

## QEAC meets Again

Quarantine Export and Advisory committee met at the end of the month . The committee looks at issues in improving the quarantine service.

The implications of re-opening Fagalii airport /Aleipata wharf was one of the main components of the meeting. Reopening these two ports of entry will have a huge impact on SQS such as the need for more personnel, treatment facilities and proper inspection amenities (pest proof area) to name a few. Also important was the



PEST(EQ3)report from MAFBNZ.

MAFBNZ launched this programme in 2006 for sea containers hygiene to reduce the contamination and remove serious invasives(ants,giant African snail). This program will benefit both the stakeholders with lesser costs involved and the SQS in enforcement of its Biosecurity Act 2005 in its daily operations such as in Section 44 which allows for appropriate facilities for quarantine inspections activities and also overall in safe trading facilitation.



### Promoting Organic Farming

Women in business development are currently working towards facilitating a regular export of organic lady finger bananas (misiluki) to New Zealand. Exporting organic bananas to NZ provides an opportunity for the local farmers to market this product which has almost no economic value in Samoa. SQS supported two of their trials in washing and packing these organic bananas to meet NZ biosecurity requirements. The feedback from MAFBNZ has advised that in the future "thorough washing may be sufficient treatment for the bananas to pass biosecurity standards".



### Staff Corner



SQS congratulates Mr Vesi Ioane . He is now appointed as a Senior Quarantine Officer and now leading the Seaport Border team. Mr Ioane is one of our most experienced officers working with Quarantine since acquiring his degree from USP school of agriculture Alafua campus.

All the best Vesi



Quarantine welcomes Miss Fiapaipai Too who is now appointed as a Quarantine Assistant. Miss Too is a grandate from the University of Agriculture, Alafua. She worked as a teacher before joining the Quarantine Division.

Enjoy and Good luck

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