

DIAROD COST Meeting May 24 2013: Working Group 2 – The environment: determining the risk of DNB

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Task 3: Influence of environment on DNB - studying environmental factors to understand present disease and predict future trends

Option A - review environmental factors determining risk

Option B – conduct research on environmental factors determining risk of DNB

Survey sent out to participants covering effects of: Soil, temp, humidity etc.

Replies received from 12 countries. All interested in contributing to a review. 9/12 prepared to initiate studies.

Two options for a survey:

1. Use National Forest Inventory Stands or the European Level 1 Network to check for presence of Dothistroma – and use the associated environmental data (soil, climate etc.) (3 countries interested)
2. Carry out a specific survey – several host species, network of stands, collection of additional environmental data necessary (damage, dendrometric variables, soil properties, climatic variables, forest management). (7 countries interested)

71% participants willing to assess forest health condition, 29% willing to do partial assessments

57% willing to collect dendrological variables

75% had access to digital climatic data

88% had access to digital or similar soils data

Numbers of stands available for surveys varied between countries. E.g. 13% of participants had around 300 stands available, 13% only had around 10 stands. 63% did not know.

Comments and discussion

Benoit Marcais – although France already surveys 150 stands, the number available for this specific survey would depend on the type/complexity of data collected.

Anna Brown – please re-send the questionnaire. There are new participants, and some countries never replied but are interested

Anna Brown – Maybe have a core of some countries with detailed surveys, then a wider group of participants interested in different aspects.

Iben Thomsen – set out specific data requirements i.e. type, format. We could ask our national inventories specific questions. Most of us can do a 'light' survey. Some urgency as surveys about to start now

Thomas Kirisits– who's doing severity assessments? Review procedures used in different countries and encourage cooperation.

Anna Brown – Agreed that surveillance and monitoring can be the topic of a training school in year 3 or 4.

General discussion on Climex modelling.

General discussion on distribution/numbers of plots within the 12 countries who responded. Do they cover areas within high DNB infection? Can we be confident of the data? Data still valuable even if indicating no presence at this time.