



IPPC High-level Symposium on Cooperation of the Phytosanitary Measures among the Chinese Initiative “One Road” Countries

COUNTRY REPORT

BIOSECURITY AUTHORITY OF FIJI

25-28 September 2018 in Nanning, Guangxi, China

OUTLINE

Topics:

1. Biosecurity Authority of Fiji vision and role
2. Frameworks that govern Fiji's biosecurity arrangements
3. Importance of biosecurity to the Fijian economy and people
4. Emerging issues in Phytosanitary Measures
5. Opportunities and challenges in Phytosanitary Measures



Country Facts

Formal Name Republic of Fiji

Short Name Fiji

Capital Suva

Major Cities Suva and Lautoka

Geography

Climate Warm Tropical Climate

Natural Resources Forestry, Minerals, and Fish

Time Zone FJT (UTC + 12)

Total Area 18,274km² **Natural Hazards** Cyclone, Flood, Drought, Earthquakes, tsunamis

People

Population 898,760 (2016) **Official Language** English, Fijian and Fiji Hindi

Life Expectancy 76 Years **National Day** 10th October

Ethnic Groups Fijians, Indians, Melanesians, Rotuman (major)

Religion Christian, Hindu and Muslim (major)

Government

Government Type Democratic **President/**

King President

Legal System Common law

Economy

GDP (purchasing power parity) \$8,788 billion **GDP -PER CAPITA (PPP)** \$9,777

Exchange Rate (to USD) 0.49 **Unemployment rate** 7.8 %

Imports Food stuff, Machinery, Mineral fuel, beverages

Exports Sugar, Garments, Gold, Fish, Mineral water, Timber, Agricultural product.



BAF Mission and Vision

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to protect Fiji's unique biodiversity and facilitate international trade to and from Fiji. Each of us will work together to protect Fiji: our people, our environment, our plants and animals, our livelihoods and our unique way of life for the benefit of our families, our visitors and our future generations.

VISION STATEMENT

To be respected as the most effective and efficient Biosecurity Authority in the region.





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BIOSECURITY PROMULGATION 2008

(PROMULGATION No. 28 OF 2008)

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

PART 1 — PRELIMINARY

1. Short title
2. Interpretation
3. Application of the Promulgation
4. Promulgation binds the State
5. Responsibility for the Promulgation
6. Powers of the Minister
7. Relationship with other written laws

PART 2 — THE BIOSECURITY AUTHORITY OF THE FIJI ISLANDS

8. Establishment of the Biosecurity Authority of the Fiji Islands
9. Functions and powers of the Authority
10. Chief Executive Officer and the Deputy Chief Executive Officer
11. Biosecurity officers and other employees
12. Directions
13. Delegation of functions
14. Financial provisions
15. Fines, fees, and charges



Role of BAF and its importance to Fiji's economy



- To protect Fiji and Fiji's agriculture sector against the entry of foreign pests and diseases affecting animals, plants, human beings and the environment.
- Conduct surveillance and monitoring of pests and diseases in Fiji and assessment of the status of regulated pests and diseases.
- To prevent the introduction, establishment and spread of regulated exotic pests and diseases and the release of organisms that might adversely affect animals, plants, human beings and the environment in Fiji.



Role of BAF and its importance to Fiji's economy

- To eradicate, contain or control the movement of regulated pests and diseases that are already present in Fiji.
- To facilitate safe trade (import and export) of animals and plants and their products, and related equipment and technology.
- To facilitate market access of plant and animal products to viable agro-export markets through inspection and certification in compliance with the biosecurity requirements of the receiving countries.

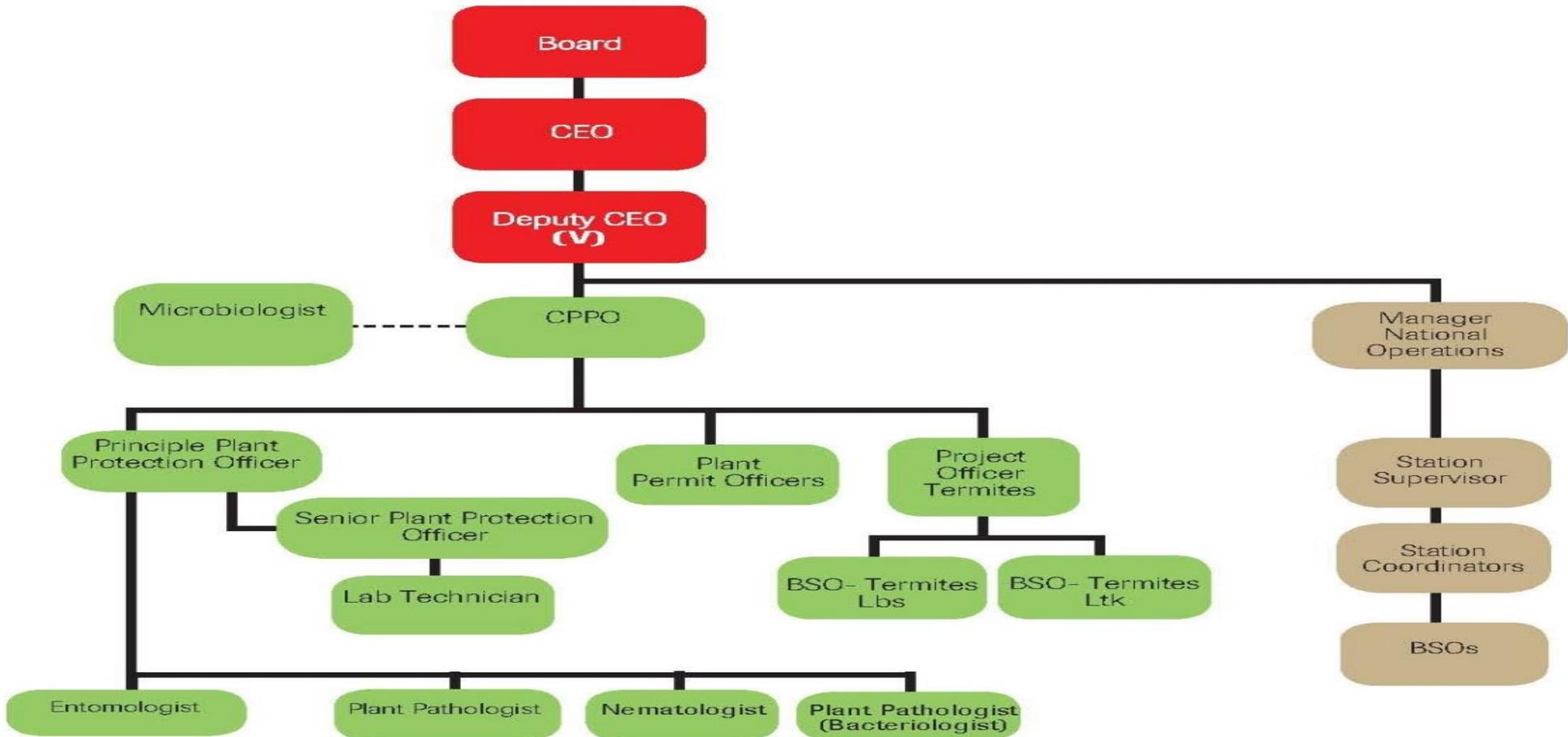


Role of BAF and its importance to Fiji's economy

- To protect the Fijian Border from the entry of prohibited or regulated articles through border inspection and consignment clearance.
- To facilitate international cooperation to prevent the spread of pests and diseases affecting plants, animals, human beings and the environment.



National Plant Protection Organizational Structure



Information on emerging issues on Phytosanitary Measures

- Emerging pests and diseases – food security, trade barriers.
- Changing climate – favouring pest and disease outbreak
- Resource limitation to implement or adopt new phytosanitary measures/ ISPM's.
- Capacity - Limited personnel with appropriate biosecurity knowledge and skills.

Identification of opportunities and challenges in Phytosanitary Measures

Opportunities:

- Multiple phytosanitary treatments available for same pests.
- New and improved diagnostic tools available

Challenges:

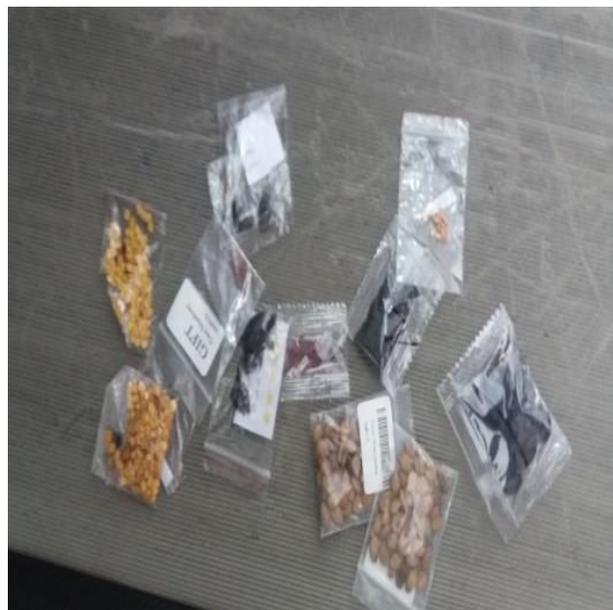
- Identification of new export markets
- Exploring other treatment systems, for example, an irradiation pest treatment system

Challenges:

- Possible introduction of exotic pests/diseases and invasive marine species into Fiji through ship ballast water, attachment to ship hulls and via other vectors has been identified as one of the greatest threats
- Development of emergency response plan.
- Rapid detection and recognition of an incursion.
- Development of standards for emerging pests
- Limited market access due to unavailability of treatment facility.

Challenges:

- Keep par with diagnostics protocols and equipment's (technology).
- Import Risk Assessment – increasing request with limited personnel's.
- E-commerce ... trade of planting material



Invasive Alien Species Of Priority

EXOTIC

Giant African Snail

Achatina fulica



Asian Gypsy Moth

Lymantria dispar dispar



Papaya Crown Rot

Erwinia papayae



Sugarcane Smut



Animals:

- Foot and Mouth Diseases
- New Castle Diseases
- Scrapie
- Rabies
- Mad Cow disease



Taro Leaf Blight



Exotic fruit flies



Exotic Pest of Priority

Major **Fruit flies:**

- Mediterranean
- Caribbean
- Oriental
- Melon
- Queensland
- Mexican



Exotic Termites

Asian Subterranean Termites (AST)

- It has been transported worldwide from its native range in Southern China
- Present in Japan South Africa, Hawaii, USA
- The Asian subterranean termite is often nicknamed the super-termite because of its destructive habits.
- This is because of the large size of its colonies, and the termites' ability to consume wood at a rapid rate.
- A single colony may contain several million individuals (compared with several hundred thousand termites for other subterranean termite species)



AST: Economic Impact

- *C. gestroi* is the most economically serious pest in Fiji, costing residents an estimated \$1 million a year, since 2010.
- Historic structures in Fiji such as the Presidents Bure in Lautoka have been threatened and was incinerated.
- Adverse effects of AST recently have been noticed on sugarcane crops and pine plantations around the hot spot areas



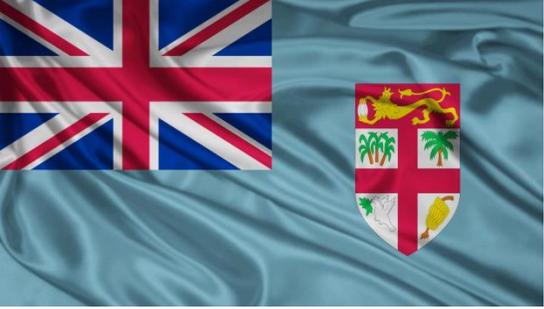
Suggestions for “the Belt and Road” Initiative

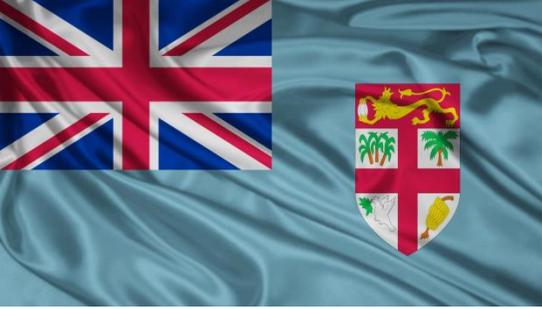
- Harmonisation of diagnostics protocol for the region.
- Establishment of regional Phytosanitary Research and Training Centre to allow for capacity development at country level.
- Develop Laboratory Twinning for the region.



Conclusion

BAF under its mandate will continue to support the Fijian economy and serve the people by striving to protect Fiji's agriculture, environment and biodiversity from the threats of foreign plant and animal pests and diseases





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