



New threats or old threats in new surroundings

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Abstract

The European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) is a regional standard-setting organization created in 1951. The organization has two main areas of activities: plant quarantine and plant protection products. In the last decades the environment in which EPPO works has changed in both areas of activities.

In plant quarantine, one of the consequences of the increase in international trade in recent years, is that European countries have been faced with the introduction of several new pests (such as *Phytophthora* species, *Gibberella circinata*, Tomato viruses and viroids, etc.). The rate of these introductions has increased in the last 10 years. A study regarding the challenges posed by trade of plants for planting for the plant health system was conducted. This study shows that “current” phytosanitary systems are not adequately adapted to face the challenges of increasing trade and climate change. EPPO is consequently developing some new concepts on which basis plant health systems could operate in the future. EPPO will also continue to support its member countries by providing information on emerging diseases, and by identifying options to prevent the introduction of their causative agents.

Over recent decades, crop protection practices have changed as many active substances have disappeared from the market in many European countries. This is causing considerable problems in agriculture because it is becoming increasingly difficult to control specific pests (including diseases and weeds) in a satisfactory way. One of EPPO’s main priorities is to develop principles of good plant protection practice on major crops in the EPPO region by employing the most efficient application practices and incorporating non-chemical methods into pest control programmes.

This presentation will highlight the main challenges that plant health systems are facing and will face in the future.