

# KVH 2013 Activity Report



## National Psa-V Pest Management Plan

In May 2013, the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) approved the National Psa-V Pest Management Plan (NPMP) which came into effect following the development and approval of the Operational Plan. The primary objective of the NPMP is to prevent the spread of Psa-V and minimise its impacts on kiwifruit production.

KVH is responsible for implementing, and the on-going management, of the NPMP on behalf of the New Zealand kiwifruit industry.

Key components of the NPMP and KVH Key Performance Indicators are outlined below.

### Psa-V Orchard Management Plans (growers)

It is mandatory for all New Zealand kiwifruit growers to have a Psa-V Orchard Management Plan in place for each KPIN. These plans set out each orchard's strategy for managing Psa-V, including hygiene protocols, monitoring and reporting, protective spray programmes and managing diseased vines. To assist growers with developing their plans, KVH has developed online template options for growers to use if they choose.

*Key Performance Indicators:*

- More than 2100 Psa-V Orchard Management Plans have been prepared using the online KVH template option.
- Growers have a clear plan for managing Psa-V risk on their orchards and are confident they are meeting requirements of the NPMP.

### Psa-V Risk Management Plans (postharvest operators and processors)

It is mandatory for all New Zealand postharvest operators and kiwifruit processors have a Psa-V Risk Management Plan in place for managing the risk of Psa-V within their operation. These plans set out strategies to manage the recognised significant risk these operations can pose due to the movement of people, vehicles, equipment, bins and fruit that can be contaminated with kiwifruit leaf and plant material.

*Key Performance Indicators:*

- Psa-V Risk Management Plans are in place for 100% of NZ postharvest operators and processors.
- Random audits of Postharvest facilities have been undertaken to ensure compliance.
- Postharvest operators and processors have a clear plan for managing Psa-V risk within their operation and are confident they are meeting the requirements of the NPMP.

### Mandatory Monitoring

Growers of all kiwifruit varieties are required to carry out mandatory monitoring on their orchards and report the results to KVH. This enables KVH to better understand the progression and impacts of Psa-V by region and by variety, and report this information to the industry to help them adapt their management strategies. The timing for mandatory monitoring rounds, and deadlines for submitting results differ for each region. These are clearly set out on the KVH website [www.kvh.org.nz/maps\\_regional](http://www.kvh.org.nz/maps_regional).

*Key Performance Indicator:*

- 100% of growers in Containment and Exclusion have completed their mandatory monitoring and submitted the results to KVH.

### Abandoned and Unmanaged Orchards

KVH has the authority to address abandoned and unmanaged orchards that pose a serious risk to other orchards, nurseries or regions. As these properties are unlikely to receive any form of crop protection,

they are high-risk sites for potential establishment, amplification and spread of PsA-V. KVH aims to work with growers to seek a solution rather than having to take an enforcement approach.

*Key Performance Indicators:*

- Historic reports of abandoned and unmanaged orchards were assessed and validated by 1 August 2013.
- To date, the number of abandoned and unmanaged orchards on the KVH register has reduced from 63 prior to NPMP implementation to 28.
- An additional 16 orchards were reported as abandoned or unmanaged since implementation of the NPMP.
- KVH has successfully worked with landowners, regional councils and postharvest facilities to remove 16 unmanaged or abandoned orchards; and returned 2 orchards back to production.
- Relationships and agreements with Regional Councils, post-harvest operators, KVH regional committees and landowners have greatly assisted in achieving rapid progress.
- To date, KVH has been able to seek solutions with landowners, rather than taking an enforcement approach.

### **Movement controls**

Movement controls are a requirement under the NPMP to reduce the spread of PsA-V through the movement of risk items. Movement controls differ across each risk item depending on the nature and level of risk they pose; and across growing regions based on the objectives set for each region.

*Key Performance Indicators:*

- Movement controls of all risk items have been formally established and are mandatory throughout all NZ kiwifruit-growing regions.
- Specific requirements for these movement controls are clearly defined in a set of KVH Protocols on the KVH website [www.kvh.org.nz/kvh\\_protocols](http://www.kvh.org.nz/kvh_protocols)
- Special permissions have been established in cases where the movement of high-risk items, e.g. budwood and nursery stock are required in exceptional circumstances.
- KVH has received and responded to 52 movement permissions.

### **Establishment of regions**

The impact of PsA-V differs across regions. To ensure the best disease management approach is in place for each region, precise geographical boundaries are a requirement of the NPMP. Each geographical region is also classified as one of three categories based on the level or presence of PsA-V in each region: 'Exclusion', 'Containment' and 'Recovery'. Each region group has its own set of objectives to reflect what the industry and growers want to achieve in each region.

*Key Performance Indicators:*

- Precise geographical regions were formally established in July 2013 in consultation with industry. These regions are available on the KVH website [www.kvh.org.nz/maps\\_regional](http://www.kvh.org.nz/maps_regional).
- Regional coordinators have been appointed and regional committees meet regularly to assist and manage risk in their respective regions.

### **KVH recommended crop protection product list**

Effective crop protection is one of the foundations of effective PsA-V management. Growers and others need to have confidence the crop protection products they apply are going to be effective and can be legally applied.

*Key Performance Indicator:*

- KVH recommended product list has been developed and updated regularly. Only products with ACVM registration for PsA-V efficacy are listed. This is available through the weekly KVH Bulletin and the Seasonal Management Guides.

## **KeyStrepto™**

ACVM approved KeyStrepto™ for off-label use of KeyStrepto™ as a Psa protectant on producing and non-producing kiwifruit vines with strict conditions. These include registration for use of the product and 100% KVH auditing of all properties prior to use.

### *Key Performance Indicators:*

- As of 12 November, KVH has taken 1,487 requests for the use of KeyStrepto™ (a slight increase from last year).
- 100 percent audits have taken place, with 11 properties failing audits.
- Cost recovery of \$60 per audit has been put in place for re-audit due to failure.

## **Accreditation for nurseries, pollen operators, budwood distributors**

Movement of plant material, including nursery stock, pollen and budwood, is a high-risk pathway for the further spread of Psa-V. KVH has worked closely with the key associated industries involved in the movement and supply of these materials to develop risk management practices that are consistent with the NPMP objectives.

### *Key Performance Indicators:*

- All existing protocols for associated industries were reviewed and aligned to NPMP by 1 September 2013.
- Registration process for non-accredited nurseries has been developed, including the requirement to have, and implement, a KVH-approved risk management plan. Thirty-five nurseries have registered. Ten nurseries have been KVH-accredited.
- Registration process has been developed for nurseries and budwood providers, including the requirement to have, and implement, a KVH-approved risk management plan.
- Review of the current Nursery accreditation process is underway (see Kiwifruit Plant Certification Scheme below).

## **Wild kiwifruit**

Wild kiwifruit populations not only have the potential to host Psa-V and facilitate the spread of the disease onto nearby orchards, kiwifruit seeds are also a source of food for birds and pests. This allows the growth of wild kiwifruit to establish in nearby forests or areas of native bush through bird-borne dispersal.

### *Key Performance Indicators:*

- Active control programme in place with BOP Regional Council.
- Developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with BOP Regional Council to formalise management arrangements going forward.
- KVH works collectively with other Regional Councils, agencies, landowners and the community to manage wild kiwifruit.
- Established similar working relationships with other Regional Councils.

## **Testing and notification**

Lab testing is important for confirming the presence of Psa-V on an orchard or nursery. In regions where Psa-V is widespread, most postharvest technical staff are confident to determine Psa-V from visual symptoms. In other regions, the same level of expertise is not always available and testing enables suspected Psa-V infection to be confirmed.

### *Key Performance Indicator:*

- KVH recognises laboratories that provide reliable testing services. These are available on the KVH website [www.kvh.org.nz/samplingtesting](http://www.kvh.org.nz/samplingtesting).
- 525 Psa-V laboratory tests have been received in the last 12 months.

## Preparedness and response

Preparedness and response is a key focus of the NPMP. Increased preparedness, early detection of infection and the ability to respond rapidly to new incursions (particularly in 'Exclusion' regions) is essential to aggressively containing the disease.

*Key Performance Indicator:*

- Rapid response plans are in place for all Exclusion regions.

## Research and development

Research and development is essential in the fight against PsA-V. The R&D programme increases technical knowledge and delivers growers with tools and techniques that may be used to combat the disease directly or enables affected growers to remain productive in the presence of PsA-V. The PsA-V R&D programme is a KVH/Zespri led portfolio managed by Zespri's Innovation team and incorporates a wide range of New Zealand and international research providers.

*Key Performance Indicators:*

- 84 PsA-related research projects have been undertaken.
- The KVH/Zespri R&D programme continues to find sustainable solutions to minimise the impacts of PsA-V and support the re-establishment of infected orchards to full productive capacity.
- R&D projects and reports are available on the KVH website [www.kvh.org.nz/research\\_development](http://www.kvh.org.nz/research_development).

## Wider Biosecurity Role

At the 2012 AGM, KVH was assigned the responsibility for the wider biosecurity role (i.e. outside of PsA) for the kiwifruit industry.

This role is about ensuring we understand the high risk pests or diseases that potentially threaten our industry, strengthening advocacy for better border biosecurity / working with government border agencies to keep these out, and about ensuring we are well prepared should they arrive.

Key KVH activities of the wider biosecurity role and Key Performance Indicators are outlined below.

### Government Industry Agreement (GIA)

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) will be rolling out a new approach to managing biosecurity readiness and response in New Zealand toward the end of 2013. This will create formal relationships between industry and government in the form of a Government Industry Agreement (GIA) Deed.

KVH will be representing the kiwifruit industry for the GIA and is preparing to enter into this agreement as soon as the Deed becomes finalised.

*Key performance indicators:*

- Provided industry input into drafting the Deed.
- Attended GIA forum to improve the engagement and understanding between industry groups and MPI.
- Socialised to the kiwifruit industry the concept of GIA and the likely cost-share arrangements for preparedness and response activities
- Demonstrated eligibility to represent the kiwifruit industry under Section 100ZA under the Biosecurity Act which readies us to sign the Deed as soon as it is available
- A draft pest specific Operational Agreement for fruit fly has been developed to provide certainty of costs and response actions should an incursions occur. KVH has worked with other horticultural industries and the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) to produce a draft Operational Agreement that is intended to increase the level of protection and confidence from the current surveillance model while minimising costs to the industry.

## Emerging risks

Part of KVH's wider biosecurity role is to identify biosecurity organisms that pose a potential risk to the kiwifruit industry if they were to be introduced to New Zealand.

*Key Performance Indicators:*

- Networks have been established to receive information regarding emerging risks which includes contacts with MPI, industry experts, scientists, and updates from international mailing lists and alert systems. A list of potential risk organisms has been identified with fact sheets produced for those considered high risk and distributed to industry to increase awareness. These factsheets are available on the KVH website [www.kvh.org.nz/kiwifruit\\_biosecurity\\_risks](http://www.kvh.org.nz/kiwifruit_biosecurity_risks).
- A kiwifruit virus workshop was held with scientists and industry experts in September 2013 to discuss knowledge advances in this field and how they can be implemented into measures to improve biosecurity for our industry.

### **Entry pathway risk assessments**

KVH carries out risk assessments of potential pathways that biosecurity pests may enter New Zealand. These papers provide an understanding on how the New Zealand biosecurity system operates which is then used to review current intervention measures and advocate for increased protection where necessary. *Key Performance Indicators:*

- An overview paper on how the New Zealand biosecurity system works has been completed.
- An overview paper on how airport biosecurity works has been completed.
- A preliminary review and risk assessment has been completed for the Bay of Plenty's two ports of entry the Port of Tauranga and Rotorua Airport. The paper provides an overview of potential entry pathways including container ships, cruise ships, transitional facilities, recreational yachts and international air passengers, and the border intervention measures MPI uses for each to mitigate the risk of pests entering via these pathways.

All reports are available on the KVH website [www.kvh.org.nz/kiwifruit\\_biosecurity\\_risks](http://www.kvh.org.nz/kiwifruit_biosecurity_risks).

### **Review of Import Health Standards (IHS)**

Import Health Standards specify the risk management measures that must be taken to mitigate the biosecurity risk associated with imports. KVH works with MPI to ensure IHS's offer sufficient protection to New Zealand's primary industries and advocates for recommendations such as amendments or suspension of the IHS when risk levels are considered unacceptable.

*Key Performance Indicators:*

- KVH has called for an urgent review of produce imports from Australia as a reduction in protection measures there create an unacceptable risk of fruit fly being introduced into New Zealand.
- KVH has called for an urgent risk assessment on the importation of kiwifruit nursery stock in light of emerging risks. MPI are undertaking a risk assessment as a result and until this is completed kiwifruit nursery stock is unable to be imported
- KVH has recommended the suspension of all produce imported from California pending negotiations between MPI and the USDA on appropriate measures for fruit fly. KVH considers current measures on the IHS to present an unacceptable level of risk.
- KVH has called for a risk assessment and review of the IHS for the importation of kiwifruit pollen. The IHS has been suspended pending the outcome of this risk assessment.
- KVH made a submission to the Environmental Protection Agency on the proposed introduction of the Honshu white admiral butterfly as a biological control agent stating that further studies are required to assess the potential impact on the horticultural industry.

### **Kiwifruit Plant Certification Scheme**

KVH, Zespri and Plant and Food Research are working together to develop a pan-industry 'high health' programme for the kiwifruit industry. The role of a high health programme for the kiwifruit industry is to

provide access to kiwifruit plant material (seed, rootstock, budwood and plants) that is of known disease status.

*Key Performance Indicators:*

- Internal technical workshop was held in July to discuss High Health concepts.
- A follow up workshop was held in August with the nursery industry and scientific experts.
- Technical Advisory Group has been established to provide input into the technical details of the standard.
- Bronze standard has been drafted and sent to Technical Advisory Group for review.

**Communications**

- **Website**
  - Around 80,000 visits to the KVH website by more than 21,000 individual users.
  - Users have viewed more than 356,600 website pages
  - 1,333 registered users for the restricted area of the website
- **Grower Communications**
  - Weekly *Psa Bulletins* have been released over the past 12 months
  - Ten KVH *media releases* and *latest updates* have been released over the past 12 months
  - Regular Psa-V article contributions to the Industry Publications including the *Kiwiflier*, *Kiwifruit Journal* and *The Orchardist*.

**Governance and administration**

- Monthly average number of phone calls to KVH 0800 number is 508
- Eight KVH Board meetings in 2013

**Number of Employees**

Full Time – Fixed Term	Full Time - Permanent	Contractors
7	1	3

**KVH Board meeting attendance by Director (January to 1 November 2013)**

Name	Attendance
Peter Ombler	8/8
Mike Chapman	8/8
Simon Limmer	3/8
Paul Jones	3 */8
Craig Thompson	5/8
David Hayes	7/8
Nathan Flowerday	4**/8

\* March to July this position was vacant

\*\* Nathan was appointed to the KVH Board in April 2013.

**Other KVH Meetings 2012**

With whom	Number of meetings
Banks	1
Regional Councils	5
Government and officials	12
Postharvest CE and/or postharvest grower	9
Regional grower meeting rounds	6
Tech rep meetings	22
Beekeepers / pollen providers	3
Wider biosecurity	10
Regional grower visits by Board	15

## **KVH Monitoring**

KVH directed monitoring projects—two year timeframe, first rounds began late August 2013

- Performance in Psa-V environment—best practice orchards in three Recovery regions
- Flower/bud drop in Hayward—comparison of badly affected orchards and non-affected orchards in the same regions (over two regions).
- Hayward male infection—Te Puke and Waihi
- Regional infected orchards—progression in Gisborne, South Auckland, Waikato