



PACER Plus

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary
Measures and Technical Barriers to Trade

Third Meeting of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and Technical Barriers to Trade (SPS.TBT.03)

Wednesday, 22 March 2023, 1:00-2:10PM (Samoan Local Time)

CHAIR: Segialii Marie Malaki-Faaofu, Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Samoa Ministry of Agriculture
and Fisheries

OUTCOMES SUMMARY

1. The third meeting of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and Technical Barriers to Trade (SPS.TBT.03) took place virtually on 22 March 2023 (Samoan Local Time) and was attended by the following Parties: Australia, Cook Islands, Kiribati, New Zealand, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu. Observer State, Nauru, was not in attendance.
2. The Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed Committee Members. The meeting was opened with a prayer by Mr Alipate Tavo, Trade and Investment Adviser of the PACER Plus Implementation Unit (PPIU).
3. The meeting agenda was adopted as presented. The meeting further noted that the PPIU would produce a summary of meeting discussions to be circulated to the Committee for adoption. A group photo was then facilitated online by the PPIU.

Agenda Item 1: Update on the Implementation of activities for FY2022-2023

4. The representative of the PPIU presented the meeting paper providing an update on the implementation progress of current financial year (FY22-23) activities and expenditure to date.
5. The Parties provided further updates to the activities as follows:
6. Cook Islands did not have any updates to share.
7. Kiribati
 - Want the next phase of ePhyto training for staff in Kiritimati in the Line and Phoenix Group.

- Would like to benefit from Activity 045 and roll over to the next year if they cannot implement nationally during this financial year. Accompanied training will be jointly implemented by PPIU and the Pacific Community (SPC).
8. Niue
- Niue has signed a new PHAMA Plus MoU with regard to the new framework.
 - Procurement of commercial water blasting activity
 - Niue working with the New Zealand Biosecurity team to look into non-compliance systems.
 - ePhyto training has been completed by Peter Neimanis
 - Have completed updates and Cabinet submission; now awaiting decision.
 - Their team is looking at how the ePhyto work can be done alongside ASYCUDA program.
 - Niue advised that they have not received a response from the New Zealand Ministry of Primary Industries on the operating system to assist with certificate to export under ASYCUDA. The New Zealand representative noted this concern and advised that they can work with Niue bilaterally on this and will raise with their Biosecurity team.
9. Samoa
- Under Activity 046, Samoa participated in the Kava webinar concerning labelling standards.
 - Samoa asked whether capacity building could be included in the current financial year. PPIU advised that under Activity 046, there is a capacity building activity currently with Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa (SROS) to build capacity in terms of kava standards. This will cover the allocation for Samoa for the current financial year.
 - On SPS work, Samoa anticipates the procurement of the fumigation chamber, fumigation training and capacity building on the SPS Guidelines.
10. Solomon Islands
- General assessment on the implementation of FY22-23 activities has been slow.
 - The new PACER Plus National Coordinator, Tristein Zutu, has been key in the national implementation and follow up of activities.
 - Completed fumigation training carried out by Papua New Guinea officials. Solomon Islands is currently discussing a train the trainers program as the next phase of this training to be delivered to the fumigation team in Solomon Islands.
 - Two trainings on ePhyto for importers and exporters have been completed and they hope to be in full production by the first week of April 2023.
 - Remaining activities to be implemented are: fumigation training, handing over of harvesting bins, incinerator procurement and fumigation equipment.
 - On TBT, training on food safety (importance of food safety and hygiene) is scheduled to be done before the end of the financial year.
11. Tonga
- ePhyto work has been completed and look forward to issuance of certification, initially from New Zealand.
 - Tonga acknowledged support by PHAMA Plus for additional equipment for ePhyto implementation.
 - Harvesting bins have been handed over to national authorities.

12. Tuvalu

- Activity 041 was carried out during the recent visit of the PPIU to Tuvalu.
- Activity 044 ePhyto training is complete and was implemented by the PPIU STA, Mr Peter Neimanis.
- Activity 045 on border-related assistance, is ongoing as authorities are discussing where equipment will be placed.
- Activity 046 on testing and safety – currently waiting on results from Agriculture and Fisheries.
- Currently working through TBT activities in country.

13. Vanuatu

- Yet to submit national proposals for FY23-24.
- Cyclone Judy prevented visit from PPIU STA, Peter Neimanis to carry out ePhyto training and has been postponed to April/May 2023.
- Harvesting Bins request has been submitted to the PPIU for consideration under current financial year.

14. Australia

- Acknowledged the hard work by PPIU in progressing all activities, in particular the sea container hygiene project along with PHAMA Plus.

15. New Zealand

- The SPS Contact Point acknowledged the work undertaken during the past year.
- Ministry for Primary Industries, with the support of MFAT, has helped to support a number of these activities including through bilateral support. In addition, preparedness work on Foot and Mouth disease is proceeding to support any response to an outbreak in New Zealand or other PACER Plus parties.

Action Items/Resolutions:

16. The Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and Technical Barriers to Trade:

1. **Noted the update on activity implementation under the current FY2022-2023 Annual Plan.**
2. **Provided updates on ongoing and remaining national activities under the current FY22-23 Annual Plan, during the meeting.**
3. **Recommended for the meeting paper to be declassified for public release.**

Agenda Item 2: FY23-24 Annual Plan Activity Proposals

17. The representative of the PPIU presented meeting paper providing a summary of the FY23-24 Activity proposals to be considered by the Committee. The PPIU also noted that two Parties were yet to submit their activity proposals and invited them to submit by the end of the week.
18. Australia, New Zealand agreed to the proposals in principle acknowledging the list was comprehensive.
19. The Forum Island Countries (FICs) supported the proposals presented acknowledging the support of Australia and New Zealand through the DEC Work Programme.

20. Samoa and Vanuatu advised the meeting that they will submit their proposals by the end of the week.
21. The Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and Technical Barriers to Trade:
 1. **Approved the activity proposals presented under Components 3 and 4 for implementation under the financial year 2023-2024 Annual Plan.**
 2. **Approved the proposed timeline provided in Annex 1 for implementation of activities under the FY2023-2024 period, in consultation with the PPIU.**
 3. **Agreed to submit the approved activity proposals to the Joint Committee under the draft FY23-24 Annual Plan.**
 4. **Agreed to declassify this meeting paper for public release once the Joint Committee approves the FY2023-2024 Annual Plan.**

Agenda Item 3: Any Other Matters, Outcomes and Close

22. The Chair asked the Secretariat to display the approved recommendations on the screen and confirmed decisions made by the Committee. The approved recommendations would be reflected in the Outcomes Summary of the meeting to be prepared by the PPIU.
23. The Chair further advised that the agreed recommendations would be compiled together with other subsidiary body approved activities for submission to the Budget Committee to consider at its next meeting on 4 April 2023.
24. The meeting was closed with a prayer by Ms Ida-Tifitifi Fuimaono of the PPIU.