



Quarantine E-News

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Keep in Mind!

- ◆ If it is your own idea, copyright it.
- ◆ Ensure that imported seeds have an Import Permit.
- ◆ Certification of Cooked breadfruit will be exported to NZ and Australia once process has been finalized.
- ◆ Quarantine is here to assist you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week throughout the year.

Refresher Training for Pest Diagnostics Participants

The NZ aid Pacific program, is the result of several years work by a number of organizations in the Pacific and NZ. The aim of the program is to develop plant health diagnostic capability in the Pacific. This is vital as it develops the capability to identify pests and diseases, which is an integral part of bio-security and trade-related activities.

A 1 week refresher training was held from 5th-9th November for personnel from Quarantine, Crops division, WIBDI, USP as a continuation from the 4 streams of training conducted in 2011.

This was attended by the same people who were involved in the last year's trainings, and was a good initiative to ensure retention of knowledge and skills pertaining to Pest and Disease Diagnostics.



Dirty vehicles are pest risk consignments requiring proper cleaning. Boat trailers could spread the risk of weeds

A right to Ownership of that Innovative Idea

As part of the The In-country training program, funded by AusAid and NZAid, a week long workshop on Intellectual Property for Development and Enforcement was conducted from 8-9th of October. The leading ministry, Intellectual Property Division of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labor, had been advertising the Trainer for this particular course for more than a year, and the successful bid was won by Dr. Jason Goldschmied, of Gold IP Lawyers.

The first days were attended by members of the private sector, whereas the last 2 days were for the public sector. Objectives were to enhance the knowledge of participants on Intellectual Property Rights as well as the current legislations on IP and Copyright 2011. It is effective even at the border, as under the Customs Act 1977, there is also much needed enforcement to prohibit any copyright related products from entering Samoa.



Participants from the Public Sector with Mr Taumanupepe Sydney Faasau (4th from right, front row) of Oloamanu and workshop trainer, Dr Jason Goldschmied (4th from left, front row)

The NZ Ministry of Agriculture is now officially NZ Ministry of Primary Affairs

It is now official, notification that the New Zealand's Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Biosecurity, has been changed to New Zealand Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI).

MPI is a new ministry formed from the merging of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Ministry of Fisheries and the New Zealand Food Safety Authority. MPI is positioned to deliver high quality services and support to the whole of the primary sector.

It is with this change in name, classification changes are to be required for all official assurances, such as export certification, and associated security devices (Eg: security paper, official seals, official devices and stamps) to reflect the new name of the New Zealand competent authority. Changes to the export certificates and associated security devices will take effect from 1st March 2013

There will also be an overview of changes that will be made to New Zealand's export certificates. For example, four generic MPI export certificates for dairy products, meat products, plant products, and live animals/germplasm will be established.

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



The new logo for the New Zealand Ministry of Primary Industries



Pathways for Breadfruit to Australia and New Zealand

In the past years, Samoans abroad and palagis alike were fortunate to savour the delicacy of local cooked breadfruit or *ulu*. But it was this continuous tradition, known as *oso*, that resulted in the consignments not being prepared well thus leading to the infamous ban. The New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) officials intercepted live fruitfly larvae on the breadfruits upon inspection. As a consequence of this incident, a trade barrier was put in place hence stricter Quarantine requirements were developed and implemented.

PHAMA and the Samoa Quarantine Division with the Ministry of Agriculture are continuing research trials and other market access formalities, in the hope of re-opening the NZ and Australian markets for the re-export of the breadfruit.

There will be specific conditions that the cooked breadfruit must meet prior to its export. The Australian Department of Agriculture, Forest and Fisheries (DAFF), conducted a verification visit in December following NZ MPIs' visit in August 2012.

There will be specific conditions for the processing requirements of the breadfruit, specific packaging requirements, and specific condition on the inspection for the export as well as the certification. Additionally, on-arrival inspection carried out by the Australia DAFF and NZ MPI.

On going awareness will be conducted to ensure that the public is well informed on the export status of this product.

Ministry of Agriculture officials undergoing trials on the most effective temperature for cooked breadfruit to ensure that potential pest risks associated with this commodity is mitigated.



Traded Tomato Seeds a likely pest risk for spread of *Pepper chat fruit viroid*

There has been a notification from Australia through the body of the International Plant Protection Convention, regarding Tomato seeds being a likely spread of the Pepper chat fruit viroid (PCFVd). The Pepper chat fruit viroid had been intercepted at the Australian border in recent months when the consignments of traded seed were tested. They were detected at the border, being imported from the Middle-East and Asia when there was no complete Phytosanitary certification.

There have previously been official reports and research done on the Pepper chat fruit viroid. It is reported a Pest Risk as PCFVd is a member of the *Pospiviroid* genus and causes disease in capsicum, potatoes and tomatoes. It is known to be transmitted through the capsicum seeds, and this interception confirms that it may contaminate tomato seed. The symptoms of the Pepper chat fruit viroid on the tomato plant, is necrosis on leaf veins, petioles and stem, as well as leaf distortion. The plant will have signs of stunted growth four weeks after inoculation with the PCFVd.

The first report of the natural infection of Pepper chat fruit viroid in tomato plants in Thailand was done in 2009. 60 leaf samples of tomato plants were collected from the field in Lampang province, Thailand. After initial examination by electron microscopy, the samples were tested positive for viroids, where 99% similarity to the PCFVd (*Reanwarakorn et al. 2011*)

As there are current imports of tomato seeds by the commercial sector as well as on private consignments, it is noted that these must undergo Quarantine inspections; hence, proper certification from the importing country is highly recommended. This certification must be complete to include its molecular testing. There are current permits for the import of seeds from American Samoa, Australia, Fiji, Japan, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Tonga, United States of America and Vietnam. Upon issue of this import permit, there are also the importing requirements to be satisfied by the importer. An International Phytosanitary Certificate issued by the National Plant, Protection Organisation (NPPO) of the country of origin, must ensure that the consignment is free from soil, visually detectable pests and diseases, and any other contamination. The consignment must be labelled according to the scientific name and variety, and only inert/synthetic material is used for the protection, packaging and shipping material of the consignment.

The treatments required for Nursery stock is that the consignments shall be treated for quarantine pests and diseases within 7 days prior to shipment and held in a manner to ensure that infestation/re-infestation does not occur following certification. The treatment for Seeds for Sowing shall be treated with captan/thiram at 2g of a.i (active ingredient) per kg seed. All the consignments are subject to Quarantine inspection upon arrival. Non-complying consignments or those not true to label may be subject to seizure, treatment, re-export or destruction at the importer's expense. It is the responsibility of the importer to be aware and ensure compliance with the requirements of all other regulatory organisations prior to and after importation.



The PCFVd can be transmitted mechanically and through pepper seeds, inducing vein necrosis and reduced fruit and tuber size in tomato (Reanwarakorn et al. 2011)

Quarantine protecting Samoa from pests and Diseases this Festive Season

As we progress slowly towards the festive season, Quarantine officials will be preparing for this often busy time in the calendar year. Staff rotation and the reallocation of individuals at the various points of entry etc. will be carried out by management. Quarantine work at the Faleolo Airport is a 24 hours duty where shift work takes place every 8 hours, with the changing of teams throughout the week. The Fagalii airport will also be another point of entry requiring monitoring by Quarantine staff. In addition there will be the incoming scheduled container and passenger ships, and yachts, at the marina and Matautu-tai wharf requiring procedural quarantine inspections. All these clearance requires the active participation of Quarantine staff to ensure Samoa is protected from plant and animal pests and diseases. There will also be inspections, treatments and certification of exports and imports conducted over this busy festive season. Furthermore, the issuance of Import permits will be done at the office as there will be an influx of people importing Christmas goodies from families overseas.



Farmers Choice to Export—PHAMA Consultation

PHAMA conducted a workshop for the Farmers who are involved in supplying taro for export. Mr. John Low is an exporter who is handling the shipment of a full container of taro, and has exported 4 shipments of taro containers to New Zealand. The taro is supplied from registered farmers under the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. These farmers are paid to bring in their supply for proper inspection and certification for export. The taro is weighed in sacks, and brought to the approved facility at Nuu Crops Division to be inspected, treated, packaged and certified for exports.

The Quarantine division is involved in the various aspects involved in the exporting of taro. The field husbandry practises are looked at through the taro quality during final inspections and certification.

The overall objective of the workshop was to familiarise farmers with the roles and assistance they can receive from the Ministry of Agriculture as well as what they can do to assist in providing taro supply for the local market and the export markets as well.

The PHAMA consultant, Mr. Asuao Kirifi Pouono, stated that recommendations and comments from this workshop will be reviewed in the hope of formulating better avenues by which we can improve the production and capacity level of farmers, to increase the local supply and market access.

