

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES JAMAICA  
**DESCRIPTION OF NATIONAL PLANT PRODUCTION ORGANIZATION**

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**Division/Entity:**

The Plant Quarantine/Produce Inspection Branch (PQPI) is Jamaica’s designated National Plant Production Organization and is one of three Technical Services Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Jamaica. The Branch’s is twofold; to prevent the entry, establishment and spread of exotic pests in Jamaica per the provisions of The Plants Quarantine Act of 1993 and its Regulations and to ensure that only the highest quality produce is exported and imported as per the provisions of the Agricultural Produce Act (Amendment)of 1923 and its regulations.

**Vision, Mission and Mandate**

Vision

By the year 2030 we aspire to have sound plant health system to safeguard Jamaica’s agricultural and natural environment and to provide pest free and quality export certification to allow for our competitiveness in international trade while complying with the relevant international standards

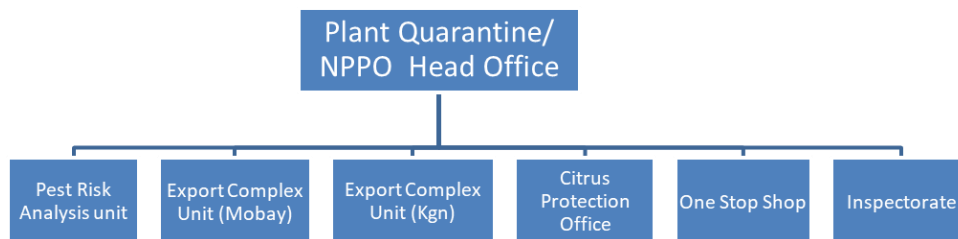
Mission and/or Mandate

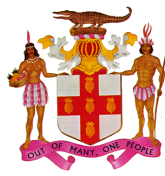
To prevent the introduction and establishment of exotic pests by the use of appropriate measures to safeguard our borders; thus protecting the integrity of Jamaica’s agricultural sector.

To ensure that only the highest quality, pest free agricultural commodities are exported and imported in compliance with national and international agricultural health and food safety standards.

**Current Organizational Structure**

The Plant Quarantine Branch is structured with 5 units and a head office: The units include Pest Risk Analysis, Citrus Protection, Inspectorate, 2 Export Complexes.





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**Head Office**

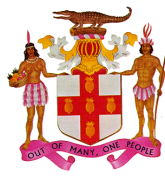
The head office has responsibility for the overall administration and direction of the NPPO. All units reports directly to the head office. The Unit houses the Head of the Division, the Chief Plant Quarantine/Produce Inspector/ Officer, a Senior Plant Quarantine/Produce Inspector, an Administrator, a Secretary, an Office Attendant and a Farm Hand. The head office has responsibilities for the following activities: The technical and project initiatives are outlined below:

**Technical Functions**

- Registration of importers
- Approval of phytosanitary import permits
- Input of phytosanitary import permits
- Adding import requirements to permit where required (addition declarations)
- Inspection and certification of noncommercial shipment of plant and plant products
- Invoice payments
- Phytosanitary certification
- Amendments of permits
- Recertification/Certification of packing house
- Respond to all queries for import and export of plant s and plant products and other regulated article
- Manage Pest Outbreak Response

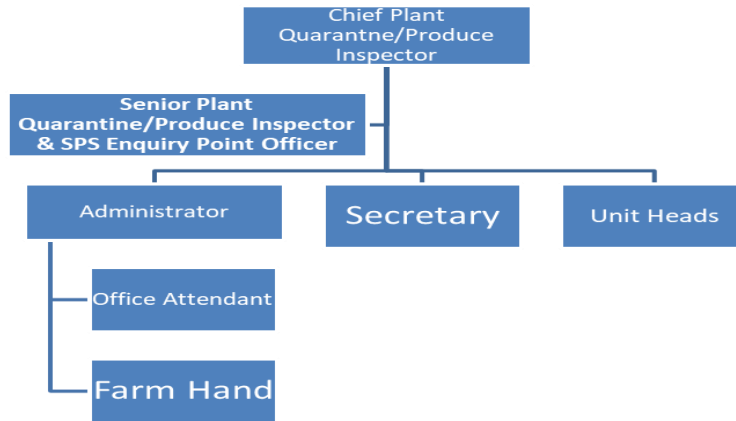
**Project Initiatives**

- Mango Fruit Fly Area Wide Programme
- Canine detection Programme
- Modernization of Branch
- Public Relations
- Export Certification Programme
- Nursery and Seed Certification management



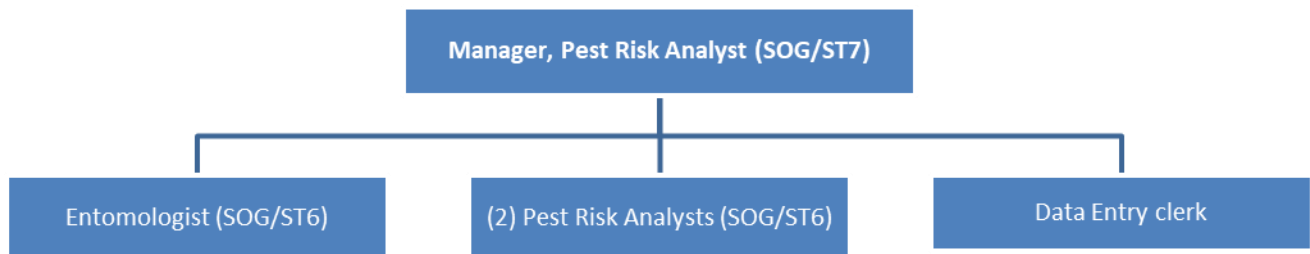
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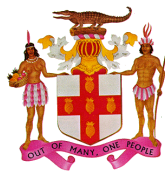
**Pest Risk Analysis Unit**

The main objective of the Pest Risk Unit is to undertake science-based risk assessments and provide quarantine policy advice to protect Jamaica’s plant health status while facilitating international trade. The Unit is headed by a Manager and staffed with 2 Pest Risk Analysts, Entomologist and a Data Entry Clerk. The responsibility of the Unit includes, conducting risk assessment for all plant and plant product entering the country, prepare data sheets for quarantine pests, responsibility for training, etc



In order to carry out our objective the PRA Unit undertakes the following activities:

- Conduct Pest Risk Analyses on commodities for import, pathways of concern and pests of quarantine significance.
- Prepare technical market access information according to Ministry’s export strategy
- Update and Prioritize the Regulated Pest List through stakeholder consultation with key stakeholders



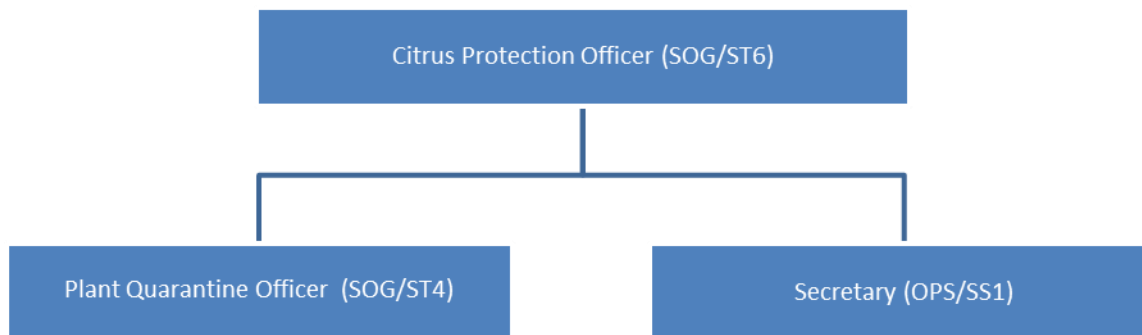
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- Prepare Emergency Pest Response Plan to coordinate activities to mitigate against the introduction of exotic pests
- Prepare data sheets and field id sheets on pests of quarantine importance to Jamaica
- Train PQ Officers in identification of Jamaica’s top regulated pests
- Public education campaign where stakeholders are sensitized on the application of PRAs

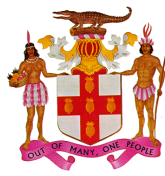
**Citrus Protection Unit**

The Objective of the Unit is to enforce a mandatory Citrus certification programme as outlined in the (citrus Plant Certification Regulation) 1999, and 2012 of the Plant Quarantine act certification. The Unit has 3 staff, a Citrus Protection Officer, a Plant Quarantine Officer and a Secretary .



Key activities

- Management of the citrus germplasm material ( parent trees ) held at Bodles on the behalf of the citrus industry
- Ensure testing and registration of certified planting material (Certified Seed Source Trees- CSST, Certified Scion Trees- CST, and Quick Multiplication Block- QMB)
- Registration of Citrus Nurseries
- Monitoring the production of certified citrus plant at registered nurseries
- Monitoring the movement and distribution of certified citrus plants
- Monitoring the productions of certified budwood from the budwood facility at Bodles and other facilities
- Witnessing and certifications of budwood produced in QMB
- Guide the clean stock programme
- Guide the introduction of new citrus cultivar into the country
- Provide training to industry stakeholders with regards to citrus health
- Provide technical advice to citrus farmers regarding replanting and disease management



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- Provide surveillance for citrus pest of quarantine importance ( Citrus Black Spot, Citrus Canker, Citrus Variegated Chlorosis, and Citrus Leprosis)
- Maintain a database on certified citrus material produce at nurseries.

**Export Complex Unit (Montego Bay)**

**Unit Objective**

To maintain an efficient well managed and fully maintained Agricultural Export Complex in order to facilitate export and import certification of agricultural produce and regulated articles for safe global trade thereby fulfilling our legal obligation within national and agreements.

The Montego Bay PQ unit is a phytosanitary inspection, certification and treatment facility complemented by cargo handling and processing capabilities along with cold and ambient storage facilities.

It operates under the “one-stop” concept for import/export for agricultural and regulated articles. All the relevant agencies involved in the process of import/ and exporting agricultural and regulated articles operates from the complex. The agencies are namely Customs, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), JCF (Narcotics), and Private security along with the Airlines (AJAS and CALS).

Due to its phytosanitary capabilities, the complex enhances Jamaica's compliance with national and international agreements.

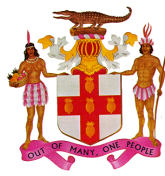
**Services Provided**

- a. Inspection and certification of agricultural and regulated articles for imports/exports in a *sterile and sanitary environment.*
- b. Pre-clearance of agricultural produce to the U.S.A
- c. Fumigation of agricultural produce
- d. Cold and ambient storage for fresh produce.
- e. Plant health surveillance
- f. Laboratory diagnostic (entomology).

**Staff Complement**

There are three major categories of staff serving at the complex:

- a. Fumigation Staff

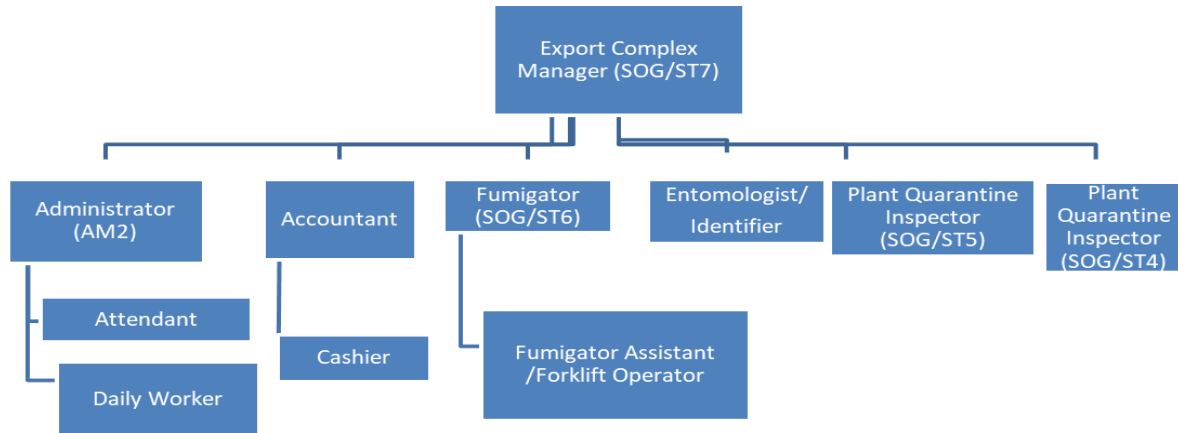


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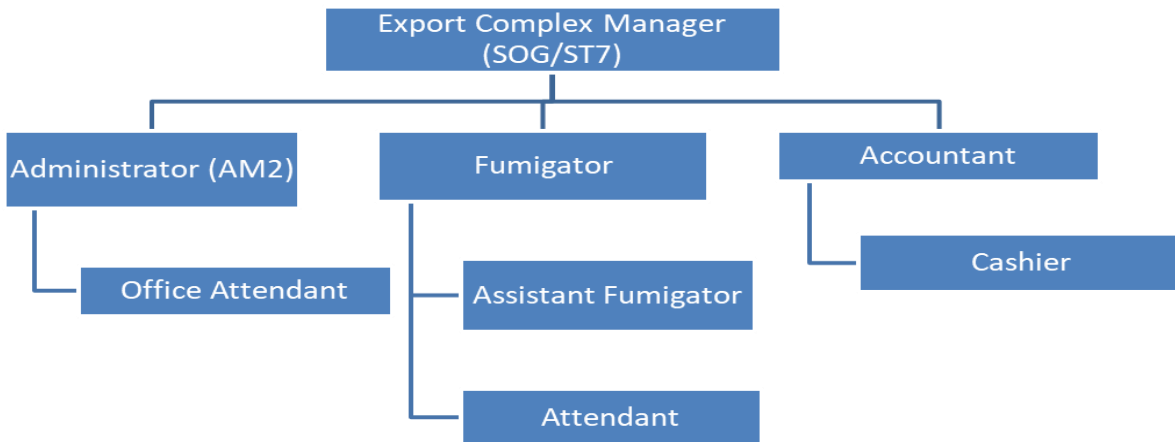
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b. Inspectorate

c. Accounting/Administrative Staff

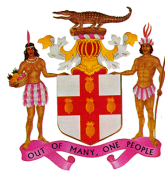


**Export Complex Unit (Kingston)**



Key Activities performed by

- Fumigation of fresh produce, wooden products and other commodities
- Provide cold and ambient storage facilities for customers
- Management of revenue which involves collection, receipting, recording and depositing
- Facilitate the provision of inspection service for import and export of fresh produce and other commodities



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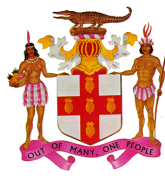
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- Provide accommodation and other services for agencies operating at the facility such as airlines, customs, USDA who are key players in the operation of the facility
- Carry out offsite fumigations for exports and imports
- Provide a secure environment for staff and customers using human and technological capabilities
- Request and monitor the repair and maintenance of the buildings equipment and machinery based on a maintenance schedule
- Liaise with several different service providers needed to provide different types of services for the facility
- Ensure the requirements of the USDA preclearance program are adhered to, based on the cooperator agreement.
- Daily processing of customers along with their relevant documentation
- Capture and record sensitive customer information as required by security procedures

**Certification and Inspectorate Unit**

The Unit is staffed with two Managers: Import/Export Manager and Certification and Compliance Manager and ...Plant Quarantine Inspectors. The Unit has primary responsibility for

- Surveillance Activity
- Seed and Nursery Unit
- Offsite Fumigation- designated Officers
- Pest outbreak
- Pest Free Management
- Staff Training and Information Exchange



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