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May 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: UK policy review for *Macchiademus diploterus* (Grain chinch bug)

I am writing to invite your view on a proposed change in position recommended by the UK Plant Health Risk Group (PHRG) for *Macchiademus diploterus*. This would replace the position agreed following a review in 2012, taking account of developments since then.

In 2012 a Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) was conducted for *Macchiademus diploterus*. At the time, it was recommended by the PHRG that statutory action be taken on any findings of the organism due to the perceived risk to southern member states. A further review of *Macchiademus diploterus* in 2018 has now taken place. Further to this, it also appears that the UK is the only country in Europe routinely taking such action, with associated impacts on UK importers. This pest has also been discussed by the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO), including representatives from southern European countries, who have not identified it as a priority for regulation. In light of this the PHRG has revised its recommendations.

Recommendations

The following recommendation was presented at the PHRG:

- No statutory action will be taken against findings, on the basis that it is unlikely to establish in the UK.

Background

Macchiademus diploterus (Distant) is native to South Africa where it is a serious pest of wheat, oats and barley. It has been detected in England in association with fresh apple,

citrus, nectarine, pomegranate, peach and plum fruit imported from South Africa on at least 42 occasions since 2005, including 24 interceptions since 2015.

A link to the PRA conducted in 2012 can be found below:

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/ph-api/pests/8139/risk-analyses/309/documents/3883/document>

Next steps

We now welcome your views and comments on the proposed recommendation. We are contacting stakeholders, but are aware that this is not exhaustive, so if there is any organisation that you think would like to contribute then please make them aware of the letter and ask them to contact Defra using the details below.

Responses should be received by **28th June 2018**.

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be made available to the public on request, in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

If you do not wish your response, including your name, contact details and any other personal information, to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the consultation. Please note that if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, this will not count as a confidentiality request. Please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for this information under freedom of information legislation. However, we cannot guarantee that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.

Yours sincerely,

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