



17 March 2004

PLANT BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2004/07

ADDENDUM TO REVISED DRAFT IRA REPORT - BANANAS FROM THE PHILIPPINES

This Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (PBPM) is to notify stakeholders that an addendum to the revised draft import risk analysis (IRA) report for the importation of bananas from the Philippines will be released.

On 19 February 2004, Biosecurity Australia released a revised draft IRA report for bananas from the Philippines. Stakeholders were given until 23 April 2004 to provide comment on the revised draft report.

During the consultation process for the draft report, Biosecurity Australia has been alerted to a transcription error in the electronic spreadsheet used in the estimation of risk for this particular IRA. The spreadsheet has now been corrected.

It appears that a transcription error in one cell of an Excel spreadsheet occurred while converting a written formula from the text of the revised draft IRA report into electronic format. While the error could have been corrected later in the consultation process, Biosecurity Australia has decided to act now to avoid unnecessary concerns or delays.

A preliminary assessment indicates that as a result of the correction some quarantine measures may need to be reassessed and strengthened. Biosecurity Australia has asked the expert panel to determine what changes are required to the recommended quarantine measures as a result of the spreadsheet correction.

Once the panel has provided advice on this matter, Biosecurity Australia will publish an addendum to the revised draft IRA report of 19 February, documenting any changes to the recommendations that may flow from the use of the corrected spreadsheet.

A new 60-day comment period will commence from the date of release of the addendum. Stakeholders who have already provided comments are invited to review and modify their submissions or to provide supplementary information following the release of the addendum.

Several stakeholders have requested a copy of the electronic spreadsheet that is used with risk modelling software called @RISK in the banana IRA. The spreadsheet will be loaded onto Biosecurity Australia's website when the addendum to the revised draft IRA report is released.

Confidentiality

Stakeholders 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 1988*.

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 1982*.

Consultation

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

Information on all IRAs and policy reviews being conducted by Plant Biosecurity is available on the Internet at www.daff.gov.au/plantbiosecurity.

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