



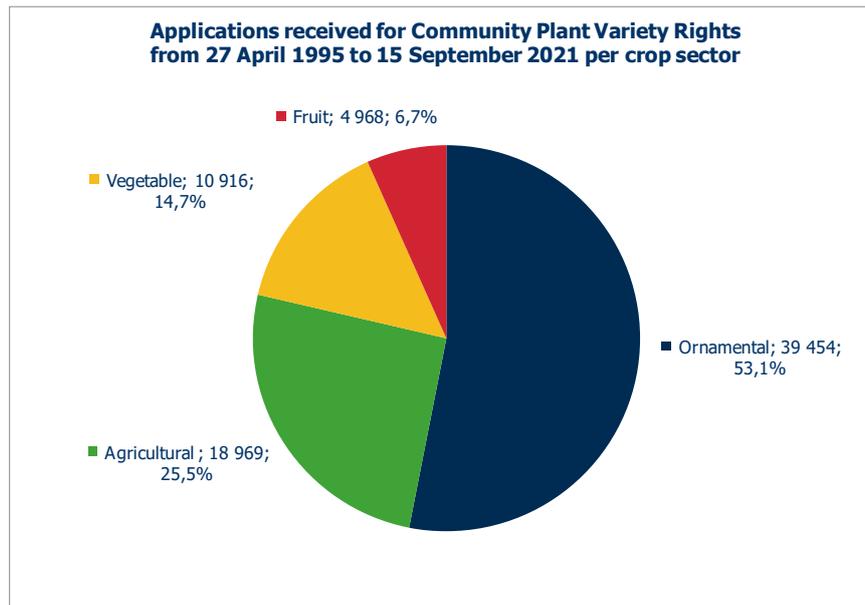
Ornamentals Production Committee Report: February 2022 – August 2022

Report Sparring Partner Group Novelty Protection and IP August 21- January 2022

Author: M. Buma, Advisory to Sparring Partner Group (SPG) Novelty Protection and IP

Ornamental Production: Novelty Protection Report. February - August 2022

Author: M. Buma, Advisor to AIPH - Novelty Protection and IP



CPVR applications by plant variety type. Source: CPVO

General:

During 2022, AIPH focussed on further deepening relationships and discussions with UPOV and the EU Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO). AIPH was able to do so thanks to gaining membership of the UPOV Working Group on Harvested Material (WG-HRV), and thanks to the invitations of CPVO. CPVO gathered information from its stakeholders in preparation for a new strategic plan 2023-2026 and, in that context, CPVO interviewed AIPH.

On 15 March 2022, the first virtual meeting of UPOV's WG-HRV took place. AIPH was able to provide new ideas and reflections on the current texts of three Explanatory Notes (EXN), concerning the plant variety principles of successively Harvested Material (HRV), Provisional Protection and Propagating Material.

AIPH was invited to contribute to a UPOV course that provided training for individuals ("trainers") who will themselves provide training to others on plant breeders' rights under the UPOV Convention. In this three day "train the trainer" course, Mia Buma represented AIPH, participating (virtually) in "Panel discussion: the role of plant breeding and plant variety protection to address global challenges and opportunities: breeders', farmers' and growers' perspectives".

In October 2022, UPOV is organising (partly virtual) seminars about the PBR effects in society. The topic will be '***The role of plant breeding and plant variety protection in enabling agriculture and horticulture to adapt to, and mitigate, climate change***'. AIPH worked in close cooperation with CIOPORA to send proposals to UPOV for specialised speakers on this issue from our industry's perspective, and UPOV has accepted these joint proposals. Registration for online participation is open https://www.upov.int/registration/en/form.jsp?registration_id=466

In August 2022, Audrey Timm attended the International Horticultural Congress in Angers, France. Amongst the 25 symposia in the programme, CPVO held a workshop to present the findings of investigations into the “Impact of the Community Plant Variety Rights System on the EU Economy and the Environment. A summary of the report is available for download in English or French.

https://cpvo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/execsum_plant_variety_study_en.pdf
https://cpvo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/execsum_plant_variety_study_fr.pdf

In the SPG-community AIPH is launching a new way and layout of informing SPG members. This will be in the format of a newsletter that is sent out to all SPG members, and a special section on the AIPH Community platform <https://community.aiph.org/> where members can access files and reports and engage in online discussions. The SPG welcomed Anneke van Dijk as a new member, representing LTO (Netherlands Agricultural and Horticultural Association), since Henk Raaijmakers left LTO. Nevertheless, Henk will stay as interested member, still very much involved in the subject through his presidency of the European Nursery Association (ENA).

AIPH focussed and/or took action in the following important issues in relation to the international PBR field:

1. Joint action by thirteen leading cut rose breeders, organised in CIOPORA and its Crop Section Cut Rose/IRBA (10 February 2022)

CIOPORA, its Crop Section Cut Rose/IRBA and the undersigned breeders, **dispatched a joint open letter to rose propagators and growers worldwide, asking them to observe breeders' Intellectual Property (IP) rights.**

The open letter stressed to cut rose propagators and growers the importance of prior authorisation by a title-holder for any use or sale of a protected variety, including cut flowers or any other part of plants. Plant material obtained from an unauthorised source constitutes a PBR infringement, both in the country where it is produced and the countries where it is sold. While the plants propagated or planted without authorisation are illegal and can be uprooted, the harvested cut flowers are illegal as well and can be seized either at the borders by customs, or at points of storage and sale in territories where PBR is in force. Breeders, therefore, invited all persons and companies to first always contact the PBR title-holder, seeking a written approval and a corresponding license.

2. Yearly bilateral meeting between AIPH and CPVO staff on 2 February 2022.

The SPG received the outcomes of this yearly bilateral meeting that took place by virtual means. Audrey Timm and Mia Buma represented AIPH. CPVO was represented by: Francesco Mattina (President), Gerhard Schuon (Head Technical Unit), Gregory Jones (Head IT Unit) and Dirk Theobald (Senior technical advisor). Many topics relevant to Plant Breeders Rights and other IP-rights were discussed during this meeting, and SPG-members received an overview of these topics to enable them to focus directly on those issues that were of particular importance to their own organisation or region. Topics included: the developments in applications and granted titles by CPVO in 2021; potential technical cooperation with the UK; cooperation between CPVO and the European Patent Organization (EPO); Revision of the International Relations Strategy.

3. Presentation headlines study benefits of the EU CPVR-system in past 25 years: Impact of EU Community Plant Variety Rights System on EU economy and environment, 28 April 2022.

The outcomes of the study ‘Benefits of the EU CPVR-system in past 25 years?’ were presented by CPVO. The study has examined many aspects of the contribution of the EU Community Plant Variety Right to Europe’s economy. SPG members were informed about registering for the event itself on 28th April 2022. For those who were no able to join, a resume of the main outcomes and clarifications was sent to the SPG.

The informative PPT, used by Mr. Nathan Wajzman, Chief Economist of EU Intellectual Property Office (IPO), to present the report at the webinar 28-4-2022, has been sent to the SPG as well.

The full report is posted on the AIPH Community Platform in the Novelty Protection Forum.

4. AIPH was interviewed by CPVO, aiming to prepare for a new CPVO strategic plan for the period until 2026 (18 March 2022)

In the process of gathering information from stakeholders to prepare a new CPVO strategic plan for the coming years, AIPH was one of the organisations that was interviewed. AIPH received four questions in advance, which were responded to by Mia Buma. The concerned document has been shared with the SPG-members.

5. Participation in first virtual meeting of the UPOV Working Group on Harvested Material (WG-HRV, 15 March 2022).

The UPOV Working Group (AIPH participates as a member) collaborates to prepare amendments to the Explanatory Note (EXN) on the principle of **Harvested Material** (HRV) in the UPOV Convention. There were no amendments of the concerned UPOV article on HRV itself (article 14, sub 2 of the UPOV Convention). On 15th March 2022, all working group members had the opportunity to explain their input (sent in writing in advance), could respond to each other's input and could give initial reactions and progressive insights.

The Working Group not only works on the EXN on HRV, but also on the EXN of the principle of **Propagating Material** (no special UPOV article) and the principle of **Provisional Protection** (Article 13 UPOV 1991 Convention).

AIPH collaborates in this Working Group with others in the plant breeders right-network, including CIOPORA, joint breeders organisations (ESA en ISF), NL Authority for Plant Breeders Rights, Plantum.

The discussions in the Working Group focus strongly on legal and legislative-technical aspects. As an unavoidable consequence, the discussions in the working group are rather abstract. The SPG has been informed about the outcomes and progress of the working group in detail. The preparations for the second meeting on September 6, has been completed. AIPH succeeded to send its further written comments before the deadline of 12th May 2022. For further details see note 1.

6. On 30 June 2022, the SPG received an update on:

1. Plant Variety Rights and Patent Right in relation to gene editing;
2. Improvement of the UPOV system through developing and updating its Explanatory Notes (EXN), especially the EXN's on Essentially Derived Varieties (EDV).
3. Stimulating countries who did not undersign UPOV '91 to do so; promoting fair trade and the use of license contracts.

Ad 1) Plant Variety Rights and Patent Right in relation to gene editing

This is, and will be, an important point of discussion in the near future. The International Seed Federation (ISF) has prepared the following FAQ list on the subject:

<https://worldseed.org/resources/faqs/>

Ad 2) UPOV explanatory notes on EDV

AIPH did not apply for membership of the UPOV working group of EDV, knowing that it is primarily a juridical issue between breeders. In 2020, AIPH sent a supporting letter to UPOV, expressing AIPH's fully support to the plea of the joint breeders to UPOV to open-up the UPOV explanatory notes on EDV and to provide a clear, consistent and sufficiently broad interpretation of the EDV concept in the UPOV 1991 Convention. The current breeders' proposals would be of great to clarify the EXN on EDV. However, a very small number of UPOV member countries seem to be blocking the proposals for the new explanatory note within UPOV. This explains the delay and why the EDV-working group still could not finish its task.

The need to clarify the EDV principle is more urgent than ever, now that many more mutants are expected through the use of CRISPR (both for gene function analysis and for direct targeted mutagenesis). Recently, the joint breeders discussed this urgency with UPOV's chairman of the Council and with UPOV's secretary general. However, within its procedures, UPOV has few

possibilities to address countries directly, and other ways to clarify the EXN on EDV have to be found.

Ad 3) Stimulating countries who did not undersign UPOV '91 to do so; Promoting fair trade and use of license contracts.

The joint breeder's organisations are supporting compliance by their members, they are exchanging good practices and broadly promoting awareness about PVR and other IP-rights. Their aim is to prevent the violation of PVR/IP's. They work on 'good practice guidelines' and 'enforcement toolkits' for regions with the greatest problems. Although these actions are focusing on agriculture, horticulture also benefits from these developments.

ISF seeks cooperation with organisations such as CIOFORA, SIPA (Seed Innovation and Protection Alliance, active in USA region), AIB (Anti Infringement Bureau) and Breeder's Trust, that have extensive experience in investigating and tackling illegal propagation and trade. It could be helpful to create insight in the economical and societal effects and consequences of illegal trade, convincing authorities to undertake more action to enforce PVR and other IP-rights. Finally, it is important to continue to stimulate countries who did not undersign the UPOV 1991 Convention yet, to do so.

7) AIPH completed and submitted (deadline 22 July) the EU Public Consultation on plants produced by certain new genomic techniques (NGT's).

In the last decades, advances in biotechnology have led to the development of NGT's. These are techniques capable of altering the genetic material of an organism that have emerged or have been developed since 2001. Within the EU, organisms produced by targeted mutagenesis are considered to be GMO's subject to the requirements of the [EU GMO legislation](#). On other continents, NGT's are not classified as GMO's, resulting in an unlevel playing field world-wide in the use of NGT's.

In 2019, the EU Council commissioned a study on the status of NGT's under EU law, and submitted a proposal accompanied by an impact assessment. The [study](#), published in April 2021, made, amongst others, these important conclusions: The current GMO legislation has clear implementation challenges and requires contentious legal interpretation to address new techniques and applications, and there are strong indications that it is not fit for purpose for some NGT's and their products, needing adaptation to scientific and technological progress.

In the Public Consultation Questionnaire, AIPH gave input from the ornamental growers' point of view. Since AIPH represents and promotes the work of its members -the grower organisations worldwide - supporting the goal of a level playing field in the use of NGT's is not in dispute. Besides, by answering the consultation, AIPH builds on its position as the world's champion for the power of plants. With its contribution, AIPH continues to follow and influence the latest developments and thoughts about NGT's for the benefit of its members.

SPG members received the AIPH-answers to the Questionnaire, and EU members were asked to use this information within their own organisations. For non- EU- members the document is of relevance as well, because of the clear introduction and explanation of the several NGT's in this document and because of the importance of the subject of NGT's for our ornamental industry as a whole.

Note 1:

In its virtual meeting (22nd October 2021), the SPG received an introduction of the principle of Harvested Material (HRV) by Prof. Dr. Axel Metzger. He explained the position of harvested material within the scope of protection of plant breeders' rights. It is clear that this matter does directly concern the growers, as producers of HRV. This discussion has also become essential due to the EU Court decision in the Nadorcott case. This case made clear that the official explanation of UPOV, which was formulated in the EXN on HRV in 2013, is too narrow, which renders the PBR right meaningless, especially for vegetatively propagated material (fruit, floriculture). The UPOV working group on harvested material (WG-HRV) is working on a clearer interpretation of the principles of 1) unauthorized use of propagating material, 2) provisional

protection (during the period between the application for and the grant of a PBR right) and 3) propagating material.

Plant Health Report

Author: Dr Audrey Timm, Technical Advisor to AIPH.

AIPH Plant Health activities:

In progressing the recommendations from the AIPH 2021 Plant Health Survey report (posted on the AIPH Community Platform), AIPH has secured a place in the programme of the first International Plant Health Conference.

The First International Plant Health Conference aims to address new and emerging plant health challenges, including climate change impacts, the significant increase in international trade, the rapid loss of biological diversity and new pest pathways such as e-commerce by exploring more efficient national, regional and global policies, structures and mechanisms.



The Conference will be held in London, the United Kingdom on 21 – 23 September 2022 and is co-organized by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) of the United Kingdom (UK) and the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations

AIPH, in collaboration with the Plant Health Alliance <https://planthealthy.org.uk/plant-health-alliance> was successful in an application to hold a side event. *(The Alliance is a cross-sectoral group with membership organisations spanning ornamental horticulture, forestry and general land management as well trade associations, environmental NGOs and government. The purpose of the Alliance is to promote and enhance plant health and biosecurity measures to protect plant species and associated ecosystems (natural capital) in the United Kingdom and beyond.)*

In addition to formal conference presentations, the programme of IPHC 2022 includes selected interactive side events that explore and deliver on themes aligned with the International Year of Plant Health 2020.

The AIPH-PHA side event delivers on the recommendations in the AIPH 2021 Plant Health Survey. It aims to establish open collaboration and support for an in-depth global benchmarking study of voluntary standards in the ornamental horticulture industry, leading to the preparation of a ‘white paper’ that reviews the current interaction between voluntary plant health standards and national regulations, demonstrating limitations and identifying opportunities for improvement.

The AIPH -PHA side event is at 12.15 on 23rd September in the session on Safe Trade.

Full title: Systems approaches – exploring shared responsibility to enhance safe and efficient trade of amenity and ornamental plant material

Outline: This side event will explore opportunities for co-designed national and international plant biosecurity initiatives by highlighting the United Kingdom’s Plant Health Management Standard as a case study. The session will facilitate a discussion with conference delegates to identify how pest risks from ornamental horticulture are managed, with a view to sharing knowledge and inspiring further cooperation between NPPOs and trade partners.

Organisers: International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH) and Plant Health Alliance (PHA)

Facilitator: Tim Briercliffe, Secretary General, International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH)

Mr Alistair Yeomans, Plant Health Alliance

Nicola Spence, UK Chief Plant Health Officer

Thembalani Theophilus Pongolo, Scientist Manager, Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, South Africa

Mr Tim Edwards, Boningale Nursery, UK

Report on Plant Health, Invasive Plants and CITES

A. Plant Health

1. EU regulations

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2022/490 of 25 March 2022 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 as regards certain plants for planting of *Juglans regia* L., *Nerium oleander* L. and *Robinia pseudoacacia* L. originating in Turkey, and amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1213 as regards the phytosanitary measures for the introduction of those plants for planting into the Union territory: This regulation amendment states the requirement for plants for planting of these species to be free from specific pests. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32022R0490&from=EN>

High Risk Plants:

The EU list of high-risk plants (HRPs) in Annex I of Regulation 2018/2019 are prohibited from export to the EU pending a risk assessment by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). Since the 1st January 2021 these prohibitions have applied to Great Britain, which means the relevant list of HRPs cannot be exported to the EU or moved to Northern Ireland.

Furthermore, the UK was not able to submit dossiers until after this date. In 2022, UK DEFRA submitted dossiers for;

Crataegus monogyna

Acer platanoides

Acer palmatum

Acer pseudoplatanus

Acer campestre

Quercus robur

Quercus petraea

Fagus sylvatica

On 30th August 2022, the committee considered:

5.1. Dossier submitted by the UK on *Ligustrum japonicum* (EFSA-Q-2021-00795)⁷ and *Ligustrum delavayanum* (EFSA-Q-2021-00796)⁸

The WG addressed the comments submitted by the PLH Panel members on the draft opinion and finalised the draft opinion for possible adoption by the PLH Panel.

5.2. Dossier submitted by the UK on *Acer campestre* (EFSA-Q-2022-00339)⁹, *Acer palmatum* (EFSA-Q-2022-00346)¹⁰, *Acer platanoides* (EFSA-Q-2022-00347)¹¹ and *Acer pseudoplatanus* (EFSA-Q-2022-00348)¹²

The WG started to review and evaluate the pest list for *Acer* species with respect to the dossiers submitted by the UK.

5.3. Dossier submitted by the UK on *Fagus sylvatica* (EFSA-Q-2022-00459)¹³, *Quercus petraea* (EFSA-Q-2022-00460)¹⁴ and *Quercus robur* (EFSA-Q-2022-00461)¹⁵

The Working group started to analyse and discuss the HRP-dossiers submitted by the UK on *Fagus sylvatica*, *Quercus petraea* and *Quercus robur* and decided on the criteria on how to compile the pest lists.

The next web-meeting is scheduled on 19 and 20 September 2022.

EPPO

The 81st Meeting of the Panel on Global Phytosanitary Affairs took place in Paris in April 2022., 2022-04-19/20

The meeting focussed on the review of the draft Standards, which were for consultation amongst the members of the Standards Committee (SC). The Panel studied the drafts in order to provide inputs from the EPPO region to European SC members. Discussions focussed on the following drafts which may be shared by the IPPC Secretariat for the first round of consultation in July 2022:

- 2022 Amendments to ISPM 5 Glossary of phytosanitary terms
- Annex to ISPM 38 on the design and use of systems approaches for phytosanitary certification of seeds
- Annex to ISPM 37 on criteria for determining host status of fruit to fruit flies based on available information

The Panel members also studied the drafts ISPMs which will be considered by the SC for approval for the second round of consultation:

- 2021 Amendments to ISPM 5 Glossary of phytosanitary terms
- Annex to ISPM 20 on the use of specific import authorizations
- Revision of ISPM 4 Requirements for the establishment of pest free areas
- Revision of ISPM 18 Requirements for the use of irradiation as a phytosanitary measure

The Panel members were updated on recent IPPC discussions, including those of the CPM Bureau, the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) and the Technical Consultation (TC) among RPPOs.

Plant protection products

EFSA holds a list of databases on registered plant protection products in the EPPO region https://www.eppo.int/ACTIVITIES/plant_protection_products/registered_products

On 22nd June 2022, the EU Commission proposed new rules to reduce the use and risk of pesticides in the EU, delivering on the Farm to Fork Strategy objective of a fair, healthy and environmentally respectful food system.

They introduce:

Legally binding targets: binding EU-level targets to reduce by 50% the use and risk of chemical pesticides and the use of the more hazardous pesticides by 2030. Member States will have to set their own reduction targets within clearly defined parameters as well as their own strategies to ensure that the EU wide target is achieved collectively.

Strict new rules to enforce environmentally friendly pest control: a comprehensive new enforcement framework to ensure that all farmers practice Integrated Pest Management 'IPM', in which all alternative methods of pest control are considered first, before chemical pesticides can be used as a last resort measure.

A ban on the use of all pesticides in sensitive areas: the use of all pesticides is prohibited in sensitive areas (and within 3 metres of these areas), such as public parks or gardens, playgrounds, recreation or sports grounds, public paths, as well as ecologically sensitive areas

Exceptional EU support: Farmers will be supported by the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in this transition: for 5 years, Member States can use the CAP to cover the costs of the new requirements for farmers.

The new rules will be laid down in a Regulation, which is directly binding on all Member States.

These rules translate the commitment to halt biodiversity loss in Europe into action, to protect health, to help build sustainable food systems in line with the European Green Deal and to ensure lasting food security. They are a recognition that tackling climate and environmental-related challenges is this generation's defining task.#

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_22_3694

2. *Xylella fastidiosa* in Europe and globally

Emergency measures against *Xylella fastidiosa* remain high on the agenda of the European Commission.

In June 2022, EFSA released a publication: Update of the *Xylella* spp. host plant database – systematic literature search up to 31 December 2021.

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/7356>

In summary the report states:

This Scientific report provides an update of the *Xylella* spp. host plant database, aiming to provide information and scientific support to risk assessors, risk managers and researchers dealing with *Xylella* spp. Upon a mandate of the European Commission, EFSA created and regularly updated a database of host plant species of *Xylella* spp. The current mandate covers the period 2021–2026. This report is related to the sixth version of the database published in Zenodo in the EFSA Knowledge Junction community, covering literature published from 1 July 2021 up to 31 December 2021, and recent Europhyt outbreak notifications

<https://zenodo.org/communities/efsa-kj/about/>. Informative data have been extracted from 29 selected publications. Eleven new host plants were identified and added to the database: six plant species naturally infected by subsp. multiplex of *X. fastidiosa* in the EU (France, Italy and Portugal) and five plant species artificially infected by different *X. fastidiosa* subspecies (multiplex, pauca, fastidiosa and sandyi). No additional data were retrieved for *X. taiwanensis*. New information on the tolerant/resistant response of plant species to *X. fastidiosa* infection were added, while no new STs have been identified worldwide compared to the previous update published in January 2022. The overall number of *Xylella* spp. host plants determined with at least two different detection methods or positive with one method (between: sequencing, pure culture isolation) reaches now 412 plant species, 190 genera and 68 families. Such numbers rise to 664 plant species, 299 genera and 88 families if considered regardless of the detection methods applied.

The list of new host species is uploaded onto the AIPH Community platform. This represent the VERSION 6 of the *Xylella* spp. host plants database. For a detailed description of the information included in the database, please consult the related scientific report (EFSA, 2022). *EFSA (European Food Safety Authority), Delbianco A, Gibin D, Pasinato L, Boscia D and Morelli M, 2022. Scientific Report on the update of the Xylella spp. host plant database – systematic literature search up to 31 December 2021. EFSA Journal 2022;20(6):7356, 70 pp. https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2022.7356*

The full list of host species evaluated to 15th June 2022 and results can be downloaded https://zenodo.org/record/6630495#.YxGz_XbMKUK.

3. International Year of Plant Health (IYPH)

The final International Plant Health Conference "Protecting Plant Health in a changing world" was postponed from July 2021 to May 2022, and then was further rescheduled to September 2022. It will now be held in London from 21st – 23rd September 2022. AIPH is collaborating with the Plant Health Alliance to present a side event.

B. Invasive alien plants

Lysichiton americanus has been added to the list in 2022 [A2 in 2005 but deleted in 2009 – then Observation List and IAP List in 2022]

C. CITES

The 74th meeting of the Standing Committee took place 7-11 March 2022 in Lyon, France. More than four hundred delegates and observers from around the world attended this meeting which was critical in paving the way towards the meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19) – CITES' ultimate decision-making body - which this year meets in Panama in November. CITES decisions are crucial as part of their mission to regulate the international trade in the wild fauna and flora to support conservation and protect biodiversity. Full details of the 5 day conference are available online. <https://cites.org/eng/meetings/sc>

The next (26th) meeting of the Plant Committee will take place in 2023.

Sustainability Report

Author: Dr Audrey Timm.

AIPH Sustainability Survey 2021

The final report has been prepared and is available for download to AIPH members on the AIPH Community platform. This report identifies sustainability issues that the industry is addressing, some factors that aren't addressed in all regions, and highlights the need for a consistent message reflecting the sustainability position of the industry that is communicated widely.

The recommendation from the Sustainability survey is to develop a robust online, annual survey that captures the intention, action, and leadership of the global ornamental horticulture industry in our commitment to a sustainable future for the industry and the planet. An annual survey would enable the industry to take account of evolving policies, standards, best practices and technology, and share what we learn. AIPH will design the survey format and process, and request the support of its member to contribute. It is anticipated that this survey will be in place early in 2023.

Floriculture Sustainability Initiative

FSI organised the first Working Group Integrated Reporting on 24 May, 2022. In this WG FSI invited speakers to prepare members for integrated reporting in line with the CSRD, EU Due Diligence requirements and SBTi. This WG kickstarted the third pillar of the FSI2025 strategy, responding to increased attention from consumers, media and investors. AIPH Technical Adviser, Audrey Timm, attended the online workshop to hear about basic principles of reporting in the context of OECD due diligence and about the preliminary basic requirements of the EU Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD). The EU is leading on sustainability reporting, and other regions can learn and adopt processes ahead of mandatory reporting becoming common practice.

AIPH Energy Review 2022

In response to rapidly increasing energy prices, AIPH conducted a preliminary survey of how the energy crisis is affecting the industry, and how likely is this impact to change the dynamics of business strategies. The review was conducted using 2 methods: an online survey asking questions about energy use and the impact of changing regulations and increasing energy costs on future trends in the industry, and targeted interviews to understand specific details of these trends. A report from this survey will be posted on the AIPH Community Forum. In summary, the findings suggest that there are efficiencies in energy that can be implemented in the ornamental horticulture industry through use of different light sources and different greenhouse claddings, as well as automated monitoring and delivery of light and water. These are costly interventions however, and it is unlikely that existing growers will make full use of these efficiencies. Certainly, new growers in the industry have the opportunity to construct energy efficient setups. Some countries have support from their governments in terms of reduced energy tariffs and additional incentives to adopt more energy efficient systems. However, this is not a global trend, and the industry faces an uncertain future. Some alternative energy sources are moving beyond the trial phase and may offer significant advantages but only in some regions. Businesses that already grow indoor and outdoor plants, may shift towards more outdoor products, however a complete shift across the industry is unlikely in the short term.

IGOTY 2022

The awards ceremony for the International Grower of the Year. IGOTY 2022, was held at GreenTech, Amsterdam on 16th June, 2022. <https://aiph.org/floraculture/news/metrolina-wins-igoty-2022/>

Metrolina Greenhouses, a USA-based ornamentals grower, was awarded the title of International Grower of the Year (IGOTY) 2022.

Other IGOTY 2022 category winners were:

Young International Grower of the Year: Pablo Bazzani

Young Plants

Gold: Wagagai Ltd, Uganda

Silver: Jens Meyer Jungpflanzen, Germany

Finished Plants & Trees

Gold: Metrolina Greenhouses, USA

Silver: Bunnik Group Bv., Netherlands

Bronze: Brookdale Treeland Nurseries Limited, Canada

Cut Flowers & Bulbs

Gold: Matina Flowers S.A.S, Colombia

Silver: Prim'rose (SCA Clementine), Morocco

Bronze: Luxaflor Roses, Zimbabwe

Sustainability

Gold: Brookdale Treeland Nurseries Limited, Canada

Silver: Wagagai Limited, Uganda

Bronze: Sitio Kolibri, Brazil the Year, IGOTY 2022, was held at GreenTech, Amsterdam, on 16th June, 2022.

In addition to the invitation-only evening event that celebrated the winners, Green Tech included an announcement of the winners in a live session at the show on the morning following the awards, giving additional recognition for the winners and extra exposure for the supporters of IGOTY.

The IGOTY 2022 Awards are supported by headline sponsor Royal FloraHolland, founding partner FloraCulture International, sapphire sponsor Expo 2021 Hatay, ruby sponsors GreenTech and GLOBALG.A.P. and GGN Label, pearl sponsor Freddie's Flowers, flower sponsor Dutch Flower Group, and awards partners CIOPORA and World Horti Center.