



Farming information

Plant doctor (Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga)

Problem addressed

Farmers sometimes face considerable production losses due to pests and diseases. Treatment is possible if the pest and/or disease is properly identified. However, there is little information reaching the grassroots level, and the travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic have made information sharing even more difficult.



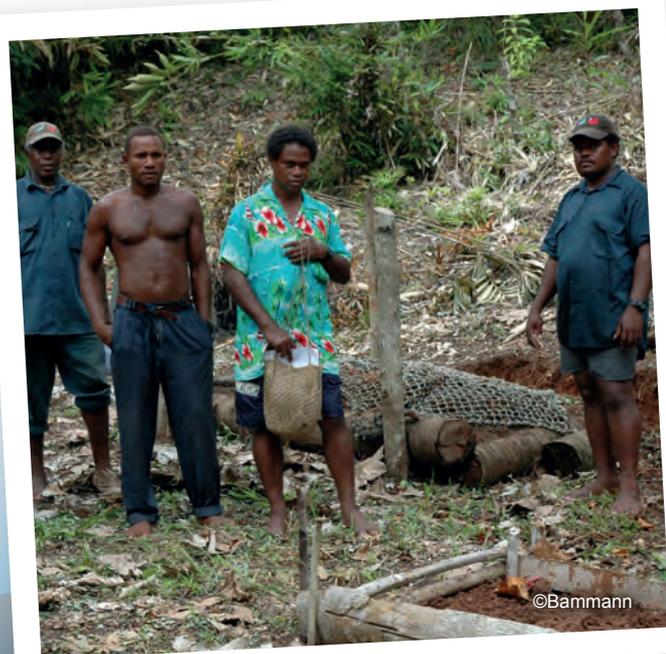
Solution

An E-platform links frontline workers in agriculture to experts and reliable resources from within the countries and worldwide through social networking to better serve farmers caring for their plants. The main vision is to adapt and capitalize on modern communication technology to improve the plant health advisory services around the Pacific Islands.



Innovations and features

Network members send a post with one or a few good quality pictures of a certain plant health problem displaying its different key aspects with a brief note that includes location, host, damage incidence (minor, moderate, or major), and a short description of symptoms. Experts use this information to arrive at a diagnosis and link it to an app for further reading and reference. This innovation updates the app with additional pictures and factsheets to build knowledge and spread information on pests and diseases, particularly in the Pacific Islands. All extension officers and biosecurity officers are included in the network, which includes outsiders, any of whom can help in identifying the pests and diseases.



Evidence and viability

- 100 members, 80 percent are extension officers from around Fiji.
- Technologies support and enhance the potential for intervention at scale.

Contact information:

FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
FAO-RAP@fao.org
<http://www.fao.org/asiapacific/en/>

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Bangkok, Thailand



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