

Industry Biosecurity Plan for the Rice Industry

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

Biosecurity planning provides a mechanism for the rice industry, government and other relevant stakeholders to assess current biosecurity practices and future biosecurity needs. Critical to achieving this is the identification of pests of rice not currently present in Australia (exotic) and analysing the risks they pose. This process allows procedures to be put in place that reduce the chance of pests reaching our borders and minimise the impact if a pest incursion occurs.

Plant Health Australia (PHA) works with the rice industry, represented by the Ricegrowers' Association of Australia (RGA), and Government Members to identify, prioritise, and manage key biosecurity risks. An important step in this process is the development and implementation of the Rice Industry Biosecurity Plan (IBP).

The Rice IBP was first developed in 2005 and has been recently reviewed by PHA in collaboration with industry and government stakeholders.

The Industry Biosecurity Plan – an industry's blueprint

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 Rice IBP, including:

- The Ricegrowers' Association of Australia
- SunRice
- The Australian Government and all state and territory governments

The Rice 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 rice industry

The development of the Rice IBP began with the production of Threat Summary Tables, which contain the exotic pest threats identified for the rice industry. Through expert consultation the threat posed by each pest was determined based on entry, establishment, spread and economic criteria and, from this information, a list of high priority plant pests was developed. These high priority pests provide a focus for further risk mitigation activities such as surveillance, contingency planning, and on-farm biosecurity and awareness activities.

The high priority plant pests for the rice industry include:

Invertebrates	Pathogens
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Golden apple snail (<i>Pomacea canaliculata</i>)• Rice water weevil (<i>Lissorhoptrus oryzophilus</i>)• Khapra beetle (<i>Trogoderma granarium</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rice blast (<i>Magnaporthe grisea</i>)• Bakanae (<i>Gibberella fujikuroi</i>)• Bacterial grain rot/panicle blight (<i>Burkholderia glumae</i>)• Kernel smut (<i>Tilletia barclayana</i>)

Implementation of the Industry Biosecurity Plan

The Rice IBP provides a framework for the implementation of biosecurity risk mitigation measures in the industry. Through the RGA, the rice industry is undertaking biosecurity preparedness by:

- development of pest threat-specific documents (e.g. contingency plans)
- maintenance of a Rice Industry Incursion Taskforce

Want more info?

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