

Meeting PestNet Moderators

Friday 13 April 2012 5 pm EST (Australia)

Those taking part were Bob MacFarlane, Wilco Liebrechts, Charles Ssekya and Grahame Jackson.

Agenda

Introduction to Charles - moderator in Uganda

Minutes of last meeting

Finance update

Pestnet and plant health clinics - update

Camera training, and other failures

IAPPS initiative and pestnet evaluation

Website - plant protection resources - leave or take down?

Leaflets – funds for reprinting?

Caripestnet

IAALD meeting

Collaboration with SPC

Spanish Pestnet for south America

Moderators - any changes required?

1) A welcome to Charles

Charles was welcomed to PestNet; although he has been a member for some months, this is the first time that Bob and Wilco had spoken to him. Unfortunately, Charles lost contact after a few minutes and was unable to take part in discussions.

After the session Charles wrote saying that Pestnet should apply to CTA or other donors to hold workshops in strategic locations in East Africa and even further afield to tell people about Pestnet, and the advantages of joining. Perhaps there could be regional teams, and in this way people would work together and support each other. Charles was willing to hold a workshop in Kampala to test the idea.

Charles went further: he proposed that he visit ASARECA – Association for Strengthening Research in East and Central Africa – to seek their collaboration for an Africa-wide workshop. Other centres, too, may be interested, e.g. ICIPE and AVRDC.

Wilco said this was a very good initiative. Pestnet has been attempting to do something similar in the past, but CTA wanted us to identify organisation in Africa who would submit a proposal along the lines Charles suggests.

However, CTA may be reluctant to fund awareness-raising drives, and/or web tools for pest identification.

It was not decided who would write to CTA to see if there is interest. Perhaps Charles might like to have a go being the Africa rep. At least costs for a visit to ASARECA should be provided to the other moderators.

2) Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting. Several matters arising were agenda items for this meeting

3) Financial matters

Wilco has transferred the funds from the USD account to the FJD account, and closed it. The present balance of the FJD account is F\$3020.34.

4) Pestnet and plant health clinics

Pestnet will backstop the pilot plant health clinics under the regional ICM project funded by ACIAR. The inaugural meeting with CABI in charge will take place 21-25 May in Honiara. It is hoped that Pestnet will be used for advice and also for identifications. Pestnet will receive 10% of Grahame's fee. Similarly, funds will come from Pestnet's involvement in INEA, the international network for edible aroids. Wilco was reminded to send an invoice to SPC.

5) Camera training

An application to the Crawford Fund to recruit Pestnet and Gerald McCormack to teach people how point-and-shoot cameras can be used to take high quality images of insects/diseases failed. No other donor seems likely, although in the longer term ACIAR might give support if ancillary funds for IPM work in the region materialises.

6) IAPPS support and the PestNet evaluation

Geoff Norton who is President of IAPPS, the International Association of Plant Protection Sciences, and emeritus professor at UQ, having headed CBIT previously, would be an ideal person for the PestNet evaluation. Geoff knows PestNet well, and has always been a strong supporter.

7) Improvement to the PestNet website, leaflets etc

The ACIAR ICM project has an allocation for the evaluation of Pestnet, as well as for changes to its website, leaflets, etc., but in reality the amount is hardly sufficient. The evaluation should assume priority. The website has been improved with Pestnet funds in the past year or so. As for the leaflets, these do need redoing and reprinting. The leaflet needs to show that anyone anywhere can join, not only people from the Pacific and Asia. Funds will have to be sought for the changes needed.

Grahame has got the master files from Zoo, Canberra, and these can be used when the time comes.

It was decided to take down the Plant Protection Resources part of the website as it is not being kept up to date.

8) Caripestnet

Grahame talked via email about Caripestnet with Guy Mathurin in St Lucia. Guy asked Ron about amalgamating with Pestnet, but he too got no reply. So there the matter rests.

9) IAALD meeting in South Africa

Rather to our surprise, CTA has written to say that it would support Pestnet's attendance. Unfortunately, Charles is no longer available to attend. Thanks to CTA all the same.

10) Collaboration with SPC

Pestnet was making headway on the MOU with SPC, which was being handled by Roy Masamdu. After Roy's death, Joshua Wainigolo has been given the task of bringing the matter to a satisfactory conclusion Wilco will see Joshua and see what can be done.

11) Spanish Pestnet

George Wall has said that he is willing to translate email messages to encourage people in South America to join Pestnet. The next thing to decide is how George lets people know that this is an option. George will need to become a moderator, which of course is fine and easy to do. The messages would go to him and he would have to translate them and then go into the website and put the translation online.

An alternative would be to put the translation into a new email which George then sends to Pestnet. The trouble with that is if the email has attachments he will have to pull those off the original and put them onto the one that he sends out.

Grahame suggests making George a moderator and then suggesting he plays around with Yahoo and let's us know how he wants to do it.

12) Moderators – the need for changes?

Peter Maddison is prepared to continue to be a moderator, which is good news. We hope Peter can sort out his problem with Yahoo. He can't send emails to Yahoogroups: they bounce. We have suggested that he opens a new account, or talks to his ISP. It is not known if his ISP or Yahoo is at fault. The thing that he can do to solve the problem is to send emails from the website. Peter can reply to any message that has been sent by clicking on it and then hitting Reply in the top left corner. Alternatively, Peter can send a message to the group by clicking on Post which is in the menu to the left of the message pane – under messages.

Grahame will ask Guy Mathurin if he would like to be a moderator.

Guidelines for moderators are needed, and Bob will draft some when he gets a moment.

There being no other business, the Skype meeting was closed at 6.30 pm.

Grahame Jackson

Sydney

27 April 2012