

Attachment 1

Key activities of TWG Chairs during visit to the Philippines

1. Entry meeting with the Bureau of Plant Industry.
2. Meet with the Philippines researchers and pest management specialists (e.g., horticulturists, entomologists, and pathologists with federal/state agencies, universities, private companies) to discuss banana pests and diseases, and to gather published and unpublished information on their biology, ecology, and likelihood of transport and establishment in Australia.
3. Observe banana plantations and pest and disease management procedures in proposed export areas.
4. Observe banana fruit cleaning, sorting, treatment, packaging, storage, transport and export inspection and certification procedures.
5. Discuss the Philippines' technical market access submission, clarify the scope of the IRA, and identify further information requirements.
6. Meet with stakeholders and discuss stakeholder comments on the Issues Paper.
7. Exit meeting with the Bureau of Plant Industry.

List of Questions

1. What is the banana industry structure in the Philippines, including statistics concerning geographic distribution, production area, production, yield, marketing and export trade?
2. What are the major research organisations the names of key scientists working on bananas in the Philippines, particularly the Mindanao Province?
3. What are the commonly used horticultural practices and procedures for banana production in the Philippines?
4. What are the cultural methods of managing pests, diseases and weeds of banana in the Philippines?
5. Is "area freedom" used as a management measure in the Philippines for banana pests, diseases and weeds?
6. What is the prevalence and distribution of pests, diseases and hitchhikers likely to occur on bananas?
7. What is the infrastructure in the Philippines for pest surveillance, monitoring, recording and reporting of banana pests, diseases and weeds, including the expertise of personnel conducting these activities?

8. What are the pesticide schedules used in the Philippines for managing arthropod pests, diseases, weeds and other pests?
9. Is "pesticide resistance" a problem in the Philippines and, if so, what measures are used to minimise the development of pesticide resistant strains of banana pests, diseases and weeds.
10. What is the procedure for registering pesticides in the Philippines?
11. What regulations exist to govern use of registered pesticides in the Philippines and how are these enforced?
12. What are the post-harvest chemical treatments used on banana fruit in the Philippines?
13. Are pesticide residues a concern and, if so, what are these pesticides and what measures are used by the Philippines and importing countries to monitor pesticide residues in or on export bananas?
14. How much biological and pest management information is available for banana pests, diseases and weeds in the Philippines?
15. What are the main sources of scientific and technical information on Philippines' banana pests, diseases and weeds and their management?
16. Has Philippines prepared data sheets on pests, diseases and weeds of bananas in the Philippines, including Moko, bugtok, freckle, black Sigatoka, banana bract mosaic, Panama disease, fruit flies, scale insects, mealy bugs and white flies, and vector/pathogen relationships?
17. Can banana fruit act as a source inoculum of banana bract mosaic virus and, if so, can vectors acquire the virus from the fruit and transmit to banana plants?
18. What role does banana fruit play in spreading Moko disease in the Philippines?
19. How many strains of the Moko bacterium occur in the Philippines?
20. How long can the Moko bacterium survive in soil?
21. What are vectors of the Moko bacterium in the Philippines and what is their role in spreading Moko?
22. What are the alternative hosts of Moko bacterium in the Philippines?
23. Can Bugtok bacteria infect cavendish bananas, if so, what is the prevalence and distribution of this disease and how is this disease managed in the Philippines?
24. Are banana floral remnants infected/infested with Moko and bugtok bacteria and, if so, how long can these bacteria survive in floral remnants?

25. Which species of fruit flies are known to infest bananas in the Philippines?
26. At what stage do bananas become susceptible to these fruit flies?
27. Are these fruit flies able to lay eggs in hard green bananas?
28. What procedures are used, and how effective they are, in ensuring that packed bananas are free from materials such as leaf trash and contaminated soil, which may act as a source of inoculum for plant diseases (e.g. black Sigatoka, Panama) and other pests.
29. What are the Philippines quarantine conditions for movement within the country of banana plants, fruit, used farm machinery and containers to exclude pests and diseases?
30. Does the Philippines government and/or industry require certification and registration of banana plantations and, if so, what are measure are required for these purposes?
31. Are the Philippines' banana growers/plantation managers required to keep records of pest and disease occurrences and pesticide applications.
32. Are there any environmental concerns in the Philippines associated with the production and consumption of bananas and, if so, what measures are used to address such concerns?
33. Does the Philippines' government and/or industry has an environmental policy for addressing environmental concerns with banana production?
34. Is information available on the occurrence in Philippines of hitchhikers (snails, frogs, snakes, geckos, rodents, spiders, etc) in packed bananas and associated with packing cartons and shipping containers, etc?
35. What is the prevalence and distribution of feral and native banana plants in the Philippines?
36. Is true viable seed found in the banana varieties nominated for export to Australia, particularly when commercial plantations are in the vicinity of pollen source from wild seeded species?
37. Does Philippines import bananas and, if so, what are Philippines' import conditions for bananas?
38. What are the other importing countries' requirements/protocols for the importation of Philippines bananas to address their quarantine concerns?
39. What have been importing countries quarantine concerns with banana imported from the Philippines?
40. How is Philippines meeting importing countries quarantine requirements?

41. Does the Philippines maintain records of interceptions and non-compliance reports by importing countries?
42. Does the Philippines' government operate any pre-clearance arrangements for bananas or other commodities to meet other countries import requirements?
43. What quality assurance systems are used in the Philippines for banana fruit, including harvesting, cleaning, treatment, sorting, packaging, storage, transport, identity preservation and trace-back of produce to the farm?