

Date: 18 December 18

Dear Sir/Madam,

Rapid Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) on Pepper vein yellows viruses (PeVYVs)

I am writing to seek your views on a UK Rapid Pest Risk Analysis on Pepper vein yellows viruses (PeVYVs). A link to the PRA can be found at the website given below:

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/pests-and-diseases/pest-risk-analyses/>

We would welcome your views and comments on the PRA and the proposals for future action.

In submitting any comments you may wish to focus on the summary, key uncertainties and conclusion sections of the risk assessments and to consider the following:

- Are any factual corrections required?
- Your view on the appropriateness of the suggested proposals for future actions?
- Can you provide any additional information (or links to other sources of information) that may help address uncertainty identified in the assessment/management measures?
- Are there any risks that have not been adequately considered?
- Have you reviewed the risk assessment and consider that you have nothing further to add?

This review applies to the UK and is being conducted by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, with the agreement of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Northern Ireland Government. The objective of this consultation is to gather views from all interested sectors on the UK position to progress. We will take all comments made into account in developing the UK position.

Background

Pepper vein yellows viruses (PeVYVs) are an emerging threat to pepper production worldwide. Where outbreaks have occurred, significant reduction in the value of the crop has been observed. PeVYVs are spread by two very common vectors in the UK, the aphids *Aphis gossypii* and *Myzus persicae*. As the host range includes *Solanum nigrum*, there is the potential for the viruses to establish in the UK outside of protected cultivation where most *Capsicum* spp. are grown. This PRA shows that PeVYVs are a significant threat to pepper production in the UK. A Plant Pest factsheet has also been drafted and is published at the website given below:

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/assets/factsheets/PeVYVs-Pest-Factsheet.pdf>

Recommendations for action

The UK Plant Health Risk Group (PHRG) review is presenting the following options for future action against PeVYVs, of which option 2 is their preferred choice:

- 1) No statutory action taken against findings of the virus. Awareness raising amongst industry will still happen, with guidance on best management practices provided. No formal action will be taken on interceptions or findings of the virus.
- 2) Maintain the current position. This is to take statutory action on findings of PeVYV infected fruit or plants for planting, but without seeking a specific listing in plant health legislation. If PeVYVs was to become more widespread this position could be reviewed.
- 3) Further regulation. There is the possibility of the UK becoming a Protected Zone, with PeVYVs. However, a Regulated Non-Quarantine Pest (RNQP) is unlikely to be effective in the in the long term as plants for planting are not the only viable pathway for this pest. Requirements for peppers to be produced in a pest free site of production are possible, but would have limited effectiveness. As symptoms would not be present until later in the plants development, therefore requirements would need to include measures which did not rely on visual inspection of the traded plants. Post entry quarantine is another possible option, but is difficult and may only be possible for small quantities of high value material.

All responses should be sent to plantpestrisks@defra.gsi.gov.uk by the **29th January 2019**. In your response could you state:

- Whether you agree with Defra's preferred approach
- If not, what your preferred position would be any why

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be made available to the public on request, in accordance with the requirements of the

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Environmental information Regulations 2004 (EIRs)

If you do not wish your response, including your name, contact details and any other personal information, to be publically available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the consultation. Please note that if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, this will not count as a confidentiality request. Please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for the information under freedom of information legislation. However, we cannot guarantee that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.

Yours faithfully,

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