



Subcommittee on Domestic Quarantine and Market Access Communiqué—SDQMA Meeting #47

The Subcommittee on Domestic Quarantine and Market Access (SDQMA) met in Launceston Tasmania on the 18th – 20th October 2016. Meetings of the subcommittee ensure continued communications between jurisdictions on regulatory arrangements for domestic quarantine and trade. Key issues discussed are detailed below.

Subcommittee on Domestic Quarantine and Market Access (SDQMA) Work Plan

A facilitated workshop was held to enable members, and the chair of Plant Health Committee (PHC) to discuss and confirm priority work areas for the subcommittee over the next 12 months. The discussion will inform development of annual work plans for SDQMA and its working groups.

Exercise Haryana – Movement Conditions Activity

Subcommittee members contributed to the preparedness for Karnal bunt through participation in Exercise Haryana – Movement Conditions Activity. This activity contributed to the outcomes of the national exercise program facilitated by Plant Health Australia, which seeks to improve both government and industries ability to implement a rapid nationally consistent response to a Karnal bunt detection in Australia.

Include other produce within the scope of the national ICA Protocol ‘Property Freedom of Plants for Red Imported Fire Ant’ [ICA-40]

The subcommittee agreed to progress for further discussion, a Queensland proposal to expand the scope of the national protocol for ‘Property Freedom of Plants for Red Imported Fire Ant’ [ICA-40] to include a range of other commodities i.e. potting media, straw/hay, agricultural equipment/machinery, soil and turf.

Addition of the chemical Scorpio® to ICA 42.

The subcommittee endorsed the proposal to include the chemical Scorpio® as an approved fungicide in ICA 42, for treatment of plants for the disease myrtle rust.

BioSecure HACCP – Market Access Program

The SDQMA has noted the national governance and administrative changes to BioSecure HACCP transitioning to NGIA and recognises this as a critical step in the ongoing delivery of the scheme to growers across Australia. The subcommittee continues to support the previous approvals for the 3 year trial of BioSecure HACCP as a national market access and certification scheme for plant products across Australia.

Changes to NSW’s certification and accreditation systems following implementation of the Biosecurity Act 2015

The subcommittee noted NSW is reviewing and proposing to amend many of its ICA documents on commencement of their Biosecurity Act 2015 (the Act). The subcommittee has agreed to reconvene towards the end of the year to work shop possible areas where ICA documentation can be streamlined to ensure the system remains aligned with industry expectations. Outcomes from the workshop are expected to inform a significant overhaul of current ICA documentation and to provide scope to a broader review of the ICA rules.

The subcommittee also agreed to develop a tender specification required to appoint an independent consultant to undertake an economic assessment of the value of domestic trade enabled under the ICA system. Due to the broad nature of the domestic system, the analysis is also expected to provide the



information required to support a restructuring of the quality assurance framework that the system is currently based on. It is expected that this will enable the program to remain consistent with industry expectations for at least the next decade.

Certified seed potatoes

The subcommittee was provided an update on issues around the seed potato certification scheme and noted that Horticulture Innovation Australia were working on proposals on a possible new seed potato governance body and process for review of the national standard.

The subcommittee noted the importance of the Victorian Seed Potato Authority, as a provider of certification services to both industry and government. The Committee agreed to support Victoria developing an agreement with VicSPA to formalise approval arrangements for Potato Cyst Nematode and PSTVd surveillance and testing.

National policy development

The subcommittee was provided an update on the progress and development of a number of national initiatives as outlined below:

- The subcommittee discussed the continued arrangements for management of fruit fly in Australia that aligns with international standards and national codes of practice and supplemented by both historical data and observations of specific on-going surveillance of protected areas. Providing clear guidance to industry to maintain or improve market access remains a challenge, and is one of the issues being addressed through the newly established National Fruit Fly Council.
- Jurisdictions are continuing to ensure that their area freedom certification aligns to the national *Framework for Certifying Pest Area Freedom*. This body of work, initiated approximately 18 months ago, aims to harmonise area freedom certification arrangements across the jurisdictions ensuring alignment with the relevant international standards.

The Subcommittee on Domestic Quarantine and Market Access concluded noting updates on plant biosecurity activities reported by all jurisdictions and is anticipated to meet by teleconference in February 2017 and face-to-face March 2017.

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