

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/GEN/906
24 February 2009

(09-0961)

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

REGIONALIZATION – PEST-FREE AREAS

Communication from the Philippines

The following communication, received on 20 February 2009, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the Philippines.

USDA-Philippines Bureau of Plant Industry Mango Program

1. The survey was divided into three parts: the main islands of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao Surveys. Seven (7) Regions in Luzon (CAR, Regions 1, 2, 3, 4a, 4b, and 5) were surveyed from September 2006 to June 2007. A total of 111,213 mango trees were examined with a total of 1,310,597 fruits collected and dissected. No presence of Mango Pulp Weevil (MPW) or Mango Seed Weevil (MSW) was found in the different mango varieties that were collected (except for the southern municipalities of Palawan). A follow-up Monitoring Survey was also done to determine the results of the first survey. It also covered seven regions and 36 mango-growing provinces with a total of 63,120 trees examined and 757,440 fruits collected. No incidence of the weevil was observed.

2. The Visayas Survey was conducted during October 2007 to July 2008. Three Visayan regions (Regions 6, 7 and 8) and 16 mango-growing provinces were surveyed with a total of 33,694 trees examined and 408,267 fruits were collected. The population size of the survey is based on five per cent tree population per region. Of the different mango varieties, there was no incidence of MPW or MSW in the fruits dissected. A monitoring survey is underway (January 2009 to June 2009) targeting 20,876 trees and 250,512 fruits (based on three per cent population and 12 fruits per tree, respectively.)

3. A Mindanao Survey is in the pipeline during a ten-month period (pre-survey August to September 2008 and the actual survey November to December 2008 and January to August 2009). This will cover six regions in Mindanao (Regions 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and ARMM) and 27 mango-growing provinces. 80,141 trees are to be examined and 961,692 fruits are to be collected and dissected. This survey also follows the USDA protocol already done in Luzon and Visayas regions.

AusAid through Public Sector Linkages Program (PSLP)

4. A detection survey funded by AusAID via the Public Sector Linkages Program (PSLP) was undertaken in the Philippines for Mango Seed and Pulp Weevils. The methodology was developed and agreed in a meeting between Insecurity Australia and project partners, the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F), Queensland and the Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Plant Industry (DA-BPI), Philippines. The survey was conducted in the province of Davao del Sur in Mindanao, an important mango-producing area in the southern Philippines. Logistical assistance was

./.

provided by the local government unit of Davao. The survey period was from February 2006 to November 2006.

5. Of the 180,968 fruits that were collected and dissected from 14 different municipalities, there was no evidence of either seed or pulp weevil. Davao Del Sur was placed under quarantine after the survey. The next step would be the official recognition of Davao Del Sur by Australia as a pest-free area.

Low Monitoring Survey of the Mango Pulp and Seed Weevils in Davao del Sur and Detection Survey of the Weevils in Sarangani and Samal Island, funded by AusAID through Public Sector Linkages Program (PSLP)

6. A low monitoring survey was conducted in Davao del Sur from March 2007 to February 2008 and showed the absence of Mango Pulp and Seed Weevil in the 14 municipalities. This was confirmed by the 23,152 fruits collected and dissected, wherein not a single specimen of the weevil (egg, larva, pupa or adult) was found. This result has proven scientifically that Davao del Sur is effectively maintained as a MPW and MSW free area.

7. Detection surveys undertaken in Sarangani Province and Samal Island did not show any evidence of MPW and MSW. This was evidenced by the 84,800 and 16,120 fruits collected/dissected in Sarangani and Samal Island, respectively. Not a single specimen of the two weevils was found. The detection survey conducted in these two provinces has proven the absence of these pests in the areas.
