



**Market
Access
and
Biosecurity**

17 October 2000

PLANT BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2000/20

**GLOBAL IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS ON THE IMPORTATION OF
FRESH PINEAPPLES**

This Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (PBPM) provides stakeholders with an update on the global Import Risk Analysis (IRA) on the importation of fresh pineapples.

In our PBPM of 13 September 2000 we advised stakeholders of the need to review existing policy for the importation of fresh pineapples and that a number of countries had expressed interest in exporting pineapples to Australia. We also advised that a global import risk analysis (IRA) process had been initiated for pineapples as a matter of priority and invited comment on the proposed approach to the risk analysis. A number of stakeholders have requested further explanation of the use of a 'global' IRA process for pineapples.

The main reason for conducting global IRAs is to address a number of import access requests simultaneously that have been received from countries where an IRA on a particular commodity has not previously been conducted. This allows for the use of resources in the most cost effective way. A global IRA can also give Biosecurity Australia (BA) the opportunity to review existing conditions for the importation of a commodity to ensure that the import conditions in place are appropriate and effective. BA is currently conducting a number of global IRAs including coniferous sawn timber, wood packaging materials, allium species, ornamental bulbs and mushrooms.

The existing conditions for pineapple currently cover importation from the USA, European countries and a number of countries in the Pacific (French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Island, Micronesia, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, North Mariana Island, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Island, Tokelau, Tuvalu, and Wallis/Futuna Island). These specifications specify topping of the pineapple fruit to prevent propagation and methyl bromide treatment to address risks from insects and mites.

The global IRA for pineapples will consider quarantine risks associated with pests and diseases of pineapples from all potential sources, in particular those countries that have lodged specific import access requests, including the Philippines, Sri Lanka and the Solomon Islands. Any other country not covered by existing policy that may wish to gain access would still be required to submit its pest and disease list for consideration

to ensure that the pests have been considered by the global IRA. A supplementary analysis would be required for any country that had additional quarantine pests or diseases.

Based on a preliminary assessment of the global pest situation on pineapples many of the significant pests are similar in the pineapple growing areas of the world and there are relatively fewer pests of quarantine concern to Australia as compared to other horticultural commodities. The routine process was proposed for the global IRA as the analysis is technically less complex and the proposal appears *prima facie* not to require assessment of significantly greater risk than those previously examined.

We look forward to your continued involvement in the IRA process.

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