

September 2015



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

Organisation
des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

ASIA AND PACIFIC PLANT PROTECTION COMMISSION

TWENTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE ASIA AND PACIFIC PLANT
PROTECTION COMMISSION (APPPC)

Bali, Republic of Indonesia, 7 - 11 September 2015

AGENDA NO. 3

Country report

Samoa



Country Report - Samoa

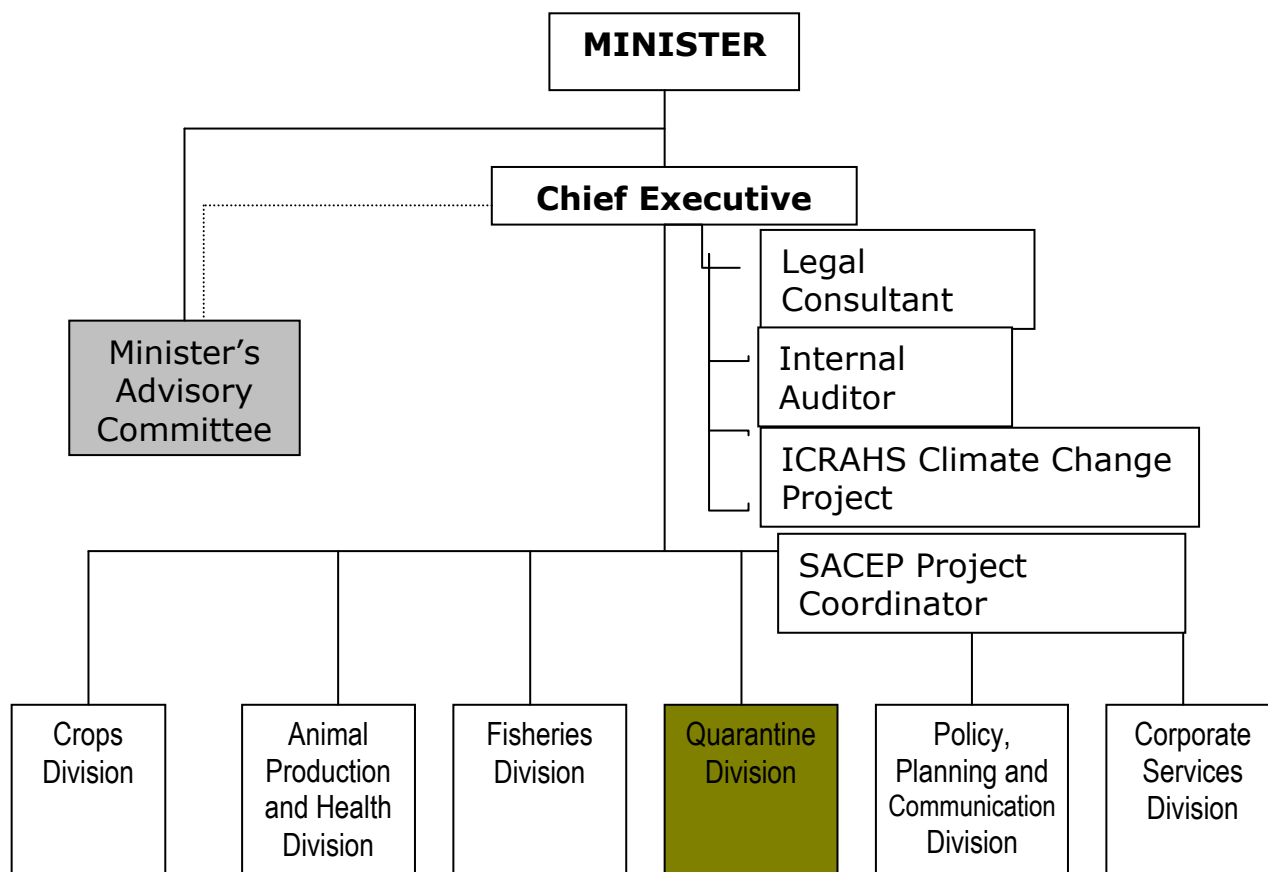
Executive summary

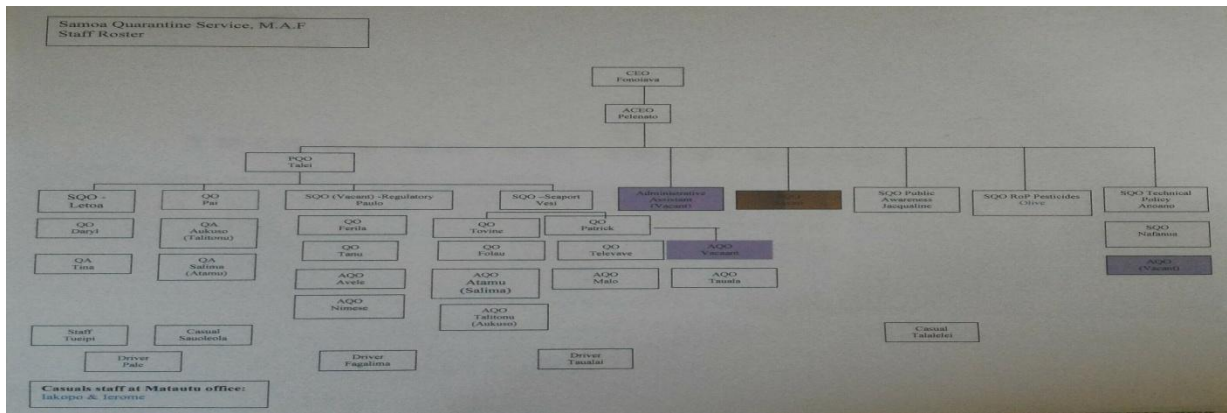
There have been a few improvements to the Quarantine Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Samoa. The Quarantine Act and the Emergency Response Plan are being revised. There has been an improvement in facilities. And there is a steady monitoring of pests and pesticides.

0. General Information

Update information on the general organization of plant protection structure and functions

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES





Functions of the Quarantine Division:

- Border Control & Inspectorate
 - Prevention of Exotic Pest Introduction
 - Facilitation of Pest Free Exports
- Regulatory & Enforcement
 - Implementation of Laws and Regulations
 - Implementation of Bilateral Agreements

Role of the national plant protection organization for the implementation of WTO-SPS Agreement and in the implementation of international pesticide conventions

To prevent the introduction and spread of unwanted pests, whilst facilitating the import and export of quarantine commodities, in compliance with all existing agreements and international obligations. To regulate and monitor the import and use of pesticides.

General review of progress. Phytosanitary Matters (Plant Quarantine)

Review of Quarantine (Biosecurity) Act 2005

An initial draft Export Control Bill was developed in 2002 and since then has been on the shelf resulting in the requirements for trade export not being implemented and enforced. This Bill was supposed to be enacted simultaneously with the Quarantine (Biosecurity) Act 2005 so that both import and export requirements for trade, as well as the WTO requirements pertaining to the Sanitary and Phyto Sanitary Agreement were catered for. The Ministry of Agriculture's Quarantine Division has been allocated funding by the Food Agriculture Organization under its Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) Assistance to revise the Bio-security Act 2005.

Review of Emergency Response Plan (ERP) for Animal and Plant Pests 2003

Invasive Alien Species (IAS) is a major threat to the marine, freshwater and terrestrial biodiversity of the Pacific islands and to the people that depend on biodiversity for their livelihoods. Invasive species are responsible for the decline of hundreds of marine, freshwater and terrestrial species in the region. The Global Environment Facility – Pacific Alliance for Sustainability (GEF – PAS) IAS project funded by the United Nations Environment Program and executed by SPREP was set

up in 2011 to implement the regional IAS strategy, the *Guideline for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific*. The Samoa National Invasive Technical Team (SNITT) decided to engage a Consultant to develop and produce a single updated Emergency Response Plan agreed by all relevant stakeholders for Samoa.

The Samoa Invasive Species Emergency Response Plan (SISERP) defines the processes that need to be followed should there be a detection of a new harmful invasive species or “pest” in Samoa and is an update of the “Emergency Response Plan (ERP) for Animal and Plant Pests” (MAF 2003). The current SISERP has been revised from the earlier ERP to take into account and be compatible with the many institutional and legislative changes in Samoa since 2003 including the passage of the “Quarantine (Biosecurity Act) 2005”, the “Disaster and Emergency Management Act 2007”, the National Disaster Management Plan (Government of Samoa 2006 and 2011) and the National Invasive Species Action Plan (Government of Samoa 2008) as well as the formation of the Samoa National Invasive Task Team (SNITT) and its constituent partners in coordinating invasive species responses in Samoa. We attach the draft SISERP for your perusal.

The SISERP is a collaborative project between the MNRE and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF).

The final SISERP document has yet to be officially endorsed.

Facilities:

X-ray machine:

The one and only x-ray machine at the Faleolo International Airport broke down and could no longer be maintained after approximately 10 years of usage. After approval by cabinet 3 new x-ray machines were procured from Australia. Following 7 months without an x-ray machine 2 new machines were installed at the Faleolo International Airport while one was installed at the Fagalii Airport. The installation of the 3 new x-ray machines greatly assisted with the clearance of passengers and luggage during the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Conference held in Apia in September 2014.

Establishment of a methyl bromide fumigation chamber:

In November 2014, the Quarantine division received a new containerized fumigation chamber. The facility has been operational for 8 months to date. Procurement of this facility was made possible under the Pacific Horticulture and Agriculture Market Access (PHAMA) Programme.

The request by the Quarantine division for AFAS accreditation is under consideration by PHAMA for 2015 pending availability of funds and service provider.

In 2012 5 quarantine staff members underwent fumigation training in Fiji.

Construction of a new Post Entry Quarantine (PEQ) Facility:

The construction of new PEQ was made possible via World Bank funding under the Samoa Agriculture Competitiveness Enhancement Project (SACEP).

Cooperation projects

The “Enhancement of Biosecurity and Quarantine Services in the Pacific Countries” project funded by the New Zealand Aid Programme, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand. The project was managed by the Plant Health and Environment Laboratory (PHEL), Investigation and Diagnostics Centres (IDC), a division of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), New Zealand.

This project enabled some quarantine officials to undergo basic pest diagnostics training. Additionally, 3 quarantine staff members were fortunate to undergo further 2 weeks of attachment work at PHEL in New Zealand.

Some of the equipments provided by the project included:

- 2 Nikon SMZ 745 stereo Microscopes
- 1 Nikon compound microscope 55i
- Reference Text Books
- Laboratory supplies
- Insects’ curation boxes etc.

Interception of quarantine pests

A database is in place for intercepted pests.

Progress of implementation of ISPMs/RSPMs

The various ISPMs are currently being implemented in country. Guidelines for Surveillance are being implemented by our Crops division as they conduct their procedural pest surveillance.

The Quarantine division continues to issue Phytosanitary certificates for exported consignments that have been inspected and found to be free of pests & diseases.

A systems approach is usually designed as an option that is equivalent to but less restrictive than other measures. This standard is being used as a guideline market access.

The regulation of wood packaging is a standard that is implemented by the Quarantine division. Wood materials that of a questionable nature or are not in compliance with quarantine regulations are subjected to treatment, destruction or reshipment.

Other: Use of International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) and/or APPPC website for information exchange, setting up national phytosanitary information website; other forms of distribution for the information.

We currently have a country administrator for the updating of information on the IPP. Unfortunately we have had issues with logging in which has led to years of information not being updated onto the website.

Other forms of distribution of information include newspaper articles, poster display units, e-newsletters, TV advertisements, magazine articles, distribution of pamphlets to schools and the community during various booth displays.

Phytosanitary capacity development; training on phytosanitary capacity development (i.e. capacity in surveillance and diagnostics, system approaches, PRA, etc.)

The “Enhancement of Biosecurity and Quarantine Services in the Pacific Countries” project funded by the New Zealand Aid Programme, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand .The project was managed by the Plant Health and Environment Laboratory (PHEL), Investigation and Diagnostics Centres (IDC), a division of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), New Zealand.

This project enabled some quarantine officials to undergo basic pest diagnostics training. Additionally, 3 quarantine staff members were fortunate to undergo further 2 weeks of attachment work at PHEL in New Zealand.

Staff has also been involved in PRA training. More “train-the-trainer” type PRA training is required.

There has also been training for staff on the safe use of methyl bromide application. The request by the Quarantine division for AFAS accreditation is under consideration by PHAMA for 2015 pending availability of funds and service provider.

Surveillance, Pest Outbreaks and Invasive Species Management

Pest surveillance activities

-Fruit fly surveillance

The Quarantine service in collaboration with the Crops division, carry out monthly surveillance for exotic fruit flies. Over 60 lure traps are strategically positioned on the two main islands. No new fruit fly pest has been identified from the past 20 years. Samoa has 7 fruit fly species, with two economically important. *Bactrocera kirki* and *B. xanthodes*

- Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle surveillance

When funding is available, delimiting surveys are carried out to determine the reduction in pest occurrence across the different islands.

Pest Management

The Coconut industry is threatened by the coconut rhinoceros beetle. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries continue to carry out several control measures to make sure the beetle populations remain below the threshold level. Biological control measures using the fungus and virus are applied in the villages on a monthly basis. Physical and cultural controls are encouraged at the community level.

Pesticide Management

Changes/improvements in national strategy, organization, legislation, regulations and registrations since 2013

Still remains the same. Pesticide Regulations 2011 succeeds Regulations 1990. Pesticide registration process remains the same. The Pesticide Technical Committee meets quarterly every year to discuss and review registration of new pesticide applications or re-registration of approved products after every 5 years. The FAO MEA involves 7 project countries including Samoa in the region towards harmonizing registration of Pesticides in the region.

National targets, efforts and progress with regard to pesticide risk reduction as well as phasing out highly hazardous pesticides

There are ongoing training and awareness programs with farmer groups on safe use and application of pesticides. encouragement in the use of PPE when applying pesticides in the field to reduce applicator exposure, storage of Pesticides and safe disposal of empty containers to avoid poisoning from re-use of containers for food/water storage.

Import Responses for pesticides included in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention are submitted to the secretariat. The ministry works in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment to implement the obligations of the convention.

Development and application status of bio-pesticides, including botanical pesticides

Samoa does not manufacture pesticides as it only imports. With recent promotion of IPM programs, applications for registration and re-registration of biological control have been received. Applications go through normal procedure and tabled in the quarterly meetings for their consideration.

Update list of banned/prohibited pesticides

Banned/ prohibited products are those not on the register of pesticides. Moreover those listed under BRS conventions.

Regulatory control scheme in place for pesticide advertisements and incidents, if any, of deviation from the national laws or related provisions of the International Code of Conduct on pesticides management

Regulatory control scheme in place for pesticide advertisements and incidents, if any, of deviation from the national laws or related provisions of the International Code of Conduct on pesticides management

As stipulated in the Regulations 2011, it is the responsibility of the pesticide committee to advertise and publicly advertise any new approved product on the local newspaper and other mass media. Changes in the pesticide labeling such as handling and precautionary measures and other particulars for the product are to be approved by the committee prior to change.

There are regular monitoring and spot check by the registrar of pesticides and quarantine inspectors for the distributors of pesticides to ensure that they are in line with the national regulations such as adequate space and storage facilities for pesticides. The ministry of Agriculture works collaboratively with other agencies such as the Ministry of Health and Environment in case of incidents such as poisoning from exposure to pesticides and or disposal of containers.

Status of management of obsolete pesticides

About 2 years ago there was a shipment containing the abovementioned. These obsolete products were from aid for the revival of agriculture after the tropical cyclones that struck the country in the early 90's. This was funded by the FAO MEA Project. No current obsolete products as importers bringing in consignments of unregistered products are reshipping at their own expense under supervision of registrar and quarantine inspectors. Otherwise the local distributors order the quantity and products needed from time to time.