

A QUARTERLY UPDATE OF KEY ACTIVITIES OF THE AGRICULTURAL COMPETITIVENESS PROGRAM IN SURINAME

Contents

New Surinamese food legislation in progress---
p.1

Procedure for importing and exporting plants, plant products and other regulated products ---p.3

How do I import live animals, animal products, pets and animal-related articles? ---p.5

Export live animals, meat and animal products also subject to rules! ---p.6

Quiz---p.7

How do you know that your animals are really your animals? ---p.8

Livestock Directorate starts registration of registered livestock farmers and health status herd in Kwatta ---p.9

National training LVV in growing sweet potatoes --
-p.10

9 agro-entrepreneurs sign contracts with LVV ---p.12

Farmers and staff commissariat Commewijne learn to handle pesticides responsibly ---p.13

Suriname reintroduces mango to be exported to Europe ---p.14

Staff of the Livestock Directorate trained as BAVP---p.16

Ministry of LVV provides basic training in hydroponics --p. 17



New Surinamese food legislation in progress

Suriname will soon have a new food legislation. The current legislation dates back to 1911 and urgently needs to be revised.

On December 18th, 2020, an Act of the National Assembly of Suriname was unanimously adopted promulgating the creation of the National Food Safety Institute of Suriname (NIVS) as the primary food safety regulator of Suriname.

The Act was signed into law on 28 January 2021 by the President of Republic of Suriname and published on 9th February 2021 in the S.B.2021 n° 9. (Continue on p. 2)



NIVS was created with the intent to assemble key food safety authorities and to address several limitations observed over time with respect to performance of the food control system, in particular with the operation of and coordination between Surinamese food competent authorities.

As the primary food safety regulator of Suriname, NIVS is embarking on the modernization of the food safety legislative and regulatory framework, to support the development of an enabling environment for the food and agri-food sector and to anchor food safety regulatory decisions in science, with the objective to ensure that food safety interventions are based on prevention and with the vision to promote food safety culture and compliance with food safety regulatory requirements.

During a multi-stakeholder meeting in June this year with representatives of various government organizations, the food and agri-food sector and consumer groups, NIVS presented important initiatives to promote food safety in Suriname.



The event was an opportunity for NIVS to highlight the importance of collective actions to promote food safety practices. During the meeting, the NIVS communication campaign on food safety was launched with a video reminding all parties of the importance of food safety and of the shared responsibility to achieve it. Another important milestone was reached with the discussion of the first draft of the proposed Food Act with the aim of modernizing



Surinamese food safety legislation. The policies underlying the new Food Act not only enable NIVS to protect consumers and support fair conditions for doing business in food production and trade, but more importantly to create obligations for NIVS, to be a science-based regulator, to ensure transparency, embrace predictability and fairness in the way all regulated parties are treated. The NIVS will gradually take over all regulatory responsibilities in the field of

food safety for food produced in Suriname and food imported and exported from Suriname, with the aim of protecting consumer health and enabling fair practices in the food trade.

LVV establishes procedure for import and export of plants, plant products and other regulated products



The Ministry of Agriculture, Husbandry and Fisheries (LVV), with the support of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the European Union and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), is conducting an information and awareness campaign about potentially harmful diseases and pests that can threaten Surinamese agriculture and biodiversity through travel. In addition to

the awareness campaign and border control activities, legislation has been made to protect the agricultural sector and biodiversity in the country.

For example, it is forbidden to export plants, plant products and other regulated goods, to take them in suitcases or to post them from Suriname to other destinations without the required approvals and a phytosanitary certificate issued by the Plant Protection and Quality Inspection Service of the Ministry of LVV.

Import or transit into Suriname of plants, plant products and other regulated goods is also prohibited without a phytosanitary approval from the aforementioned service of the Ministry of LVV. This is included in the Plant Protection Act 2020 (S.B. 2020 no 78).

This regulation applies to both commercial and non-commercial shipments.



Non-commercial shipments include gift shipments and passenger goods. Simply put, plant products are any unprocessed plant material that could pose a danger by harboring, or spreading, a pest or disease.

Regulated goods include: all materials as already mentioned plants, plant products packaging, containers, soil, organisms that can harbor, or spread, a pest or disease).

The following is a summary of the phytosanitary requirements for the export of plants, plant and regulated products:

1. Possession of an export code issued by the Directorate of Agriculture in collaboration with the Department of Plant Protection and Quality Inspection (of the Directorate of Agricultural Research, Marketing and Processing) of the Ministry of LVV;
2. Employ a quality manager who will be in charge of the pre-inspection of the goods to be exported;
3. For most fruit and vegetables, the products to be exported must be produced in accordance with the GAP system as indicated by the Ministry of LVV;
4. The producers must be registered with the Ministry and provided with a product code issued by the Ministry of LVV;
5. Exporters should have a traceability system enabling all information on the origin of the products to be exported to be verified; it must meet the conditions set by the Directorate;
6. Apply for export inspection at the Plant Protection and Quality Inspection Service.

Import procedure

For each intended import and transit of plants and plant products, the importer must mail a clearly completed "Import Application Form" of the products to be imported to the Plant Protection and Quality Inspection Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Husbandry and Fisheries well in advance (email: nppo@gov.sr). To obtain the form to be filled in, they can call on 426832.

For more information:

Afdeling Plantenbescherming en Kwaliteitskeuringen (National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO) of Suriname)

Directorate of Agricultural Research, Marketing and Processing

Ministry of Agriculture, Husbandry and Fisheries of Suriname

Letitia vriesdelaan 8-10

Tel. No. 426832

Email: nppo@gov.sr

How do I import live animals, animal products, pets and animal-related articles?

The Border Post Control Department of the Veterinary Services Sub directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture, Husbandry and Fisheries (LVV) has intensified its activities at the various



border posts since 2022. In this context, border checks are carried out regularly on the import and export of animals, animal products, veterinary medicinal products and animal-related articles.

For the imports the following are aquired:

- For the import of live animals, animal products, veterinary medicines and animal-related articles, a valid veterinary import permit issued by the Deputy Veterinary Services Rectorate is required.
- The veterinary import permit can be applied for by submitting a correctly and fully completed application form and the accompanying documents to the secretariat Directorate of Animal Husbandry.
- Before the arrival of a cargo, the importer must inform the subdirectorate in the manner prescribed by him, after which the veterinary inspection takes place.
- If an infectious animal disease or zoonosis occurs in the country of origin and/or dispatch of the products to be imported during the licensing process, this license will be immediately withdrawn in accordance by law “Wet Bestrijding Dierziekten G. B. 1945 no. 23”. All associated expenses are the responsibility of the importer.
- The Veterinary Import Permit is not required for the import of processed products of animal origin up to a maximum weight of 5 kilograms for non-commercial use, if the following conditions are met:
 - the products are not intended for feeding animals;
 - there are no dangerous animal diseases or zoonoses, such as foot-and-mouth disease, avian influenza, African swine fever, etc. in the country of origin;
 - The products are packed leak-proof, in the original packaging, with the original labels, clearly stating the type of product and the country of origin.

Products that do not meet these conditions will be confiscated and destroyed.

For more information: Ministry of Agriculture, Husbandry and Fisheries

Livestock Directorate
Letitia Vriesdelaan, entrance 4
Tel: (+597) 479112 ext. 2101
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Export live animals, meat and animal products also subject to rules!



The Subdirectorate of Veterinary Services of the Ministry of Agriculture, Husbandry and Fish Industry (LVV) has also laid down rules for the export of live animals, meat and animal products. One task of this Subdirectorate is to carry out veterinary inspection activities in

the import, transit and export of animals and animal products. This includes issuing a veterinary import permit as well as the international veterinary certificate (health certificate).

Here is a list of rules for the export:

Each load must meet different conditions, including:

- the import requirements set by the authority of the importing country (including laboratory tests and required documents);
- Live animals must be transported in such a way as to avoid injury or unnecessary suffering to the animals.

Export shall be permitted only if:



- the products comply with the import requirements set by the authority of the importing country;
- the products come from establishments included in the list of approved establishments;
- the products are accompanied by an international veterinary certificate issued by the

Livestock Directorate.

For more information: Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries
Directorate for Animal Husbandry
Letitia Vriesdelaan, entrance 4
Tel: (+597) 479112 ext. 2101
Mail: secrdirvee@gmail.com



The first edition of the quarterly magazine included a quiz question about pesticides. Below is the correct answer to the question.

1. Pesticides can be stored anywhere in the home because they are not harmful.

2. Pesticide containers should never be reused for any other purpose.

A. 1 and 2 are both correct

B. 1 is correct, 2 is incorrect

C. 2 is correct, 1 is incorrect

D. 1 and 2 are both incorrect

Pesticides are harmful products and should not be stored near people. Pesticides should be stored in locked cabinets, out of the reach of children and not in the house. Pesticides are toxic and therefore the containers should never be reused for other purposes.

For more information: Ministry of Agriculture, Husbandry and Fisheries

Directorate for Agricultural Research, Marketing and Processing, Pesticides Division.

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The animal identification, registration, and traceable system: How do you know that your animals are really your animals?



How do you know that your animals are really your animals? To ensure this, the Livestock Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries has developed a farm animal identification, registration and traceability system with the support of the animal.

This project falls within the Agriculture Competitiveness Program which is carried out by the Ministry of LVV with technical assistance from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and co-financed by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). Within this project, all owners of beef and pig farms and the breeding locations can be registered free of charge in the IR&T system. Livestock farmers can register for registration at the nearest LVV resort office. After the farmer has registered, the information will be processed in the system.

The farmer receives:

- 1) A company registration form or a mutation state. Births, deaths and domestic slaughters are recorded
- 2) A list of the ear numbers used specific to the company
- 3) A movement form or transport form, if the cattle or pigs leave your farm, for whatever reason, will be noted on this.

Without this form, animals may not be transported.

- 4) Furthermore, the farmer also receives a manual containing the guidelines for the use of these documents.

After registration, an operating team from LVV will arrive on an agreed day. The farm animals (cattle and pigs) are identified with a unique farm-specific ear number. It is important that the aftercare measures are strictly observed after numbering. Instructions are given for the aftercare of the animals.

What are the advantages of this IR&T system?

Among other things, theft and resale of stolen cattle to slaughterhouses can be discouraged.



The data of the animals from the slaughterhouse is also kept and processed in this system. So that there is a better overview of the actual herd. In business operations, there are advantages in selecting and having your animals covered. Because the livestock administration is optimal, inbreeding can be minimized and the quality of the herd will improve. Also when monitoring animal diseases, there are advantages of an outbreak of an animal disease, you can receive a timely notification if you have purchased or sold infected livestock.

For more information please contact the Livestock Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Husbandry and Fisheries at the following numbers:

Paramaribo- Data management: 479112 ext. 2102

Resort Kwatta: 436610

Resort Houttuin: 372202

Resort Santodorp: 482132

Resort Saramacca: 327135

Resort Lelydorp: 366011

Resort Commewijne: 356413

Resort Coronie: 235138

Resort Nickerie: 231160



Livestock Directorate starts registration of registered livestock farmers and health status herd in Kwatta



The Livestock Directorate of the Ministry of LVV has started mapping the dairy farmers with regard to the health status of their herd and management in the Wanica-A resort that covers the Kwatta area. As part of the registration work, a practical training was held for LVV's information officers who goes into the

field.

Manure samples will be taken from the dairy farmers by the Animal Extension Officers and this will be examined in the Veterinary Laboratory for parasites. In addition, Global Positioning System points will be installed on the dairy farms, to build up a visual database, after which a digital map will be produced. This will show where the dairy farms are located.

The Livestock Educators will also obtain more useful information by means of a survey form that the dairy farmers will be asked to fill in. The citizenry is informed that the Livestock Information Officers will first contact the dairy farmers by telephone.

Upon arrival on location, the Ministry of LVV employees must identify themselves. More than 3 weeks will be allocated for the implementation of this project in the Wanica-A resort.

Dairy farmers are called upon to cooperate in the interests of a healthy dairy herd.

National training LVV in growing sweet potatoes



In various districts, people have been intensively trained both theoretically and practically in the cultivation of sweet potato. 'Leri sabi swiet p'tata' is the slogan with which the information officers of the Ministry of LVV provides the training in city and district. The participants are taught in, among other things, the different plant varieties, preparing an area for planting, fertilization and diseases and pests. The

training is part of the Ministry of LVV/Inter-American Development Bank Project *Strengthening of the Open Field Vegetable Production*. This, with the aim of stimulating the

production of various crops such as sweet potato. The consumption of sweet potato in Europe and in America is "booming".



In Suriname, however, the production is very modest and sweet potato statistically fall under the category "other earth fruits: sweet potatoes, pomtayer, napi, Chinese tayer". There is therefore enormous potential to grow this crop on a much larger scale and especially for export. In view of the growth in international demand, the small scale of production requires considerable upscaling, mechanical cultivation and production based on more knowledge and innovation. A huge opportunity to mechanically tackle this crop as a new arable crop. To increase production, the Ministry of LVV is undertaking various actions with financial support from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

Protocol for selecting sweet potato plant material

In addition to training staff, farmers and other key actors, a protocol has been developed for selecting sweet potato plant material that you can see below:

Procedure:

1. **Required materials:**
 - Pruning shears/ knife
 - Twine
2. **The steps for selecting planting material:**
 - a. Select a healthy plant in an existing sweet potato planting for selection of planting material

- b. Take a sweet potato vine in hand and check it for diseases and pests
- c. If it is free of symptoms of diseases and pests, cut/cut the upper part of it, also called top cutting
- d. This top spot must have a length of approx. 30 cm (approximately one arm length) and have at least 10 axillary buds
(See photo 1)

Photo 1: The axillary buds on a sweet potato stem cutting



- e. Selecting the 2nd cutting part is optional. This is the next 30 cm stem part after the top cutting and must also meet condition b
(See photo 2)

Photo 2: Different cutting parts



- f. Tie the cuttings together with rope, for easy transport to another location (see photo 3)

Photo 3: Bundling cuttings



9 agro-entrepreneurs sign contracts with LVV



In the framework of the IDB minor Fruits project with the activity: "Setting up demonstration plotting and starting Farmers Field School" Farmer Field Schools will be started in different districts of Suriname.

To this end, a signature took place between the Ministry of LVV and 9 selected farmers on whose agricultural land the activities will be carried out. These are selected farmers from the districts of Para, Wanica, Commewijne, Marowijne, Saramacca, Nickerie and Coronie.



Prior to this, stakeholder meetings were held at the various LVV resort offices, after which interested parties could register by filling in an intake form. The final selection of the 9 farmers who had to meet some strict conditions took place by means of a composed evaluation committee. The IDB-Minor Fruits project currently focuses on markoesa. The aim of this project is to increase the production of markoesa in Suriname. It is therefore important that investments are made in knowledge and skills in order to ultimately achieve this goal. In this context, an expert was also brought in from Brazil to provide training for markoesa. The knowledge gained will be applied during the special topics by the LVV experts during Farmer Field School. Through this strategy, the aim is to increase the production of markoesa.

Farmers and staff Commissariat Commewijne learn to handle pesticides responsibly



The Pesticides Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (LVV) has provided a training course "Safe and responsible use of pesticides" to farmers and the staff of Commissariat Commewijne.

This training is based on the correct use of pesticides, the consequences of the incorrect use for both the consumer and the person administering it, how to administer it, the protective clothing

and means involved in administration. Reference is also made to the storage and disposal of empty bottles. Attention is also paid to how to act after coming into contact with pesticides.



The Ministry of LVV guarantees food security and food safety. The use of pesticides is also part of the practice of agriculture, but the pesticides are not always used correctly. In order to raise awareness of their own safety, the training also reminds farmers of the importance of personal protective equipment (PPE). This training session is part of the awareness activities. There are still many in

society who are not aware of the adverse consequences of the unsafe or incorrect use of pesticides. Unsafe or improper use can cause diseases or harm to humans, animals and the environment. Previous training sessions have also shown that people are not (yet) aware that pesticides are used in the household, which is why these training sessions are provided to increase awareness and to ensure that people, animals and the environment are protected from the harmful effects of pesticides.

Suriname reintroduces mango to be exported to Europe



Suriname is about to start exporting mangoes to Europe again.

The export of this fruit, which from 2015 only happened from Nickerie, was itself stopped in August 2019 by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (LVV), due to stricter legislation of the European Union (EU) that

requires the exporting country to have a monitoring system in place for the fruit flies. In order to comply with the EU's stricter phytosanitary legislation, the Ministry has been implementing the "Area of Low Pest Prevalence (ALPP)" project since 2019 with financial support from the IDB and technical support from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

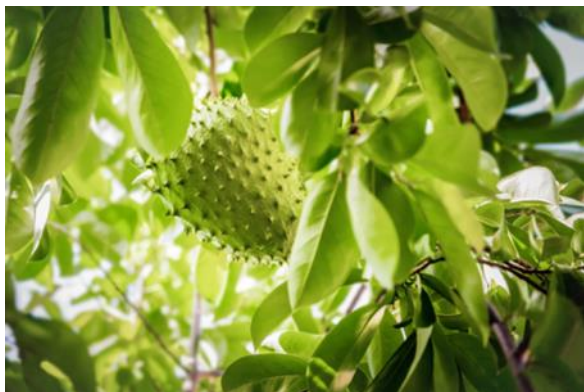


In this context, an area in the Nickerie district has recently been declared a "Pest Free Area (PFA)" or "pest free area" for the Carambola fruit fly (*Bactrocera carambolae*) and the weevil (*Sternochetus mangiferae*) and an "Area of Low Pest Prevalence (ALPP)" or "a low pest prevention area" for the mópe fruit fly (*Anastrepha obliqua*). With the establishment of a "Pest Free Area" under Systems Approach (SA), exports, in particular the manja fruit, which amounts to somewhere around twenty thousand kilos per year, from the Nickerie district to other countries have been secured. The 'Pest Free Area' includes the area lying between the Nickerie River in the East, Henar, the Nickerie River in the North, the Corantijn River in the West, and the road to South Drain in the South. The area around Wageningen falls outside the

'pest-free area'.

The following regulated goods may not be transported to the Nickerie district:

- Fransmanbirambi = Starfruit (Carambola),
- Curaçaose appel (Java apple),
- Manja (Mango),
- West Indische kers (West Indian cherry),
- Sapotille (Sapodilla),
- Sterappel (Star apple),
- Pomme de cythere (Golden apple),
- Kasjoe (Cashew),
- Tropische amandel (Tropical almond),
- Guave (Guava),
- Pommerak (Malay apple),
- Olijf (Jujube) en
- Mópe (Hogplum).



The fruits of the following plant species are not covered by the regulated goods and may therefore be transported to the Nickerie district without restrictions: Citrus species, Annona species (such as soursop and others), Cocos nucifera (coconut) and Pineapple comosus (pineapple). From the district of Nickerie, all fruits may be transported to other districts, except when emergency measures apply. The ministry is currently in the process of

registering all producers who offer mangos for export. As a result, purchased mangos are provided with a code, so that the producer can be traced if a deviation is detected. The decision on the 'Pest Free Area' has now been published, which means that everyone must comply with the rules contained therein. In case of violation of the order, the penal provisions of the Plant Protection Act 2020 apply.

Staff of the Livestock Directorate trained as BAVP



Ten employees of the Livestock Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture, Husbandry and Fisheries (LVV) have been trained as Extraordinary Police Officers (BAVP) by the Suriname Police Corps (KPS). This group of BAVP members will, among other things, supervise the enforcement of the existing Livestock Inspection Act for meat and other

animal products. The Livestock Directorate has been working for some time to adequately comply with the control of the various tasks and powers within the Meat and Other Animal Products Inspection Act. The BAVP training meets the international conditions and standards for participation in the trade in meat and animal products between Suriname and the various countries. It contributes to guaranteeing local production. After successfully completing the training, this group has now been sworn in to fulfill their tasks to the best of their knowledge.

Furthermore, with the support of the IDB and the IICA, there are plans to train a second group of 13 people from the inspection department to BAVP in order to strengthen the capacity to carry out the field activities in order to increase the implementation capacity of the Veterinary Service. A stricter control policy will also be applied to unregulated imports of veterinary products. Minister Parmanand Sewdien of LVV has pledged all support to the control bodies, given that food safety is of paramount importance to him to contribute to a healthy Suriname.

Ministry of LVV provides basic training in hydroponics



At the Ministry of LVV, a group of seventeen interested parties followed a basic training in hydroponics. The training, which was provided by the Vegetable Research Department of the LVV Directorate of Agricultural Research, Marketing and Processing (DLOAV), is housed within the Agricultural Competitiveness project of the IDB. This project aims to strengthen and improve the competitiveness of farmers.

Hydroponics is the cultivation of plants in water, to which necessary nutrients have been added. It is a cultivation method that is increasingly being used. Growing crops is a challenging undertaking that is constantly exposed to weather and climate conditions. These play an important role in determining the pace of crop production. The application of hydroponics in a greenhouse leads to favorable growing conditions in which the crops are protected against adverse weather and various pests. As a result, one also gets better quality products. One of the biggest advantages is that this system makes it possible to grow crops all year round instead of being limited by the seasons. Hydroponics can already be applied to a small area. The participants have become acquainted with the different hydroponic systems, so that they are now able to distinguish between the crops and in which hydroponic system they can best be grown.

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