



Subcommittee on Domestic Quarantine and Market Access Communiqué—SDQMA43

The Subcommittee on Domestic Quarantine and Market Access (SDQMA) met on 2-3 October 2014 in Canberra. Regular meetings of the subcommittee ensure continued communication between members on regulatory arrangements for domestic quarantine and trade. The key issues discussed are highlighted below.

Quarantine Domestic website

The subcommittee acknowledged that the public play an important role in biosecurity, and therefore need to be aware of interstate quarantine conditions to ensure inadvertent pest spread. The Quarantine Domestic website is the key tool for communicating biosecurity to the public, including domestic travellers; however, it has become outdated. The subcommittee agreed to refresh and enhance the website, making it contemporary, to engage the public more effectively. SDQMA have increased the funds set aside for the website review.

Trade framework – seed potato – graduate project

The Department of Agriculture updated the subcommittee on a project they had initiated to look at harmonising domestic and export trade requirements for seed potatoes. The basis of the analysis was the trade framework agreed by Plant Health Committee to guide efforts to better align interstate and export trade. The department's graduate team had worked with Victoria, South Australia and representatives of the potato seed industry on the project. Recommendations for opportunities to improve seed potato trade arrangements will be provided in due course.

BioSecure HACCP pilot

The subcommittee recognised the success of the Biosecure HACCP pilot for the nursery industry and acknowledged that it was a notable initiative of the Nursery and Garden Industry of Australia (NGIA). The trial had run for approximately 12 months and subsequently been audited. SDQMA reviewed the audit report and believed it to be a system that could deliver an effective mechanism for the nursery industry to certify for interstate movement of nursery stock. The subcommittee noted that the NGIA were responding to recommendations in the audit report.

Due to the success of the pilot, the subcommittee agreed to the NGIA conducting a national trial of the program for a 3-yr period starting on 1 January 2015, which would extend the system to all jurisdictions. In agreeing to a national trial, SDQMA recognised that the initiative provided important benefits and efficiencies to businesses.



Soil sampling for detection of PCN in seed potato productions

The subcommittee considered the initiative from NSW, Victoria and the Crookwell growers for an under-harvester trial of soil testing for Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN). Analysis of the method was presented, which showed that the under harvesting method was at least as sensitive as the 10x10 core sampling method currently used. SDQMA endorsed in principle under-harvester sampling in fields that the accrediting authority have assessed and approved, and are now developing the required supporting protocols to use the method in interstate trade. NSW has prepared a draft HACCP Plan and ICA Protocol to facilitate compliance with the Risk Based Regulatory Reform Model (RBRRM) among seed producers in areas where certified seed schemes do not exist.

Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA)—quarantine entry conditions

The subcommittee discussed quarantine entry conditions for hay and nursery plants from areas with Red Imported Fire Ants. RIFA experts from Queensland gave a presentation on behalf of the Tramp Ant Consultative Committee on the risks to products such as hay. SDQMA considered possible requirements for the interstate movement of hay, and requested further confirmation of the risks to allow them to determine suitable entry requirements.

The subcommittee also discussed granular insecticide treatments for nursery pot plants as an alternative treatment using a solution of chlorpyrifos. Members agreed to amend their jurisdiction's current plant quarantine entry conditions for containerised plants to add granular insecticide treatments for RIFA.