



FAAILOA



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

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"Protect Samoa from Emerging Biosecurity Risks", Samoa Quarantine



Quarantine staff participated to ensure Samoa is detected from harmful diseases

The devastating effect of COVID 19 on human health in other parts of the world is the perfect example to demonstrate what needs to stop these dangerous diseases from entering our beautiful country Samoa.

Quarantine Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries conducted a 3-day training on staff enhancement to improve and provide quality service to the industry and to protect Samoa from emerging biosecurity risks at the Taumeasina Island Resort from 9th - 11th September 2021.

Protecting Samoa from these has always been one of the key priorities of the MAF Quarantine Division.

Biosecurity is a critical measure for any government to prevent, respond to and recover from pests and diseases that threaten the economy and environment. This facing challenge is not limited to people. It includes stopping harmful pests and diseases that affect not only people but also all other animals and plants that we depend on not only for food and income but to safeguard our precious and pristine environment.

Therefore it is important to adapt and improve the effectiveness of our Biosecurity services to protect our environment and keep out

diseases that could devastate our crops, live-stock industry and human health.

Diseases such as African Swine Fever (ASF), Highly Pathogenic Influenza Virus (HPAI) and others are always threatening to enter Samoa's borders.

The increase in trade in terms of exports and imports and money earned from tourism are promoted for the benefit of Samoa's economy but they bring challenges to Biosecurity Officers and underscores the need for them to effectively and efficiently respond against the introduction of exotic pests and diseases, such as when undertaking mandatory inspections.

MAF Quarantine needs to empower and equip its staff with skills and knowledge through refresher trainings and drills so as to build their confidence to deal with any related emergency in the future that includes a pest or disease outbreak within Samoa.

Samoa MAF is dedicated to continuing the work in improving the biosecurity system, building awareness and strengthening partnerships with SPC and relevant stakeholders to help protect against threats.

Therefore, the Ministry would like to acknowledge the continuous assistance and collaborations from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community of the Land Resource Division, European Union and the facilitators from the Australia DAWE, PHAMA Plus and NZ VSA MPI for sharing your expertise, providing technical advice and successfully executing this very important training for Biosecurity staff.

Fisheries turning into adapting a commercial venture for the communities



The explosion of COVID19 epidemic have depicted new challenges to keep food chain supply adequate and diversify as an income generation avenue to help with the climate change effects.

Twenty villages, 10 on each island, Upolu and Savaii, will be used as pilot sites to start off the Seaweed Project, under the overarching COVID-19 Preparedness and Recovery: Diversification of the Economic Sector in Samoa (CPRDESS) Project, which aims to create business opportunities and income-generating activities for the community.

Funded by the Government of Japan, this particular portion focusing on the production and expansion of limu, is worth about USD 320,000. It is being implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF).

“This project takes a multi-faceted approach. So the limu or Sea grapes, is the First commodities that has been recommended as an adaptive mechanism for continuous supply of seafood in the face of climate change. It is one commodity that can continuously be cultured so that we can have a constant supply of seafood,” said Magele Etuati Ropeti, Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Fisheries Division, MAF. “

Secondly he added, in this day and age of COVID-19, this is a project that focuses on the economic side, especially for families to engage themselves in culturing the limu and harvesting it themselves. So it can be a source of income generating activity not only for the community at the village level but we envisage to also involve households as well, whoever is interested in this.”

The expansion of limu is targeted as a niche commodity with income-generating potential to accelerate COVID-19 socio-economic recovery across coastal villages on the two main islands. The Limu Project seeks to expand production in existing sites whilst also identifying additional sites for limu harvesting. In terms of production, the project contributes to the expansion and construction of hatchery facilities to accommodate

for the production of cultured biomass for distribution at the MAF Marine Mariculture Centre at Toloa.

The limu to be cultured is sourced from villages like Faga that are rich in this resource and that harvest it regularly. This means the money stays in the village and directly impacts the livelihoods of local communities. “This activity seeks to strengthen the capacity at community level for sustainable and sustained production of limu to meet local demand as a key result.

The inception workshop for the Limu Project was held earlier this week in Savaii and involved representatives from the 10 villages that the project will be implemented in.

One participant acknowledges his appreciation to the Government of Samoa and Japan, UNDP especially MAF Fisheries Division for bringing such potential project into their village—youth and women especially to viably complemented the Limu farming as not just for consumption but work towards other health benefits and also an income generating commodity for all.



Sea grapes (Caulerpa racemosa), or limu, are a favourite local delicacy that have been enjoyed by many throughout the generations. It's a type of edible seaweed that generally grows in shallow water and clear, reef environments and is rich in iron and potassium. It has multiple health benefits both as a food and medical item, but also for cosmetics.

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