**PBRI Communiqué**

**PBRI Committee Meeting # 19, 23 August 2022**

As the PBRI strategy and collaborative agreement expire in 2023, this meeting focused on reviewing the governance arrangements for the members to consider a third phase of the PBRI. Collaboration and co-investment activities are being mapped against the PBRI monitoring and evaluation plan in preparation for an independent review scheduled for the end of 2022.

The PBRI members have developed a solid foundation for collaboration and coordination of plant biosecurity RD&E, with a strong focus on capability building for the future. At Meeting 19, a five-year agreement was proposed for PBRI Phase III, to continue to create impact through industry and government collaboration, to protect Australian plant industries.

The quarterly meeting was attended by representatives from six plant RDCs, Plant Health Australia (PHA) and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF). Craig Elliott, Wine Australia, chaired the meeting which included a member update on biosecurity activities and investments, relevant to the PBRI.

The Program, Strategy & Leadership Managerfor Agricultural Innovation Australia, Dr Ben Baghurst, provided an update on AIA investment strategy which includes biosecurity. Opportunities for collaboration and co-investment in plant biosecurity RD&E will be pursued through future regular meetings.

Highlights since the last meeting, apart from the PBRI Symposium were:

* A cross-sectoral concept development workshop was held in Melbourne on 14 July. Several concepts are in various stages of development including the *Biosecurity Trakka* concept – which is a High Throughput Sequencing real-time surveillance tool. A prospectus for an ARC Biosecurity Training Centre was presented by Dr Peter Solomon, the ANU, with interest from PBRI members in coinvesting.
* A Memorandum of Understanding with the Plant Health Committee (PHC) has been supported at the last PHC meeting in July, with a draft MOU under development for signing.
* Since the PBRI Symposium, the [Ritman scholars](https://www.pbri.com.au/the-ritman-scholarship-winners/), Salome Wilson and Tavish Eenjes (ANU), Rebecca Degnan (UQ) and Bianca Rodrigues - Jardim (La Trobe) created a Plant Health Student Network to be launched online on 9 September. This network will connect students working on plant health related topics, providing a forum for them to discuss research and career pathways.
* The program for the [International Plant Health Conference](https://www.ippc.int/en/news/save-the-date-2/) has been released. PBRI will be represented in a session on ‘International plant health research partnership to address global challenges’. A separate workshop is being co-convened by Euphresco, PBRI and B3 on a preferred model and resourcing of global research partnerships.
* Discussion with the coordinator of the [National Environment and Community Biosecurity RD&E Strategy](http://wildmatters.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/NECBRDES-final_3Nov21.pdf) has commenced to determine opportunities for collaboration on areas of overlap in our strategies e.g. regional indigenous engagement and biosecurity.
* A program for the Annual Diagnostic and Surveillance Workshop (30 August – 2 September) has been released by PHA. The PBRI is represented in the program on a panel discussion focused on the highlights and challenges of diagnostics and surveillance from an industry perspective.

The next PBRI Committee Meeting will be held on 15 November 2022.