

Notice of the availability of a Pest Risk Analyst for the '*Dickeya solani*'

Agency: Plant Quarantine/Produce Inspection Branch, Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries,
Jamaica

Action: Notice

The Pest Risk Analysis Unit, of the Plant Quarantine Branch is advising the public that a Pest Risk Analysis for the disease '*Dickeya solani*' was conducted to evaluate the risks associated with the importation of Irish potato into Jamaica. Based on the analysis, it was concluded that the application of one or more designated phytosanitary measures will be sufficient to mitigate the pest risk. We are making the pest risk analysis available to the public for review and comment.

Under the Plant (Importation) Control (Amendments) Regulation of 2005 Part I Section 5 and in accordance with IPPC Standards (ISPM 1 and 2), the Plant Quarantine/Produce Inspection Branch of the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries, Jamaica prohibits or restricts the importation of Irish potato ware and seeds into Jamaica from the Netherlands and Belgium to prevent the disease '*Dickeya solani*' from being introduced and spread within Jamaica.

Based on the findings of a qualitative pest initiated risk analysis, the risk associated with the import of Irish potato ware and seeds from '*Dickeya solani*' infested countries can be reduced or eliminated once imports are subjected to one or more of the designated phytosanitary measures listed in section 3.30 of the pest risk management section of the risk assessment. These measures are:

- Potatoes must be from an area certified free from '*Dickeya solani*' or from countries not known to be infested with the disease
- Irish potatoes entering Jamaica will be subjected to inspection and samples of seed and ware potatoes will be sent to post entry quarantine for diagnostic testing prior to being release in the field.

The Plant Quarantine/Produce Inspection Branch of the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries, Jamaica has issued an emergency notification regarding the importation of Irish potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) seeds and ware from the Netherlands and Belgium. Subject to the response from our trading partners, we are posing a pest initiated risk analysis done for '*Dickeya solani*.' Based on that pest risk assessment, risk management measures to inform phytosanitary measures have been identified to mitigate the risks associated with the import of Irish potato seeds and ware.

We have concluded that Irish potato seeds and ware can be safely imported into Jamaica using one or more of the two designated phytosanitary measures listed.

We are announcing the availability of our pest risk analysis for public reviewing and comment. The pest risk analysis may be accessed at the following link http://www.moa.gov.jm/Services/data/Dickeya_solani_PRA_and_its_implication_on_import_of_Irish_potato.pdf.

After reviewing any comments we receive, we will announce our decision regarding the import status of Irish potato ware and seeds from the Netherlands and Belgium in a subsequent notice. If the overall conclusions of the analysis and our determination of risk remain unchanged following our consideration of the comments, then we will begin issuing permits for importation of Irish potato ware and seeds from the Netherlands and Belgium with the inclusion of a new additional declaration.