



Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access Program (PHAMA) Six Monthly Progress Report (Jan–Jun 2011)

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Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
ACIAR	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
AFAS	Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme
AO	Administrative Officer
APVMA	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority
AQIS	Australian Quarantine Inspection Service
ARDP	Agricultural and Rural Development Program (EU)
ARF	Adviser Remuneration Framework (AusAID)
ASP	Annual Strategic Plan
BA	Biosecurity Australia
BATS	Biosecurity and Trade Services Team (Land Resources Division, SPC)
BNZ	Biosecurity New Zealand
CABI	Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux International
CO	Country Office
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Australia)
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
EDF	European Development Fund
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation (of the United Nations)
FMAWG	Fiji Market Access Working Group
FSSLP	Food Security and Sustainable Livelihoods Program (FAO/ IFAD)
GAS	Giant African Snail
GoA	Government of Australia
GoF	Government of Fiji
HACCP	Hazard and Critical Control Point Analysis
HTFA	High Temperature Forced Air (quarantine treatment)
IACT	Increasing Agricultural Commodity Trade Program (EU)
ICON	Import Conditions Database (AQIS)
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IHS	Import Health Standards (NZMAF)
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
ISPM	International Phytosanitary Measure
IRA	Import Risk Analysis
IT	Information Technology
JOA	Joint Organisation Assessment
LRD	Land Resources Division (of SPC)
LTA/ LTP	Long Term Adviser/ Professional
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MA	Market Access
MAFNZ	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry New Zealand
MAL	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
MAWG	Market Access Working Group

Abbreviation	Description
MB	Methyl Bromide
MC	Managing Contractor
MDF	Market Development Facility (AusAID)
MERI	Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement Framework
MES	Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist
MORDI	Mainstreaming of Rural Development Initiatives Program (IFAD)
NMAC	National Market Access Coordinator
NZAid	NZ Aid Program
NZMAF	New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
PARDI	Pacific Agribusiness Research and Development Initiative (ACIAR)
PCC	Program Coordinating Committee
PD	Project Director
PFO	Procurement and Finance Officer
PHAMA	Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access Program (AusAID)
PIC	Pacific Island Country
PICTA	Pacific Island Country Trade Agreement
PKE	Palm Kernel Expeller
PM	Project Manager
PMAS	Principal Market Access Specialist
PMO	Program Management Office
PPPO	Pacific Plant Protection Organisation
PPPOExCo	PPPO Executive Committee
PRA	Pest Risk Assessment
QAE	Quality at Entry
QBS	Quarantine and Biosecurity Specialist
R&D	Research and Development
RMM	Risk Management Matrix
RPPO	Regional Plant Protection Organisation
RQAC	Regional Quarantine Advisory Committee
SIMAWG	Solomon Islands Market Access Working Group
SMAWG	Samoa Market Access Working Group
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
STA/ STP	Short Term Adviser/ Professional
TA	Technical Assistance
TBA	To Be Advised
TIP	Taro Improvement Program (ACIAR)
TL	Team Leader
TLB	Taro Leaf Blight
TMAWG	Tonga Market Access Working Group
TOR	Terms of Reference
URS	URS Australia Pty Ltd
USDA	United States Department of AGriculture
VMAWG	Vanuatu Market Access Working Group

Executive Summary

Implementation of the PHAMA Program is being managed in two parts. Components 1–3 of the Program are being implemented through the PMO by URS Australia Pty Ltd as the Managing Contractor (MC), in association with Kalang Consultancy Services Ltd. These components aim to work with target countries to identify and address specific market access (MA) issues and opportunities. Component 4 of the Program, implemented by the Biosecurity and Trade Services Team (BATS) of the Land Resources Division, SPC, provides regional MA support services of a more general nature.

Components 1–3 (MC-executed)

The contract for implementation of Components 1–3 was signed by URS on 20 January 2011, although mobilisation of the core Team to Suva did not occur until May 1 due to delays in finalising the Subsidiary Agreement between the Governments of Australia and Fiji. A bridging 3-Month Plan was enacted to guide operations from April 1 through to June 30 pending mobilisation to Fiji and preparation of the 2011–12 Annual Strategic Plan (ASP).

Despite the difficult start-up, considerable progress has been made over the past 6 months and implementation of Components 1–3 is now largely back on track.

Key Component 1–3 achievements over the first six months of the Program include:

MAWG Development

- Market Access Working Groups (MAWGs) have been established and are operational in all countries.
- A first round of MAWG meetings was held over the period 13 February to 19 April to identify preliminary MA priorities where work could commence over the period of the bridging 3-Month Plan.
- A second round of MAWG meetings was held over the period 17 May to 15 June to consider the outcomes from the various scoping studies that were completed under the bridging 3-Month Plan and to define key priorities to be addressed under the 2011–12 ASP.
- The role and function of the MAWGs is in the process of being formally endorsed by Government in all countries. The level of endorsement varies between countries, ranging from Cabinet endorsement to Ministerial endorsement to endorsement by the Permanent Heads of the various Ministries involved. Endorsement has already been finalised for four of the five countries under PHAMA.

Implementation of Market Access Development Activities

- From the first round of MAWG meetings, 10 priority MA issues were identified (Fiji (2 activities); Samoa (1); Solomon Islands (2); Tonga (2); Vanuatu (2); and Regional (1)).
- Preliminary scoping studies have been completed and reported for these preliminary priority areas, and have been used by the MAWGs to inform their selection of MA activities to be supported under the 2011–12 ASP.
- From the second round of MAWG meetings, a total of 39 MA development activities have been identified for support over the 2011–12 year (Fiji (10 activities); Samoa (9); Solomon Islands (5); Tonga (6); Vanuatu (5); and Regional (4)). Some of these activities flow from the recommendations

of the initial scoping studies completed under the bridging 3-Month Plan. Others are completely new activities that have been identified and prioritised by the MAWG's during their second round of meetings. Many of these activities will involve formal collaboration with other programs and projects.

- Two additional activities have been initiated (in Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands) under the 'Emergency Measures' provisions of the Program.
- Work has commenced on development of a Market Access Database, consolidating summary information for each country on the products that can already be exported to various markets, and under what conditions.
- Discussions have commenced with AQIS to address anomalies in specified import conditions within and between countries for various products, being progressively identified through the database development activity.
- The PMO is actively involved in responding to a wide range of miscellaneous MA and quarantine-related enquiries from exporting and importing country regulatory authorities and exporters. Managing these 'background' enquiries forms a significant background workload for the PMAS and QBS.

Program Management and Coordination

- PCC arrangements have been finalised and the first PPC held (July 15), endorsing the 2011–12 ASP.
- All PMO staff and NMACs have been recruited and mobilised.
- The PHAMA PMO has been established and is now fully operational: (i) office space has been refurbished, furnished and equipped; (ii) internet and telecommunication services have been established across the Program, including registration of the <phama.com.au> domain name with linked email addresses; (iii) local staff (the Procurement/Finance Officer and the Administration Officer) have been recruited and have received start-up training; (iv) the PHAMA Operations Manual, Financial Management Handbook, Risk Management Plan, and the Communications and Media Strategy have been finalised and approved by AusAID; (v) all major office financial control, management and administration systems and functions have been established; and (vi) systems for identifying, tasking, recruiting and managing STAs have been established.
- Country Offices (Tonga, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu) have been established and are now fully operational.
- A 1-week Induction Course has been held in Fiji for NMACs and local staff.
- The 3-month end-of-probation assessments have been completed for the NMACs.
- Reasonably strong communication and coordination links have been established with AusAID Posts, the MAWG's, importing country regulatory authorities (at this stage focussed on Australia and NZ); SPC; and other programs and projects.
- Clearly articulated approaches to addressing cross-cutting issues are being implemented.
- Key risks have been clearly identified and are being actively managed.
- After initial delays, work has commenced on finalising the MERI Framework for the Program.
- Highly successful Program 'launches' have been held in Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, and the Solomon Islands officiated by government Ministers and the Australian High Commissioner or Acting High Commissioner. All launches have attracted considerable media coverage.
- Basic promotional materials have been developed (brochure/ banners/ signage/ press releases etc).

Expenditure

Actual expenditure for the MC-executed Components 1–3 to the end of June 2011 is AUD 1,261,049 or 12% of total Phase 1 funding. Projected expenditure for the next 6 months (1 July to 31 Dec 2011) is AUD 2.5 million.

Component 4 (SPC-executed)

The ‘Exchange of Letters’ between AusAID and SPC for implementation of Component 4 took place in April 2010, with the first tranche of funds being disbursed in June 2010. Implementation has been frustrated by slow recruitment of key staff. It should also be noted that, with the recent cessation of various other funding streams, PHAMA is now the major source of operational funding available to support the work of the BATS Team.

Key Component 4 achievements include:

- The PHAMA-funded Entomologist position was appointed in April but resigned after a month.
- Three of the five PHAMA-funded technician positions have been appointed (or transferred across to PHAMA funding from other SPC-managed activities), including the Information/ Helpdesk Technician (PHAMA-funded from May 2011), the Animal Health Information Technician (from June 2011), and the Trade Statistics Database Technician (from June 2011).
- Within the limitations imposed by the above issues, background work has continued in a number of the areas for which PHAMA-funding is being provided, guided by the two BATS staff that are core-funded by SPC (the BATS Coordinator and the Biosecurity and Trade Facilitation Officer).

Expenditure

Actual expenditure for the SPC-executed Component 4 to the end of June 2011 was AUD 245,016 or 8% of total available Phase 1 funding. Transport and travel costs account for 41.5% of total expenditure; and renewal of the CABI subscription for 32.7%. Projected expenditure for the next 6 months (1 July to 31 Dec 2011) is AUD 741,500.

Introduction

Implementation of the PHAMA Program is being managed in two parts. Components 1–3 of the Program are being implemented through the PMO by URS Australia Pty Ltd as the Managing Contractor (MC), in association with Kalang Consultancy Services Ltd. These components aim to work with target countries to identify and address specific market access (MA) issues and opportunities. Component 4 of the Program, implemented by the Biosecurity and Trade Services Team (BATS) of the Land Resources Division, SPC, provides regional MA support services of a more general nature¹.

The contract for implementation of Components 1–3 was signed by URS on 20 January 2011, although mobilisation of the core Team to Suva did not occur until May 1 due to delay in finalising the Subsidiary Agreement between the Governments of Australia and Fiji. A bridging 3-Month Plan was enacted to guide operations from April 1 through to June 30. The 'Exchange of Letters' between AusAID and SPC for implementation of Component 4 took place in April 2010, with the first tranche of funds being disbursed in June 2010. Start-up of Component 4 has been relatively slow, affected by coordination and staff recruitment issues.

The 6-Month Progress Reports are a key reporting mechanism which, in addition to providing information for the PCC and AusAID, are designed to provide a basis for communicating with other stakeholders, related programs of assistance and other donors. They are designed to: (i) report on general progress of the Program for the period; (ii) describe the nature and progress of activities being implemented; (iii) report on and update the Risk Management Plan (RMP); (iv) summarise key issues and problems; (v) provide an update on Program staffing; (vi) assess achievements with respect to the Contractor Performance Assessment (CPA) framework and the Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) framework; (vii) highlight major successes; (viii) report on inter-program cooperation and coordination; (ix) provide an update on expenditure; (x) comment on the management of stakeholder relationships; and (xi) detail any variations from the ASP².

This first 6-Month Progress Report describes progress achieved from start-up through to the end of June 2011. At this early stage of implementation, progress is reported mainly in terms of basic input, activity and output information. Outcome results will be progressively incorporated into future Reports, once the Program's MERI Framework is fully operational.

¹ Note that this support is provided directly to SPC by AusAID, not through the PMO. While SPC is solely responsible for planning, implementing and monitoring Component 4 activities, for the purposes of trying to promote coordination between the MC-executed and SPC-executed components, AusAID has requested that all planning and monitoring reports are presented as consolidated reports.

² The first ASP, covering the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 was approved by the PCC on 15 July.

Program Description

Development context: Despite the fact that most Pacific Island Countries (PICs) are primarily agricultural economies, export performance for primary products in general and high-value products in particular has been poor. In contrast, developing countries globally have benefited from increased trade in high-value agricultural and horticultural products over the past 20–30 years. For many developing countries, exports of high-value primary products have become an important means of increasing economic growth, incomes, and employment, thereby reducing poverty.

The relatively poor performance of PICs in this area is particularly disappointing considering: (i) these are agriculture-based economies, often with very limited alternative development opportunities; (ii) the comparative advantage often cited for the region in the production and export of a wide range of agricultural and horticultural products; (iii) the close proximity of some reasonably affluent markets; and (iv) the commonly acknowledged role of economic growth and trade as a mechanism for promoting regional stability.

Difficulties faced by PICs in managing the regulatory processes associated with accessing key markets are a major reason behind this poor performance. Progress in negotiating new or improved access has been slow, resulting in a high level of frustration within industry and wasted export opportunities. New MA agreements have been few and hard won, and trade in some products has stagnated and in some cases declined due to the imposition of more onerous MA protocols for products that were historically traded with relative ease.

Key constraints to improving MA include: (i) poor identification of MA priorities leading to the highly limited resources available within both exporting and importing country regulatory agencies being squandered on submissions that are unlikely to be successful or even if successful unlikely to result in significant trade benefits; (ii) limited capacity of export country regulatory agencies to prepare and progress high-quality MA submissions; (iii) limited capacity of exporting countries to implement measures required to comply with MA agreements and hence maintain MA; (iv) limited capacity to identify and conduct the R&D required to establish, improve or maintain MA; (v) lack of industry consultation and involvement in MA work; and (vi) limited capacity of SPC to support MA development activities at a regional level.

Strategic Framework: PHAMA is designed to address these constraints by providing practical and targeted assistance to help resolve priority MA issues of a technical/ regulatory nature. The Program's strategic framework is summarised in Figure 3-1.

Duration and Geographic Focus: Phase 1 of the Program extends over a 28 month period from early 2011 to June 2013, with a planned 4-year Phase 2 to follow, subject to the performance of Phase 1³. For Phase 1, the country-specific activities under Components 1–3 are being implemented in Fiji, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. Component 4 (SPC-managed regional support services) is being implemented in all PICs in line with SPC's regional mandate.

Governance and management arrangements: A regional Program Coordinating Committee (PCC) is responsible for providing high-level governance oversight of the Program. Day-to-day management of the Program is provided through the PMO, located in Suva. Core PMO staffing includes the Team Leader (TL), the Principal Market Access Specialist (PMAS) and the Quarantine/Biosecurity Specialist

³ The implementation contract was signed on 20 January, with fieldwork commencing on 13 February.

(QBS), supplemented by a team of specialist Short-Term Personnel (STP) that that can be mobilised to address specific issues on an as-required basis.

Note that Components 1–3, which involve addressing country-specific MA issues, are being implemented by the Managing Contractor (MC). Component 4, which involves strengthening regional MA support services, is being separately implemented by Land Resources Division (LRD) of SPC.

MAWGs have been established in each of the five countries where PHAMA is being implemented⁴. The MAWGs include representatives from key government agencies with MA responsibilities and the private sector, and form the cornerstone of implementation arrangements in-country. They have major responsibility for determining MA priorities to be addressed by the Program, and for overseeing the implementation of these activities. Full-time NMACs have been employed in each country, responsible for providing secretariat support to the MAWGs and maintaining an operational linkage between the PMO and the MAWGs. The development of the capacity and the institutionalisation of the MAWG processes are central to the long term sustainability of improved market access.

⁴ Fiji MAWG (FMAWG); Samoa MAWG (SMAWG); Solomon Islands MAWG (SIMAWG); Tonga MAWG (TMAWG); and Vanuatu MAWG (VMAWG)

Overarching Implementation Strategy

The Program adopts a highly strategic approach to addressing technical/regulatory aspects of MA, working with identified highest priority products and MA issues. These could potentially involve: (i) seeking new access for new products into new markets; (ii) improving access arrangements for existing trade (e.g. through negotiation of less onerous quarantine requirements); or (iii) maintaining access by developing capacity of quarantine agencies and industry to meet negotiated access protocols, and assisting with responses to potential breakdowns in trade. Emphasis is placed on achieving early 'wins'. Semi-processed products, and accelerating the progress of MA submissions that are already in progress, will be particularly important in this regard.

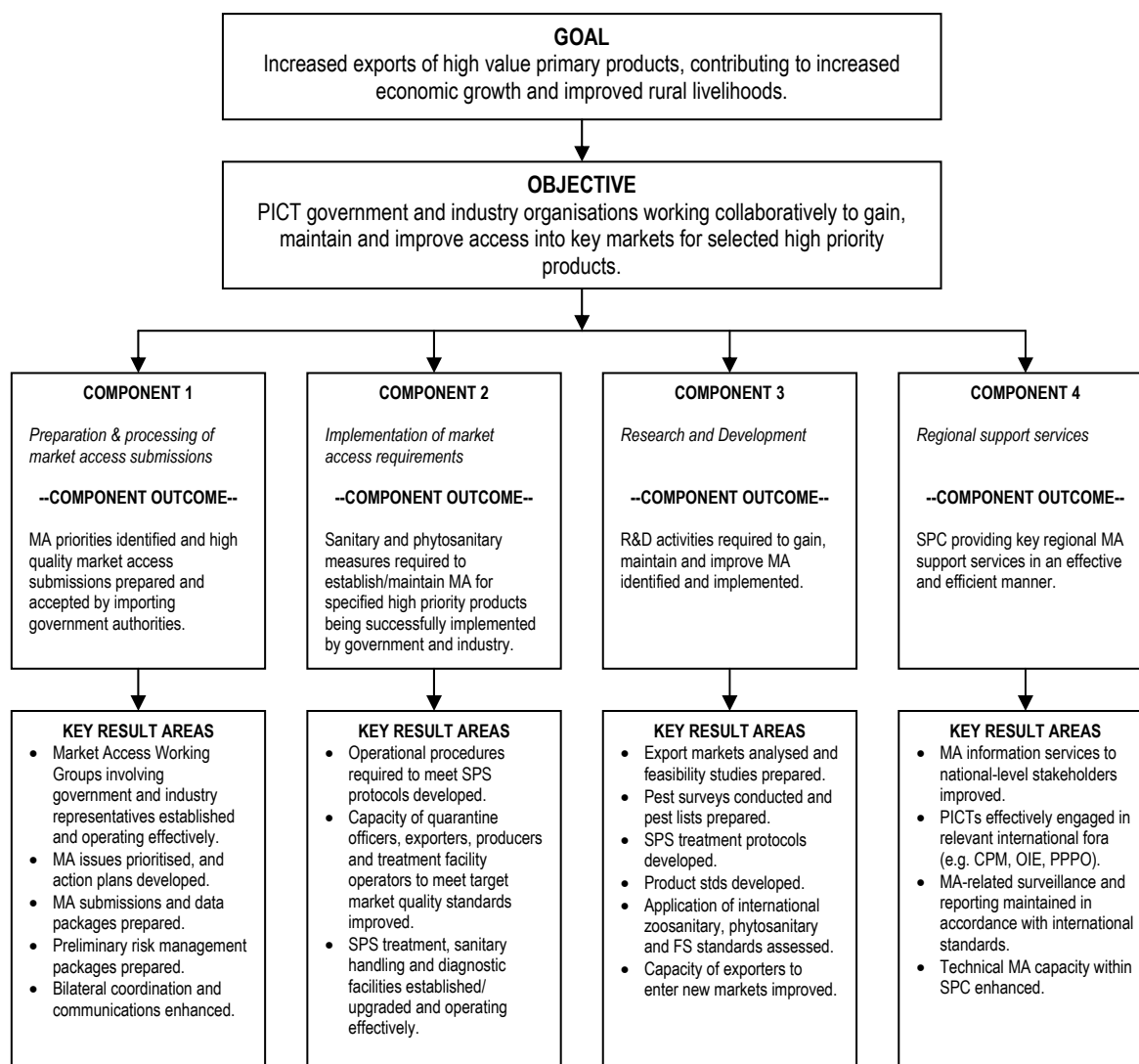
The focus of the Program is on high-value primary products (fresh and processed), particularly agricultural and horticultural but also fish and forest products, where justified. While Australia and NZ will inevitably continue to be major markets of interest, issues and opportunities relating to other markets (e.g. Japan, EU, USA, Canada, intra-Pacific trade) will also be addressed if duly prioritised by the MAWGs. Specific MA issues to be addressed will be selected on the basis of (i) potential economic impact; (ii) cost of establishing/improving MA and probability of achieving a successful outcome; and (iii) potential distributional impacts for more marginalised households and women. Contributions will be sought from both government and industry wherever the opportunity and capacity exists.

Major emphasis is placed on developing a strong partnership between industry and relevant national government agencies in the pursuit of improved MA arrangements. The private sector needs to drive the identification of products to be targeted; it should be fully consulted during the development of MA submissions and agreements; it needs to play a major role in determining R&D priorities; and it needs to be an active partner in the implementation of MA protocols. Development of strong and functional MAWGs is central to achieving this partnership.

The Program adopts a 2-pronged approach to capacity building: (i) developing the capacity of national organisations (public and private) to manage MA issues – but at the same time recognising that many of the smaller PICs are likely to remain dependent on facilitation by external service providers in the longer term; and (ii) providing funding to SPC so that it can develop capacity to provide a clearly defined set of generic, higher-level MA-support services in line with its regional mandate. Capacity building will be strongly centred on 'learning by doing' approaches, based on addressing specific MA issues and opportunities.

Management of SPC-implemented activities was deliberately separated from other activities implemented under the Program at design, due to the significant technical and financial constraints currently facing the organisation. Consistent with the Regional Institutional Framework and the mandated role of SPC in providing MA-support services to member countries, it is intended that the MC-managed activities will be progressively integrated into SPCs core Program from the start of Phase 2 (with continuing donor support), with a corresponding phase-out of the MC, subject to demonstration of appropriate capacity by SPC during the course of Phase 1.

Figure 3-1 Strategic Framework



The Program is intended to actively link with other supply chain/value chain development Programs such as the Increasing Agricultural Commodity Trade Program (IACT / EU); the Pacific Agribusiness Research and Development Initiative (PARDI / AusAID-ACIAR); the Agricultural and Rural Development Program (ARDP / EU); the Market Development Facility (AusAID); and the Food Security and Sustainable Livelihoods Program (FSSLP / FAO-IFAD). Where Programs of this nature are working with the development of export-oriented supply chains and particular MA issues are identified, PHAMA provides a vehicle for addressing these issues.

The Program adopts a flexible, Programmatic approach that is able to mobilise specialist TA and other resources to address priority MA issues as they are identified on a case-by-case basis. It also provides a longer-term commitment of support, recognising the lengthy timeframes that are required to progress MA issues.

MAWG Development and Operations

4.1 MAWG Development

The MAWGs form the heart of in-country institutional arrangements for PHAMA. They are designed to provide an ongoing partnership between government and private sector interests, responsible for defining the MA issues and opportunities where PHAMA will provide assistance, and for overseeing the implementation of these activities. They are intended to provide a single consolidated 'gateway' for managing MA issues in each country, and a recognised 'voice' for communicating with regulatory agencies from importing countries. Major emphasis has been placed over the early months of the Program on getting the MAWGs established and operating to a level where they can competently fill this role.

Note that the MAWGs are a new mechanism in all countries where PHAMA is operating. In most cases, this is the first time discussion between government and the private sector on MA issues has been formalised. Discussion is often extremely robust. This is healthy, but not without its management challenges.

MAWGs have now been established in all five PHAMA countries, with agreed membership which is approximately evenly split between government and private sector representatives. Chair and Vice-Chair/Co-Chair positions have been elected (also split between government and private sector), and written 'Service Charters', adapted to the particular needs of each country, developed. While present composition has been agreed, this is expected to evolve as the understanding by local partners on role and function further develops.

Functional capacity, encompassing meeting management skills, record-keeping skills, development of key communication and coordination roles, and ability to canvass and assimilate the broad range of information required to make sensible decisions on MA issues remains understandably variable between countries, but is generally satisfactory at this early stage of development.

Schedules have been established for major quarterly planning/ coordination meetings. Most of the MAWGs are also, of their own volition, scheduling 'mini-MAWG' meetings to progress discussion on issues and possible solutions between the quarterly meetings.

MAWG meeting proceedings and outcomes are being fully minuted, facilitated by the NMACs with back-up support from the LTAs as required.

The working relationship between the MAWGs (and particular the MAWG Chairs) and the NMACs is still developing, but with generally good communication in all cases. Ongoing development of this relationship is critical and is being closely monitored by the PMAS and QBS.

MAWG communication and coordination roles (particularly in terms of providing an effective link to a broader range of industry stakeholders than are represented around the MAWG table, and to key government agencies/ officials) are defined and understood but still require further development with support from the NMACs and the LTAs. Similarly, development of MAWG capacity to rationally prioritise workplan activities, and to monitor the implementation of these activities, is ongoing. These development needs will receive particular attention under the 2011–12 ASP.

The role and function of the MAWGs is in the process of being formally endorsed by Government in all countries. The level of endorsement varies between countries, ranging from Cabinet endorsement (Tonga) to Ministerial endorsement (Samoa, Solomon Islands) to endorsement by the Permanent

Heads of the various Ministries involved (Vanuatu). Formal endorsement in Fiji is still pending due to the later start-up of activities in Fiji.

4.2 Meeting Outcomes

Building on the development work initiated during the pre-startup phase, a first round of MAWG meetings⁵, attended by all PHAMA LTAs, was held over the period 13 February to 19 April to identify preliminary MA priorities where work could commence over the period of the bridging 3-Month Plan.

From the first round of MAWG meetings, 10 priority MA issues were identified (Fiji (2 activities); Samoa (1); Solomon Islands (2); Tonga (2); Vanuatu (2); and Regional (1))⁶. Preliminary scoping studies have been completed and reported by short term advisers (STAs) across these preliminary priority areas (PHAMA Technical Reports 1–10), and have been used by the MAWGs to inform their selection of MA activities to be supported under the 2011–12 ASP.

A second round of MAWG meetings, also attended by all PMO LTAs, was held over the period 17 May to 15 June to consider the outcomes from the various scoping studies that were completed under the bridging 3-Month Plan and to define key priorities to be addressed under the 2011–12 ASP.

From the second round of MAWG meetings, a total of 39 MA development activities have been identified for implementation under the 2011–12 ASP (Fiji (10 activities); Samoa (9); Solomon Islands (5); Tonga (6); Vanuatu (5); and Regional (4))⁷. Some of these activities flow from the recommendations of the initial scoping studies completed under the bridging 3-Month Plan. Others are completely new activities that have been identified and prioritised by the MAWGs during their second round of meetings. Many of the proposed activities involve formal collaboration with other programs and projects.

⁵ Excluding Fiji, which could not be visited until after the GoA-GoF Subsidiary Agreement was established in late April.

⁶ Refer Appendix A.

⁷ Refer Appendix B.

Market Access Development Activities

This section outlines the country-specific and regional MA development activities, as currently identified, that have been supported by PHAMA over the reporting period. These activities were largely identified during the first round of MAWG meetings and implemented under the bridging 3-Month ASP. Activities identified by the MAWGs for implementation under the 2011–12 ASP are also noted. All activities are referenced to Activity Summary Sheets presented in Appendix C. These Activity Sheets will be progressively updated as implementation of each activity proceeds, providing a key reference resource for the Program.

5.1 Summary

A total of 10 major MA development activities have been completed under the bridging 3-Month Plan. These are mainly in the nature of scoping studies, designed to flesh out particular issues and further define possible future actions. These activities are listed in Table 5-1, and further described in subsequent sections.

Table 5-1 Major MA development activities completed under the 3-Month Plan

Activity Ref	Country	Activity Title
FIJI01	Fiji	Investigation of taro export issues to Australia and NZ
FIJI01	Fiji	Investigation of potential ginger export issues to Australia
SAMOA01	Samoa	Investigation of taro export issues to Australia and NZ
SOLS01	Solomon Islands	Review of diagnostic requirements to ascertain cocoa and copra meal quality standards
SOLS02	Solomon Islands	Investigation of MA implications and costs associated with Giant African Snail (GAS)
TONGA01	Tonga	Feasibility study to determine the suitability of 'winter window' export conditions for watermelons to NZ
TONGA02	Tonga	Feasibility study on using a dimethoate dip treatment to facilitate the export of fruit fly host commodities to Fiji
VAN01	Vanuatu	Review of diagnostic requirements to service various value-added industries
VAN02	Vanuatu	Investigation of the viability of the high temperature forced air (HTFA) facility as a treatment option for the export of fruit fly host commodities to NZ
REGIONAL01	Regional	Market Access database development
REGIONAL 02	Regional	Compilation of a response to Biosecurity Australia's draft Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) on taro imports from all countries

5.2 Fiji

Investigation of taro export issues to Australia and NZ (Activity FIJI01)

This activity was designed to: (i) identify the current quarantine issues (including operational issues) associated with taro exports to Australia and NZ; (ii) identify possible strategies to address the *quarantine* issues; and (iii) develop a strategy to facilitate coordination of relevant donor programs to address *non-quarantine* issues. The scoping study produced a series of recommendations (PHAMA

Technical Report 01⁸) and has resulted in 3 follow-on activities to be implemented under the 2011–12 ASP, as follows:

- Investigation of market acceptability of Fiji TLB- resistant taro varieties in Australia and/or (Activity FIJI03)
- Clarification of the quarantine status of nematodes associated with taro exports to NZ (Activity FIJI04)
- Development of and training on taro production and packhouse standards (Activity FIJI05).
- Substantiation of Australia's requirement for devitalisation of taro imports by topping (Activity FIJI06)

Investigation of potential ginger export issues to Australia (Activity FIJI02)

This activity was designed to: (i) review the information provided to Australia by the Fijian government to ensure that there are no data gaps likely to affect the timely completion of the ginger Import Risk Assessment currently being undertaken by Biosecurity Australia; and (ii) identify possible risk management requirements for potential quarantine pests and recommend activities to meet these requirements. The study recommended that no further work be done in this area until such time as BA releases its PRA for ginger (PHAMA Technical Report 02). Reasons for this include the inability of the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji to produce the data already presented to BA⁹, combined with the inability of SPC to provide the necessary data from its Pest List Database defining possible pest and diseases affecting ginger in Fiji that may be of quarantine interest to Australia.

Other activities identified for the 2011–12 Annual Strategic Plan

In addition to the follow-on activities resulting from the initial scoping studies outlined above, the second MAWG meeting in Fiji prioritised a range of other MA issues and opportunities to be addressed under the 2011–12 ASP. These include:

- Scoping study to develop options for the management of a new fruit fly species on Rotuma and Vatoa Islands (Activity FIJI07)
- Progression of new market access requests for papaya and breadfruit to the US (Activity FIJI08)
- Feasibility studies on eggplant, chilli, breadfruit, jackfruit, gourd/s and pineapple exports to Australia (Activity FIJI09)
- New market access submissions for products recommended under Activity FIJI09 (Activity FIJI10)
- Eradication of *Bactrocera kirki* from Rotuma and Vatoa (Activity FIJI11)
- Trials to confirm fruit fly non-host status for Polynesian plum (Wi) (Activity FIJI12)

5.3 Samoa

Investigation of taro export issues to Australia and NZ (Activity SAMOA01)

This activity was designed to: (i) identify the possible quarantine issues associated with TLB-resistant varieties (and other possible pests of quarantine concern), associated with renewal of taro exports to Australia and NZ; (ii) identify possible strategies to address identified *quarantine* issues under

⁸ The Technical Reports resulting from the initial scoping studies are currently being reviewed by URS prior to being passed to AusAID for information.

⁹ It appears the relevant files have been mislaid by BAF in the process of moving office and change-over of senior staff.

PHAMA; and (iii) develop a strategy to facilitate coordination of relevant donor Programs to address *non-quarantine* issues and maintain and improve the taro export pathway into Australia and NZ.

The scoping study produced a series of recommendations (PHAMA Technical Report 03) and has resulted in 4 follow-on activities to be implemented under the 2011–12 ASP, as follows:

- Determination of the quarantine status of nematodes on Samoan taro exports to NZ (Activity SAMOA02)
- Promotion of new Samoan taro varieties in NZ (Activity SAMOA03)
- Assessment of the profitability of taro exports to Australia (Activity SAMOA04)
- Development of an alternative to the ‘area freedom’ approach for managing TLB on exports of taro to Australia (Activity SAMOA05)

Other activities identified for the 2011–12 Annual Strategic Plan

In addition to the follow-on activities resulting from the initial scoping studies outlined above, the second MAWG meeting in Samoa prioritised a range of other MA issues and opportunities to be addressed under the 2011–12 ASP. These include:

- Development of a risk management measure for mites on organic banana exports to NZ (Activity SAMOA06)
- Development of a risk management measure for mites, mealy bugs and scales on lime exports to NZ (Activity SAMOA07)
- Assistance with regulatory requirements associated with re-establishing beef and meat product exports to American Samoa (Activity SAMOA08)
- Re-accreditation of copra meal export processing and handling facilities (Activity SAMOA09)
- Export of personal consignments of heat-treated breadfruit to NZ (Activity SAMOA10)

5.4 Solomon Islands

Review of diagnostic requirements to ascertain cocoa and copra meal quality standards (Activity SOLS01)

This activity was designed to: (i) engage with cocoa and copra exporters in the Solomon Islands to clarify the immediate issues relating to access to diagnostic testing services from an industry perspective; (ii) determine Australia’s and NZ’s testing requirements for copra meal; (iii) determine Australia’s and NZ’s quarantine requirements for the import of small quantities of cocoa beans for quality testing (including identification of quarantine approved premises); and (iv) outline possible options for longer term provision of cost effective diagnostics to meet the import requirements for cocoa beans and copra meal from the Solomon Islands into other countries. The study produced a series of recommendations (PHAMA Technical Report 04) and has resulted in 1 follow-on activity to be implemented under the 2011–12 ASP, as follows:

- Development of national quality standards for the production and testing of cocoa to meet international market requirements (Activity SOLS06)

Investigation of MA implications and costs associated with Giant African Snail (GAS) (Activity SOLS02)

This activity was designed to: (i) engage with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) and industry to determine the current distribution of GAS within the Solomon Islands; (ii) engage with industry and the Ports Authority to determine the current additional costs and charges for exporters associated with GAS; (iii) review current or proposed MAL eradication and/or control strategies for GAS; to document current Australian and phytosanitary requirements with respect to GAS; and (iv) outline possible future strategies to reduce the impact of GAS on importers and exporters. The study produced a series of recommendations (PHAMA Technical Report 05) and has resulted in 1 follow-on activity to be implemented under the 2011–12 ASP, as follows:

- Implementation of the Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (Activity SOLS03)

Other activities identified for the 2011–12 Annual Strategic Plan

In addition to the follow-on activities resulting from the initial scoping studies outlined above, the second MAWG meeting in Solomon Islands prioritised a range of other MA issues and opportunities to be addressed under the 2011–12 ASP. These include:

- Review of the potential for cut flower and foliage exports to Australia (Activity SOLS04)
- Scoping study to determine the viability of fresh F&V exports from the Solomon Islands to nearby PICs including the Kiribati, Nauru and Marshall Islands (Activity SOLS07)

5.5 Tonga

Feasibility study to determine the suitability of ‘winter window’ export conditions for watermelons to NZ (Activity TONGA01)

This activity was designed to: (i) review the Australia/winter window arrangements and underlying experimental data; (ii) collate existing data and literature on Tongan fruit flies of economic concern (including host lists and thermal tolerances); (iii) identify required equipment, expertise and approximate cost to conduct winter window trials; (iv) consult with NZMAF to ascertain their position on this proposal and timelines for implementation should the proposal be implemented; and (v) assess the feasibility and costs of pursuing ‘winter window’ as an alternative risk mitigation method for fruit fly host products. The study produced a series of recommendations (PHAMA Technical Report 07) and has resulted in 2 follow-on activities to be implemented under the 2011–12 ASP, as follows:

- Development of a submission on a ‘winter window’ approach to managing fruit flies on water melon (and possibly other) exports to NZ (Activity TONGA04)
- Development of ‘new access’ submissions for the export of zucchinis and selected other crops (to be identified) to NZ (Activity TONGA05)

Feasibility study on using a dimethoate dip treatment to facilitate the export of fruit fly host commodities to Fiji (Activity TONGA02)

This activity was designed to: (i) determine the viability of using dimethoate dip as a fruit fly disinfestation chemical in light of current reviews of the chemical usage patterns; (ii) determine if there are fruit flies within Tonga that are of quarantine concern to Fiji; (iii) seek an indication from Fiji on the likelihood of acceptance or otherwise of the use of dimethoate dip to treat fruit fly host commodities

from Tonga; (iv) seek an indication from Fiji whether or not a risk assessment would be required for tomatoes, as this is a new market access request from Tonga; and (v) develop cost estimates to conduct trials to determine the efficacy of dimethoate on fruit fly host commodities infested with fruit flies of economic concern to Fiji. On the basis of key recommendations produced from this study (PHAMA Technical Report 06), combined with the likely withdrawal of the use of dimethoate by Australia and NZ for some horticultural products, including tomatoes, the TMAWG agreed to maintain a 'watching brief' and take no further action at this stage.

Other activities identified for the 2011–12 Annual Strategic Plan

In addition to the follow-on activities resulting from the initial scoping studies outlined above, the second MAWG meeting in Tonga prioritised a range of other MA issues and opportunities to be addressed under the 2011–12 ASP. These include:

- Review of the watermelon export pathway to NZ, including the delivery of fumigation prior to export (Activity TONGA03 (i) and (ii))
- Purchase of a generator as backup power for Tonga's fumigation facility (Activity TONGA06)
- Facilitation of meetings to investigate Tonga-sea freight issues (Activity TONGA07)

5.6 Vanuatu

Review of diagnostic requirements to service various value-added industries (Activity VAN01)

This activity was designed to: (i) engage with members of value-added industries to determine current diagnostic requirements for cocoa, copra meal, virgin coconut oil, kava, vanilla and other spices; (ii) specify current diagnostic requirements for these products; and (iii) outline options for the establishment of cost effective and timely diagnostic services for these products. The study produced a series of recommendations (PHAMA Technical Report 08) and has resulted in 1 follow-on activity to be implemented under the 2011–12 ASP, as follows:

- Establishment of diagnostic services for value-added products (Activity VAN03)

Investigation of the viability of the high temperature forced air (HTFA) facility as a treatment option for the export of fruit fly host commodities to NZ (Activity VAN02)

This activity was designed to: (i) determine the state of repair of the HTFA facility and the cost to make the facility fully operational; (ii) identify suitable products for this export pathway and likely export volumes; and (iii) conduct a preliminary cost benefit analysis on the use of HTFA for exports of fruit fly host produce to NZ. On the basis of key recommendations produced from this study (PHAMA Technical Report 09), the VMAWG has decided to defer any further decision on the HTFA chamber until such time as Vanuatu has access for papaya into Australia.

Other activities identified for the 2011–12 Annual Strategic Plan

In addition to the follow-on activities resulting from the initial scoping studies outlined above, the second MAWG meeting in Vanuatu prioritised a range of other MA issues and opportunities to be addressed under the 2011–12 ASP. These include:

- Development of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) Plans for key export industries (Activity VAN04)
- Training of additional meat inspectors to certify beef export processing facilities (Activity VAN05)
- Feasibility study on the establishment of a facility for drying fruits and vegetables for export (Activity VAN06)

5.7 Regional/ General

Market access database development (Activity No. REGIONAL01)

During the PHAMA design and pre-startup phases it became apparent that the ability of producers, exporters and in some cases government agencies to access existing import conditions for products exported, or potentially exportable, to Australia, NZ and other target markets is highly constrained. This is due to limited/sporadic internet access and limited understanding on how to obtain information on processed/ semi-processed products from relevant importing country websites (e.g. AQIS's ICON and NZMAF's IHS database); coupled with limited ability by industry to access existing bilateral export protocols and workplans for fresh products from the exporting country Quarantine Departments, usually caused by poorly organised file management and retrieval arrangements.

PHAMA has done considerable work over the last 3 months on preliminary development of a Market Access Database, consolidating summary information for each country on the products that can already be exported to various markets, and under what conditions. Efforts to date have focussed on the Australian and NZ markets, although this will be broadened to include other markets as development progresses. The objective is to make this information far more accessible to users, providing a 'quick link' to import conditions for a wide range of products into Australia, NZ and other key markets. The concept of a single, searchable market access database will significantly improve access to relevant export information for all stakeholders. A central depository for bilateral market access protocols for fresh produce will not only secure this information but will also provide a basis for identifying and seeking improvements to existing conditions.

The activity is resulting in two important secondary benefits: (i) it is highlighting to each country the products that *neighbouring* countries already have access for; and (ii) it is also highlighting a range of anomalies in import conditions within and between countries that the Program is following-up with importing country regulatory agencies.

Development of the database has been particularly well received by the Quarantine and Trade Departments of the various countries in which the Program is working.

Development of the Market Access Database is ongoing. Future development will include: (i) continued compilation of information on permitted imports and import conditions to Australia and NZ; (ii) compilation of information for other key importing countries; (iii) investigation of institutional arrangements for managing/maintaining the database; (iv) implementation onto an Excel or Access platform; and (v) associated user-training in maintenance and use of the database.

Liaison with importing country quarantine authorities to address inconsistencies in existing quarantine protocols

As noted above, development of the Market Access Database is highlighting a number of inconsistencies in the import conditions stipulated by importing country regulatory authorities for

various products. The Program is currently liaising with AQIS to seek clarification on, and where possible removal of, these anomalies. Examples currently being addressed include:

- Review of import conditions for cut flower exports (heliconia and ginger vars), reflecting that PICs are free from Moko disease (a disease of bananas and possibly transmitted on heliconia and ginger from areas where the disease is present)
- Removal of the mandatory requirement for seed sampling conditions for cocoa (*Theobroma cacao*) for all non-Khapra beetle countries (including all PHAMA countries)
- Broadening of the existing frozen cassava (*Manihot esculenta*) import conditions to include all SPC countries
- Removal of the requirement for fresh cabbage (*Brassica oleracea* cv *capitata*) to be free of cabbage butterflies (*Pieris* spp.), on the basis that *Pieris* spp. is already widespread in Australia

Work on addressing obvious inconsistencies in import policy conditions will continue in tandem with development of the market access database. To date this work has focussed on Australian import conditions and AQIS but will be progressively broadened to other countries as the scope of the database is broadened.

‘Help-Desk’ support by the PMO team in response to market access and quarantine enquiries

PMO staff are actively involved in responding to a wide range of miscellaneous MA and quarantine-related enquiries from exporting and importing country regulatory authorities and exporters¹⁰. Managing these ‘background’ enquiries forms a significant background workload for the PMAS and QBS. The volume and nature of enquiries indicates a real need for this kind of ‘help desk’ support and highlights the historical lack of access by PICs to practical advice relating to management of quarantine and MA issues.

Responding to miscellaneous enquiries on quarantine and MA-related issues from various stakeholders will continue on an as-required basis.

Compilation of a response to Biosecurity Australia’s draft Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) on taro imports from all countries (Activity REGIONAL02)

This activity was designed to: (i) develop a response to the BA draft PRA after analysis of the PIC pest and disease lists and proposed risk mitigation measures; (ii) propose alternative risk mitigation measures if the measures proposed in the draft document were considered to be overly restrictive; and (iii) provide this information to country Quarantine Departments and others for use in their development of submissions to BA on the PRA.

A detailed response to the PRA was developed by the Program with additional support from Pacific taro experts (PHAMA Technical Report 10). Copies of the response document were distributed to the MAWGs in each country and SPC, seeking additional comment and discussion. Subsequent to this, the Program has: (i) engaged with PHAMA country quarantine authorities and industries to help develop country-specific responses to the PRA based on each country’s pest and disease status, using the detailed response as a base document; (ii) consulted with industry and community groups in Fiji, stressing the importance of providing comments and opinions to BA on the importance of taro exports for Fijian farmers and communities; and (iii) assisted SPC with the development of an SPC

¹⁰ Examples of where the PMO has provided advice/ support to date are summarised in Appendix D.

submission¹¹. As a result of this effort, formal submissions were forwarded to BA by Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Samoa and the PHAMA PMO. Numerous additional submissions were made by Fijian industry and community groups.

PHAMA will continue dialogue with BA as the draft import policy for taro moves towards finalisation, and will report back to PICs on progress and likely measures to provide as much advance notice as possible. The Program will also be directly addressing some of the risk management measures likely to be imposed by Australia through a number of the MA activities described earlier. For example, it is likely that the requirement for topping of taro will continue to be a mandatory requirement. In the long-term PHAMA will continue to seek removal of this requirement. In the short-term it will engage AQIS to develop and communicate standardised topping requirements as a part of reforms to taro processing standards. The identification (and quarantine status) of post-harvest rots that are occasionally associated with taro will be addressed as a small research project in co-operation with an ACIAR-funded taro project. If taro leaf blight (TLB) remains a concern experiments may be conducted in Samoa to provide data to prove that TLB spores are not a quarantine risk in relation to exports of fresh taro corms. Quality standards and manuals for production and processing of taro will be developed and assistance provided to quarantine authorities for implementation of these standards, as required.

Other activities identified for the 2011–12 Annual Strategic Plan

In addition to the follow-on activities resulting from the regional activities outlined above, the second round of MAWG meetings identified a range of other activities potentially benefiting all countries, that will be addressed under the 2011–12 ASP. These include:

- Initiation of a regional strategy towards managing quarantine and market access issues (Activity REGIONAL03)
- Assistance for bilateral market access negotiations with trading partners (Activity REGIONAL04)
- Review of quarantine issues surrounding trade in handicraft products (Activity REGIONAL05)

5.8 Emergency Measures

Two ‘emergency measure’ activities were initiated during the 6-Month reporting period. Assistance has been mobilised in both cases to help meet looming deadlines for accreditation processes. Failure to meet these deadlines would have posed an immediate threat to existing trade.

Accreditation of Solomon Islands copra meal and PKE processing and handling facilities for exports to Australia (Activity SOLS05)

AQIS have a new requirement that renewal of import permits for copra meal and PKE is subject to a successful audit (by AQIS) of export processing and handling facilities. Current import permits for SI copra meal and PKE expired on 17 June 2011. It was considered prudent to determine AQIS requirements and to review processing and handling facilities in terms of these requirements, providing a basis for required improvements to be implemented, *before* the AQIS audit takes place. SI Quarantine Department, through the MAWG, formally requested PHAMA to assist with the accreditation process. PHAMA mobilised an STA during June to assist SI quarantine with this work. An extension to the 17 June deadline was negotiated, and a pre-audit inspection of export facilities is current underway to identify the need for any improvements.

¹¹ Which was never completed by SPC.

The objective of the activity is to: (i) assist exporters to gain AQIS accreditation of copra meal and palm kernel expeller (PKE) processing and handling facilities as part of the requirement for renewal of Australian import permits; and (ii) provide training to industry and SI quarantine staff on the implementation and maintenance of AQIS standards for export of copra meal and PKE to Australia.

Re-accreditation of BSE-free status for Vanuatu beef to Australia (Activity VAN07)

Vanuatu currently has formal access for beef into Australia. One of the quarantine requirements for this trade is freedom from the cattle disease BSE. BSE-free status is based on herd testing and accreditation of testing results on a regular basis by Australian authorities. Submission of re-accreditation documentation to Australia was required by the end of June 2011. Vanuatu authorities do not currently have a Principle Veterinary Officer and this had delayed the re-accreditation process. Although Vanuatu is currently exporting very limited quantities of beef to Australia, loss of BSE-free status would potentially have an adverse impact on the export trade to other important markets. The Vanuatu Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL), through the VMAWG, formally requested PHAMA to assist with the re-accreditation process. PHAMA mobilised an STA during June to assist MAL with the preparation of the submission documentation required by Australian authorities, which was lodged on June 30 (PHAMA Technical Report 11). Additional follow-up is likely to be required once Australian authorities have responded to the documents submitted.

The objective of the activity is to help gain re-accreditation of BSE-free status for Vanuatu beef to Australia.

5.9 Inter-Program/Project Coordination

At a general level, the Program (at both PMO and national levels) is actively working to identify and network with organisations and supply chain development programs (both donor and government funded) where there may be the possibility for joint activity.

This has already resulted in the identification of a range of activities to be implemented under the 2011–12 ASP which will involve a coordinated/ combined approach. Examples include:

- The taro export pathway work in Fiji and Samoa will directly link with several ACIAR activities (the Pacific Agribusiness and Research Development Initiative (PARDI); the Developing Cleaner Export Pathways Project; and the Soil Health Project).
- The cocoa quality standards work in Solomon Islands will directly link with supply chain development work being undertaken by the Cocoa Livelihoods Improvement Program (CLIP/ AusAID) and the Pacific Agribusiness and Research Development Initiative (PARDI/ ACIAR).
- The cut flower work in Solomon Islands will directly link with previous work carried out by the Agricultural Livelihoods Program (ALP/ AusAID).
- The HACCP work in Vanuatu will be coordinated with related activities supported by the Increasing Agricultural Commodity Trade Program (I-ACT/ EU).
- The training of meat inspectors for Vanuatu will possibly include training support provided by the NZAID Program (still under investigation).
- The fruit fly eradication work in Fiji will establish collaborative links with the International Atomic Energy Agency Pest Control Unit.
- The work on confirming the fruit fly status of Polynesian plum in Fiji builds directly on earlier market access development work supported by FAO.

- The work in Samoa on establishing an organic treatment for ladyfinger bananas will collaborate with Samoan Women in Business (WIBDI).
- The work in Fiji on establishing access to the US for papaya and breadfruit will collaborate with Nature's Way Cooperative.
- The work in Solomon Islands (and possibly other countries) on implementing the Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme will work with and build on the international efforts of AQIS to improve off-shore fumigation capacity.
- The initiation of a regional strategy towards managing quarantine and MA issues will possibly involve Forum Sec.
- The support for strengthened bilateral MA negotiations with trading partners directly links with BA's and MAFNZ's efforts to more actively engage with PICs.
- The Review of quarantine issues surrounding the trade in handicraft products will work with numerous small community development projects such as the Mainstreaming of Rural Development Initiatives (MORDI/ IFAD) which support the development of handicraft manufacture.

Regional Support Services – SPC (Component 4)

The 'Exchange of Letters' between AusAID and SPC for implementation of PHAMA Component 4 occurred in April 2010, with the first tranche of funds disbursed in June. Implementation has been adversely affected by slow recruitment of key staff. Of the two key long-term PHAMA-funded professional positions, the Entomologist was appointed in April but resigned after a month; and the Market Access Specialist has not yet been appointed. Three of the five technician positions have already been appointed (or transferred across to PHAMA funding from other SPC-managed activities), including the Information/ Helpdesk Technician (PHAMA-funded from May 2011), the Animal Health Information Technician (from June 2011), and the Trade Statistics Database Technician (from June 2011). The remaining technician positions (the Pacific Pest List Database Technician, and the Biosecurity Technician) are currently in the process of being recruited.

SPC is aiming to complete recruitment of all positions by September 2011, paving the way for a more coordinated approach to the implementation of Component 4 activities.

Note that, apart from some funding from ACIAR that is tied to implementation of particular activities, PHAMA is now the only source of operational funding available to support the work of the BATS Team.

Within the limitations imposed by the above staffing issues, background work has continued in a number of the key output areas for which PHAMA-funding is being provided, guided by the two BATS staff that are core-funded by SPC (the BATS Coordinator and the Biosecurity and Trade Facilitation Officer). Specific activities for which PHAMA funding has been used over the period include:

Market Access and Trade Facilitation Support

Assistance in import risk analysis and provision of information and technical advice with regards to MA and importation of new products has been provided in the following areas:

- Joint IRA with MAFNZ & BA on imports of island cabbage and Polynesian plum from Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu.
- Technical assistance to Niue for PRA on Plantain and cured vanilla.
- Technical assistance to Fiji and Tuvalu for export of root crops and fresh fruits and vegetables from Rotuma to Tuvalu.
- Advice to various PICs on import regulations for mats and tapa to NZ.
- Advice to Samoa on the export of misluki organic banana, organic coffee and fresh taro to NZ market.
- Technical assistance to Tuvalu on MA for 'utano' coconut seedlings to NZ (semi processed).
- Advice to Samoa and Tonga on the cooked breadfruit pathway to NZ.
- Technical assistance to Marshall Islands on copra exports to Australia.

International Engagement

- Hosting of the PPPO Executive Meeting in Auckland (8–12 Dec 2010).
- Participation in the RPPO Technical Consultation in Portugal (15–19 Aug 2010).
- Attendance at the Pacific Trade Ministers meeting in Tonga (16–19 Apr 2011).
- Attendance at the PICTs Consultation workshop on draft ISPMs in Fiji (8–12 Sept 2010).
- Attendance at the 12th CPM meeting in Rome (8–12 Apr 2011).

- Attendance at the FAO Pacific West Ministerial Meeting (5–8 Apr 2011).
- Participation in the regional OCO Conference in PNG (4–9 May 2011).
- Participation in the AFAS 2011 Quarantine Regulators Meeting, Malaysia (24–26 May 2011).

MA–Related Surveillance and Reporting

- Ongoing support to update and report PICTS animal health information.
- Technical assistance for the plant pest and disease survey for Fiji.
- Technical assistance and supply of equipment for the fruit fly surveillance trapping network in Marshall islands, Samoa Fruit Fly Area Wide IPM program, and Pitcairn Island.
- Technical assistance, equipment and supplies for the Termite Management Program in Fiji.
- Assisted with the development of the Micronesia Biosecurity Plan implementation.
- Technical assistance to the Cook Islands with surveillance and containment of the thrip incursion (conduct of surveys, purchase of materials for trapping).
- Provision of 3,000 copies of public awareness posters on coffee berry borer incursion in Papua New Guinea, requested through the PNG Coffee Industry Corporation and the National Agriculture Quarantine Inspection Authority.
- Participation in the training of Northern Pacific Plant Protection and Quarantine Officers (conducted jointly with USDA APHIS, University of Guam and Guam Department of Agriculture 18–22 April 2011).

During the bridging 3-Month plan period it was intended to discuss with SPC processes and procedures required to support SPC to undertake a Joint Organisational Assessment (JOA) as per the MC's proposal, designed to identify the immediate and longer-term requirements for capacity building to strengthen BATS work in providing PICs with MA support, thereby enhancing sustainability. Due to the delayed start-up and demanding travel schedules of both PMO and BATS staff over the start-up period, this has now been delayed until the second quarter of the 2011–12 year.

Program Management and Coordination

7.1 Program Coordinating Committee

Terms of Reference and membership of the Program Coordinating Committee (PCC) have been finalised. The first meeting of the PCC, which reviewed and endorsed the 2011–12 ASP, was held in Suva on 15 July 2011, coinciding with the Fiji/Regional Launch event. The PMO is providing secretariat support for the PCC meetings, including organisation of meetings, provision of key documents and additional briefing notes (as requested), and recording of minutes.

The PCC meeting provided the opportunity to bring the MAWG Chairs together for the first time¹². The value gained from doing this was unanticipated and considerable. The Chairs gained as much benefit from being able to discuss with each other how PHAMA is unfolding in their respective countries as did the NMACs during their Induction Course (see section 7.2.3). The opportunity was also taken to provide the Chairs with a few ‘formal’ sessions on aspects such as risk management and M&E, which was highly appreciated.

7.2 PMO and Country Office Operations

Following delays caused by the delayed signing of the Subsidiary Agreement for the Program between the Governments of Fiji and Australia, the PHAMA Team finally mobilised to Suva on May 1, some 3 months after signing of the contract¹³. Despite an extremely heavy travel schedule since then (involving all three LTAs¹⁴), the PMO is now fully operational and core management systems and procedures are reasonably well-established across the Program, although further consolidation is still required in some areas.

7.2.1 PMO Operational Status

Key achievements for the 6-month period included the following:

- All LTAs have been recruited, mobilised and provided with induction training.
- Office space has been located (within Land Resources Division, SPC), refurbished, furnished and equipped.
- Internet and telecommunication services have been established across the Program, including registration of the <phama.com.au> domain name with linked email addresses for all Program staff.
- Local staff (the Procurement/Finance Officer (PFO) and the Administration Officer (AO)) have been recruited and have received start-up support from the URS Program Manager (PM).
- The PHAMA Operations Manual, Financial Management Handbook, Risk Management Plan, and the Communications and Media Strategy have been finalised and approved by AusAID.
- All major office financial control, management and administration systems and functions, as detailed in the bridging 3-Month Plan, have been established.
- Systems for identifying, tasking, recruiting and managing STAs have been established.

¹² Who are all members of the PCC.

¹³ Over this period, the Team operated from their respective home bases, as well as spending over a month in the field in Samoa, Tonga, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu providing support for the establishment of the MAWGs and NMAC Offices in these countries.

¹⁴ Since May 1, the Team has spent an additional month in the field facilitating the second round of MAWG meetings (leading to development of the ASP), plus supporting the in-country launch events.

All major procurement for the PMO has now been completed with the exception of a vehicle which is in process.

7.2.2 Country Office Operational Status

All five NMACs have been contracted and mobilised, and are meeting or exceeding expectations.

Due to the difficult and dislocated start-up of the program, formal induction training was not undertaken until early July. Normally such training and support would have been provided immediately following Program start-up. All NMACs were however visited twice by LTAs over the initial 6-month period, each time for around a week, providing the opportunity for considerable face-to-face technical and administrative support. Since establishment of the PMO in early May, substantially increased support via email and phone has also been possible. Ongoing support and guidance has also been provided by the URS PM.

The high level of governance under which URS operates has provided particular challenges for some of the NMACs, especially those that have not previously been involved with the management requirements of an AusAID project. These difficulties are progressively being addressed.

NMAC workplans covering key activities for the 6-month period were established during the first round of country visits, and performance against these workplans subsequently monitored by the PMAS and QBS.

Country Offices (COs) have been established in all 5 countries including basic fit-out with equipment and furniture and establishment of internet and telecommunication services. The various COs are located as detailed in Table 7-1.

Table 7-1 Country office locations

Country	Location
Fiji	Co-located with the PMO at SPC Land Resources Division
Samoa	Co-located within the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Solomon Islands	Independent rented premises
Tonga	Co-located with the Tonga Growers Federation at the Tonga Chamber of Commerce
Vanuatu	Co-located with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock

Set-up procurement for the COs has now been largely completed.

7.2.3 Staff Development

NMACs. A one-week Induction Course was held in Suva from July 4–9 (just outside this reporting period), attended by all NMACs. The week included a review of PHAMA design principles; financial and administrative procedures; program coordination and communications procedures; program M&E; program risk management; strategic planning sessions (including group-based scenario solving); Code of Conduct, Health and Safety, Corruption and Fraud, Child Protection, and Confidentiality/Conflict-of-Interest policies; basic IT training; and several field trips. The course was attended by the URS PM (for its full duration) and the URS PD (for the final two days). Formal assessment by participants at the end of the week indicated the course was very well received, not just for the formal

training content but especially for its team building aspects and the opportunity for the NMACs to interact with one another in-person and share country experiences.

The 3-month end-of-probation assessments were completed for all NMACs while they were in Suva for the Induction Course. This involved formal assessment by the PMAS, including consideration of written comments from the MAWG Chairs against pre-specified assessment criteria and self-assessment by the NMACs. Assessment outcomes were subsequently discussed with each of the NMACs, highlighting areas of strength and weakness. All NMACs have been retained.

Procurement/ Finance Officer and Administration Officer. The PFO and AO received initial start-up guidance from the URS PM during mobilisation, with substantial ongoing remote support by phone and email. Both the PFO and AO also participated in the July Induction Course, and had the opportunity over this period to spend considerable one-on-one time with the PM to sort out more specific issues. Ongoing additional support is being provided by the PM and TL.

7.2.4 Contract Deliverables

Milestones completed (and accepted by AusAID) over the reporting period are detailed in Table 7-2.

Table 7-2 Completed milestones

Milestone	Due date
Inception Report	7 Feb
3-Month Bridging Plan to June 30	11 March
PHAMA Operational Manual and finalised PHAMA Code of Conduct	20 May
Financial Management Handbook	20 May
Risk Management Plan	20 May
Communications and Media Strategy	20 May
2011/12 Annual Strategic Plan	30 June
Quarterly Exception Report #1 (to end June 2011)	30 June

The implementation plan for the MERI framework, originally due to be submitted on 20 May, has (with the approval of AusAID) been deferred to August 15¹⁵.

7.2.5 Program Staffing

The Program is fully staffed in line with the URS-Kalang proposal, as detailed in Table 7-3.

Table 7-3 Program staff

Position	Person
Team Leader	Richard Holloway
Principal Market Access Specialist	Rob Duthie
Quarantine/ Biosecurity Specialist	Anna Duthie
Procurement/ Finance Officer	Raveen Chand

¹⁵ Owing to the delayed start-up, combined with personal bereavement experienced by the Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist (MES) around the time when he was first due to be mobilised.

Position	Person
Administration Officer	Vasiti Nakoula
NMAC: Fiji	Losalini Leweniqila
NMAC: Samoa	Kirifi Pouono
NMAC: Solomon Islands	Israel Wore
NMAC: Tonga	Tom Nakao
NMAC: Vanuatu	Tim Tumukon

7.2.6 LTA Travel

LTA travel over the period is summarised below:

- Travel by the TL, PMAS and QBS to all countries (excluding Fiji) for the first round of MAWG meetings coupled with the in-country launches, over the period 13 Feb to 19 April.
- Travel by the TL, PMAS and QBS to all countries for the second round of MAWG meetings coupled with the in-country launches for Tonga, Samoa and the Solomon Islands, over the period 17 May to 15 June.
- Travel by the PMAS to Brisbane to participate in the quarantine and biosecurity capacity building workshop for PICs, hosted and facilitated by DAFF, over the period 5–8 April.
- Travel by the PMAS and QBS to Canberra, and the PMAS, QBS and TL to Wellington to discuss initial program activities with BA and MAFNZ, over the period 13–18 March.

7.2.7 STA Inputs

STA inputs over the period are summarised in Table 7-4.

Table 7-4 STA inputs during reporting period

Person	Position	Activity	Timing
Gavin Edwards	Crop Management and Control Systems Specialist	FIJI01 FIJI02 SAMOA01 VAN02	12 April to 11 June
Bronwyn Wiseman	Plant Pathologist and Generalist Quarantine Specialist	TONGA01 TONGA02 VAN01	11 April to 27 May
Dale Hamilton	Generalist Quarantine Specialist	SOL01 SOLS02 SOL05 VAN07	20 April to 30 June

In total, 10 STA assignments (plus 2 additional assignments under the 'Emergency Measures' window) have been completed over the period, with reports finalised and awaiting sign-off by peer reviewers.

7.3 Communications and Coordination

The Program's Communications and Media Strategy was finalised and submitted to AusAID in May. Implementation of key activities outlined in the strategy is now well advanced. Key areas are further detailed below.

7.3.1 Communication/Coordination between the NMACs, the MAWG and the PMO

As previously noted, effective communication and coordination between the NMACs, the MAWGs and the PMO is critical to Program operations. Basic coordination/ communication procedures have already been established, and will be further consolidated over coming months.

7.3.2 Communication/Coordination with AusAID/ DFAT (in-country)

The Team has already met with AusAID (and in some cases) DFAT personnel in all five countries on several occasions to: provide a general briefing on the Program; to seek advice on local conditions that may impact on implementation approaches; to ascertain any particular trade issues that DFAT is aware of that need to be brought to the attention of the MAWG; to discuss communication processes and protocols; and to introduce the NMACs. These briefings will continue on a regular basis whenever LTAs are in-country. All Posts are being copied in on key MAWG meeting outcome documents. The Team is endeavouring to keep NZAid Program Country staff fully informed of all activities that have a NZ focus.

The Team has also had a mobilisation briefing with Fiji AusAID staff on regional issues likely to affect implementation of the Program, particularly issues surrounding the prevailing security and diplomatic situation.

7.3.3 Communication with SPC

Despite the fact that the PMO is located in the same building as the SPC Biosecurity and Trade Support Team (BATS), coordination with BATS management has been frustrated by the delayed start-up of the Program, compounded by the heavy travel schedules of both PMO and BATS staff since the PHAMA Team mobilised to Fiji. There have been relatively few days when both PMO and senior BATS staff have been in the office at the same time. Now that travel schedules are settling down, regular weekly coordination meetings have been scheduled.

7.3.4 Communication/Coordination with Biosecurity Australia and MAFNZ

The PMAS and QBS intend to meet formally with representatives of BA/AQIS and NZMAF at least four times each year. Some of these consultations will be held in Canberra/ Wellington, some in Fiji when BA, AQIS and NZMAF staff are in-country, and some via teleconference. These meetings are designed to: (i) provide general background briefings on PHAMA; (ii) gain a better understanding of the relevant institutional work programs related to MA requests from PICs, together with procedures and current issues that are likely to have an impact on PHAMA; (iii) discuss MA priorities identified by the MAWGs and how these might be accommodated within relevant institutional work programs; (iv) seek comment on Program timelines and schedules for development and reporting of MAWG workplans; (v) determine resourcing capacities, job descriptions and status of funding for the Pacific

Coordinator positions within these agencies; and (vi) agree on and establish formal communications and coordination mechanisms.

The first round of consultations was held in mid-March (in Canberra and Wellington), with a second round scheduled for late July/ early August. In addition to these formal meetings, there has been routine contact via email and phone across a wide range of issues.

7.3.5 Communication/Coordination with Other Donors and Projects

The TL and the PMAS are actively liaising through various channels with a range of relevant donor, national government, and private sector projects and Programs (such as Increasing Agricultural Commodity Trade (IACT/ EU); Pacific Agribusiness Research and Development Initiative (PARDI/ ACIAR); Food Security and Sustainable Livelihoods Program (FSSLP/ IFAD-FAO); Agricultural and Rural Development Program (ARDP/ EDF 10); and the Market Development Facility (MDF/ AusAID)). These programs have the potential to provide support for the development of supply chains, thus complementing the use of PHAMA resources to address technical/ regulatory MA issues. Cross-program linkages are already being developed for a number of activities, as outlined in section 5.9.

Information on opportunities for linking with other Programs is also being routinely passed on to the NMACs and through the NMACS to the MAWGs. The MAWGs can then work to forge operational linkages at national level (with PHAMA facilitation if required) in order to develop a more integrated approach to addressing technical and non-technical MA issues, broader supply chain issues and cross-cutting issues such as gender equality and social inclusion.

Other Programs and projects are being actively encouraged to use the NMACs as a key in-country contact point. Most have limited in-country presence and welcome the opportunity.

Preparation of a consolidated 'project summary' of relevant supply chain projects for the NMACs and MAWGs, planned for April–May, has not yet happened due to the delayed mobilisation of the LTAs to Suva. This work will be prioritised over coming months.

The TL and/or PMAS are already participating in structured higher-level coordination arrangements with relevant projects such as PARDI and IACT. The first of these coordination meetings was held in mid-April at SPC in Suva, with at least 2 more scheduled for the 2011–12 year.

7.3.6 Promotion and Media

In general, the PHAMA 'brand' is already well established, both regionally and nationally. Considering the complex conceptual basis of the Program, there is already a reasonably strong (and progressively developing) awareness of what the Program is all about.

Highly successful Program 'launches' have been held in Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and the Solomon Islands¹⁶. All launches conducted to date have been officiated by government Ministers and the Australian High Commissioner or Acting High Commissioner, and have attracted considerable media coverage (TV, press and radio).

¹⁶ The Vanuatu launch is scheduled for August/September at the time of next major MAWG meeting when all LTAs will be in-country.

Program staff have made public presentations at the following workshops/ conferences over the reporting period:

- Pacific Regional Business Conference, Denarau, June 20 (TL).
- Quarantine and Biosecurity Capacity Building Workshop for PICs, Brisbane, April 6 (PMAS).

Basic promotional materials have been developed (brochure/ banners/ signage/ press releases etc). These materials will be expanded and modified over the coming year to increasingly reflect what PHAMA is doing rather than what it *will* be doing. Increasing emphasis will also be placed on producing PR materials that are specific to each country, rather than simply having general regional content.

Some of the NMACs are already preparing 3-Monthly newsletters with local content on current PHAMA activities. This activity will be expanded to include all PHAMA countries over coming months. A 6-Monthly PMO newsletter will also be produced.

The PHAMA website will be developed over coming months.

7.4 Cross-Cutting Issues

7.4.1 Gender

Activity Selection

Owing to its tight focus on technical, regulatory aspects of market access, PHAMA deliberately adopts a highly market-driven approach in determining the particular MA issues that will be addressed¹⁷. Potential activities are selected by the MAWG applying criteria designed to assess, in the first instance: (i) potential economic impact; (ii) cost and difficulty of addressing the particular MA issue; and (iii) probability of achieving a successful outcome. However, the design also explicitly acknowledges that consideration should be given to potential distributional impacts for more marginalised households and women. While these are not intended to govern the selection process, a particular activity that is able to demonstrate benefit for poorer households and/or women would be selected over one that is not, all other factors being equal.

In line with the above, the MAWGs, the NMACs, and the PMO are actively seeking activities that will provide particular benefits for poorer households and women. Three such activities have already been identified where work will commence during the 2011–12 year, as follows:

- Investigation of the feasibility of cut-flower and foliage exports from the Solomon Islands to Australia (Activity SOLS04). This builds on considerable work done by the AusAID-funded Agricultural Livelihoods Program with womens' groups producing and selling cut flowers into the local market.
- Development of a treatment for mites on exports of organic bananas from Samoa to NZ (Activity SAMOA06). The Samoan group 'Women in Business' has over the past few years developed a niche export market for organic ladyfinger bananas to NZ. This trade has been recently affected by quarantine intercepts of mites, necessitating fumigation which has resulted in loss of organic status and shelf-life, and has brought exports to a halt.

¹⁷ Endorsed during the QAE process after lengthy discussion.

- Review of quarantine issues affecting trade in handicrafts (Activity REGIONAL05). In all countries covered by PHAMA, production of local handicrafts for the tourist market generates substantial additional income for many villages with few other production opportunities. Manufacture is often carried out by women and women's groups, such as those developed under the MORDI Program in Tonga. However, sales are often constrained by use of raw materials (such as some seeds) that are prohibited by potential importing countries. PHAMA will commence work on reviewing the raw materials being used in commonly manufactured handicrafts, as a precursor to providing guidelines covering permitted raw materials and labelling requirements.

MAWG Composition

Of the total 45 members involved in the 5 MAWGs, 7 are women, including 1 female Chair. 'Women in Business' in Samoa is formally represented on the Samoa MAWG. As and when other womens' groups that are actively involved in primary sector exports or have a clear interest in becoming involved are identified, they will also be brought into the MAWG process.

Review of PHAMAs treatment of gender

Under the bridging 3-Month Plan, it was proposed that the Program's replacement Pathologist/Quarantine and Biosecurity Specialist¹⁸, who also has considerable experience with AusAID in aid delivery, would review PHAMA's approach to gender during her proposed technical inputs over the 3-month period.

This has been deferred pending her likely involvement in AusAID's gender audit of the rural development portfolio. It is now proposed to mobilise her for a dedicated gender input following completion of the rural development gender audit. This will allow a more systematic review of gender entry points, issues and responses than the previous approach would have permitted, and will also provide the opportunity for PHAMA to benefit from 'lessons learned' from the broader gender audit.

7.4.2 Capacity Building

As noted in Section 3, the broader PHAMA Program (incorporating MC-executed and SPC-executed components) adopts a 2-pronged approach to capacity building: (i) developing the capacity of national organisations (public and private) to manage MA issues – but at the same time recognising that many of the smaller PICs are likely to remain dependent on facilitation by external service providers in the longer term; and (ii) providing funding to SPC so that it can continue to develop capacity to provide a clearly defined set of generic, higher-level MA-support services in line with its regional mandate.

In relation to the MC-executed components, the primary focus is on developing the capacity of the MAWGs to *manage* market access opportunities and issues. It is this overarching *management capacity*, based on input from both government and private sector interests, which has particularly constrained the development of new market access agreements, as well as the management of issues associated with maintaining access, once gained. As detailed in section 4.1, considerable progress has been achieved over the last 6 months in establishing and building the capacity of the MAWGs to fill this role.

Defining appropriate MA opportunities, developing data packages to support MA submissions, and developing appropriate risk management measures often requires reasonably sophisticated R&D

¹⁸ Bronwyn Wiseman.

efforts. Even in far better resourced countries such as Australia and NZ, these activities are often ‘outsourced’ to third party providers, and it makes even more sense for a similar approach to be followed for far smaller PICs. Where PHAMA is helping to resolve a particular R&D issue, and there is a logical local R&D partner with an appropriate mandate and baseline capacity, the Program will of course directly involve this organisation in order to develop local capacity as part of the process. However, the reality is that in most cases there is no local capacity, and developing such capacity is simply not a viable option.

Implementation of the day-to-day measures required to comply with the terms and conditions of MA protocols agreed with importing countries (e.g. implementation of product quality standards, inspection, treatment etc.) must however, by definition, be implemented locally. Roles and responsibilities in this area are generally spread across both government and private sector stakeholders. Wherever PHAMA is involved in an activity that is related to implementation of MA requirements, working with appropriate local stakeholders to develop *their* capacity to do the job, better, will always be a central part of the activity design.

Note that management of SPC-executed activities was deliberately separated from other activities implemented under the Program at design, due to the significant technical and financial constraints currently facing the organisation. Consistent with the mandated role of SPC in providing MA-support services to member countries, it is intended that the MC-executed activities will be progressively integrated into SPCs core Program from the start of Phase 2 (with continuing donor support), with a corresponding phase-out of the MC, subject to demonstration of appropriate capacity by SPC during the course of Phase 1 to manage this type of targeted and reasonably technical form of assistance.

7.4.3 Environment

As noted in the design, PHAMA will generally not be dealing with MA issues related to commodity or industrial crops. Most products and production systems are likely to be smallholder-based and highly dispersed, and are likely to be relatively low-input or even organic in terms of pesticide use. In some cases pursuit of organic status may in fact be the basis of the perceived market opportunity and MA request (e.g. ladyfinger banana's from Samoa into NZ). Improved awareness by industry of quality standards and pest and disease issues, and improved operational capacity of government quarantine services, is likely to produce longer-term and more general benefits related to protection of both exporting and importing countries from incursion threats due to breakdown of quarantine systems.

Regardless of the above, the MAWG (and NMACs) are being encouraged to be mindful of possible adverse environmental impacts associated with increased production of products with which PHAMA is working. No such impacts have been identified to date. Where they are, PHAMA will ensure that relevant government agencies (which in all countries are already represented on the MAWGs) are made aware of these concerns. The Program is also actively working to forge linkages with supply chain projects that may be able to assist with production issues, including the mitigation of possible environmental impacts, as and when they arise.

7.5 Risk Management

PHAMA's baseline Risk Management Matrix (RMM) was finalised in May 2011. During the current input by the M&E Specialist (MES), the Matrix has been reviewed and reformatted into a more conventional form that groups risks under the following general categories (Appendix F):

- **Management Risks:** circumstances that prevent the PMO (including NMACs) from delivering the planned number/quality of outputs.
- **Intervention risks:** circumstances that prevent the MAWG/SPC (as key boundary partners) from adopting changes in knowledge/attitude/practice promoted by the PMO. This situation may arise despite the successful delivery of outputs by the PMO.
- **Development risks:** Circumstances that inhibit the extent to which ultimate beneficiaries experience the sustainable change anticipated by the program. This situation may arise despite the realisation of program outcomes in MAWG/SPC.

One additional risk (#10) has also been added to the RMM, as detailed in Table 7-5.

Table 7-5 Risks added to RMM

Risk Area	Mitigation strategy
Mentoring engagement between PMO and SPC compromised by funding approach by AusAid for Component 4 i.e SPC has no contractual obligation to effectively engage with the MC/PMO.	Revisit JOA, lessons learned and failures, and agree on actions to address as required. Closely monitor implementation performance. Review funding arrangements and consider moving to an outputs-based performance system. If no improvement, move early to identify alternatives for Phase 2.

A core function of the Program Director (PD) and the TL is the ongoing and routine monitoring of risks identified in the RMM. Key changes in the Program's operating environment are reported through the 6-Month Progress Reports and Quarterly Exception Reports, or directly to AusAID in the event of an important issue that requires a more immediate response.

Of the risks described in the RMM, seven are currently regarded as requiring particularly close management, as detailed in Table 7-6.

Table 7-6 Risks requiring close management

Risk Area	Mitigation strategy
MAWGs are unable to agree on MA priorities and strategies, and/ or identify unrealistic priorities.	Reinforce the criteria and process for determining priorities. Promote sense of working for the national good. Measure and report comparison of performance between MAWGs. Mentor and pro-actively support the chair and vice chair. If MAWG still unable to make decisions, undertake JOA to identify weaknesses and reasons why dysfunctional (political/ social/ cultural/ personal conflict/ govt vs private conflict). Agree communications and training plan to address. Mediation by the NMACs/ LTAs. Review performance of NMAC. Be prepared to change members if necessary. Activities not funded until differences have been resolved.
MA priorities are overly focussed on gaining new access into Australia and NZ, with limited capacity of Australia and NZ to process requests.	Encourage MAWGs to spread efforts across other countries (e.g. intra-regional trade opportunities). Identify priorities related to maintaining existing access, as well as gaining new access.

The prioritisation process is skewed towards selection of MA priorities that have gender or social inclusion benefits, at the cost of priorities more likely to result in substantial trade benefits.	Actively communicate the higher-level technical (vs community development) nature of the Program to all stakeholders. Wherever gender/ social inclusion issues <i>can</i> be meaningfully addressed, make sure they are e.g. ensure that where women's groups are involved in export activity, they are represented on the MAWG.
The short duration of Phase 1 in relation to the objectives of the Program, further compounded by significant delays during mobilisation, will constrain the nature and duration of activities that can be supported and will ultimately limit the results able to be demonstrated during Phase 1.	Encourage MAWGs to select MA activities with quicker pay-offs wherever possible, especially those related to maintaining trade or improving MA protocols. Continue to emphasise to AusAID and other stakeholders that gaining MA is a long term process that requires long term commitment.
SPCs structural funding issues result in Component 4 resources being excessively diluted and uncoordinated, with suboptimal delivery.	Revisit JOA, lessons learned and failures, and agree on actions to address as required. Closely monitor implementation performance. Review funding arrangements and consider moving to an outputs-based performance system. If no improvement, move early to identify alternatives for Phase 2.
SPC-managed Component 4 activities are poorly coordinated with MC-managed Component 1–3 activities.	Undertake JOA to help SPC identify their project management and coordination weaknesses. Preparation of consolidated planning and monitoring reports, led by the MC. Adoption of seamless planning and budget approval processes. Conduct of monthly coordination meetings. Use of the NMACs as a focal point for both PMO and SPC MA-related activities in-country.
Mentoring engagement between PMO and SPC compromised by funding approach by AusAid for Component 4.	Revisit JOA, lessons learned and failures, and agree on actions to address as required. Closely monitor implementation performance. Review funding arrangements and consider moving to an outputs-based performance system. If no improvement, move early to identify alternatives for Phase 2.

Of these, the risks that pertain to SPC and Component 4 are on the high priority 'watchlist'.

Other risks that are also on the 'watchlist' include the ability to recruit suitably skilled STAs, when they are needed, at specified fee rates (#5); and the need to manage expectations (#21).

The RMM has been workshopped with the NMACs (during their Induction Course) and with the MAWG Chairs (during their visit to Suva for the PCC meeting). Both groups are in broad agreement with the preliminary risk assessments and mitigation measures identified, and are highly responsive to being involved in using the RMM as a key program management tool.

7.6 MERI

A draft of the Implementation Plan for the Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) Framework was completed for AusAID in late August 2010. Following unavoidable delays M&E arrangements will now be finalised during an input by the MES in July/August and submitted to AusAID by August 15. This input will: (i) review program logic particularly in relation to the MC/ SPC interface¹⁹; (ii) review and where necessary adjust the baseline risk assessment; (iii) finalise the MERI Framework²⁰; (ii) finalise the detailed MERI Implementation Plan including final design of data capture tools and formats; (iii) initiate training of Project staff that have MERI responsibilities (especially the NMACs); and (iv) initiate collection of baseline data.

¹⁹ More clearly defining the MC's mentoring role (c.f. management role) in relation to the SPC-executed Component 4 activities.

²⁰ Reflecting issues discussed with AusAID during the pre-mobilisation briefing.

Key M&E reports for the 2011–12 year will include the following:

- Baseline Impact Case Study Report (last quarter 2011).
- Baseline MAWG Capacity Case Study Report (last quarter 2011).
- First MAWG Capacity Update Report (second quarter 2012).
- First PMO Quality Performance Update Report (second quarter 2012).
- First SPC Market Access Support Update Report (second quarter 2012).

Subsequent 6-Monthly Progress Reports will incorporate results generated from these M&E activities.

7.7 Sustainability

PHAMA seeks to improve the sustainability of export pathways and thereby export performance for high-value agricultural and horticultural products by addressing technical MA issues. Establishing the MAWGs as sustainable institutions capable of effectively managing MA issues is a key part of the approach being pursued. Critical to the sustainability of these groups is representation and buy-in from government and private sector interests. The private sector cannot manage market access issues on its own as agreement and assurances are required at a bilateral, government-to-government level; but equally, government cannot operate in isolation of commercial reality. The first step in the process is therefore to develop a *management mechanism* incorporating effective government/ private sector partnership. If the private sector can see value in the approach (i.e. increased profits) they will be strong advocates and supporters of the process. The second (and longer-term) step is to develop a mechanism so that the operations of the MAWG (including the cost of the NMAC) are financed by benefiting stakeholders, eliminating the need for ongoing external subsidy.

The sustainability of the MAWG process is already being actively discussed with the MAWGs and the NMACs. Despite the fact that it is still very early days in terms of achieving the MA 'wins' that will be an essential part of gaining the level of commitment (including financial commitment) necessary for development of a fully sustainable process, the reaction to the idea of progressively moving towards a longer-term goal of industry/ government financing of MAWG operations has been positive.

Quite apart from sustainability of the MAWG management process, some of the market access development activities already identified for assistance under Phase 1 such as phytosanitary inspection, treatment, implementation of product quality standards etc. will require significant ongoing support from both the private sector (commitment, funding) as well as from government (commitment, funding and in some cases regulation). On this front, the Program is actively promoting discussion with government and industry partners, through the MAWGs, on possible funding models, the need (in some situations) for regulatory change, and the need for improved industry representative processes. These issues will be increasingly emphasised as implementation proceeds, existing markets are stabilised and additional markets established.

Directly addressing some of the higher-level issues is outside the scope of PHAMA Phase 1. However, gaining a better understanding of the issues, and initiating discussion with government and industry partners on possible solutions is designed to lay a foundation for possibly broadened assistance under PHAMA Phase 2.

7.8 Proposed Variations to the Annual Strategic Plan

The 2011–12 ASP (1 July 2011–30 June 2012) was approved by the PCC on July 15.

The only adjustment identified to date is in relation to the frequency with which the NMACs are brought together for training/ professional development. The ASP provides for this to happen just once over the next 12 months, for the Annual Planning Workshop to be held in Suva in May 2012²¹. The program design anticipated that the NMACs should be brought together at least twice per year, and this is reflected in the Scope of Services. On the back of the value derived by the NMACs in being able to interact as a group during the Induction Course in July, it is proposed that a second group meeting be scheduled for November/ December. This is considered particularly important given that the NMACs are operating as solo positions and as such are vulnerable to becoming professionally and technically isolated.

²¹ Refer ASP Appendix D budget item 4.1.6

Expenditure

8.1 Expenditure to Date

8.1.1 Components 1–3

Actual expenditure for the MC-executed Components 1–3 to the end of June 2011 is AUD 1,261,049 or 12% of total Phase 1 funding. The breakdown of expenditure by budget category is shown in Table 8-1.

Table 8-1 Components 1–3 Expenditure to date against Budget 2010–11

Budget category	Contract budget	January–June 2011				Cumulative	
		Budget (Jan–Jun 2011)	Jan–Jun 2011 actual	%	Variance	Actual	%
Milestone claims	1,976,059	592,818	573,057	97	-19,761	573,057	29
Long term personnel costs	2,988,308	665,700	456,714	69	-208,986	456,714	15
Short term personnel costs	2,198,370	458,760	118,072	26	-340,688	118,072	5
Admin, equip & operations							
PMO Set Up Costs	79,000	79,000	9,025	11	-69,975	9,025	11
National Secretariats - Set Up Costs	48,000	48,000	21,524	45	-26,476	21,524	45
Operating Costs	122,000	21,034	5,486	26	-15,549	5,486	4
Activity costs	2,888,263	497,976	77,171	15	-420,806	77,171	3
Total:	10,300,000	2,363,289	1,261,049	53	-1,102,240	1,261,049	12

Note that due to the delayed start-up, the Program was underspent by AUD1,102,240 for the 2010–11 FY. It is anticipated that this underspend will be substantially corrected over the next 12 months.

8.1.2 Component 4 (SPC)

Actual expenditure for the SPC-executed Component 4 to the end of June 2011 was AUD 245,016 or 8% of total available Phase 1 funding²². The breakdown of expenditure by budget category over the period is shown in Table 8-2. Transport and travel costs account for 41.5% of total expenditure; and grants (related mainly to renewal of the CABI subscription) for 32.7%.

²² AUD 3.029 million.

Table 8-2 Component 4 Expenditure against Budget 2010–11

Budget category	2010–11 Budget (AUD)	2010–11 Actual (AUD)²³	% of total (%)
Staff costs	NA	18,364	7.5
Communication costs	NA	110	0.0
Other operating costs	NA	6,189	2.5
Capital costs	NA	2,339	1.0
Transport and travel	NA	101,742	41.5
Conference, training, workshops	NA	24,243	9.9
Field work	NA	489	0.2
Study and research	NA	10,162	4.1
Grants	NA	80,103	32.7
Publications/ production material	NA	1,276	0.5
TOTAL		245,016	100.0%

8.2 Projected Expenditure July 1 to Dec 31

Budget estimates for the full 2011–12 year are provided in the Annual Strategic Plan Appendix E.

Based on these estimates, projected expenditure for the period July 1 to December 31 2011 is as detailed in Table 8-3.

Table 8-3 Projected Expenditure 1 July 1 to 31 Dec 2011

COMPONENTS 1–3 (Thousand AUD)		COMPONENT 4 (Thousand AUD)	
LTP costs	570.6	MA Information Services	213
Admin, eqpmt & operational costs	45.3	International Engagement	211
Activity costs (incl STA)	1,438.0	MA Surveillance & Reporting	157
Total Management Fee	494.0	Technical Assistance	112
		SPC Costs	48.5
TOTAL	2,547.9	TOTAL	741.5

²³ Exchange rate applied AUD1:00=FJD1.84

Key Issues

9.1 Basis of Payments – Short Term Personnel

The current Basis of Payments has 5 categories: (i) Total Management Fee; (ii) Reimbursable Long Term Personnel (LTP) Costs; (iii) Reimbursable Short Term Personnel (STP) Costs; (iv) Reimbursable Admin, Equipment and Operational Costs; and (v) Reimbursable Activity Costs. Market access development activities, identified by the MAWGs, are funded from Categories (iii) and (v). These activities are the core of PHAMA operations.

The original program design anticipated a highly flexible and responsive delivery mechanism, matched by appropriately flexible financing mechanisms. Market access priorities to be addressed by the program are identified on an ongoing basis by the MAWGs. There is no way of anticipating in advance what these will be. It can be anticipated however (and was in fact anticipated at design) that given the nature of the issues that PHAMA is designed to address (i.e. resolution of technical market access issues), expenditure on TA will comprise the major share of total expenditure.

During the contracting / tendering process tenderers were requested to nominate the STA and their inputs per year. But, there was no documentation provided that allowed the tenderers to determine what TA was required and expected inputs per year. Thus, the amount nominated in the URS tender and then specified in the Contract is based on an arbitrary 'guess' made by the URS bid team. This in no way could reflect the demands created by the MAWGs for STA and thus the Contract does not reflect the reality of the need. Therefore, Reimbursable Short-Term (STP) Costs and Reimbursable Activity Costs as presented in the contract could never reflect what would happen during implementation. Moreover, within the STP category, total funding was nominally allocated between 8 prescribed positions²⁴.

The current allocation to Category (iii) (Reimbursable STP costs) will be fully disbursed within the current FY. Once this happens, under present arrangements URS will need to seek approval from AusAID for Category (v) funds for those STA already approved but whose allocation of time has been fully utilised. Given that PHAMA is unavoidably a 'TA intensive' program, this process is likely to be time-consuming and difficult to manage, both for URS and AusAID.

It is therefore recommended that Budget Categories (iii) and (iv) be combined as intended in the original project design, to provide a single fund that can be used to finance MA development activities as identified by the MAWGs and approved by the PCC through the ASP process, regardless of whether these activities involve expenditure on TA, training, equipment or materials. Under this revised arrangement any expenditure on TA would remain subject to exactly the same approval processes as currently apply.

9.2 MAWG Honorariums

Several of the MAWGs have raised the issue of whether honorariums can be paid, in line with accepted practice for other similar boards/ committees in their countries with similar workloads and responsibilities. In some cases the issue has been raised in the context of an honorarium to be paid to the Chair (especially where the Chair is from the private sector); in others it has been raised in the

²⁴ Although there is a small 'unallocated' category also included.

context of payment of nominal per-meeting ‘sitting fees’ for all members. The request is not unreasonable considering the amount of time involved, especially for the Chairs and Vice Chairs²⁵.

It is therefore recommended that for the duration of Phase 1, a lump sum of \$2,000 per MAWG per annum be made available for payment of honorariums and/or sitting fees, at the discretion of the MAWG and with the prior approval of the PMO. Mechanisms for financing these payments in the future will form a key part of discussions around long-term sustainability of the MAWG process. These discussions have in fact already commenced (see section 7.7).

It is proposed that the funds be taken from the Reimbursable Activities budget.

9.3 SPC-Component 4

Slow recruitment of staff for Component 4 by SPC, delayed mobilisation of the Component 1–3 Team to Suva, plus reduced operational funding for BATS from non-PHAMA sources have combined to result in a slow start for Component 4. As a result, current Component 4 activities are lacking to some extent in cohesion and strategic direction.

Due to the deliberately ‘compartmentalised’ nature of the design, these issues do not directly affect the performance of Component 1–3 activities. However, the PMO will be making particular efforts in coming months to try and work alongside BATS to improve the overall direction of Component 4.

It needs to be emphasised that the PMOs relationship with SPC/BATS regarding the implementation of Component 4 is primarily a ‘mentoring’ relationship. Funding for Component 4 activities is disbursed directly by AusAID to SPC; and the PMO has no direct ‘in-line’ role in relation to either the planning, management or monitoring of Component 4 activities. Note that the MES, during his recent input, has adjusted the Program’s logframe and MERI Framework to more appropriately reflect the ‘mentoring’ nature of this relationship and the attendant risk has been refined in the Risk Management Plan.

9.4 Reporting Schedule

The MC has submitted a revised planning / reporting / review schedule to AusAID for consideration (see below). This revised schedule is intended to improve the alignment of various planning/ reporting/ review events and aims to reduce duplication. General agreement has been reached in discussions with AusAID prior to the PCC but a formal response to the proposal is pending.

Table 9-1 Revised Reporting Schedule

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
ASPs						xx						
6-Month Reports						xx						xx
Qtrly Exception Reports			xx						xx			
PCC Meeting						xx						xx

²⁵ For example, the Tonga and Vanuatu Chairs, who are both private sector reps, indicate that PHAMA/ MAWG affairs are requiring an input of around 2-3 days per month.

9.5 M&E

Due to the delayed start-up, compounded by a family bereavement for the MES immediately prior to the start of his first input in mid-May, finalisation and implementation of the M&E Framework is well behind schedule. The M&E program has been rescheduled to bring M&E activities back on track as rapidly as possible, with the first input by the MES commencing on July 10. Milestone 5 (the Implementation Plan for the MERI Framework) will now be provided to AusAID by 15 August.

Note that the delayed finalisation of the MERI Framework has prevented the incorporation of a range of M&E outputs into this 6-Month Progress Report. Future Progress Reports will incorporate M&E content as detailed in the MERI Implementation Matrix.

9.6 Under-expenditure

Due largely to the delayed start-up, the Program was significantly underspent over the first 6 months (Jan to June 2011). The Program is confident that it will have the need for, and capacity to utilise these funds in the remaining 2 years of Phase 1, provided they can be carried-over.

Contractor Performance Assessment

Under the provisions of the Contract, AusAID will carry out a Contractor Performance Assessment (CPA) at six-monthly intervals, coinciding with the submission of the 6-Monthly Progress Reports and the ASPs. This assessment will be made against a range of pre-specified criteria grouped under the following headings:

- Partnerships and advocacy
- Interventions
- Capacity Building
- Project Management

As requested by AusAID, key activities and achievements as presented in this 6-Month Progress Report have been summarised under the above headings in order to facilitate the assessment process (see Appendix G).

Depending on interpretation, a number of the criteria in the CPA are outside the direct 'sphere of control' of the MC, being dependent on the performance of boundary partners such as the MAWGs and SPC. The MC would like to propose that where there is possible ambiguity, these criteria are interpreted in line with risk classification as detailed in the RMM (management, intervention, development risk categories) and that this classification is used to determine what is under the MC's sphere of control, influence and concern, and what is 'out of scope' with regards to the MC being held directly responsible for outcomes.

Limitations

URS Corporation Pty Ltd (URS) has prepared this report in accordance with the usual care and thoroughness of the consulting profession for the use of AusAID and only those third parties who have been authorised in writing by URS to rely on the report. It is based on generally accepted practices and standards at the time it was prepared. No other warranty, expressed or implied, is made as to the professional advice included in this report. It is prepared in accordance with the scope of work and for the purpose outlined in the Contract dated 20 January 2011.

The methodology adopted and sources of information used by URS are outlined in this report. URS has made no independent verification of this information beyond the agreed scope of works and URS assumes no responsibility for any inaccuracies or omissions. No indications were found during our investigations that information contained in this report as provided to URS was false.

This report was prepared during July 2011 and is based on the conditions encountered and information reviewed at the time of preparation. URS disclaims responsibility for any changes that may have occurred after this time.

This report should be read in full. No responsibility is accepted for use of any part of this report in any other context or for any other purpose or by third parties.

Appendix A

Appendix A 2010–11 Market Access Activities for Components 1–3

Activity Ref	Country	Activity Title
FIJI01	Fiji	Investigation of taro export issues to Australia and NZ
FIJI02	Fiji	Investigation of potential ginger export issues to Australia
SAMOA01	Samoa	Investigation of taro export issues to Australia and NZ
SOLS01	Solomon Islands	Review of diagnostic requirements to ascertain cocoa and copra meal quality standards
SOLS02	Solomon Islands	Investigation of market access implications and costs associated with managing Giant African Snail
TONGA01	Tonga	Feasibility study to determine the suitability of 'winter window' export conditions for watermelons to NZ
TONGA02	Tonga	Feasibility study of using dimethoate dip treatment to facilitate the export of fruit fly host products to Fiji
VAN01	Vanuatu	Review of diagnostic requirements to service various value-added industries
VAN02	Vanuatu	Investigation of the viability of the high temperature forced air (HTFA) facility as a treatment option for the export of fruit fly host products to NZ
REGIONAL02	Regional	Compilation of a response to Biosecurity Australia's (BAs) draft Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) on taro imports from all countries

Appendix B

Appendix B 2011–12 Market Access Activities for Components 1–3

Activity Ref	Country	Activity Title
FIJI03	Fiji	Investigation of market acceptability of Fiji TLB– resistant taro varieties in Australia and/or NZ.
FIJI04	Fiji	Clarification of the quarantine status of nematodes associated with taro imports.
FIJI05	Fiji	Development of and training on taro production and packhouse standards.
FIJI06	Fiji	Substantiation of Australia’s requirement for devitalisation of taro imports.
FIJI07	Fiji	Scoping study to develop options for the management of a new fruit fly species on Rotuma and Vatoa Islands.
FIJI08	Fiji	Progression of new market access requests for papaya and breadfruit to the US.
FIJI09	Fiji	Feasibility studies on eggplant, chilli, breadfruit, jackfruit, gourd/s and pineapple exports to Australia.
FIJI10	Fiji	New market access submissions for products recommended under Activity FIJI09.
FIJI11	Fiji	Eradication of <i>Bactrocera kirki</i> from Rotuma and Vatoa Islands.
FIJI12	Fiji	Trials to confirm fruit fly non-host status for Polynesian plum (Wi).
SAMOA02	Samoa	Determination of the quarantine status of nematodes on Samoan taro exports to (linked to FIJI04).
SAMOA03	Samoa	Promotion of new Samoan taro varieties in NZ.
SAMOA04	Samoa	Assessment of the profitability of taro exports to Australia.
SAMOA05	Samoa	Development of an alternative to the ‘area freedom’ approach for managing TLB on exports of taro to Australia.
SAMOA06	Samoa	Development of a risk management measure for mites on organic banana exports to NZ.
SAMOA07	Samoa	Development of a risk management measure for mites, mealy bugs and scales on lime exports to NZ.
SAMOA08	Samoa	Assistance with regulatory requirements associated with re-establishing beef and meat product exports to American Samoa.
SAMOA09	Samoa	Reaccreditation of copra meal export processing and handling facilities in Samoa.
SAMOA10	Samoa	Export of personal consignments of heat-treated breadfruit to NZ.
SOLS03	Solomon Islands	Implementation of the Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme.
SOLS04	Solomon Islands	Review of the potential for cut flower and foliage exports to Australia.
SOLS05	Solomon Islands	Reaccreditation of copra meal and PKE export processing and handling facilities in Solomon Islands.
SOLS06	Solomon Islands	Development of national quality standards for the production and testing of cocoa to meet international market requirements.
SOLS07	Solomon Islands	Scoping study to determine the viability of fresh F&V exports from the Solomon Islands to nearby PICs including the Kiribati, Nauru, and Marshall Islands.
TONGA03 (i)	Tonga	Review of the watermelon export pathway to NZ, including the delivery of fumigation prior to export.
TONGA03 (ii)	Tonga	Review of the watermelon pathway to NZ, including the delivery of fumigation prior to export.

Appendix B

Activity Ref	Country	Activity Title
TONGA04	Tonga	Development of a submission on a 'winter window' approach to managing fruit flies on watermelon (and possibly other) exports to NZ.
TONGA05	Tonga	Development of a 'new access' submission for the export of zucchinis and selected other crops (to be identified) to NZ.
TONGA06	Tonga	Purchase of generator/s as back-up power for Tonga's fumigation facility.
TONGA07	Tonga	Facilitation of meetings to investigate Tonga-sea freight issues.
VAN03	Vanuatu	Establishment of diagnostic services for value-added products.
VAN04	Vanuatu	Development of HACCP Plans for key export industries.
VAN05	Vanuatu	Training of additional meat inspectors to certify beef export processing facilities.
VAN06	Vanuatu	Feasibility study on the establishment of a facility for drying fruits and vegetables for export.
VAN07	Vanuatu	Re-accreditation of BSE free status for Vanuatu beef to Australia.
REGIONAL 01	Regional	Market access database development.
REGIONAL 03	Regional	Initiation of a regional strategy towards managing quarantine and MA issues.
REGIONAL 04	Regional	Funding for bilateral market access negotiations with trading partners.
REGIONAL 05	Regional	Review of quarantine issues surrounding trade in handicraft products.

Appendix C

Appendix C Market Access Activity Summary Sheets for Components 1–3

Activity Ref:	FIJI01	
Activity Title:	Investigation of taro export issues to Australia and NZ	
Country:	Fiji	
Status:	New activity.	
Objective:	<p>To carry out a preliminary scoping study identifying the quarantine and non-quarantine issues associated with taro exports to Australia and NZ, providing baseline information that can be used to determine future actions to maintain and improve taro exports.</p> <p>The activity will highlight the possibilities for PHAMA to provide technical market access assistance for the export of taro. In addition, it will identify other programs that are currently addressing taro supply chain issues and identify possible linkages between these programs so that identified technical market access and supply chain issues are addressed in a complementary fashion.</p>	
Background/ Justification:	<p>Taro is the second largest horticultural industry in Fiji, behind sugar. Fiji is currently the main exporter of taro to Australia and NZ, with total annual exports valued at over AUD 11 million. The profitability and viability of the industry, and the livelihoods of those involved, is threatened by consignments of poor quality and the increasing detection of quarantine pests on arrival at export destinations. The reasons for this are numerous and complex, and poorly understood.</p> <p>Stabilising and improving the taro export trade is a major priority for the Fijian government and industry. Considering the significance of taro exports to the Fijian economy, it is essential to gain a clearer understanding of current issues and opportunities to improve the taro export pathway, as a basis for defining further action.</p>	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the current quarantine issues (including operational issues) associated with taro exports to Australia and NZ. 2. Identify possible strategies to address <i>quarantine</i> issues under PHAMA. 3. Develop a strategy to facilitate coordination of other donor programs to address <i>non-quarantine</i> issues. 4. Develop a discussion paper clearly outlining the current quarantine and non-quarantine issues and opportunities associated with taro exports to Australia and NZ for consideration by the FMAWG. 	
Implementation arrangements:	STA Subcontract.	
Linkage with other projects:	<p>There are currently three donor programs within the Pacific region that could contribute to the development of cost effective and sustainable taro export pathways for Fiji. These programs are PHAMA; PARDI (ACIAR-funded); and 'Developing cleaner export pathways for Pacific agricultural commodities' (also ACIAR-funded). PHAMA will actively coordinate with these programs to develop a coordinated and complementary strategy.</p>	
Component relationship:	Component 3: Research and Development.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved
	June 2011	Scoping study completed (PHAMA Technical Report 01).
	15/6/11	Key Scoping Study recommendations adopted by the VMAWG and incorporated into the 2011/12 ASP.

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	FIJI02	
Activity Title:	Investigation of potential ginger export issues to Australia.	
Country:	Fiji.	
Status:	New activity.	
Objective:	To carry out a preliminary scoping study identifying the quarantine and non-quarantine issues associated with exporting ginger to Australia, so that Fiji is able to actively support BA's IRA process and proceed with exports as quickly as possible once import policy has been finalised.	
Background/ Justification:	<p>Fiji requested market access for fresh ginger into Australia in 2003. BA announced the commencement of an IRA to in August 2010. The IRA will be completed under Australia's regulated process, which stipulates completion within 24 months of announcement. There is provision for the IRA process to be stopped if data requested by BA to assess the risk posed by fresh ginger imports should be insufficient. It is imperative that the FMAWG has a clear understanding of the assessment process and the likely outcomes from this IRA. This will ensure that government and the ginger industry are able to actively support the IRA process, and are well prepared to commence exports of ginger to Australia once import policy been finalised.</p> <p>The activity is likely to highlight the need for a further body of work in terms of preparations needed to meet the phytosanitary requirements likely to be imposed by Australia. Anticipation and early preparation (where possible) will help ensure that Fiji industry and quarantine are well prepared to commence exports in a timely manner once the IRA has been finalised.</p>	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review information provided to Australia by the Fijian government to ensure that there are no data gaps likely to affect the timely completion of the IRA. 2. Develop a discussion paper defining risk management measures likely to be imposed by Australia, and recommend possible activities to meet these requirements. 	
Implementation arrangements:	STA Subcontract.	
Linkage with other projects:	None identified to date.	
Component relationship:	Component 3: Research and Development.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved
	June 2011	Scoping study completed (PHAMA Technical Report 02).
	15/6/11	Key Scoping Study recommendations adopted by the VMAWG and incorporated into the 2011/12 ASP.

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	FIJI03	
Activity Title:	Investigation of market acceptability of Fiji TLB-resistant taro varieties in Australia and NZ.	
Country:	Fiji.	
Status:	Ongoing activity. Builds on the outcomes of Activity FIJI01 which was an investigation of taro export issues to Australia and NZ.	
Objective:	To assess consumer acceptance of Fiji TLB-resistant taro varieties in Australia and NZ.	
Background/ Justification:	<p>Fiji does not have TLB but TLB is widespread within the Pacific. As a precautionary measure TLB-resistant varieties are being developed. Based on the Samoan experience of poor consumer acceptability of TLB-resistant varieties the FMAWG has proposed that Fiji TLB-resistant varieties currently under selection are tested for consumer acceptance in NZ and Australia.</p> <p>The Samoan experience with poor consumer acceptability of TLB resistant varieties, and subsequent attempts to promote these varieties, will be taken into account in determining the final scope of this study.</p>	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meet with Fiji Ministry and industry representatives to determine the status of the TLB-resistant variety breeding program and what varieties should be tested for consumer acceptance. 2. Work with Fiji Ministry and industry representatives and PITIC to develop a consumer market acceptability trial for Auckland NZ. 3. Work with Fiji Ministry and industry to implement the trial. 	
Implementation arrangements:	STA Subcontract.	
Linkage with other projects:	None identified to date.	
Component relationship:	Component 3: Research and Development.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved
	June 2011	Scoping study completed (PHAMA Technical Report 01).
	15/6/11	Key Scoping Study recommendations adopted by the VMAWG and incorporated into the 2011/12 ASP.

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	FIJI04	
Activity Title:	Clarification of the NZ quarantine status of nematodes associated with taro imports.	
Country:	Fiji.	
Status:	Ongoing activity. Builds on the outcomes of Activity FIJI01 which was an investigation of taro export issues to Australia and NZ.	
Objective:	To remove the requirement for on-arrival fumigation for nematodes that are not of quarantine concern, associated with Fiji taro exports to NZ.	
Background/ Justification:	The main quarantine issue associated with Fiji taro exports into NZ is the presence of nematodes. In some instances the quarantine status of the nematode species is not determined prior to fumigation. Fumigation adds to the exporters cost structure, and decreases the shelf-life of the product. The majority of nematode species associated with Fiji taro are of non-quarantine status to NZ and should not require fumigation. This activity will build the case for this.	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quantify the current level of taro consignments from Fiji treated for nematodes and the level of nematode identification conducted prior to treatment. 2. Document nematode species associated with Fiji taro corms (ACIAR soil health project will assist with this data). 3. Work with Fiji Ministry and industry to develop a submission to NZ MAF outlining the nematode species found on Fiji taro and their quarantine status for NZ. 4. Work with Fiji Ministry and NZ MAF to determine an operational policy to ensure that only nematode species of quarantine concern require on-arrival quarantine measures, if detected. 	
Implementation arrangements:	STA Subcontract.	
Linkage with other projects:	Collaboration with the ACIAR soil health project for documentation of nematode species associated with Fiji taro corms.	
Component relationship:	Component 3: Research and Development.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved
	June 2011	Scoping study completed (PHAMA Technical Report 01).
	15/6/11	Key Scoping Study recommendations adopted by the VMAWG and incorporated into the 2011/12 ASP.

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	FIJI05	
Activity Title:	Development of and training on taro production and pack house standards.	
Country:	Fiji.	
Status:	Ongoing activity. Builds on the outcomes of Activity FIJI01 which was an investigation of taro export issues to Australia and NZ.	
Objective:	To develop product/ industry standards for the production and processing of taro to meet the phytosanitary requirements of Australia and NZ, and provide training on the implementation of these standards.	
Background/ Justification:	Fiji taro production and processing is currently not regulated by industry or government in terms of the minimum quarantine requirements of Australia and NZ. As a result the quality and level of quarantine compliance of consignments presented for on-arrival inspection in Australia and NZ has been extremely variable. This has resulted in significant volumes of taro being held at ports for further identification of suspect pests, and destruction and re-export of numerous consignments; all at considerable cost to exporters.	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with Fiji Ministry, industry and the ACIAR 'Cleaner Export Pathways' project to define the standards and determine roles and responsibilities. 2. Finalise the project outline (including the training/ extension plan), timelines and costs (including cost-sharing arrangements). 3. Assist with the writing of production and processing manuals. 4. Assist with training and extension of the standards. Training will include producers, processors/ exporters, govt agriculture staff, and quarantine staff on audit and verification to maintain standards (if required). 	
Implementation arrangements:	STA Subcontract.	
Linkage with other projects:	Linked with the ACIAR 'Cleaner Export Pathways' project which is working to refine supply chain and quality-related issues for Fiji and Samoa. The ACIAR project commenced at the same time as the PHAMA project and there is considerable opportunity for both programs to work together to improve supply chain and regulatory aspects of Fiji taro exports.	
Component relationship:	Component 2: Implementation of market access requirements.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved
	June 2011	Scoping study completed (PHAMA Technical Report 01).
	15/6/11	Key Scoping Study recommendations adopted by the VMAWG and incorporated into the 2011/12 ASP.

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	FIJI06	
Activity Title:	Substantiation of Australia's requirement for devitalisation of taro imports.	
Country:	Fiji.	
Status:	Ongoing activity. Builds on the outcomes of Activity FIJI01 which was an investigation of taro export issues to Australia and NZ.	
Objective:	Develop the case for Australia to produce evidence that devitalisation of taro corms is justified in terms of viral diseases not already present in Australia.	
Background/ Justification:	<p>Import conditions for fresh taro corms from Fiji into Australia require that the corms are devitalised by removal of the main growing points. The devitalisation requirement is justified by Australia on the basis that if imported taro is propagated (rather than being consumed) then viral diseases of quarantine concern might be introduced. Devitalisation exposes taro flesh and increases the risk of postharvest rots establishing, which then results in further import processing delays, fumigation, re-export and in some situations destruction of the consignment, with considerable cost implications for the exporter.</p> <p>Surveys of Australian taro stocks have not been conducted to determine whether or not the viruses that are currently used to justify devitalisation are present in Australia. Expert opinion suggests that the viruses are highly likely to be present, as current Australian taro germplasm was originally sourced from the Pacific, where these viruses are already present.</p>	
Scope of work:	<p>If the need for taro devitalisation is retained as a result of the current BA review of taro import policy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with Fiji Ministry, industry and taro experts to develop a case requesting that Australia conduct surveys of taro germplasm to be sure that the viruses that are currently used to justify devitalisation are not present in Australia. 	
Implementation arrangements:	STA Subcontract.	
Linkage with other projects:	Linked with the ACIAR 'Cleaner Export Pathways' project which is working to refine supply chain and quality-related issues for Fiji and Samoa. The ACIAR project commenced at the same time as the PHAMA project and there is considerable opportunity for both programs to work together to improve supply chain and regulatory aspects of Fiji taro exports.	
Component relationship:	Component 3: Research and development.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved
	June 2011	Scoping study completed (PHAMA Technical Report 01).
	15/6/11	Key Scoping Study recommendations adopted by the VMAWG and incorporated into the 2011/12 ASP.

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	FIJI07	
Activity Title:	Scoping study to develop options for the management of a new fruit fly species on Rotuma and Vatoa Islands.	
Country:	Fiji.	
Status:	New activity.	
Objective:	Eliminate the risk that a newly introduced species of fruit fly found in Fiji could seriously disrupt current exports of fruit fly host products.	
Background/ Justification:	<p><i>Bactrocerakirkii</i> is a fruit fly of economic concern in the Pacific. It is already present in Tonga, Samoa and Niue but until recently, not in Fiji. <i>B.kirki</i> has recently been detected on the outer Fiji Islands of Rotuma and Vatoa. Fiji currently exports a range of fruit fly host products from the main island of Viti Levu using HTFA treatment for the two fruit fly species of economic concern already present elsewhere in Fiji (<i>B.passiflorae</i> and <i>B.xanthodes</i>). If <i>B.kirki</i> should be introduced to the main island of Viti Levu current exports of fruit fly host products would be stopped until it was proven that the HTFA treatment was also effective against <i>B.kirki</i>.</p> <p>It is currently not clear if heat tolerance data previously developed by Samoa for <i>B.kirki</i> would be acceptable to Australia, NZ and other trading partners, or whether additional experiments would need to be conducted. The data currently available and the requirement for additional trials needs to be further investigated.</p> <p>In addition, the option of eradicating the species from Fijian territories should also be investigated. Preliminary analysis suggests that eradication is possible (small island size, suitable biology, quarantine in place to prevent re-introduction).</p>	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the current status of <i>B.kirki</i> within Fiji territories based on analysis of trapping and fruit sampling data. 2. Review the heat tolerance trials and data developed for <i>B.kirki</i> as part of the regional fruit fly project. 3. If this data is considered suitable, develop a submission indicating that the current heat treatments used by Fiji for <i>B. passiflorae</i> and <i>B. xanthodes</i> will also kill <i>B.kirki</i> and that there should be no disruption to exports if <i>B.kirki</i> should establish on Viti Levu. 4. Conduct a scoping study to determine if <i>B.kirki</i> could be eradicated from Rotuma and Vatoa. Scoping study to provide cost estimates, timelines and resource requirements. 	
Implementation arrangements:	STA Subcontract.	
Linkage with other projects:	The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Pest Control Unit (PCU) works with developing countries to manage fruit flies and other key pests throughout the world. In the case of fruit flies they use sterile insect techniques as well as area wide management approaches. The PCU are interested in possible involvement in an eradication program, subject to further discussions and Fiji membership of the IAEA. Membership for developing countries is inexpensive.	
Component relationship:	Component 2: Implementation of market access requirements. Component 3: Research and development.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	FIJI08	
Activity Title:	Progression of new market access requests for papaya and breadfruit to the US.	
Country:	Fiji.	
Status:	New activity.	
Objective:	To provide ongoing support for current new market access requests for papaya and breadfruit to the US.	
Background/ Justification:	In 2010 Nature's Way Co-operative (NWC) in consultation with Fiji quarantine employed consultants to develop and lodge new market access requests with the US for breadfruit and papaya. The risk assessment process has commenced for papaya and additional risk management information has been requested for the recently introduced fruit fly <i>B. kirki</i> (see FIJI09). Work has not been yet commenced on breadfruit. The FMAWG has requested that PHAMA provide ongoing support to progress these new market access requests.	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the current status of the market access request for breadfruit and papaya to the US. 2. Determine next steps required to progress each of these commodities and report to the FMAWG. 3. Assist with any additional data or correspondence requirements as endorsed by the FMAWG to enable the US to finalise risk assessments for papaya and breadfruit. 	
Implementation arrangements:	STA Subcontract.	
Linkage with other projects:	The activity builds on work initiated by Nature's Way Co-operative in association with the Fiji Ministry of Agriculture.	
Component relationship:	Component 1: Development of market access submissions.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	FIJI09	
Activity Title:	Feasibility studies on eggplant, chilli, breadfruit, jackfruit, gourd/s and pineapple exports to Australia.	
Country:	Fiji.	
Status:	New activity.	
Objective:	To conduct feasibility studies for eggplant, chilli, breadfruit, jackfruit, gourd/s and pineapple exports to Australia.	
Background/ Justification:	Fiji has had market access requests for eggplant, chilli, breadfruit, jackfruit and gourd/s lodged with Australia for several years but risk analysis work has not yet been initiated by BA. These requests may have been categorised as being 'out-of-date' or lower priority by Australian authorities as part of a recent review of all market access requests. The Fiji Ministry has also recently been asked to formally request access for pineapple to Australia. The FMAWG has requested PHAMA to conduct export feasibility studies for these products before formal and prioritised market access requests are developed/ re-developed and lodged with Australian authorities.	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct market feasibility studies for eggplant, chilli, breadfruit, jackfruit, gourd/s and pineapple. Studies to consider supply potential; potential markets and market volumes; likely infrastructure (packaging and handling requirements); freight logistics (mode, availability and price); export/ import channels; and overall financial viability. 2. Provide recommendations to the FMAWG on the merits of pursuing formal market access for these products. 	
Implementation arrangements:	STA Subcontract.	
Linkage with other projects:		
Component relationship:	Component 1: Research and development.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	FIJI10	
Activity Title:	New market access submissions for products recommended under Activity FIJI09.	
Country:	Fiji.	
Status:	Ongoing activity. Will build on the recommendations of Activity FIJI09 which is the conduct of export feasibility studies for eggplant, chilli, breadfruit, jackfruit, gourd/s and pineapple to Australia.	
Objective:	To develop new market access submissions to Australia for products recommended under Activity FIJI09.	
Background/ Justification:	Activity FIJI09 will conduct export feasibility studies for eggplant, chilli, breadfruit, jackfruit, gourd/s and pineapple to Australia. Market access submissions will need to be developed for those products that are considered to have a reasonable profit margin and prospects for developing into a sustainable export industry. Even though market access had been requested for some of these products in the past, market access submissions, including pest lists and possible risk management measures have never developed. Development of submissions for those products endorsed by the FMAWG on the basis of the export feasibility studies will support timely consideration of these market access requests by Australian authorities.	
Scope of work:	Develop market access submissions for commodities recommended under FIJI09 and endorsed by the FMAWG, including identification of pest lists and proposed risk management measures.	
Implementation arrangements:	STA Subcontract.	
Linkage with other projects:		
Component relationship:	Component 1: Development of market access submissions.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	FIJ11	
Activity Title:	Eradication of <i>Bactrocerakirki</i> from Rotuma and Vatoa	
Country:	Fiji.	
Status:	Ongoing activity, will build on FIJ107 which involves assessing the feasibility of eradication.	
Objective:	To eradicate <i>Bactrocerakirki</i> from the Fiji islands of Rotuma and Vatoa.	
Background/ Justification:	<p><i>B. kirki</i> is a fruit fly of economic concern in the Pacific. It is already present in Tonga, Samoa and Niue but until recently, not in Fiji. <i>B. kirki</i> has recently been detected on the outer Fiji Islands of Rotuma and Vatoa. Fiji currently exports a range of fruit fly host products from the main island of Viti Levu using HTFA treatment for the two fruit fly species of economic concern already present elsewhere in Fiji (<i>B. Passiflorae</i> and <i>B. xanthodes</i>). If <i>B. kirki</i> should be introduced to the main island of Viti Levu current exports of fruit fly host products would be stopped until it was proven that the HTFA treatment was also effective against <i>B. kirki</i>.</p> <p>Activity FIJ107 involves conducting a scoping study to investigate the feasibility of successfully eradicating <i>B. kirki</i> from Fijian territories. If eradication is considered possible, further support will be provided under Activity FIJ11 to assist with the eradication program.</p>	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In consultation with Fijian Ministry and relevant international fruit fly experts develop an eradication plan for <i>B. kirki</i> from the Fiji islands of Rotuma and Vatoa, including agreement on the criteria for declaring eradication to trading partners. 2. Develop a budget and funding model for eradication with particular focus on the leveraging of funds from other donor, Ministry and industry sources. 3. Assist with the establishment and coordination of the project management team. 4. Provide technical oversight of the eradication program in consultation with relevant international experts and Fijian Ministry staff. 5. Provide oversight of project documentation and results including declaration of eradication and reporting of eradication to trading partners. 	
Implementation arrangements:	LTA oversight with several STA subcontracts.	
Linkage with other projects:	The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Pest Control Unit (PCU) works with developing countries to manage fruit flies and other key pests throughout the world. In the case of fruit flies they use sterile insect techniques, as well as area wide management approaches. The PCU are interested in possible involvement in an eradication program, subject to further discussions and Fiji membership of the IAEA. Membership for developing countries is inexpensive. Fiji Ministry has also indicated a willingness to co-fund this activity.	
Component relationship:	Component 2: Implementation of market access requirements.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	FIJ12	
Activity Title:	Trials to confirm fruit fly non-host status for Polynesian plum (Wi).	
Country:	Fiji.	
Status:	New activity.	
Objective:	To conduct trials to confirm non-host status for <i>Bactrocerapassiflorae</i> and <i>Bactroceraxanthodes</i> for possible exports of Polynesian plum (<i>Spondiasdulcis</i>) (Wi) to NZ.	
Background/ Justification:	NZ MAF is nearing completion of an Import Health Standard (IHS) for Wi from PICs. An initial report conducted by an FAO consultant suggests that this fruit is not attacked by fruit flies in Fiji, Samoa, Cook Islands or Tonga. It is attacked in Vanuatu. Once the IHS is completed trials will need to be conducted to confirm the host status of the fruit to fruit flies of economic concern. From Fiji these species will be <i>B. passiflorae</i> and <i>B. xanthodes</i> .	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In consultation with Fijian Ministry assist with the design and implementation of host status trials on Polynesian plum. 2. If Polynesian plum is shown to be a host, assist with the design and implementation of HTFA trials to confirm temperatures that kill <i>B. passiflorae</i> and <i>B. xanthodes</i> larvae in Polynesian plum. 3. Assist with development and submission to NZ MAF of a report describing trial outcomes, host status and (if required) HTFA treatment protocol. 	
Implementation arrangements:	STA subcontract.	
Linkage with other projects:	Builds on the FAO consultancy initiated by NZ MAF in 2009 and subsequent IHS development work undertaken by NZ MAF.	
Component relationship:	Component 3: Research and development.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	SAMOA01	
Activity Title:	Investigation of taro export issues to Australia and NZ.	
Country:	Samoa.	
Status:	New activity.	
Objective:	<p>To carry out a preliminary scoping study identifying the quarantine and non-quarantine issues associated with taro exports to Australia and NZ.</p> <p>The activity will highlight the possibilities for PHAMA to provide technical market access assistance for the export of taro. In addition, it will identify other programs that are currently addressing taro supply chain issues and identify possible linkages between these programs so that identified technical market access and supply chain issues are addressed in a complementary fashion.</p>	
Background/ Justification:	<p>Samoa was the largest exporter of taro to Australia and NZ until the national crop was devastated by taro leaf blight (TLB) in 1993 and exports were banned. Rebuilding the taro export industry is a national priority for the Samoan government. This initiative has the potential support re-establishment of a highly successful export industry for Samoa, to the benefit of a largely village-based grower base.</p> <p>In 1989 taro was a major Samoan export commodity reaching a peak volume of about 8,000 mt and accounting for more than half of the total value of Samoa's exports. However, in 1993 the industry was decimated by taro leaf blight (TLB) and exports ceased within months. As a consequence the Samoan Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries initiated the Taro Improvement Program (TIP) which has since developed a range of TLB-tolerant varieties. Taro has re-established itself as the major food and cash crop, and attempts are now being made to re-establish the export trade based on TLB-resistant varieties. Several trial shipments have recently been sent to NZ, and Samoan Ministry officials have indicated a desire to also re-enter the Australian market. There are various quarantine and non-quarantine related issues that need to be resolved if taro exports are to resume in significant volume to NZ and Australia.</p> <p>It is essential to gain a clearer understanding of current issues and opportunities to improve the taro export pathway, as a basis for defining further action.</p>	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the possible quarantine issues associated with TLB-resistant varieties (and other possible pests of quarantine concern), associated with renewal of taro exports to Australia and NZ. 2. Identify possible strategies to address <i>quarantine</i> issues under PHAMA. 3. Develop a strategy to facilitate coordination of other donor programs to address <i>non-quarantine</i> issues. 4. Develop a discussion paper outlining the current quarantine and non-quarantine issues and opportunities associated with taro exports to Australia and NZ for consideration by the SMAWG. 	
Implementation arrangements:	STA Subcontract.	
Linkage with other projects:	<p>There are currently three donor programs within the Pacific region that could contribute to the development of cost effective and sustainable taro export pathways for Fiji. These programs are PHAMA; PARDI (ACIAR-funded); and 'Developing cleaner export pathways for Pacific agricultural commodities' (also ACIAR-funded). PHAMA will actively coordinate with these programs to develop a coordinated and complementary strategy.</p>	
Component relationship:	Component 3: Research and Development.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved
	June 2011	Scoping study completed (PHAMA Technical Report 03).
	8/6/11	Key Scoping Study recommendations adopted by the SMAWG and incorporated into the 2011/12 ASP.

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	SAMOA02	
Activity Title:	Determination of the quarantine status of nematodes on Samoan taro exports to NZ.	
Country:	Samoa.	
Status:	Ongoing activity. Builds on the outcomes of Activity SAMOA01 which was an investigation of taro export issues to Australia and NZ.	
Objective:	To determine the quarantine status of nematodes associated with Samoan taro imported into NZ.	
Background/Justification:	<p>Samoa has exported several trial shipments of taro to NZ as part of the re-invigoration of the taro export industry. Nematodes have been detected on trial shipments and NZ quarantine has determined that the nematodes are of quarantine concern and has required the consignments to be fumigated. Fumigation of taro reduces shelf life and increases import costs. The majority of species of nematodes associated with taro are known to be non-pathogenic and therefore should not be considered of quarantine concern. This position is supported by the recently released BA global draft IRA for fresh taro corms. All nematode species that are known to be associated with taro were assessed to be of non-quarantine status for Australia. This assessment, when finalised, could be used as part of the justification for NZ MAF to recognise non-quarantine status of the same species.</p> <p>Removal of or reduction in the need for fumigation of Samoan taro, due to the presence of nematodes on arrival in NZ, would represent a significant improvement in market access conditions for the Samoan taro export industry.</p>	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the nematode species associated with Samoan taro and determine their quarantine status for NZ. 2. Develop a report outlining the nematode status of Samoan taro and present to NZ MAF. 3. Work with NZ MAF and Samoan quarantine officials to determine if on-arrival fumigation can be eliminated if nematode species prove to be of non-quarantine status for NZ. 	
Implementation arrangements:	STA Subcontract.	
Linkage with other projects:	The ACIAR-funded 'Developing cleaner export pathways for Pacific agricultural commodities' Project will conduct field trials in Samoa to attempt to reduce nematode infestation levels on taro (trials will be conducted over the next 2 years). PHAMA will actively coordinate with this program to develop a coordinated and complementary strategy.	
Component relationship:	Component 3: Research and Development.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved
	June 2011	Scoping study completed (PHAMA Technical Report 03).
	8/6/11	Key Scoping Study recommendations adopted by the SMAWG and incorporated into the 2011/12 ASP.

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	SAMOA03	
Activity Title:	Promotion of new Samoan taro varieties in NZ.	
Country:	Samoa.	
Status:	Ongoing activity. Builds on the outcomes of Activity SAMOA01 which was an investigation of taro export issues to Australia and NZ.	
Objective:	To promote the new TLB-resistant Samoan taro varieties to the NZ market.	
Background/ Justification:	<p>Samoa initiated the Taro Improvement Program (TIP) in response to the devastating disease taro leaf blight (TLB). The program has since developed a range of TLB-tolerant varieties. Several trial shipments of one of these varieties have already been sent to NZ but consumer acceptance of the approved export varieties was not as good as expected due partly to different visual characteristics compared with the old traditional varieties. It appears that the Samoan community in NZ prefers the traditional pink variety of taro (<i>Tausalani Samoa</i>), which is not produced in Samoa any more due to its susceptibility to TLB. This variety is produced in Fiji however, and comprises approximately 70% of Fiji's taro exports to New Zealand.</p> <p>Poor consumer acceptance of the new taro varieties in New Zealand is a significant impediment to re-establishing trade. The Ministry of Agriculture and commercial exporters would like to undertake an official launch of the new varieties in New Zealand, including in-market activities complemented by air time on Samoan Radio to promote the taste, nutritional value and shelf-life of the new varieties. The SMAWG has requested that PHAMA assist with this promotion.</p>	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meet with Samoan government and industry representatives to determine the current status of NZ taro promotional plans. 2. Work with government, industry and PITIC (Auckland) to develop a fully costed promotional plan to coincide with the arrival an export consignment of Samoan taro. This should include a financing plan including quantification of government, industry and PHAMA contributions. 3. Work with PITIC (Auckland) and industry to implement the initial promotional campaign. 	
Implementation arrangements:	STA Subcontract.	
Linkage with other projects:	The ACIAR-funded Pacific Agribusiness Research Development Initiative (PARDI) is conducting a small project to examine consumer acceptance of specific taro varieties in Fiji and NZ (Dr Anand Chand, USP – to be completed by the end of 2011). PHAMA will actively coordinate with this program to develop a coordinated and complementary strategy.	
Component relationship:	Component 3: Research and Development.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved
	June 2011	Scoping study completed (PHAMA Technical Report 03).
	8/6/11	Key Scoping Study recommendations adopted by the SMAWG and incorporated into the 2011/12 ASP.

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	SAMOA04	
Activity Title:	Assessment of the profitability of taro exports to Australia.	
Country:	Samoa.	
Status:	Ongoing activity. Builds on the outcomes of Activity SAMOA01 which was an investigation of taro export issues to Australia and NZ.	
Objective:	To determine the potential profitability of taro exports from Samoa to Australia.	
Background/ Justification:	<p>Samoan government and industry have expressed a desire to re-establish taro exports to Australia using the new TLB-resistant varieties, following the cessation of the trade in xxx following the introduction of TLB to Samoa. The financial viability of re-establishing the trade is unclear, given present freight constraints (see below) and the likely need for considerable promotional investment given the different visual characteristics of the new (TLB-resistant) varieties. The financial viability of the trade should be established <i>before</i> additional research is undertaken to develop data packages for BA to prove that taro leaf blight (TLB) on fresh corms is not a quarantine risk to Australia, or to develop measures for managing this risk.</p> <p>At present, sea freight transit times, combined with the Australia's present requirement for 'topping' of taro imported from other countries, means that sea-freighted product would be at the end of its shelf life by the time it reaches retail outlets in Australia. Air freight might be an option, however, further research is required to establish whether market returns would be sufficient to carry the higher costs involved.</p> <p>If the export pathway was determined to be profitable it is likely that access would need to be negotiated with Australia by way of demonstrating an alternative, and equivalent, management measure for TLB to area freedom (area freedom is currently the specified Australian risk management strategy for TLB). This would involve considerable research investment and should be commenced as soon as possible if it is confirmed that the market is financially viable.</p>	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct a detailed analysis of the viability of exporting Samoan taro to Australia. This analysis should take into account production costs; supply capacity (quantity and quality); infrastructure/ handling requirements; Australian market returns (by season); viability and cost of airfreight and seafreight; and potential profit margins to growers, exporters and importers; 2. Provide recommendations on the viability of the proposed export pathway. 	
Implementation arrangements:	STA Subcontract.	
Linkage with other projects:	The ACIAR-funded Pacific Agribusiness Research Development Initiative (PARDI) has conducted some root crop market analysis. Results of this analysis are not known at this stage but may prove to be useful. PHAMA will actively coordinate with this program to develop a coordinated and complementary strategy.	
Component relationship:	Component 3: Research and Development.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved
	June 2011	Scoping study completed (PHAMA Technical Report 03).
	8/6/11	Key Scoping Study recommendations adopted by the SMAWG and incorporated into the 2011/12 ASP.

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	SAMOA05	
Activity Title:	Development of an alternative to the 'area freedom' approach for managing TLB on exports of taro to Australia.	
Country:	Samoa.	
Status:	Ongoing activity. Builds on the outcomes of Activity SAMOA01 which assessed taro export issues to Australia and NZ; and Activity SAMOA04 which investigated the profitability of Samoan taro exports to Australia. Note that this project will only be initiated if SAMOA04 finds that taro exports to Australia are likely to be profitable.	
Objective:	To develop an alternative, and equivalent, measure for managing taro leaf blight (TLB) to 'area freedom' for import of fresh taro corms from Samoa into Australia.	
Background/ Justification:	<p>BA has conducted an import policy review of all varieties of fresh taro from all countries. The <i>Draft Review of Import Conditions for Fresh Taro Corms</i> was released for public comment by BA on 1 March 2011. The draft policy concludes that TLB is a significant quarantine risk and that measures are required to manage this risk. The draft document recommends fresh taro corms only be sourced from areas known to be free of TLB.</p> <p>TLB is present in Samoa and meeting the conditions of an 'area freedom' risk management measure would not be practicable. PHAMA and the Samoan Ministry of Agriculture provided comment to the draft policy document suggesting that a systems approach to reduce and eliminate spores on fresh taro corms could be developed as an alternative, and equivalent, management measure for TLB. BA has expressed unofficial interest in pursuing this approach. Development of this alternative measure would involve considerable research investment and should only be commenced if it is confirmed that the Australian market is likely to be financially viable.</p>	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design an experimental project outline with timelines and budget to demonstrate that in-field management combined with a post harvest dip can eliminate the presence of viable TLB spores on fresh taro corms for export to Australia. 2. Consult with relevant TLB experts and BA on the robustness of experimental design. 3. Once experimental design is finalised engage Samoan researchers to implement and conduct field trials. 4. Provide project oversight, assist with project management, data collation and analysis; development of final report. 	
Implementation arrangements:	STA Subcontract for overall project management. Separate subcontracts will be needed for: (i) a TLB specialist to provide analysis and comment on experimental design; and (ii) secondment of Samoan Ministry research staff and use of facilities to conduct field trials.	
Linkage with other projects:	None identified to date.	
Component relationship:	Component 3: Research and Development.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved
	June 2011	Scoping study completed (PHAMA Technical Report 03).
	8/6/11	Key Scoping Study recommendations adopted by the SMAWG and incorporated into the 2011/12 ASP.

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	SAMOA06	
Activity Title:	Development of a risk management measure for mites on organic banana exports to NZ.	
Country:	Samoa.	
Status:	New activity.	
Objective:	To develop a risk management measure for mites on organic banana exports to NZ.	
Background/ Justification:	Several trial shipments of organic ladyfinger bananas have been exported to NZ in recent years by the Samoa Women In Business (WIBDI) program. Early indications in terms of market returns and viability were promising. However, the trade has been brought to a halt by the detection of mites on arrival in NZ, requiring fumigation using methyl bromide (MB). Fumigation of bananas with MB greatly reduces shelf life and negates the organic certification of the product, hence reducing returns. Trials using the High Temperature Forced Air (HTFA) machine (an organic treatment) to kill the mites were unsuccessful. SMAWG has requested that trials be conducted to determine if there are other available treatments (possibly hot water dipping) that could kill the mites and retain the organic certification of the product.	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct a desktop study to identify internationally accepted organic treatments for mites that may be appropriate for use on banana bunches. 2. Develop experimental design/s of trials to validate possible treatment methods, in consultation with Samoan MAF and NZ MAF. 3. Once experimental design/s are finalised, engage Samoan researchers to implement and conduct trials. 4. Provide project oversight, assisting with project management; data collation and analysis; and development of final report. 	
Implementation arrangements:	STA subcontract for project management. A separate subcontract may be needed to support the conduct of the research trials by Samoa MAF.	
Linkage with other projects:	Links directly with previous WIBDI efforts to develop exports of ladyfinger bananas as an income generation activity focussed around women's groups.	
Component relationship:	Component 3: Research and Development.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	SAMOA07	
Activity Title:	Development of a risk management measure for mites, mealy bugs and scales on lime exports to NZ.	
Country:	Samoa.	
Status:	New activity.	
Objective:	To development a risk management measure for mites, mealy bugs and scales associated with lime exports to NZ.	
Background/ Justification:	Several shipments of limes have been exported to NZ with promising returns. However, mites, mealy bugs and scales have been detected under the fruit calyxon arrival in NZ and the consignments fumigated with methyl bromide (MB). Fumigation of limes with MB greatly reduces shelf life and adds additional cost. Trials to remove the mites, mealy bugs and scales by hand scrubbing and heat treatment using the High Temperature Forced Air (HTFA) machine were unsuccessful and exports abandoned. SMAWG has requested that trials be conducted to determine if there are other available treatments (possibly hot water dipping) that could kill these quarantine pests, removing the need for fumigation on arrival in NZ.	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct a desktop study to identify internationally accepted treatments for mites, mealy bugs and scales that may be used for limes. 2. Develop experimental design/s of trials to validate possible treatment methods, in consultation with Samoa MAF and NZ MAF. 3. Once experimental design/s are finalised engage Samoan researchers to implement and conduct trials. 4. Provide project oversight, assisting with project management; data collation and analysis; and development of final report. 	
Implementation arrangements:	STA subcontract for project management. A separate subcontract may be needed to support the conduct of the research trials by Samoa MAF.	
Linkage with other projects:	Builds on WIBDI/ and Samoa MAF export development initiatives.	
Component relationship:	Component 3: Research and Development.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	SAMOA08	
Activity Title:	Assistance with regulatory requirements associated with re-establishing beef and meat product exports to American Samoa.	
Country:	Samoa.	
Status:	New activity. Implementation pending confirmation that a new abattoir will be established.	
Objective:	To re-establish market access for beef and processed meat products to American Samoa.	
Background/ Justification:	Historically, a profitable export pathway for beef and processed meat products has existed between Western Samoa and American Samoa. However, imports are now prohibited by American Samoa. The detailed reasons for this are unclear to the SMAWG but it is thought to be related to the lack of an accredited abattoir facility in Western Samoa. Western Samoa MAF officials have indicated that plans for the development of an accredited abattoir have recently been approved. Once the abattoir is developed the SMAWG has requested PHAMA assistance to re-establish exports of beef and meat products to American Samoa.	
Scope of work:	To be determined once the export abattoir is developed. Assistance likely to be in the areas of food safety, food standards and accreditation of disease status of cattle.	
Implementation arrangements:	To be determined.	
Linkage with other projects:	Linked with Samoan Ministry initiative to establish an accredited abattoir in Samoa.	
Component relationship:	Component 1: Development of market access submission Component 2: Implementation of market access requirements.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	SAMOA09	
Activity Title:	Re-accreditation of copra meal export processing and handling facilities.	
Country:	Samoa.	
Status:	New activity.	
Objective:	To assist with re-accreditation of copra meal processing and handling facilities by AQIS (and other international quarantine agencies if required).	
Background/ Justification:	AQIS have indicated that renewal of import permits for copra meal will be subject to successful completion of an audit of processing and handling facilities for imports from all countries. Facilities in Samoa have not been previously audited by AQIS. Should this be a requirement over the coming 12 month period the SMAWG has requested PHAMA assistance to ensure they are ready for the audit. Note that the extent of exports to Australia vs to other countries is not clear. However, establishing compliance with AQIS standards is also likely to underpin exports into other markets. Training would be provided to Samoan quarantine staff as an integral part of the activity so that they are able to conduct third party facility audits and provide training to industry on handling and processing standards to ensure that AQIS and other international standards continue to be met in the future.	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the current copra meal export markets and protocols to determine if re-accreditation is required – NMAC to complete this work. <p>If further action is required:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. review processing and handling standards and facilities to identify any areas that would not meet accreditation standards. 3. Work with industry and Samoa quarantine authorities to improve processing and handling standards to meet international requirements, if deficiencies are identified. 4. Facilitate the audit by AQIS and other quarantine agencies by (i) providing them with information on the preparatory work that has been carried out by industry to address identified deficiencies; (ii) assisting with the payment of AQIS levies to carry out the audit. 5. Provide training for Samoa quarantine staff on audit and verification of international arrangements and training for industry on processing and handling requirements. 	
Implementation arrangements:	STA subcontract.	
Linkage with other projects:	This activity is linked to SOLS05 as a part of a regional response to ensure that copra meal processing facilities remain export compliant.	
Component relationship:	Component2: Implementation of market access requirements.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	SAMOA10	
Activity Title:	Export of personal consignments of heat-treated breadfruit to NZ.	
Country:	Samoa.	
Status:	New activity.	
Objective:	Establish agreement with NZ MAF for the import of personal consignments of breadfruit from Samoa using some form of heat treatment to control fruit fly.	
Background/ Justification:	Breadfruit is a fruit fly host material. NZ MAF requires that <i>commercial</i> consignments of imported breadfruit are heat treated at 47.2° C for a minimum of 20 minutes to kill fruit flies. Commercial consignments of breadfruit are not currently exported from Samoa for various reasons including supply limitations, freight availability and operational issues associated with the HTFA chamber. Samoa's would also like heat treated breadfruit to be allowed entry into NZ as <i>personal consignments</i> . Personal consignments of breadfruit have previously been permitted, however, heat treatment was not always correctly applied resulting in the increased risk of introduction of fruit fly, and imports were stopped. Samoan quarantine authorities have requested that PHAMA investigate development of an accredited heat treatment arrangement (not necessarily using HTFA), accompanied by Samoan phytosanitary certification, for personal consignments of breadfruit into NZ.	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engage with Samoan quarantine to clearly define the request and assess the feasibility of the proposal. 2. Engage with NZ MAF to determine the general acceptability of the proposal and possible heat treatment procedures and certification requirements (NB: not necessarily limited to the HTFA option). 3. If the concept is assessed to be feasible, work with Samoa quarantine to facilitate the establishment and accreditation by NZ MAF of an appropriate heat treatment facility for personal consignments of breadfruit. 	
Implementation arrangements:	STA subcontract.	
Linkage with other projects:		
Component relationship:	Component 2: Implementation of market access requirements.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	SOLS01	
Activity Title:	Review of diagnostic requirements to ascertain cocoa and copra meal quality standards	
Country:	Solomon Islands.	
Status:	New activity.	
Objective:	<p>To carry out a preliminary scoping study identifying: (i) Australian quarantine entry requirements and probable costs for small quantities of cocoa beans to be tested in an Australian laboratory to establish quality standards for Solomon Islands cocoa; (ii) Australia and NZ requirements for testing of copra meal for animal feed; (iii) possible options for future testing for both commodities.</p> <p>The activity will define the testing and associated quarantine and food quality requirements for cocoa and copra meal into the Australia and NZ markets, and identify possible next steps to establish sustainable and cost-effective diagnostic services for these commodities. Pending the outcome of investigations, the activity may lead into providing further assistance for developing reliable long term diagnostic services in the Solomon Islands, underpinning the export of commodities such as copra and cocoa to other countries. The activity may also have the additional benefit of providing a basis for the establishment of a model/s for food safety and quality testing for other commodities from other PICs.</p>	
Background/ Justification:	<p>Diagnostic testing for food and quality standards of processed and semi-processed products is a requirement of many importing countries in order to meet food safety and quality requirements.</p> <p>The ability of exporters to ascertain the testing requirements of target markets, to clarify any possible quarantine issues associated with sending samples to offshore laboratories for testing, and to access cost- and time-effective options for ongoing testing to meet import requirements is limited due to lack of information and resources. The cocoa bean and copra meal industries are specific examples of exporters affected by this lack of diagnostic capacity. Exporters are frustrated by poor access to diagnostic facilities required to determine quality and compliance with quality standards. Addressing this constraint would increase the sustainability and profitability of these important export industries.</p> <p>The cocoa industry in Solomon Islands has a widespread grower base of approximately 20,000 farmers/families, and is one of the largest horticultural industries in the Solomon Islands. Coconut production, including the production of copra meal, also supports a large grower base. Both of these industries are actively involved in exporting.</p>	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engage with cocoa and copra exporters in the Solomon Islands to clarify the immediate issues from an industry perspective. 2. Determine Australia's and NZ's testing requirements for copra meal. 3. Determine Australia's and NZ's quarantine requirements for the import of small quantities of cocoa beans for quality testing (this may include definition of quarantine approved premise requirements). 4. Develop a discussion paper for consideration by the SIMAWG clarifying the above issues and possible options for longer term provision of cost-effective diagnostics to meet the import requirements for cocoa beans and copra meal from the Solomon Islands into other countries. 	
Implementation arrangements:	STA Subcontract.	
Linkage with other projects:	None identified to date.	
Component relationship:	Component 3: Research and Development.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved
	June 2011	Scoping study completed (PHAMA Technical Report 04).

Appendix C

	19/5/11	Key Scoping Study recommendations adopted by the SIMAWG and incorporated into the 2011/12 ASP.

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	SOLS02	
Activity Title:	Investigation of market access implications and costs associated with managing Giant African Snail (GAS)	
Country:	Solomon Islands.	
Status:	New activity.	
Objective:	To carry out a preliminary scoping study identifying: (i) market access implications and costs associated with container hygiene and mandatory fumigation requirements related to managing GAS; and (ii) possible future strategies to reduce the impact of GAS on importers and exporters.	
Background/ Justification:	<p>GAS was first reported in the Solomon Islands in 2006. The snail continues to spread as containment or eradication measures have not been implemented. GAS is considered to be a quarantine pest by many countries, including Australia and NZ. It is spread internationally on contaminated machinery, the external surface of shipping containers and contaminated produce and packaging material. To manage the phytosanitary risk associated with this pest, quarantine authorities require that containers are free of GAS through container hygiene programs. In addition, any product sourced from known GAS areas may require mandatory fumigation if considered to be infested with eggs or adults.</p> <p>The snail's increased presence in the Solomon's, including the ports of Honiara and Santo, has resulted in the very recent introduction of a container hygiene program to keep containers free from GAS internally and externally. As a result, container clearance and loading times have increased from one to four days, with considerable cost implications for exporters. The direct and indirect costs associated with the container hygiene program, together with the requirement for mandatory fumigation, impose serious additional impediments for Solomon Islands exporters, further threatening the viability of container-based exports.</p>	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engage with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) and industry to determine the current distribution of GAS within the Solomon Islands. 2. Engage with industry and the Ports Authority to determine the current additional costs and charges for exporters associated with GAS. 3. Review current or proposed MAL eradication and/or control strategies for GAS. 4. Document current Australian and NZ phytosanitary requirements with respect to GAS. 5. Develop a discussion paper for consideration by the SIMAWG clarifying the above issues and outlining possible future strategies to reduce the impact of GAS on importers and exporters. 	
Implementation arrangements:	STA Subcontract.	
Linkage with other projects:	This work is likely to highlight a range of GAS management issues. Some of these may have direct relevance to the PHAMA program, such as the possible establishment of GAS pest-free areas within ports. The work may also highlight post border quarantine and biosecurity issues associated with the eradication or containment of GAS that could be supported by other donor programs or Ministry initiatives.	
Component relationship:	Component 3: Research and Development.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved
	June 2011	Scoping study completed (PHAMA Technical Report 05).
	19/5/11	Key Scoping Study recommendations adopted by the SIMAWG and incorporated into the 2011/12 ASP.

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	SOLS03	
Activity Title:	Implementation of the Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme.	
Country:	Solomon Islands.	
Status:	Ongoing activity. Builds on the outcomes of Activity SOLS02 which investigated market access implications and costs associated with managing Giant African Snail (GAS)	
Objective:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To improve the standards of methyl bromide fumigation service delivery and facilities in Honiara to gain accreditation of fumigation service providers by AQIS. 2. To achieve AQIS accreditation to remove the current double fumigation of consignments from Honiara to Australia due to non-accreditation. 	
Background/ Justification:	<p>Honiara has two methyl bromide fumigation service providers. Exports of containerised product to Australia must undergo mandatory fumigation with methyl bromide to reduce the risk of introduction of invasive ant species and giant African snail. Honiara fumigators are not currently accredited by AQIS and even though containers of sawn timber are fumigated prior to departure in Honiara (as a mandatory requirement) they are fumigated a second time on arrival in Australia due to non-accreditation of the providers.</p> <p>The Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS) is administered by AQIS and currently in operation in India, Indonesia, Malaysia and several other countries. The scheme provides accreditation to fumigators to safely deliver fumigation treatments of exported and imported consignments to international standards and is regularly audited by AQIS.</p> <p>Successful accreditation will improve OH&S and reduce the current need for double fumigation (and associated costs to exporters) that currently occurs for containerised consignments from Honiara to Australia.</p>	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Initiate the process of AFAS accreditation for the Solomon Islands with AQIS. 2. Work with service providers to develop Honiara fumigation facilities to comply with AFAS. 3. Train fumigation service providers under AFAS. 4. Train quarantine staff to audit and verify ongoing AFAS accreditation. 5. Build a working relationship between AQIS, Department of Quarantine and Honiara fumigation service providers to ensure ongoing AFAS presence in Honiara. 6. Provide quarterly reports to the SIMAWG on AFAS progress. 	
Implementation arrangements:	AQIS to provide initial audit and verification and training. STA input maybe required where AQIS cannot provide a particular service (to be determined after dialogue with AQIS). LTA to have project oversight.	
Linkage with other projects:	This activity will directly link with the existing Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS) administered by AQIS.	
Component relationship:	Component 2: Implementation of market access requirements.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved
	June 2011	Prior activity Activity SOLS02 (which investigated market access implications and costs associated with managing GAS) completed (PHAMA Technical Report 05).
	19/5/11	Recommendation for improvement in fumigation standards supported by SIMAWG and incorporated into the 2011/12 ASP.

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	SOLS04	
Activity Title:	Review of the potential for cut flower and foliage exports to Australia.	
Country:	Solomon Islands.	
Status:	New activity.	
Objective:	To carry out a preliminary scoping study to assess the feasibility of establishing an export trade in tropical cut flowers, orchids and foliage into key Australian markets.	
Background/ Justification:	The Solomon Islands has a diverse range of tropical cut flowers, orchids and foliage with potential export value. Considerable work has been done by the AusAID-funded Agricultural Livelihoods Program in recent years to develop women's groups to supply cut flowers and foliage to the local market. The logical next step is to determine if there are profitable export opportunities into Australia.	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collate reports on previous work conducted for the Solomon Islands cut flower and foliage industries. 2. Determine if there is demand within Australia for tropical cut flowers, orchids and foliage from the Solomon Islands. 3. If demand is identified, determine whether the trade is likely to be financially viable. 4. Assess local capacity to support an export trade. This should include infrastructure, especially cold chain. 5. Assess availability of airfreight into key Australian markets. 6. Identify potential quarantine issues. 7. Identify potential Australian importers. 8. Develop a discussion paper for the SIMAWG outlining the potential and issues associated with establishing this export trade. 	
Implementation arrangements:	STA Subcontract, with assistance from LTA staff for task (vi).	
Linkage with other projects:	This activity will directly build on the work of the Agricultural Livelihoods Program in developing women's groups supplying cut-flowers to the local market.	
Component relationship:	Component 3: Research and Development.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	SOLS05	
Activity Title:	Re-accreditation of copra meal and PKE processing and handling facilities.	
Country:	Solomon Islands.	
Status:	Ongoing activity. Builds on the outcomes of Activity SOLS01 which reviewed diagnostic requirements to ascertain cocoa and copra meal quality standards.	
Objective:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To gain re-accreditation of copra meal and palm kernel expeller (PKE) processing and handling facilities by AQIS as part of the requirements for renewal of Australian import permits for these products from the Solomon Islands. 2. To provide training and awareness to industry and SI quarantine staff to implement and maintain AQIS standards for export of copra meal and PKE to Australia. 	
Background/ Justification:	<p>AQIS have indicated that renewal of import permits for copra meal and PKE will be subject to a successful audit of processing and handling facilities in all countries. Facilities in the Solomon Islands have not been previously audited by AQIS. Current import permits for SI copra meal and PKE will expire on 17 June. It is likely that some improvements will need to be made to meet AQIS standards. Copra meal and PKE export volumes are comparatively low but still significant for the SI economy. It is important to determine AQIS requirements and review processing and handling facilities, providing a basis for required improvements to be implemented, <i>before</i> the AQIS audit takes place. AQIS costs for conducting the audit are \$10–12K. Due to the fact that this accreditation process is a new requirement that has been imposed by AQIS at relatively short notice, combined with the limited number of exporters involved and the relatively small export volumes of copra meal and PKE, exporters are unlikely to be able to cover these costs on their own. Training would be provided to SI quarantine staff as an integral part of the activity so that they are able to conduct third party facility audits in the future and provide training to industry on handling and processing standards to ensure that AQIS standards continue to be met in the future. Discussions are underway with AQIS regarding an extension to the June 17 expiry date.</p>	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the current copra meal and palm kernel expeller (PKE) export processing and handling standards and facilities to identify any areas that would not meet AQIS accreditation standards as a requirement for renewal of the Australian import permit for copra meal and PKE. 2. Work with industry and SI quarantine authorities to improve processing and handling standards to meet AQIS requirements, if deficiencies are detected. 3. Facilitate the audit by AQIS by (i) providing them with information on the preparatory work that has been carried out by industry to address identified deficiencies; (ii) paying their fees to carry out the audit. 4. Provide training for SI quarantine staff on audit and verification of AQIS arrangements and training for industry on AQIS-compliant processing and handling requirements. 	
Implementation arrangements:	STA, subcontract.	
Linkage with other projects:	None identified.	
Component relationship:	Component 2: Implementation of market access requirements.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved
	June 2011	Prior activity SOLS01 (which reviewed diagnostic requirements to ascertain cocoa and copra meal quality standards) completed (PHAMA Technical Report 04).
	19/5/11	Recommendations relating to the process for maintaining accreditation for copra and PKE exports adopted by SIMAWG.
	30/5/11	Request by SIMAWG to the PMO that support be provided under PHAMA's 'Emergency Measures' window, given the imminent expiration of the current export permits.

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	SOLS06	
Activity Title:	Development of national quality standards for the production and testing of cocoa to meet international market requirements.	
Country:	Solomon Islands.	
Status:	Ongoing activity. Builds on the outcomes of Activity SOLS01 which reviewed diagnostic requirements to ascertain cocoa and copra meal quality standards.	
Objective:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To develop quality standards for the production and testing of cocoa to meet international market requirements. 2. To provide training and accreditation of facilities for small scale testing that may be conducted within SI (this objective to be further defined in consultation with the PARDI program). 	
Background/ Justification:	<p>The SI cocoa industry has undergone significant rejuvenation with investment from government and donor programs. Production and export tonnages are projected to continue to increase strongly over coming years. Testing to determine moisture, fat content and other quality characteristics must be conducted to determine cocoa quality and market price. Production and testing standards, equipment and facilities to conduct these tests are not available in SI and exporters are reliant on buyers to determine quality levels and set prices. PHAMA (in consultation with PARDI and the Cocoa Livelihoods investment Program (CLIP)) will support the development of production and technical testing standards and the training of laboratory staff to conduct tests that are able to be done cost effectively in-country.</p>	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop national production standards for cocoa for target markets. 2. Develop testing standards (physical characteristics, composition and flavour characters) for cocoa. 3. Provide training for laboratory staff for those tests that are able to be done cost effectively in-country. 4. Provide?? quarterly progress reports to the SIMAWG. 	
Implementation arrangements:	STA, subcontract.	
Linkage with other projects:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pacific Agribusiness Research and Development Program (PARDI), which will be providing some of the required testing equipment and facilities. 2. Cocoa Livelihoods investment Program (CLIP) which will be supporting the development of production and technical testing standards and training of laboratory staff. 	
Component relationship:	Component 2: Implementation of market access requirements.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved
	June 2011	Prior activity SOLS01 (which reviewed diagnostic requirements to ascertain cocoa and copra meal quality standards) completed (PHAMA Technical Report 04).
	19/5/11	Recommendations relating to the development of national quality standards for the production and testing of cocoa adopted by the SIMAWG.

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	SOLS07	
Activity Title:	Scoping study to determine the viability of fresh F&V exports from the Solomon Islands to nearby PICs including the Kiribati, Nauru and Marshall Islands.	
Country:	Solomon Islands.	
Status:	New activity.	
Objective:	To conduct a scoping study to determine if exports of various fresh fruit and vegetable products to nearby Pacific Island Countries would be commercially viable.	
Background/ Justification:	There has been some sporadic and unregulated exports of vegetables and processed products to nearby PICs (Kiribati, Nauru and the Marshall Islands) in recent years. Anecdotal evidence suggests that demand for SI products is strong. The availability of freight space (air and sea) appears to be a key limiting factor but freight availability and costs have not been well documented. The establishment of regional trade within PICs would reduce dependence on more expensive imports from larger countries and contribute to PICs economic livelihoods.	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct a market assessment (market price and anticipated demand) for horticultural and agricultural products able to be supplied from the SI to nearby PICs (products to be defined in TOR). 2. Review and document existing freight (sea and air) schedules, capacities and costs. 3. Determine whether the trade is likely to be financially viable. 4. Identify potential quarantine issues, if any. 5. Develop a discussion paper for the SIMAWG outlining the potential and issues associated with this trade, and recommend next steps 	
Implementation arrangements:	STA, subcontract.	
Linkage with other projects:	None identified.	
Component relationship:	Component 3: Research and Development.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	TONGA01	
Activity Title:	Feasibility study to determine the suitability of 'winter window' export conditions for watermelons to NZ.	
Country:	Tonga.	
Status:	New activity.	
Objective:	To carry out a preliminary feasibility study to determine if the concept of 'winter window' is likely to constitute a feasible and cost-effective alternative to the use of fumigation for the export of fruit fly host products, such as water melon, to NZ. This study will determine whether it is worth proceeding with development of a formal submission to NZ MAF (including definition of the requirement for experimental data) on the use of winter window arrangements.	
Background/ Justification:	<p>Tonga has an existing export pathway for a range of fruit fly host products, including watermelons, as specified under MAF Biosecurity NZ Standard 152.02. Mandatory fumigation with methyl bromide (MB) or treatment with HTFA are the currently accepted risk mitigation measures for this export pathway. These treatments are costly and in most instances reduce shelf life due to phytotoxic effects.</p> <p>Tongan industry and government are seeking cost-effective alternatives to these treatments and are seeking to adopt measures accepted by NZ MAF for Australian fruit fly host products, if possible. Australia has negotiated with NZ an alternative risk mitigation method for a number of fruit fly host commodities. This risk mitigation method is called 'winter window' and is based on scientific trials that concluded that certain host commodities remain free from fruit fly attack during winter months due to the cold temperatures causing insect inactivity. Tonga has requested that a feasibility study be conducted to determine if the concept of winter window could equally be adopted for the risk mitigation of Tongan fruit fly host products, specifically watermelon, to NZ.</p> <p>To determine if the concept of a winter window would constitute a suitable alternative for Tonga would require the conduct of cold-tolerance trials. These trials would seek to replicate Tongan winter temperatures in controlled temperature cabinets to determine if fruit flies of economic concern would attack specific host products at these temperatures. The trials are likely to be expensive as they would require specialised equipment and expertise. It is therefore proposed to conduct an initial feasibility study on the likely costs versus benefits, before trials are initiated.</p>	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the Australia/NZ winter window arrangements and underlying experimental data. 2. Collate existing data and literature on Tongan fruit flies of economic concern (including host lists and thermal tolerances). 3. Identify required equipment, expertise and approximate cost to conduct winter window trials. 4. Consult with NZ MAF to ascertain their position on this proposal and timelines for implementation should the proposal be implemented. 5. Develop a discussion paper for consideration by the TMAWG outlining the feasibility and costs of pursuing 'winter window' as an alternative risk mitigation method for fruit fly host products. 	
Implementation arrangements:	STA Subcontract.	
Linkage with other projects:	None identified to date.	
Component relationship:	Component 3: Research and Development.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved
	June 2011	Scoping study completed (PHAMA Technical Report 07).
	31/5/11	Key Scoping Study recommendations adopted by the SIMAWG and incorporated into the 2011/12 ASP.

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	TONGA02	
Activity Title:	Feasibility study on using a dimethoate dip treatment to facilitate the export of fruit fly host products to Fiji.	
Country:	Tonga.	
Status:	New activity.	
Objective:	To determine the likelihood of securing a sustainable fruit fly risk mitigation pathway for fruit fly host products exported to Fiji, using dimethoate dipping.	
Background/ Justification:	<p>Tonga and Fiji currently have a workplan in place for the export of a range of fruit, vegetables and other plant products from Tonga into Fiji. The workplan covers: potatoes, yams, watermelons, English cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce, beans, carrots, onions, kava, mats, tapa cloth, coffee beans, copra and coconut timber. Measures may be required to manage fruit flies of quarantine concern to Fiji. Australia currently exports a range of fruit fly host commodities into NZ using dimethoate chemical dip as a risk mitigation measure for fruit flies. Tonga has requested that the use of dimethoate dipping treatment be investigated as a treatment for fruit fly host products into Fiji.</p> <p>The use of dimethoate to control fruit fly infestation of fruit and vegetables is currently under review by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA). The review is nearing completion and preliminary findings suggest that its use on edible peel fruit and vegetables is likely to be withdrawn or the least limited within Australia and NZ. This may have implications for the acceptability of this risk mitigation measure by Fiji.</p> <p>This study will determine whether it is worth proceeding with development of a formal submission to Fiji on the use of dimethoate dipping arrangements. Pending the outcome of investigations, trials may be conducted to generate data to support dimethoate dipping as a risk mitigation strategy; or alternatively the development of the dimethoate dip pathway will be discounted.</p>	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine the viability of using dimethoate dip as a fruit fly disinfestations chemical in light of current reviews of the chemical usage patterns. 2. Determine if there are fruit flies within Tonga that are of quarantine concern to Fiji. 3. Seek an indication from Fiji on the likelihood of acceptance or otherwise of the use of dimethoate dip to treat fruit fly host commodities from Tonga. 4. Seek an indication from Fiji on whether or not a risk assessment would be required for tomatoes, as this is a new market access request from Tonga. 5. Develop cost estimates to conduct trials to determine the efficacy of dimethoate on fruit fly host commodities infested with fruit flies of economic concern to Fiji. 6. Develop a discussion paper for consideration by the TMAWG outlining the feasibility and issues associated with pursuing a dimethoate treatment protocol with Fiji. 	
Implementation arrangements:	STA Subcontract.	
Linkage with other projects:	None identified to date.	
Component relationship:	Component 3: Research and Development.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved
	June 2011	Scoping study completed (PHAMA Technical Report 06).
	31/5/11	Key Scoping Study recommendations adopted by the SIMAWG.

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	TONGA03	
Activity Title:	Review of the watermelon export pathway to New Zealand, including the delivery of fumigation prior to export.	
Country:	Tonga.	
Status:	New activity.	
Objective:	To review the Tongan watermelon export pathway from the farm gate to on-arrival inspection in NZ to ensure that the most efficient and cost effective methods are used to ensure good quality product arrives in NZ and export costs for growers and exporters are minimised.	
Background/ Justification:	Tonga has an existing export pathway for watermelons to New Zealand. Demand for Tongan watermelons continues to grow with a market value forecast of \$2.5 million Pa'anga or \$AUD1.35 million per year. Mandatory fumigation with methyl bromide (MB) is currently required. Tonga has requested that the export pathway be reviewed (including MB fumigation delivery, following incidences last year with fruit damage) in an effort to identify pathway improvements and hence profitability of this very important export.	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review all aspects of the watermelon export pathway from the farm gate to arrival in New Zealand ports (including fumigation delivery in Tonga). 2. Develop a discussion paper for the TMAWG on the current adequacy of the export pathway and identifying any potential areas for improvement. 	
Implementation arrangements:	STA subcontract to conduct pathway review. A separate contract for a methyl bromide fumigation specialist will be required to look at the MB fumigation chamber and its ability to treat fruit without damage due to MB burning. Training of staff and/or improvements to equipment may be required if deficiencies are detected, which would be addressed as a follow-on activity.	
Linkage with other projects:	None identified to date.	
Component relationship:	Component 3: Research and Development.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	TONGA04	
Activity Title:	Development of a submission on a 'winter window' approach to managing fruit flies on water melon (and possibly other) exports to NZ.	
Country:	Tonga.	
Status:	Ongoing activity. Builds on the outcomes of Activity TONGA01 which was a feasibility study to determine the suitability of 'winter window' export conditions for watermelons to NZ.	
Objective:	To develop a data package and submission supporting the use of the winter window concept as a systems approach for the management of fruit flies associated with water melon exports to NZ.	
Background/ Justification:	Tonga has an existing export pathway for watermelons to New Zealand. Demand for Tongan watermelons continues to grow with a market value forecast of \$2.5 million Pa'anga or \$AUS1.35 million per year. Mandatory fumigation with methyl bromide (MB) is a requirement of the export protocol. Australia has an export pathway for melons and cucurbits for export to NZ that uses a systems approach known as winter window, rather than fumigation for fruit fly management. Tonga has requested that a winter window data package proving the efficacy of this approach for Tongan fruit flies of economic concern be developed for water melons and other products, to be identified. If the accumulated data endorses the efficacy of the winter window approach, a submission will be developed and submitted to NZ Biosecurity.	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a project proposal with timelines for the conduct of research in Tonga to generate a data package to prove the efficacy of winter window for fruit flies of economic concern associated with the export of water melon and other products (to be identified) to NZ. 2. Identify and engage a CLIMEX modeller to develop fruit fly models in consultation with NZ MAF requirements. 3. If CLIMEX modelling supports the conduct of winter window field trials, identify and engage technicians to conduct trials for target products/ crops in Tonga. 4. Organise for selected TMAWG members to travel to Australia during the 11/12 winter window season to review the interstate winter window protocol for strawberries. 5. Provide regular reports (to be specified within project contract) to the PMO and TMAWG on progress of the activity. 	
Implementation arrangements:	STA subcontracts. Note separate subcontracts will be required for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A CLIMEX modeller endorsed by NZ MAF to develop fruit fly models; and 2. Tongan fruit fly technicians (possibly seconded from MAFFF) to conduct field trials and accumulate efficacy data. 	
Linkage with other projects:	None identified to date.	
Component relationship:	Component 3: Research and Development.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved
	June 2011	Scoping study completed (PHAMA Technical Report 07).
	31/5/11	Key Scoping Study recommendations adopted by the SIMAWG and incorporated into the 2011/12 ASP.

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	TONGA05	
Activity Title:	Development of a 'new access' submission for the export of zucchinis and selected other crops (to be identified) to NZ.	
Country:	Tonga.	
Status:	Ongoing activity. Builds on the outcomes of Activity TONGA01 which was a feasibility study to determine the suitability of 'winter window' export conditions for watermelons to NZ.	
Objective:	To develop a technical market access submission for the export of zucchinis and selected other crops (to be identified) to NZ (new access).	
Background/ Justification:	Tonga has requested PHAMA to assist with the development of a technical submission for the use of the 'winter window' risk management strategy in place of methyl bromide fumigation, to manage the risk for fruit flies in watermelons and other suitable commodities (refer ActivityTonga04). Other suitable products that could be potentially be exported under a winter window protocol include those with a reasonably hard skin that makes it difficult for fruit fly attack and those that market analysis indicates will be a profitable export to NZ. Cucurbits (particularly zucchini and xx) are considered to be possible products that meet the criteria and for which there may be some market potential. Tonga does not have market access for these products. Gaining formal market access is likely to take two years to complete. It is therefore sensible for Tonga to pursue the winter window project and new market access requests for these other products concurrently.	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In consultation with NZ MAF develop a technical market access submission for zucchinis and selected other products (to be identified). 2. Include risk management options for fruit flies within the submission, with particular focus on the use of the winter window concept. 	
Implementation arrangements:	STA subcontract.	
Linkage with other projects:	This new market access request should be conducted concurrently with Activity No. Tonga04 relating to development of the 'winter window' concept.	
Component relationship:	Component 1: Development of market access submission.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved
	June 2011	Scoping study completed (PHAMA Technical Report 07).
	31/5/11	Key Scoping Study recommendations adopted by the SIMAWG and incorporated into the 2011/12 ASP.

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	TONGA06	
Activity Title:	Purchase of generator/s as backup power for Tonga's fumigation facility.	
Country:	Tonga.	
Status:	New activity, although closely linked with improving the existing export pathway of watermelons to NZ (Activity TONGA03).	
Objective:	To provide back-up power for Tonga's fumigation facility.	
Background/ Justification:	Tonga MAFFF has recently completed the development of a government-owned processing, treatment and packaging facility for horticultural exports. A key component of the facility is a methyl bromide fumigation chamber. The chamber is used for the treatment of exported products, including the watermelons to NZ. Power supply is intermittent in Tonga. When outages occur during a fumigation treatment there is a risk that the entire consignment will not be treated correctly and may require a second treatment with the accompanying risk of damage to the consignment. To ensure that power failures do not potentially impact upon the quality and profitability of export pathways MAFFF have requested PHAMA assistance with the purchase a diesel generator as a backup power supply. MAFFF have indicated that the generator would be used for a total of around two weeks per year. The TMAWG has supported this request. PHAMA has requested that the TMAWG develop a funding/ operating model incorporating industry and government contributions both for the purchase and operation of the generator, and has indicated that assistance would be considered once this model had been developed.	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To develop a joint industry/ government/ PHAMA funding model for the supply and operation of a backup diesel generator for the government-owned methyl bromide fumigation facility. 2. Once an acceptable funding/ operating model has been developed, develop design specifications, tender and arrange for installation and commissioning of the generator/s. 	
Implementation arrangements:	Funding/ operating model to be developed by the TMAWG, facilitated by the NMAC. Design specifications, tendering, installation and commissioning to be supervised by the NMAC with LTA/PMO oversight, in consultation with the TMAWG.	
Linkage with other projects:	None identified.	
Component relationship:	Component 2: Implementation of market access requirements.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	TONGA07	
Activity Title:	Facilitation of meetings to investigate Tonga-NZ sea freight issues	
Country:	Tonga.	
Status:	New activity.	
Objective:	To facilitate meetings between key Tongan government and industry representatives, and shipping companies, to investigate possible solutions to reduced sea freight availability to NZ.	
Background/ Justification:	Shipping schedules from Tonga to NZ have recently been reduced by approximately 50%. Tonga industry and government have serious concerns regarding the impact that this will have on Tongan exports such as water melons, taro, cassava and coconuts. The Tonga NMAC is developing a discussion paper outlining the potential impacts and possible solutions in consultation with government and industry. There may be a role for PHAMA to facilitate meetings between Tongan representatives and shipping companies to discuss possible solutions to the reduction in seafreight availability.	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a discussion paper outlining potential impacts and possible solutions to reduced shipping schedules. 2. Facilitate meetings between Tongan industry/government representatives and international shipping companies to discuss issues and solutions, as required. 	
Implementation arrangements:	Tonga NMAC to develop discussion paper and assist with meeting facilitation. PHAMA to finance travel associated with meetings, if required.	
Linkage with other projects:	None identified.	
Component relationship:	Component 2: Research and development.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	VAN01	
Activity Title:	Review of diagnostic requirements to service various value-added industries.	
Country:	Vanuatu	
Status:	New activity.	
Objective:	To carry out a preliminary scoping study to: (i) determine the current testing requirements, costs and time required for testing various value-added products currently exported by Vanuatu; (ii) to determine if there are facilities in Vanuatu that can provide these services; (iii) to provide a brief overview of possible options for the provision of cost-effective and timely diagnostic services for these products.	
Background/ Justification:	Vanuatu has a range of value-added horticultural industries that require diagnostic services to determine compliance with food quality and/or food safety standards. Products include cocoa, copra meal, virgin coconut oil, kava, vanilla and other spices. Diagnostic testing for food and quality standards of processed and semi-processed products is a requirement of many importing countries to meet food safety and quality requirements. Exporters are currently frustrated by poor access to diagnostic facilities that are required to determine quality and compliance with import requirements into other countries. Addressing this constraint would increase the sustainability and profitability of these industries.	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engage with representatives of value-added industries to determine current diagnostic requirements for cocoa, copra meal, virgin coconut oil, kava, vanilla and other spices. 2. Provide a report to the VMAWG specifying the current diagnostic requirements. 3. Provide a brief discussion paper for the VMAWG outlining options for the establishment of cost-effective and timely diagnostic services for these products. 	
Implementation arrangements:	STA subcontract.	
Linkage with other projects:	None identified to date.	
Component relationship:	Component 3: Research and Development.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved
	June 2011	Scoping study completed (PHAMA Technical Report 08).
	25/5/11	Key Scoping study recommendations adopted by VMAWG and incorporated into the 2011/12 ASP.

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	VAN02	
Activity Title:	Investigation of the viability of the high temperature forced air (HTFA) facility as a treatment option for the export of fruit fly host commodities to NZ.	
Country:	Vanuatu.	
Status:	New activity.	
Objective:	<p>To determine the current status and cost for repair and accreditation of the HTFA facility.</p> <p>To conduct a cost benefit analysis of HTFA treatment to assess the commercial viability of the facility for the treatment of fruit fly host commodities for export to NZ.</p> <p>Pending the outcome of investigations, the activity may lead to providing further assistance for the refurbishment of the HTFA facility or recommendations to seek alternative methods to manage the risk of fruit fly infestation for exports of fruit fly host commodities (such as area wide management of fruit flies).</p>	
Background/ Justification:	<p>The treatment of fruit fly host commodities using a technique to heat the commodity (hot air, water or steam) to kill fruit flies is a widely used disinfestation method for international trade. However, specific treatment times, temperatures and post treatment handling requirements must be strictly adhered to, if the treatment is to be accepted by the importing country.</p> <p>NZ currently accepts a range of fruit fly host commodities from PICs using HTFA to manage the risk of fruit fly and there are several HTFA plants throughout the Pacific. However, the only fully operational and financially viable HTFA facility is in Fiji. The financial viability of PIC HTFA facilities is heavily dependent on: (i) the capacity of the plants to treat sufficient commodity volumes; (ii) the ongoing costs of maintenance and accreditation; (iii) the availability and cost of transport of commodities to market; and (iv) the limited financial returns to growers once treatment and freight costs are deducted from the market price for the commodity.</p> <p>Vanuatu already has market access for a range of fruit fly host commodities into NZ using HTFA. Vanuatu has a small HTFA machine, privately owned by an industry co-operative. However, the machine requires repairs (computers and software) and re-accreditation by NZ quarantine before it can be used for exports. It is proposed to examine the commercial viability of repairing and operating this machine, as a first step to determining whether additional PHAMA investment is warranted.</p>	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine the state of repair of the HTFA facility and the cost to make the facility fully operational. 2. Identify suitable products for this export pathway and likely export volumes. 3. Conduct a preliminary cost benefit analysis on the use of HTFA for exports of fruit fly host produce to NZ. 4. Develop a discussion paper for consideration by the TMAWG on the current status and likely profitability of the HTFA facility. 	
Implementation arrangements:	STA Subcontract.	
Linkage with other projects:	None identified to date.	
Component relationship:	Component 3: Research and Development.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved
	June 2011	Scoping study completed (PHAMA Technical Report 09).
	25/5/11	Key Scoping Study recommendations adopted by the SIMAWG.

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	VAN03	
Activity Title:	Establishment of diagnostic services for value-added products.	
Country:	Vanuatu	
Status:	Ongoing activity. Builds on the outcomes of Activity VAN01 which investigated the diagnostic requirements to service various value-added industries.	
Objective:	To establish diagnostics services for value-added products by establishing in-country testing, training and accreditation (where cost effective) and developing outsource arrangements for more complex testing requirements to an external service provider.	
Background/ Justification:	Vanuatu has a range of value-added horticultural industries that require diagnostic services to determine compliance with food quality and/or food safety standards. Based on the recommendations of VAN01 the VMAWG has recommended that improved diagnostic services for kava, vanilla and spices, copra, copra meal, cocoa and meat be developed. The required diagnostics will include the microbial testing of water, testing for salmonella, E-coli, aflatoxins, vanillin content, free fatty acid content of copra, and moisture content testing of various commodities; as well as determine the quality parameters for cocoa and kava.	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the capability and capacity of current in-country food safety/standards diagnostics service providers. 2. Determine what testing can be done effectively in-country and what testing should be conducted offshore to ensure cost effective and timely delivery of results. 3. Provide report to the MAWG outlining proposed model for diagnostics service delivery. If the model is endorsed by the VMAWG: 4. Deliver efficient and cost effective testing for more complex tests that cannot be done cost effectively in-country. 5. Develop in-country testing standards, provide training and accreditation (where required). 	
Implementation arrangements:	An offshore service provider will be identified to provide specific testing requirements for more complex and costly tests. The same service provider will be engaged to develop the capacity of local laboratories and officers to provide diagnostic services that can/could be undertaken locally and that are recognised by overseas NPPOs. This will include verification and accreditation (where required and feasible) of these local services. An STA subcontract may be required to assist with management of this complex activity. LTA to have overall activity oversight.	
Linkage with other projects:	This project will link with the planned I-ACT activity to develop a cocoa processing plant and provide additional support for the beef export industry (microbial testing water and beef) in the form of validation of industry testing that is currently conducted as part of export requirements.	
Component relationship:	Component 2: Implementation of market access requirements.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved
	June 2011	Scoping study completed (PHAMA Technical Report 08).
	25/5/11	Key Scoping study recommendations adopted by VMAWG and incorporated into the 2011/12 ASP.

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Activity Ref:	VAN04	
Activity Title:	Development of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) Plans for key export industries.	
Country:	Vanuatu	
Status:	New Activity	
Objective:	To provide training and accreditation for in-country officer/s to deliver and maintain HACCP systems, and develop HACCP Plans for selected export industries as an integral part of the training process.	
Background/ Justification:	The implementation, maintenance and verification of HACCP systems for various export industries is becoming increasingly important and in some cases mandatory. HACPP is particularly important for value-added products for human consumption. There is an urgent requirement for the implementation of HACCP systems for value-added export industries in Vanuatu. There is also a need for local capacity to be developed so that HACCP systems can be designed, implemented, audited and managed locally.	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide HACCP training to nominated government officials or individuals. 2. Complete HACCP design and development for selected industry/ies as part of the training program. 3. Facilitate accreditation of potential local HACCP providers by international authorities. 	
Implementation arrangements:	<p>Service provider subcontract.</p> <p>The food safety/standards diagnostics service provider engaged for VAN03 may also be able to provide the services required for this activity. LTA to have overall activity oversight.</p>	
Linkage with other projects:	This activity will underpin and increase the integrity of value-added food export protocols currently in existence. It will also develop a cost effective local resource for maintenance of HACCP certifications.	
Component relationship:	Component 2: Implementation of market access requirements.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	VAN05	
Activity Title:	Training of additional meat inspectors to certify beef export processing facilities.	
Country:	Vanuatu	
Status:	New Activity	
Objective:	To train a sufficient number of new meat inspectors for certification of beef exports and processing premises to meet Vanuatu's projected certification requirements for the next five years.	
Background/ Justification:	Vanuatu has a very successful international beef export market, mainly processed through the 2 export meat works. Some butcher shops within Port Vila also currently export beef to PICs. Meat inspectors play a critical role in certification of export product and premises. The VMAWG has indicated that there is a shortage of trained meat inspectors and no succession plan to replace current meat inspectors nearing retirement. Succession planning and training is required to ensure sufficient numbers of meat inspectors are available to maintain and grow Vanuatu's beef export industry.	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine current meat inspector availability and capacity, and likely requirements over the next five years to meet Vanuatu's certification requirements for export beef. 2. Develop five year plan to ensure sufficient meat inspectors are available to meet export needs. 3. Identify suitable staff and training delivery mechanisms, 4. Provide training to meet needs. 	
Implementation arrangements:	STA input required to develop the five year plan and facilitate training delivery. The NZ Aid Program has indicated that it may be able to assist with medium-term (6–12 months) training for several meat inspectors.	
Linkage with other projects:		
Component relationship:	Component 2: Implementation of market access requirements.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	VAN06	
Activity Title:	Feasibility study on the establishment of a facility for drying fruits and vegetables for export.	
Country:	Vanuatu	
Status:	New Activity	
Objective:	To determine the viability (market demand, potential supply and profitability) of a proposed fruit and vegetable drying facility for export of dried product to various international markets.	
Background/ Justification:	A company currently exporting fresh fruit and vegetables, Vanuatu Direct Ltd, provided a presentation to the VMAWG outlining a proposal to develop a fruit and vegetable drying facility for export of dried product. A preliminary business case covering potential markets, food safety requirements/standards, equipment required and potential supply and demand for various products has been developed. The MAWG considered that drying of fruits and vegetables for export may provide considerable advantages over fresh product exports: (i) the weight of product is reduced by one fifth; (ii) approximately five times more product can be shipped using the same space; and (iii) drying is an alternative treatment for fruit fly host product. Note that at the same meeting the MAWG endorsed the recommendations of Activity VAN02 not to reinstate the HTFA (fruit fly product treatment) chamber. In light of these considerations the MAWG requested that the business case developed by Vanuatu Direct be independently assessed and verified.	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct a detailed review of the Vanuatu Direct business case for the establishment of a food drying facility for fruit and vegetables for export. 2. Provide a report to the MAWG on the viability of this proposal and suggested next steps for PHAMA engagement (if any). 	
Implementation arrangements:	STA subcontract.	
Linkage with other projects:		
Component relationship:	Component: Research and Development.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	VAN07	
Activity Title:	Re-accreditation of BSE-free status for Vanuatu beef to Australia.	
Country:	Vanuatu.	
Status:	New Activity.	
Objective:	To gain re-accreditation of BSE-free status for Vanuatu beef to Australia.	
Background/ Justification:	<p>Vanuatu currently has access for beef into Australia. One of the quarantine requirements for export of beef into Australia is freedom from the serious cattle disease BSE. BSE-free status is based on herd testing and accreditation of testing results on a regular basis by Australian authorities. Submission of re-accreditation documentation to Australia is required by the end of June 2011. Vanuatu authorities do not currently have a Principle Veterinary Officer and this has delayed the re-accreditation process. Although Vanuatu is currently exporting very limited quantities of beef to Australia, loss of BSE-free status would potentially have an adverse impact on the export trade to other important markets. Vanuatu government authorities formally requested PHAMA assistance to assist with re-accreditation on 8 June.</p>	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engage with Australian authorities to seek an extension of the end-of-June re-accreditation deadline. 2. Review current Australian and other country BSE approval requirements. 3. Conduct an assessment of the current status of the BSE related aspects of animal health surveillance (passive/active surveillance, including BSE testing programme and its results), meat inspection/processing procedures, and importation history of risk materials (e.g. meat and bone meals) to assess compliance with Australian (and other importing country/potential importing country) import requirements. 4. Based on findings undertake discussions with Australia on renewal of BSE-free status and complete submission documentation as required. (May also be appropriate to contact other countries such as potential future markets to clarify standards and recognition process). 5. If required, recommended changes or improvements in the current systems e.g. sampling/testing procedures. 	
Implementation arrangements:	STA subcontract.	
Linkage with other projects:	None identified.	
Component relationship:	Component 2: Implementation of market access requirements.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved
	30/5/11 3/6/11	Request by GoV and VMAWG to the PMO that support be provided under PHAMA's 'Emergency Measures' window, given the imminent expiration of the current export permits.

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	REGIONAL01
Activity Title:	Market access database development
Country:	Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu.
Status:	Ongoing activity. Underpins the identification of potential export opportunities that may already exist from PHAMA countries for processed (e.g. dried, frozen, for further processing, animal feeds) and fresh agricultural/ horticultural products (e.g. fruit and vegetables, cut flowers and foliage plants, nursery stock).
Objective:	<p>To develop a market access database as a 'quick link' to import conditions for a wide range of products into Australia, New Zealand and other key markets for the purpose of centralising record storage and improving accessibility to this information for all stakeholders.</p> <p>The activity encompasses:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>For processed products</u>: compilation of technical information from importing country databases (e.g. AQUIS's ICON and NZMAF's Import Health Standards) and presenting this in a user-friendly format. This work will initially be undertaken mainly by PHAMA staff. 2. <u>For fresh products</u>: liaison with relevant ministry/ies in each PHAMA country to compile all bilateral export protocols and workplans into a central file (electronically and in hard copy). Note that bilateral export protocols and workplans for fresh products will remain confidential to the country concerned.
Background/ Justification:	<p>During the PHAMA design and pre-start up phases it became apparent that the ability of producers, exporters and in some cases government agencies to access existing import conditions for products exported, or potentially exportable, to Australia, New Zealand and other target markets is limited. This is due to limited/sporadic internet access and limited understanding on how to obtain the required information from relevant importing country websites; coupled with limited ability by industry to access existing export protocols for fresh products from the exporting country Quarantine Departments often caused by poorly organised file management and retrieval arrangements.</p> <p>CEOs of the relevant ministries in each PHAMA country have expressed their strong support for development of a centralised, easy accessible means of improving access to this information.</p> <p>The concept of a single, searchable market access database will significantly improve access to relevant export information for all stakeholders. A central depository for bilateral market access protocols for fresh produce will not only secure this information but will also provide a basis for identifying and seeking improvements to existing conditions.</p>
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and gather all available public information (e.g. from ICON, NZMAF's IHS database) on product import conditions for processed foodstuffs (including dried, frozen, for further processing, animal feeds) and fresh agricultural and horticultural commodities (including fruit and vegetables, cut flowers and foliage plants, nursery stock) into New Zealand, Australia and other priority export markets for PHAMA countries. 2. Engage directly with BA and NZMAF to compile all possible import conditions for products of potential export interest from PHAMA countries, where this information is not directly available from secondary sources. 3. Identify and initiate discussion with relevant importing country regulatory authorities to address import policy inconsistencies. 4. Investigate options for on-going institutional support for managing/ maintaining a database of this nature. 5. Develop a user-friendly platform for managing this information, including data transfer, maintenance and hosting of a database.
Implementation arrangements:	Information on current export protocols and conditions being compiled by LTAs. Possible future involvement of a database designer/ developer.
Linkage with other projects:	Possible linkage with SPC MA information/ help desk/ database activities. Requires further investigation.
Component relationship:	<p>Component 1: Preparation of MA submissions.</p> <p>Component 3: Research and development.</p>

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Cost estimate:	Implemented by LTAs; no additional cost at this stage although may require future input from a specialist database designer/ developer at a later stage and possible external hosting of the database.	
Progress review:	Date	
	May–June 2011	Concept of the database discussed with exporting country Quarantine Departments. Initial information from Australia's ICON database and NZ's IHS extracted and summarised, and initial policy inconsistencies identified.

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	REGIONAL02	
Activity Title:	Compilation of a response to Biosecurity Australia's (BA's) draft Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) on taro imports from all countries.	
Country:	Regional.	
Status:	New activity.	
Objective:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To develop a response to the BA draft PRA after analysis of the PIC pest and disease lists and proposed risk mitigation measures. 2. To propose alternative risk mitigation measures if the measures proposed in the draft document are considered to be overly restrictive. 3. To provide this information to country Quarantine Departments for use in their development of country submissions. <p>The activity may highlight additional quarantine, production and supply chain issues or reforms that might be required to improve the PIC export pathway of taro to Australia. In addition, finalisation of the Australian import policy document may also have future implications for the modification of the import policy for taro imports into NZ, dependent on the outcomes.</p>	
Background/ Justification:	<p>Australia is a major export destination for taro from the Pacific, with Fiji being the major supplier. Other Pacific countries are also seeking to increase exports. Production of taro is essentially a smallholder, village-based activity. Further restrictions on trade would have major economic consequences for a large number of rural communities.</p> <p>BA is currently conducting an import policy review of all varieties of fresh taro from all countries. The PRA was initiated as a result of the imposition of emergency measures (prohibition of taro imports) by BA on a specific taro variety due to concerns that TLB may enter and establish in Australia. The specific variety of concern was primarily exported from China but small quantities are also exported from PICs.</p> <p>The current Australian taro import policy is reasonably old. This PRA will be the first scientifically rigorous analysis of the import pathway for many years. There are a range of potential pests and diseases associated with taro imports from PICs that may be of quarantine concern to Australia. However, the justification for a pest to be categorised as a quarantine pest must be carefully scrutinised, based on its potential for entry, establishment and spread, and potential economic consequences.</p> <p>The release of the draft PRA document for stakeholder comment is imminent. Careful analysis of the document (including pest and disease lists for PICs and proposed risk mitigation measures) will be essential to ensure that export conditions are not further restricted, unless scientifically justified.</p> <p>The PRA document will be released for a 30 to 60 day comment period (depending on the perceived complexity of the document). It is important that a response is provided within the allocated timeframe. Specialist plant pathologist and/or entomologist advice may be required as part of this process.</p>	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyse the PRA document. 2. Develop a response to the document in consultation with PIC and other PHAMA stakeholders. 3. Provide this response to country Quarantine Departments and assist where requested with the preparation of country submissions. 	
Implementation arrangements:	STA Subcontract, with support from the Market Access Specialist and the Quarantine and Biosecurity Specialist.	
Linkage with other projects:	None identified to date.	
Component relationship:	Component 1: Preparation and Processing of Market Access Submissions.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved
	May 2011	Draft submission completed and provided to country Quarantine Departments (PHAMA Technical Report 10).

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	20 May 2011	Submissions prepared by various regional and national submitters using the material provided, and forwarded to BA.

Appendix C

Activity Ref:	REGIONAL03	
Activity Title:	Initiation of a regional strategy towards managing quarantine and MA issues	
Countries:	Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu	
Status:	New activity.	
Objective:	To develop a Regional Quarantine Advisory Committee (RQAC) consisting of one nominated quarantine representative from each PHAMA country plus the PHAMA and SPC market access specialists. This committee will facilitate regional market access by providing technical advice on new and existing regional market access protocols.	
Background/ Justification:	<p>There are real market access opportunities between PICs that have not been realised. Facilitating increased regional trade would substitute for the large volumes of fresh product currently imported from Australia and New Zealand. Increased regional trade would also result in shorter transit times, fresher product, reduced freight costs and increased regional economic activity.</p> <p>There is currently no regional mechanism in place for: (i) managing technical market access issues between PICs and (ii) developing and facilitating regional quarantine issues and standards with other non-PIC countries.</p> <p>The RQAC would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. prioritise and work on regional market access issues raised by the MAWG, quarantine departments and industry of each PIC; 2. set a work program to address other international/ regional standards (e.g. standardised approaches) related to market access as they arise; 3. develop and seek to progress with relevant importing country regulatory authorities regional strategies related to technical market access; and 4. represent PHAMA PICs in relevant international market access fora. <p>The RQAC would be subordinate to and a technical advisory body to the National MAWGs already established under PHAMA, the PPPO Ex Co, and the PICTA Secretariat.</p>	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consult with regional and national stakeholders on the proposed role, structure and operation of the RQAC. 2. Develop an operational Service Charter. 3. Finalise membership and initial leadership (Chair/ Vice Chair) positions. 4. Coordinate initial meeting(s) to establish a work program addressing current regional issues. 5. Develop an agreed funding model, seeking combined contributions from PIC Ministries (quarantine and possibly trade), the Forum Secretariat, SPC and PHAMA would be developed, with an emphasis on sustainable funding from PICs over time. 	
Implementation arrangements:	Initial development by LTAs; possible future requirement for additional coordination/ facilitation support.	
Linkage with other projects:	Linkage with SPC-implemented component 4 (Regional Market Access Support Services) and regional trade initiatives implemented under Forum Sec, PICTA and other government agendas.	
Component relationship:	Potentially cuts across all 4 components.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved

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Activity Ref:	REGIONAL04	
Activity Title:	Funding for bilateral market access negotiations with trading partners	
Country:	Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu.	
Status:	New activity.	
Objective:	To provide funding for travel, technical support and training (if required) for country representatives to conduct bilateral market access discussions with nominated trading partners.	
Background/ Justification:	NZ MAF, until recently, was the only Pacific quarantine authority actively seeking engagement and dialogue with PICs on market access and regional biosecurity issues. BA, with PHAMA funding, is now also seeking more active engagement with PICs on market access issues. PHAMA countries have traditionally not had sufficient resources, nor have they been well-skilled, to actively engage in bilateral technical market access discussions with either other PICs, or Australia and NZ. For market access to be improved it is essential that PICs have funds for travel and training to participate in regular technical market access discussions.	
Scope of work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For each PHAMA country, identify which countries should be the focus of regular bilateral consultations. 2. Work with the MAWGs to prioritise bilateral meetings and training (if required) based on funding availability. 3. Assist Ministries with the planning, briefing, training and conduct of bilateral negotiations. 4. Assist Ministries with the development of meeting outcomes and follow-up work programs. 	
Implementation arrangements:	STA subcontract.	
Linkage with other projects:	Directly linked with BA's and MAFNZ's efforts to more actively engage with PICs.	
Component relationship:	Potentially cuts across all 4 components.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved

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Activity Ref:	REGIONAL05	
Activity Title:	Review of quarantine issues surrounding trade in handicraft products.	
Country:	Regional.	
Status:	New activity.	
Objective:	To promote tourist sales of local handicrafts by providing clear guidelines to village groups on suitability of various raw materials in relation to quarantine requirements of key tourist markets, and appropriate labelling to help promote sales.	
Background/ Justification:	In all countries covered by PHAMA, production of handicrafts for the tourist market produces substantial additional income for villages that often have few other production opportunities. In many cases these handicrafts are high quality, and have considerable unrealised export market potential. Manufacture is often based around women's groups, such as those developed under the MORDI Program in Tonga (IFAD-funded). Sales are often constrained by use of raw materials (such as some seeds) that are prohibited by potential importing countries.	
Scope of work:	<p>This activity is likely to extend over several years. The first step, initiated under the 2011–12 workplan, is to review the raw materials being used in commonly manufactured handicrafts and to identify possible quarantine issues in relation to the requirements of major importing countries.</p> <p>Once this preliminary work has been completed, follow-on activities will possibly include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Production of information sheets for village-based manufacturers on what is permissible in relation to raw materials for various markets. 2. Development of general guidelines on appropriate labelling indicating compliance with the quarantine requirements of particular markets. 	
Implementation arrangements:	Initially by LTAs. Follow-on work may involve STA subcontracts.	
Linkage with other projects:	Numerous small community developments such as IFAD's MORDI, which support development of village and women's groups for handicrafts manufacture and sale.	
Component relationship:	Component 2: Implementation of market access requirements.	
Cost estimate:		
Progress review:	Date	Summary of progress achieved

Appendix D

Appendix D “Help Desk” Support Provided by the PMO in Response to Miscellaneous Market Access and Quarantine Enquiries

1. Aug 2010; Export enquiry for heliconia and ginger cut flowers from Fiji into Australia by an Australian importer (resolved – requirements communicated).
2. Nov/Dec 2010; Symptoms of papaya crown rot (*Erwinia papayae*) reported in Fiji. The Australian papaya industry learned of this and informed Biosecurity Australia (BA) of the report. Papaya crown rot is a quarantine pest for Australia and is seed transmitted. BA visited Fiji and inspected for symptoms. (resolved – PHAMA facilitated discussion between BAF, industry and BA, and the sending of samples to CABI, London, for diagnosis. No papaya crown rot was found, thereby preventing the closure of the export pathway for papaya from Fiji to Australia indefinitely).
3. Feb 2011; Taro cleaner export pathway ACIAR project, workshop in Suva with BA and PHAMA attendance (facilitation and project coordination).
4. Feb 2011; Export enquiry for samples of cocoa seed to be sent from Solomon Islands to Australia for laboratory (i.e. quality) testing by Solomon Island cocoa development project manager (resolved – import facilitated).
5. Mar 2011; Provision of advice to Grower's Federation in Tonga that growers wanting to export watermelons to NZ need to be registered before the export season commences. No registration had yet been received by MAFF NZ at that stage. (Advice and subsequent action saved the 2011 water melon season from potential disaster – resolved).
6. May 2011; Vanuatu exporter enquiry for peppercorns to New Zealand (resolved – requirements communicated).
7. May 2011; letter on behalf of SIMAWG Chair requesting help for imminent copra meal permit renewal, subject to audit by BA (resulted in a PHAMA emergency measure project).
8. May 2011; Tonga exporter enquiry for green coffee bean to New Zealand (resolved – requirements communicated).
9. May 2011; Tonga exporter enquiry for frozen food stuffs to New Zealand (resolved – requirements communicated).
10. May 2011; assistance provided to Vanuatu DLQS with the shipment of organic horticultural produce to a trade show in NZ in September 11 (resolved – contacts facilitated).
11. Jun 2011; letter on behalf of VMAWG Chair to Vanuatu DLQS Ministry regarding BSE re-accreditation for beef into the Australian market (resulted in a PHAMA emergency measure project).
12. Jun 2011; facilitation of the quarantine clearance of a commercial taro consignment held on the wharf in Sydney (resolved – consignment released from quarantine).
13. Jun 2011; facilitation of the quarantine clearance of a commercial mixed root crop consignment held on the wharf in Sydney (resolved, consignment released from quarantine. Incident also resulted in PHAMA facilitating BAF to write a letter to AQIS requesting better communication).
14. Jun 2011; facilitation of various commodity imports from Pacific Islands to the Fine Food Fair, Sydney, on request by Pacific Island exporters and PITI (resolved – requirements and contacts communicated).
15. Jun 2011; request by exporters in Fiji for import conditions for cut flowers and foliage into Australia and New Zealand (resolved – requirements communicated).

Appendix D

- 16. Jun 2011; request by exporters in Fiji for import conditions and likely risk mitigation measures for fresh bananas into Australia (resolved – requirements communicated).
- 17. Jun 2011; export enquiry for fresh seafood as personal consignments from Tonga to Australia and New Zealand (resolved – requirements communicated).
- 18. Jun 2011; export enquiry for containerised sawn, green timber to New Zealand resolved – requirements communicated).
- 19. Jun 2011; Letter facilitated from BAF to AQIS requesting better communication from AQIS on quarantine issues, specifically in regard to interceptions (letter written and forwarded to BAF who sent it to AQIS – resolved, but issue of improved communication management ongoing).
- 20. June 2011; Industry request for fruitfly conditions for fresh pineapples from Fiji to NZ (resolved – requirements communicated).
- 21. June 2011; Samoan exporter request for import conditions for various flour types to Australia (resolved – requirements communicated).

Appendix E

Appendix E PHAMA Technical Report List

Report No.	Date	Title
1.	28 May 2011	Report to the Fiji Market Access Working Group – Export Issues for Taro to Australia and New Zealand
2.	11 June 2011	Report to the Fiji Market Access Working Group – Assessment of Potential Ginger Export Issues to Australia
3.	26 May 2011	Report to the Samoa Market Access Working Group – Export Issues for Taro to Australia and New Zealand
4.	11 May 2011	Report to the Solomon Islands Market Access Working Group – Review of the Diagnostic Requirements to Ascertain Cocoa and Copra Meal Quality Standards
5.	19 May 2011	Report to the Solomon Islands Market Access Working Group – Report on Giant African Snail
6.	14 May 2011	Report to the Tonga Market Access Working Group – Feasibility of Winter Window Export Conditions for Watermelons to New Zealand
7.	23 May 2011	Report to the Tonga Market Access Working Group – Feasibility Study of Dimethoate Dip Treatment to Facilitate the Export of Fruit Fly Host Commodities to Fiji
8.	23 May 2011	Report to the Vanuatu Market Access Working Group – Investigation of Diagnostic Requirements to Service Various Value-added Industries
9.	15 May 2011	Report to the Vanuatu Market Access Working Group Investigation of the Viability of the High Temperature Forced Air (HTFA) Facility as a Treatment Option for the Export of Fruit Fly Host Commodities to New Zealand
10.	15 May 2011	Response to Biosecurity Australia – Draft Review of Import Conditions for Fresh Taro Corms

Appendix F

Appendix F Revised Risk Management Matrix

#	Potential Risk	Potential Impact	Risk Before			Risk Mitigation Strategies by Contractor	Risk After		
			P	C	R		P	C	R
MANAGEMENT RISKS									
1.	The nature of the URS/ Kalang Association and the relative size and expectations of the respective partners adversely affects efficient service delivery.	Internal frustration. Implementation delays.	3	3	6	Routine structured meetings at operational and management level to openly discuss and resolve issues as they arise.	2	2	4
2	The short duration of Phase 1 in relation to the objectives of the program, further compounded by significant delays during mobilisation, will constrain the nature and duration of activities that can be supported and will ultimately limit the results able to be demonstrated during Phase 1.	Constrained capacity to produce the degree of evidence desirable as a basis for justifying Phase 2 investment. Forced bias during Phase 1 towards activities towards those that have a quick pay-off, in particular a bias towards MA priorities related to <i>maintaining</i> trade, rather than <i>gaining</i> new trade.	5	4	9	Encourage MAWGs to select MA activities with quicker pay-offs wherever possible, especially those related to maintaining trade or improving MA protocols. Continue to emphasise to AusAID and other stakeholders that gaining MA is a long term process that requires long term commitment.	4	3	7
3.	NMACs are ineffective in their intended role.	Ineffective MAWGs. Poorly developed govt/ industry linkages. Weak linkage of MAWGs with the PMO.	3	5	8	Rigorous selection. Three month probation. Provide clear position description and output plan. On-going support from LTPs. Monitor performance against agreed outputs quarterly. Involve MAWG in performance assessments. Provide remedial training in identified weaknesses. If no improvement, replace NMAC after appropriate process is implemented and recorded.	1	3	4
4.	PHAMA advisers are ineffective.	Poor strategic direction. Ineffective technical oversight. Sub-optimal skills transfer.	3	5	8	Provide proactive management support. Include stakeholder feedback in 6-monthly performance reviews. Identify any issues with adviser, implement corrective action, mentor and counsel. If no improvement, replace after appropriate process is implemented and recorded.	1	3	4

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#	Potential Risk	Potential Impact	Risk Before			Risk Mitigation Strategies by Contractor	Risk After		
			P	C	R		P	C	R
5.	Inability to recruit suitable STAs (qualifications, experience, approach and motivation) at the fee rates stipulated by AusAID.	Appropriate skill sets cannot be obtained. Advisers give preference to better-paying domestic work, leading to slippage in implementation schedules.	3	5	8	Recruit lower-cost (and less specialised/ experienced STAs). Re-schedule work to when advisers are available.	3	3	6
6.	STAs do not perform to an adequate standard.	Identified MA priorities not satisfactorily addressed. Weak relationship developed between STAs and in-country stakeholders. Sub-optimal skills transfer.	3	5	8	Maintain a database of possible ST providers and availability. Provide proactive management support for contracted STAs. Include stakeholder feedback in end-of-assignment performance reviews. Identify any issues with adviser, implement corrective action, mentor and counsel. If no improvement, replace after appropriate process is implemented and recorded.	2	4	6
7.	Difficulty of managing and ensuring integrity of a geographically distributed team	NMACs operate in 'silos'. Minimal transfer of experiences between countries. NMACs receive suboptimal mentoring and technical support. Motivation decreases. The PHAMA 'Team' fails to gel.	3	4	7	Ensure robust internal communication protocols. Adequately resource communication equipment. Regular visits to NMACs by LPTs. Bring NMACs together 1–2 times/year. Routinely seek NMAC views on the level of support being provided and how this needs to improve.	2	3	5
8.	A higher proportion of funds are allocated to better performing PICs than to others.	Disproportionate allocations may drive frustration and resentment from govt and industry.	3	3	6	Establish and publicise clear allocation rules, processes, and ceilings. Ensure all countries have at least 1–2 high priority MA issues being addressed at any time.	1	2	3
9	The prioritisation process is skewed towards selection of MA priorities that have gender or social inclusion benefits, at the cost of priorities more likely to result in substantial trade benefits.	Efforts to gain or improve MA are not focused in areas most likely to be successful or where economic impact is likely to be greatest.	3	4	7	Actively communicate the higher-level technical (vs community development) nature of the Program to all stakeholders. Wherever gender/ social inclusion issues <i>can</i> be meaningfully addressed, make sure they are e.g. ensure that where women's groups are involved in export activity, they are represented on the MAWG.	3	3	6

Appendix F

#	Potential Risk	Potential Impact	Risk Before			Risk Mitigation Strategies by Contractor	Risk After		
			P	C	R		P	C	R
10	Mentoring engagement between PMO and SPC compromised by funding approach by AusAid for Component 4 i.e. SPC has no contractual obligation to effectively engage with the MC/PMO.	Due to lack of financial incentive to engage with PMO on mentoring activities, improved capacity of SPC to manage regional MA activities remains weak. SPC not able to assume a broadened role under Phase 2.	5	3	8	Revisit JOA, lessons learned and failures, and agree on actions to address as required. Closely monitor implementation performance. Review funding arrangements and consider moving to an outputs-based performance system. If no improvement, move early to identify alternatives for Phase 2.	4	3	7
INTERVENTION RISKS									
11.	Private sector is reluctant to engage.	Significant program benefits from working with the private sector are not realised. MA priorities addressed by PHAMA are not based in commercial reality. PS is not fully involved in development and implementation of required quarantine protocols.	4	4	8	Ensure strong representation of the private sector on the MAWG. Support the NMACs to develop a strong relationship with the PS. Ensure PHAMA support for maintaining MA is oriented towards PS/ industry activities as well as govt activities. Actively promote successes.	2	2	4
12	SPC-managed Component 4 activities are poorly coordinated with MC-managed Component 1–3 activities.	Limited synergy achieved across activities. SPC fails to capitalise on capacity building opportunities available through association with PHAMA.	5	3	8	Undertake JOA to help SPC identify their project management and coordination weaknesses. Preparation of consolidated planning and monitoring reports, led by the MC. Adoption of seamless planning and budget approval processes. Conduct of monthly coordination meetings. Use of the NMACs as a focal point for both PMO and SPC MA-related activities in-country.	3	3	6
13.	Linkage with export-oriented supply chain development projects fail to developed as anticipated.	Opportunities for cooperative and integrated approach involving supply chain development and export market development not fully realised.	5	3	8	Actively network with supply chain development projects. Ensure info on these projects is provided to the MAWGs, and foster their role in creating the linkages. Foster the role of the NMACs as a gateway to the MAWGs for all relevant programs. Maintain a flexible approach, able to address additional MA priorities as the MAWGs make the links and identify the needs.	2	2	4

Appendix F

#	Potential Risk	Potential Impact	Risk Before			Risk Mitigation Strategies by Contractor	Risk After		
			P	C	R		P	C	R
14.	Function of the MAWG is undermined by higher-level political agendas, against industry wishes and commercial reality.	Prioritisation process becomes politicised. Unrealistic priorities identified. Implementation stalls.	3	5	8	Actively publicise the role of the MAWG, and the process and criteria used for identifying priorities. Gain formal govt endorsement of the process. In the event of interference, seek high-level meetings to remediate situation. Don't fund disputed activities. Seek support from AusAID Post/ DFAT.	2	4	6
15	MA priorities are overly focussed on gaining new access into Australia and NZ, with limited capacity of Australia and NZ to process requests.	Number of 'wins' over the duration of Phase 1 is limited by the amount of time Australia and NZ agencies are prepared to allocate to PIC requests.	4	4	8	Encourage MAWGs to spread efforts across other countries (e.g. intra-regional trade opportunities). Identify priorities related to maintaining existing access, as well as gaining new access.	4	3	7
16	MAWGs are unable to agree on MA priorities and strategies, and/ or identify unrealistic priorities.	Unrealistic priorities/ action plans are identified. Opportunity to gain/maintain MA in most critical areas wasted. Implementation stalls.	5	5	10	Reinforce the criteria and process for determining priorities. Promote sense of working for the national good. Measure and report comparison of performance between MAWGs. Mentor and pro-actively support the chair and vice chair. If MAWG still unable to make decisions, undertake JOA to identify weaknesses and reasons why dysfunctional (political/ social/ cultural/ personal conflict/ govt vs private conflict). Agree communications and training plan to address. Mediation by the NMACs/ LTAs. Review performance of NMAC. Be prepared to change members if necessary. Don't fund activities until differences have been resolved.	2	5	7
17.	Unable to attract and retain suitable MAWG members, especially industry reps.	MAWG becomes dysfunctional. Decisions are skewed towards government perceptions and agendas.	4	5	9	Seek formal endorsement of the MAWG process by govt. Focus on candidates that have active interest/ responsibility for MA. Identify and include industry and govt champions. Select industry reps that have cross-sectoral responsibilities. Payment of direct expenses. Aim for quick wins to develop and retain interest. Actively promote successes to govt and industry. Be prepared to change members if necessary.	2	3	5

Appendix F

#	Potential Risk	Potential Impact	Risk Before			Risk Mitigation Strategies by Contractor	Risk After		
			P	C	R		P	C	R
18.	Failure to develop a constructive working relationship between industry and government within the MAWG.	Industry loses faith in the process. Govt fails to mobilise its resources behind identified priorities.	4	5	9	Seek formal endorsement of the MAWG process by govt. Active facilitation by NMACs, assisted by LTAs. Reinforce/ review the MAWG service charter and dispute resolution procedures. Conduct JOA to identify specific issues to be addressed immediately. Be prepared to change members if necessary. Downgrade activities that are not fully agreed.	2	4	6
19	SPCs structural funding issues result in Component 4 resources being excessively diluted and uncoordinated, with suboptimal delivery.	Capacity of SPC to manage regional MA activities remains weak. SPC not able to assume a broadened role under Phase 2.	5	3	8	Revisit JOA, lessons learned and failures, and agree on actions to address as required. Closely monitor implementation performance. Review funding arrangements and consider moving to an outputs-based performance system. If no improvement, move early to identify alternatives for Phase 2.	4	3	7
20.	Improved MA arrangements fail to result in increased (or in the case of existing trade, protection of) export revenues.	Rationale for program is undermined.	4	5	9	Careful selection of MA priorities using defined criteria. Be prepared to spend time to get required data. Focus on 'export-ready' industries; and MA issues related to maintaining existing trade. Actively develop linkages with other supply chain projects.	2	4	6
DEVELOPMENT RISKS									
21.	Stakeholder expectations of the scale of PHAMA outcomes and/or impact are unrealistic.	Program credibility damaged through inability to meet unrealistic expectations. MAWGs become disillusioned with process and progress. Implementation stalls.	5	4	9	Facilitate realistic expectations through the ASP process, and appropriate media/publicity. Focus on the MAWGs as the central decision-making bodies. Define realistic concrete actions and realistic timelines for resolving specific MA priorities. Promote self-monitoring of progress by the MAWGs. Focus on 'quick wins' wherever possible, especially activities related to <i>maintaining access</i> rather than <i>gaining new access</i> .	2	1	3
22.	PHAMA is seen as part of foreign efforts to promote the PACER+ trade agenda.	PHAMA is subject to unwarranted criticism and is less effective. Vocal criticism may impede acceptance.	4	3	7	Actively badge PHAMA as providing operational assistance to develop exports, and not part of the PACER+ agenda. Actively publicise MA wins and resulting trade benefits.	2	2	4
23.	National Government and/or industry ownership of PHAMA processes are limited and weak.	Key program delivery mechanisms and therefore effectiveness weakened. Local governance and service delivery does not improve.	4	5	9	Support establishment of strong MAWGs. Gain formal govt endorsement of the process. Support govt and industry stakeholders to resolve priority issues that lead directly to improved MA and service delivery. Promote successes.	2	3	5

Appendix F

#	Potential Risk	Potential Impact	Risk Before			Risk Mitigation Strategies by Contractor	Risk After		
			P	C	R		P	C	R
24.	PICs are reluctant to become more proactive in their communication with importing country agencies and management of MA issues.	Passive, 'business-as-usual' approach continues. Resolution of MA issues remains slow.	5	4	9	Increase exposure to negotiating practices of other countries. Joint regional representations (strength in numbers). Direct use of TA to support more active management of the process and develop capacity through 'learning by doing'.	2	3	5
25.	Importing countries fail to respond positively to improved management of MA issues by target PICs.	Even although MA submissions may be more rational, better prepared and better managed, efficiency in progressing/ addressing issues does not improve.	4	5	9	Use experienced international TA to help facilitate the process. Use MA database to inform selection of priority products and issues, with clear timelines and issues. Proactively engage with importing agencies from the outset. Be prepared to change priorities if too difficult.	3	3	6
26.	Insufficient resources are allocated by PIC governments to support effective quarantine/ biosecurity services, affecting ability to manage MA protocols.	Inability to competently implement agreed MA protocols. Existing trade is temporarily or even permanently halted in some products.	4	4	8	Use the MAWG as a key forum to get cross-party agreement on priorities and exert some influence on govt resource allocation. Lobby directly with govt. Provide direct operational support for key govt activities and services related to priority products during early years, if necessary. Promote successes.	2	3	5
27.	Key Partners become more dependent on donor support for core functions.	Key Partners fail to drive the MA process and become less independent and competent.	3	4	7	Develop capacity of MAWGs as the key decision-making body. Use the MAWGs to drive and promote sustainability concepts. Work with SOC to develop capacity for third part service provision. Recognise KPs (esp govt) are donor dependent, but emphasise 'doing with' rather than 'doing for'.	2	2	4
28.	Importing country regulatory agencies are reluctant to recognise the role of PHAMA is helping PICs deal with MA issues	PHAMA fails to develop credibility as a partner in helping to address issues. Opportunity to use PHAMA resources to advance MA issues and improve communication between importing and exporting regulatory agencies is wasted.	3	5	8	Legitimise the role of PHAMA by obtaining formal endorsement of the MAWG process by govt. Develop and maintain strong direct communication channels between core PHAMA team and reps of importing country regulatory agencies. Hold routine formal consultations. Promote advantages (not only to PICs but also to importing countries) of having PHAMA in the mix.	2	3	5

Appendix G

Appendix G Contractor Performance Assessment Analysis

Criteria	Rating	Comments
Partnerships and advocacy		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All potential networks and partnerships are identified and effective relationships are established and supported, particularly with the national MAWGs and SPC; 	Outstanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full range of stakeholders clearly identified Routine briefings with AusAID Posts being conducted in all countries Briefings with NZAID Posts being conducted where required Regular programmed consultation with BA, AQIS, NZMAF Active participation in programmed regional inter-program coordination meetings Actively networking with other programs to identify possible operational linkages Wide range (> 13) of 2011–12 activities directly link with or build on other donor/ government activities (see section 6.9 of 6 Month Progress Report) Good working relationship developing between the MAWGs, the NMACs and the LTAs NMACs and Country Offices beginning to be used as a conduit by other programs Coordination with SPC still developing. Formal weekly meetings now being programmed to try and improve situation. Government endorsement of the MAWG process now in place for 4 of the 5 countries Growing but already well-developed awareness of the PHAMA 'brand' across a broad range of stakeholders Excellent media coverage and profile development as a result of the 'launches'
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Functional mechanisms to facilitate ongoing links and communication with partners and networks are clear, in use and actively promoted; 	Satisfactory	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All partners and networks support and reinforce PHAMA. 	Needs attention	
	Unsatisfactory	
Interventions		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MA opportunities and issues being clearly identified and prioritised by the MAWGs and action plans developed to address top priorities; 	Outstanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 priorities for the 3-Month Bridging Plan debated and decided by MAWGs 10 Scoping studies planned, implemented, and reported under the 3-Month Plan, with good involvement of MAWG members 39 activities for the 2011–12 ASP debated and decided by MAWGs Actions plans to address priorities being formulated by MAWGs (but with assistance from advisers) Direct MAWG involvement in the implementation and particularly monitoring of activities still under development Wide range (> 13) of 2011–12 activities directly link with or build on other donor/ government activities (see section 6.9 of 6 Month Progress Report)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PHAMA, in close collaboration with the MAWGs, effectively plans, implements and monitors activities to address top priorities; 	Satisfactory	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linkages with supply chain development programs developed. 	Needs attention	
	Unsatisfactory	

Appendix G

Criteria	Rating	Comments
Capacity building		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building for the MAWGs, SPC, NMACs and office staff operates at a pace and approach that is appropriate and consistent with their priorities, responsibilities and absorptive capacity; 	Outstanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All MAWGs established and operational Regular quarterly MAWG meetings being held with documented outcomes Interim 'mini-MAWG meetings' being scheduled spontaneously Active liaison between the NMACs and MAWG members esp Chairs and Vice Chairs Excellent early 'buy-in' and commitment to the process by MAWG members Coaching of MAWGs by LTAs and NMACs is on-going, but... All MAWGs already performing at an acceptable level in terms of basic functions NMAC Induction Course completed in early July All NMACs performing at acceptable level PMOs 'mentoring' role with SPC being hindered by delayed appointment of key Component 4 positions Appropriately skilled and qualified STAs mobilised for initial scoping study work under the 3-Month Plan, within an extremely tight timeframe Recommendations from these studies documented and discussed with MAWGs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High quality, timely and appropriate technical assistance is provided in an equitable manner, in accordance with PHAMA priorities; 	Satisfactory	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAWGs are established, supported, equipped and resourced to plan and monitor PHAMA activities. 	Needs attention	
	Unsatisfactory	
Program Management		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systems for the equitable recruitment, mobilisation, performance management of staff and contractors operating effectively; 	Outstanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ops Manual, Financial Handbook, Risk Management Plan, Comms and Media Strategy developed. Application is still a work-in-progress. MERI Framework still under development but with a clear vision of what will be involved (submission mid-August) All LT staff (PMO and NMACs) recruited and mobilised All staff (LT and ST) recruited against TOR and in line with required qualifications and skill sets Major financial and admin systems established, with refinements being undertaken Performance management systems still under development End-of-probation performance assessments for NMACs completed Systems for mobilisation and management of STAs operational but still under development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff and subcontractors are appropriately qualified, experienced for the positions, supported in their work and working effectively as a team; 	Satisfactory	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High quality inputs and support are procured in line with PHAMA procedures and quality processes are maintained; 	Needs attention	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project planning, management, coordination, and communication is effective; 	Unsatisfactory	

Appendix G

Criteria	Rating	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An integrated M&E system is designed and implemented and provides a substantive input to progressive learning; 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 STA assignments completed, reports prepared awaiting sign-off by peer reviewers Cross-program coordination and communications (HO-PMO-CO) satisfactory but still under development following the difficult start-up process First PCC meeting successfully conducted July 15. Minutes under preparation. All 9 Milestone Reports scheduled over the first 7 months completed on time and accepted by AusAID
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial administration conducted in accordance with the approved Finance/ Operations Manual, with timely and accurate financial information being provided to AusAID; 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective support provided to the PCC. 		

Appendix G

Comment on the CPA criteria

The CPA is designed to assess management performance and is therefore closely tied to the MCs handling of management risks. Depending on interpretation, a number of the criteria in the CPA are outside the direct 'sphere of control' of the MC, being dependent on the performance of boundary partners such as the MAWGs and SPC. The MC would like to propose that where there is possible ambiguity, these criteria are interpreted in line with risk classification as detailed in the RMM (management, intervention, development risk categories) and that this classification is used for determining what is under the MC's sphere of control, influence and concern, and what is 'out of scope' in regard to the MC being held directly responsible for outcomes.

In particular, the following criteria will require careful consideration in this regard:

All partners and networks support and reinforce PHAMA. Program management is responsible for *promoting* partnership and development of networks at every opportunity, but ultimately it cannot force potential partners to cooperate. The emphasis here should be on demonstration of effort.

MA opportunities and issues being clearly identified and prioritised by the MAWGs and action plans developed to address top priorities. Program management is responsible for supporting establishment and operation of the MAWGs, but cannot ultimately guarantee perfect performance of the MAWGs.

Linkages with supply chain development programs developed. Program management is responsible for *promoting* linkage with supply chain development programs at every opportunity, but ultimately it cannot force these linkages. The emphasis here should therefore be on demonstration of effort by the MC to influence the MAWGs to make these linkages.

Staff and subcontractors are appropriately qualified, experienced for the positions, supported in their work and working effectively as a team. The MC would like to note that satisfactory performance against this criteria may be affected in relation to timely recruitment of non-specified STAs by the remuneration rates currently set by AusAID in the Adviser Remuneration Framework (ARF).

High quality inputs and support are procured in line with PHAMA procedures and quality processes are maintained. Again, performance against this criteria may be affected by the ARF.

An integrated M&E system is designed and implemented and provides a substantive input to progressive learning. The MC would like to emphasise the critical role of risk assessment (at management and intervention levels) in developing an 'integrated' M&E system that can provide a basis for 'progressive learning'. The Program's MERI framework places considerable emphasis on taking formal risk assessment processes down to the level of the MAWGs, as key boundary partners, providing the basis for routine reflection on risks as a major learning opportunity for stakeholders at all levels.



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