

2018 ISPP Seed Pathology Committee Meeting

Sheraton Boston Hotel: Beacon A

30 July 2018 18:30 – 20:00

Organizer: Theresa (Terry) Aveling

University of Pretoria, South Africa

Seventeen attendees were welcomed at the meeting. Apologies were received from Gary Munkvold, Guro Brodal, Lindsey du Toit, Dorota Szopińska and Casiana Vera Cruz.



Terry Aveling informed the attendees of what was expected from an ISPP committee member and welcomed the attendees to join the committee.

The current composition of the committee was presented and the resignation of Valerie Cockerell due to a change in the focus of her work was noted.

The role and importance of the seed pathology meeting, and the fact that the committee should include members from chemical and seed companies, universities, research institutions, government departments and international bodies such as ISTA, ISF, ISHS-Veg, EPPO, NSHS etc. to enable a holistic approach to seed pathology, was highlighted.

In the past few years members of the committee have been acting as reviewers of the update of the "Annotated list of seed-borne diseases". This is a project that is currently underway in collaboration with ISTA and ISF.

Seed pathology publications by committee members (response from 6 of the current 10 members):

2013: 20; 2014: 11; 2015: 12; 2016: 13; 2017: 14; 2018: 7+

Other topics discussed included the revision of the Annotated list of seed-borne diseases: ISHI-Veg is dealing with the vegetable “seed is a pathway” pathogens whilst ISTA is dealing with the remaining crops currently focusing on 11 crops such as wheat and oats but will be addressing another 50 plant groups/spp. which will also include trees.

Discontinuation of thiram as a seed treatment: This has not yet taken place and might not. The possibility was discussed regarding a possible seed treatment substitution but there is none currently available.

During the ISPP Subject Committees meeting, the chairs of the committees were informed of the global initiative, Plant Health 2020. Each chair was encouraged to prepare and provide input from their committee members. Each committee was requested to submit an article to the ISPP journal: Food Security (impact factor of 2.9). The title of our committee’s article could be “The impact of seed pathology on food security”. Committee members will be contacted regarding contributions once further information and guidelines have been made available.

ISPP encouraged the committees during the ISPP 2018 Council meeting (attended by Terry Aveling and Gianfranco Romanazzi) to appoint one to two vice-chairs. We welcome Ron Walcott (University of Georgia, USA) and Gianfranco Romanazzi (Marche Polytechnic University, Italy) as the two vice-chairs of this committee.

The floor was opened to questions, suggestions and comments.

Terry Aveling invited all the attendees to join the Seed Pathology session at ICPP 2018 titled: “Global impact of international seed movement: Regulatory implications of seed health testing” the following day at 8:30.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.45.