



Biosecurity Authority of Fiji - NPPO

Country Report for the IPPC High-level Symposium on Cooperation of the Phytosanitary Measures among the Chinese Initiative "One Road" Countries to be held 25-28 September 2018 in Nanning, Guangxi, China



1. Executive Summary

The Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF) was established via the enactment of the Biosecurity Act on 17 December 2008. Formerly known as the Quarantine & Inspection Division, BAF is one of the newly established statutory bodies under the government's public-sector reform policy. BAF is mandated under the Biosecurity Act 2008 to:

- Protect Fiji's agriculture sector from the introduction and spread of animal and plant pests and diseases
- Facilitate access to viable ago-export market.
- Ensure compliance of Fiji's ago-exports to market requirements

The Act is the primary legislation that provides for the regulation and control of the movement of animal and plants into, out of and within Fiji. Inherent in this primary legislation are the powers to give effect to the relevant conventions of the WTO, IPPC and OIE, the provision of land and buildings for quarantine purposes, and the power to make secondary legislation, particularly the Biosecurity Regulations.

There is also active pest surveillance programme implemented against the quarantine pest in the interest of both exporting and detection of possible exotic pests.

The country has very strong border and post border (domestic) quarantine for timely detection of biosecurity risk and secondly to prevent movement of quarantine pest within the country. Where needed, the emergency declaration is put in place to strengthen the strategies.

The NPPO continues to implement the new standards adopted by the IPPC with the effort the safeguard the biodiversity and the agricultural sector from biosecurity threat through international trade.

2. Phytosanitary legal framework and list of regulated pests

The Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF) was established under the Biosecurity Act 2008 upon repeal of (a) Animals Importation Act (cap. 159); (b) Animals (Contagious Diseases) Act (cap. 160); and (c) Plant Quarantine Act (Cap. 156). Formerly known as the Quarantine & Inspection Division was in existence with Ministry of Agriculture before re-organisation of the department as Biosecurity Authority of Fiji which is mandated to function roles and responsibilities for both Plant and Animal Quarantine.

3. Overview of cases of surveillance, non-compliance and manage of regulated pests

The country did not experience any epidemic form of a pest or disease in the country or have resulted in massive economical loss to the grower or the industry. BAF employs both passive and active methods of pest and disease surveillance for the country in collaboration with relevant industries within the country. The surveillance undertaken are for the following pests, however the general surveillance for other pests and disease are ongoing. However, there are many quarantine pest and diseases (exotic) which if enters in country BAF is working on the database to capture the details of pest/ disease interception on all imports. As per protocols, for insect, the border samples are identified to genus or species level within 8 hours upon receiving of the samples while the general surveillance samples are identified within 7 days while identification of pathogens are done within 7 -14 days.

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4. Information on emerging issues on Phytosanitary Measures

- A. Emerging pests and diseases – food security, trade barriers.
- B. Changing climate – favouring pest and disease outbreak
- C. Resource limitation to implement or adopt new phytosanitary measures/ ISPM's.
- D. Capacity - Limited personnel with appropriate biosecurity knowledge and skills.

5. Identification of opportunities and challenges in Phytosanitary Measures

Opportunities:

- Multiple phytosanitary treatments available for same pests.
- New and improved diagnostic tools available

Challenges:

- Identification of new export markets
- Exploring other treatment systems, for example, an irradiation pest treatment system
- Possible introduction of exotic pests/diseases and invasive marine species into Fiji through ship ballast water, attachment to ship hulls and via other vectors has been identified as one of the greatest threats
- Development of emergency response plan.
- Rapid detection and recognition of an incursion.
- Development of standards for emerging pests
- Limited market access due to unavailability of treatment facility.
- Keep par with diagnostics protocols and equipment's (technology).
- Import Risk Assessment – increasing request with limited personnel's.

6. Suggestions on international, Regional and bilateral cooperation in Phytosanitary Measures among the Chinese Initiative “the Belt and Road” countries

- Harmonisation of diagnostics protocol for the region.
- Establishment of regional Phytosanitary Research and Training Centre to allow for capacity development at country level.
- Develop Laboratory Twinning for the region.