



Quarantine E-News

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50th Independence Celebrations for Samoa

Our beautiful country of Samoa as a whole, celebrated its' Golden jubilee of 50 years since it became an independent nation. On the 1st of June, 2012, the whole of Samoa were in the spirit of this birthday as there was a long holiday also for the government officials. There were many on site displays and food stalls by members of the general public. Many organisations, government ministries, government and church schools participated in the march pass. It was noted, that such an occasion, brought together most of the Ministry of Agriculture workforce, which showed so many officials in our green uniform, creating one of the longest lines for the march pass. The usual formalities took place on this day, with an opening church service and an opening address. The march pass went underway at approximately 9am, although almost everyone gathered at the Malololelei grounds at 5am, some earlier. But this long period of time, did not dampen the spirits of the celebrations, as in everyone's hearts was overjoyed that we have reached this milestone and there were more anticipated activities that were to come. These included the UB40 concert, the display of fireworks, the classic Fautasi longboat race, the showcase of Samoan traditional siva and singing, and so much more.



The Leadership Samoa Program visits

As part of the awareness program initiatives, a request was received from the Leadership Samoa program in regards to having a presentation to discuss certain Quarantine issues. Our office welcomed this group of 16 participants on Friday, 22nd June 2012. The group consisted of respective members from various government ministries, private organizations and the media. A Background brief, a group of Samoan alumni from the Emerging Pacific Leaders Dialogue, developed the concept of the Samoa Leadership Program in 2010. The aim of this group was to develop a program that can enhance the skills of emerging Samoan leaders, through various means such as site visits, meetings, discussion and networking opportunities.



The topics that were outlined in the presentation were, "Agricultural Development in Samoa, What is the role of Quarantine in Agriculture development and to the economy as a whole? How well are we protecting Samoa from pests? What are some social and economic impacts on Agriculture in Samoa if there was not Quarantine? And What are some issues and challenges? The Leadership program was on its' second year, and this was also their second visit to the Quarantine. There areas of target, and field visits include

- Keep in Mind!**
- ◆ All Agricultural commodities are encouraged for export
 - ◆ Keep a safe and trade protected market access, ensure market access sustainability
 - ◆ Awareness is vital, keeps you in the know
 - ◆ Organic Vs. Inorganic, they both aid in development
 - ◆ A Good Leader, is a Leader who is Heard

Con't: Leadership Samoa Program Visits

respective ministries of the Health, Environment and Agriculture. These 3 core ministries are a vital part in the development of the economy, and the participants of this Leadership program would greatly benefit from how things takes place, and being able to familiarize and identify how individual ministries collaborate with one another to strengthen the role of government.

The objectives of this Program was to describe the key results Leadership Samoa wants to achieve by 2015, and how they can achieve this. 1) Develop and formalize a strong governance structure that oversees the implementation of the strategic direction and protects the interests of the organization, 2) Develop and implement a credible and respected leadership program that creates an appreciation of relevant issues that will add value to Samoan leadership, 3) Establish and strengthen the partnerships with key stakeholders, 4) Ensure the sustainability of the organization and its programs. At the end of the presentation, we hope that awareness of the importance of the role of Quarantine and the simple action of honest filling of passenger declaration arrival card, had been instilled in the hearts and minds of this future leaders and roles models of the Leadership group.

Salesatele village encourages Farmers to plant the Niu

The awareness initiative by the Crops Nuu Division to carry out presentations with the farmers' association from the village of Salesatele, was a Rehabilitation program for the revival of the Niu Production. This was mainly carried out by the Research Crops Division to establish a mechanism to enhance and strengthen niu growing. It states all the various importance of up-taking niu establishment, and the possible exports that could generate from the crop. In line with the production and filming for the Fatu o Aiga program, the chance was also taken for the filming of the Crops divisions episode.

The Quarantine carried out their presentation, which is generally aimed at the public for informative purposes. The presentation was mainly on topics of concern, such as the role of Quarantine and its effect in the economy, as well as the treatments and agricultural commodities that are generally imported/exported. There was visual aids on the most unwanted pests and disease, and brief explanations on its significance to the agriculture and economy as a whole. It was an informative presentation, where at the end, the floor was open for general questions and answers regarding issues relating to Quarantine, and comments that could arise from the presentation.

Questions had a wide range, from topics of the turkey tails. Members of the public were asking on the turkey tail issue because they want to know why it is still considered a ban and yet, there is more fat content in chicken. This is considered an import ban, will only be lifted once 12 months upon accession into the WTO, as official sign in May. It is within this period that the relevant ministry will implement standards to monitor the import, sale and use of turkey tails.



Members of the farmers association in Salesatele village participating in the Niu Rehabilitation session

The input of people's ideas was relevant to the production of Niu innovations to include its' effective establishment within village communities. It is noted that many of the other agricultural products seem to take an upper-hand in growth within the economy, thus, lessening the production of niu. The idea behind this community outreach program was to ensure that it is instilled in plantation growers and farmers, that it is vital to revive the growing of niu. The farmers are aware of the hard work involved in implementing a project, then harvesting its fruits, but then a blow on no export markets hits them hard, so it is

their concern that there exists many export markets for the supply of the abundance in the niu. It is essential that proper Quarantine procedures are met as the need to ensure safe facilitation of trade to enhance market access opportunities and trade, so that more markets open up to our products.

The Cocos nucifera is a vitality to Samoa's economy due to the many by-products that could be obtained from it. It is also widely planted in Samoa



Analyzing Organic Bananas for Export to New Zealand

The Women in Business Development Initiative (WIBDI), are currently working towards facilitating the regular export of certified organic lady-finger bananas (misiluki) to New Zealand. This has the potential to provide a huge opportunity for Samoan famers, by providing acces to a market for a product that currently has almost no economic value locally.

WIBDI together with the Quarantine, underwent analysis of organic bananas and possible presence of insects, living contamination or disease or a pest found on the bananas, as well as its' leaves and stem. This was to identify all the local contaminants that are found in/on organic bananas to be exported to New Zealand. The NZ Ministry of Primary Industries is awaiting the analysis results to be able to undertake research purposes for allowing the importation of organic bananas into New Zealand.



Physical inspection of Musa acuminata, unripe bananas, that have been organically grown on the STEC grounds



Misiluki is a natural sweet, no added preservatives nor sugar

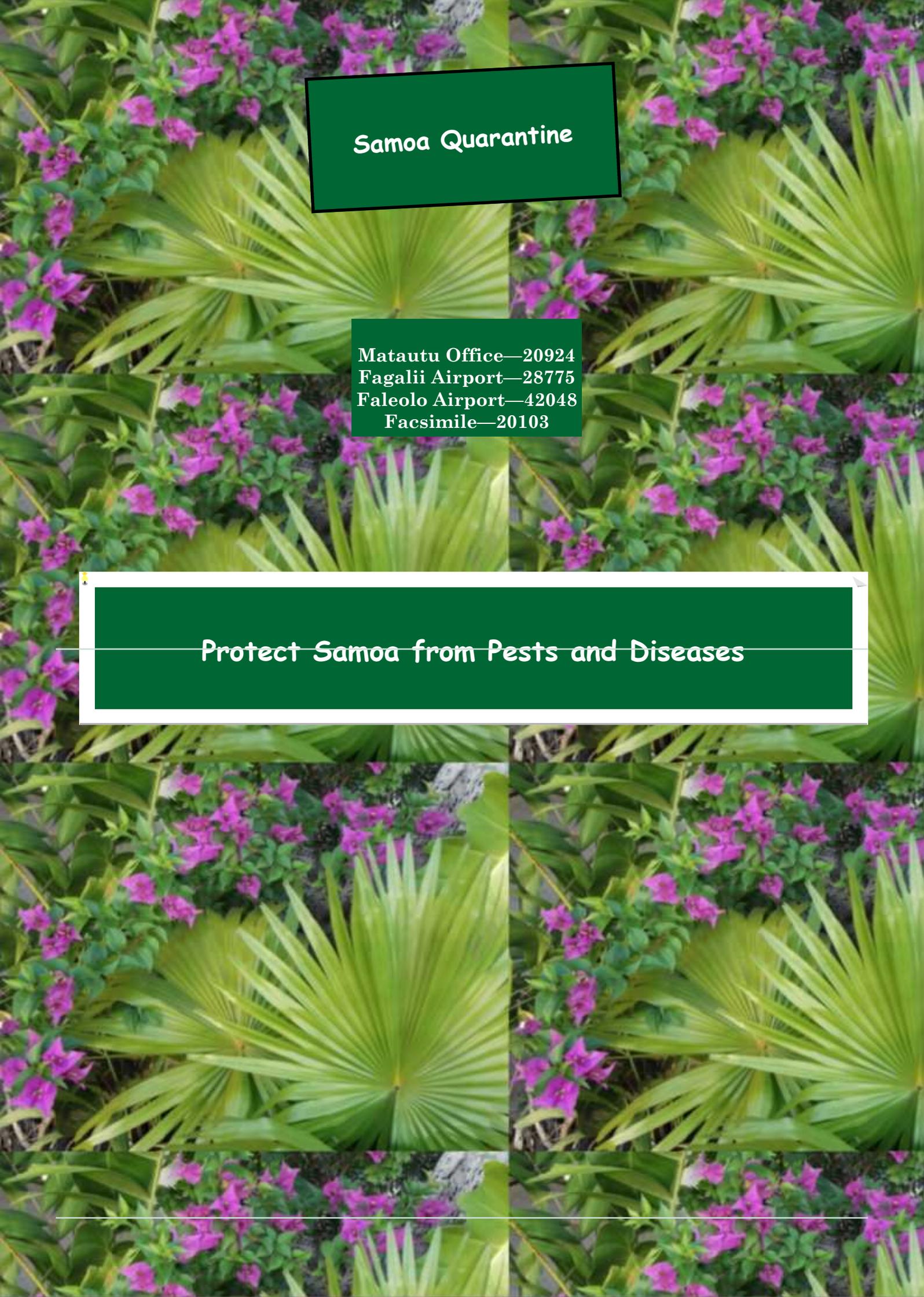
Physical identification using hand lens were the methods involved in identifying any presence of insects, pests or contaminants on the bananas gathered from the STEC compound and a family plantation in Afega. Women in Business Development Initiative in collaboration with donor agencies and private organizations, have helped in identifying opportunities for income generation at the community based village level. WIBDI is currently working with over 250 small scale farmers growing organically certified misiluki bananas in Samoa. Exporting dried and organic bananas will provide these local farmers with a vital new income opportunity. As well as being good for the growers themselves, there are many reasons for eating organic dried banana chunks. The misiluki bananas are natural sweet, which means no preservatives, no sugar, nor sweetener; just organic, naturally dried bananas.

Farewell to long serving staff, Malaetama Taefu

One of the longest serving staff at the Quarantine division, Mr. Malaetama Taefu, who has been working for Quarantine for more than 20 years, has finally retired. Malaetama started work at the Nuu Crops division, then he continued serving within the Ministry of Agriculture, and at the Quarantine prior to his retirement. He is now 65 years old, and worked as a Driver for all these years within the ministry. It is with sincere appreciation that words of thanks and farewell was said to the former employee. Like many departing and resigned staff, the Quarantine hosted a farewell party to the long serving employee. It was full of laughter and fun, with a usual token of appreciation for Tama. Asked what are his plans after retiring from the workforce, well, simple, farming and work in his plantation

So Long and Farewell





Samoa Quarantine

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Protect Samoa from Pests and Diseases