

WORKING WITH GOVERNMENT TO FIGHT PEST THREATS

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By signing the agreements, KVH and MPI have committed to doing everything possible to stop another Psa-type event from occurring and working together to achieve the best possible outcomes should there be an incursion.

The agreements establish the operational details for readiness and response activities, include the roles and responsibilities of all the parties before, during and after a response, as well as cost-sharing detail.

Much of the work mentioned on pages 16 and 17 around how we prepare for the arrival of unwanted pests with industry partners, is part of these agreements.

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

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 formalising of the Government Industry Agreement (GIA) Deed and Operational Agreements for specific threats.

GIA 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. Determining what capability exists within the industry and how we can rapidly deploy this is also a key part of GIA commitments.

KVH has so far finalised three separate operational agreements. The first was a multi-sector agreement for the management of Fruit Fly in New Zealand, which KVH has signed representing the kiwifruit industry, joining MPI as the Government's representative, along with organisations representing the pipfruit, avocado, citrus and vegetable sectors.

The second agreement is a direct contract between KVH and MPI and is for management of the four most common and agreed threats to the kiwifruit and kiwiberry sectors. *Ceratocystis fimbriata*, Verticillium Wilt, Psa-non New Zealand strains and Invasive Phytophthoras.

The third agreement for the management of Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) was recently signed by a range of industry groups and Government.

partnership so important to the kiwifruit industry is it enables us to proactively do everything we can to protect the industry from future biosecurity threats. The industry and MPI jointly decide what needs to be done, and importantly also the best way that we can make it happen, including utilising the resource within our own industry.

However, there is a cost associated with this protection which is currently funded through a biosecurity levy on exported trays. The levy has a maximum level of 1 cent per tray, and the KVH Board has agreed this will need to be reviewed in light of the investment that is needed to maintain the appropriate level of protection for the industry, as well as being able to fund our share of eradication responses when cost sharing for these starts in July 2018. ■

