

Passionfruit has a New Plan for Biosecurity

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Australia's biosecurity system works in a dynamic environment with major challenges growing and evolving rapidly. Through the project '**Biosecurity Plan for the Lychee, Papaya and Passionfruit Industries (MT18006)**', Plant Health Australia (PHA), with Hort Innovation levy investment, has developed a separate Biosecurity Plan for each of the Australian lychee, papaya and passionfruit industries.

These three Biosecurity Plans (the Plans) recognise that the operating environments affecting the biosecurity of these Australian tropical fruit industries is vastly different today to that of the past, and that these industry's response capabilities need to keep pace, if they are to remain relevant and effective into the future.

These Plans lay the foundations for a stronger biosecurity system and more resilient lychee, papaya and passionfruit industries by identifying and prioritising the growing number of exotic pests and pathogens that could, if introduced, impact on their crop production and trade. These Plans also analyse the various preparedness resources needed to manage these risks and provide a program of current and future activities that will strengthen their biosecurity responses preparedness.

These Plans were developed with valuable input from industry groups including Australian Lychee Growers Association (ALGA), Australian Papaya (AP), Passionfruit Australia Inc. (PAI) along with biosecurity and crop protection experts from state, territory and commonwealth governments.

There are three major components to a Biosecurity Plan. The first is a review of all exotic pest and disease species that are known to infect the target crop. These reviews highlighted 119 different exotic pests and diseases species that impact lychee production, 78 exotic species known to impact passionfruit and 131 exotic species that affect papaya.

These species' reviews informed the development of risk ratings for each of the identified exotic pests and diseases. The risk ratings focus on the potential of each

species to enter, establish and spread within Australia and an estimate of their potential economic impact. Species that receive a high or extreme risk rating are deemed a 'High Priority Pest' (HPP) of that industry. Of those species reviewed, five species were deemed HPPs of the lychee industry, ten species HPPs of the passionfruit industry and 13 species HPPs of the papaya industry.

The second component was an analysis of the preparedness resources that are currently available to each HPP. The resources included contingency plans, fact sheets, diagnostic and surveillance protocols and taxonomic reference specimens.

The third and final component of a Biosecurity Plan is the development of an Implementation Plan that describes the critical activities that, if implemented, will improve the industries' biosecurity preparedness and response capabilities.

The Implementation Plans, were developed and will be reviewed annually through a Biosecurity Reference Panel (BRP), comprising of industry and government representatives. The Implementation Plans outline strategies, communication and engagement activities specific to the lychee, papaya and passionfruit industries, as well as activities and resources utilised by other industries that share the same exotic pest and disease threats and identifies potential international and domestic collaboration opportunities.

**For a digital copy of the
Biosecurity Plan for the Passionfruit Industry
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