



Pacific Pest Info

Pest & Quarantine Information
SPC Plant Protection Service

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If you DO NOT wish to receive the Pacific Pest Info newsletter send an email to EmilA@spc.int with the words 'No Pest Info'.

Those with Internet access can find a wide range of Plant Protection Service outputs on the PPS Web site at www.spc.int/pps. A CD version is available for those without Internet.

Contents

1. Developing extension materials national workshop - Samoa.....	1
2. Remote primary school participate in taro disease screening and use rural email technology to communicate	2
3. Quarantine awareness for Palau Pacific Arts Festival.....	2
4. PLD to go Region-wide.....	3
5. CD-ROM on PPS updated and distributed every 6-months	3
6. PPS promotes bio-control in work activities	4
7. Niue Quarantine refresher training.....	4
8. Samoa exports papaya to NZ.....	4
9. Agricultural science for South Pacific Form Seven Certificate.....	4
10. WTO Distance Education Gateway.....	5
11. New version of the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation	5
12. Completed PPS activities in PICTs.....	5
13. PPS staff travel calendar	6

1. *Developing extension materials national workshop - Samoa*

Fifteen staff of the Samoa Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Meteorology (MAFF&M) received skills training in developing extension materials in a workshop held at Nuu Crops Research Station, 14 – 18 June. CEO Seumanutafa Asuao Iakopo officially opened the workshop where he acknowledged SPC assistance for funds to conduct the workshop. He told his staff that extension work is not easy. Extension workers represent the Ministry at the farmer level and farmers have different needs. The use of PRAs to identify real farmer needs is therefore a very important activity, said the CEO. The CEO also pointed out the importance of using more illustrations and graphics to deliver extension messages.

Workshop participants represented quarantine, livestock, fisheries, meteorology, forestry, information and extension advisory. Skills learned during the 1-week workshop included extension writing, desktop publishing, choosing appropriate illustrations, editing text and photos and digital camera operation.

Extension projects produced by participants ranged from cyclone awareness to quarantine guidelines for travellers. Senior management staff at Nuu peer reviewed the projects before the final session on Friday. The workshop was facilitated by Asuao Kirifi Pouono, Assistant CEO and Head of Quarantine with PPS Publications Officer Emil Adams as workshop trainer.

2. Remote primary school participate in taro disease screening and use rural email technology to communicate

Gwaiiau Primary School in North Malaita in the Malaita Province of Solomon Islands is embarking on an ambitious project to establish a taro collection garden to screen local varieties for the *Alomae* viral disease. Taro is the main staple food for this community, a good six-hour walk to the coast, and they are keen to find solutions to combat the devastating disease.

In addition to screening taro varieties susceptible to *Alomae*, the project will record time of the year the disease is most prevalent. The project will also be looking at identifying a local variety less susceptible to the disease better and to examine ways stop the spread of the disease. Year 6 students will take the lead in this project and have requested some implements from SPC Plant Protection Service. The tools requested include bush knives, brush cutters, axes and others. For their contribution, the school will find and clear the land for the project, plant taro and manage the garden. Parents and community leaders are all excited about the project and are all willing to see the results.

Principal of Gwaiiau Primary School, Wanegaro Maedola, helped put together the project proposal, which was submitted to PPS.

PPS Extensionist Mr Stephen Hazelman walked the six-hour distance to Gwaiiau Primary School together with Wilco Liebreights and Graham Jackson of PESTNET to review and assess project site.

A rural communications network using email stations will link the school and the community to the outside world through an innovative project called 'Linking Farmers to Plant Protection Networks'. The rural communications network is a partnership amongst different groups working together: the NGOs Kastom Garden Association, Planting Materials Network, PestNet, the Solomon Islands Department of Agriculture and Livestock and SPC Plant Protection Service.

According to Steve Hazelman, PPS Extensionist, the rural communications system, operated by the People's First Network (PfNet) of Solomon Islands, is a growing network of solar-powered, community-owned and managed e-mail stations connected to the Internet Gateway in Honiara. PfNet was set up to address the needs of the poor and vulnerable rural communities, said Mr Hazelman. The primary objectives of the project are to promote distance education, develop indigenous business development and encourage participation of women in the information society.

Already, the People First Network is one of five projects worldwide to be pre-selected as finalist for the 2004 IPDC Rural Communication Prize. The competition is run by the International Programme for the Development of Communications, based at UNESCO Headquarters.

The 'Linking Farmers to Plant Protection Networks' project attempts to promote the use of available communication tools to allow rural farmers, extension workers, NGOs, schools and community based organisations to have access to agricultural information.

Incidentally, the proposal from Gwaiiau Primary School to set up a taro garden was sent to SPC using the rural email station at Silolo, North Malaita. The Principal, teachers and Grade 6 students took the 6-hour trip on foot to Silolo to send the proposal. This is a significant event for the students and teachers: it is the first time they have seen a computer and become educated on cyberspace.

Similar rural communication networks are in the pipeline for PPS. One is planned for the Shortlands, a border town in PNG and a planned trip of PfNet personnel to Kiribati to assess establishing a similar set-up in the far-flung atolls of Kiribati. The Kiribati project will be assisted by UNDP's Suva-based e-Pacifika project.

3. Quarantine awareness for Palau Pacific Arts Festival

The spectacle of Pacific cultures and the tantalising array of Pacific culinary delights is all happening at the Palau Festival of Pacific Arts, 22-31 July 2004. The theme for the 9th Festival of Pacific Arts: *Oltobed a Malt: Nature, Regeneration, Celebrate*. Promoting the protection of natural resources helps the retention of island culture and spirit. And that the knowledge of one generation should be transferred successfully to the next. PPS work promotes the protection of plant health.

Palau is expecting some 2,500 delegates from 27 countries and thousands more tourists from the world over. Visitors from so many countries coming together in a small place like Palau have implications for biosecurity and quarantine. In a bid to raise the profile of quarantine to the many Pacific delegates coming to

the Festival Pacific Plant Protection Micronesia, Mr Konrad Englberger and Palau Agriculture Plant Protection Officer, Mr Fernando Sengebau are working with national Heads of Quarantine to conduct quarantine training with their respective delegates. The awareness training with delegates will focus on two issues: quarantine risks associated with large numbers of people arriving in Palau, and quarantine risks posed by returning residents to their home country. The regional campaign is an activity promoted and funded by the Pacific Plant Protection Organisation (PPO) whose Secretariat is based at PPS. Funding for PPPO is sourced from the EU.

The aim of the regional campaign is to use major events attracting large crowds of Pacific islands to conduct awareness training on biosecurity and quarantine. The South Pacific Games last year provided another opportunity for quarantine awareness to thousands of Pacific islanders. There have been no major pest incursions in the Pacific islands in recent years.

Resources produced and distributed for quarantine awareness included a poster, video and a general quarantine brochure.

If you would like more information on quarantine issues for this major Pacific event please contact: Fernando Sengebau, ffms@palaunet.com; Konrad Englberger, ppmicronesiaAmail.fm; Sidney Suma, SidneyS@spc.int; Emil Adams, EmilA@spc.int

4. *PLD to go Region-wide*

A regional model of the Pest List Database, combining pest occurrence records from 12 Pacific Island countries and territories, will be available online before the end of the year.

Each of the 12 PICTs has a national model of the Pest List Database, containing records of pest-host occurrences within that country only. The number of records for each country depends on the extent of survey work carried out and available references. The PNG PLD currently holds over 12,000 records, while the smaller territories such as Wallis and Futuna currently register just over 3,000 occurrences.

The regional model will provide a framework for combining this data into one database, enlarging the scope for integrating and sharing information. One of the features of the regional model will be a facility allowing the comparison of different countries' pest lists for specific crops. The regional PLD will also include a mapping facility to show the distribution of key economic pests and diseases throughout the Pacific.

The 12 countries' records have already been provisionally collated at SPC Plant Protection Service, and the Information team has begun generating draft regional pest lists for certain key crops. The focus now is to further develop the framework within which participating countries can generate this type of information for themselves on the Internet.

The regional PLD will be made available on CD-ROM for countries without economic Internet access. The regional PLD have restrictive access to collaborating countries that already have national PLDs. PICTs that have requested national implementation of the PLD within the next few months include FSM, Palau, Tokelau and Kiribati. For more information on PLD work please contact Richard Vernon RichardV@spc.int, Makelesi Kora-Gonelevu MakekesiK@spc.int and Sarah Pene SaraP@spc.int.

5. *CD-ROM on PPS updated and distributed every 6-months*

Many PICT plant protection and quarantine staff do not have ready access to Internet connectivity, therefore, twice a year a CD containing the entire SPC PPS Internet site is distributed to our clients. The CD contains useful information such as publications like Pest Advisory Leaflets, Pest Alerts, Pacific Pest Info electronic newsletter, press releases, and much more.

Agricultural workers in remote outer islands are especially targeted to improve access to information. Divisional heads at agricultural headquarters are requested to provide PPS with names and postal addresses of their colleagues in remote locations such as in the outer islands or isolated research stations to receive the CD. Information workers including librarians, Agricultural Liaison Officers, rural radio programme officers, extension and information officers are welcomed to submit their names to receive the CD.

Currently, 45 copies of the PPS Website CD go out to the Pacific region. If you would like to receive a copy of the CD contact us via email: MakelesiK@spc.int or by fax number (679) 3370021.

6. Promoting bio-control as best practice

PPS work activities in plant protection emphasise the use of biological control over chemical pesticides in managing pests. In a recent visit to New Caledonia, PPS Entomologist Mr Sada N Lal discussed the use of biological control with his counterpart at the Caledonia Institute of Agronomy Mr Christian Mille and Laurent Desvals head of the St Louis market gardening. Commercial agriculture in New Caledonia focuses on market gardening and food crops. Two insect pests that are considered for bio-control are the cabbage caterpillar and the taro beetle.

Sada visited several farms along the eastern coast of the main island and observed that for some farms the taro beetle is a real concern, and for others it is not. He, however, emphasised the need to monitor the pest as it also attacks other crops such as yam and sweet potato.

A visit to some private gardens highlighted the problem with fruit flies. This is Mr Mille's area of interest particularly the parasitoids, the natural enemies of fruit flies. He plans a visit to SPC to get further training on rearing parasitoids. Pest management work for New Caledonia is funded by EU under the Plant Protection in the Pacific (PPP) project, based at PPS.

7. Niue Quarantine refresher training

PPS Fruit fly Technician Mr Nacanieli Waqa travelled to Niue 17 – 21 May 2004 in response to a request from Niue Quarantine for refresher training on quarantine operations especially for new recruits. Areas covered in the training included boarder control management strategies, quarantine surveillance, airport operations and aircraft clearance procedures, overseas mail clearance, wharf operations and detail ship clearance. It was emphasised to quarantine management of the need to adopt a sound work programme so junior officers are aware of activities when conducting quarantine operations. The importance of a quarantine presence along with customs personnel during mail clearance at the Post Office was emphasised. The Forestry Unit is conducting awareness programmes to schools and communities and presents a good opportunity for quarantine to carry out some quarantine awareness. There is a need for an-going awareness campaign on quarantine issues to Niue residents returning from New Zealand.

8. Samoa exports papaya to NZ

Samoa joins Cook Islands and Fiji as the three PICT countries exporting papaya to New Zealand. Two shipments of 30-40 cases each were exported in June from Samoa.

Exports of papaya to New Zealand were allowed through the use of the High Temperature Forced Air (HTFA) treatment required by New Zealand. Many years of research conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture has resulted in acceptable quarantine measures for export fruit.

Quarantine staff headed by Asuao Kirifi Pouono and Tofa Eteuati worked together with research and extension staff Laisene Samuolu, and Emele Meleisea-Ainuu and the rest of the workers at Atele Fruit Tree Research Station to get the shipments ready.

Breadfruit is next on the list of potential export commodity earmarked for New Zealand and undergoing tests using the HTFA treatment plant.

9. Agricultural science for South Pacific Form Seven Certificate

Senior agricultural science educators from Tonga, Vanuatu, Samoa and Solomon Islands were invited to SPC to help develop the agricultural science prescription for the South Pacific Form Seven. The agricultural science course is designed for students who wish to pursue further studies or for those completing Form Seven studies.

The four-day workshop, 21-24 June, saw input from SPC coordinated by Mr Salend Kumar and Lamalu Lafi Sanerivi of the South Pacific Board of Education Assessment (SPBEA).

Agriculture is identified as one of the subjects to be made available to schools in 2005 and will effectively provide students with a broader range of subjects prior to tertiary level.

The Agriculture Prescription is divided into five areas: 1) Primary production, 2) Sustainable primary production, 3) Production management, 4) Practical investigation, and 5) Case Study.

According to Mr Kumar, the focus is to develop new areas that are relevant to the Pacific Islands and strengthening agriculture will help students understand the relationship between modern farming and traditional technologies.

10. WTO Distance Education Gateway

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) offers a number of interactive training modules relating to WTO subjects. Developed by WTO specialists, each training module offers users the possibility of taking the course over a number of sessions allowing a student to measure individual progress in learning the content. The introductory interactive courses include:

- a. General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS)
- b. Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)
- c. SPS Handbook: how to apply the transparency provisions of the SPS Agreement

Detailed information is available on the WTO website: http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/d_learn_e.htm.

11. New Version of the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation

A new version of the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) has been produced by the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention, FAO in November 2003. The New Zealand Government under its Overseas Development Assistance program funded the initial development of the PCE as a web version. At the 4th ICPM meeting, PCE was adopted as the preferred tool to perform phytosanitary needs assessment with a CD Rom version commissioned for distribution to member countries.

The primary function of the PCE is to assist countries to undertake a needs assessment of the phytosanitary system of the National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO) and serving as a diagnostic tool to gauge capacity gaps or deficiency between the current situation and what is needed to meet the requirements of international standards.

It is a questionnaire, which requires a basic level of understanding of some of the supporting documents such as the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), the ISPMs, the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Cartagena Protocol. These documents are all contained in the PCE CD-ROM under the section called "Background documents".

PCE has a section in it for listing identified strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT analysis) in each component and a section with a Logical Frame Matrix (Log frame Matrix) to assist with actions to be taken to strengthen the NPPO to meet the required standard(s).

PCE can be downloaded from the given link: <http://www.ippc.int/IPPPce.zip> (Warning: the file size is 26 MB)

12. Completed PPS activities in PICTs

<i>PPS Staff</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>PICT Activity</i>
Sarah Pene	29 May – 5 June	New Caledonia: PLD Update
Bal S Narayan	24 May – 4 June	Tokelau: coconut flat moth biocontrol
Sada N Lal	8-15 June	Tonga: entomology work follow-up
Emil Adams	14-18 June	Samoa: developing extension materials workshop
Salend Kumar	21-24 June	Fiji: Form 7 Agricultural Science Prescription Workshop
Konrad Englberger	20 – 25 June	Chuuk: quarantine training
Sada N Lal	26 June – 3 July	New Caledonia: TBM, cabbage pests

13. PPS staff travel calendar

Dates	Country	Staff	Activity
1-7 July	Wellington, NZ	Sidney Suma	FAO Meeting
12-17 July	Samoa	Makelesi Kora-Gonelevu Sarah Pene	PLD refresher
4-14 July	Cook Islands	Richard Davis	Studies to confirm presence of PRSV
17-26 July	Palau	Konrad Englberger	Assist with quarantine training to prepare for delegates arriving for the Festival of Pacific Arts
21-22 July	Tonga	Sada N Lal	Cabbage pests bio-control at Vaini
21-26 July	Samoa	Sada N Lal	Cabbage pest bio-control, rhino beetle
26-30 July	Niue	Sada N Lal	Cabbage pests, IPM and fruit fly work
26 July – 6 August	Samoa	Richard Davis Takaniko Ruabete	Disease surveys
26 July – 6 August	Samoa	Warea Orapa	Weed surveys

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