

Mānuka Honey Labelling Guidelines Work Group and Science Work Group Meeting Summary

Wednesday 14 May 2014, The Terrace Conference Centre, Wellington

Chair: Scott Gallacher (guidelines group) Ian Ferguson (science group)

In attendance: See Appendix 1

Draft Labelling Guideline

MPI presented a draft labelling guideline, including a draft monofloral mānuka honey definition. MPI scientists presented the statistical analysis that they have completed to date on all the data available. There are a number of known limitations with the data, and MPI also identified a lack of data available to date on MG / DHA in conjunction with the other variables.

Discussion focused on the decision tree and the definitional parameters proposed in the draft guideline paper.

- Box 1 (is it honey?) – group comfortable with this
- Box 2 (is the honey from a mānuka growing area) – group comfortable with this, with suggested changes to include 'New Zealand' and 'mānuka production area'
- Box 3 (colour conductivity) – group comfortable with the two options and the 'or'. Some were not familiar with conductivity testing and appropriate range. Those who were familiar with conductivity were generally comfortable with the range proposed. Colour – some discussion on whether the range is right. Industry to consider conductivity and colour over the next week and come back to MPI with any feedback.
- Box 4 A) – group comfortable with pollen % AND total mānuka pollen count. Group comfortable with the proposed numbers
- Box 4 B) – suggestion that both MG and DHA be used as measures. The group identified additional work needed to confirm the values for DHA
- Discussion on the appropriate levels of MG to indicate monofloral mānuka
- Some views that there should be no pollen requirement for 4 B) –discussion on the risks and implications of this and what could be done to mitigate these.

Science Update

Terry Braggins (Analytica) provided an update on the work being undertaken to identify chemical markers for mānuka and kānuka.

Next steps:

- Work group members to look at the draft guideline and provide any comments or suggestions to MPI by 5pm 20 May 2014

- Karyne Rogers offered to provide conductivity tests on 5 samples from any business present that would fail the colour test to help them understand the conductivity provided samples received by May 16
- Work group members to provide any additional data they have that can help with statistical analysis of parameters, by 5pm on 20 May 2014
- MPI to consider feedback and comments and develop a revised draft guideline for circulation
- MPI to provide summary meeting notes for review
- MPI to set up teleconference for week of 2 June 2014 to talk through revised guideline

Appendix 1: Attendees

Guidelines work group

Scott Gallacher (MPI) - Chair

Victor Goldsmith

John Hartnell

Moirra Haddrell

Steve Lyttle

Graham Cammell

Kerry Paul

Lisa Winthrop (MPI)

Apologies: Pam Flack

Science Work Group

Dr. Ian Ferguson (MPI) – Chair

Peter Bray

Dr. Terry Braggins

Dr Mark Goodwin

Dr. Karyne Rogers

Dr. Mandy Suddes

Dr Ralf Schlothauer

Apologies: Dr Marilyn Manley-Harris