

NPMP Internal Review

May 2016 marked three years since the NPMP was first implemented and as a result, KVH has undertaken an internal non-statutory review on the NPMP. The review is to ensure the Plan remains effective going forward and to identify improvements to align with ongoing Psa control challenges.

The KVH Board has confirmed the need to continue with a comprehensive plan to combat the ongoing impacts of Psa, particularly since it has only been a relatively short period of time since such a major biosecurity incursion occurred, and in addition, the bacteria is evolving and starting to show signs of product resistance.

Key areas were identified for improvement in the review process. These include:

1. Psa-V Risk Management Plans – growers and postharvest/processors

Recommendation is to apply the lessons learnt from Psa from the Sapere Report; and broaden the scope of Psa-V Risk Management Plans to become Biosecurity Management Plans. This will capture wider on-orchard biosecurity practices that serve the long term needs of the industry while still including the Psa-V specific management requirements to meet NPMP compliance.

2. Establishment of new exclusion regions

Consideration is being given to create new 'exclusion' regions with the aim of protecting new growing regions and sites outside of current grower regions through movement controls of high-risk items to these sites. The options are:

- Create new Exclusion regions for specific new growing areas
- Create an 'All of NZ' Exclusion Region – where all areas outside existing growing regions are classified as 'Exclusion'.

3. Mandatory Monitoring

There is an opportunity to refocus monitoring requirements so all monitoring and reporting is of high value; and to monitor for symptoms of new biosecurity threats which can be achieved through the Biosecurity Orchard Management Plans.

Monitoring for Psa-V is of most value for non-detected orchards. KVH propose that:

- All non-detected orchards, regardless of region, continue to monitor for Psa-V in the high-risk spring period.
- KVH will organise independent monitoring of exclusion and containment regions with limited infection.

4. KVH movement controls and protocols

An opportunity exists to refocus protocols to capture practices that address wider biosecurity risks to the kiwifruit industry, inclusive of any specific NPMP requirements.

KVH continues to review movement controls and protocols to ensure they are aligned and appropriate to the Plan's objectives and the needs of the industry.

This aspect of the review has not been completed, but will include pollen and budwood and will be included within the programme of work to improve implementation over the next few months within scope of the review.

5. Abandoned/unmanaged orchards and wild kiwifruit

This aspect of the plan is working very well and KVH has made good progress in each of these areas. This includes:

- 116 out of 119 known abandoned orchards have been addressed.
- 20 unmanaged orchard complaints have been resolved by KVH over the last three years.

- 9300 wild kiwifruit vines have been controlled over the last three years in the Bay of Plenty alone, across 102 properties.

KVH will continue its existing approach to unmanaged and abandoned orchards and wild kiwifruit, including maintaining and establishing further agreements as needed with regional councils (e.g., Tasman) similar to BOPRC arrangements.

6. Research & Development

The R&D programme has gone through a significant review involving input from the R&D steering group, KVH Boards, and targeted grower meetings to identify gaps in our ability to understand and manage Psa. This has resulted in the development of four major programmes of R&D work, and each programme of work will run for four to five years:

1. Systemic Psa infection and management of the endophytic Psa population.
2. Growing G3 economically in a Psa environment.
3. Understanding Psa population dynamics for improved control
4. Understanding Psa microbiome

With the government/industry funding being fully drawn down this year, KVH will not have the financial ability to support the level of investment that these programmes require, and as a result we have sought and reached agreement from Zespri that they will be funded from within Zespri's innovation budget.

With the R&D programme being repositioned to ensure it is focussing on the key issues of relevance to growers in order to minimise the impacts of Psa, we are not proposing any further changes to the R&D area under the NPMP unless the KVH Board sees otherwise.

7. National Policy Direction on Pest Management

Our KVH preliminary assessment was the NPMP meets the requirements of the government's new National Policy Direction. The two areas of risk we identified were the "cost benefit analysis" and "cost allocation assessment" aspects of the NPMP proposal. MPI has clarified cost benefit analysis and cost allocations will not be revisited as part of their consistency check, and its' consistency check focusing on the plan has confirmed it is consistent with the policy direction.

8. Psa Biosecurity Levy

The review includes an assessment on the Psa biosecurity funding differential between green and gold growers in light of Gold3 being more tolerant than Hort16A, with the proposal to reduce funding to 1 cent per tray for both varieties.

Industry Consultation

The above components and others will be presented to industry in July through meetings with postharvest and Zespri for feedback/input before the review is finalised. The objective is to complete the Board review in July, and present it to members at the KVH AGM on 31 August 2016. Growers are encouraged to give feedback.