***Training course 3: Pest risk assessment***

The training course will cover the three components of risk analysis – risk assessment, risk

management and risk communication – but will give particular focus to pest risk assessment. The aim

is to introduce the participants to the concept of risk assessment as applied in national and in EFSA

and other international food safety organizations.

Participants will learn how a structured risk assessment is performed. The focus in this particular

course will be on risk assessment of organisms posing a risk to plant health. These include both plant

pests which threaten crop production and species which threaten biodiversity. Efforts will be put on

stressing the benefits and strengths of different models, taking into account the uncertainty in our

knowledge and the variability in the key parameters applied in a risk assessment mode. Based on this,

the participants should be able to better understand and interpret risk estimates from different risk

assessment models.

At the end of the course, participants will:

• Be familiar with the general concepts of risk analysis i.e. risk assessment, risk management and

risk communication;

• Understand and be able to describe the four steps of food-safety risk assessment i.e. hazard

identification, hazard characterisation, exposure assessment and risk characterisation;

• Know the key differences between risk assessment approaches and risk terminology used in the

various areas of food-safety risk assessment (e.g. chemical vs. microbial risk assessment);

• Have confidence in order that they are able to conduct pest risk analyses themselves.

• Have an understanding of the pest risk analysis (PRA) process; its international context and the

roles of various international bodies such as the.

• EFSA, IPPC, the WTO (re: WTO-SPS Agreement) and the European Commission.

• Understand what is required in each of the various detailed stages of a PRA, for example, what

is needed for initiation, pest introduction, assessing impact, data requirement, risk management

options etc.

• Learn how PRAs are used in practice and what the consequences of PRA can be.

• Have the opportunity to draft and develop a PRA during practical activity sessions set out in the

timetable.

• Have increased knowledge about assessment of introduction and spread of organisms harmful

to plants and to plant products

• Be able to identify plant health problems and frame appropriate risk questions;

• Be able to identify and interpret the data typically required in pest risk assessment;

• Be able to interpret risk estimates and run different scenario analyses, taking into account

variability, sensitivity and uncertainty;