



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



2 May 2001

PLANT BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2001/10

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS – BANANAS FROM THE PHILIPPINES

This Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (PBPM) is to provide you with a copy of the Issues Paper on the import risk analysis (IRA) concerning bananas from the Philippines

In our PBPM 2001/01 of 4 January 2001, stakeholders were advised of the final panel membership, the scope and the timing for the IRA on bananas from the Philippines.

The purpose of this PBPM is to provide you with a copy of the Issues Paper for the IRA. The purpose of the Issues Paper is to provide information on:

- background on administration issues;
- AFFA's frameworks for quarantine policy and IRA;
- the international framework for trade in animal and plant products;
- Australia's current policy for the importation of bananas;
- a preliminary pest list of Philippines bananas and an outline of the methodology for pest categorisation; and
- an outline of further steps in the IRA process.

You are invited to comment on the enclosed document for this IRA. Your comments will be taken into consideration in preparing the draft IRA. AFFA will accept written submissions until the close of business Thursday 5 July 2001.

Responses should be forwarded to:

Technical and Administrative Services
Plant Biosecurity
Biosecurity Australia
AFFA
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Tel: (02) 6272 5094
Fax: (02) 6272 3307
Email: plantbiosec@affa.gov.au

The Risk Analysis Panel (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 soon as possible.



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

Subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received with respect to the 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

The Risk Analysis Panel will conduct public meetings to give interested parties the opportunity to discuss the scope of the analysis and issues arising from this paper. You will be notified at a later date of the details of these meetings.

I look forward to receiving your comments on the Issues Paper.

Brian Stynes
General Manager
Plant Biosecurity

Contact: Risk Analysis Panel on Philippines' Bananas
c/o Technical and Administrative Services
Telephone no: 02 6272 5094
Facsimile no: 02 6272 3307
E-mail: plantbiosec@affa.gov.au

Black Sigatoka and the Banana IRA

Stakeholders will be aware that a disease of bananas, black Sigatoka, is periodically detected in north Queensland and quarantine restrictions are put in place to mitigate the risk of the disease spreading to new production areas. The disease has recently been detected in the Tully area and quarantine restrictions on the movement of fruit from the affected area have been put in place. Black Sigatoka remains a quarantine disease for Australia because its distribution is restricted and it is being officially controlled. The RAP will consider this issue in the IRA.