

**Summary of 11<sup>th</sup> Sino-US Bilateral symposium on plant quarantine between the USDA-Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine, Phytosanitary Issue Management and the Peoples Republic of China, State Administration of Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine.**

**ISSUE**

**China - Penjing plants in growing media**

AQSIQ expressed frustration over APHIS need to consult with the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act APHIS explained the need to comply with the requirements of this law.

APHIS introduced a representative of the FWS to the Chinese delegation to explain the requirements of the ESA and the Section 7 consultation requirement and its relationship to the import of Penjing plants. APHIS explained that it had made significant progress in addressing this issue in cooperation with the FWS. APHIS explained that although a proposed rule was published in the Federal Register that Consultation must be completed before a final rule could be published. APHIS explained that there is an ongoing open dialog between APHIS and FWS and that both agencies have expressed a dedicated commitment to resolve this issue expeditiously.

FWS provided information and an explanation of the ESA. APHIS expects results from the consultation process for the Genus Buxus within the next two to three months and that the remaining Genus will be processed individually after the agencies have completed the development of a programmatic approach to streamlining consultation.

**ISSUE**

**US - FL Citrus**

APHIS requested the addition of four additional counties (Polk, Charlotte, Orange, Pasco) to the existing workplan.

AQSIQ expressed concerns over the occurrence of Citrus canker in ten FL counties. In addition AQSIQ expressed concerns about a number of unrelated issues including fruitfly outbreaks in CA, quality issues, Drosophila as a Quarantine rated pest, and lack of phytosanitary certificates for some shipments arriving in China. As a result of these issues, AQSIQ believes the requirements of the workplan have not been met and therefore additional information must be received and reviewed prior to approval. AQSIQ said that since the four counties were not included in the original workplan a new Pest Risk Assessment (PRA) would be needed for their approval. APHIS disagreed and said that the same commodities from the same region with the same pest complexes should not require a new PRA and that the workplan anticipated the inclusion of additional counties as this had been done before. The issue of whether a PRA is required was not resolved.

## **ISSUE**

### **China - Fragrant Pear**

AQSIQ was informed that progress has been made on their access request for fragrant pears into the US. A technical decision has been made by APHIS to initiate the rule making process to allow such an action. To further expedite this proposed action, a separate proposed rule would be published and that the rule would not have to wait for inclusion in the next periodic amendment to the APHIS Title 7 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). This means that the rule will be published prior to the periodic amendment a process that would have taken longer. The proposed rule is currently being drafted to be published in the Federal Register. It was expressed that rules of similar complexity generally take at a minimum 12 to 16 months for a final rule to be published.

## **ISSUE**

### **US - US plums and nectarines to China**

APHIS expressed disappointment that AQSIQ continues to consider plums as a high risk pathway for fire blight. The APHIS position is that plum fruit is not a host to fire blight and poses no risk.

AQSIQ agreed to participate in a symposium with US experts on the risk of fire blight to plums, as proposed two years ago by APHIS. Most significantly, AQSIQ agreed that at the conclusion of this symposium they would make a decision on the risk of plums to fire blight.

### **Nectarines**

AQSIQ has acknowledged receipt of the pest list and market request sent by APHIS for nectarines. AQSIQ indicated that only the pathogen list was received but not the insect list. APHIS will ensure that an insect list is provided to China. APHIS will also provide information on the occurrence of Plum Pox virus in the US as requested by AQSIQ .

## **ISSUE**

### **China – China Longans**

APHIS notified AQSIQ that a technical decision to permit longans into the US with cold treatment has been made. APHIS will make changes to the draft proposed rule to reflect the suggested changes in treatment schedules for 1 C for 13 days or as an alternative, a treatment schedule of 1.3 C for 18 days since this change is supported by the information already provided by AQSIQ . APHIS indicated that if adequate data is presented, a schedule between 13 and 18 days could be acceptable.

## **ISSUE**

### **US - Alaska Logs**

AQSIQ confirmed that logs with bark require treatment prior to arrival unless specified otherwise an import permit or government “Contract of Sale” is acceptable. Appropriate treatments acceptable to AQSIQ would include fumigation, heat treatment or other bilaterally agreed upon treatment. AQSIQ is unwilling to make an exception to its existing regulations for Alaskan logs. However, AQSIQ expressed its willingness to consider any treatments proposed by APHIS that was supported by data. AQSIQ suggested that APHIS should further explore other treatments including the possibility of utilizing a salt water soak that will require additional research. APHIS and AQSIQ agreed to work cooperatively to develop a new treatment.

## **ISSUE**

### **China – China Apples/Citrus to US**

AQSIQ was disappointed that the PRA for apples from China was not complete. APHIS reassured AQSIQ that it remains one of APHIS’s highest priorities. In addition, APHIS has also placed a high priority on the completion of the PRA for citrus from China.

## **ISSUE**

### **US - Alaska potatoes**

#### Alaska seed potatoes

APHIS queried AQSIQ on the completion of the PRA for Alaskan potatoes and noted that all requested information was provided. A team of Chinese scientists has already reviewed potato production in Alaska. AQSIQ presented a draft PRA for Alaska seed potatoes to APHIS and requested comments. AQSIQ also requested survey data for potato cyst nematode. AQSIQ wants one additional site visit during the growing season. APHIS insisted that this visit follow the approval of Alaska seed potatoes by AQSIQ; as US industry already sponsored a technical visit by three Chinese scientists, during the 2000 production year. APHIS urged a quick regulatory decision by AQSIQ, citing the minimal risk of Alaska seed potatoes. APHIS proposed a visit prior to the initiation of the export season in July, 2002. The two sides reached not conclusion as to the timing of the visit.

#### Alaska tablestock potatoes

AQSIQ agreed to apply the PRA of Alaska seed potatoes to Alaska tablestock potatoes.

## **ISSUE**

### **China – China Ya Pears**

To prevent diseases being intercepted at ports of entry on Ya Pears from Hebei into the US, APHIS has dispatched a team to investigate the systems approach for Ya pears and to assess whether the suspension can be lifted.

## **ISSUE**

### **US – US Potato**

APHIS has been trying to reopen the market to US tablestock potatoes (WA, OR, ID, and AK) since its closure in 1995. A team of Chinese scientists reviewed potato production in ID, WA, and OR in July 2001. APHIS noted that this issue was among the highest of US priorities. AQSIQ responded that as soon as the PRA was completed for AK potatoes, they would begin work on the PRA for tablestock. They would contact APHIS if more information is needed.

## **ISSUE**

### **China – Interceptions in US grass seed**

AQSIQ informed APHIS that interceptions of *Tilletia fusca* have been made in shipments of grass seed from the US. APHIS will put a note into EXCERPT alerting certifying official to this issue. APHIS will provide information on this pest on this host.

## **ISSUE**

### **China – China Litchi**

AQSIQ proposed the following cold treatment to eliminate Oriental fruit fly in litchi:

13 days at 2 C under controlled atmosphere  
(Calcium carbonate and Calcium chloride)

APHIS responded that the data indicated that at 14 day treatment at 2° C is needed and that both the temperature and gas concentration would need hourly monitoring while in transit. AQSIQ asked if APHIS would accept the treatment if new data showed that 13 days at 2° C under NAP was effective. APHIS stated that if new research showed efficacy at 13 days at 2° C under NAP the new treatment would likely be accepted.

## **ISSUE**

### **US – US corn seed PRA**

APHIS requested market access for corn seed. APHIS indicated that they would forward a pest list through the APHIS IS Beijing office. APHIS noted that the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) has been working cooperatively with China's National Agro-Technical Extension and Service Center, Ministry of Agriculture (NATESC) to develop a reciprocal PRA for seed corn. These two entities signed an agreement in 2000 to collaborate on a US / China PRA for seed corn. This effort is intended to be mutually beneficial. We have been informed that China's national seed association is in full support of this effort. APHIS requested clarification as to whether AQSIQ would accept the PRA being drafted by NATESC and whether in addition to this any PRA work would be needed. APHIS requested clarification as to whether ASTA needs to establish a formal agreement with AQSIQ as well.

## **ISSUE**

### **US – TCK Tolerances**

APHIS introduced a representative of the USDA Federal Grain Inspection Service (GIPSA) who was attending at the request of the Chinese to discuss the TCK issue. GIPSA and a representative of the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) explained that the US has met its commitments to the 1999 Agricultural Cooperative Agreement (ACA) and reaffirmed its position that the agreement is valid, justified and should also be met by China.

The US explained that it remains open to collaborative efforts and studies without any relation to the existing tolerance levels. The US extends an offer to China to participate in study in July in KS.

## **ISSUE**

### **US – US Apples**

APHIS requested that the nine varieties of apples identified in its prior communications be added to the current apple workplan. AQSIQ stated they were still concerned about the transmission of fire blight by apple fruit. AQSIQ also stated they had not yet seen Dr. Robert's latest research that was forwarded to AQSIQ on April 5, 2002. APHIS and AQSIQ agreed to hold a meeting to discuss AQSIQ's concern of the transmission of fire blight by apple fruit. The meeting will be held in 2002 in the US and will also cover the issue of US plums.

APHIS also restated its prior request to have California apples included in the workplan. AQSIQ stated they still need some additional information on lesser apple worm. AQSIQ also expressed concerns about other pests of apples and have not completed their PRA.

## **ISSUE**

### **US –US Grapes and Citrus**

APHIS requested the suspension of the requirement of additional medfly trapping in production areas. APHIS explained that this would not affect the exotic fruit fly monitoring program currently in place. AQSIQ stated they would consider this request if APHIS provided technical justification to do so. APHIS further stated that there have been several meetings and visits by AQSIQ to explain the current guidelines used in the US to monitor for exotic fruit flies.

APHIS provided AQSIQ with the lists of California grape growers for the 2002 / 2003 shipping season. AQSIQ stated that additions to the grape and or citrus participants list would only be allowed if APHIS provides additional information assessing fruit originating from outside any fruit fly regulated areas.

## **ISSUE**

### **US - US Pears**

AQSIQ requested and APHIS agreed to provide an updated pest list, as well as the varieties expected to be exported and the states of production. APHIS will also provide information on fire blight. It is APHIS's hope that after providing this information, AQSIQ will quickly initiate the PRA.

## **ISSUE**

### **US - HI Papaya**

AQSIQ submitted a letter requesting market access for papaya from Hawaii. To mitigate for fruit flies, the papaya would receive vapor heat treatment.

## **ISSUE**

### **China - Fruit fly meeting**

APHIS has expressed its willingness to hold further meeting on the size of quarantined areas and suggest an electronic meeting may be best. APHIS will try to accommodate AQSIQ on the dates and methods of the meeting.

## **ISSUE**

### **US – Wood Packing Material**

APHIS informed AQSIQ that it may consider the adoption of the international standards for the importation of wood packing material and asked what measure AQSIQ would be taking. AQSIQ indicated that they intend to adopt the standard in light of its existing regulations. AQSIQ indicated that whatever system of certification is to be used, the system should guarantee treatment efficacy. This was mentioned in light of interceptions of PWN in shipments containing wood packing material that were certified under the existing affidavit system.

**ISSUE**

**China - Soybean interceptions**

AQSIQ requested the US to strengthen its inspections of soybeans so as to meet the quarantine and quality standards of China.

**ISSUE**

**China – US Rules and Regulation Process**

AQSIQ asked APHIS to provide an explanation of the rule making process in the form of training, presentation, or similar manner. APHIS agreed that such an explanation could be provided. APHIS requested that AQSIQ provide similar information. AQSIQ agreed to provide this information.