

Phytosanitary Standards Compliance in Kenya

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Background

- 90 % of horticultural exports to the EU.
- Kenya's horticultural exports to the international market have been characterized by rapid growth of certified growers.
- Evolution of legislations e.g. EC 2000/29, 396/2005 (149/2008), 1148/2001 (was 1580/2007, now 1221/2008), 178/2002 and 882/2004
- Voluntary market standards such as EurepGAP (now GlobalGAP), BRC and others.
- The EU regulations related to voluntary market standards on issues such as traceability, MRLs, pests.
- This has meant adjustment of national systems both public and private to be able to ensure competitiveness of Kenya's horticultural produce. This has been at a great cost to the country.

Basis for official standards

- Countries want only exchange of goods that does not pose threats to:
 - Health of their plant resources (cultivated & non cultivated)
 - Their production systems & environment
- Context of biosecurity of some provisions in certain private standards

Considerations in Horticulture

- Risk analysis standards for plant health
- Guiding principles:
 - harmonized standards set consultatively under agreed rules of treaties such as IPPC
- Also founded in relevant provisions of the WTO-SPS agreement
- In the case of horticulture,
 - All IPPC standards i.e. ISPMs

4

Challenges

- National framework for official standards:
 - Adoption
 - Implementation
 - Compliance
- Position of official standards in the national agenda:
 - Ownership & policy/legal support
 - Standard takers or standard setters
- Enforcing compliance
 - Private sector perspective
 - Public sector perspective
 - Impetus to development & proliferation of private standards

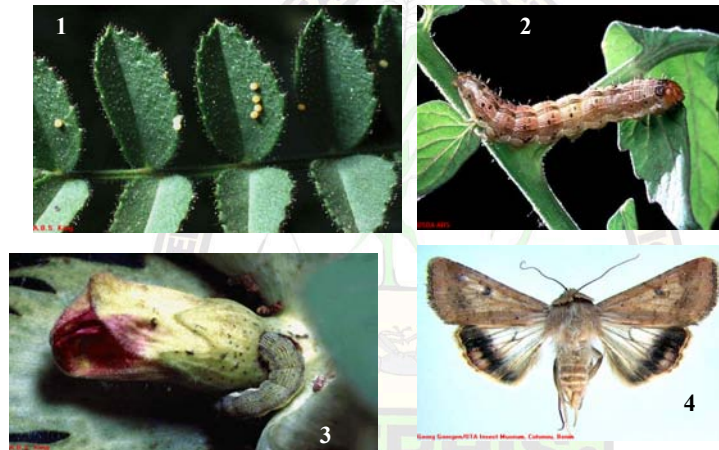
Plant Health Issues

- Standards for import regulation & export certification
- Standards for pest risk analysis (PRA)
 - Pest occurrence (incidence, severity, prevalence)
 - Transparency
- Standards for inspection
 - Mutual recognition/equivalence of systems
- Standards for notifications of non compliance
- Challenge: Official control cf legal constraints to enforcing compliance with official standards

6

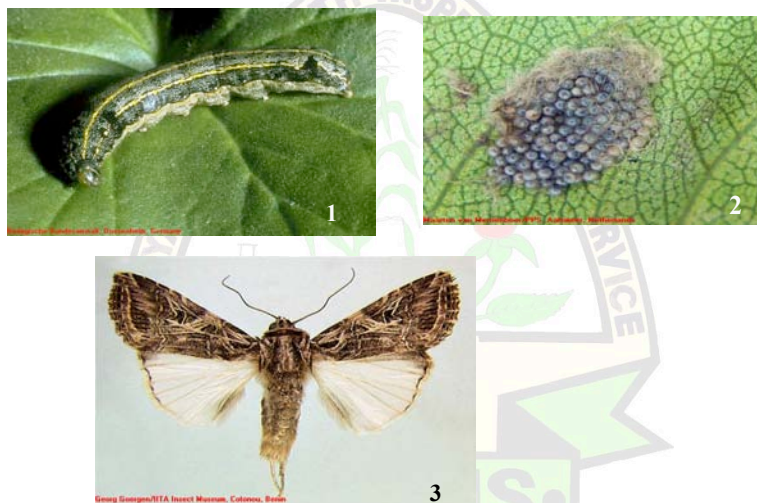
Helicoverpa armigera

Helicoverpa armigera 1. eggs 2. larvae on leaves 3. larvae at flower base 4. Adult moth]



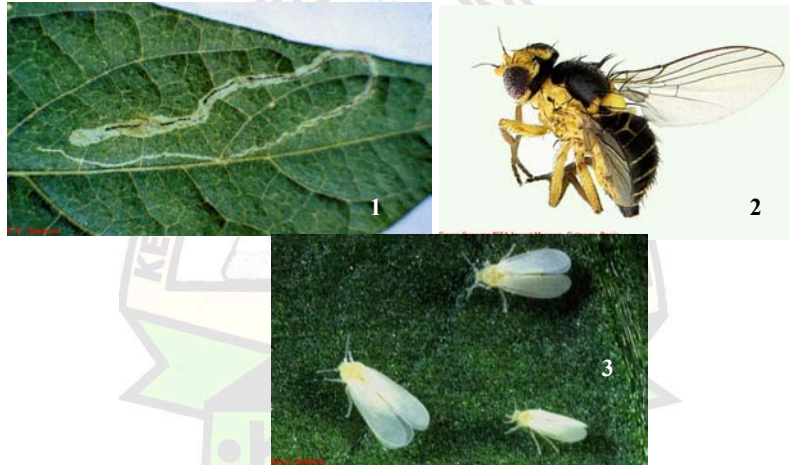
Spodoptera litolaris

1. Larvae 2. Ova 3. Adult

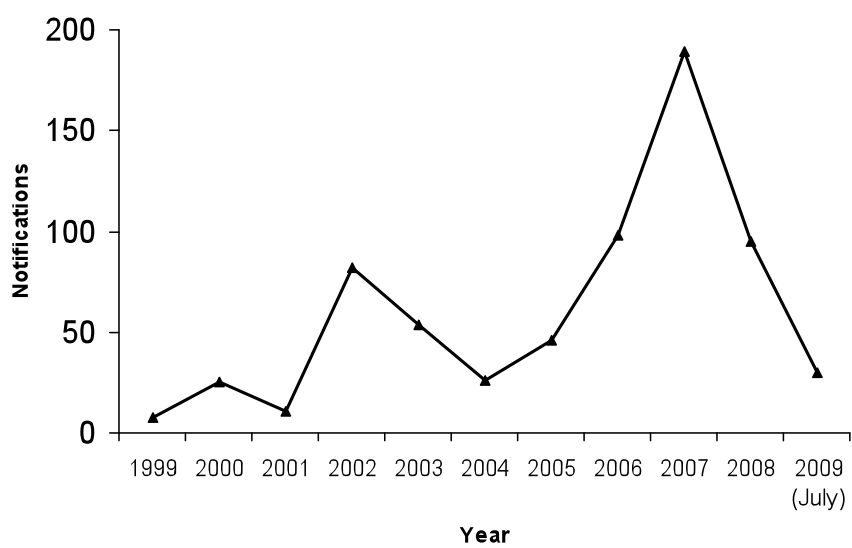


Liriomyza trifolii

1. Larval damage 2. Adult 3. Bemisia tabaci adults



Trend of phytosanitary notifications (1999 - 2009)



Risk Analysis & Horticulture

- Frameworks for risk analyses: most important standards
- Purpose: to assess risks to plant health objectively & transparently, so that
 - the spread & introduction of pests is avoided
 - Fair practices in trade are ensured
- A good risk analysis is important to both importing and exporting countries

Kenya's experiences

- Notifications
 - Mechanisms for correction
- Corrective measures
 - Stakeholder consultations
 - System adjustments
- Requirements for
 - Containing non compliance
 - Sustaining "good PS practice"

Compliance status

- Public laboratories have been upgraded to be able meet market demands e.g. by purchasing of equipment and instrumentation. New labs being built e.g. through request by the government to development partners.
- The Accreditation of public labs to ISO standards e.g. ISO 17025, ISTA.
- The EU approved a Kenyan government agency to grant certificate of conformity in accordance to regulation EC 1148/2001 (later 1580/2007 now 1221/2008).
- Certification of institutions for ISO 9001:2008, a quality management standard.

Compliance status

- The public and private sector have been in the forefront in analyzing impacts of EU regulations and standards e.g. a diagnostic study under the EU regulation 882/2004.
- To assist in meeting market requirements government agencies have compiled Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) information on major export crops, currently PRAs for eight crops has been done.
- The initial pillars for the development of market produce surveillance systems has began as the national pesticide residue plan is being implemented.

Compliance status

- There are already steps being taken to develop an Early Warning System for Quarantine pest in response to threats posed by quarantine pests (under EU 2000/29).
- The revised Agriculture Produce [Export] Act, CAP 319 (cited as the Agricultural Produce (Export) (Horticultural Produce) (General) Rules, 2008) has minimum standards for horticultural produce exporters in addition to the existing regulations for export.
- Landmarks for the sub-sector include the membership of Kenya into the OECD scheme for fruits and vegetables in Feb 2009.

Lessons Learnt

- The industry needs to be more proactive rather than reactive.
- Issues of equivalence: the need to examine systems to achieve desired standards.
- Research focusing on emerging issues such as pesticide related issues and environmental concerns.

Way Forward

- Effective surveys & surveillance
 - Early warning systems
 - Residue monitoring plans
- Risk Communication
 - Responsiveness to alerts & notifications
 - Information exchange
- Multi-stakeholder forum
 - for consultation
 - focus on emerging issues

CONCLUSION

Compliance with standards enhances competitiveness. However in developing these standards there is need to always consider the special and different production systems in existence in various countries (equivalence of measures).

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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