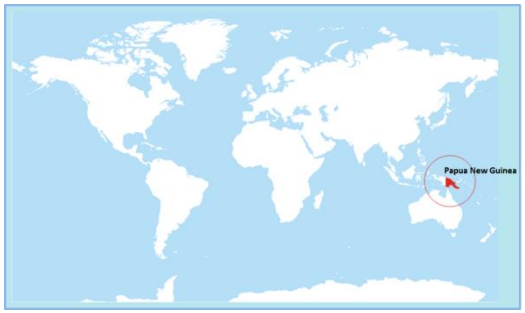

Declaration of Pest Free Status of New Britain Island in Papua New Guinea - Specifically Palm Lethal Yellowing (Phytoplasma 16 Sr IV)

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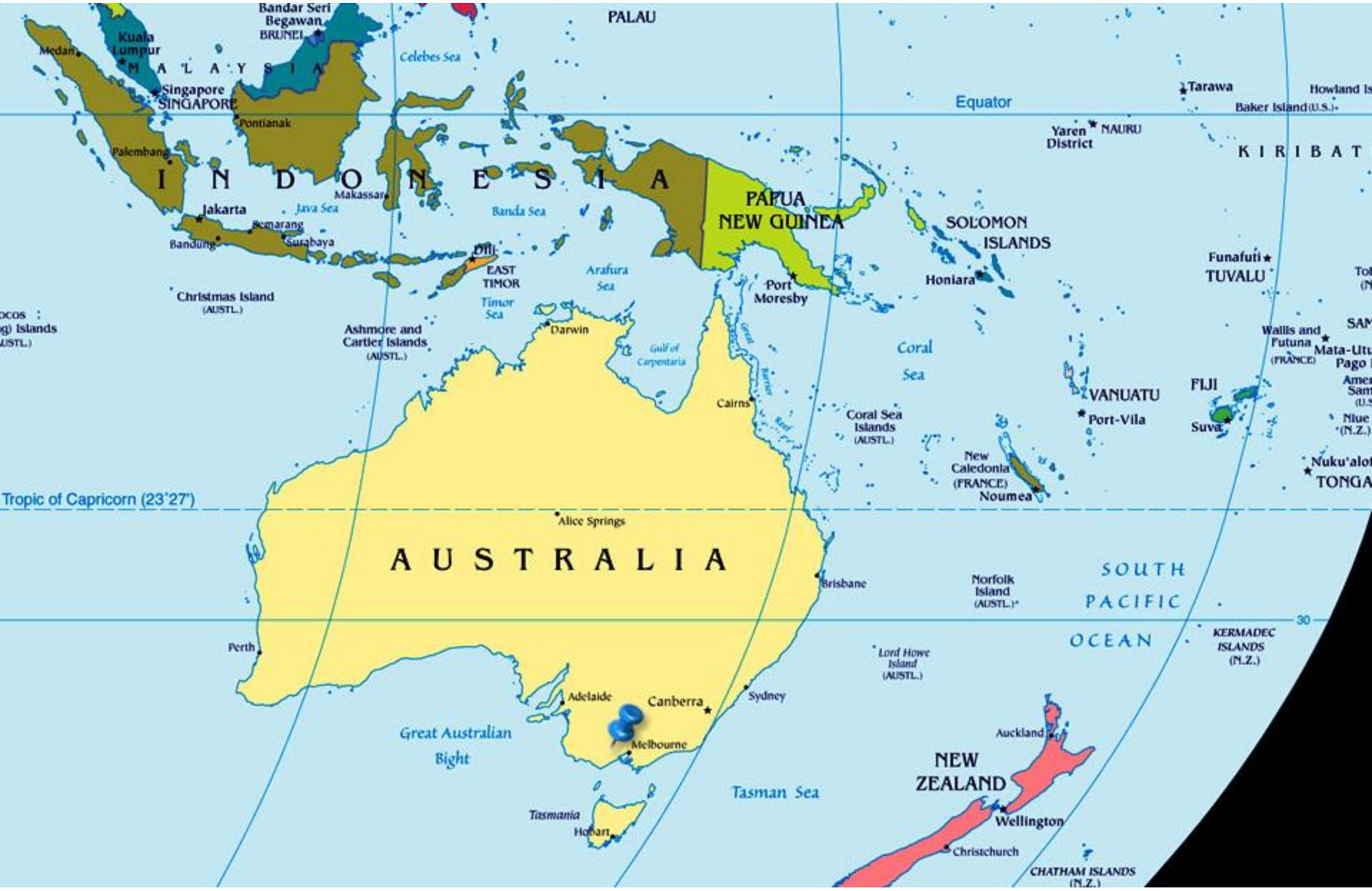
Outline of Presentation

1. Introduction
2. Scope
3. Background
4. Purpose of Pest Status Determination
5. Determination of Pest Free Area
6. Establishment and Maintenance of Pest Free Area
7. Transparency


Bandar Seri Begawan
BRUNEI
PALAU
Kuala Lumpur
Medan
M A L A Y S I A
Celebes Sea
Singapore
SINGAPORE
Pontianak
Equator
Tarawa
Howland Is
Baker Island (U.S.)
Yaren District
NAURU
KIRIBAT
Palembang
I N D O N E S I A
Makassar
Jakarta
Java Sea
Banda Sea
PAPUA NEW GUINEA
SOLOMON ISLANDS
Semarang
Bandung
Surabaya
Dili
EAST TIMOR
Arafura Sea
Port Moresby
Honiara
Funafuti
TUVALU
Christmas Island (AUSTL.)
Timor Sea
Darwin
Ashmore and Cartier Islands (AUSTL.)
Gulf of Carpentaria
Coral Sea
Wallis and Futuna (FRANCE)
Mata-Utu
Pago
VANUATU
FIJI
Port-Vila
Suva
Cairns
Great Barrier Reef
Coral Sea Islands (AUSTL.)
Niue (N.Z.)
New Caledonia (FRANCE)
Noumea
Nuku'alofa
TONGA
Tropic of Capricorn (23°27')
Alice Springs
AUSTRALIA
Brisbane
Norfolk Island (AUSTL.)
SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN
30
KERMADEC ISLANDS (N.Z.)
Perth
Lord Howe Island (AUSTL.)
Adelaide
Canberra
Sydney
Great Australian Bight
Melbourne
Auckland
NEW ZEALAND
Tasman Sea
Tasmania
Hobart
Wellington
Christchurch
CHATHAM ISLANDS (N.Z.)


0 150 Miles
0 150 Kilometers
Equator 0°
PACIFIC OCEAN
Ninigo Group
Manus I.
Mussau I.
St. Matthias Group
Lorengau
New Hanover
Admiralty Islands
Bismarck Archipelago
Kavieng
Tabar Is.
Lihir Group
Tanga Is.
Feni Is.
New Ireland
Rabaul
Vanimo
Lumi
Wewak
Angoram
Sepik
INDONESIA
Bismarck Sea
Karkar I.
Witu Is.
Long I.
Mt. Wilhelm 14,793 ft. (4,509 m)
Madang
Buka I.
Wabag
Mount Hagen
Kundiawa
Goroka
Kimbe
New Britain
New Guinea
Mendi
Strickland
Purari
Lae
Arawa
Bougainville
Solomon Sea
Lake Murray
Fly
Wau
Kerema
Gulf of Papua
Trobriand Islands
SOLOMON ISLANDS
Popondetta
Owen Stanley Range
Muyua (Woodlark) I.
Daru
Port Moresby
Arafura Sea
D'Entrecasteaux Is.
10° S
Alotau
Misima I.
Louisiade Archipelago
Torres Strait
Great Barrier Reef
Rossel I.
AUSTRALIA
Coral Sea
Tagula I.
145° E
155° E

Introduction

- Oil palm is highest agricultural export
- New Britain Palm Oil Limited (NBPOL), the largest oil palm company in PNG
- Dami Oil Palm Research Station (DOPRS) seed production scheme and seed export
- In December 2005 Indonesian Quarantine imposed ban on DOPRS seeds

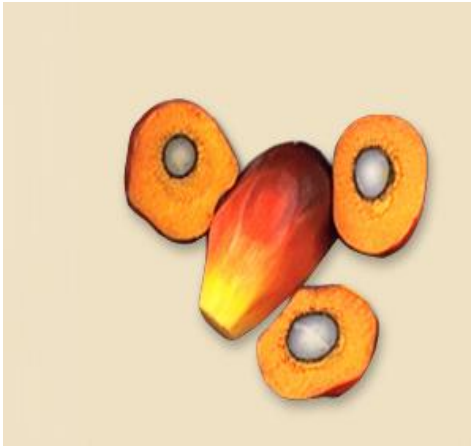


Fig. 1: Oil palm seeds

Fig. 2: Oil palm seed plants at Dami Oil Palm Research Station

Introduction (cont.)

- Coconut lethal yellowing phytoplasma and banana wilt associated phytoplasma were confirmed in 2009. Both phytoplasma diseases are related to the lethal yellowing phytoplasma that attacks oil palm.

Fig.3: Coconut Lethal Yellowing Phytoplasma

Fig. 4: Banana Wilt Associated Phytoplasma

Scope

- Document and provide relevant information by NPPO to confirm disease free status of PNG oil palm seeds of Phytoplasma 16Sr IV lethal yellowing of palms.

Background

- The Indonesian Plant Quarantine raised concern over the possibility of phytoplasma infected seeds exported by DOPRS.
- A temporary ban on the importation of DOPRS seeds was issued on December 2005.
- The interim ban place economic and social impact on seed production and export by DOPRS.
- Officials of the NPPOs from Indonesia and PNG met with industry representatives on February 2006 in Jakarta. The meeting resolved the following:

Background (cont.)

- The dispute could be resolved with independent verification of the absence of lethal yellowing through molecular diagnosis.
- PNG NPPO to prepare the status of lethal yellowing in the country based on ISPM 8.
- PNG NPPO to conduct survey for the presence of lethal yellowing in seed mother palms at DOPRS.
- Indonesian NPPO to visit DOPRS to conduct PRA.

Purpose of Pest Status Determination

- A report was prepared as a requirement by the Indonesian Quarantine authority to re-establish importation of oil palm seeds from PNG.

- PNG NPPO and stakeholders contributed relevant information consistent with requirements in ISPM 4, 6 and 8.

Determination Pest Free Area

In determining the Pest Free Status of New Britain Island for Phytoplasma 16Sr IV lethal yellowing, NPPO has considered the following:

1. No lethal yellowing has been previously diagnosed and scientifically proven in oil palm from Papua New Guinea.
2. The vector of lethal yellowing *Myndus crudus* has not been recorded in Papua New Guinea.
3. No oil palm seeds have been imported from countries that have lethal yellowing phytoplasma in the past and used in the breeding program at DOPRS.

Determination Pest Free Area (cont.)

4. No lethal yellowing symptoms have been recorded in oil palm plantation in PNG which has used DOPRS seed exclusively since 1974.
5. If the mother palms do not have the disease then the seeds produced will equally be free of the disease.
6. Independent laboratory analysis was conducted in Australia have yield negative tests for lethal yellowing phytoplasma.

7. Seed borne transmission of lethal yellowing phytoplasma is considered extremely unlikely.
8. If lethal yellowing phytoplasma was present, the disease could have been detected through specific and general surveys.

- **NPPO therefore concludes that the island of New Britain is free from lethal yellowing Phytoplasma 16Sr IV until further notification.**

- **It follows that seed produced by Dami OPRS within New Britain Island is similarly free from lethal yellowing Phytoplasma 16Sr IV until further notification.**

Establishment and Maintenance of Pest Free Area

The following systems have been reviewed and are designed to established and confirm that Dami Oil Palm Research Station on New Britain Island is **free** of lethal yellowing phytoplasma:

1. Oil palm and coconut pests and diseases through general surveys have been authenticated and updated regularly.
2. Samples of seedlings suspected with lethal yellowing infection at Aisikee Oil Palm Project, West Papua, Indonesia were tested in Australia and yielded negative to lethal yellowing phytoplasma.
3. Leaf samples from mother seed palms at Dami Oil Palm Research Station have been tested in Australia gave negative results to lethal yellowing phytoplasma.

Establishment and Maintenance of Pest Free Area (cont.)

4. Both oil palm and coconut germplasm are restricted imports. PNG NPPO conducts pest risk analysis before the importation of any new products of plant origin into PNG.

5. NPPO conducts annual pests surveillance alone or jointly with Australian Quarantine (NAQS). Oil palm and coconut industries conduct separate pest surveillance and monitoring.

Transparency

1. Publication and IPPC website

- The declaration of pest free status of oil palm seed gardens at Dami OPRS will be uploaded on the IPPC website to inform all stakeholders.
- Should a change occur to the pest free status of New Britain Island in relation to lethal yellowing Phytoplasma disease then NPPO undertakes to use the same mechanism to inform all stakeholders of the change in status.

Transparency (cont.)

2. Review of oil palm pest and diseases recorded in PNG

- A review of oil palm pests in PNG must be published by the PNG oil palm research association, NPPO and other collaborating scientists.

3. Review of coconut pests and diseases recorded in PNG

- A review of coconut pests in PNG must be published by the PNG Cocoa and Coconut Institute, NPPO and other collaborating scientists.

End of Presentation and Thank You