



QUARANTINE
Protecting Samoa's Natural Heritage
Puipui Samoa

E-Newsletter

Information from the Samoa quarantine service

June 2008.

Sharing information , a vital tool in Quarantine Work

1. Tomatoes and Capsicum from New Zealand

Samoa Quarantine service has recently received correspondence from New Zealand concerning a detection of a bacterium in phloem tissue of hothouse tomato and capsicum. The organism has been identified as a previously undescribed species that belongs to the genus *Candidatus Liberibacter*. MAF Biosecurity New Zealand from the 4th of June 2008 have ceased issuing Phytosanitary certificates for the exportation of these produce.

Priority now for MAF Biosecurity team are, undertaking further surveillance and research activities on the matter and keeping us updated. SQS have responded well by disseminating the information to the stakeholders whereby "the importation of the above mentioned produce will be subjected to stringent Quarantine inspection. Non compliance consignment will be seized for destruction or further action by the office".



Farmers selling their produce at the market

1.2 Pineapple PRA

Samoa Quarantine was invited by the Nu'u Division for a presentation on the role of Quarantine with market access for pineapples for the farmers who were interested in the production of pineapples. Some farmers expressed interest in marketing pineapple to NZ while others wanted clarifications on procedures involved in the export of agricultural commodities. It was also an opportunity for other farmers to know for the first time that produce like coconuts and cocoa can be exported to NZ, USA and Alaska to name a few.

1.3 Independence day Awareness

While most of Samoa were enjoying the 46th independent celebration and relaxing on this public holiday, a group of young and eager youths spared their time to listen to the Quarantine awareness programme. It was a good opportunity for these teenagers to learn about the roles and core functions of quarantine as they prepare themselves for their church's youth conference overseas. SQS believes that in this manner we are proud to share this quarantine message to family, friends and country in working together as a team for the benefit and safety of our country.



Some of the participants who will be taking part in the Catholic World Youth Day

Pesticides Corner



Some Unregistered pesticides confiscated at the border

One major important role of the Pesticides Section of Samoa Quarantine Service (SQS) is to ensure that all pesticides imported into the country are monitored and registered. Any pesticides or insecticides cannot be brought in the country unless it has been registered. Under the Pesticides Regulation 1990 Quarantine inspectors have the power to remove any unregistered pesticides or insecticides found in any shop. Samoa Quarantine Service advice that you seek information from the Registrar of Pesticides on the third floor of the Accident Compensation Corporation building prior to importation of such items to avoid confiscation and other mishaps.

Ongoing awareness programmes are done especially for the farmers and the secondary schools upon request. This is done in order for the general public's information on certain pesticides that are allowed into the country and also the safety use of such chemicals.