Dear Colleagues,

I trust this message finds you in good health and high spirits and hopefully already in Kenya. I write to you today with a profound sense of enthusiasm and a dedicated commitment to the collaborative efforts between the International Seed Federation (ISF) and the International Pest Risk Research Group (IPRRG). We, the stakeholders of the private seed sector, represent a diverse array of individuals and organizations, ranging from cooperatives and family-owned enterprises to small and medium-sized companies, as well as multinational corporations, all operating across the globe. Our shared vision is one where ample supplies of affordable, safe, and nutritious food are produced sustainably, without compromising the well-being of economies, societies, or the environments of future generations. Take a look at our key strategic objectives to understand what ISF is about [https://youtu.be/EKcG6XLTEjw](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2FEKcG6XLTEjw&data=05%7C01%7Cfrank.h.koch%40usda.gov%7C48ffbbf8bd3c4681793408dbb94c210e%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638307508848266576%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=rpMpz9Gt0fx%2F%2F9j%2FJBH6aYNDHh8y2B511SvHMUPdvTA%3D&reserved=0)

I am writing to propose Switzerland as the host country for the forthcoming IPRRG meeting in 2024. Switzerland, with its rich agricultural heritage, cutting-edge research institutions, and stunning landscapes, provides an ideal backdrop for fostering international collaboration and knowledge exchange. Our proposal underscores Switzerland's unwavering commitment to advancing research while ensuring a memorable and productive experience for all IPRRG participants.

Proposed Venue:

We propose hosting the meeting in the picturesque city of Zurich, Switzerland's financial and academic nucleus. Zurich boasts world-class conference facilities and a robust transportation network, ensuring convenient access for attendees from around the world. The city's cultural diversity and natural beauty will undoubtedly enrich the overall meeting experience.

Link [https://www.youtube.com/redirect?event=video\_description&redir\_token=QUFFLUhqbHBqNWpTLTRDTnlNWXZMcEU4a0x6Z3ltTFIxd3xBQ3Jtc0tucEREeWNQd00yR1FwX25Fei1tc1dBNHVoVFFSSW9ueHBxdDFsS1ZUTTRjbndsaDF0djdfcFZpNkRXQ0tpSjdGTnJKR3NrWWRNa3RGM3hRM0FWQnM0S2sxaldyZlk2N0h1SWpnTWJ0RHBOOEl4VlhwUQ&q=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.zuerich.com%2FOut-of-Town](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fredirect%3Fevent%3Dvideo_description%26redir_token%3DQUFFLUhqbHBqNWpTLTRDTnlNWXZMcEU4a0x6Z3ltTFIxd3xBQ3Jtc0tucEREeWNQd00yR1FwX25Fei1tc1dBNHVoVFFSSW9ueHBxdDFsS1ZUTTRjbndsaDF0djdfcFZpNkRXQ0tpSjdGTnJKR3NrWWRNa3RGM3hRM0FWQnM0S2sxaldyZlk2N0h1SWpnTWJ0RHBOOEl4VlhwUQ%26q%3Dhttps%253A%252F%252Fwww.zuerich.com%252FOut-of-Town&data=05%7C01%7Cfrank.h.koch%40usda.gov%7C48ffbbf8bd3c4681793408dbb94c210e%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638307508848266576%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=aZdjGqxfBbH8CjAe2iYq0pyNkSBFzpra92Zi6P8AXAM%3D&reserved=0)

Conference Dates:

Our proposal suggests scheduling the meeting for early September, aligning well with the availability of key speakers and participants. These dates also coincide with Switzerland's favourable weather conditions, guaranteeing that attendees can relish their stay to the fullest.

Themes and Topics:

The meeting's agenda will encompass a broad spectrum of themes and topics relevant to pest risk surveillance and risk assessment .

A proposed theme would be:

*Sustainable Agriculture and Global Food Security: Novel technologies and tools for pest surveillance and early detection.*

Accessibility:

Switzerland is renowned for its exceptional connectivity, including Zurich's well-connected international airport, which offers direct flights to major global destinations.

We firmly believe that hosting the next IPRRG meeting in Switzerland will not only provide a stimulating scientific environment but also deliver a memorable and culturally enriching experience for all attendees.

I eagerly await the opportunity to engage in further discussions regarding this proposal and to address any questions or concerns you may have.

Thank you for considering our proposal. I look forward to the prospect of welcoming the IPRRG community to our beautiful country.

Regards,

