



Farming information

Plant health clinics (Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga) – Pacific Community

Problem addressed

In Pacific Island countries, technical support services for farmers with pest and disease problems are weak; farmers are often left without advice and have to tackle pests and diseases as best they can. This can result in nothing being done, or farmers making the wrong choice of control measures. Making appropriate technical support available to farmers is challenging given the lack of communication technologies.



Solution

This initiative aims at improving plant health services to farmers. The vision is to create plant hospitals or Plant Health Clinics (PHC) to not only cater to farmer's needs, but also to enable extension and advisory services.

These plant health clinics are held regularly at farmer-friendly places, markets in particular, with farmers bringing samples to assist in problem identification.

Innovations and features

The PHC programme trains extension staff to identify pests and diseases and to give advice in a local context. Once trained, the staff are recognized as Plant Health Doctors.

This process provides a fast response to farmers' crop protection issues, providing accurate, up-to-date knowledge to farmers.

This project supports the development of functional linkages between agencies and organizations already involved in plant health such as research, extension, biosecurity, regulatory organizations, education and the private sector.



Evidence and viability

- 16 trainings conducted. More than 30 clinics conducted around Fiji with more than 600 farmers involved.
- Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga will integrate this initiative into their governmental plans.

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