



FAAILOA



"...enhancing partnerships to develop and sustain agriculture and fisheries..."

Faailoa Newsletter for March 2019

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Community Awareness Program of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) For Safaatoa Village-Lefaga

06 March 2019



Introduction

The main aim of this workshop is to enhance the knowledge and understanding of our farmers in detecting the presence of rhinoceros beetle in their farms and how to properly treat or get rid of it. The government through the Ministry of Agriculture has been working collaboratively with villages and farmers who have been identified to have battled with the pest. The Ministry also appreciate the continuous coordination of relevant Ministries in its effort to address this issue that has been harming the agricultural productivity of coconut across the

country. There is also an ongoing effort by the government and farmers to revive the supply of coconut through replanting of the coconut tree; however it is crucial that the farmers are aware of mechanisms to detect and to get rid of the rhinoceros beetle to decrease its impacts on our agricultural productivity of coconuts.

Objectives:

The objective of this awareness Program is to build the capacity of farmers in the village communities to be aware and understand on how to control and minimize the effect of coconut industry by CRB pest.

Contents of the Workshop

Rhino Beetle presentation – identification, life cycle effect on coconut, control measures. Replanting program of coconut. MAF Crops collaboration work with village community to control CRB Field collection of larvae, adult of RB Identification of breeding sites, implementation of log traps, PVC traps and application of bio control. Way forward and monitoring of field collection carry out by the village in a month

Fruits and Vegetables Consultation for farmers to cater for the Pacific Games 2019

19th March 2019

Crops Division Station, Nu'u

There are more than 5,000 people including athletes expected to participate in the upcoming Pacific Games in July this year and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and some private sectors are already on the move to prepare our farmers to cater for this event. Guided by the Steering committee specifically for preparing the vegetable and fruits needs of the Games, a consultation was called for farmers from around Upolu and Savaii to consult and reflect on ways and ideas to further enhance preparations.

The consultation took place at Nu'u Crops Station and was chaired by Moafanua Tolo Iosefa and Samoa Farmers Association secretary Leaupepe Lasa Aiono.

“We can cater for these needs!” Leaupepe Lasa reassured the farmers that participated to the consultation. Leaupepe is a member of the steering committee and she shared that every produce by the farmers will be graded and only the high quality vegetables and fruits will be accepted, while the rest will be rejected. “The government is assisting the farmers through the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries by supplying free seeds for our farmers specifically for our Pacific Games ”, stated Moafanua Tolo Iosefa; Assistant Chief Executive Officer for Crops Division Nu'u. Leaupepe also encouraged the farmers to focus their energies on planting at least three or four main vegetables that grow well on their land and that they can monitor effectively because we are looking at the quality of our produce and not the number of our produce.

The distribution of seeds started yesterday; 19th March and will continue until all the registered farmers are covered. For more information on this initiative please contact MAF Crops Division Nu'u.





Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries

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Quarantine-Matautu: 20924

