



# **A Plant Protection Network for Canada**

Western Forum on Pest Management

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# Outline

- PlantProNet Background
- Other Networks
- Objectives and Next Steps for a Canadian Plant Protection Network

# PlantProNet Concept

- A network of Canadian plant health expertise and diagnostic capabilities to address the threats of invasive plants and plant pests

# Concept Cont'd

- To protect Canada's crops, forests and environment from the entry and spread of invasive plants and plant pests
- To enhance surveillance and detection of invasive plants and plant pests
- To strengthen Canada's capacity to manage invasive plants and plant pests which threaten agricultural, forestry or natural resources

# Some Benefits of a Network

- Enhancing response capacity
- Increased capability by linking expertise
- Enhancing awareness of relevant issues
- Facilitating information sharing
- Facilitating harmonization of procedures

# Key Drivers

- Increased trade globalization increases risk of high consequence pest incursions
- Gaps in knowledge of foreign pests and pest management options and methodologies
- Emphasis for specific pests known not to occur vs. not known to occur in Canada

# Other Networks

- Networks are conceived or functioning in various jurisdictions, for example
  - In plant health:
    - US NPDPN
    - Australian Network
  - In Canada:
    - TSE and AI Animal Health Networks

# United States National Plant Diagnostic Network

- To link plant disease diagnostic facilities across the United States
- To enhance national agricultural security by detecting introduced pests and pathogens
- To provide a means for rapid identification and immediate reporting
- To collect data on pest and disease occurrence (National Agricultural Pest Information System)

# Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy and Avian Influenza Networks

- Diagnostic laboratory networks
  - Federal, provincial, university labs
- Expanded national surveillance capacity
- Focus on common laboratory procedures, quality assurance guidelines, training
- Informal structure
  - Twice yearly meetings

# PlantProNet - Progress to Date

- Support through Invasive Alien Species Treasury Board Submission to establish PlantProNet
- Part of Terrestrial Plant and Plant Pest Working Group (TPPWG) Action Plan
- Federal and provincial members of TPPWG invited to join PlantProNet expertise database
- Database with 100+ members

# Canadian Science Expertise in Plant Protection

- Presently 100+ members
- Provide name, title, affiliation, contact information, co-ordinates, expertise and keywords
- Template has been circulated to Fed/Prov members of TPPWG
- Additional interest in membership welcome

# Objectives and Next Steps

- Develop work plan for the implementation of PlantProNet
- Develop terms of reference in consultation with prospective and current PlantProNet members and other networks
- Initial focus on establishing laboratory capacity and capability
  - Expertise and operating, infrastructure and equipment
  - Gap analysis

# Objectives Cont'd

- Longer term focus
  - sampling and detection methodologies
  - harmonizing procedures
  - surveillance
  - preparedness to respond
  - network communications

# For more information

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