

REGIONAL AGRICULTURE PROGRAMME

PLANT PROTECTION SERVICE (PPS)

1. INTRODUCTION

PPS is located in Suva, with outposts in FSM, PNG and Solomon Islands. PPS provides national quarantine (biosecurity) and plant protection services with supplementary technical services and capacity building in plant protection, biosecurity and trade facilitation. PPS links the region with IPPC Secretariat and WTO-SPS agreement. PPS is funded by ACIAR, AusAID, NZAID and the European Union.

2. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF THE REGIONAL AGRICULTURE PROGRAMME (AGRICULTURE STRATEGIC PLAN: 2001 – 2005)

- Increase efficiency and sustainability of agriculture;
- Improve food security and public health;
- Facilitate trade in agriculture products;
- Decrease impact of natural disasters.

Strategic Plan Objective 1 <i>Increase Efficiency and Sustainability of Agriculture</i>		
Activities Undertaken	Outcomes Achieved	Beneficiaries
Pest management advisory and information services to all PICTS all sectors - 12 “Pacific Pest Info” bulletins - 7 Pest Advisory Leaflets - 4 Pest Alerts	PICTS better informed by technical staff and publications leading to better management of pests that reduce food quantity and quality (improved food security and trade prospects)	Farmers via PICT extension, research and quarantine services

Activities Undertaken	Outcomes Achieved	Beneficiaries
Participatory extension practices for IPM and field schools for farmers: General (Niue, Tonga) Egg plant thrips (Fiji) Kava die back(modelling in Fiji)	Farmers can recognise disease, weed and insect pest problems and the need to manage pest populations sustainably; Farmers able to manage thrips on egg plant Research on Kava die back mgt options	Tonga, Niue, Pitcairn, Fr Polynesia Fiji farmers PICTs culture/trade
Weed surveys/eradication - False Kava (FSM), Parthenium (PNG); Wedelia (Niue); Mimosa (Niue); Antigonon leptopus (Niue); Chromolaena (Marshalls) Cogon Grass (FSM, Palau) Honolulu rose (FSM); Mikania (FSM, Palau)	Threat quantified for decision on eradication or, when eradicated, agricultural /environmental threat eliminated	FSM, PNG, Niue, Marshals, Palau
Publication and distribution of Pest Advisory Leaflets Farmer information in PICT languages No. 1 Kava die back	PICTs more informed of pest problems, causes and control. Farmers can identify/name particular pests and diseases for better management	Farmers through PICT Research and extension staff
School student awareness of quarantine and plant protection by introducing syllabus to form 5 Wallis schools visits to Fiji. Working with South Pacific Board of Educational Assessment	Agriculture curriculum committee adopted PPS developed syllabus for Agriculture form 5 Wallis agriculture students more familiar with Fiji commercial farming systems/research Form 6 syllabus in agriculture being reviewed by SPBEA with financial support from PPS	Fiji and Samoa form 5 students Wallis community Associated schools syllabus/agriculture/biosecurity
Replacing former agricultural library with an electronic library on CD	Access to important agricultural information will be re-established at low installation and maintenance cost	Farmers via Solomon Is agricultural research / extension services
IPM manual, simple style with NGO Kastom Garden Association.	Awareness of effective alternatives to pesticides and adoption of customary practices	Solomon Is rural community
Taro beetle field trials PNG, Fiji	Secured 4y ACIAR funding for this major pest	PNG, FIJI, NC, Solomons, Kiribati, Vanuatu

Strategic Plan Objective 2 <i>Improve food security and public health</i>		
Activities Undertaken	Outcomes Achieved	Beneficiaries
Participatory rural appraisal on a new breadfruit disease, a threat to community staple - with villagers, Counsellors and agriculture officer	PPS staff facilitated the design by villages of a disease management plan harmonised with the local conditions and expectations and based on traditional village crop husbandary practice	Butaritari, Kiribati – staple restored to outer island villagers
Regional programme for drafting Pesticide Bill for all PICTs	Registration, use and storage provisions for pesticide strengthen with heavy penalties for contraventions which will reduce residues in food and food chains to comply with CODEX	Fiji
Upgrading biosecurity services –provision of equipment, training in new standards and new manuals	Increased support resulted in efficiency gains of border operations and reduced the risk of pest incursions	Nauru, Cook Is, Niue, Fiji (incomplete); Tokelau, Vanuatu
Sustainable pest management practices	Importance of Integrated Pest Management grasped by farmers	Niue, Tonga, Pitcairn
Strategic Plan Objective 3 <i>Facilitate Trade in Agriculture Products</i>		
Activities Undertaken	Outcomes Achieved	Beneficiaries
National biosecurity laws based on regional framework	Regional integrated animal and plant quarantine law framework for PICTA/PACER. National laws when drafted are harmonised and facilitate trade but minimise pest incursions	Kiribati Samoa (with SQIP) Niue, Fiji (incomplete)
Pest surveys to comply with WTO –SPS/IPPC	Updated pest lists in compliance with minimum standards for dependable trade risk analysis	Micronesia, Tonga, New Caledonia, Cook islands, Tokelau
Regional standard of Pest list database to facilitate risk analysis in trade	for National plant protection and quarantine services have easy access to updated national pest list for pest management and trade	Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, French Polynesia, Niue
Post harvest survey of Pacific fresh exports on Auckland markets	Quality of fresh commodities and reasons for reduced quality determined	Exporters and producers in PICT exporting countries
Laboratory upgrade for fruit fly/fruit piercing moth	Fruit piercing moth project designed to reduce quality impact on traded fruit funded by FAO now has appropriate laboratory to conduct work	FAO, Vanuatu traders
Export pathways (systems approach) for fruit and vegetables	Improved market access potential and improved negotiation position for PICTs	Vanuatu, Fiji, Samoa, New Caledonia

Strategic Plan Objective 4 <i>Decrease Impact of Natural Disasters</i>		
Activities Undertaken	Outcomes Achieved	Beneficiaries
Emergency response to Queensland Fruit fly (QFF)	Eradication of QFF. Trade normalized. Demonstration of Cook Is preparedness	Cook Island farmers
National plans developed using regional emergency response planning framework (ERP)	National ERP increases preparedness and speed of response to incursions of new pests which increases prospects for eradication to maintain low pest status of PICTs	PNG, Fiji, Tonga, Kiribati, Fr Polynesia
Emergency upgrading of Niue airport operations to prepare for new flights from Samoa	Niue positioned to manage the risk of Taro leaf blight, Giant African Snail, breadfruit mealy bug and other pest and disease threats from Samoa	Niue farmers/forest systems

3. CONCLUSION

SPC –Plant Protection Services continued to secure food supplies and facilitate trade in 2003 in partnership with 22 national plant protection services and donors (AusAID, NZAID, ACIAR, EU). Extension of trade facilitation outcomes (biosecurity capacity) to six new ACP countries and to signatories to PACER in 2003 is expected to minimise the prospect of national biosecurity services hindering trade.
