

# Country Report - Kingdom of Tonga

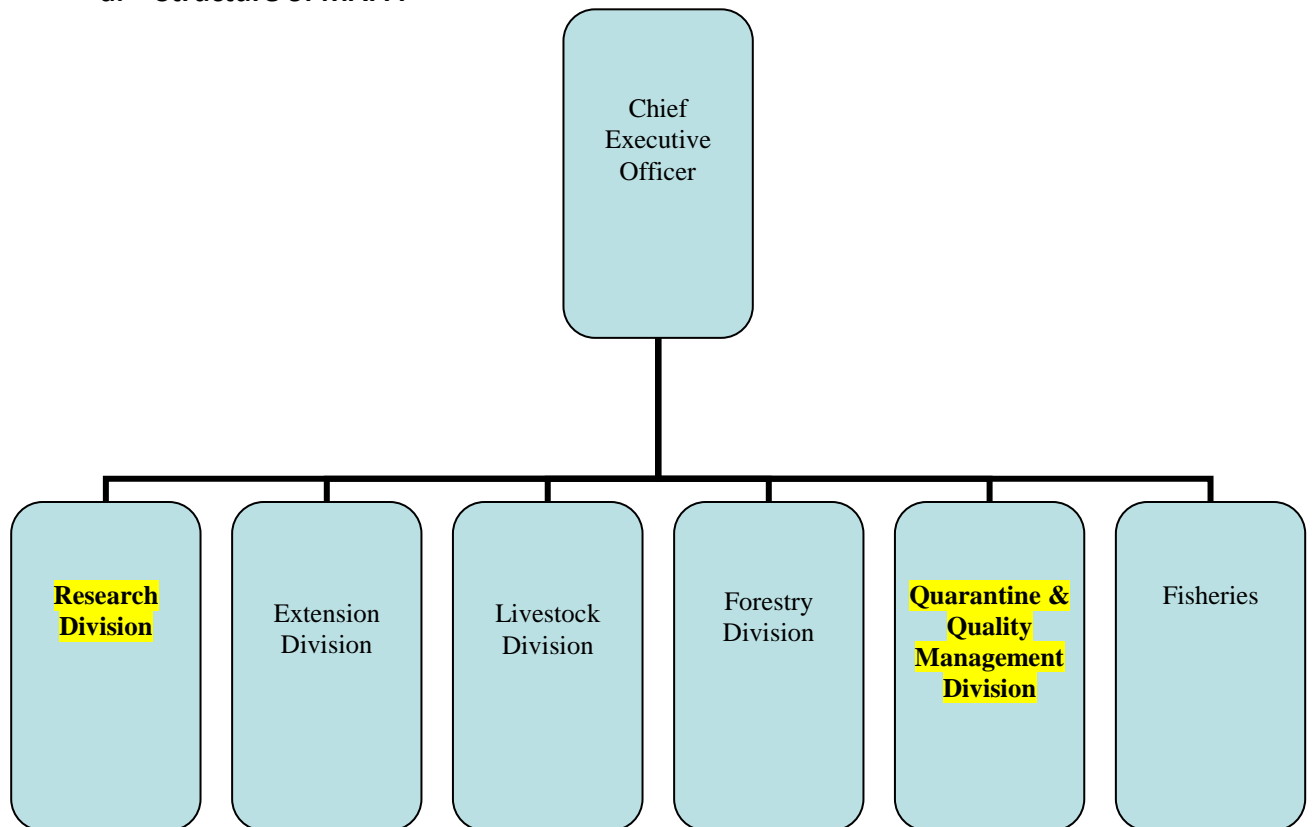
## I. Executive Summary

Agriculture in Tonga contributes approximately 12-13% to the GDP and is the largest means of employment in the country as the majority of families rely on their small farms for source of nutrition and revenue. Agricultural exports have been increasing since 2013 with more commodities destined for formal markets in New Zealand and Australia.

## II. NPPO - Tonga

The NPPO is the ministry of Agriculture, Food, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFFF). The official IPPC contact point is the Head of Quarantine and Quality Management Division, Viliami Kami.

### a. Structure of MAFFF



### III. Trade facilitation – Phytosanitary matters

#### a. Major Crops for Export

Kabocha squash (*Cucurbita maxima*) remains Tongas no 1 export with Japan and Korea being the major markets. Root crops such as Taro (*Colocasia esculenta*), Yams (*Discorea esculenta* and *Discorea rotundata*), Kava (*Piper methysticum*), Giant Taro (*Alocasia macorrhiza*), Cassava (*Manihot esculenta*), Sweet PotatWatermelon, are exported to New Zealand, Australia and the United States of America. New Markets are emerging in Samoa and American Samoa with an intent to extend to other islands.

#### b. Bilateral Agreements

BQAs exist between Tonga and New Zealand, Samoa and Fiji. The agreements need to be reviewed due to the many changes that have taken place since original signing. Bilateral technical discussions are conducted annually between Tonga, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, and Samoa.

#### c. Phytosanitary certification

Phytosanitary certification is limited to hard copies only but is compliant with annex 1 of ISPM 12. There is a definite interest in the ephyto and thus the reason for Tongas participation at this workshop so as to learn all about the electronic phytosanitary certification and the benefits of such a system for small island countries. The workshop will allow Tonga to make a decision based on the information provided.

### IV. Surveillance, Pest Outbreaks and Invasive Species Management

- a. Currently working on Biosecurity Bill for submission in 2015
- b. Have not been able to conduct pest surveillance due to lack of funding
- c. No reported pest outbreaks in 2013-2014
- d. No new introduction/ incursion of exotic pests

### V. Pest Management

- a. GAP has not been formally introduced into Tonga.
- b. There have not been any major pest outbreaks from 2011 onwards.

### VI. Pesticide Registration

- a. Legislation for pesticides use and safety remain the same as for 2011.
- b. Importers of Pesticides must apply for import permit which is issued by Pesticide Registrar
- c. Pesticide Act 2002

## 1. APPENDIX

Pest list for Tonga – [www.spc.int/pld](http://www.spc.int/pld)  
quarantine website - <http://www.quarantine.gov.to/>