

**SAMPLE METHOD STATEMENT ON REMOVAL OF  
BROWN ROOT ROT DISEASE INFECTED TREE**

This sample method statement should be read in conjunction with the Manual to conduct a proper removal operation of BRRD infected tree:

**Occupational Safety and Health Considerations**

- (i) All personnel involved in the operation, no matter inside or outside of the works area, shall wear proper Personal Protection Equipment (PPE);
- (ii) Sufficient first-aid items shall be prepared according to the guidelines given by the Labour Department;
- (iii) Personnel in charge of disinfection shall equip with appropriate PPE following the instruction mentioned on the application manual of the chemical to protect against any chemical hazard;
- (iv) Job briefing shall be given to all the personnel before the operation.

**Site Arrangement**

- (v) An area for the tree removal operation shall be designated as works area with designated entrance/exit and properly cordoned off with closed bottom shielding material at least 2m in height. The shielding material shall avoid accidental dissemination of contaminated soil/ infected materials. Trespassing is prohibited. Adequate staff should be assigned to direct the pedestrians during the operation;
- (vi) Warning signage shall be displayed at prominent locations of the works area to notify the public about the removal operation and to prevent trespassing;
- (vii) Disinfection material, e.g. disinfection mat or disinfection tray, shall be placed at the designated entrance/exit of the works area. The footwear of all personnel engaging in the tree removal operation shall be thoroughly disinfected before leaving the designated works area;
- (viii) An area for temporary storage of debris and soil shall be designated

inside the works area before transporting to the landfill site for disposal. This temporary storage area shall be thoroughly disinfected after use.

### Removal Procedures

(ix) Other vegetation such as shrubs, perennials, herbs within the infected area shall be removed and treated as infected materials, if any;

(x) The trunk and branches of BRRD infected trees shall be removed before proceeding to the removal of the tree stump and roots. Fine root or root pieces larger than 1cm in diameter in soil of the infected area shall be traced and manually removed. The removed materials, including the associated soil, are regarded as infected materials and shall be transported to the designated temporary storage area and sprayed with disinfectant thoroughly before disposal to the landfill site;

(xi) All the infected materials shall be packed in durable and disposable bags before disposal to the landfill site. If the infected materials, except soil medium, is too large to be packed, they shall be uploaded to suitable vehicles directly. The material on the vehicle shall be sprayed with disinfectant and covered properly with sturdy cover. The vehicles shall be disinfected thoroughly after the disposal of the infected materials, especially the container of the vehicles;

(xii) Soil medium within the infected area shall be removed to the depth of 1m or disinfected with soil fumigant. Removed soil shall be disposed of following procedures in the disposal of infected materials in (xi).

### Disinfection Procedures

(xiii) All the vehicles entering the works area or transporting the infected materials shall be thoroughly sprayed with disinfectant, especially on the tyres. Tools and equipment used in the works area shall be thoroughly disinfected after operation;

(xiv) In case the tree removal operation, including the removal of stump and other infected materials, cannot be completed in one day, the root zone area of the infected tree shall be enclosed with sturdy plastic cover to avoid accidental dissemination of contaminated soil/infected materials.

(xv) All soil and infected material in the works area shall be removed and cleaned up as far as practicable, and disposed as infected wood debris. The whole delineated works area shall be disinfected with disinfectant thoroughly.

(xvi) Disposable PPE Disinfect hands and footwear shall be disposed at the end of the operation.

### **Follow-up Actions**

(xvii) After the removal operation, where site condition allows, the infected site shall be managed with the following options of post-removal measures:

#### *Option A*

*Conduct in-situ soil fumigation following the instruction mentioned on the application manual of the fumigant. The area of fumigation shall at least cover the infected area; and*

#### *Option B*

*Excavate all soil to a depth of 1m within the infected area and refill with clean soil. The excavated soil shall be properly treated and disposed. If the tree stump and its associated soil are located on a slope, please consult geotechnical engineer before the stump and soil removal*

(xviii) Replanting of trees is not recommended unless the site is proven to be rid of disease pathogen to avoid possible reoccurrence of BRRD.