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CARIBBEAN FOOD CROPS SOCIETY

44

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Poster Session Abstracts
With Some Posters Expanded as Full Papers**

MEETING HOST:



Poster #63

The Caribbean Pathway Analysis - Evaluation of Pathways for Exotic Plant Pest Movement into and within the Greater Caribbean Region

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ABSTRACT.

The analysis “Evaluation of pathways for exotic plant pest movement into, within, and out of the Greater Caribbean Region”, is a collaborative effort between the Caribbean Invasive Species Working Group (CISWG) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The objective of this analysis is to contribute to an improved understanding of pathways of exotic pest movement as they pertain to the Greater Caribbean Region, thereby helping CISWG to enhance or refine the Caribbean Regional Invasive Species Intervention Strategy (CRISIS) for preventing the introduction or spread of exotic pests. The scope of the pathway analysis includes nearly all countries bordering the Caribbean Sea and all terrestrial, non-vertebrate, plant pests. Among the pathways evaluated in the context of this analysis are: airline passenger baggage, international mail, people movement, maritime cargo, and wood packaging material. Some of these topics are discussed in other papers published in these proceedings.

KEYWORDS: Caribbean Region, pathway analysis

What is the Caribbean Pathway Analysis?

The project “Evaluation of pathways for exotic plant pest movement into and within the Greater Caribbean Region” is a collaborative effort between the Caribbean Invasive Species Working Group (CISWG) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). This project is also referred to as the “Caribbean Pathway Analysis.”

What is the objective of the Caribbean Pathway Analysis?

The objective of the Caribbean Pathway Analysis is to contribute to an improved understanding of pathways of exotic pest movement as they pertain to the Greater Caribbean Region and to develop recommendations for improved safeguarding, thereby helping CISWG to enhance or refine the Caribbean Regional Invasive Species Intervention Strategy (CRISIS) for preventing the introduction or spread of exotic pests. Among the pathways evaluated in the context of this project are:

- Airline passenger baggage
- International mail
- Movement of people
- Hitchhiker pests
- Wood packaging material

- Natural spread

The results of some of these evaluations were also presented at this meeting.

Who is carrying out the Caribbean Pathway Analysis?

This project is being conducted under the leadership of CISWG.

A team of five risk analysts from the USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is responsible for: Collecting relevant information through literature research, expert consultation, site visits, and mining of databases; evaluating, analyzing, organizing, and summarizing this information; and producing a comprehensive report. The project process allows for the participation of all nations of the Greater Caribbean Region, as well as major organizations or working groups (*e.g.*, CABI, CIRAD, *etc.*) operating in the Region.

What is the timeline for the Caribbean Pathway Analysis?

- September 2006: USDA-APHIS makes offer to assist CISWG in conducting analysis
- October 2006: CISWG acceptance of offer
- November 2006: Establish partnering responsibilities; planning and coordination
- December 2006: Begin data gathering and contacting experts
- August 2007: Risk Assessors officially start work on the project
- August 2008: Distribution of draft report for review
- October 2008: End of comment period
- December 2008: Revisions completed; delivery of final report to CISWG for distribution to stakeholders