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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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**PHILIPPINES AREA FREEDOM FROM MANGO PULP WEEVIL (MPW)  
AND MANGO SEED WEEVIL (MSW)**

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE PHILIPPINES**

The following communication, received on 8 October 2013, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the Philippines.

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1. Two AUSAID-ACIAR funded projects entitled "Improving Mango Industry Sustainability and Smallholder Income Generation in the Philippines through Expansion of the Area Freedom Certification Against Mango Pulp Weevil (MPW) and Seed Weevil (SW)" and "Detection Surveys for Mango Seed Weevil and Pulp Weevil in Saranggani, Davao del Sur and Samal Island, Mindanao, Philippines" were conducted from February 2006 to February 2007 and from March 2007 to February 2008, respectively.
  2. The detection survey for MPW and MSW under these two projects confirmed the absence of the two pests in Davao del Sur, Saranggani and Samal Island in Mindanao. Quarantine checkpoints were established in the entry and exit points of these areas to maintain area freedom from these pests and continuous low monitoring surveys are conducted. Both Davao del Sur and Samal Island have been recognized by Australian DAFF as areas free from MPW and MSW in December 2011. These areas are now established as source of mangoes for export to Australia, in addition to Guimaras Island. On 8 June 2013, commercial export of mangoes to Australia sourced from these two areas commenced.
  3. US Food for Progress funded the project entitled "Enhancing the Export Competitiveness of the Philippine Super Mango" which was conducted from 2006 to 2009. One of the components of the project is the conduct of detection surveys, the main objective of which is to confirm the absence of MPW in the Philippines, except Palawan, and the absence of MSW in the whole Philippines.
  4. The results of the detection survey confirmed the absence of MPW (except Palawan) and MSW in the Philippines. Low monitoring surveys for these two pests is continuously conducted.
  5. On 8 February 2013, USDA-APHIS informed the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) that the request for Area Freedom Certification for MPW (except Palawan) and MSW for the whole Philippines (Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao) will be processed using the streamlined system for rule making. As of this time, it is in the US rule-making process. This means that once the United States issues the final rule, export of Philippine mangoes to the United States can be sourced from all over the Philippines except Palawan.
  6. The Philippines is also negotiating with Australia to recognize the whole Philippines (except Palawan) as MPW and MSW free.
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