

## SENDING SAFE AID WITHOUT HARMFUL PESTS AND DISEASES

### FACTSHEET 01

# For agencies and development partners sending live plants: nursery stock, propagative or other planting material

Please help us to safeguard our vulnerable environment and communities by ensuring that any humanitarian aid that is sent does not inadvertently introduce harmful pests and diseases

### Why is this important to us?

The movement of food and other humanitarian aid is a known pathway for the introduction of harmful pests and diseases. Unless appropriate and timely risk management is applied, these new pests and diseases may become established and continue to cause long-term damage to our economy, environment and communities long after we have recovered from the emergency situation.

The introduction of new pests and diseases can affect the quality and yield of agricultural produce which can jeopardise food security. Pest introductions can also damage the sanitary and phytosanitary status of a country, making it more difficult to trade with other countries and build back the economy.

During crisis situations, we are temporarily constrained in our ability to implement our normal phytosanitary activities on donated goods at the border. This is because our treatment and processing infrastructure may be damaged or inaccessible: water, electricity and other services may be cut and staff may be unable to travel to work or may be diverted to emergency tasks. Additionally, other government agencies and officials may require the immediate release of goods to people in need without going through our normal process.

To ensure that our staff can focus effort on other priority activities such as food and shelter distribution, please help us by taking steps to mitigate the pest risk of donated goods **prior to export**.

### Pest risk considerations for live plants: nursery stock, propagative or other planting material

Live plants and propagative material are high quarantine risk goods. This is because live plants and propagative material can easily harbour insect pests, viruses and other diseases which may not be immediately apparent or visible. Also, diseases which survive in the soil may be spread if there is any soil attached to roots or leaves of planting material. Any new pests or diseases which are contained within the donated planting material are distributed and can be easily spread into the wider environment and affect other crops and plants.

For this reason, it is essential that all plants and plant products (cuttings, rootstock, bare rooted plants, corms, tubers, etc.), meet the aid-receiving country's import requirements and are free of pests and diseases of concern that could have significant economic and livelihood impacts if introduced.

### What can you do to help us?

Before sending any aid, please work with your department of agriculture or relevant quarantine authority to ensure that:

- The goods are permitted into the country receiving aid.
- All import requirements of the receiving country are met.
- Required treatments and certifications are applied before export.
- The appropriate documentation and clearances are attached to the aid shipment.

The above processes are performed by the department of agriculture or relevant quarantine authority as part of normal trade/export practices. Please contact them if you have any queries on what to do.





## Help us mitigate the pest risk prior to export by:

- Sourcing planting material from reputable organisations, growers or facilities.
- Where possible, ensure plants and planting material are sourced from areas that are free of quarantine pests and diseases.
- Choosing planting material from healthy looking plants and fields. Avoid sending sick or diseased planting material.
- Removing all soil and other contamination from planting material prior to packaging and shipment.
- Undertaking any required treatments (e.g. hot water immersion or fungicide application) before sending any planting material.
- Where possible, ensuring that the planting material is tested for viruses and other diseases and has been inspected and cleaned of any contaminating insect pests prior to packaging and shipment. This helps the aid receiving country staff as post-entry-quarantine facilities may not be available to process planting material on arrival.
- Clearly labelling whether planting material has been treated or has been sourced from a pest free area or pest free place of production.
- Clearly stating on the consignment and phytosanitary certificate if the planting material has been sourced from another country.
- Providing any other additional declarations including testing results for specific quarantine pests, phytosanitary and sanitation programs in the field or growing inspections in the field etc.

## To protect our quarantine status, please reconsider sending the following risk items:

- Potted plants.
- Material with soil or growing medium attached.
- Sick or damaged cuttings or other live planting material (e.g. bare rooted plants).
- Organic fertilizers.

If packaging or packing is used, it should be new, clean and free of pests and other contaminants.

Any freight containers that are used for storage or transport should also be cleaned and be pest free (see [IPPC best practice guide on measures to minimise pest contamination](#) for more information)<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) recommendation on the safe provision of food and other humanitarian aid: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/89786/>.

