

Notes from the Board

The Panama TR4 Program Management Board (Board) is committed to engaging with all stakeholders in overseeing the management of Panama disease tropical race 4 in Queensland. To fulfil this commitment the Board is hosting a series of engagement activities as a way of ensuring its decisions are reflective of industry's needs. A summary of these activities to date are:

October 2020: The first engagement event was convened by the Board in Innisfail. It was an opportunity to meet with stakeholders and discuss the future management of Panama TR4.

April 2021: The Board met with commercial banana growers operating under a Notice of presence of Panama disease tropical race 4 (notice), to get an understanding of day-to-day operations with the disease.

In July 2021, an activity will focus on commercial banana growers in the Innisfail region. Stay tuned for more information.

Transition to industry update

The Industry Transition Leader gave an overview to the Board of the role since his commencement on 15 March 2021. Following this appointment, it's expected that the Transition to Industry Working Group will gain momentum toward its 2023 target.

Technical Working Group update

Section 12A of the Queensland Biosecurity Manual is more grower-friendly thanks to investigations by the Technical Working Group. This section of the Manual prescribes the destruction zone requirements under a notice.

Q3 Program Report highlights

The Board was presented a Quarterly Report that demonstrates the Program is tracking well for its year-to-date (YTD) targets. Here are some highlights of the Q3 Program Report (Jan to Mar 2021).

Operations

- 16 083 hectares of surveillance has been completed YTD and is on track for full completion by Quarter 4.
- Compliance verification activities including 24 audits, 10 education activities, 2 risk item inspections prior to movement, 6 fruit inspections, the supervision of 5 destruction zones and activities for 5 sample consignments under a biosecurity instrument permit.

Communications & engagement

- 19 Facebook posts, 1 Program Update, 1 Board Snapshot, 3 ABGC E-bulletins, 3 articles for Australian Bananas Magazine.

Diagnostic services

- 87 samples were diagnosed with 12 testing positive to Panama TR4. All positive samples were taken from infested properties.

Policy and planning

- Operational procedure for extraction of DNA from soil on an infested property was finalised and provided to researchers.
- 5 new areas of legal policy requiring investigation were identified this quarter.

**Next
meeting
July
2021**

General enquiries about this notice: Call Rhiannon Evans, Program Leader on 07 4091 8141 or Sonia Campbell, ABGC on 0428 038 330

Grower enquiries to the Board: Call Jim Pekin on (07) 3278 4786

The Panama TR4 Program is a joint initiative between the Queensland Government and the Australian Banana Growers' Council.

**Panama
disease
tropical
race 4**

