

New Zealand MPI Suspends Export Pathway for Long Bean

The Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF) would like to advise all stakeholders that the New Zealand Ministry of Primary Industries (NZMPI) has suspended the export pathway for long bean effective from October 21, 2015 after interception of *Thrips palmi* in exports consignments to NZ. Long bean is exported under the Non-Bilateral Quarantine Agreement (BQA) Pathway.

The suspension resulted from NZMPI interception of live *Thrips palmi* in the export consignment of long bean on August 10, September 28 and October 8 and 11, 2015.

The details of the consignments on which *Thrips palmi* was intercepted are:

Exporter	Phytosanitary Certificate Number	Consignment Description
Tropiko Exports Ltd	324784	18 cartons of Okra
Maqere Exports	304599	30 cartons of Longbeans
Manasa Exports	319200	22 cartons of Longbeans

What is *Thrips palmi*

Thrips palmi- also known as melon Thrips- is a pest that affects all crops such as cucumber, okra, longbean and eggplant. It causes economic damage to plant crops by feeding and transferring virus to the other crops. Some of the symptoms of plants affected by *Thrips palmi* are silvery feeding scars on the leaf surface especially alongside the leaf's midrib and veins. Identification of *Thrips palmi* can only be made in adult stage by an experienced observer and not in stages of eggs, larvae and pupa. Identification at species level can be only be done using high power microscope e.g. 400 magnification.

Action taken by BAF

BAF has officially corresponded and requested for a pest Identification report, information on quantity of pest intercepted per consignment, preserved samples and other relevant details from the NZMPI and to further reconsider on the decision on suspension.

Following this, BAF will also implement 2 levels of compliance inspections including improvement of farm hygiene management.

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Actions proposed by NZMPI

The New Zealand MPI will be conducting an audit on the okra and long bean pathways during October 26 -30, 2015. The scope of the audit will be:

- Trace-back audits specifically conducted on the Long beans (*Phaseolous spp.*) and okra (*Abelmoschus esculentus*) pathways due to recent interceptions of *Thrips palmi*.

The audit will be carried out against the Bilateral Quarantine Agreement between New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Fiji Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forests (MAFF) dated January 2000. Specifically:

- APPENDIX 3 on NON-HOST STATUS (maturity/variety) for Chilies (hot rod, red fire and bird's eye chili varieties);
- APPENDIX 2 on NON-HOST STATUS (maturity) for pineapple (*Ananas comosus*) and plantain (*Musa paradisiaca*)

Other fresh produce pathways to be briefly audited include:

- Okra (*Abelmoschus esculentus*)
- Amaranthus (*Amaranthus spp.*)
- Long beans (*Phaseolous spp.*)
- Basil Leaves (*Ocinum basilicum*)
- Coconut (*Cocos nucifera*)
- Ginger (*Zingiber officiale*)
- Curry Leaves (*Murraya koenigii*)
- Pidgeon pea (*Cajanus cajan*)

BAF will keep all stakeholders updated on the progress however for more information on the above, please contact the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji Office.

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