

# PLANT HEALTH REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

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## 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
  - Plant Quarantine (Control of *Ralstonia Solanacearum* Bacterium) Plant Pest, 2004.
  - The Plants (Quarantine) (Citrus Greening Disease) (Huanglongbing) Order, 2010
- Pesticide Act (1975) and Regulations (1996, 1999 and 2004);
- Natural Resource Conservation Act (1991)
- The Forest Act (1995).



# 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



# Plant Health Policy

- 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

Technical Documents	Numbers Completed	Numbers in Progress
Pest Risk Assessment	15	5
Market Access Survey	19	1
Technical Data Sheet	12	1
Field Identification Guide	6	3

# 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:
  - Meditterrian 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

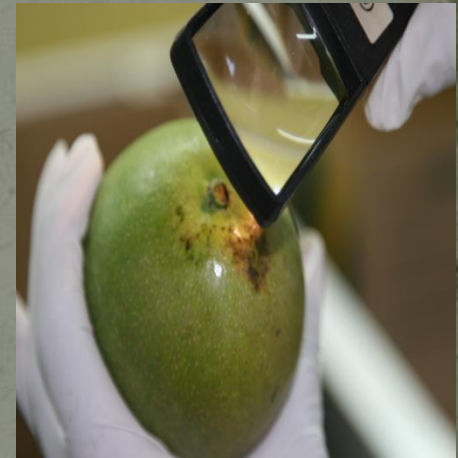
- Taskforce established for specific pest
- PHCC is updating the Emergency Action Plan for exotic plant pests
- National Plant Pest Committee (NEPPC) to be established

# 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



# MOAF Etrade System

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[https://www.moatrade.gov.jm/MOA/login.do?sessionId=ypt1f0GfxfNy7q\\_QYmAbWM](https://www.moatrade.gov.jm/MOA/login.do?sessionId=ypt1f0GfxfNy7q_QYmAbWM)

Certificate Error

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THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & LANDS

Trade System

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## PLANTS IMPORTS

(9) - Received  
(127) - Payable  
(0) - On Hold  
(320) - Rejected  
(518) - Deliverable Permits  
(4295) - Delivered

## PLANTS IMPORT



Applications Received



Deliverable Permits



Applications on Hold

## PLANT EXPORTS

(0) - Deliverable Certificates  
(0) - Hold  
(0) - Received

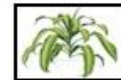
## PLANTS EXPORT



Applications Received



Deliverable Certificates



Applications on Hold

## SEARCH

Go

PLANTS IMPORTS

Build:27.07.09

# 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



# Certification Programme

- 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)



# Certification Programme

- 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
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- IDB
- CARDI

Thank You !