

AM19002 Building Capacity in Irradiation

International phytosanitary irradiation workshop
Steritech

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Contents

INTRODUCTION	4
Workshop Program.....	4
Countries in attendance	5
IMRP20 Conference evaluation	5
Workshop outcomes for AM19902 and the Australian Horticulture Sector	6
Contacts and further resources:.....	6

INTRODUCTION

Component 3.4 of project AM19002 required participation in an international workshop to advance the development of phytosanitary irradiation for Australia's horticultural export industry.

The travel disruption caused by the COVID pandemic, and the loss of USDA funding for the Chapman University Phytosanitary Irradiation Forum in 2020 left the phytosanitary irradiation industry without an international event. The growing industry also had a need for events to attract and engage wider stakeholder group (commercial, research, regulatory) for effective ongoing development.

The Phytosanitary Irradiation Platform (PsIP) was established in 2021 by the International Irradiation Association (IIA) as a solution. PsIP was developed with input from industry, to support the ongoing development of the global phytosanitary irradiation industry and its stakeholders.

The first PsIP Forum was held in Bangkok on November 8-9th 2022, in conjunction with the 20th International Meeting of Radiation Processors (IMRP20). The event attracted over 300 stakeholders from 50 different countries.

Workshop Program

The program was broken into three streams including Radiation Technology, Radiation Sterilisation, and for the first time a dedicated PsIP stream for Phytosanitary Irradiation. The organising committee for the Phytosanitary Forum consisted of Yves Henon (IIA, France) Dr. Peter Roberts (Radservices, New Zealand) and Ben Reilly (Steritech, Australia). The latter two being delivery partners of AM19002.

The PsIP Forum 2-day agenda re-united a growing global industry and facilitated information sharing across a diverse group of regions and stakeholder groups. The sessions were delivered by 22 speakers from 12 countries and provided a balanced agenda for all stake holders and levels of experience.

The content was delivered by a balance of industry, government and research representatives providing rounded perspective on each of the six focused sessions.

1. Commercial trade
2. Post-harvest research
3. Efficacy research
4. Infrastructure and technology development
5. Regulatory development
6. Panel discussion and closing

Several components of the agenda were presented by AM19002 delivery partners. These components included:

Session 1: Commercial Trade Update Sponsored by Steritech

- Dr. Peter Roberts: Introduction, and session moderator
- Ben Reilly: "Australian Commercial Update" presentation

Session 2: Post Harvest Research Sponsored by Steritech

- Dr. John Golding: Introduction and session moderator

Session 3: Treatment Efficacy Research

Dr Peter Roberts: Introduction and session moderator

Session 5: Regulatory Development

Ben Reilly: "Commercial Perspective on National Regulations"

Dr Peter Roberts: "Maximum energy level for X-rays – CODEX or Economics"

Session 6: Panel Discussion and Closing

Ben Reilly: Panelist

Dr Peter Roberts: Closing comments

The full event agenda is available at <https://iia.tech4pco.com/webapp/search?q=Phyto->

Countries in attendance

Countries in attendance included:

- Argentina
- India
- Indonesia
- Israel
- Canada
- France
- Pakistan
- Philippines
- Japan
- New Zealand
- Mexico
- South Korea
- South Africa
- Thailand
- United Kingdom
- United States of America
- Vietnam

Australia was represented by 14 attendees from organisations that included:

- Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Cherry Growers Australia
- New South Wales Department of Primary Industries
- South Australian Government, Trade and Invest
- South Australian Fresh Produce Markets
- Steritech

IMRP20 Conference evaluation

During the closing session of IMRP20, a live audience survey highlighted Phytosanitary Irradiation as one of the key areas of interest during the event. The board of IIA has further invited Australia's leadership in the global phytosanitary industry by inviting Ben Reilly, Steritech to join the IIA Membership Committee, and to lead the ongoing development of PsIP and related events, in a voluntary capacity.

Workshop outcomes for AM19902 and the Australian Horticulture Sector

1. Established a global event for regulators, researchers, and industry stakeholders.
2. Established new contacts to assist Australia's ongoing phytosanitary irradiation and trade development.
3. Promoted an efficient and effective R&D strategies between Australia and its trade partners.
4. Maintained Australia's reputation expertise in and development of phytosanitary irradiation.
5. Delivered learnings from AM19002 project components 1.3, 2.1 & 2.3

Contacts and further resources:

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IIA website: www.iiaglobal.com

PsIP website: www.psiglobal.org

IMRP20 website: www.imrp-ia.com.



Top left: Dr. John Golding, (NSW DPI, Australia) presenting an overview of post-harvest research on irradiation in Australia, including a collaborative effort working with Chapman University under AM19002.

Top right: Dr Peter Roberts (Radservices, New Zealand) moderated two sessions and presented on Australia's case for lifting maximum X-ray energy limits in line with other regional standards.

Middle left: PsIP attendees (L to R) James Allan (DAFF, Australia) Dinh Thi Anh Tuyet (VPPD, Vietnam) Mr Omura (Yokohama PPS MAFF, Japan) Ben Reilly (Steritech, Australia)

Middle right: Cory Penca (USDA-APHIS, USA) presented on the USDA irradiation program along with a second presentation on research in the USA which included work on vectoring of zebra chip by TPP.

Bottom left & right: PsIP venue and audience

