

# Kiwiberries partnership

One of the country's smallest horticultural industries, NZ

industries, NZ

Kiwiberries Growers

Incorporated, is the

latest to sign the

Government Industry

Agreement deed for

biosecurity readiness and

response.



**Primary Industries Minister Nathan Guy and NZ Kiwiberries Growers Incorporated chair Geoff Oliner of Te Puke with the GIA agreement certificate at Fieldays 2016.**

Primary Industries Minister Nathan Guy approved the application for NZ Kiwiberries Growers

Incorporated to join the

GIA partnership and

the agreement was formally recognised at the

Mystery Creek Fieldays last month.

Te Puke-based

NZKGB chair Geoff

Oliner says joining the

GIA partnership will give

the kiwiberries industry

the opportunity to

influence decision-

making in the

event of a bios-

ecurity response.

"This means

we can all work

together on managing

and responding to the

biosecurity risks that impact

our industry."

Often called the 'baby kiwifruit',

kiwiberries are a smooth-skinned, grape-

size version of their larger kiwifruit cousin.

"The kiwiberries sector is going through a significant

growth phase, and production is projected to rise

from 140,000 export trays in 2016 to 200,000 trays

in 2017, so we must do all we can to understand and

manage our biggest biosecurity risk and the impacts

they could have on our industry," says Geoff.

The kiwiberries sector comprises of about 40 produc-

ing, or soon to be producing, hectares – most of

this is based in the Bay of Plenty region. Last year

NZKGB generated \$4.2m in revenue, with 90 per

cent coming from exports.

NZKGB will be represented by Kiwifruit Vine

Health, which became the first industry group to sign

the GIA deed for biosecurity readiness and response

in May 2014.

KVH's chief executive Barry O'Neil says his organi-

sation is pleased to represent the kiwiberries industry

at the decision-making table. "We have a common-

ality of biosecurity issues. Kiwiberries are likely to be

susceptible to many of the same pests and diseases

as other kiwifruit cultivars, so working together in

partnership makes sense."

"We're currently working to determine what pests

and diseases will be the biggest threats to kiwiberries

and identify what readiness activities are required to

mitigate the risk of these threats."

GIA secretariat manager Steve Rich welcomes NZKGB on behalf of the GIA partnership, saying the new addition further strengthens efforts to better deliver biosecurity outcomes. "It's great to see sectors facing similar risks and concerns joining forces for the purposes of delivering better biosecurity."

"One of the key benefits of GIA for smaller primary sectors like kiwiberries is the ability to partner directly with the other players in the system."

NZKGB joins Kiwifruit Vine Health, Pigfruit New Zealand Inc, New Zealand Pork, New Zealand Equine Health Association, Onions New Zealand Inc, the NZ Forestry Owners Association, The New Zealand Avocado Growers' Association, NZ Citrus Growers' Inc and the Ministry for Primary Industries under the GIA.

**Elaine Fisher**

## About Government Industry Agreement

GIA operates as a partnership between industry and government to manage pests and diseases that could badly damage New Zealand's primary industries, our economy, and our environment. It aims to improve biosecurity outcomes and give everyone the confidence that the best decisions are being made.

To find out more about NZ Kiwiberries Growers Inc, visit: [www.nzkiwiberries.com](http://www.nzkiwiberries.com)  
Or to find out more about GIA, visit: [www.gia.org.nz](http://www.gia.org.nz)