TROPICAL AND SUB-TROPICAL FRUIT QUARANTINE WORKSHOP
Airport Administration Centre
Cairns International Airport, Cairns
8:45am-3.30pm
30 September 2003, Cairns

MINUTES

Dr Brian Stynes, General Manager, Plant Biosecurity acted as the chairperson/facilitator for the workshop. Dr Stynes gave an opening address and welcomed all participants to the workshop. Representatives from the Chinese and Thai embassies, the president of the Rambutan and Tropical Exotic Fruit Growers of Australia (RTEGA), the president of the Longan Association of Australia (LAA) and the vice-president of Australian Lychee Growers Association (ALGA), and the Coordinator of the Horticulture Market Access Committee (HMAC) were introduced along with Biosecurity Australia officers.

A list of participants is provided as Attachment 1. Please advise us if your name or the names of others who were present for any portion of the day have either been omitted or require correction.

Dr Stynes provided additional information during the day, on the IRA process and Australia's international obligations and responsibilities as a member nation of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the need for import risk analysis to comply with the WTO's Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement).

Dr Stynes also discussed briefly, Australia's current direct involvement in the WTO SPS dispute challenges raised against Australia by the Philippines and the European Union (EU) and the resulting resource demands and implications for Australia's quarantine and trade.

Imports

Longan & lychee
Biosecurity officers (Ms Jane DeGabriel and Ms Anne Gardner) gave a presentation (outline provided to participants) on the Draft Import Risk Analysis (IRA) Report for the importation of fresh longan and lychee fruit from China and Thailand. The presentation included a background to the draft IRA, an explanation of the risk assessment, risk management options for the pests and the next steps in the IRA.

Discussion followed the presentation and questions were responded to or taken on notice. Questions were recorded and read back for confirmation at the end of the session. A list of questions is provided as Attachment 2. These comments will be considered and noted in the next IRA document.

Following morning tea, additional stakeholders joined the workshop for the session on the mangosteen IRA.

Mangosteen
Biosecurity Australia officer, Ms Wendy Lee, gave a presentation (outline provided to participants) on the Draft Import Risk (IRA) Report for the importation of fresh mangosteen

fruit from Thailand. The presentation detailed the risk assessment process for mealybugs, explained the risk management options for the pests and the next steps in the IRA.

Biosecurity Australia's presentation was followed by a presentation by Mr Alan Zappala, on behalf of the Rambutan and Tropical Exotic Fruit Growers of Australia (RTEGA). The presentation covered the following industry issues with the draft IRA: the fruit calyx; ants and soil under the calyx; pathogens of concern; and the effectiveness of the proposed air/water blasting measure.

Dr Stynes thanked Mr Zappala for a very professional presentation and assured the workshop participants that the issues raised would be considered.

Discussion followed the presentation and questions were responded to or taken on notice. Questions were recorded and read back for confirmation at the end of the session. A list of the issues raised in the presentation and questions raised at the meeting is provided as Attachment 3. These comments will be considered and noted in the next IRA document.

Exports

Biosecurity Australia's horticultural market access (Australian exports)
Biosecurity Australia officer Dr TK Lim, gave a presentation (outlines provided to participants) on the work conducted by Biosecurity Australia on Australia's horticultural and grains and seed exports. This includes market access, market maintenance and market improvement for Australian export products where there are issues of a quarantine nature.

The first aspect is gaining market access to overseas. Market access proposals for horticultural exports are submitted by industry for approval and prioritisation by HMAC. Biosecurity Australia then prepares a technical market access submission including full Australian pest and disease lists and information on the industry and production. The submission is provided with a formal request for access to the national plant protection organisation (NPPO) of the intended importing country. The NPPO then considers the submission and conducts a pest risk analysis.

In addition to gaining initial access for a product to a country, Biosecurity Australia spends considerable time and resources on maintaining existing markets when quarantine problems arise during trade or requirements are changed by the importing country. Biosecurity Australia's work in market improvement involves working towards less trade restrictive quarantine requirements, or extension of the market, source area or commodity type.

Discussion followed the presentation and the following questions/comments were raised:
- Has there been a breach of import protocols for produce from Australia to other countries?
- Do changes occur in [export] quarantine regulations?
- Australia does not change import requirements?
- How do you pick-up failure(s) in documentation?
- What comes after the New Zealand mango access request?
- Can you limit imports?

The workshop concluded at 3:30 pm.

ATTACHMENT 1

List of Attendees at the Tropical and Sub-Tropical Fruit Workshop Cairns 30 September 2003

First name	Last name	Position	Organisation
Ms Kay	Amesbury	Technical Officer	Tableland Economic Development Corporation Inc
Dr David	Astridge	Entomologist	DPI
Ms Rosemary	Burgess	Secretary	Organic Producers Association of Queensland
Mr David	Chandler		El Arish
Mr Colin	Chat		CS Gray
Mr Brian	Dodds		RTEGA
Dr Harry	Fay	Principal Entomologist	Horticulture North Agency for Food & Fibre Sciences Dept. of Primary Industries
L.	Feher		
Ms Margaret	Fontana		
Mr Bernie	Graf		
Mr Ian	Groves		
Mr Errol	Harris		
Mr Richard	Hudson		ABC
Mr Charlie Ms Coree	Jarrad		
Mr Bill	Kidston		Kidston International
Mr Andre Ms Julia	Leu	Vice President	Australian Lychee Growers Association
Mr L	Lich?		
Ms Kerry	McAvey		Silkwood
Mr Joe (Guiesppe)	Moro		MDFUGA
Mr Vito	Musumen		RTEGA
Mr Keith	Noll?		QFVG
Mr John	Nucifora		Longan Association
Ms Sawanit	Phongprapai	Agricultural Counsellor	Thai Embassy
Mr Richard	Piper	consultant	RTEGA
Donn	Pollock?		QFVG
Ms Cynthia	Sabag		
Mr Steve	Scepelliti		
Mr Tim	?		
Mr Neil	Sing	President	Longan Association of Australia (LAA)
Ms Susan	Smith		
Mr George	Sun		RTEGA
Mr Lynton	Vawdrey		QDPI
Dr Bonny	Vogelzang	Senior Plant Health Scientist	Animal and Plant Health Service Department of Primary Industries
Ms Maria	Williamson		
Mr Stephen	Winter	Coordinator	Horticulture Market Access Committee (HMAC)
Mr Alan	Zappala	President	RTEGA
Ms Cao	Ziqiang	First Secretary	Chinese Embassy
Ms Annie	?		

First name	Last name	Position	Organisation
Biosecurity Australia			
Dr Brian	Stynes	General Manager	Biosecurity Australia
Dr TK	Lim	Manager	Biosecurity Australia
Mr John	Wilson	Communications Manager	Biosecurity Australia
Ms Anne	Gardner	Senior Plant Scientist	Biosecurity Australia
Ms Wendy	Lee	Plant Scientist	Biosecurity Australia
Ms Jane	DeGabriel	Plant Scientist	Biosecurity Australia

ATACHMENT 2

Draft IRA on Fresh Longan and Lychee Fruit from China and Thailand
Stakeholder comments/questions raised
30 September 2003

No	Comment
1	Adaptation of pests.
2	Who starts the procedure of requesting the import of fruit into Australia
3	What is the management system of longan fruit in Thailand (i.e. the use of the open plastic containers)?
4	Is the assessment of consequences based on shipments/consignments?
5	How do you know if packing sheds have adequate systems in place?
6	If the option of destruction of fruit is selected, how are fruits destroyed or disposed of?
7	Leaf rollers are listed on the quarantine pest list. Will the cold treatment proposed for fruit flies and *Conopomorpha sinensis* be effective for managing leaf rollers?
8	The cold treatment proposed for fruit flies is 1°C. Will lychees still be edible after this treatment?
9	Why was *Bactrocera papayae* not included on the pest list for longan and lychee from Thailand, given that it is present in Thailand and other species of the *Bactrocera dorsalis* complex are considered? Longans are grown in tropical, southern regions of Thailand e.g. Chanthaburi, so *B. papayae* may be a risk in these areas.
10	Is vapour heat treatment (VHT) effective for the management of *Conopomorpha sinensis*?
11	Request for clarification on possible combinations of the proposed treatment options for fruit flies and *C. sinensis* e.g. could the exporting country choose to use cold treatment for fruit flies and the orchard control/inspection for *C. sinensis*?
12	Biosecurity Australia needs to specify and describe the production and pack house procedures that are carried out in China and Thailand. The IRA does not provide information on these processes.
13	Industry questioned the proposed importation of detached longan fruit and explained that the removal of the panicle would result in damage to the fruit, which would increase the risk of pests and diseases.
14	What are the acts/regulations that govern the quarantine policy process?
15	During the IRA process, at what point do you decide whether or not fruit is allowed into Australia?
16	Who has the final say in the determination of the import policy and what is the sequence of events in this process?
17	Are Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) considered in the import risk analysis? Is chemical

	residue testing of fruits conducted?
18	Why doesn't Plant Biosecurity consider health issues?
19	Could Biosecurity Australia give an example of a pest or disease that would be given the risk estimate of "extreme"? Would Moko be considered as "extreme" risk?
20	Has this IRA been conducted according to the "old" process described in the 1998 Import Risk Analysis Handbook or the "new" process described in the 2003 version of the Handbook? Will the appeal process be conducted according to the 2003 Handbook?
21	Will this document undergo an external peer review? Industry suggested that this IRA should be peer reviewed.
22	The import risk analysis does not give any consideration to the use of potassium chlorate in Thailand, which allows longan production year-round. This may affect the pest and disease risk. Many pests are listed as attacking young fruits, which would be growing alongside mature fruit. Biosecurity Australia concedes this change in risk status due to seasonality in the risk assessment of *Phytophthora palmivora*, but it is not mentioned anywhere else in the document. Biosecurity Australia should address seasonal factors, particularly induced production in the import risk analysis.
23	Longans and lychees may come into contact with the ground during the picking/production process and therefore may be contaminated with other pests.
24	Have China and Thailand given any indication of the volumes of fruit they intend to export?
25	What is the process for consideration of additional pest species at this stage of the IRA? *Xylotrupes gideon* has recently been reclassified into five separate species, one of which is present in south-east Asia. Will Biosecurity Australia consider this species in the IRA? (Reference document provided to BA).
26	Does the import risk analysis process consider economic factors or only pests and diseases? The timing of import seasons may affect pricing e.g. imports of longans may mean that high prices for early season longans ($300/box) may no longer be possible.
27	What is the proposed sampling regime for the on-arrival inspection by AQIS?

ATTACHMENT 3

Draft IRA on Fresh Mangosteen Fruit from Thailand
Stakeholder comments/questions raised
30 September 2003

No	Comment
1.	There could be numerous scientific gaps in any literature review conducted for this IRA following the statement from Lim and Sangchote (2003), "Compared with other tropical fruits, the pests and diseases that attack mangosteen have been studied and documented less extensively."
2.	RTEGA made 8 recommendations to the Technical Issues Paper (TIP). All have been ignored except for one point, the inclusion of exotic fruit flies.
3.	Biosecurity Australia has deleted the 4 post-harvest and the weed species, Siam weed from the pest list.
4.	Industry concern that the fruit calyx is the perfect vehicle to allow exotic pests, soil and weed seeds into Australia.
5.	Contamination by soil on the fruit should be considered and checked microscopically.
6.	Lack of effectiveness of the air/water cleaning process proposed by Biosecurity Australia.
7.	What are the specific PSI pressures used in the air/water blasting?
8.	The 4 post-harvest fungi are not simply weak secondary organisms but fruit rots that could have a severe impact on other horticultural crops in Australia.
9.	The calyx is part of the plant foliage following the Collins Australian Pocket Dictionary of the English Language (1981), "the outer whorl of protective leaves or sepals of a flower, usually green." Therefore, Biosecurity Australia will be importing Thai fruit and foliage".
10.	Biosecurity Australia has deleted the 10 foliage insect pests from consideration in the pest list. For example, *Scirtothrips oligochaetus* is not included in the pest list as it only affects foliage and immature fruit (DOA, 2000).
11.	Ripe fruit ready for harvest and immature fruit are located on the same tree. How will the mangosteen thrips know that as the fruit is bound for Australia, they must stay away from the mature fruit?
12.	Biosecurity Australia has quoted the scientific reference, DOA (2000) in support of the exclusion of mangosteen thrips from the pest list. However, this reference is simply a table reference without a link to any scientific reference. Biosecurity Australia has quoted this reference as their scientific support for the exclusion of mangosteen thrips from the pest list.
13.	RTEGA concerns that their comments to the TIP that soil and ant nests are found on and under the calyx were dismissed.
14.	The commercial harvesting practices in Australia is the same as Thailand. Even with this practice [of individual harvesting], soil and ant nests are regularly found on and under the calyx. Soil particles are carried by ants to the calyx for nest building.
15.	AQIS has import conditions for entry of soil and foliage. This should also apply to imports of mangosteen from Thailand.
16.	In other IRAs e.g. global pineapple, the crown is removed as part of the protocol. This should also be applied to mangosteen, with the removal of the calyx.
17.	How effective is the air/water blasting of the calyx in removing Thai mealybugs and ants?
18.	Is there any supporting scientific efficacy data of air/water blasting quoted by Biosecurity Australia in this draft IRA? Biosecurity Australia has not referenced any scientific data to support the efficacy of this treatment for Thai mealybugs or ants in this draft IRA.
19.	Following the report from the NSW Agriculture trip to Thailand, water blasting of the calyx is useless against Thai ants.
20.	Any air/water blasting is simply an attempt to move the quarantine pest off the fruit and the calyx and to another area of the packing shed.
21.	Air/water blasting is not a fatal quarantine disinfestation treatment like methyl bromide.
22.	The effectiveness of air/water blasting is purely in the hands of the Thai packing shed employee and the AQIS on-arrival inspection.
23.	Concerns on the removal of 4 post harvest fungi from the pest list as Lim and Sangchote (2003) have stated that, "Many of the pathogens that attack mangosteen are widespread and attack other tropical fruits."
24.	These pathogens can infect Thai mangosteen fruit through field infection, damage in the harvest

	and packing procedures, high humidity and temperatures during packaging, storage and transport, and time required to reach their destination. Mechanical damage will occur on Thai fruit due to the use of picking tools and handling (Tongdee and Suwanagul, 1989). Mangosteen can be stored at 10 to 13°C for 4 weeks or longer (Marshall *et al*., 1983; Buasup, 1993). These facts will allow post-harvest rots to enter Australia on imported fruit.
25.	Biosecurity Australia has failed to include any fungicidal treatment in the draft IRA report.
26.	Industry concerns that Biosecurity Australia has not established an ALOP in the draft IRA with the removal of the 4 fungi from the pest list. For example, *G. bulbilium* affects other fruits such as apple, and introduction of this pest would adversely affect the Australian apple industry.
27.	Industry has recommended the option of a systems approach be added to the unbroken skin requirement for exotic fruit flies.
28.	RTEGA's proposed a systems approach protocol involving, in sequential order: • Removal of 4 leaflets from fruit calyx • Waterblast for soil and weed seeds • Methyl bromide for Thai mealybugs, thrips and ants as per DOA recommendations and preference • Fungicide dip for Thai 4 post-harvest fungi • On-arrival inspection by AQIS
29.	Industry further require that Biosecurity Australia: • Revise the current draft IRA to include industry's scientifically based comments and not simply reject this as criticism. • Re-present the second draft IRA report to stakeholders. • The second draft IRA report be peer reviewed by CSIRO and QDPI staff not involved in the IRA process as per the requirements of Item 15, page 16, *Import Risk Analysis Handbook*. • The adoption of stakeholder comment on the list of potential scientific peer reviewers and any additional work to be commissioned as required under the *Import Risk Analysis Handbook*. • Every scientific reference used by Biosecurity Australia be verified so that the previous mis-use by Biosecurity Australia of the reference (Leach, 1993) and of the other references identified by industry is not repeated.
30.	Biosecurity Australia's failure to accept these recommendations would place Australia at extreme risk of the entry, establishment and spread of exotic pests, and Australia's ALOP would be under threat as any quarantine breach will affect our environment, market access for exports and horticultural commodities.
31.	Request for more stakeholder consultation prior to the release of the draft IRA.
32.	What is the inspection sampling plan?
33.	The airblasting in the packing house means that the ants, mealybugs and other insects and soil could end up on the floor and can recontaminate the fruit and packaging. Where do they go?
34.	Where are mangosteens exported to from Thailand?
35.	Concern over no risk management for ants as ants will be found under the calyx and will go inside the fruit where the skin is broken and if the calyx is damaged.
36.	Why isn't methyl bromide treatment considered to address mealybugs?
37.	The sepals (calyx) should be removed from the fruit to ensure there are no pests hiding underneath.
38.	Why does the USA have a ban on mangosteens from Thailand?
39.	How are the mangosteens inspected?
40.	Concern over geckoes and other vertebrate pests such as frogs that could be included in a consignment.
41.	This IRA should be consistent with the banana IRA.
42.	Have the nesting habits of the ants been considered as Australian ants can build nests under the calyx and Australian growers have found it necessary to treat the base of each tree for ants.
43.	Consideration of oil treatment dips.