



Canadian Food Inspection Agency
59 Camelot Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0Y9

Submitted Via Email to: cfia.potatosection-sectiondespommesdeterre.acia@inspection.gc.ca

January 31st, 2024

RE: *Share your thoughts: Support the development of a new national potato wart response plan*

To whom it may concern,

The Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) regarding the ongoing consultation on the proposed revisions of the *Share your thoughts: Support the development of a new national potato wart response plan*.

About CPMA

Based in Ottawa, CPMA is a not-for-profit organization representing companies active in the marketing of fresh fruit and vegetables in Canada, from the farm gate to the dinner plate, spanning the entire produce industry. The Association's members include major growers, shippers, packers and marketers; importers and exporters; transportation and logistics firms; brokers, distributors and wholesalers; retailers and foodservice distributors; and fresh cut operators and processors. Founded in 1925, CPMA is proud to represent over 850 domestic and international members who are responsible for 90% of fresh fruit and vegetable sales in Canada.

Comments

Potato wart, caused by the pathogen *Synchytrium endobioticum*, poses a threat to potato crops worldwide. CPMA supports and applauds the efforts of CFIA, the Canadian potato industry, including the Canadian Potato Council, and the PEI potato industry to put procedures in place with the goal of eventual eradication of potato wart from PEI.

CPMA supports a scientifically sound path to eradication and endorses the Canadian Potato Council's comments to the response plan. CPMA also offers the following more general comments relative to the ongoing efforts:

We note that some comparison is made to Potato cyst nematodes in relation to perhaps modelling PW along the same way with resistant varieties. We would strongly agree that the planting of

resistant variety seed is the only way to eradicate this pathogen, which is already demonstrated by other countries within their new plant breeding genetics.

We support enhanced plant health measures in the new National Response Plan that will use recognized plant health protocols and risk mitigation measures to contain pest and prevent spread while allowing trade to continue. Support working toward eventual eradication of pest over time as has been shown to be possible in other countries.

Given the complexity of this issue, CPMA encourages CFIA to increase communications of regulations and incidence of the pest to improve stakeholder understanding of the issues and provide reassurance regarding the regulatory controls in place.

Conclusion

A scientifically based response plan for potato wart is essential for effective control without impeding trade. By combining early detection, risk assessment, resistant varieties, and international collaboration, countries can mitigate the impact of potato wart while ensuring the smooth flow of potatoes in the global market. The emphasis lies in fostering harmonization and collaboration with key trading partners, notably the United States, to ensure a unified and comprehensive strategy for safeguarding the potato industry.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RL', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Ron Lemaire
President
Canadian Produce Marketing Association