

Notes from the Board

From July 2023, the banana industry will be responsible for the management of the disease.

To progress this transition of management, the Board approved the Terms of Reference for two working groups to be established reporting directly to the Board. These groups will be made up of ABGC and Panama TR4 Program staff and will call on subject matter experts as required. They will provide advice and make recommendations to the Board on how this transition could work and on technical matters arising from the management of Panama TR4.

Transition to Industry Working Group (TIWG)

Aim: To develop and implement a plan to transition the management of the Program to industry by 1 July 2023.

Technical Working Group (TWG)

Aim: To resolve scientific and technical issues that come up from managing Panama TR4.

Next steps for the working groups:

ABGC are advertising for a Industry Transition Leader. This position will work with the Transition to Industry Working Group to develop the transition plan. Applications close on 8 January 2021.

The Board tasked the working groups with the Terms of References agreed by the Board for each group, and reviewing options and making recommendations on:

- the size and shape of destruction zones (TWG)
- funding options for the provision of diagnostic services post June 2023 (TWG)
- legislative options for managing Panama TR4 into the future (TWIG).

The Board approved:

- a governance framework so Board decisions are robust, supported by science and representative of the interests of stakeholders
- the compliance strategy for 2020/21
- an epidemiological review to study the progress of the disease
- the finance and human resources report; noting that the Program is operating well within budget and within approved staffing levels.

Growers can contact the Board via Jim Pekin or Michelle McKinlay on (07) 3278 4786.

Next meeting 17 February 2021

Questions? Call Sarah Flenley, BQ, 0400 867 264 or Sonia Campbell, ABGC 0428 038 330