



BAF INSIGHT

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Safeguarding Fiji's Agriculture, Biodiversity and Facilitate Trade



ACTING CEO'S FORWARD

BY SUREND PRATAP



As we reflect on the recent key achievements, I am proud of the dedication and achievements of our staff and key stakeholders in strengthening Fiji's biosecurity system.

Key highlights included the successful hosting of the International Day of Plant Health Dialogue 2026 in partnership with the Fiji National University and the Ministry of Agriculture, which strengthened collaboration and raised awareness of the importance of plant health to food security, trade, and sustainable agriculture.

We also successfully delivered the Animal Disease Surveillance Training, bringing together officers from BAF.

offices across the various stations to enhance their skills in disease surveillance, biosecurity protocol's, sample collection, and digital reporting along with the following activities:

- PPPO board meeting
- QC training
- Staff training
- Stakeholder consultations
- Other social media - highlighted activities

Moving forward, BAF will continue to invest in staff capacity building, strengthen surveillance and border protection measures, and foster partnerships that support Fiji's agriculture, environment, and economy.

Together, we remain committed to building a stronger and more resilient biosecurity system for Fiji.



WHAT'S INSIDE?

>>> KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Operations Update
- ✓ International Plant Health Day Update
- ✓ Animal Disease Surveillance Training Update
- ✓ Human Resources Update

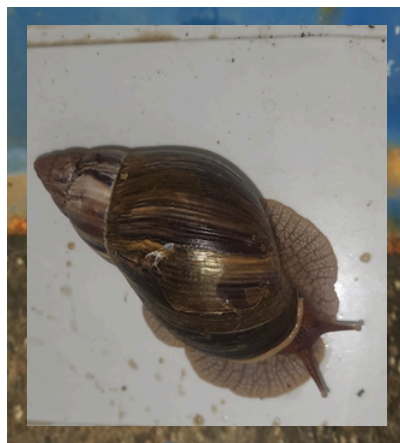


OPERATIONS

Our Biosecurity operations remained stable during the reporting period, with no major outbreaks recorded apart from the Tongan Fruit Fly.

Interceptions of Giant African Snail (GAS) and garden snails were effectively managed, with all cases successfully contained and eradicated at the respective ports of entry.

Import consultations continued to support compliance and risk management across incoming pathways. All export pathways remained fully operational, with no suspensions reported.



Activities were focused on maintaining export integrity and market access, including the delivery of Quality Control (QC) training, field audits, Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF) audits, and ongoing export consultations with stakeholders.



>>> INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PLANT HEALTH DIALOGUE 2026

PLANT HEALTH TEAM SUCCESSFULLY HOSTS PLANT HEALTH DAY DIALOGUE 2026



On the 14th of May, the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji's Plant Health Team, in collaboration with the Fiji National University (FNU) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Waterways and Sugar Industry, successfully hosted the Plant Health Day Dialogue 2026 to commemorate the International Day of Plant Health.

The dialogue brought together government representatives, academics, researchers, students, and industry stakeholders to discuss the importance of plant health in supporting food security, biodiversity conservation, sustainable agriculture, and economic growth.

A key focus of the event was the importance of research, innovation, and collaboration in addressing emerging plant health challenges, including invasive pests, plant diseases, and the impacts of climate change on agricultural systems.

Speakers highlighted the critical role of scientific research and knowledge-sharing in developing proactive and sustainable solutions for Fiji's agriculture sector.

The event also reinforced the strong partnership between the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji, the Fiji National University, and the Ministry of

Agriculture, with all parties reaffirming their commitment to strengthening collaboration in research, capacity building, and workforce development.

Through initiatives such as the Plant Health Day Dialogue, the Plant Health Team continues to promote awareness of the vital role healthy plants play in ensuring resilient food systems, protecting the environment, and supporting Fiji's long-term agricultural development.





>>> PLANT EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN (ERP) WORKSHOP

ENHANCING FIJI'S READINESS FOR PLANT BIOSECURITY EMERGENCIES



The Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF) through its Plant Health section, successfully conducted a three-day Plant Emergency Response Plan (ERP) Workshop in April to strengthen Fiji's preparedness and response capacity against high-risk plant pest and disease incursions.

The workshop which was carried out in Rakiraki brought together Plant Scientists and Biosecurity Officers from BAF, alongside Research and Extension Officers from the Ministry of Agriculture, Waterways and Sugar Industry (MoAWSI).

Representatives from Human Resources and Finance also participated to better understand the operational and logistical requirements of managing plant biosecurity emergencies.

The training focused on preparedness and response strategies for two significant biosecurity threats:

- Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle – Guam Biotype (CRB-G)
- Panama Disease Tropical Race 4 (TR4)

Participants engaged in technical discussions and scenario-based exercises to enhance response planning, surveillance, coordination, and decision-making during plant health emergencies.

Chief Plant Protection Officer, Nitesh Datt, emphasized the importance of preparedness and collaboration in protecting Fiji's agriculture, environment, and economy from emerging plant health threats.

The workshop reinforced BAF's commitment to strengthening national biosecurity preparedness through capacity building, strategic planning, stakeholder collaboration, and effective emergency response systems to safeguard Fiji's agricultural sector and natural environment.



>>> ANIMAL DISEASE SURVEILLANCE TRAINING

STRENGTHENING ANIMAL DISEASE SURVEILLANCE CAPACITY

Our Veterinary Section recently concluded a three-day Animal Disease Surveillance Training aimed at enhancing the skills and knowledge of animal health personnel.

The training focused on refresher sessions in sample collection, handling, storage, and submission across target species, while reinforcing the correct application of biosecurity protocols, including the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and farm entry and exit procedures.

Participants also strengthened their ability to recognise the clinical signs of priority diseases such as Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD), Avian Influenza, and African Swine Fever (ASF) during field visits. In addition, hands-on sessions on digital tools improved skills in data collection, GPS tagging, and reporting.

The training forms part of BAF's ongoing commitment to strengthening animal disease surveillance and safeguarding Fiji's livestock industry through early detection, preparedness, and effective response measures.



>>> HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI) TABLETOP EXERCISE

FIJI STRENGTHENS PREPAREDNESS AGAINST AVIAN INFLUENZA

The Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF), in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Waterways and Sugar Industry, the Pacific Community (SPC), and New Zealand's Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), conducted a Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Tabletop Exercise in Suva.

The exercise tested Fiji's preparedness and response arrangements for a potential HPAI outbreak, focusing on coordination, decision-making processes, and identifying operational gaps within the Animal Biosecurity Emergency Response Plan (ABERP).

Opening the exercise, Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Sugar Industry, Hon. Inosi Kurudrani, highlighted the importance of proactive preparedness in safeguarding Fiji's poultry sector, food security, livelihoods, and trade.



Key outcomes and lessons identified during the exercise will be used to strengthen a Full Simulation Exercise planned for August, further enhancing Fiji's national emergency response capability.

The initiative reflects Fiji's commitment to the One Health approach and reinforces collaboration among government agencies, industry stakeholders, health authorities, and development partners to protect the nation from transboundary animal disease threats.

>>> HR MID-YEAR HIGHLIGHTS 2026

STRENGTHENING PEOPLE, PARTNERSHIPS & RESILIENCE



Over the first six months of 2026, the HR team focused on strengthening emergency response capability, enhancing partnerships, engaging local communities, expanding staff field experience, and promoting staff welfare.

These initiatives reflect BAF's commitment to supporting employee well-being and fostering a supportive workplace culture.

Key Achievements:

- Formalized collaboration with the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF), significantly strengthening emergency response operations despite limited manpower and enhancing border protection.

- Established community partnerships in the Mamanuca and Yasawa Islands, Rakiraki, and Tailevu, engaging members in emergency response roles and building local preparedness and early response capacity.
- Strengthened staff development through internal and external training, regular field deployments, and job rotations to enhance skills, resilience, and cross-functional capability.
- Secured a partnership with Post Fiji Pte. Limited to support staff with school stationery through salary deductions, easing financial pressure and supporting family needs.
- Implemented targeted staff relocations in response to the global fuel crisis, reducing travel costs and time while maintaining operational resilience and prioritizing staff welfare.



SCAN ME



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