Introduction
New Zealand’s goals to exclude, eradicate and manage risks posed by pests and diseases can only be achieved if a sufficient number of people are equipped with appropriate knowledge and skills in biosecurity. Presently, the education opportunities in New Zealand are limited to a small number of courses that build on generic provision in agricultural or environmental sciences, with minor specialisation in specific areas of biosecurity. By and large, these courses do not deliver the targeted training required by professionals working in this area and may not adequately address existing industry needs.

Objectives
i) Describe the knowledge and skills required to work in the area of biosecurity.
ii) Determine if the knowledge and skills differ between organisations.
iii) Identify the knowledge and skill gaps of people currently working in biosecurity.
iv) Identify the factors associated with knowledge and skills gaps
v) Identify the preferred delivery mode for education and training in the area of biosecurity.

Methods
• Telephone interviews with stakeholders from a wide range of industries, regional councils and the government will gather quantitative data on current activities in the area of biosecurity, examine the challenges to implementation and identify both the importance of training as well as training needs.
• A representative subset of respondents will be asked to participate in face-to-face interviews to explore the best ways and means of incorporating biosecurity training needs into a professional development programme.
• A workshop with relevant stakeholders to present findings and consider the way forward

Is your organisation involved or impacted by biosecurity issues whether pre- or post-border or offshore? If so, we need your help. 10-15 minutes is all it takes. Contact Dr Catheryn Khoo-Lattimore
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The responsibility to address biosecurity threats spans a wide and diverse range of industry, regulatory and government bodies in New Zealand. The effectiveness of these organisations in managing biosecurity is strongly dependent on the calibre and experience of their staff. To ensure consistent capability and up to date perspectives requires continuing professional development. The National Education and Training Seminars run by the Biosecurity Institute have long played a role in the sharing of knowledge across sectors but perceptions of the opportunities for continuing professional training suggest more could be done. We will report the results of a recent study that aimed to assess the training needs in biosecurity. This project aimed to describe the knowledge and skills required to work in the area of biosecurity, determine if the knowledge and skills differ between organisations and identify factors that are associated with knowledge and skills gaps. Telephone interviews with stakeholders from a wide range of industries, regional councils and the government and an online questionnaire were used to gather quantitative and qualitative data on current activities in the area of biosecurity, examine the challenges to implementation and identify both the importance of training as well as training needs. Outputs from these interviews now enable us for the first time to:

1. Describe the knowledge and skills required to work in the area of biosecurity.
2. Determine if the knowledge and skills differ between organisations).
3. Describe the knowledge and skills of people currently working in biosecurity.
4. Identify knowledge and skill gaps of people currently working in biosecurity.
5. Identify factors (e.g. age, organisation) that are associated with knowledge and skills gaps
6. Identify the preferred delivery mode for education and training in the area of biosecurity.

By presenting these results at NETS, we would hope to receive further feedback on how training provision could be improved and better coordinated.