

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE
ON HUANGLONGBING



**Session 14d:
Key Take-Home
Messages and a View
to the Future:
Regulatory
Summaries/
Perspectives**

Orlando, Florida



December 2008

14.15 Regulatory Approaches to HLB/ACP – W. Dixon, P. Berger

- 1) Chronology of the Florida ACP (1998) and HLB (2005) detections
- 2) Historical review of Federal regulations with commentary on international, national and state perspectives.
- 3) International situations

Thailand

- Bringing in plant material a concern.
- Family farm problem outside the regulatory attention.
- Subject to rules, but impossible to enforce - common theme.

Brazil

- Regulated/covered nurseries begun in 1997-98, complete in 2002. HLB discovered in 2004.
- Underappreciated regulatory value.
- Government assistance to growers, nurseries to encourage participation.
- Must be science-based or legal problems are inevitable and costly e.g. *Murraya* regulation impossible until host relationship with Las proven.
- Hot Zone definition –family farm concept with ethnic connections to areas where serious pests are known.
- Value of local inspectors who know their

Costa Rica

- Grower group-driven budwood registration was started in 2007 that will be mandatory in 2009.
- Problem getting the government to help enforce. Noted that the family farm or small grower was not likely to cooperate.

Jamaica

- As soon as HLB appeared in Brazil and Florida, a task force was assembled.
- Then, in 2002 ACP was discovered. Budwood registration begun.
- Currently, they will prohibit seed import until more is known.
- If HLB is discovered, there is unease about requiring tree removal and whether there is the authority?

Group discussion:

- What are we regulating, pathogen or disease?
- Suggestion made to regulate pathogen because of the latency problem.
- Precautionary regulations are not legal.
- No financial safety net for plant pest emergencies like there is for veterinary emergencies. This is being addressed in future farm bills.

South Africa

- Highly regulated industry, but could use more teeth.
- Moving toward compulsory compliance, at 95% now.

New Zealand

- Carefully regulate all plant material into country, all travelers. High fines and prison terms. Use amnesty bins.
- Right to destroy on first find, but must compensate for all other removals.
- Plant movement controls stiff.

Australia

- Very strict. All incoming nursery stock fumigated. Post entry quarantine is 2 years for citrus.
- Classification of risk groups for plant pests.
- There is a cost sharing program with growers and government for pest programs. e.g. Canker eradication in Queensland.
- No compensation for plant destruction, weekend market sales, residential and hobby growers.
- Australian citrus dieback will confound any arrival of HLB.
- Pest Specific Incursion Plan for HLB is in review –a major publication.

Dominican Republic

Psyllids arrived 2000; started HLB survey for HLB in 2000. Suspect plants found, but negative. Adopted Brazilian system of management. Gower community fragmented, small growers, will be difficult to organize. Acquiring training for HLB diagnostics, getting lab set up. Anticipating USDA help.

Common issues among countries

- Cooperation among all stakeholders
- Existence of compensation or not
- Legal authority to achieve biological effectiveness
- Level of anticipatory strategies— what is allowed and not
- Need for discussions among stakeholders before an event

4) Other issues - Seed transmission

- No regulatory decision yet - need more data.
- May be transmitting only one of two microbes
- No correlation of positive PCR with HLB symptoms
- Graft transmission underway
- Psyllid transmission necessary