

READINESS AND RESPONSE PLANNING WITH GOVERNMENT

There is always the risk of an unwanted exotic pest or disease making its way to New Zealand's shores and impacting kiwifruit.

While the industry has a good understanding of how to manage biosecurity risks, and the tools needed to identify emerging risks, there is also an engaged biosecurity relationship with government and increased capability to respond thanks to the Government Industry Agreement for Biosecurity Readiness and Response, or GIA.

The GIA partnership commits the kiwifruit industry to work with government and other primary sector industries to improve readiness for future biosecurity events and jointly respond to future outbreaks.

Importantly, GIA also creates a framework where industry groups and the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) - as the government's representative - can participate in shared decision making and associated cost sharing for readiness and response activities, leading to better biosecurity outcomes. Its development was led by the strong desire for industry to be able to have a direct influence on decisions that are made in relation to prevention and management of pests and diseases that can have a devastating effect on our orchards.

There are now 22 industry partners signed up to GIA, of which KVH was the first. This was a significant achievement and was driven on the back of the Psa outbreak and direct industry involvement in the management of this significant disease. The experience gained in collaboratively managing Psa and becoming the management agency under the Biosecurity

Act demonstrated that being proactive in thinking about future risks from pests and diseases currently not in New Zealand is always worthwhile.

An incursion of such high-risk threats as Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) or fruit fly within the rural Bay of Plenty community or any other growing regions will have major impacts on many kiwifruit growers. Understanding the risks and preparing operational plans in advance means that should a detection occur we kick straight into action and reduce impacts to growers, rather than wasting precious time determining who pays.

KVH works collaboratively with other industry groups and MPI through GIA Operational Agreements to undertake research so we can better understand the risks and management recommendations that can be applied in a

practical sense for growers. And where knowledge gaps exist that are specific to the kiwifruit sector, KVH works collaboratively with Zespri Innovation to overcome these. Research outcomes are then shared through ongoing communications such as our website and Bulletins and at such events as roadshows and field days.

Early and proactive involvement in the GIA development process has meant that equitable cost share agreements have been able to be established in the respective Operational Agreements and our representation over recent years in key GIA leadership positions means we have an ability to influence policy (politically as well as within MPI) outcomes.

Five separate Operational Agreements signed by KVH so far:



Fruit fly: joining MPI and organisations representing the pipfruit, avocado, citrus, summerfruit and vegetable sectors.



BMSB: joining MPI and a wide range of industry groups.



Kiwifruit sector specific: for threats that may only impact the kiwifruit and kiwiberry sectors (such as *Ceratocystis fimbriata*, Verticillium Wilt, Psa-non-New Zealand strains, Invasive *Phytophthora*): joining MPI.



Plant production biosecurity scheme: promoting risk management of all nursery material.



Xylella fastidiosa: an interim agreement assessing the risk of *Xylella* and development of response procedures.

WHAT DOES KVH DO AS A LEADING GIA PARTNER?

We work to improve and future-proof biosecurity readiness and response for kiwifruit growers through:



shared decision-making and responsibilities in managing threats



shared costs of managing threats



creating awareness campaigns and education programmes to improve biosecurity performance



participating in working groups, which respond to specific threats and outbreaks



collating and sharing information about New Zealand's biosecurity system and changes



hosting and taking part in open forums to decide how to improve the biosecurity system.

During the last (2019) Queensland Fruit Fly) responses in Auckland, we worked with MPI to decide how to respond to the incursion and provided technical support and resources, especially through the skilled KiwiNet network.