

Enhancement of Biosecurity and Quarantine Services in Pacific Island Countries

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Enhancement of Biosecurity and Quarantine Services in Pacific Island Countries. Lalith Kumarasinghe, Disna Gunawardana and Sherly George Plant Health & Environment Laboratory, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, PO Box 2095, Auckland, 1140. E-mail: lalith.kumarasinghe@maf.govt.nz Keywords Biosecurity, quarantine, diagnostics, Pacific Island Countries, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, New Zealand AID Abstract In August 2010 MAF, along with Landcare Research, secured three years of funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's New Zealand AID programme. The funding supported a project to fortify the Biosecurity and Quarantine services in six Pacific Island Countries (PICs). The project focus is to build diagnostic capability to efficiently tackle biosecurity threats associated with production and export of key commercial agricultural crops. During 2011 basic taxonomic training was imparted to 41 biosecurity officers from different agencies in Samoa, Tonga and the Solomon Islands. The next set of training in 2012/13 will focus on biosecurity officers in Vanuatu, Fiji and Tuvalu. Development of a New Zealand Biosecurity section on the Pest and Disease Image Library (PaDIL: <http://www.padil.gov.au/maf-border/Search?queryType=all>) website was also accomplished under this project. The training programme and tools developed by MAF in this area of capability development will be discussed and presented.

