

DG28 98/2166

Dear

**IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS - SWEETCORN SEED FOR SOWING, USA**

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the outcome of the first round of consultation on the import risk analysis (IRA) for sweetcorn seed for sowing from the USA.

My letter of 20 October 1998 invited all stakeholders to comment on the type of risk analysis process to be followed in this instance. After careful consideration of all comments received AQIS has decided to proceed with the IRA using the routine process. This decision is based on the support for the routine process by the majority of stakeholders who commented, and consideration that this proposal does not require assessment of significantly greater or different risks than those AQIS has previously examined.

AQIS will now form an in-house team of scientists with expertise relevant to this particular IRA. The team will conduct the routine IRA using procedures based on international standards. The steps of the routine process are outlined in the *AQIS Import Risk Analysis Process Handbook*, which has been distributed to stakeholders. During this process, AQIS will seek input from stakeholders and external technical experts if this proves necessary.

The draft IRA is expected to be released in March 1999. You will be informed if there are any significant variations to this timeframe.

If you wish to suggest inclusion of an additional stakeholder in our distribution list for this IRA, or if you wish to be removed from the distribution list, please provide

details to the Import Risk Analysis Secretariat at the following address:

Import Risk Analysis Secretariat  
Plant Quarantine Policy Branch  
Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service  
PO Box 858  
CANBERRA ACT 2601  
Tel: (02) 6272 5094  
Fax: (02) 6272 3307  
Email: [plantquar@aqis.gov.au](mailto:plantquar@aqis.gov.au)

AQIS expresses its appreciation to all stakeholders who contributed to this consultation phase.

Yours sincerely

Digby Gascoine  
Director  
Policy and International Division

9 February 1999