



Department of
**AGRICULTURE
FISHERIES &
FORESTRY -
AUSTRALIA**



6 May 2002

PLANT BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2002/18

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS –BANANAS FROM THE PHILIPPINES

This Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (PBPM) notifies stakeholders of the availability of a document containing technical information compiled as a resource for the Risk Analysis Panel (RAP) during the development of the Draft Import Risk Analysis (IRA) Report. It represents a preliminary overview of the pest categorisation and related technical information that has been collated by Biosecurity Australia from information gathered by the three Technical Working Groups (TWGs) established by the RAP.

PBPM 2002/17 of 24 April 2002 provided stakeholders with a copy of the report of the Chairs' of the TWGs visit to the Philippines and encouraged stakeholders to provide any technical information relevant to the IRA.

The purpose of this PBPM is to notify stakeholders of the availability of a document containing technical information related to the proposal to import fresh bananas from the Philippines. The purpose of the paper is to provide a resource for the RAP during the development of the draft IRA for this proposed import. It represents a preliminary overview of the pest categorisation and related technical information that has been collated by Biosecurity Australia from information gathered by the three TWGs established by the RAP. The paper is available on the AFFA Website at <http://www.affa.gov.au/plantbiosecurity>. The size of the document (391 pages), means that stakeholders may find it easier to read it from our website. Copies can also be requested from the contact point below.

The focus of this paper is on summarising relevant technical information assembled to date about the potential pests and diseases of quarantine concern associated with Philippines bananas. The paper is intended to aid technical discussion about pest and disease issues related to this import proposal. It also aims to help stakeholders understand the method that will be used by the RAP to conduct the risk analysis.

The document contains the following information:

- A description of the methodology proposed for each component of the IRA
- The interim results of the pest categorisation
- A report of technical information relating to pathogens
- A report of technical information relating to arthropods
- A report of technical information relating to horticulture, environment and operations
- Relevant pest data sheets.

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Stakeholders should note that the paper is a working document. It is intended only as an interim collation of information. As additional information becomes available, including by way of comments and information received from stakeholders in response to this paper, it will be considered by the RAP in the development of the Draft IRA Report.

Biosecurity Australia will arrange meetings to consult with stakeholders on the technical information paper. Stakeholders are encouraged to use the information contained in this document as a background resource, should they be interested in participating in the workshops. Comments or additional information from stakeholders would be appreciated by 5 June 2002, so that the RAP can take these inputs into account in their work on the Draft IRA Report.

Please note the technical information paper does not cover the assessment of risk or possible risk management measures for quarantine pests or diseases. These will be addressed at the draft IRA stage. The purpose of the Draft IRA Report will be to provide a comprehensive assessment of the quarantine risks associated with Philippine bananas, to assess whether those risks can be addressed by means of quarantine measures, and, if so, propose draft quarantine measures for Philippines bananas for consideration and comment by stakeholders.

Stakeholders wishing to receive regular updates on the progress of this risk analysis or information on how to lodge contributions can join the Biosecurity Australia stakeholder register by contacting:

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GPO Box 858
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Tel: (02) 6272 5094
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Stakeholders are encouraged to make submissions electronically.

Confidentiality

Respondents are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received in response to Plant Biosecurity Policy Memoranda will be publicly available and may be listed or referred to in any papers or reports prepared on the subject matter of the memoranda.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reveal the identity of a respondent unless a request for anonymity accompanies the submission. Where a request for anonymity does not accompany the submission the respondent will be taken to have consented to the disclosure of his or her identity for the purposes of Information Privacy Principle 11 of the Privacy Act.

The contents of the submission will not be treated as confidential unless they are marked 'confidential' and they are capable of being classified as such in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

Consultation

If you wish to suggest inclusion of an additional stakeholder in our distribution list for this IRA, or if you wish to be removed from the distribution list, please provide details to Technical and Administrative Services at the address above.

Information on all IRAs being conducted by Plant Biosecurity is available on the web at <http://www.affa.gov.au/plantbiosecurity>.

Brian Stynes
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Plant Biosecurity