

PBRI Communiqué 24 August 2021

This communiqué provides an overview of the activities reported at the quarterly PBRI Committee Meeting #16, on 24 August 2021. The meeting was attended by representatives from seven plant RDCs, Plant Health Australia (PHA) and the Department of Agriculture Water and the Environment (DAWE). Dr Ken Young, GRDC, chaired the meeting. The members gave an update on their organisation's activities relevant to the PBRI plus a range of items were included in the agenda (below).

As part of PBRI strategy implementation, 19 biosecurity projects have been contracted with a total value of approximately \$52 million (cash and in-kind). A spotlight on eight projects was provided in the meeting including: identifying native *Xylella* vectors, eDNA testing for BMSB, Boosting Diagnostic Capacity for Plant Production Industries (R&D4P), *Xylella* diagnostics, iMapPESTs (R&D4P), *Xylella* Program Manager, in-field detection for FAW.

Ten new cross-sectoral RD&E concepts are under development, most have been initiated as a direct result of RD&E presented at the [PBRI monthly forums](#). The forums continue to showcase relevant expertise and knowledge networks for future RD&E investment opportunities. The next forum 'Behavioural science and biosecurity' will be held on 28 September.

The Centre for Excellence in Biosecurity Risk Assessment (CEBRA) held a workshop on 16 August to profile eight research projects being delivered to DAWE and MPI NZ. The projects included climate change risks to trade and biosecurity, incentive-compatible biosecurity policy, automated image analysis and a 'health check' framework for import policy. Centre Director, Prof. Andrew Robinson plans to make these a regular event.

A PBRI initiative, the [Biosecurity Extension Community](#) met for the second time in June. This is a Community of Practice targeting biosecurity extension practitioners working across a diverse range of plant industries. The agenda included an overview of the Biosecure HACCP accreditation program run by GreenLife Industry Australia (John McDonald) and learnings from the Tomato Potato Psyllid Incursion in WA from both an industry and government perspective (Dr Sonia Broughton, DPIRD and Callum Fletcher, AusVeg).

A new strategic partnership was initiated with the Plant Health Committee (PHC), comprising state and territory jurisdictions with a view to co-design RD&E projects with common benefit to industry and states. Dr Anne Walters (Deputy chair, PHC and Chief Plant Protection Officer, NT) attended the meeting to share key gaps identified by PHC, which included capability building, climate change effects on biosecurity, industry resilience and recovery, community and industry engagement, evidence-based decision-making for 'transition to management'. A brief update on activities of PBRI's MOU partners, B3 NZ, ACIAR and Euphresco was also provided.

The PBRI Symposium (a hybrid live-online event) scheduled to be held at the Adelaide Wine Centre on the 11 & 12 May 2022 will be sponsored by DAWE. More information on registration, the program and PBRI sponsored travel scholarships will be posted on our [website](#) shortly.

The next PBRI Committee Meeting will be held on 16 November 2021, chaired by Dr Gabrielle Vivian-Smith.