



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



27 July 2001

PLANT BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2001/14

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS – IMPORTATION OF BANANAS FROM THE PHILIPPINES

This Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (PBPM) seeks to:

1. Invite stakeholders to a meeting in Brisbane on 22 August 2001, to discuss stakeholder comments in relation to the Issues Paper concerning the importation of Philippines' bananas
2. Advise stakeholders that they are welcome at a series of technical workshops to be held around Australia in September 2001 to discuss pest lists, pest categorisation and pest management measures for Philippines' bananas
3. Advise stakeholders of a visit by the Risk Analysis Panel (RAP) to the Philippines to collect information relevant to the Import Risk Analysis (IRA), and to seek input from stakeholders relevant to this visit.

In our PBPM 2001/10 of 2 May 2001, stakeholders were advised of the release of the Issues Paper for the IRA of fresh Philippines' bananas.

Stakeholders were invited to forward their comments on the Issues Paper by 5 July 2001. We have received nine written submissions on the Issues Paper.

In late May 2001, the RAP members conducted familiarisation field visits in northern New South Wales and North Queensland, to understand the banana production and handling practices in Australia. Australian banana growers and packers raised important issues during the visit and the RAP will consider these issues in the risk analysis.

You are now invited to attend a meeting with the RAP in Brisbane on 22 August 2001 to discuss the issues raised in the submissions and any other issues relevant to the Issues Paper.

The meeting will be held from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm in the Executive Conference Room, ground floor, Primary Industries Building, 80 Anne Street, Brisbane.

Please advise the Technical and Administrative Services Section of Plant Biosecurity if you plan to attend the meeting by COB Monday 20 August 2001.

We recognise that some people will not be able to attend this particular meeting. However, there will definitely be further opportunities to provide input over the coming months.



Centenary of Federation

Edmund Barton Building
Barton ACT
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601
ph +61 2 6272 3933
fax +61 2 6272 5161
www.affa.gov.au

ABN 24 113 085 695



Above (from left to right) Bob Paton - RAP member, Frank Fox - technical secretariat for banana IRA, Plant Biosecurity, Brian Stynes - General Manager, Plant Biosecurity, Stephen Mackay - Grower, Rob Allen - RAP member, Sharan Singh - RAP Chair, David Peasley - RAP member and Len Collins - representative from Australia Banana Growers Council, during their recent field visit to the Australian banana production areas. Absent Bryan Cantrell and Mike Robbins - RAP members.

The RAP is planning a series of stakeholder workshops to discuss the IRA process, including pest lists, pest categorisation and pest management measures for Philippines' bananas prior to finalising the draft IRA document. To provide an opportunity for broad stakeholder input into this process, workshops will be held in Coffs Harbour, Brisbane, Innisfail, Carnarvon, Kununurra and Darwin in September 2001. If you would like the RAP to consider holding such workshops at additional venues, please advise the Technical and Administrative Services Section by COB 20 August 2001.

We will provide timely advice regarding the forthcoming workshops and meetings.

Three RAP members: Dr Sharan Singh, Mr Bob Paton and Mr David Peasley, who are also Chairs of Technical Working Groups for the IRA, are planning to visit the Philippines from 5-11 August 2001 to hold technical discussions on banana quarantine issues and to conduct field and laboratory visits. The key activities and questions the RAP will pursue during their visit are outlined in Attachment 1. They will also meet with stakeholders in the Philippines to discuss stakeholder comments on the Issues Paper.

You are encouraged to discuss with Dr Sharan Singh (telephone number 02 6272 4324) if you would like to propose any additional issues that the TWG Chairs should pursue during their visit to the Philippines.

The RAP is committed to a thorough risk analysis of the proposed importation of bananas from the Philippines. To complete this task in a timely manner, the RAP is gathering information from a

wide range of sources. The RAP is strongly encouraging all stakeholders to contribute information relevant to the IRA as early as possible in the process.

The RAP is keen to liaise with any stakeholders who have had first hand experience of banana pests and diseases and production practices in the Philippines. The RAP would like to meet with stakeholders who have experience of banana production in the Philippines and are willing to share these experiences. To facilitate such a meeting, the RAP would like to hear from any stakeholders who would be interested in participating in such a forum. Appropriate arrangements will be made if there is sufficient interest in the proposal. Please advise the Technical and Administrative Services Section by COB 20 August 2001 whether you are interested in attending such a meeting. In the meantime, the RAP urges stakeholders to provide any information they may have about banana production in the Philippines, which may assist the RAP in producing a comprehensive risk analysis.

Subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received with respect to this import proposal will be publicly available and be listed or referred to in papers or reports prepared on the proposal. If a request for anonymity does not accompany a submission, the respondent will be taken to have consented to the disclosure of his or her identity for the purposes of the *Privacy Act*. The contents of a 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*.

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 above address.

Information on all IRAs being conducted by Plant Biosecurity is available on the web at http://www.affa.gov.au/docs/market_access/biosecurity/plhome1.html

Brian Stynes
General Manager
Plant Biosecurity

Contact:	Technical and Administrative Services
Address:	Plant Biosecurity Biosecurity Australia AFFA GPO Box 858 CANBERRA ACT 2601
Telephone no:	02 6272 5094
Facsimile no:	02 6272 3307
E-mail:	plantbiosec@affa.gov.au