








Final program SMARTER Meetings January 2015 (Avenue Louise 149, 15th floor, 1050 Brussels, Belgium)

Conference & Workshop: SMARTER and stakeholders exchange on "Invasive plants management success & regulation"

For participants invited & registered for this Conference & Workshops event

This meeting brings together participants of the SMARTER network working on invasive species management with stakeholders and external experts, aiming to define success of Ambrosia management for Europe (Workshop 2), and to progress the discussion on regulation of biocontrol agents of invasive plants in Europe in general (Workshop 1), as specified in the corresponding Outlines. The Conference forms the introduction to the workshops by sketching the current problems in management and regulation. The Conference and Workshops form one event, and although participants might initially have been specifically invited for one Workshop, we would greatly appreciate your attendance to both Workshops.

Wednesday 21 Jan

CONFERENCE: SMARTER & stakeholders present		
<i>Main talks: 20 minutes presentation, 10 minutes discussion (see Outline for further instructions)</i>		
13.00	participant registration	
13.15	 Heinz Müller-Schärer (Univ. Fribourg, Switzerland; Action Chair)	Welcome & presentation of SMARTER
13.30	 Per Kudsk (Univ. Aarhus, Denmark; Chair Workshop 2)	Introduction to Workshop 2: The SMARTER approach to quantify ragweed management success
13.45	 Glyn Jones (FERA, UK)	Economic assessment of costs and benefits of Ambrosia management options in Europe (SMARTER Working Group 4)
14.15	 Bruno Chauvel (INRA, France)	Ragweed management goals & successes: national case study France (SMARTER Working Group 3)
14.45	Myriam Dumortier (DG Environment)	Developing an invasive species strategy for Europe: defining goals and measuring success
15.15	break	
15.45	 Urs Schaffner (CABI, Switzerland; Chair Workshop 1)	Introduction to Workshop 1: Classical biological control as a component of invasive species management worldwide (SMARTER Working Group1, Task Force Ophraella)
16.00	Jeroen Meeussen (DG Sanco)	How Europe is currently regulating the use of micro-organisms and macro-organisms for biological control
16.30	Peter Mason (Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada)	Regulations of classical biological control in North America
17.00	Zhongshi Zhou (Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science, China)	Deliberate and accidental introductions of biocontrol agents in China - the ragweed story
17.30	 Heinz Müller-Schärer (Univ. Fribourg, Switzerland; Action Chair)	Wrapping up Conference, preparing Workshops on day 2
17.40	 Arnaud Monty (Univ. of Liège, Belgium; meeting host)	Practical issues
17.45	closure	
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18.30 Conference social event: Belgium beer tasting, historic city walk, and dinner (cf. updated practical information)

for participants of the Conference&Workshops that registered via Doodle




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Thursday 22 Jan

WORKSHOP 1. SMARTER & stakeholders discuss: Regulating classical biological control of invasive plants across Europe







Main talks: 12 minutes presentation, 3 minutes discussion (see Outline for further instructions)

8.15	 Urs Schaffner (CABI, Switzerland; Chair Workshop 1)	Welcome and outline of the Workshop
8.20	Richard Shaw (CABI-Europe, UK)	Classical biological control of invasive plants in Europe: on the rise?
8.35	Martin Ward (European Plant Protection Organisation)	EPPO's vision on regulation of biocontrol of invasive plants
8.50	Marco Pautasso (European Food & Safety Authority)	EFSA's vision on regulation of biocontrol of invasive plants
9.05	 Suzanne Lommen and Heinz Müller-Schärer (Univ. Fribourg, Switzerland; Action Coordination)	SMARTER case study: How to deal with the accidentally introduced <i>Ophraella communa</i> in Europe?
9.25	 Urs Schaffner (CABI, Switzerland; Chair Workshop 1)	Wrap up and introduction to group discussions
9.35	all	Discussions in sub-groups about several regulatory issues (40 min)
10.15	break	
10.30	all	Discussions continued (1 hour)
11.30	reporters	Plenary reporting by each subgroup
12.00	Urs Schaffner and all	Defining list of objectives for joint EPPO-SMARTER meeting September 2015
12.30	Heinz Müller-Schärer and Arnaud Monty	Closure

12.30-13.30 **lunch**

WORKSHOP 2. SMARTER & stakeholders discuss: Defining success of management of common ragweed from local to European scale

Main talks: 15 minutes presentation, 5 minutes discussion (see Outline for further instructions)

13.30	 Per Kudsk (Univ. Aarhus, Denmark; Chair Workshop 2)	Welcome and outline of the Workshop
13.35	 Gerhard Karrer (BOKU, Austria)/Robert Leskovsek (KIS, Slovenia)	Lessons learnt from HALT Ambrosia with regard to assessing management success
13.55	 Carsten Skjøth (Univ. Worcester, UK)	The spread and modelling of Ambrosia plants and pollen: a tool to measure management success
14.15	 Lorenzo Cecchi (Univ. Florence, Italy; EAACI)	The medical aspects of Ambrosia sensitization: a tool to measure management success
14.35	 Maira Bonini (Local Health Authority Milano 1, Italy)	Case study management and measuring management success in Italy
14.55	 Per Kudsk (Univ. Aarhus, Denmark; Chair Workshop 2)	Wrap up and introduction to group discussions
15.05	break	
15.25	all	Discussions in sub-groups on defining and assessing management success (50 min)
16.15	reporters	Plenary reporting by each subgroup
16.35	Per Kudsk and all	Proposals for definitions of management success
17.00	Heinz Müller-Schärer	Final words
17.15	Heinz Müller-Schärer	Closure

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Outline Workshop1. 'Regulating classical biological control of invasive plants across Europe'

Abstract

Classical biological control (BC) projects that are based on in-depth investigations on the host-range and impact of BC agents prior to their release have a high safety track record and belong to the standard measures to combat invasive alien plant species (IAPS) in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa or North America, i.e. in regions most heavily affected by biological invasions. In Europe, however, classical BC of weeds is still in its infancy. The only BC agents released against invasive plants in the past 20 years are a psyllid released in 2010 against *Fallopia japonica*, and rust fungus released in 2014 against *Impatiens glandulifera*.

One of the key recommendations from the EU policy support action 'REBECA' (2006-07) was to create a recommending body at the European level that would provide guidance to national authorities regarding the regulation of classical BC. Unfortunately, at that time the European Commission was not interested in creating such an advisory body, leaving considerable uncertainty regarding the implementation of classical BC as a management option against IAPS in Europe. However, in the 'Regulation on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species' that was adopted by the Council on 27 September 2014, it is stated that "...management measures shall consist of lethal or non-lethal physical, chemical or biological actions aimed at the eradication, population control or containment of a population of an invasive alien species." Because organisms do not stop at political boundaries, we believe that there is a need to coordinate and harmonize the implementation of classical BC at the European level, both in response to accidental introductions of classical BC agents as well as to clarify the process of evaluating petitions for the deliberate release of BC agents.

We have therefore invited representatives of the European Commission (DG Sanco, DG Environment), of the European Food Safety Association (EFSA), of EPPO and of IOBC as well as biological control experts from Europe, North America and China to a stakeholder meeting on 21/22 January 2015 to present on-going work within COST-SMARTER, exchange views regarding the regulation of classical BC agents in countries with a long BC tradition and in Europe and to discuss ways forward to harmonize and facilitate the regulation of classical BC as a sustainable management tool against IAPS across Europe.

Objectives of the workshop

- Review past and current projects on classical BC of IAPS in Europe
- Present on-going work within COST-SMARTER, elaborate on the issue of increasing numbers of accidental introductions
- Provide update on the current regulation of herbivorous classical BC agents in Europe
- Review classical BC regulations worldwide
- Identify weaknesses/strengths related to current regulation of classical BC in Europe
- Discuss ways forward to clarify/facilitate the regulation of classical BC of IAPS in Europe
- Discuss the way forward to respond to accidental introductions of exotic BC agents both at the national and European level

Expected outcomes

- Summary of stakeholders' interests and needs regarding a harmonized regulation of classical BC in Europe
- Draft list of objectives for the planned EPPO-COST SMARTER meeting in autumn 2015 (to which representatives of national authorities will also be invited)
- Summary of stakeholder's suggestions for dealing with accidental introductions
- Suggestion for communication strategy regarding the regulation of classical BC in Europe



Outline Workshop 2. 'Defining success of management of common ragweed from local to European scale'

Abstract

Common or short ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia* L.) is an important agricultural weed and *Ambrosia* pollen impacts on human health in Europe. Working Group 4 of SMARTER aims to evaluate the management options developed in Working Groups 1, 2 and 3 in terms of: the presence and spread of *Ambrosia* in Europe; the pollen in the air, the health impacts of *Ambrosia* pollen allergens (e.g. spectrum and severity of allergic diseases), and the economic impacts of *Ambrosia*. The output of working group 4 will help decision makers in selecting region specific and cost-effective measures for controlling the spread and mitigating the impacts of *Ambrosia*. However, to measure the success of management, it should also be defined what is considered success.

The workshop will provide a platform for discussing what constitutes the successful management of common ragweed. In order to facilitate discussion, the workshop will include presentations on the following topics: the spread and modelling of *Ambrosia* plants and pollen; the medical aspects of *Ambrosia* sensitization; the economic impact of *Ambrosia*; the use of cost benefit analysis in defining success of management of common ragweed in Europe.

Objectives of the workshop

The objective of this workshop is to bring SMARTER experts and stakeholders together, to produce a framework for defining the successful management of *Ambrosia*.

Specifically, we will address the following questions:

- How to measure the effect of measures and success? (at which spatial scales, with what parameters?)
- When do we regard *Ambrosia* management in Europe as successful? Setting goals for the future (when in future, for what spatial scales, for what habitats, what should be achieved, measured by which parameters?)

Expected outcomes

- A framework for defining the successful management of *Ambrosia*;
- The identification of markers that can be used to determine successful management, e.g. yield loss in crops or hospital admissions of allergy patients;
- Definition of what constitutes successful management, e.g. a % reduction in the identified marker A for area y within x year time from now.

Information for speakers of the Conference & Workshops

We are grateful that you will present your view on management success and/or regulation of invasive plants during the Conference or Workshops. Please consider the following:

- The talks are meant to feed the discussion. Therefore, each speaker is encouraged to really **speak to the topic, addressing the objectives of the workshop (see outline)**.
- Each time slot includes a **discussion (see program for the duration of talks and discussion)**. Please take this into account when preparing your presentation.
- During the Workshops, the discussion time is specifically aimed at getting feed-backs from the stakeholders present.
- We request you to bring your presentation on a USB-stick, and to upload it 15 minutes before the start of the relevant part (Conference, Workshop1, or Workshop 2).