



Lentil (*Lens* spp) Stakeholder Meeting Outcomes 7 August 2002 Canberra

PURPOSE OF MEETING

- To discuss risk associated with imported lentil seed and proposed new import conditions of lentils (*Lens* spp) for both human consumption and seed for sowing.

MAIN AGENDA ITEMS

1. Quarantine diseases associated with lentil seed
2. Risk management measures for the import of lentil seed for sowing
3. Risk management measures for the import of lentil seed for human consumption
4. Next steps

BACKGROUND

- Currently there are no restrictions on import of lentil seed for any end use. Reviews conducted by Biosecurity Australia and Product Integrity from AFFA, and the Victorian Institute of Dryland Agriculture (VIDA), have identified some exotic diseases of lentil that require management. Effective management of these exotic diseases will require the introduction of quarantine measures for whole lentil seed.
- The risks associated with whole lentil seed have been discussed with key sectors of the grain industry and the proposal to tighten the conditions for the importation of lentil seed for sowing and for human consumption has been generally supported.
- Mr Kurt Lindbeck, Plant Pathologist from VIDA has presented a disease risk summary of lentil diseases. Pathogens such as *Colletotrichum truncatum*, *Uromyces vicia-fabae*, *Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp *lentis* and broad bean stain comovirus were proposed as exotic pathogens. In addition, endemic pathogens such as *Aschochyta lentis*, *Botrytis cinerea*, *B. fabae*, *Stemphylium botryosum*, *Alternaria alternata*, *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*, *S. trifoliorum*, *S. rolfsii*, *S. minor* and pea seed borne mosaic virus were proposed as special case pathogens due to their economic significance.

- Dr Nasir Mahmood, Senior Plant Scientist, Biosecurity Australia has explained that according to International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), a “quarantine pest” is a *pest of potential economic importance to the area endangered thereby and not yet present there, or present but not widely distributed and being officially controlled*. Hence, even though races of endemic pathogens are known to exist outside Australia, they do not fit within the IPPC definition of quarantine pest. Although *C. truncatum* is endemic in Australia, due to the evidence of the presence of exotic races and the absence of this pathogen on lentil in Australia, this fungus will be considered as quarantine.
- The import conditions for lentil seed for consumption agreed to at the meeting should satisfy Australia’s acceptable level of protection. However, all parties were invited to nominate alternative quarantine measures that would minimise the impact on trade.
- Legislative changes will be necessary to underpin new quarantine measures specifically the removal of lentil (*Lens* spp.) from the schedule of permitted seed in the Quarantine Proclamation 1998.

OUTCOMES

Item 1 - Quarantine diseases associated with lentil seed

Outcomes

1. There was unanimous agreement by the attendees that the pathogens *Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp *lentis*, *Colletotrichum truncatum* and broad bean stain comovirus should be considered as quarantine pathogens and risk management measures be put in place to protect Australian lentil industry from these exotic pathogens.
2. It was also agreed that although *C. truncatum* is endemic in Australia, there is published evidence to support that the exotic races are different from the endemic races and this particular pathogen has not been recorded on lentils in Australia. This is supported by the extensive surveys conducted by VIDA.

Item 2 - Risk management measures for the import of lentil (*Lens* spp) seed for sowing

Outcomes

1. Stakeholders unanimously supported the proposed risk management measures.
2. The agreed measures are:
 - a) An Import Permit will be required for the import of *Lens* spp for sowing.
 - b) All imported seed lines must be grown in post-entry quarantine and tested by ELISA for broad bean stain comovirus and visually screened for *F. oxysporum* f.sp *lentis* and *C. truncatum*, in addition to any other pathogens.
 - c) Progeny seed from healthy plants will be released.
 - d) All other general conditions for seeds for sowing will also apply to *Lens* spp seeds.

Item 3 - Risk management measures for the import of lentil (*Lens spp*) seed for human consumption

Outcomes

1. All attendees agreed that based on the known risks, effective quarantine measures must be implemented to prevent the entry of quarantine diseases.
2. The agreed measures are, for all countries:
 - a) Import Permit is required for the import of *Lens spp* seed for human consumption.
 - b) Imported seed must be split off shore/on arrival at a quarantine-approved premise at the port of entry in a metropolitan area.

OR

Imported seed must be heat treated at:

Canada and USA only (note: broadbean stain comovirus is not present in these countries)

- 85°C for 8hrs

OR

- 85°C for 48 hrs at 50% RH

OR

- 95°C for 24hrs at 50% RH

All countries excluding Canada and USA

- 85°C for 48 hrs at 50% RH

OR

- 95°C for 24hrs at 50% RH

- c) All other general conditions for seeds for human consumption will also apply to *Lens spp* seeds.

Note: There was considerable discussion at the meeting on possible seed testing of imported lentils, or area/property freedom from diseases in countries of origin. Attendees agreed to submit further information on these and any other less trade restrictive measures for consideration. BA and AQIS attendees emphasised the need for effective measures but noted their intention to explore the least trade restrictive measures.

Item 4 - Next steps

Outcomes

1. Legislative implementation of new import conditions by AQIS.
2. Information on any other treatment/option(s) will be considered by AQIS/Biosecurity Australia for approval subject to availability of efficacy data.
3. Any information with regard to the new risk management options can be sent to Dr Vani Srungaram (Ph: 02 6271 6369; Fax: 02 6272 3307; vani.srungaram@affa.gov.au).
4. An email group will be set up with the key stakeholders and any new information will be circulated to the group. If you wish to be included in this group please advise Dr Srungaram.

Thank you to the following participants.

Bill Magee (Chair)	Senior Manager, Plant Biosecurity, BA
Mike Robbins	Program Manager, Plant Programs, AQIS
Neil McWaters	Manager, Plant Biosecurity, BA
Vani Srungaram	Plant Biosecurity, BA
Nasir Mahmood	Plant Biosecurity, BA
Bronwyn Wiseman	Plant Biosecurity, BA
Karen Wiencke	Plant Biosecurity, BA
Anthony Wicks	Plant Programs, AQIS
Margaret Allan	Plant Programs, AQIS
Rachel Hayes	Plant Programs, AQIS
Eli Szandala	Product Integrity, OCPPO
Pierre Desmarais	Canadian High Commission
Peter Flottman	Pulse Australia
Antony Beaver	Food and Beverage Importers Association
Angela Freeman	Victorian Institute for Dryland Agriculture
Michael Materne	Victorian Institute for Dryland Agriculture
Kurt Lindbeck	Victorian Institute for Dryland Agriculture
Mathew Munro	Grains Council of Australia
Peter Semmler	The Lentil Company
Steve Kalman	Lentil importer