

Talomua Programme

The Ministry of Agriculture for the first time hosted this programme replacing the Agro show held after every two years. This showcases the harvest of different varieties of root crops, fruits and vegetables. Traditionally, Talomua is a celebration of the first harvest presented to the high-ranking chiefs of the villages. Economic wise it is to promote the decentralisation of the economy at this grassroots level through farming. Paramount in all this is the Food security which according to the minister of Agriculture and Fisheries is “*encouraging the people to farm and ensure that there is ample food availability at all times especially in times of natural disasters like tropical cyclones*”.

The Talomua programme produces a big challenge both for the farmers and the organising committee as it looks forward to making this a nationwide activity. In the near future it hopes to cover all of Samoa but not just certain districts of the Island.



Farmers in Savaii display their produce

New Import Permits

Import Permits have been developed for the following request

- Soil sample(s) from Fiji
- Plant Material(s) from Fiji
- Nursery Stock (Seedlings Only) from Queensland, Australia
- Frozen Root Tubers and Corm Products from all Countries
- Raw Peanuts From New Zealand

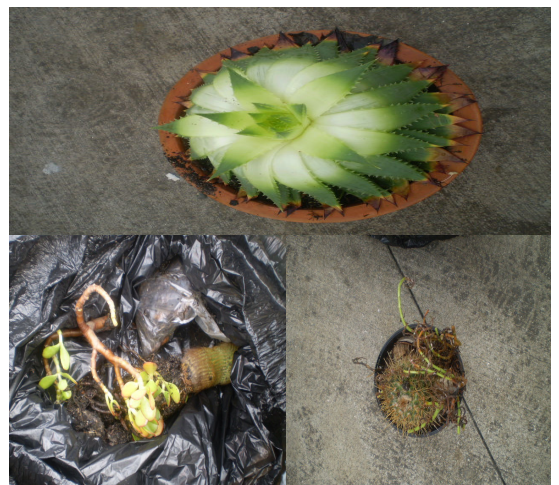
Dealing with Imports Externalities

“*With time people can become complacent and tend to overlook proper import procedures*”. The watchful and keen eyes of our inspectors at the border discovered this situation, where several importers did not comply with Samoa import requirements in the importation of Nursery stock. The case mentioned is not something new, we are continually inspecting all consignments at the border and clamping down on the offenders.

Certainly, it is a reminder to the importers in the preparation of Nursery

stock prior to exporting to Samoa. These Nursery stock are to be treated, otherwise they are potential avenue for pests and diseases such as the orchid cane weevil and palm yellowing diseases which are a threat to our pristine flora.

An **Import permit** issued from our main office + **Phytosanitary Certificate** from the country of origin + **Declaration** is the basic equation when importing nursery stock. It is a reminder to our importers again, to please be aware of the risk and let's keep it offshore.



Nursery Stock confiscated at Apia wharf