



## **Government Industry Agreement for Biosecurity Readiness and Response**

### **Sector-based Councils: October 2023 Bulletin**

*This semi-regular update from the GIA Secretariat is intended to provide a general overview of the key matters considered by GIA governance bodies in the preceding month. It is not intended to communicate formal decisions by any of the parties, nor everything that happens within GIA. If there are any questions, or further information is required please contact [steve.rich@gia.org.nz](mailto:steve.rich@gia.org.nz)*

#### **Livestock Biosecurity Council Chief Executive's Forum (LSBC CE): 3 October 2023**

- An update on the Biosecurity NZ-led FMD Work Programme was provided, including priorities for the next quarter. Members discussed various aspects, including future reporting in a dashboard format, sector involvement in livestock standstill and stock in transit work, Raw Milk Collection Scheme progress, and ongoing sheep traceability efforts.
- A presentation was received on communication materials developed for high-level public messaging in the event of an FMD Response, as well as some readiness materials designed for use outside of a response.
- Progress was noted in developing an MOU amongst GIA Partners, with further discussion expected in the December LSBC CE meeting.
- The next meeting is scheduled for 1 December 2023, with topics including updates on sheep and pig traceability work, finalisation of the MOU, and consideration of the LSBC CE Forum's future role.

#### **GIA Traceability Pilot: 9 and 31 October 2023**

- Seven parties have agreed to participate in an evaluation of Onside as a traceability tool – Biosecurity NZ, Aquaculture NZ, KVH, NZ Apples and Pears, NZ Winegrowers, NZ Avocado, NZ Pork. The evaluation will run from November 2023 to June 2024.
- An OA-based approach will be developed, intended to pilot a pan-GIA traceability approach from 1 July 2024.

#### **Pest Identification Working and Pilot Group Summaries: 11 and 25 October 2023**

- Technical Leads have completed a first pass through Step 1 in the Framework (the identification of impacted parties irrespective of level of impact), and this has been tested with both the

Working Group and Steering Group. Feedback from these two groups is now being incorporated into the Step 1 process.

- Work through Step 1 has been tested against the first four pilot pests, Melon fly, Fall armyworm, Spotted lanternfly, and *Brucella abortus*. Several issues requiring further work were identified and approaches to these are being considered. Technical leads have now begun work on Step 2, the determination of sector impact.
- In October the Xylella Action Group (XAG) discussed the complexity of elucidating the impact of Xylella subspecies which varies by subspecies across hosts and sectors. It's a complex web of interactions, and the XAG asked the Secretariat to assess options for having the PIBC pilot undertake this work. The XAG noted this will most likely be an addition to the current PIBC work programme, not covered by the existing PIBC budget.

#### **Xylella Working Group – OA Response Discussion: 17 October 2023**

- The Xylella Action Group met on 17 October to consider steps to develop a response OA and how it might handle the complexities associated with a broad host range, five different subspecies, differing levels of impact and the influence of vectors.
- The group agreed to preliminary work to inform discussion at its next meeting on 8 December.
  - Collating hosts by Xylella subspecies susceptibility to inform need for subspecies level OA parameters.
  - Looking at how the OA might address a detection of an exotic vector, with or without the vector carrying Xylella.
  - The potential for and cost of having the PIBC pilot being expanded to consider impacts and beneficiaries at a Xylella subspecies level.

#### **Lepidoptera Working Group: 18 October 2023**

- The meeting welcomed Nicole Haerewa of the MPI Plant Pest and Emerging Risk Assessment team to the group. She has an academic background in entomology and will bring a valuable Māori perspective to group discussions.
- The meeting focused on developing a readiness framework based on the outcomes and projects arising from two projects completed earlier in the year – an approach to grouping Lepidoptera and identifying priority species for generic readiness and response planning, and an assessment of the state of readiness in relation to BtK, a *bacteria* used as biological control agents against lepidoptera.
- Six projects were identified and will be subject to further consideration at a meeting late in November informed by project concept reports developed over the next few weeks. Projects cover:
  - Stock take of diagnostic capability
  - Surveillance status and forward options
  - Readiness plan scope and approach across the five Pest injury Guild groupings
  - Information Repository

- Comms and engagement plan
- A plan for how MPI secure BtK stock, aircraft and ensure regulatory readiness for flying and spraying.

#### **GIA Operations Limited Board Meeting: 19 October 2023**

- The Board discussed performance objectives for the GIA Secretariat for the 23/24 performance year.
- The key focus of the meeting was consideration of the agenda for the forthcoming DGG meeting. In particular a review of draft papers for DGG consideration in relation to a Strategic Framework for GIA; Response Funding Options; and the GIA Accountability regime.

#### **Solanaceae Biosecurity Working Group (SBWG): 30 October 2023**

- The SBWG agreed to a near final draft of the Readiness OA and a meeting will be set late in November to agree a final draft.
- Associate Professor Robin MacDiarmid, of Plant & Food research limited, will join the next meeting with an update on solanaceous viruses in Europe.