PLANT HEALTH REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

JAMAICA’S EXPERIENCES

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OUTLINE

- Phytosanitary Legislation
- Institutional Capacity
- Pest Diagnostic Capabilities
- Pest Risk Analysis
- Surveillance
- Exotic Pest Response System
- Inspection Systems
- International Obligations and Activities
- Challenges
- New Initiatives
Phytosanitary Legislation

- Plant Quarantine Act (1993) and Regulations (1999 and 2005)
  - Pawpaw Ring Spot Order, 1994;
  - Pink Hibiscus Mealybug Order, 1996 and 2007; and
  - The Plants (Quarantine) (Citrus Greening Disease) (Huanglongbing) Order, 2010
- Pesticide Act (1975) and Regulations (1996, 1999 and 2004);
- Natural Resource Conservation Act (1991)
Institutional Capacity

- National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO)
  - Plant Quarantine/Produce Inspection Branch - Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries;
    - Jamaica Citrus Protection Agency (JCPA)

- Plant Protection Unit/ Post Entry Quarantine - Research and Development Division - Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries
- Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA)
Other Organisations

- Pesticides Control Authority (PCA) - Ministry of Health
- Commodity Boards
  - Sugar Industry Research Institute (SIRI)
  - Coffee Board
  - Banana Board
  - Coconut Board
  - Cocoa Board
- Academic Institutions
  - UWI Pure & Applied Science and Biotechnology Centre
- Regional
  - Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)
Plant Health Coordinating Committee (PHCC)

- Established 2004
- Coordinate plant health activities among agencies
- Development of a National Plant Health Policy
- Some Members
  - Plant Quarantine/Produce Inspection
  - Research and Development
  - Rural Agricultural Development Authority
  - CARDI
  - UWI
  - Forestry
  - JCPA
  - NEPA
The vision of the policy is:
“the establishment of a coordinated, sustainable and international compliant plant health system that enhances Jamaica’s plant health status, thus fostering consumer, plant and environmental health and food security”.
Plant Health Policy

• Goals:
  • Improve the current plant health system in accordance with international standards and obligations;
  • Harmonize national plant health legislative, regulatory and institutional frameworks;
  • Facilitate the development of systems that mitigate the introduction and spread of harmful alien pest species;
  • Promote the use of sustainable integrated pest management strategies in order to reduce the dependence on pesticides by farmers;
  • Protect the natural environment from the harmful impact of invasive plant pests; and
  • Increase public awareness and role of stakeholders in protecting plant health.
Diagnostic Capabilities

- Research and Development, Plant Quarantine/Produce Inspection Branch, UWI, Food Storage and the Prevention of Infestation Division (FSPID) and some Commodity Boards

- Adequate numbers of professional in entomology
- Limited in the area of:
  - Weed science
  - Plant virology
  - Pathology
  - Bacteriology
  - Mycology
  - Nematology
Diagnostic Capabilities

- Equipped to conduct traditional taxonomic identification
- One (1) Laboratory equipped to perform molecular diagnostic test - UWI
- Laboratories not accredited
- Use regional and international experts and labs for identification and diagnostics
Pest Risk Analysis

- Dedicated Unit
- Five Members of Staff
  - Manager
  - Three (3) Risk Analyst
  - One (1) Records/Data Officer
- Trinidad and Tobago facilitated a study tour to their PRA Unit
- Collaborated with the R & D to prepare the regulated pest list and the country's pest list
## Pest Risk Analysis Unit

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Pest Risk Unit Established
Surveillance

- RADA responsible for surveillances
  - Assisted by PQ/PI, R & D and Commodity Boards
- No formal comprehensive system of surveillance
- Surveys being conducted:
  - Mediterranean Fruit Fly
  - Citrus Greening
  - Papaya Mealybug
- Plant Health Surveillance and Pest Response System
Plant Health Surveillance and Pest Response System

- To coordinate activities among the agencies involved in plant health.
- It:
  - Is web based
  - Enable users to notify potential threat
  - Facilitate tentative pest identification
  - Electronic capture of surveillance and pest diagnostic information
  - Users are given different levels of access
  - Needs enhancement
Emergency Pest Response System

- Taskforce established for specific pest
- PHCC is updating the Emergency Action Plan for exotic plant pests
- National Plant Pest Committee (NEPPC) to be established
INSPECTION SYSTEMS
IMPORT/EXPORT UNIT

- Inspection of exports and imports
- Inspections and other activities related to the USDA Preclearance Programme
- Confiscate and destroy contraband
- Maintain and update Export/import database
- Issue Phytosanitary Certificates
- Conduct Quarantine treatments
- Prepare and disseminate reports
- Advise and disseminated relevant information to farmers, exporters and other stakeholders
COMPLIANCE & CERTIFICATION UNIT

- Monitor and certify plant nurseries and farms
- Monitor markets, supermarkets and other establishments for illegal imports
- Inspect aircraft and marine vessels to ensure compliance
- Sea and Airport facilities inspected according to established guidelines
- Monitor disposal of international garbage
- Monitor and Certify processing and packaging plants for imports and exports
- Advise and disseminated relevant information to farmers, exporters and other stakeholders
- Sensitizes Farm Workers on imports procedures and compliance
MINISTRY’S E-TRADE SYSTEM

- Ministry’s Trade Point Facilitation System
  - Electronic processing and preparation
    - import permit applications and approval
    - export Certification
    - payment of fees
- Stakeholders will be able to view and use different aspect of the process based on their level of access e.g. Customs, exporter/importer, staff and PQ Officers.
- System for Import is fully functional
- Export system being developed
Export Complexes

- Two Export Complexes (Kingston and Montego Bay)
- Operate as One Stop Shops
- Houses:
  - Airlines
  - Customs
  - USDA – APHIS
  - MOAF Staff
    - Fumigation Staff
    - Inspectorate
    - Accounting/Administrative Staff
Export Complexes

- Services Provided
  - Inspection and certification
  - Phytosanitary treatments
  - Cold and ambient storage
  - *Pre-clearance of agricultural produce to the U.S.A*
  - *Export and import data*
Cold Room and Ambient Storage in Montego Bay
Expansion of Warehouse space in Kingston
Jamaica Import/Export Inspection Centre
"One Stop Shop"

- New Facility established by Government as part of the Public Sector Modernization Programme
- Provides a central location from which all the Regulatory Agencies with responsibility for human health and safety, animal and plant health operate
- Provides a more coordinated and efficient process for the inspection of traded goods
- Located at Berth 11, Port Bustamante, Newport West, Kingston

[www.portinspection.gov.jm](http://www.portinspection.gov.jm)
Regulatory Agencies One Stop Shop

- To serve as a central location to coordinate all inspection processes
- To improve service delivery to importers and exporters
- To achieve quicker processing time by making agency representatives more available
- To standardise inspection procedures to better ensure product wholesomeness
- To reduce duplication of inspection functions
- To ensure all requirement/standards of the country and the international standards organisations are met
One Stop Shop

- Agencies
  - Pesticide Control Authority (MOH)
  - Public Health (MOH)
  - Pharmaceutical Division (MOH)
  - The Jamaica Bureau of Standards (MIIC)
  - The Veterinary Services Division (MOAF)
  - The Plant Quarantine/Produce Inspection Unit (MOAF)
  - The Food Storage and Prevention of Infestation Division (MIIC)
Benefits

- Access to multiple government services in a single location
- Shorter processing time
- Reduce overlaps and gaps in inspection process
- Minimize the need for importer/exporter to make multiple visits to Regulatory Agencies
One Stop Shop Operational
The Jamaica Citrus Protection Agency (JCPA) has regulatory responsibility for the execution of The Citrus Plant (Certification) Regulation, 1999 under the Plant Quarantine Act 1993.

The major functions of the Agency are certification of:

- citrus nurseries
- seed source trees
- scion trees
- quick multiplication blocks (QMB)
Callaloo certification programme to facilitate the export of Callaloo to the USA

- IPM approach
- Guidelines established from farm to export
- Work closely with RADA, R&D
- National Farm Certification Programme with the Bureau of Standard
INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS
AND ACTIVITIES
WTO/SPS Enquiry Point

- Senior Plant Quarantine/Produce /WTO/SPS Enquiry Point Officer
- Thirteen (13) news letter since January
- Compile and reported at WTO meeting of SPS Committee Jamaica’s queries and concerns re FDA Food Safety Modernisation Act
- Functions as the Information Portal for the IPPC
IPPC

- Active members
  - Past Member of the Standard Committee
  - Expert working group on Capacity Building
    - Last meeting was held in Montego Bay, Jamaica
  - Expert Working group on Electronic Certification
- Nine (9) non compliance notification
- Continued implementation and adoption of ISPMs
Heat Treatment Facility
Recent Pest Incursions

- Lime swallowtail butterfly
- Pink Hibiscus Mealy bug
- Red Palm Mite
- Papaya Mealybug
- Citrus Greening
CAYMAN ISLAND AGREEMENT

- Twenty three (23) commodities enterable
- Require an import permit from the Cayman Island
- Must be packaged in certified facilities
- Pepper and thyme must be fumigated
- Special conditions for orchids plants and citrus plants
- Recently Banana was added
USDA PRECLEARANCE PROGRAMME

- USDA - Preclearance program - fast track export of fresh produce
  - Utilizing US documentation and technical expertise
  - Fifty-two (52) commodities
  - Funding by GOJ totally
    - 2009-2010 cost of Programme – Ja$54,000,000
Mentoring Role

- Hosts Plant Quarantine Officers from Dominica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines at our facilities for Study Tour
- Strong succession planning Programme within the Branch
Committees

- National Agricultural Health Food Safety Coordinating Committee (NAHFSCC)
  - Plant Health Coordinating Committee (PHCC)
  - Inspection of food and agricultural goods
- National CODEX Committee and the mirror committees
- Scientific Authority – Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- National Standards Committee
- National Biosafety Committee
Public Education Programme

• Farm Workers Sensitization Programme
• Greater collaboration with all stakeholders JEA, Jamaica Trade and Invest, JIS, Commodity Boards etc.
• Make Presentations at stakeholders forum
  • Customs trainings and expositions
  • Chamber of commerce meetings
  • JEA, RADA farmers training
• Give talks on Radio and Television
  • Farm Talk
  • Jamaica Information Service
Challenges

• Inadequate resources
  • Human
  • Financial
• Lengthy legislative process
• Lack of interest of some private sector in SPS matters
• Inadequate facility for exports in Montego Bay
  • Audit conducted by the Civil Aviation Authority and the Ministry of Security – Non conformance to international requirements
• Additional warehouse space needed in Kingston
• Alternative to Methyl Bromide
New Initiatives

- Explore irradiation as alternate for Methyl Bromide
- Enhance our control over the handling and disposal of international garbage
- Offsite fumigations
- Relocate and upgrade the Montego Bay Export Complex
- Expand the warehouse in Kingston to facilitate additional airlines
- Dog Detection program
- Comprehensive Public Education programme
Acknowledgement

- Miss Carol Thomas
- USDA
- FAO
- IICA
- IDB
- CARDI
Thank You!