

Shared responsibility in Australian Biosecurity – An overview

Russell Warman – University of Tasmania



Acknowledgement:

This presentation draws on research for the project *Protecting Australia's Food Future: Shared Responsibility for Biosecurity*.

Project team - **Professor Vaughan Higgins** (University of Tasmania), **Professor Melanie Bryant** (University of Tasmania), **Professor Marta Hernandez-Jover** (Charles Stuart University), Russell Warman (University of Tasmania)

Russell is funded through the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research working with the University of Sunshine Coast and University of Tasmania investigating sharing of practices and networking for biosecurity in timber plantations in SE Asia.



What is biosecurity

Broadly

Biosecurity is concerned with managing the unwanted movement of biological life – pest and diseases – and their impacts on forests, crops, livestock, environment and human health.

Origins

1980s US veterinary poultry practice

National security concerns

WTO and sanitary and phytosanitary measures – trade driven



Biosecurity and shared responsibility

The Australian case – Quarantine to biosecurity

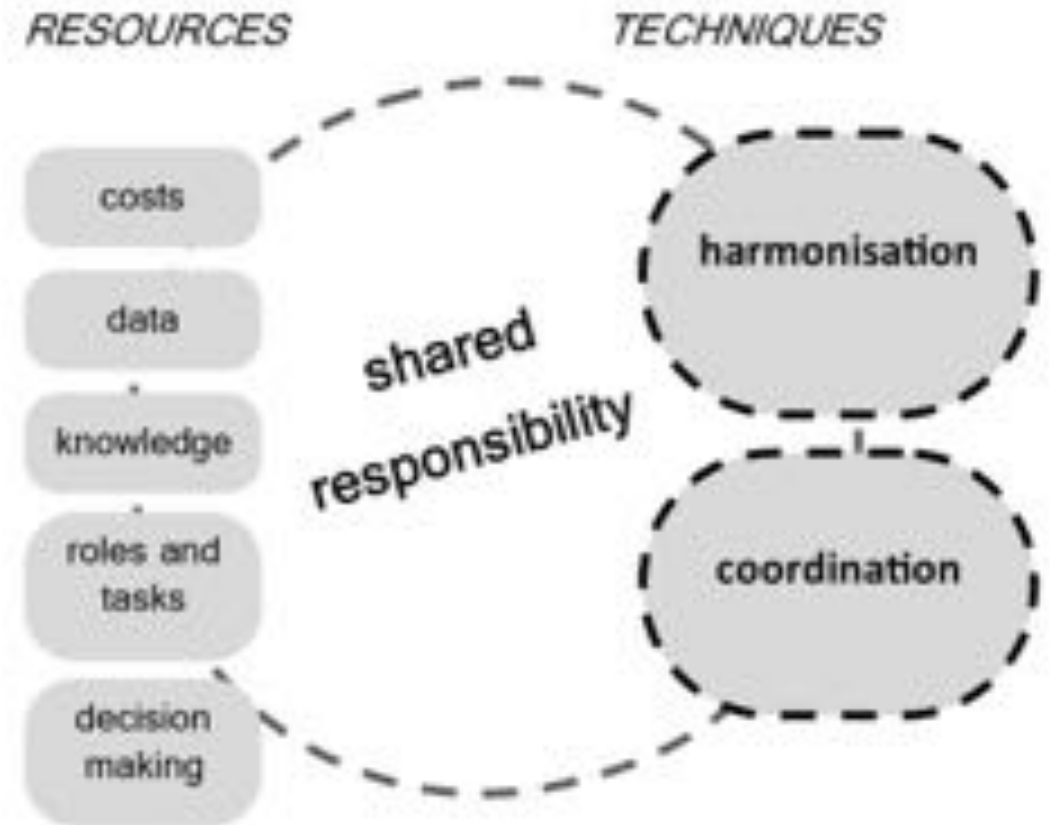
- Shift from border/quarantine to continuum approach
- Shift from government centric to broad community ownership of problems and solutions
- Drivers of this change – technologies, mobilities and neoliberal and devolved governance



Shared Responsibility – in practice

Key features of shared responsibility practice in Australia

- Sharing of 'resources'
- Working together techniques



Shared Responsibility – a work in progress



Policy/Legislative change

- Federation and progressive and negotiated legislative change

Industry engagement

- Engagement with peak bodies
- Key agreements for emergencies
- Accreditation
- Supply chain surveillance

Citizen Science and Public engagement

- Community biosecurity groups
- Citizen science surveillance
- Educating a travelling and import/export-oriented population

Conclusion



- Shared responsibility recognizes biosecurity cannot be done alone or in isolation
- Shared responsibility involves change in policy, practice and culture – this takes time and effort
- Look for integrative synergies (work with partner industries, sectors, countries – build into sustainable forest management systems – apply One Health – align with Sustainable Development Goals)

THANK YOU

References:

- Beale, R., Fairbrother, J., Inglis, A., & Trebeck, D. (2008). *One Biosecurity: A Working Partnership. The Independent Review of Australia's Quarantine and Biosecurity Arrangements*. Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia.
- Bryant, M., & Higgins, V. (2019). Managing the grand challenge of biological threats to food production: The importance of institutional logics for managing Australian biosecurity. *Australian Journal of Management, prepress*, 1-17.
- Craik, W., Palmer, D., & Sheldrake, R. (2017). *Priorities for Australia's biosecurity system, An independent review of the capacity of the national biosecurity system and its underpinning Intergovernmental Agreement*. Canberra
- Higgins, V., Bryant, M., Hernández-Jover, M., Rast, L., & McShane, C. (2018). Devolved responsibility and on-farm biosecurity: practices of biosecure farming care in livestock production. *Sociologia ruralis*, 58(1), 20-39.
- Mustalahti, I., Gutiérrez-Zamora, V., Hyle, M., Devkota, B.P. and Tokola, N., 2020. Responsibilization in natural resources governance: A romantic doxa?. *Forest Policy and Economics*, 111, p.102033.
- Nairn, M. E., Allen, P. G., Inglis, A. R., & Tanner, C. (1996). *Australian Quarantine: a shared responsibility*. Retrieved from Canberra: