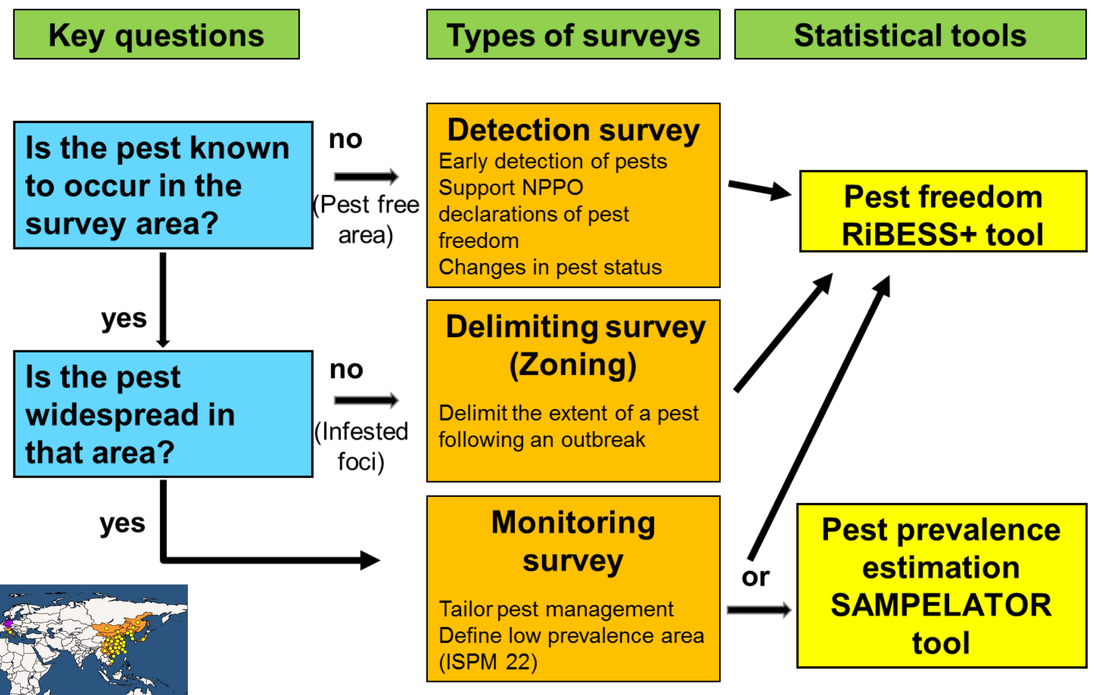
efsa
European Food Safety Authority

Nederlandse Voedsel- en Warenautoriteit
Ministerie van Economische Zaken, Landbouw en Innovatie

EFSA Grant GP/EFSA/ALPHA/2017/02



Target population:
Host plants – size

Data requirements for pest freedom surveys (RIBESS+) (needed for survey cards and guidelines)

Epidemiological unit:
Homogeneous spatial units

Risk based approach:
Relative risk and optimal targeting

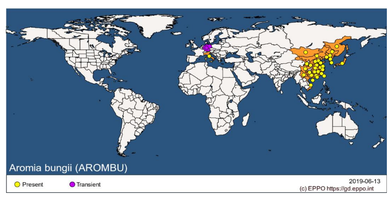
Detection and diagnostic method:
Visual examination and laboratory tests – methods sensitivity

Design prevalence and confidence:
Confidence around the estimation of the real prevalence or of the freedom statement. E.g. if all examinations and/or tests are negative, the Member State is 95% confident that, if the pest is present, its prevalence is below 1% in the target population (using RIBESS+ and choosing these values beforehand)

Relevant International Standards on Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs)
ISPM 4: Requirements for the establishment of pest free areas
ISPM 6: Surveillance
ISPM 8: Determination of pest status in an area
ISPM 9: Guidelines for pest eradication programmes
ISPM 27: Diagnostic protocols for regulated pests
ISPM 31: Methodologies for sampling of consignments

Conclusions and further steps

- The design for detection and delimiting surveys on a statistically sound base, choices for data have to be made by Member States for their specific situation
- General and specific guidelines for survey design will be available by spring 2020
- Specific guidelines will be provided in separate documents and describe step by step the process of the survey design for the three pilot pests
- A manual for guiding the user through the EFSA open-access statistical tools (RIBESS+, Sampelator) will be provided



Content of survey cards:

1.The pest and its biology
- Taxonomy, regulatory status, distribution
- Life cycle, host plants, environmental suitability
- Spread capacity
- Risk factors

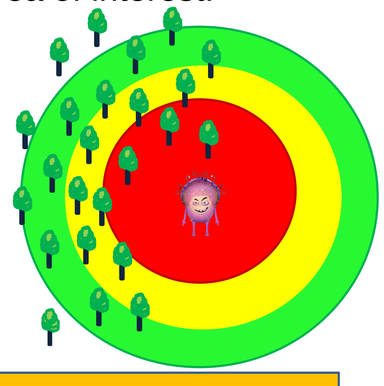
2. Detection and identification methods
- Visual examination (Pest, Symptoms, Traps)
- Laboratory testing (Identification of methods, Diagnostic protocols)

3. Key elements for survey design
- Target population
- Epidemiological unit
- Inspection units

ISPM 9: Surveys should be designed and executed to provide the level of statistical confidence necessary for the results to be meaningful for regulatory purposes

Risk factor: a biotic or abiotic factor that increases the probability of infection by the pest in the area of interest:

- should have more than one level of risk for the target population
- characterised by the relative risk and the proportion of the overall plant population on which it applies
- the relative risk of each level needs to be estimated as the relative probability of infection compared to a baseline with a level 1



- Examples provided in the pest survey cards for:
  - risk activities
  - risk locations
  - risk areas

DOI: 10.5073/20190925-102347

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