



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

In-field next-generation plant pathogens detection with CRISPR/Cas-based methods

15th May 2024



Frank Bedon, PhD

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The Plant Innovation Centre (PIC)

Objectives

- Develop in-house capability to conduct trials that address operational issues with a focus on implementing into service delivery
- Further engage with the scientific research community
- Develop closer collaborative links with the education sector



Our Plant Innovation
Centre website

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/science-research/pic>



Post-Entry Quarantine facility in Mickleham (Victoria, AU)

Diagnose high risk plant imported from overseas



Why plant pest detection ?

TO PROTECT Australia's primary industry and export markets*

- Agriculture \$83 billion (2021-22) (equiv. ~3% of GDP)
- Agriculture employs >300,000 people
- Amongst the top 10 global agricultural export countries



TO PROTECT Australia's unique environment (island continent)

- 80% of Australia's fauna and flora are unique



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* <https://nff.org.au/media-centre/farm-facts/>

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Identifying exotic plant pests and diseases

Indispensable & necessary

- Surveillance
 - Early detection for early containment
 - Managing potential incursions
- Field and Border inspections
- Pre-export clearance



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Protection relies on pathogens identification

In-laboratory diagnostics

The golden standard!

Drawbacks:

- Specialised laboratory
- Trained personnel
- Long turnaround time
- Heavy/expensive equipment

In-field diagnostics / Point Of Care testing

Some are already in use . . . but:

- Not available for every pathogens of interest
- Sensitivity/specificity can be improved
- Only one pathogen detection per assay
- Results reporting is not connected to internet

Advantages:

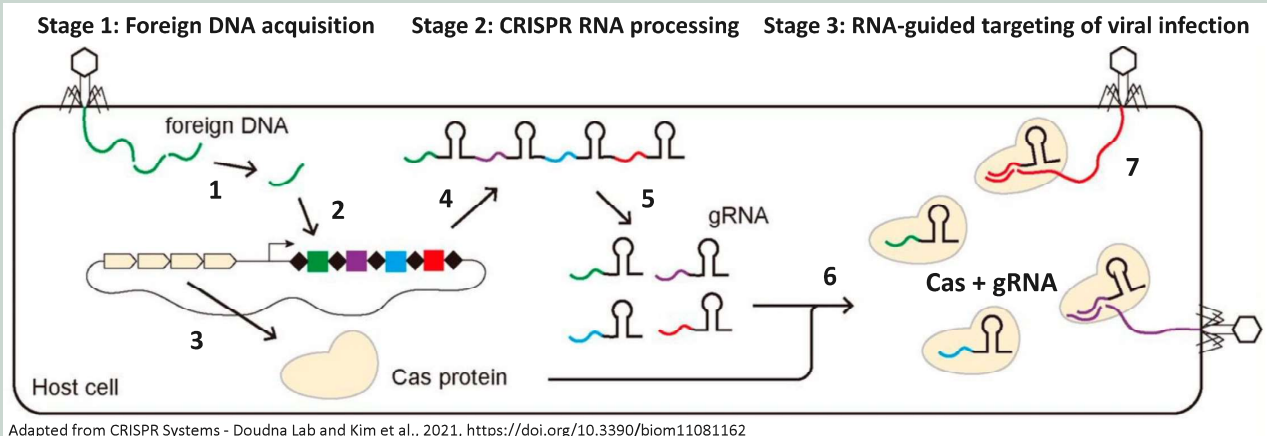
- Simple instruments
- Can be performed by non-experts
- Fast results (usually 30 min or less)
- Simple detection method
- Portable :
 - can be employed at points of incursion
 - airport/seaport screening
 - non-domestic pre-import screening
- Rapid triage and decision on the spot
- Help decrease workload in diagnostic labs

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CRISPR/Cas

CRISPR-Cas: Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats / CRISPR Associated System

➤ Bacterial acquired immune system that recognize and destroy invading genomes

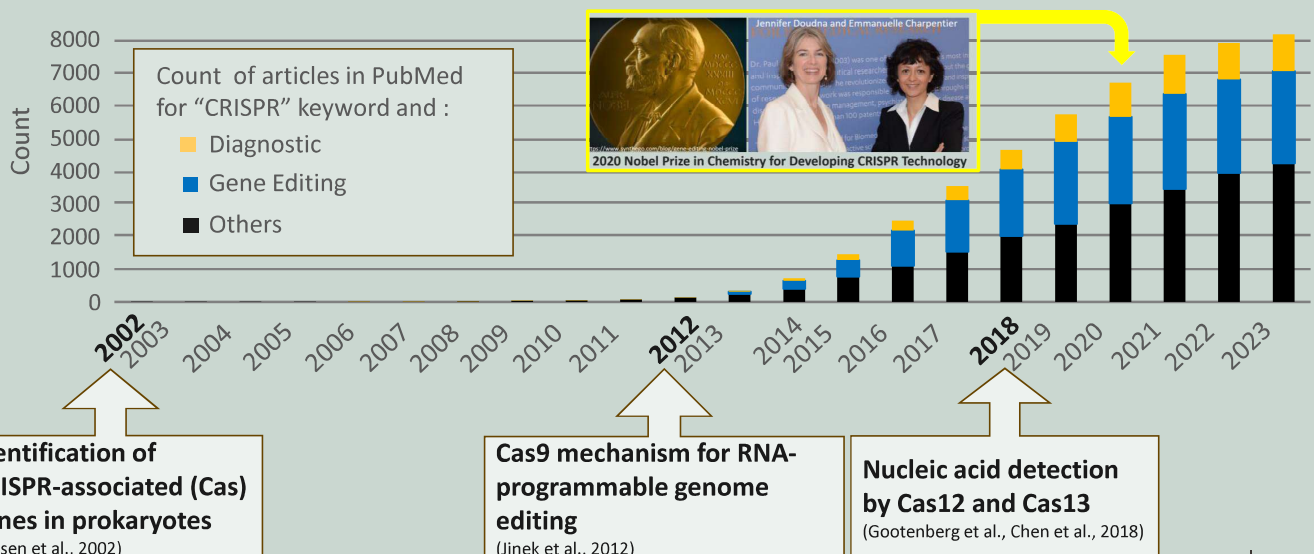


Adapted from CRISPR Systems - Doudna Lab and Kim et al., 2021, <https://doi.org/10.3390/biom11081162>

CRISPR-Cas RNA (gRNA) associates with Cas effector proteins as guides to silence foreign genetic elements that match the crRNA sequence.

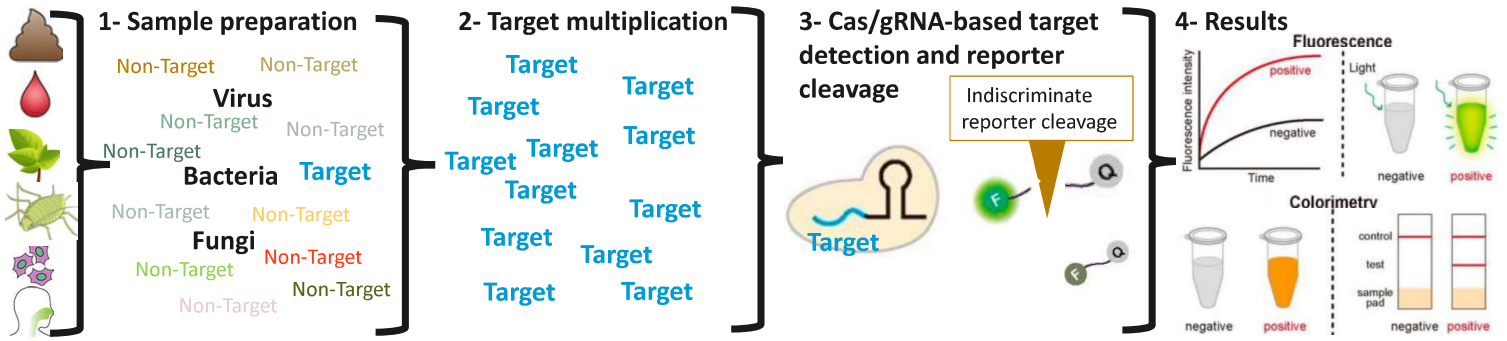
The history of CRISPR-Cas

➤ Used for diagnosis, gene editing/knockout, therapeutic approaches and basic research



CRISPR-Cas for detection and diagnosis

- CRISPR-Cas system can analyse diverse samples to detect specific nucleic acids targets
- A versatile system with multiple programmable Cas effectors and results readout
- 4 main steps required



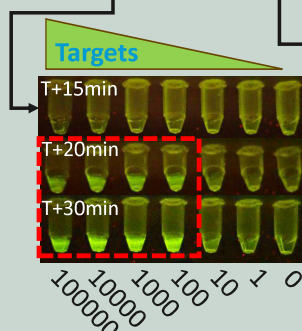
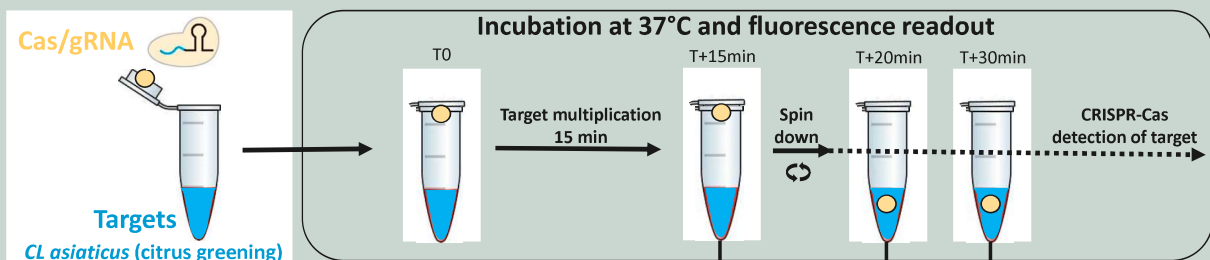
Adapted from Kim et al., 2021 (CRISPR as a Diagnostic Tool), <https://doi.org/10.3390/biom11081162>

One-pot assay ("all in one reagents")

not opening the tube to add reagents (avoid cross contamination),
 simple workflow, single temperature, result in less than an hour

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"One-pot" pathogen detection (PIC)



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CRISPR-Cas: Examples of one-pot assay

References	Pathogens	Nucleic acid	Limit Of Detection	Duration	Visualization	Lyophilised
Marques et al., 2022	Tobacco mosaic virus, Tobacco etch virus, Potato virus X	RNA	healty versus infected	30 min	Fluorescence & Lateral flow strip	No
Lei et al., 2022	Leptosphaeria maculans (Fungi, stem canker in brassica)	DNA	5 targets / uL of crude extract	45 min		Yes



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Comparison with current nucleic-acid-based detection methods

- The throughput of field deployable point of care testing remains currently low

Target detection with	Point of care	Detection efficiency	Throughput	Cost
CRISPR-Cas	Yes	***	*	\$
<i>In-field amplification</i>	Yes	***	*	\$
<i>In-laboratory detection</i>	No	***	**	\$\$
<i>In-laboratory sequencing</i>	No	***	****	\$\$

Adapted from Venbrux et al., 2023, Current and emerging trends in techniques for plant pathogen detection, <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpls.2023.1120968>

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Challenges for *in-field* CRISPR-Cas

- ✓ **Developing bioinformatic approaches to specifically target pathogens of interest**
 - Optimisation required
- ✓ **A simple preparation of the plant sample for nucleic acid isolation**
 - Optimisation required
- ✓ **A lyophilised one-pot CRISPR-Cas assay “as good as the golden standard” recommended by the authority to discriminate healthy and infected plant material**
 - Optimisation required
- ✗ **Integrated to a miniaturised handheld device for result readout (*Detect*), record and communication to datacentre (*Report*)**

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Benefits of “CRISPR-Cas detect and report” system in case of pathogen incursion

Offshore testing to improve preparedness

- identify and rank the pathogen’s risk accordingly to their occurrence
- alert on the safety of plant product import route and provenance

Map the infected geographical location

- more robust area-freedom data sets
- improved delimiting surveillance
- help identifying buffer zone
- track the spreading of a specific pathogen

Faster recovery from incursions

Reduced demand on diagnostic laboratories

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Thank you

Acknowledgements

Plant Innovation Centre (PIC) at Post-Entry Quarantine

Farrall Tom, Abeynayake Shamila, Mudunkothge Janaki,
Hetherington Alicia, Fiorito Sonia, Dinsdale Adrian, Whattam
Mark

Science and Surveillance Group PEQ

Modern Technologies and Diagnostics Tools program
(MTDT)

Biosecurity Innovation Project (BIP)

Questions?

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Our Plant Innovation
Centre website

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/science-research/pic>

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Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



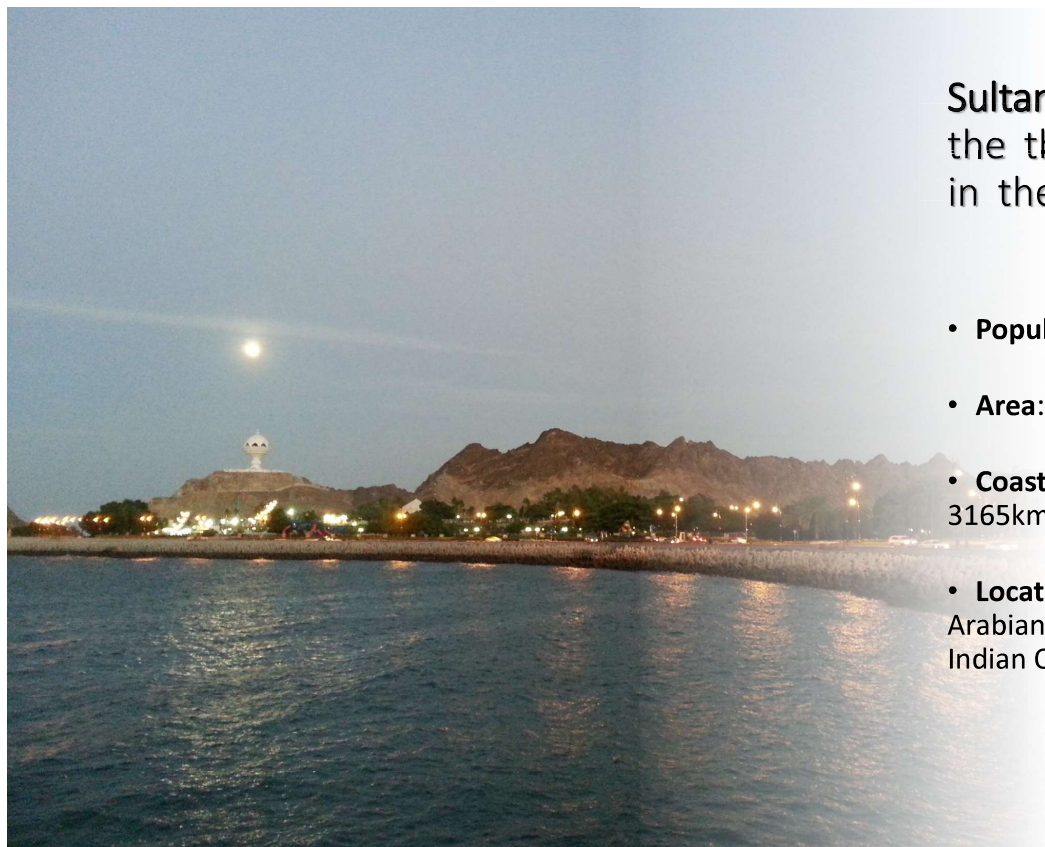
Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries
Wealth & Water Resources

Integrated Biosecurity Management in Food and Agriculture In the Sultanate of Oman



MAFWR_OM

وزارة الزراعة والثروة السمكية وسلطنة عمان



Sultanate of Oman
the third largest country
in the Arabian Peninsula

- **Population:** 5,171,344
- **Area:** 309,500 km²
- **Coastline extends about:** 3165km
- **Location:** Eastern end of the Arabian Peninsula, facing the Indian Ocean and Gulf of Oman

Climate

- Hot, humid coast
- Hot, dry interior
- Dry desert
- Strong southwest summer monsoon (June to September) in far south



The Sultanate of Oman achieved a 35th place (out of 113 countries) in the 2022 Global Food Security Index, reflecting a five-position improvement from 2021.

Although the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth, and Water Resources (MAFWR) is the governmental institute supervising the sectors related to animal, plant, fish, water, food security, and food safety, the successful management of these sectors is attributed to their integration and harmonization with other relevant governmental and private institutes.

National strategy and action plan on biosecurity management in food and agriculture In Oman



Establishing Food Safety and Quality Centre by Royal Decree (RD No. 24/2019), to implement and follow up policies, plans and programs related to the management of food safety and quality.



Programs and initiatives that encourage and support local food production and its sustainability (e.g. allocating lands for agricultural investment, establishing food storage facilities (such as silos) for wheat and rice, and creating model farms.)



Legislations contributing in biosecurity management in food and agriculture including:



Legislations and regulations

Veterinary Quarantine law
(Royal decree No. 45/2004)

Agricultural Quarantine Law
(Royal Decree No. 47/2004)

Ministerial decision no
(107/2008) of Executive
Regulations of the Veterinary
Quarantine Law

Ministerial decision no
(177/2012) Aquaculture And
Related Quality Control
Regulations

Ministerial decision no
(12/2009) Fisheries Quality
Control Regulations

Ministerial decision (225/2022)
Guideline for Imported
Shrimp Brood Stock Quarantine

Unified laws across the Gulf
Cooperation Council (GCC)
countries aligned with
International organizations,
committees and Convention
(e.g. FAO, WHO, IPPC, WOA, H,
CAMENET, AQMENET ...)

Aquatic and terrestrial animal biosecurity, food safety, plant health and forestry sector specific biosecurity management and policies on integration and harmonization



Coordination and cooperation between governmental institutions in monitoring and inspecting commercial food establishments and factories to secure the food products and establish regulations and legislations to protect public health.

The national committees concerned with biosecurity management e.g. :

- The national committee of food safety by the Ministerial decree no (89/2022).
- National Committee for Epidemic and Infectious Diseases
- National Committee for zoonotic diseases
- National Committee for aquaculture projects technical assessment
- Joint National Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance



The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Water Resources (MAFWR) aligned the objectives and mandates of all directorates and departments concerned with food. The most important of these are the Plant Quarantine Department, the Veterinary Quarantine Department, and the Food Safety & Quality Center. This alignment is in line with the 'one health approach'.



Combination of plant , vet and food safety under one section . (the Quarantine and food safety section)



Developing and adopting food product regulations and standards in coordination with food-related institutions.

سلطنة عمان
2024



Aquatic and terrestrial animal biosecurity, food safety, plant health and forestry sector specific biosecurity management and policies on integration and harmonization

The Ministry of Endowment and Religious Affairs in accrediting halal institutions and centers

The Environment Authority regarding the implementation of agreements on endangered species and natural reserves for wild animals, in addition to distributing the epidemiological map in wild animal environments.

The Royal Oman Police (D. G of Customs) regarding import and export of agricultural ,animal and food products and securing the locations of predatory animals and accompanying them during movement, and in managing crises during emergencies that affect animal facilities in a way that supports biosecurity.

The Ministry of Health regarding zoonotic diseases (via the National Committee for zoonotic Diseases)

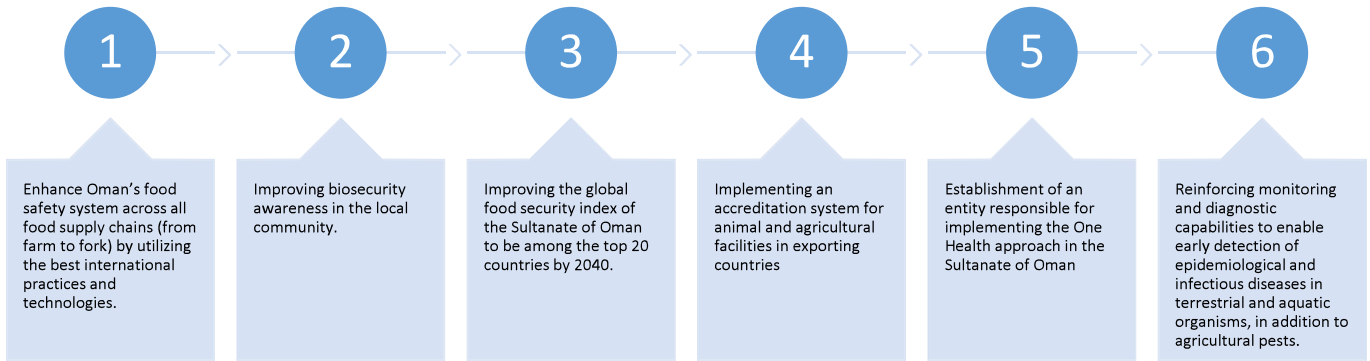
The Ministry of Transport Communications and Information Technology regarding the approval of the country's ports and the roads leading to those ports

The Ministry of Defence regarding securing the borders and territorial waters to prevent the smuggling of live animals and high-risk animal consignments that threaten the vital security of the state.

سلطنة عمان
2024



National priorities for the improvement of biosecurity management in food and agriculture system



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries
Wealth & Water Resources



THANK YOU

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
PLANT PROTECTION DEPARTMENT



Regulations on phytosanitary treatment for regulated articles and updates on phytosanitary treatment measures in Vietnam

Nguyen Tuan Anh
Plant Quarantine Division

Regulations on phytosanitary treatment

- *Law on Plant Protection and Quarantine No. 41/2013/QH13*
- *Decree 31/2016/NĐ-CP issued on 6 May 2016 regulating penalties for administrative violations against regulations on plant varieties, plant protection and quarantine*
- *Decree 04/2020/NĐ-CP issued on 3 January 2020 on amending and supplementing a number of Articles of the Government's Decree No. 31/2016/ND-CP; Decree 90/2017/NĐ-CP issued on 31 July 2017 on penalties for administrative violations against regulations on veterinary medicine*
- *Decree 66/2016/NĐ-CP issued on 1 July 2016 on regulations on requirements for investment in protection and quarantine of flora, plant varieties; common wild animals; aquatic animals; foods and husbandry*
- *Decree 123/2018/NĐ-CP issued on 17 September 2018 amending Decrees on investment and business requirements in the agriculture sector*

Regulations on phytosanitary treatment

- *Circular 05/2015/TT-BNNPTNT* issued on 12 Feb 2015 on procedures to certify the phytosanitary treatment practicing for regulated articles
- *Circular 15/2021/TT-BNNPTNT* issued on 06 Dec 2021 amending and supplementing several articles of *Circular No. 05/2015/TT-BNNPTNT* prescribing procedures to procedures to certify the phytosanitary treatment practicing for regulated articles and *Circular 33/2014/TT-BNNPTNT* issued on 30/10/2014

Phytosanitary treatment measures in Vietnam

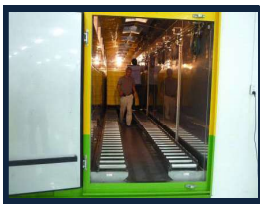
Law on Plant Protection and Quarantine No. 41/2013/QH13

Article 36. Treatment practice of regulated articles

1. The treatment of regulated articles must be performed by the organization that holds the Certificate of phytosanitary treatment practicing for regulated articles
2. Treatment practices of regulated articles include:
 - a) Fumigation treatment;
 - b) Heat treatment;
 - c) Vapor heat treatment;
 - d) Irradiation;
 - d) Other techniques.



Fumigation treatment facility: 41



Vapor heat treatment facility: 08



Heat treatment facility: 27



Cold treatment facility: 03



Irradiation treatment: 04

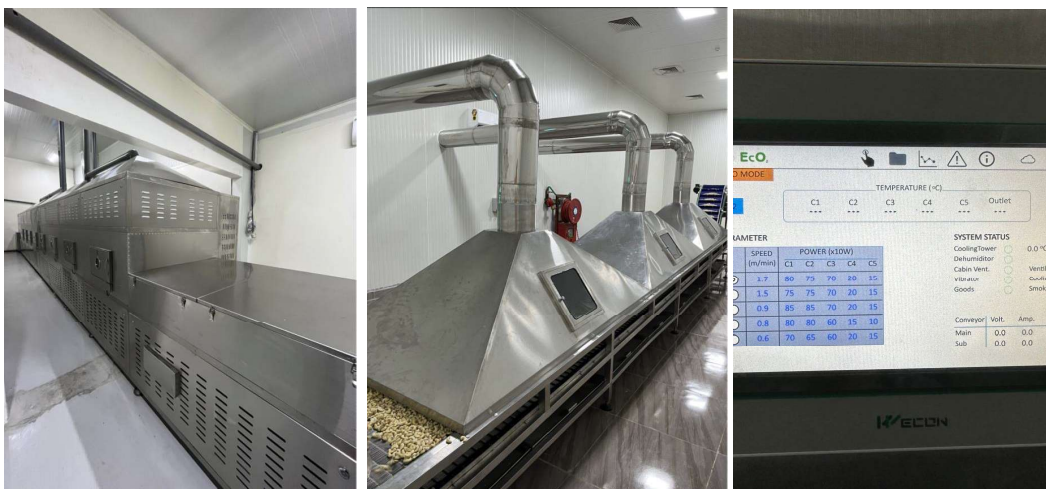


Controlled Atmosphere (CA) facility: 03

CONTROLLED ATMOSPHERE AS A SAFE ALTERNATIVE

- Treatments are 100% natural without using any toxic chemicals
- Based on the principle: No Oxygen = No Life, oxygen levels are reduced to a level which is lethal to insects using Carbon Dioxide or Nitrogen.
- Treatment methods are safe and can be applied in organic production





3. Result:		
Samples	Method	Result
Sample No.01	Dielectric Heat (DH) method by microwave at temperature 60 Celsius degree for 01 minute	Dead insects at all stage found Live insects not found
Sample No.02	Dielectric Heat (DH) method by microwave at temperature 60 Celsius degree for 01 minute	Dead insects at all stage found Live insects not found
Sample No.03	Dielectric Heat (DH) method by microwave at temperature 60 Celsius degree for 01 minute	Dead insects at all stage found Live insects not found

3. Result:		
Samples	Method	Result
Sample No.04	Dielectric Heat (DH) method by microwave at temperature 60 Celsius degree for 01 minute	Dead insects at all stage found Live insects not found
Sample No.05	Dielectric Heat (DH) method by microwave at temperature 60 Celsius degree for 01 minute	Dead insects at all stage found Live insects not found
Sample No.06	Dielectric Heat (DH) method by microwave at temperature 60 Celsius degree for 01 minute	Dead insects at all stage found Live insects not found

3. Result:		
Samples	Method	Result
Sample No.04	Dielectric Heat (DH) method by microwave at temperature 60 Celsius degree for 01 minute	Dead insects at all stage found Live insects not found
Sample No.05	Dielectric Heat (DH) method by microwave at temperature 60 Celsius degree for 01 minute	Dead insects at all stage found Live insects not found
Sample No.06	Dielectric Heat (DH) method by microwave at temperature 60 Celsius degree for 01 minute	Dead insects at all stage found Live insects not found

Microwave Dielectric Heating : 01

Requirements for phytosanitary treatment providers

Technical equipment and facilities

- Have locations for fumigation, workshops, stores and equipment which are suitable with the scope, measure and type of treatment in accordance with national technical regulations;
- Have sufficient equipment and facilities for each treatment measure as regulated in Appendix 1 of Circular 05/2015/TT-BNNPTNT and Decree 66/2016/NĐ-CP.

Human resources

- The persons directly involved in management and execution of the treatment organizations must have a university degree suitable with the treatment measure; have good health as regulated.
- Persons who are directly involved in treatment of regulated articles must have completed a training course and be issued a practising card issued by Plant Protection Department

The procedures for issuing the Certificate of treatment practicing for regulated articles

a) Application dossier

- Application form as regulated in Appendix II of Circular 05/2015/TT-BNNPTNT;
- Justifications of technical procedure, equipment;
- Copies of evidence to show qualification of the persons directly involved in management and execution;
- Health check certificates of the persons directly involved in management and execution and the persons directly conducting phytosanitary treatment.
- List of the persons directly conducting phytosanitary treatment and having practicing certificates;
- Copies of documents related to fire prevention and fighting conditions and environmental protection

The procedures for issuing the Certificate of treatment practicing for regulated articles

b) Procedure

- Applicant submits an application dossier to PPD.
- Within 5 working days, PPD appraises the application dossier and inform result
- Within 15 working days after receiving valid application dossier, PPD organize onsite inspection and issue certificate; or reply in writing, stating reasons, if not issuing certificate.
- Onsite inspection items:
 - + Equipment and facilities;
 - + Actual practicing of phytosanitary treatment of regulated articles.

The procedures for issuing the Certificate of treatment practicing for regulated articles

a) Reissue certificate if it is lost, damaged or information related to name of the organization changes

-Application dossier:

+ Application form;

+ Issued original Certificate (except for the case where the certificate is lost);

+ Copies of papers showing the change in name (if changing name).

- Procedure: PPD reissues certificate withing 5 working days after receiving valid application dossier.

The procedures for issuing the Certificate of treatment practicing for regulated articles

b) Reissue certificate when address, practicing scope change; or when certificate expires

-Application dossier:

+ Application form;

+ Copies of papers showing qualification of persons directly involved in management and execution (if there is change);

+ Health check certificate;

+ List of the persons directly conducting phytosanitary treatment and having practicing certificates at the time of application;

+ Justifications of technical procedure, equipment;

+ Copies of documents related to fire prevention and fighting conditions and environmental protection


- Procedure: Follow the same procedure as issuing a new practicing certificate

Managing treatment practising of regulated articles

PPD's responsibilities for treatment of regulated articles


- Check the conditions to issue, reissue certificates of treatment practicing for regulated articles in compliance with Circular 05/2015/TT-BNNPTNT.
- Organize training and professional check, and issue practicing certificates.
- Develop training on treatment
- Nominate and supervise the treatment of regulated articles having quarantine pests or regulated pests of Viet Nam or exotic pests.
- Conduct regular or ad-hoc inspection of treatment practicing organizations which violate the current legislation.

Responsibilities of provincial-level Plant Protection Sub-departments (PPSD) for treatment of regulated articles

- Supervise the treatment of regulated articles in the local areas as informed by the treatment practicing organizations.
- 

Violations against regulations on treatment of regulated articles

Article 23 Decree 31/2016/NĐ-CP issued on 6 May 2016

1. A fine of from VND 5,000,000 to VND 10,000,000 shall be imposed for any of the following violations:
 - a) Manager of an organization practicing treatment of regulated articles does not possess professional qualifications as regulated;
 - b) Using persons who directly practices the treatment of regulated articles without practicing cards for treatment of regulated articles;
 - c) Failing to meet requirements on technical methods, facilities and equipment for practicing the treatment as regulated;
 - d) Failing to meet requirements on warehouse of fumigants.
- 

Violations against regulations on treatment of regulated articles

Article 23 Decree 31/2016/NĐ-CP issued on 6 May 2016

2. A fine of from VND 7,000,000 to VND 10,000,000 shall be imposed for any of the following violations:

- a) Using a type of fumigants whose commercial name is not in the list of pesticides permitted for use in Vietnam;
- b) Using fumigants which are not in conformity with applicable standards and corresponding technical regulations;
- c) Treatment of regulated articles and/or wooden packages is not in conformity with regulated technical processes;
- d) Practicing treatment of regulated articles without obtaining a practicing certificate

3. A fine of from VND 10,000,000 to VND 15,000,000 shall be imposed for any of the following violations committed while practicing the fumigation:

- a) Using types of fumigants in the list of pesticides banned from use in Vietnam;
- b) Failing to comply with regulations on use of fumigants which causes adverse effect on quality of regulated articles being fumigated;
- c) Practicing treatment of regulated articles which are stated in violation announcements by competent plant quarantine agencies in importing countries;

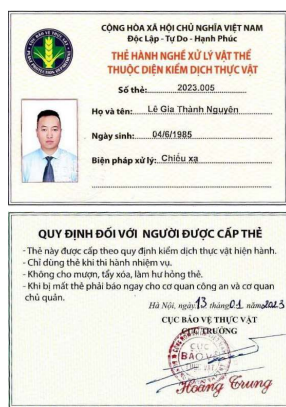
Violations against regulations on treatment of regulated articles

Article 23 Decree 31/2016/NĐ-CP issued on 6 May 2016

4. Additional penalties

- a) Suspend practicing cards for treatment for 01 - 03 months if having aggravating factors for the violation mentioned in Point c Clause 2 of this Article;
- b) Suspend practicing certificates for treatment for 01 – 06 months if any of the violations mentioned in Points a, b Clause 2 and Points a, b Clause 3 of this Article is committed;
- c) Suspend practicing activities for treatment for 01 – 03 months if any of the violations mentioned in Clause 1 of this Article is committed;
- d) Suspend practicing activities for treatment for 03 – 06 months if the violation mentioned in Point c Clause 3 of this Article is repeated.

Persons who are directly involved in treatment of regulated articles must have completed a training course and be issued a practising card



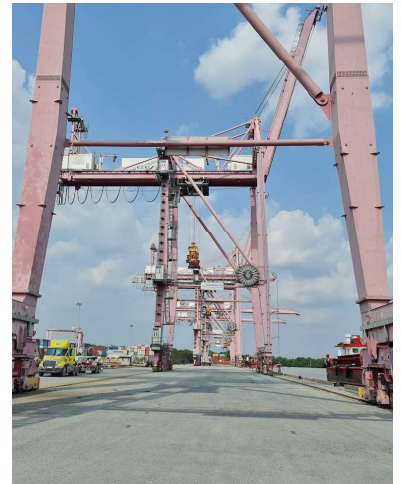
Certificate of treatment



Certificate of treatment

Validity of the practising certificate of the treatment of regulated articles

1. The practising certificate of the treatment of regulated articles shall be valid within 05 years.
2. Before 03 months till the date on which the practising certificate of the treatment of regulated articles is expired, the practicing organization must submit their documents to competent certification agencies if they wish to get their certificate renewed.



Thank you for your attention

Analytics that inform decisions
Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis

Andrew Robinson

CEBRA, University of Melbourne

May 17, 2024



Agenda

An Algorithm for Decision-Supporting Analytics

Illustrative examples

CEBRA Value Model

CEBRA Project 21D: Value-Added

21B: Forecasting biosecurity risk under climate change

Sea Container Hygiene Scheme

Structured Expert Judgement

Thanks! Questions?

An Algorithm for Decision-Supporting Analytics

An Algorithm for Decision-Supporting Analytics

1. Identify the decision
2. Model the process
3. Gather data
4. Augment the data
5. Use the model
6. Support the decision
7. Review

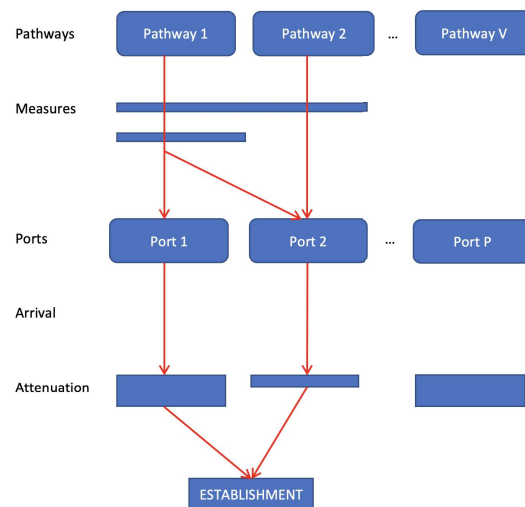
Identify the decision

1. Locate the decision-maker/s
2. Establish the decision mechanism
3. Identify the cost/s of error
4. Determine how the outcome will be assessed
5. Measure the appetite for risk and uncertainty
6. Confirm the vocabulary for communication



Model the process

1. Identify the drivers
2. Construct box and arrows diagram/s
3. Review with experts
4. Translate into code
5. Test scenarios
6. Identify sensitivities



Gather & use available data

1. Identify relevant data sources
2. Source data
3. Harmonise
4. Clean
5. Fit necessary models
6. Estimate key quantities
7. Document shortcomings

```
if ("scripts" %in% list.files()) setwd("scripts/")

library(ggplot2)
library(splines)
library(mgcv)
library(data.table)
library(lme4)

library(dm)
library(tictoc)

source("ggc.R")

(data.file.names <-
  grep("QPR", list.files("../images", full.names = TRUE), # Ignore AIMS
  value = TRUE))

for (data.file in data.file.names) load(data.file)

load("../images/aa_dm.RData")
load("../images/aaa.RData")

results <- dm_flatten_to_tbl(aa_dm_all_keys,
  .start = auditCriteriaResult,
  .recursive = TRUE)

str(results)

results <- merge(results, audits.s[, .('Audit SK', duration)],
  all.y = TRUE,
  by = "Audit SK")
```

Augment the data (Light a Candle!)

Structured Expert Judgement

1. Ask questions that have clear operational meanings
2. Follow methodological rules (traceable, repeatable, open to review)
3. Thoroughly documented
4. Provides opportunities for empirical evaluation and validation
5. Anticipates and mitigates cognitive and motivational biases



Then ...

Use the model

1. Final stress & sense testing
2. Evaluate scenario
3. Check resilience

Support the decision

1. Communicate outputs
2. Respect uncertainty

Review

1. Register outcomes
2. Identify key sources of uncertainty
3. Contemplate follow-up



Illustrative examples

CEBRA Value Model

CEBRA Project 21D: Value-Added

21B: Forecasting biosecurity risk under climate change

Sea Container Hygiene Scheme

Structured Expert Judgement

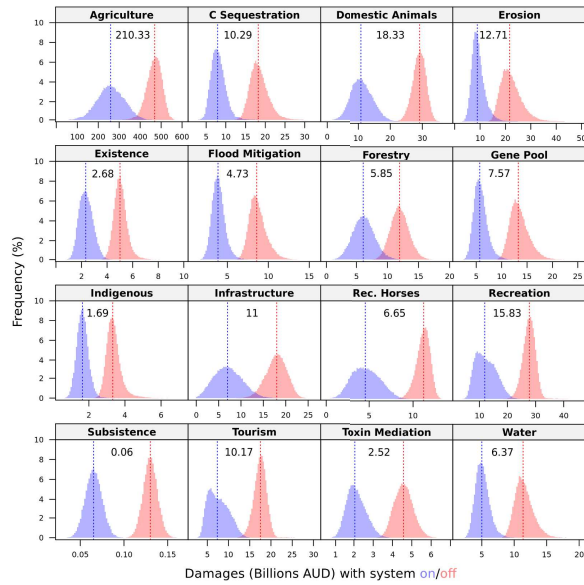
CEBRA Value Model: The Value of Biosecurity to Australia

Setup

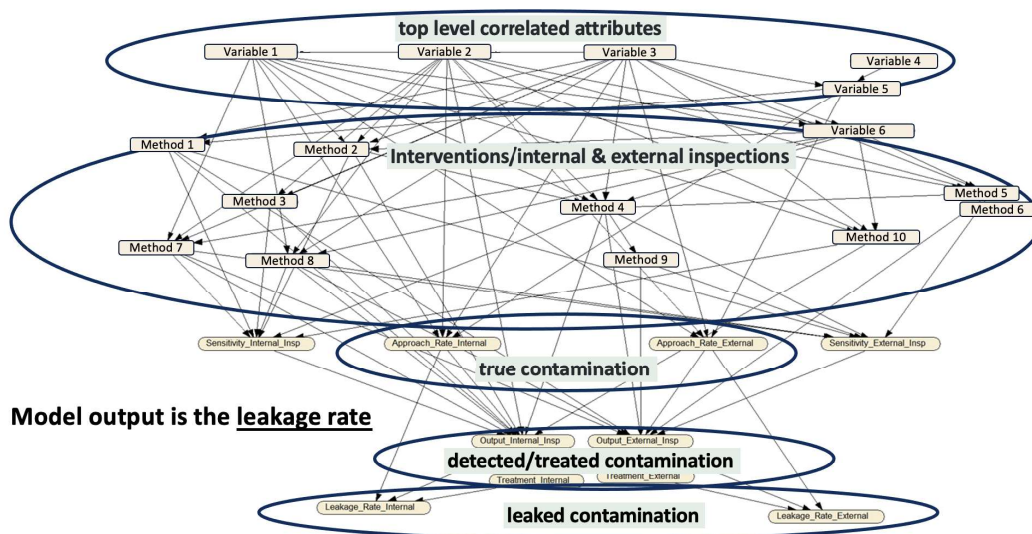
- ▶ 2500m resolution
- ▶ 40 biological hazards
- ▶ 50 years, 1-year intervals
- ▶ 50,000 iterations per state
- ▶ Discount: 5% Fin; 3% Env

Output

- ▶ Benefit: A\$325.26 bn
- ▶ Costs: A\$10.45 bn
- ▶ Net PV: A\$314 bn
- ▶ Average ROI: 30:1



21D: Model structure

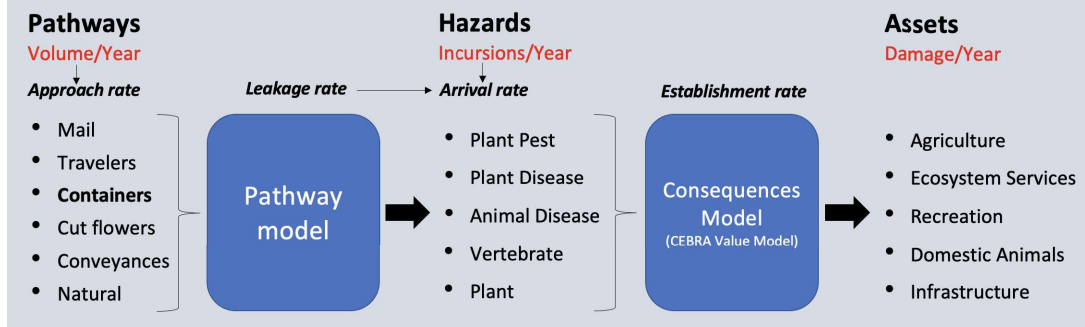


Model output is the leakage rate

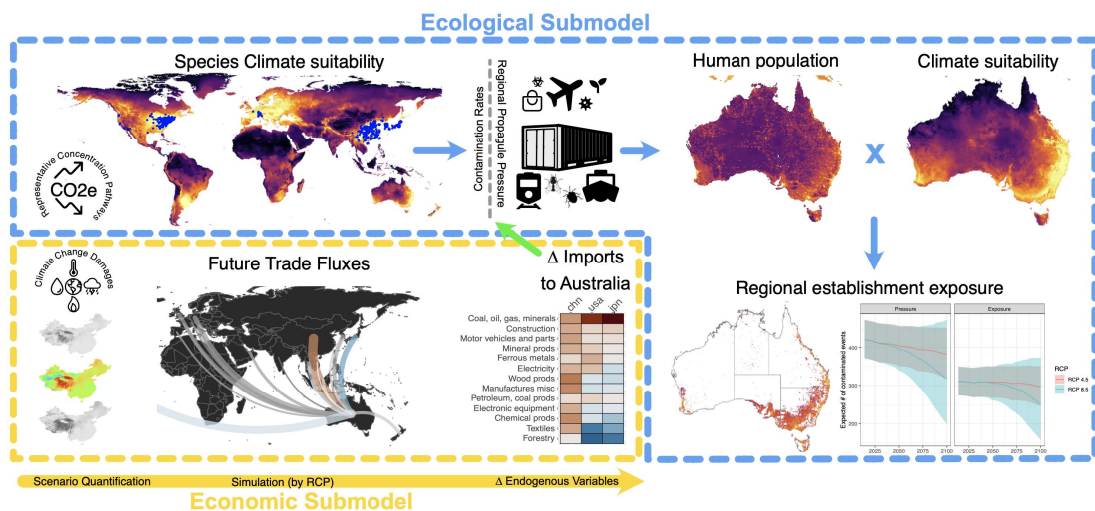


21D: Estimating damages for a pathway

Linking a pathway model with a consequences model



21B: Forecasting biosecurity risk under climate change



<https://cebra.researchsoftware.unimelb.edu.au/trade-dashboard/>

Sea Container Hygiene Scheme

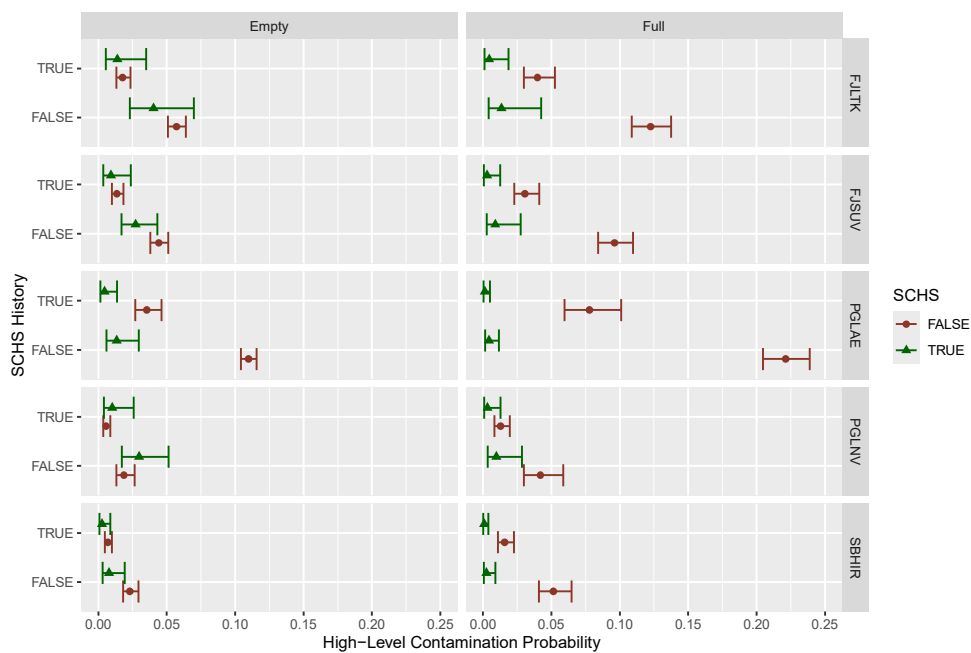
High-level Summary

- ▶ Designed by DAFF and MPI
- ▶ Participating shipping lines and ports in the Pacific Islands undertake cleaning of containers prior to export to NZ or Australia
- ▶ These facilities are audited periodically to ensure they continue to comply
- ▶ Containers are inspected on arrival in NZ and Australia at a rate based on previous compliance history

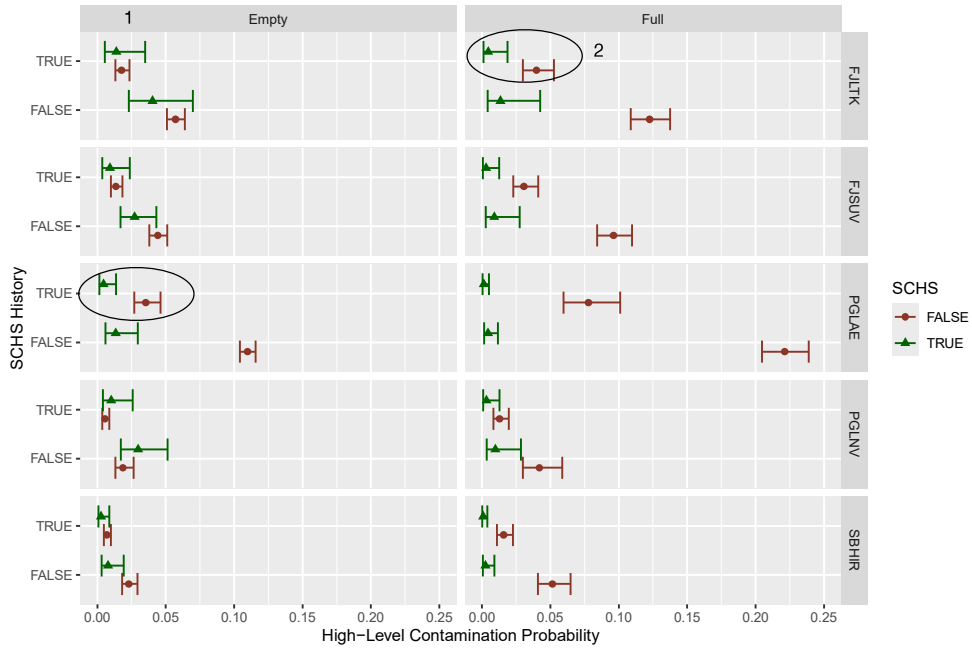
...Now ... Does it work?

- ▶ Q1: Are containers arriving under SCHS less contaminated?
- ▶ Q2: Is there a residual benefit?

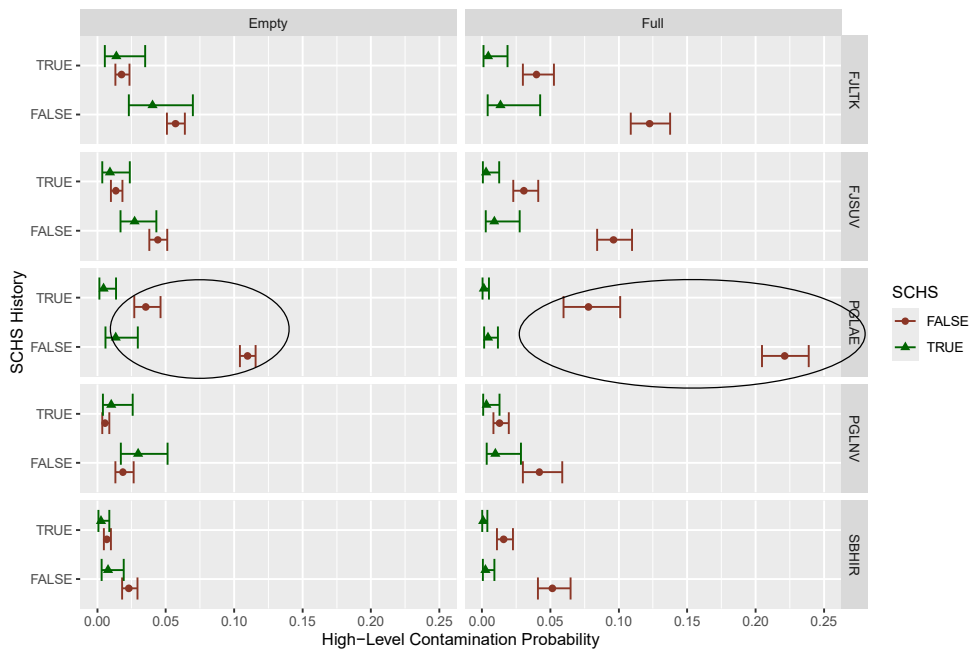
Sea Container Hygiene Scheme




Sea Container Hygiene Scheme: Immediate effect?



Sea Container Hygiene Scheme: Residual benefit?



Structured Expert Judgement example



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment

What is the probability of a lumpy skin disease outbreak in Australia in the next 5 years?

Insights from a structured expert judgement exercise

11 April 2022
cece@damr.gov.au

Lumpy skin disease (LSD) has continued to spread in the region in the past 12 months and new information continues to emerge.

To provide an updated estimate of the probability of an internationally-notifiable incursion (outbreak) of LSD in Australia in the next 5 years, a structured expert judgement (SEJ) exercise facilitated by the Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis (CEBRA), similar to an exercise from March 2021, was repeated on 1 April 2022.

SEJ is an internationally-recognised process that has been used to obtain data on a range of complex uncertain systems. It provides a systematic approach that minimises individual and group cognitive biases, surfaces assumptions, and contextualises outcomes.

The exercise involved a robust 2-hour discussion, with 21 individual participants making private optimistic, pessimistic and 'most likely' projections of the probabilities, which were later aggregated.

Participants debated a variety of possible pathways of spread of the disease, including via the movement of arthropod vectors, the movement of infected animals, and the potential for transmission via fomites.

The results of this exercise and estimated probabilities should be interpreted and used with caution. Similar to the 2021 exercise, there were divergent views and projections within the recent group of participants. This is an expected and important part of the process.

Limitations of a SEJ exercise include a low diversity of the participant group, the rapidity of the exercise and the level of uncertainty expressed during the session.

The probability of an outbreak should also be considered with its consequences as part of a risk assessment. An outbreak of LSD in Australia would be associated with substantial impacts.

There is an estimated **3 to 4-fold increase** in the expected probability of a LSD outbreak in Australia in the following 5 years compared to a separate exercise 1 year ago

SEJ March 2021

8%

probability of an LSD outbreak in Australia in the next five years (range: 0 – 22%)

→

SEJ April 2022

28%

probability of an LSD outbreak in Australia in the next five years (range: 4 – 54%)

Map: LSD outbreaks 2019 – 20 (DfE)

Map: LSD outbreaks 2021 – 22 (DfE)

! An increased perceived threat of an LSD outbreak in Australia is expected, given the ongoing disease spread in the region and the emergence of new information. The situation remains dynamic, and the threat to Australia will likely continue to evolve.

? There continues to be divergent views on the probability of an outbreak. This reflects complexities and unknowns such as global and region-specific knowledge gaps about the disease its epidemiology and competency of vector species, evolving issues like the implications of emerging virus strains, and the dynamic wider context, including environmental factors like climatic conditions, and human-driven factors such as other countries' acceptance of foreign support, their biosecurity prioritisation, and trade drivers.

What could be working in our favour?

- Australia's robust import & border controls, offshore support & preparedness activities
- History of maintaining freedom from some other mechanically spread pathogens
- Distance for vectors to reach northern Australia & sparse cattle populations in some immediate neighbouring countries
- Sufficient viable virus needing to reach sufficient populations of susceptible animals to cause an outbreak

What could be working against our interests?

- Complex animal movements, political drivers & insufficient biosecurity prioritisation by countries in region, with sparse ongoing regional controls and surveillance
- Increasing viral load in region & decreasing distance to Australia, as well as increasing international transport & a broad range of potential vectors
- The threat of emerging strains with different transmission mechanisms & host range
- Malicious & illegal activity – e.g. illegal importation of LSD vaccines, product adulteration, bioterrorism

↑ Uncertainty

↕ Biological factors

↕ Contextual factors

Thanks! Questions?



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

Using Advance Data to manage biosecurity risk in the mail pathway

Friday 17 May 2024

Mirelle Anthony
Director, Profiling and Targeting

Operational Intelligence Coordination Branch
Compliance and Enforcement Division



Import pathway profiling strategies



What is Electronic Advance Data?

- Transmitted by sender postal organisations in Universal Postal Union (UPU) countries
- Collated by Australia Post
- Submitted to border authorities prior to physical arrival

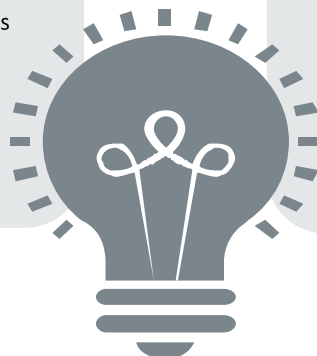
CUSTOMS DECLARATION				CN 22	
Complete in BLOCK CAPITALS .				May be opened officially	
Further guidance at royalmail.com/customs				Great Britain	
Sender's Name		<input type="text"/>		Your name	
Sender's Address & Postcode		<input type="text"/>		Your address details	
Contents Tick all that apply		<input type="checkbox"/> Gift <input type="checkbox"/> Documents <input type="checkbox"/> Sale of Goods		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial Sample <input type="checkbox"/> Returned Goods <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Description of contents		Quantity	Weight (kg)	Value (GBP)	Mark <returned goods> Description: Part of timing system Quantity: amount Weight: total Value: GBP 8,50
part of timing system		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	8,5	
Total		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Total
Commercial items only: if known enter HS tariff no. & origin		9029204080		Fill in this number	
If applicable, VAT reg number					
<small>I, the undersigned, whose name and address are given on the item, certify that the particulars given in this declaration are correct and that this item does not contain any dangerous article or articles prohibited by legislation or by postal or customs regulations.</small>					
Sign & Date		<input type="text"/>		Sign and date	
CN22A (Jan 20)					

OPPORTUNITIES

- conveys information about mail articles ahead of their arrival
- allows for risk-based decision making
- presents opportunities for better pathway management
- is a source of entity rich data
- is able to be exploited for identity resolution and establishing networks

CHALLENGES

- incomplete data set
- inherent data issues
- manual intervention process
- difficult to scale



EAD implementation pilot

220
Number of profiles deployed

81%
Percentage of profiled articles inspected

92%
Non-compliance in inspected articles

Phase 1
Compliantly reported biosecurity risk goods (select GDD) from select countries



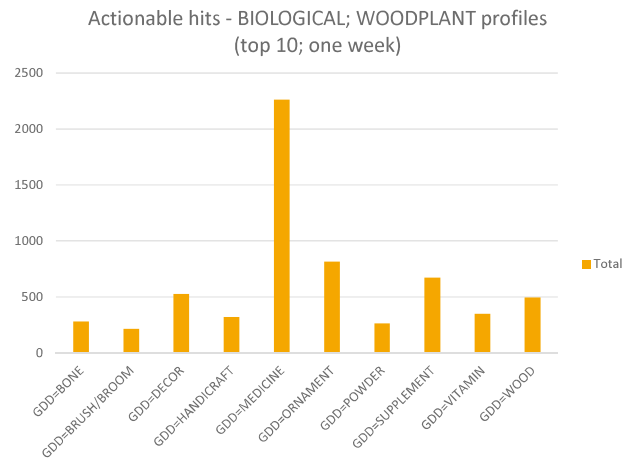
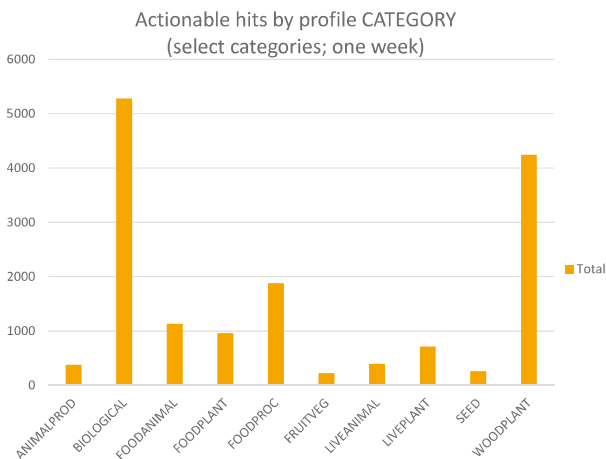
Phase 2
Entities and profiles owned by the Compliance and Enforcement Division

Phase 2b
Expired and suspended permits

Phase 2c (planned)
Hybrid; non-compliance profiling & high risk BRM

Pilot – planned expansion

- Phase 2c: (planned) – hybrid; non-compliance profiling & high risk BRM



Case study: *Cannabis spp.* seeds ex Spain

The department maintains profiling based on anomalies associated with sender addresses:

Non-compliance rates

- 1,833 referred for inspection; 1,677 inspected
- 1470 positive detections for seeds
- **Crude interception rate of 91%**
- **Positive detections in 88% of inspected articles.**

Observations:

- electronic and physical misdeclaration
- concealed within various low-cost household items
- evolution of concealment methodology observed



Thank you



SOLOMON ISLANDS NATIONAL BIOSECURITY SYSTEM AND THE WORK OF BIOSECURITY SOLOMON ISLANDS



Presenter: Steward Laukona Teoga
Quarantine Regulations Meeting 2024



BRIEF OVERVIEW OF BIOSECURITY SOLOMON ISLANDS



- Biosecurity Solomon Islands (BSI) is a Department under Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.
- Operations team
- Surveillance team
- Market Access team
- Administration team
- Solomon Islands has 4 Designated Primary Points of Entry and 6 Designated Secondary Point of Entry.
- BSI has a total of 40 staff manning this points of entries.
- BSI operates within Biosecurity Act 2013, Regulations 2015, Procedure manual.



INTRODUCTION



Agriculture: Agriculture is a significant sector in the Solomon Islands, providing livelihoods for a large portion of the population. Introducing pests or diseases could devastate crops and agricultural productivity, leading to food shortages and economic losses.

Biodiversity: The Solomon Islands boast rich biodiversity, with unique species of plants and animals found nowhere else in the world. Biosecurity measures are crucial for preventing the introduction of invasive species that could threaten native flora and fauna..

Ecosystem Health: Invasive species can disrupt fragile island ecosystems by outcompeting native species, altering habitats, and causing ecological imbalances. Protecting the natural environment through biosecurity measures helps maintain ecosystem health and resilience.

Tourism: The Solomon Islands rely on tourism as a significant source of revenue. Preserving the pristine natural beauty and unique biodiversity through effective biosecurity measures enhances the country's appeal to tourists and supports sustainable tourism development.

Given these factors, biosecurity is a critical aspect of governance and policy in the Solomon Islands to ensure the protection of its environment, economy, and public health.



Biosecurity Policy and Framework:



Ministry of Agriculture Sector Policy, Biosecurity Act 2013, Regulation 2015 is integrated. Biosecurity functions and strategic goals :

Biosecurity Act 2013

- (a) to protect Solomon Islands against the entry of regulated pests and diseases affecting animals, plants, human beings and the environment;
- (b) to carry out surveillance and monitoring of pests and diseases in Solomon Islands and assess the status of regulated pests and diseases;
- (c) to prevent the establishment and spread of regulated pests and diseases and the release of organisms that might adversely affect animals, plants, human beings and the environment in Solomon Islands;
- (d) to eradicate, contain or control the movement of regulated pests and diseases that are already present in Solomon Islands;

Biosecurity Regulations 2015



Biosecurity Policy and Framework:



- e) to regulate movement of pests and diseases into Solomon Islands;
- f) to facilitate the safe importation of animals and plants and their products, and related equipment and technology;
- g) to facilitate the export of animals and plants and their products in accordance with the biosecurity requirements of the receiving countries; and
- h) to facilitate international cooperation to prevent the spread of pests and diseases affecting plants, animals, human beings and the environment



RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT:

BSI MANAGES ITS RISK ACROSS BIOSECURITY CONTINUUM



- Pre border
 - Pest Risk Analysis/Import risk assessment
 - Permit
 - Import Conditions
 - Treatment
 - Audit
 - Inspection
 - Certifications
- Border
 - Inspection , search and seizure
 - Treatment
 - Re shipment/ reconsign
 - Destruction
 - Inspect documents e.g Manifest, phytosanitary, Health/ zoosanitary cert. treatment/fumigation cert.
 - Containment/ restrict movement/ biosecurity controlled area.
 - Certification
- Post Border
 - Treatment
 - Destruction
 - Containment
 - Eradication
 - Long term management and control.
 - ERP – Cost benefit analysis , Feasibility study



SURVEILLANCE AND MONITORING SYSTEMS



Biosecurity Solomon islands Surveillance and Monitoring system is an Ad hoc due to lack of technical resources and funds (SIG)

- . BSI benefited with Joint Plant health surveys conducted annually with DAFF AUST
- . Fortnightly Fruit fly monitoring
- . SPC/Sol Pest database



RESPONSE AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:



- . Generic ERP
- . Specific ERPs develop for CRB, GAS, ASF, FAW, AST currently in draft as it lacks financial support from the Government.
- . Declaration of an emergency is done by the Minister (MAL)



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION:



- SI Biosecurity Act 2013 is a modernized and harmonized legislation that seeks to facilitate international cooperation required under international organizations which Solomon Islands is a member and signatory to.
- Such organizations as WTO , Codex Alimentarius, WOH, CITIES. Etc.
- At the regional approach such organizations as PPPO , PICTA , SPREP , MSG.



EMERGING THREATS AND FUTURE CHALLENGES:



- ASF and all animal related disease
- Sea border between SI and PNG
- Climate change
- Potential challenges in maintaining effective biosecurity
- Constraints in technical capacity and infrastructure
- Limited manpower and infrastructure in Provincial stations





Example of real situations faced.



- The incursions on Coconut rhinoceros beetle, Fall Army Warm , GAS and Asian Subterranean termite continues to impact Solomon Islands especially on economy ,food security and livelihood.
- These pest continues to spread across the whole of Solomon Islands as our pest control and monitoring system is weak.
- The decline in the export earnings on coconut and copra continues to impact Solomon Islands. The pests continues to spread across other Pacific Islands countries.
- One common but sad thing about Solomon Islands perspective from the past 20 years - pest and diseases are here to stay.



CONCLUSION:



- Solomon Islands faces challenges in preventing pest incursions due to lack of technical resources, capacities, and finance.
- The open border with Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu presents a challenge for collaboration between SIG and its neighboring countries.
- Unregulated pathways and cross-border trade between PNG and SI will always pose significant threats.
- Implementing an MOU and seeking donor support is crucial.

Catalysing safe agri-food trade through partnerships and innovation: Lessons from STDF's work

Regulation and Collaboration:
the future of biosecurity

Quarantine regulator's meeting
HCMC, Viet Nam
15-17 May 2024



www.standardsfacility.org STDFSecretariat@wto.org [#STDF](https://twitter.com/STDF)

Changing global landscape

- Pandemic, global insecurity, war
- Rise in prices (food, fuel, agric inputs, etc.)
- Growing food insecurity
- Trade costs in agriculture still much higher than in manufacturing
- Growth in agri-food value chains and economic interdependency
- Concerns about biodiversity, environment, climate change, food loss and waste
- Calls for food systems transformation and One Health approaches



WTO SPS Agreement

Recognizing the right to protect human, animal and/or plant life and health



Obligation to avoid unnecessary barriers to trade



WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA): Highly relevant for SPS authorities

- Border agency coordination, integrated risk management
- Consultation of border agency with private sector
- Pre-arrival processing of documents for import shipments
- Publication of import/export requirements, fees, etc.
- Fast tracking of perishable goods clearance
- Right for economic operators to a second test



Persistence of SPS procedural obstacles

- Limited information on requirements
- Complex, lengthy procedures
- Excessive document requirements
- Multiple inspections
- No complaints / appeal procedures
- Arbitrariness, unpredictability



Why it matters?

- More controls than justifiable
- Longer than necessary waiting times
- Uncertainty
- Increased costs for traders and governments
- Impact on food loss and environment

STDF's global partnership to facilitate safe trade



- Global network of organizations involved in SPS capacity development
- Knowledge work
- Grants for innovative and collaborative projects that facilitate safe trade



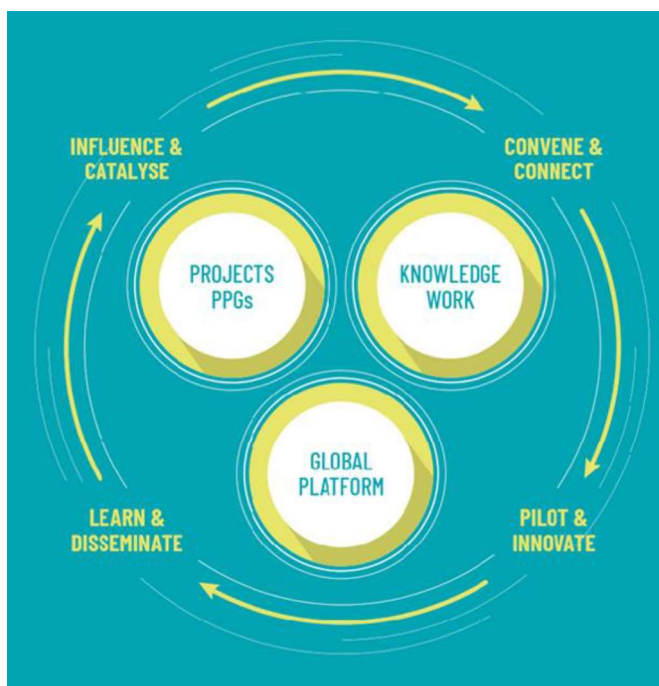
Driving catalytic SPS improvements to facilitate safe trade

Goal

Increased and sustainable SPS capacity in developing countries

Outcomes

1. More synergies and collaboration driving catalytic SPS improvements in developing countries
2. Greater access to and use of good practices and knowledge products at global, regional and national level



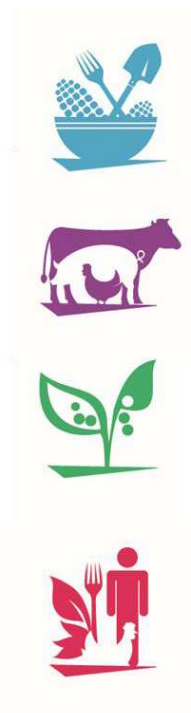
Grants to develop and implement safe trade projects

PPGs

- Seed funding (up to US\$50,000)
- Develop new projects
- Use capacity evaluation / prioritization tools
- Feasibility studies

Projects

- Identify, develop or share good practice
- Include regional/global approaches
- Innovative, replicable, collaborative, interdisciplinary



STDF Project: Boosting seed trade in Asia-Pacific region

- Phytosanitary gaps related to pest risk analysis and international standards (ISPM 2, 11, 12)
- Help countries in region participate in, and benefit from, seed trade
- Collaborative approach where NPPOs work with industry associations
- APAARI, ISF, ASTA, public and private sector in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam, other stakeholders



See more: <https://standardsfacility.org/PG-755->

STDF Safer Spices Project in Viet Nam, Lao PDR and Cambodia

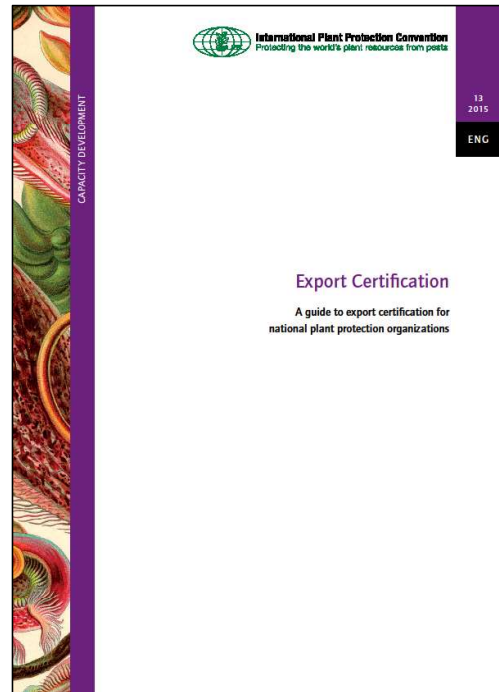
- Challenges for smallholder peppercorn farmers to meet SPS requirements in high-value markets
- Use PPPs to encourage use of good agriculture, hygiene and manufacturing practices based on Codex standards
- Regional cooperation for knowledge transfer, capacity development and traceability
- Contribute to climate-resilient agriculture



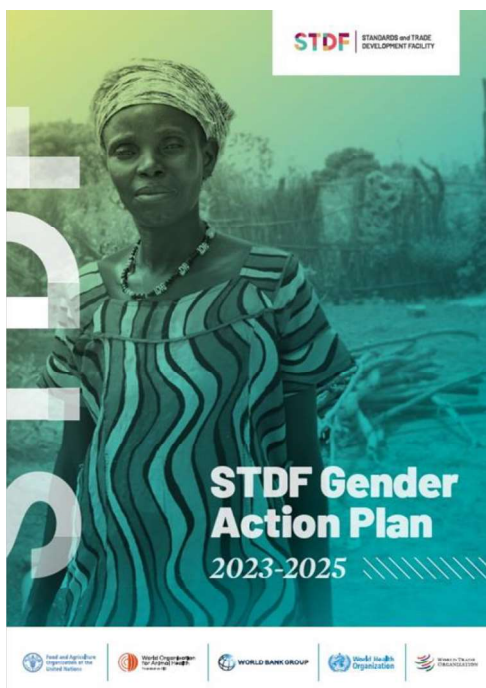
STDF Project: Capacity building tools for ISPMs

- Capacity gaps (knowledge and skills) limit the uptake and use of ISPMs
- Series of manuals and guidelines to support NPPOs on import verification, export certification, managing stakeholder relationships, plant pest surveillance, diagnostics, etc.
- Collaborative approach with NPPOs in developed and developing countries
- IPPC/FAO with others (e.g. Korea, Viet Nam, New Zealand, OIRSA, etc.)

<https://standardsfacility.org/PG-350>



Knowledge: Connecting stakeholders, co-creating and sharing good practices



Public-private partnerships

Evidence-based approaches to prioritize SPS investments

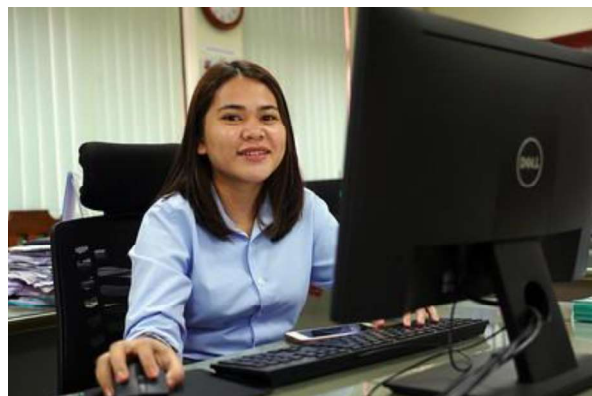
SPS eCertification and digitalization

Good regulatory practice

Mainstreaming cross-cutting issues (gender; environment, climate change and biodiversity)

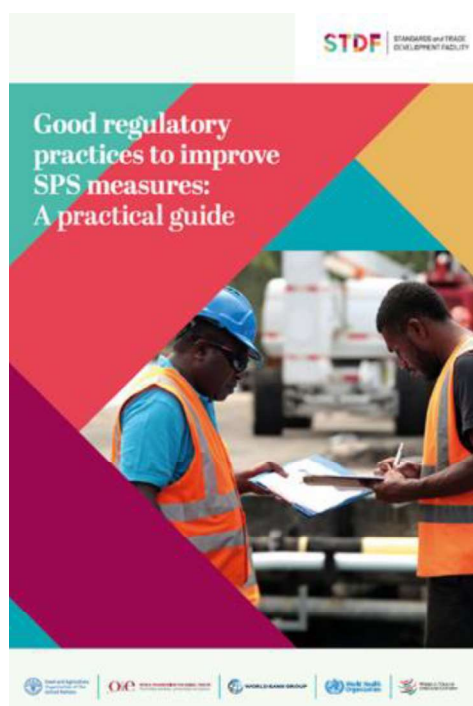
Scaling up SPS e-certification: Lessons from STDF ePhyto project

- Harmonization of certificates is key
- Relatively minor investments in digitization can have significant catalyzing effects
- Need to address IT access and equipment challenges
- Industry is interested, engaged and willing to contribute, in right circumstances
- Implementation of SPS e-cert does not need to be all or nothing
- Collaboration is key (public-public, public-private)



OECD estimates that the total value of agri-food exports could grow by 17-32% over two years period with SPS e-certificates (OECD)

Safe trade solutions: Using Good Regulatory Practice to ensure SPS measures are fit for purpose



Examples of GRPs

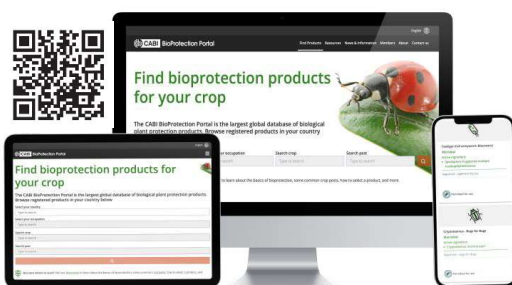
- Transparency for clarity and accessibility of regulations
- Coordination for coherence on SPS measures across government
- Consultations to understand views of private sector, consumers and others
- Stocktaking to reduce inconsistencies, gaps, overlaps and outdated measures
- Monitoring to understand if regulations are achieving expected impacts

Looking to the future, learning from the past: What's needed?

1. Urgency, openness and readiness for change
2. Use international standards
3. Collaboration to connect, learn and leverage collective strengths and expertise
4. Mainstream cross-cutting issues to improve results and sustainability
5. Leverage financing and incentives
6. Focus on innovation, learning and change management
7. Harness strategic opportunities (digitalization, climate change resilience, etc.) to drive SPS improvements and facilitate safe trade



STDF collaboration with CABI BioProtection Portal



Free tool to help growers and advisors **identify, source and apply bioprotection products** against pests



Users can search for **registered bioprotection products in their country** and explore the **resources area** for information and self-study courses on biological control and IPM.



Live in **>40 countries**



>4,000 registered products in database



Available in **local languages**



Online and offline

<https://bioprotectionportal.com>



Find out more

Sign up for STDF e-news

Use STDF knowledge products, videos, etc.

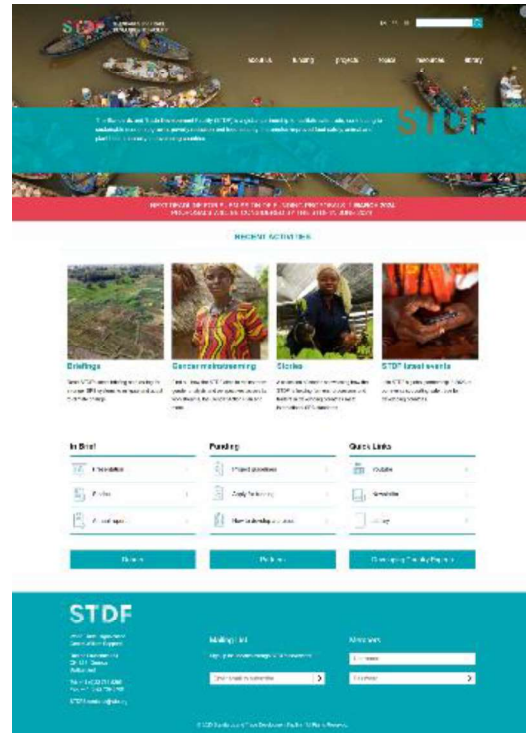
Apply for STDF funding

Attend STDF events and webinars

Share your stories on safe trade solutions via STDF's network

www.standardsfacility.org

STDFSecretariat@wto.org



Apply for funding



Browse web pages for aims & eligibility criteria: standardsfacility.org

View examples of previous projects and read the guidance note for applicants
Eligibility and developing country contribution based on [OECD DAC list](#)
Consult stakeholders in the country/region

Next deadline: **2 August 2024**

Send concept for feedback: STDFSecretariat@wto.org

Submit application online

STDF development partners



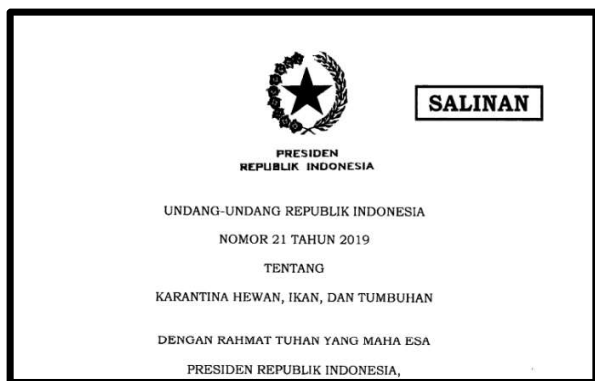


Law of the Republic of Indonesia
Number 21 of 2019 concerning
Animal, Fish, and Plant Quarantine

Presidential Regulation of the Republic
of Indonesia **Number 45 of 2023**
concerning the **Indonesian Quarantine
Authority**



**LEGAL
BASIS**

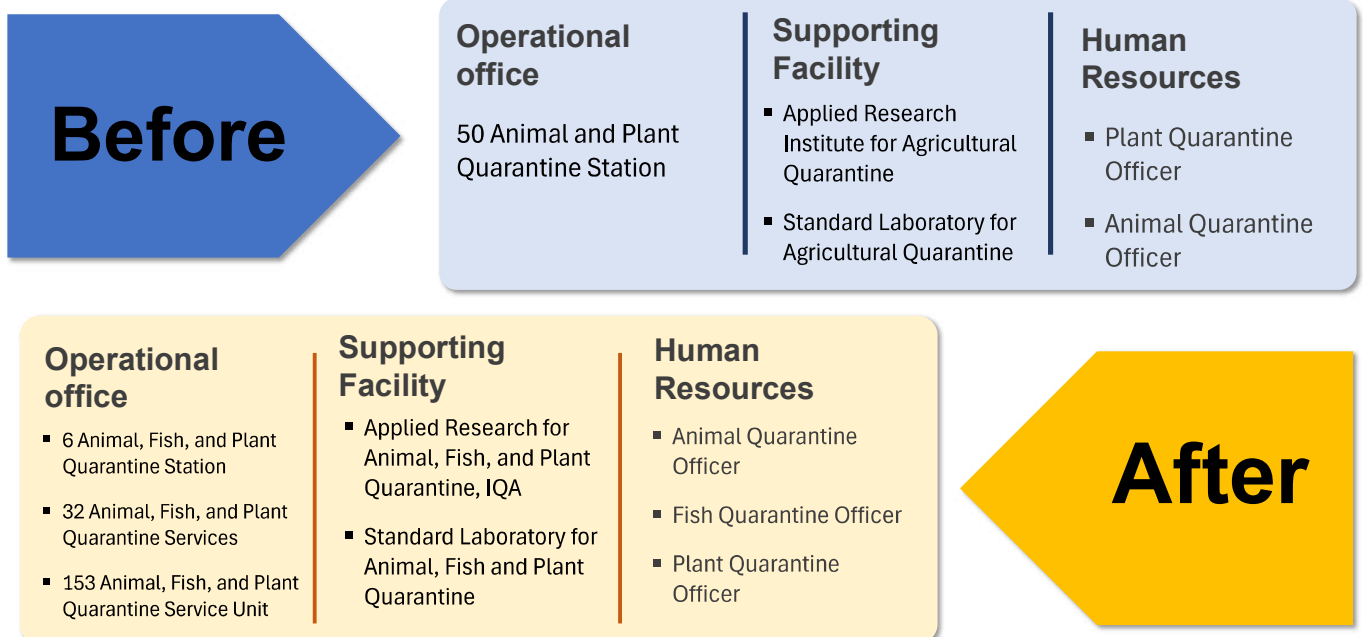


IQA Transformation



Transformation	Before 2023	As per 2023
Name of organization	Indonesia Agricultural Quarantine Agency (IAQA)	Indonesian Quarantine Authority (IQA)
Legal basis	Law No. 16 Year 1992	Law No. 21 Year 2019
Level of organization	Under the Ministry of Agriculture, Republic of Indonesia	Under the President of the Republic of Indonesia
Scope of organization	Animal and Plant Quarantine	Animal, Fish and Plant Quarantine
Scope of Works	Prevent the introduction, establishment, and spread of quarantine pests of animals and plants into the territory of the Republic of Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent the introduction, establishment, and spread of quarantine pests of animals and plants into the territory of the Republic of Indonesia Supervision and/or control of food and feed safety, food and feed quality, GMO, genetic resources, biological agents, IAS, endangered species of wild fauna and flora

Transformation of Resources and Management



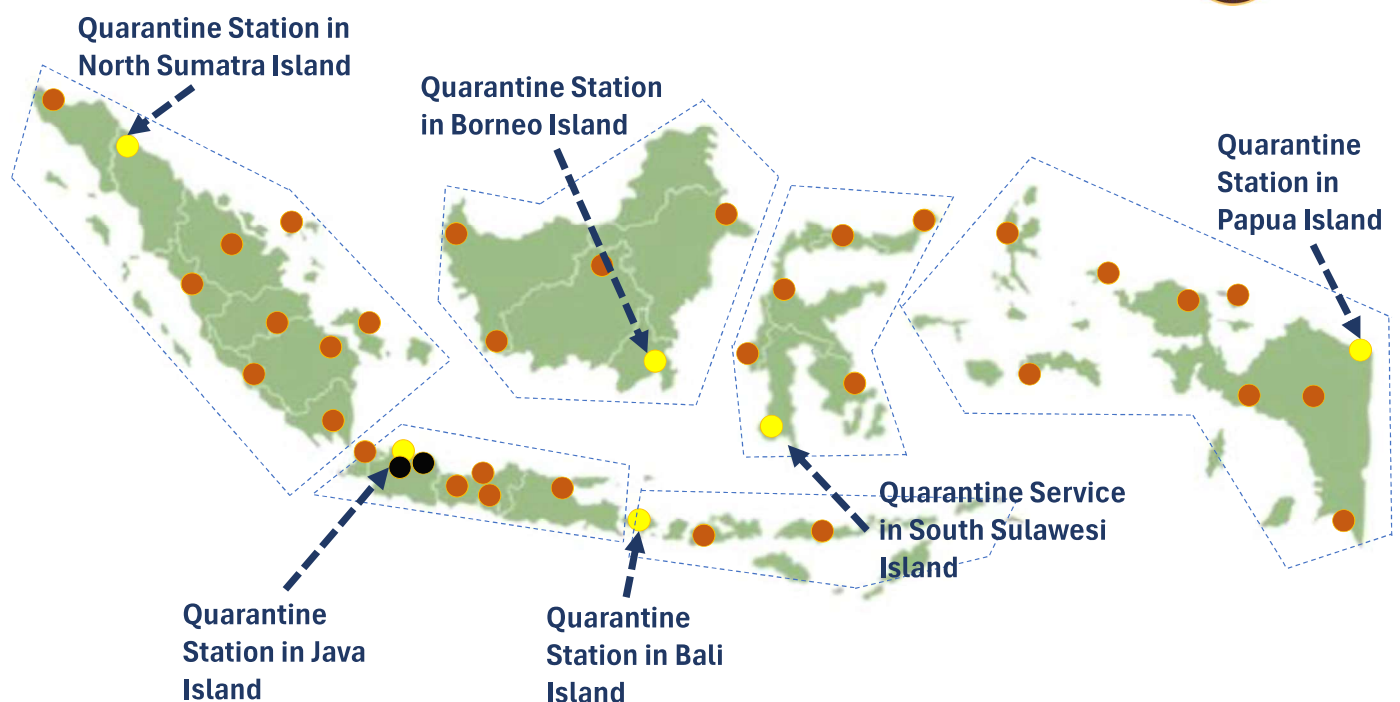
VISION & MISSION

Vision To become a **strong and sustainable quarantine** in realizing the protection of biological natural resources for the prosperity of people's lives

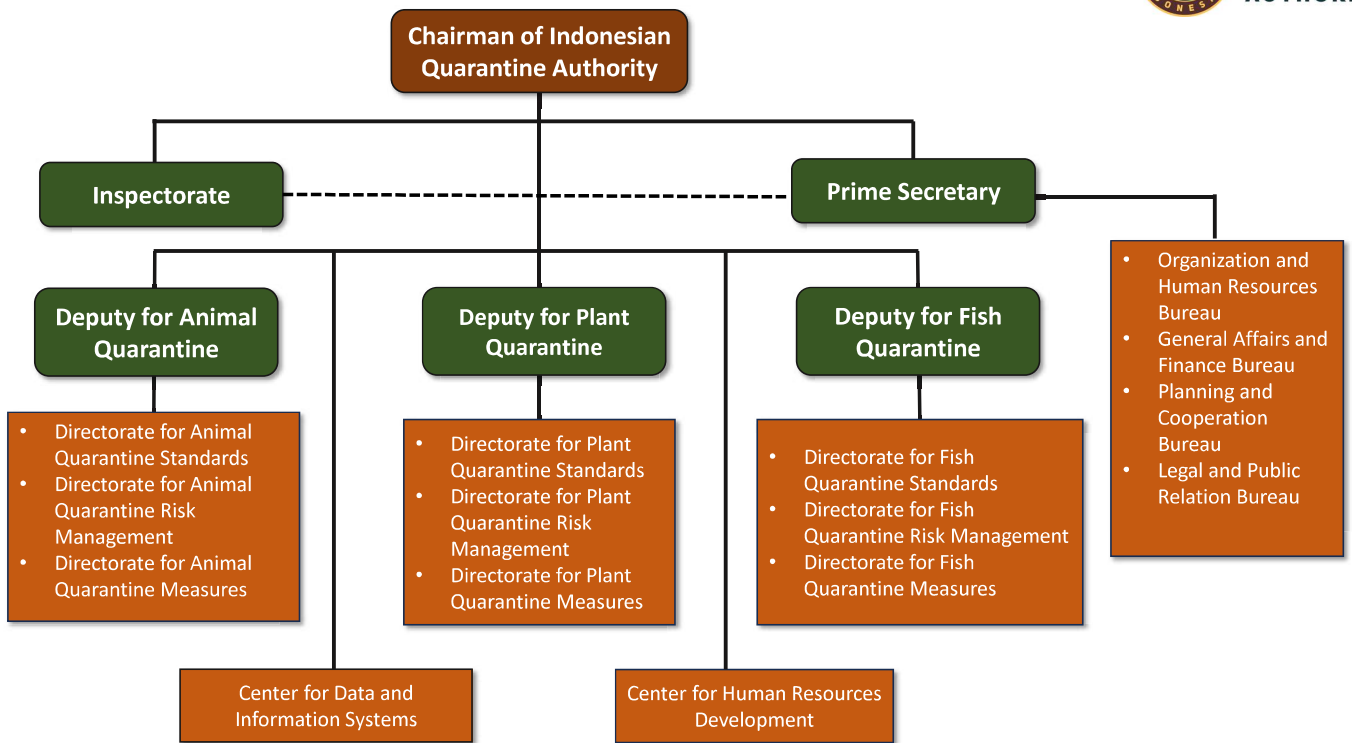
- Mission**
1. **Organising an integrated quarantine system** to protect biological resources and ensure the safety and quality of food and feed
 2. **Improving the role of quarantine in market access** and acceptability of Indonesian animal, fish, and plant commodities
 3. **Building community involvement** in the implementation of quarantine
 4. **Managing a clean, effective, and trustworthy Indonesian Quarantine Authority**



Scope of services to cover Indonesia as an archipelagic country



Organizational Structure IQA



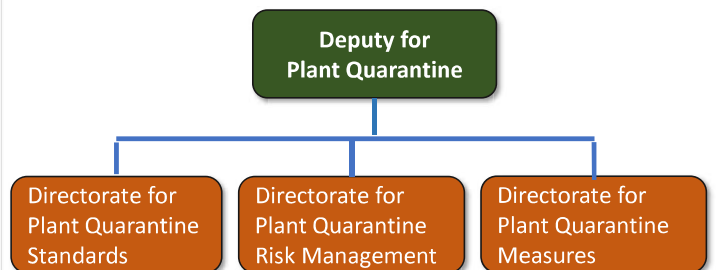
Indonesian National Plant Protection Organization Contact Point



Indonesia

IPPC Official Contact Point
 Mr. Bambang -

 Deputy of Plant Quarantine
 Indonesian Quarantine Authority
 Ministry of Agriculture, E Building 5th Floor, Jalan Harsono RM
 Nomor 3, Ragunan, Pasar Minggu, Jakarta 12550 Indonesia
 Email: deputikt@karantinaindonesia.go.id
 Alternate Email: ippc.indonesia@gmail.com
 Preferred languages: English
 Website: <https://karantinaindonesia.go.id>
 Date contact registration: 05 Feb 2024

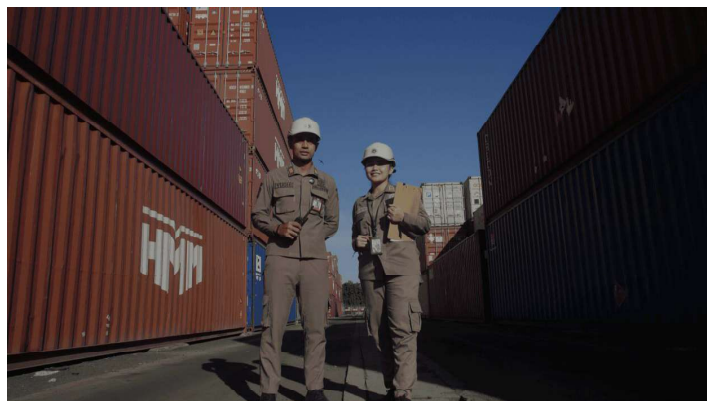


IQA Policy Focusing on **Strengthening Pre-Border Measures**



Strengthening international cooperation is a **priority**.

Strengthening pre-border measures is a **priority** in mitigating biosecurity risks.



Thank **You!!**