

Industry Biosecurity Plan for the Grains Industry

Australia's geographic isolation and quarantine systems have meant that we have remained relatively free of many pests that cause significant issues for grain production overseas. Freedom from exotic pests provides both a yield advantage as well as real trade benefits for the Australian grains industry.

Biosecurity planning provides a mechanism for the grains industry, government and other relevant stakeholders to assess current biosecurity practices and future biosecurity needs. This is achieved through determining pests not currently present in Australia and analysing the risks they pose. Biosecurity planning also identifies procedures that can be put in place to reduce the chance of pests reaching our borders or minimise the impact if a pest incursion occurs.

Plant Health Australia (PHA) works with the grains industry, represented by the Grains Council of Australia, and Government Members to identify, prioritise, and manage key plant health risks. An important step in this process is the development and implementation of the Grains Industry Biosecurity Plan (IBP).

The Grains IBP was first developed in 2006 and has been recently reviewed by PHA in collaboration with industry and government stakeholders.

Industry Biosecurity Plans are an industry's blueprint for providing the best possible protection against exotic plant pests. IBPs cover:

- identification of the highest risk pests to the industry (threat identification and analysis)
- how an industry guards against exotic pests (risk mitigation activities)
- how an industry will know when an exotic pest has arrived (surveillance) and how to identify it (diagnostics)
- how an industry deals with exotic pests if they are found (contingency plans)

Development of an IBP involves significant consultation with a wide range of stakeholders. PHA would like to recognise all who have contributed financially and in-kind to the development of the Grains IBP, including:

- The Grains Council of Australia
- Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC)
- The Australian Government and all state and territory governments

The Grains IBP provides:

- a more rigorous basis for strategic planning, with a structured consideration of key risks
- assistance in setting priorities for further industry action and investment in biosecurity
- reduced costs, as a result of early detection and management of biosecurity risks
- effective and efficient biosecurity programs
- greater transparency and inclusiveness in decision-making and ongoing management processes
- optimisation of resources
- reduced loss and damage from pest incursions
- combined industry and government ownership of decisions, and a commitment to delivering real outcomes
- the capacity to examine arrangements for key pest threats across other plant industries affected

Identifying key pest threats for the grains industry

The development of the Grains IBP began with the production of Threat Summary Tables, which contain the pest threats identified for the grains industry. Through expert consultation these pests were ranked for their potential threat based on entry, establishment, spread and economic criteria and, from this information, the high priority plant pests were determined. These high priority pests provide a focus for further risk mitigation activities such as surveillance, contingency planning, and on-farm biosecurity and awareness activities.

High priority plant pests for the grains industry include:

Invertebrates	Pathogens
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Khapra beetle• Russian wheat aphid• Sorghum shoot fly• Hessian fly• Wheat aphid• Barley stem gall midge• Spotted stalk borer• Phosphine resistant strains of stored grain insects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Karnal bunt• Leaf blight and leaf spot• Lentil anthracnose• Exotic rusts of wheat, barley and lentil• Philippine, sorghum and sunflower downy mildews• Maize dwarf mosaic virus• Peanut stripe virus• Sunflower stem canker

Implementation of the Industry Biosecurity Plan

The Grains IBP provides a framework for biosecurity risk mitigation measures in the industry and, to implement these measures, the Grains Council of Australia and PHA have initiated the Grains On-farm Biosecurity Program. Activities in this program will increase surveillance, biosecurity awareness and capacity to respond to biosecurity issues in the grains industry through:

- development of the Farm Biosecurity Manual for the grains industry
- appointment of Grains Biosecurity Officers
- conducting on-going training in pest threat and biosecurity awareness for industry
- facilitating collection of surveillance data for key pest threats

In addition to the Grains On-farm Biosecurity Program, implementation of the Grains IBP occurs through specific research projects funded through the CRC for National Plant Biosecurity and the GRDC.

Want more info?

If you would like more information, or to download a copy of the Grains IBP or the Grains Farm Biosecurity Manual, visit www.planthealthaustralia.com.au, email admin@phau.com.au or phone (02) 6260 4322.