



Stakeholder Newsletter

February 2017

This newsletter provides a monthly update of the group's activities to our stakeholders to keep you better informed about key work and initiatives in the pipeline.



Group Update



Kendal Ratcliff has joined the Plant Exports team as a support officer. Kendal recently graduated from Victoria University of Wellington with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies and Development studies.

Hannah King joins the Plant Exports team as an advisor. Her new role will be looking at updating the importing countries' phytosanitary requirements (ICPRs) and advising the seed industry. Hannah graduated with a Bachelor of Ecology from Victoria University.

Market Access

Bilateral Technical Discussion between MPI and Tonga MAFFF

The bilateral technical discussion between New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and Tonga Ministry of

Agriculture, Food, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFFF) was held in Nuku'alofa, Tonga on the 8th of December 2016.

Various technical issues were discussed at the meeting. MPI presented details of the updated system of import health standard (IHS) development which was acknowledged and appreciated by Tonga MAFFF and members of the private sector.

The bilateral technical meeting was also attended by a New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade (MFAT) representative based in the High Commission in Nuku'alofa.



Dr Stephen Butcher shaking hands with the Tonga Minister for Agriculture, Food, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFFF), Honourable Semisi Fakahau surrounded by other member of the New Zealand and Tonga delegation, after the bilateral technical meeting.

Plant Exports

Log Export Assurances Visit

MPI is in the process of developing an official assurance programme (OAP) for log exports which will be implemented later this year. The OAP is applicable only for log exports to countries that require phytosanitary certification for breakbulk and containerised logs.

The OAP consolidates the phytosanitary requirements for log exports into one document and provides guidance on treatment, inspection, log stack height, phytosanitary security and post-fumigation exposure requirements. The purpose of developing the OAP is to improve the system for providing phytosanitary assurances to overseas countries.

As part of consultation with stakeholders, advisers from the Plant and Forestry team held meetings with Independent

Verification Services (IVS) and C3 Ltd marshalling company at Tauranga port in December 2016 and with AsureQuality at Marsden Point in January 2017.

The visit enabled MPI to discuss potential issues in the OAP with independent verification agencies (IVAs) and log marshallers, as well as how to make decisions for managing those issues.

The next step is to circulate the draft OAP to various MPI Approved Organisations (MAOs) and other interested parties for consideration.



Cherries to Korea Inspection

In December, MPI and Summerfruit NZ hosted Dr Kyu-Ock Yim, a senior researcher from Korea's Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency, on an inspection of New Zealand's Cherries to Korea export programme. David Young from Plant Exports and Stephen Ogden from Summerfruit NZ met Dr Yim in Queenstown. They and visited several orchards and packhouses registered for the Cherries to Korea programme in Central Otago and Blenheim.



During the visit, Dr Yim was able to view some of the advanced optical sorting and grading machines used for exporting cherries, and talked with growers about their pest management strategies. Dr Yim was joined in Blenheim by Karen Sparrow

(Manager for Plant Exports) and Barbara Hickey (Market Access Counsellor) for the exit meeting. Dr Yim was happy with what she had seen during the inspection, and appreciated the clear and consistent feedback given by growers and packhouses.



Many thanks to the Summerfruit industry for helping to host the visit.

Plant Imports

Revised Facility Standard for Post Entry Quarantine (PEQ)

The revised facility standard for Post Entry Quarantine (PEQ) for Plants comes into full effect on 8 March 2017. The online component of the PEQ operator training programme has now been finalised and will be distributed to all facility operators in the near future. MPI will work closely with all facility operators to ensure a smooth transition to the new standard.

Further information about the implementation of the new facility standard can be found [here](#).

Visit to Taiwan



Three MPI officials visited Taiwan in November 2016 to view the *Oncidium* production system and gain an understanding of the Taiwanese export system.

Information gathered from the trip will feed into the *Oncidium*

cut flower IHS development, and towards approving Taiwan's phytosanitary system under the commodity standard IHS.

Phase 3 Mushroom Growing Medium Import Health Standard Consultation

In December 2016, Plant Imports released a new IHS for consultation. The IHS specifies specific phytosanitary requirements for the import of phase 3 mushroom growing medium. This is a composted product derived from plant straw, gypsum and animal manure that is inoculated with mushroom spawn. To be eligible for import, the product must also meet the requirements of the MPI IHS for Processed Animal Manure Products, which is also the subject of consultation.

More information can be found on the [MPI website](#). Public consultation runs until 8 February 2017.

Hop Consultation with Industry

MPI is currently reviewing the Nursery Stock IHS schedule for *Humulus*. Gillian Stone attended a Hops Industry Stakeholders Consultation meeting organised by Plant & Food Research in Nelson on the 24th of January. Approximately thirty attendees from across the industry (CRI, breeders, growers and marketers) participated in discussion around future funding. Plant & Food Research is reviewing its hop breeding and commercialisation arrangements and is seeking input from key industry stakeholders.

Plant Imports Work Programme Updates

The updated Plant Imports Work Programme for 2016/17 can be found at [this link](#).

Cucurbitaceae Seeds for Sowing

The Seeds for sowing IHS schedule for *Cucurbitaceae* seeds was declared as final on the 26 January 2017.

Pisum Seed Risk Management Proposal

MPI is finalising the Risk Management Proposal with the requirements for the importation of *Pisum* seeds for sowing. The document will propose measures to be applied to all pea seeds imported into the country. The document is expected to be released for public consultation in February 2017.

Upcoming Meetings and Travel

OECD Seeds Scheme	31 January – 2 February 2017, Paris
GERMAC	21 February 2017, Wellington
PMAC	28 February 2017, Wellington

Previous Newsletters

All previous newsletter issues can be found on MPI's website using the following link: [News & Resources > Publications](#) and then filtering by title: [Plants Imports](#) and by document type: [Newsletter](#).

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