



FABC and AFBC Joint Business Forum Vuvale – The New Paradigm

**Presenter: Mr. Nilesh Ami Chand (Chief Plant Protection Officer)
The Intercontinental Fiji Golf Resort & Spa: 3 September 2022**

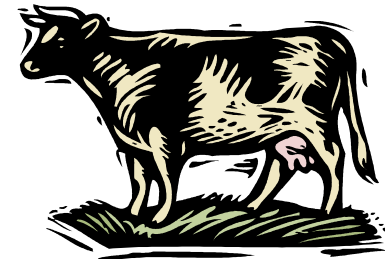
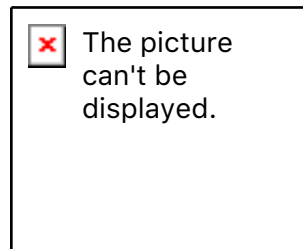
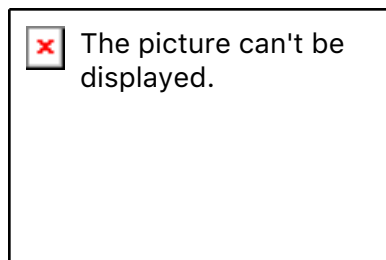
WHAT IS BIOSECURITY?

- Biosecurity is a strategic and integrated approach that encompasses the policy and regulatory frameworks (including instruments and activities) for analyzing and managing relevant risks to human, animal and plant life and health, and associated risks to the environment.

>>> Scientific & Regulatory <<<

- Biosecurity covers food safety, zoonoses, the introduction of animal and plant diseases and pests, the introduction and release of living modified organisms (LMOs) and their products (e.g. genetically modified organisms or GMOs), and the introduction and management of invasive alien species.

=== Dynamic ===



Biosecurity Act 2008

- 1. Preliminary
- 2. BAF – Fines, Fees & Charges
- 3. Biosecurity Border Control – Pests, Weeds & Diseases
- 4. Vessels And Aircrafts – Arrival & Clearances; Departures
- 5. Biosecurity Import Procedures – Import Permits, Inspections, Treatments & Clearances
- 6. Biosecurity Export Procedures – Inspections, Treatments, Certifications

Biosecurity Act 2008

- 7. Biosecurity Quarantine – Regulated articles, restrictions, releases
- 8. Powers Of Biosecurity Officers – Entry, search, seizures, detention, sampling, treatments, destructions.
- 9. Biosecurity Internal Control – Pest & Disease survey, Pest Free Areas< Bio-control agents
- 10. Biosecurity Emergencies – ERP, BAF Emergency Regulations
- 11. Administration Of The Promulgation – Consultations, Int'l Coordination, Notifications
- 12. Offences And Penalties – Obstructions, False Infos, Fixed Penalty System, Offenses
- 13. Miscellaneous Provisions – Compensations, Appeals, Amendments

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.



INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS

International legislation regulating global trade

WTO- SPS (Agreement on the Application of Sanitary & Phytosanitary Measures)

- Sets out the basic rules for global agricultural trade
- Subscribes to the principle of equal market access and international co-operation in protecting human, animal and plant Health

WTO – SPS recognize 3 Standards Setting Bodies

- **IPPC** – International Plant Protection Convention
- **CODEX** – Codex Alimentarius Commission
- **OIE** – Office of International Epizootics / World Animal Health Organization

What is an SPS Measure?

A measure taken to protect:

Human or
animal health

from risks arising from additives, contaminants, toxins or disease organisms in food, drink, feedstuff



Pesticide MRLs

Human life

from plant- or animal-carried disease



BSE-related restrictions

Animal or plant
life

from pest, diseases, disease-causing organisms



Prevent introduction
of fruit fly

Territory of
Member

from other damage caused by entry, establishment or spread of pests



Seed regulation to avoid
introduction of exotic weeds

Key provision of SPS Agreement:

Members shall base their SPS measures on international standards (Codex, IPPC, OIE)

Components of Biosecurity

Continuum of Activities

PRE-BORDER

Perceive Risks Off-shore

BORDER

Ports of Entries in Suva, Nadi, Lautoka,
Savusavu, Levuka, Rotuma, Nausori

POST BORDER

Monitoring & Surveillance

TECHNICAL
FACILITATION

Export inspections and
certifications

Major Activities of BAF

- Conduct Import Risk Analysis (IRAs)
- Formulate Biosecurity Import Permit conditions
- Provide policy directions to BAF Management
- Identification of pathogens – pests, weeds and disease
- Reporting of interceptions – international obligations
- Negotiate market access - exports
- Oversee monitoring & surveillances in environment and shop surveillance
- Advice to stakeholders and general public
- Domestic biosecurity activities – clearance and surveillance
- Creating Awareness and capacities

Major Collaborations with BAF

- Vuvale Partnership with Australia
 - Market access of Kava from Fiji – pilot program
 - Market access of fresh ginger – ongoing
 - Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS)
 - Pacific Export Pathway (PEP) capacity enhancement
- Duavata Partnership with New Zealand
 - Market access of produce

INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES OF PRIORITY

EXOTIC EXOTIC EXOTIC EXOTIC

Giant African Snail

Achatina fulica



Asian Gypsy Moth

Lymantria dispar dispar



Papaya Crown Rot

Erwinia papayae



Sugarcane Smut



Taro Leaf Blight



Exotic fruit flies



Rice Smut

Invasive Species - Billboards



AMERICAN FOULBROOD (AFB)

DO NOT move any **Beehive, Bees, Queen bees** or used equipments from your farm without prior approval from BAF



Moving the above is an offence under the Biosecurity Act 2008 attracting a fine of up to \$1,000 for an Individual and \$5,000 for Body Corporate

Contact BAF on Animal Disease Surveillance short code: 5997

WHOLE AREA OF FIJI IS DECLARED AS BIOSECURITY EMERGENCY AREA



African swine fever (ASF)



African swine fever ('ASF') is a deadly pig disease which is now spreading across the world and reached the Pacific region

FIJI IS FREE OF ASF AND WE WANT TO MAINTAIN FREEDOM

ASF virus does not affect humans but it can spread by humans through ASF contaminated materials such as shoes, clothing and farm equipment's. Hence, it is important to declare if you have visited any pig farms or have come into contact with any pigs in overseas.

Contact BAF for more details on animal disease surveillance short code: 5997

DO NOT IMPORT PORK OR PRODUCTS THAT CONTAIN PORK AS AN INGREDIENT WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL FROM BAF.

Invasive Species - Billboard

BIOSECURITY AUTHORITY FIJI

STOP THE INVASION OF GIANT AFRICAN SNAIL (GAS)

STOP
The **INVASION**
SECURE OUR BORDERS



Contact BAF on **GENERAL ENQUIRIES** short code: **5994**
PROTECTING FIJI'S FLORA AND FAUNA FROM PESTS & DISEASES

BIOSECURITY AUTHORITY FIJI

STOP THE INVASION OF TARO LEAF BLIGHT (TLB)



Contact BAF on **GENERAL ENQUIRIES** short code: **5994**
PROTECTING FIJI'S FLORA AND FAUNA FROM PESTS & DISEASES

Plant Exports: ePhyto Certifications



- What is a phytosanitary certificate?
- What is an ePhytosanitary certificate?
- Major advantages of ePhyto:
 - Faster – templates available with additional declarations
 - Less fraud and mistakes – easier to replace
 - Cheaper – direct submissions to NPPO's
- In house trainings will be on-going for staff and stakeholders
- Currently exchanging actively with New Zealand
- Trialing with USA and Australia
- **Similar system is expected soon be adopted for Zoo-sanitary products**

Recognized Treatments for Exports



- Fumigations
- Frozen – minus 18°C for 7 days
- Dusting with chemicals
- Dipping with insecticides
- Spraying with pesticides
- Production in Area Freedom from pests

Strengthening Trade with Australia



- The Vuvale relationship with Australia has improved a lot and is continuing to do so.
- Within this year, after opening of the borders, the Chief Plant Protection Officer of Australia has made 2 visits to Fiji to attend regional forums and provide support and guidance.
- Similarly, The Australian Chief Veterinary Officer has also made a visit to Fiji after border restrictions were uplifted.
- Biosecurity Australia has also created the position of Director, Pacific Engagement in the department to handle affairs of the Pacific region in regards to biosecurity affairs.
- These visits and collaboration provide opportunities to the counterparts to discuss in detail and pro-actively work on mutual solutions on any emerging issues to allow economic benefits to both nations.

Strengthening Trade with Australia



- BICON: Import conditions search website
- BICON contains the Australian import conditions for more than 18,000 foreign plant, animal, mineral and human products.
- Pacific Exports Program provides capacity enhancements and skills improvements for all entities along the exports chain from Pacific to Australia for fresh agricultural produce. A pilot program has been completed and the first training is upcoming in November 2022. It comprises of a 7 module theory and has practical components to complement the understanding of participants to achieve compliances.
- Market access of other commodities to Australia are in negotiations

Strengthening Trade with Australia



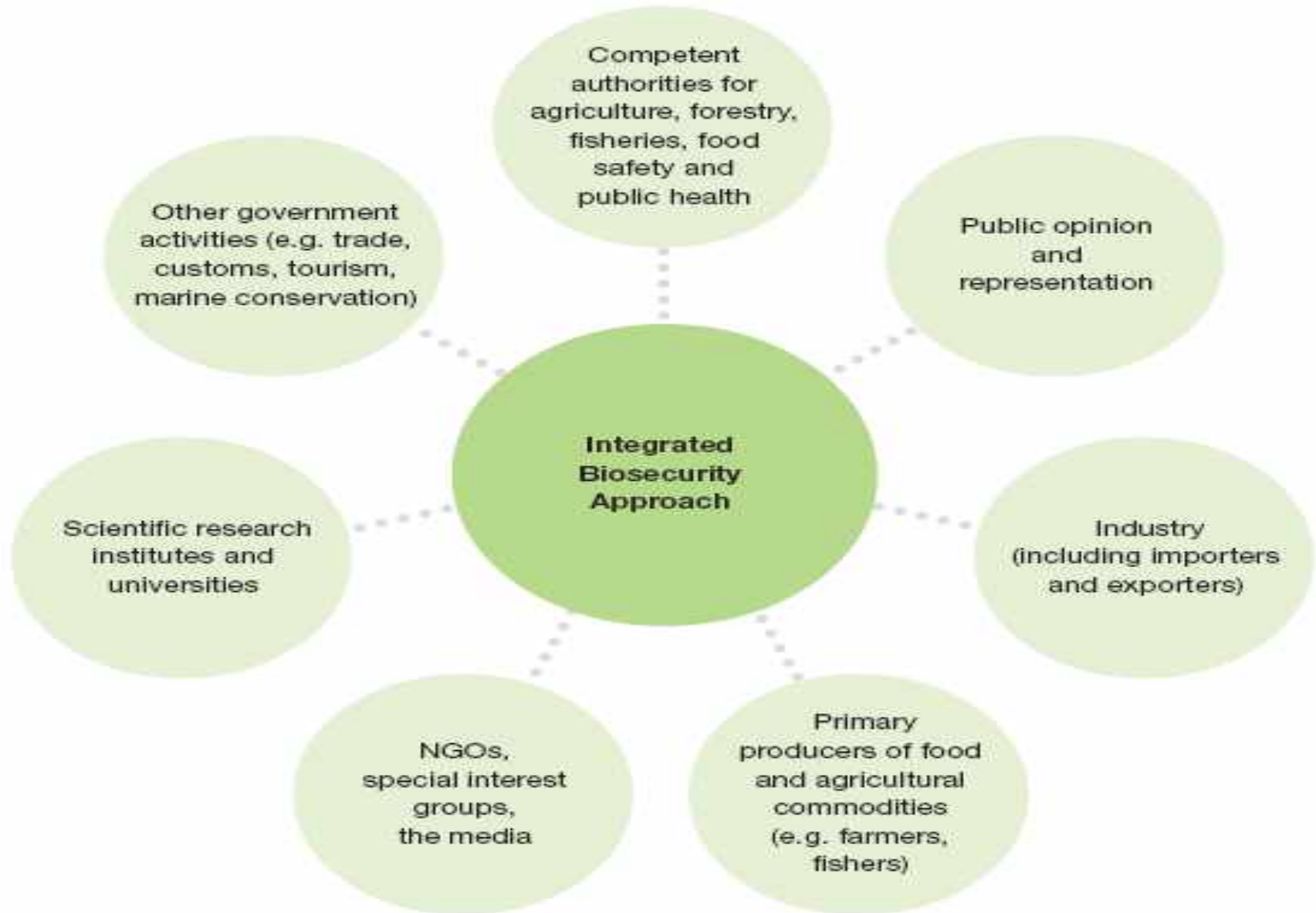
- **Cargoes being delayed to Australia**
- sea container congestions is causing delays in goods reaching Australia
- issue around inspection times is not isolated to goods from Fiji only
- clients seeking inspections are seeing delays to a certain degree, most heavily felt in Melbourne and Sydney
- or up to six weeks for sea freight cargoes
- includes Covid impacts on frontline staff of DAFF
- increase in trade of approximately 17% and
- the number of increasing biosecurity threats to Australia including Khapra beetle as a hitchhiker pest and now Foot & Mouth Disease together with Lumpy Skin Disease

Strengthening Trade with Australia



- **Solutions for the Industry**
- DAFF has sought to bring in more biosecurity officers, however it does take time to get them trained and become “job ready”
- DAFF has rolled out the Biosecurity Portal which allows Customs Brokers to book inspections online and monitor progress in the queue
- DAFF offers overtime bookings for inspection, however only a small traders take-up these opportunities
- the department has created a new approved arrangement to allow Approved Agencies to conduct rural tailgates to free up inspectors for higher risk inspections
- However, biosecurity risk management is first and foremost our responsibility.

Biosecurity Authority of Fiji Cannot Work Alone



Engaging Stakeholders To Strengthen Partnerships



PICTs governments



General public



Research & Development



NGOs

Agriculture Departments



Donor agencies



Farmers



Gov't Agencies



Biosecurity/Quarantine agencies



Int'l Year of Plant Health - 2020



International
Plant Protection
Convention

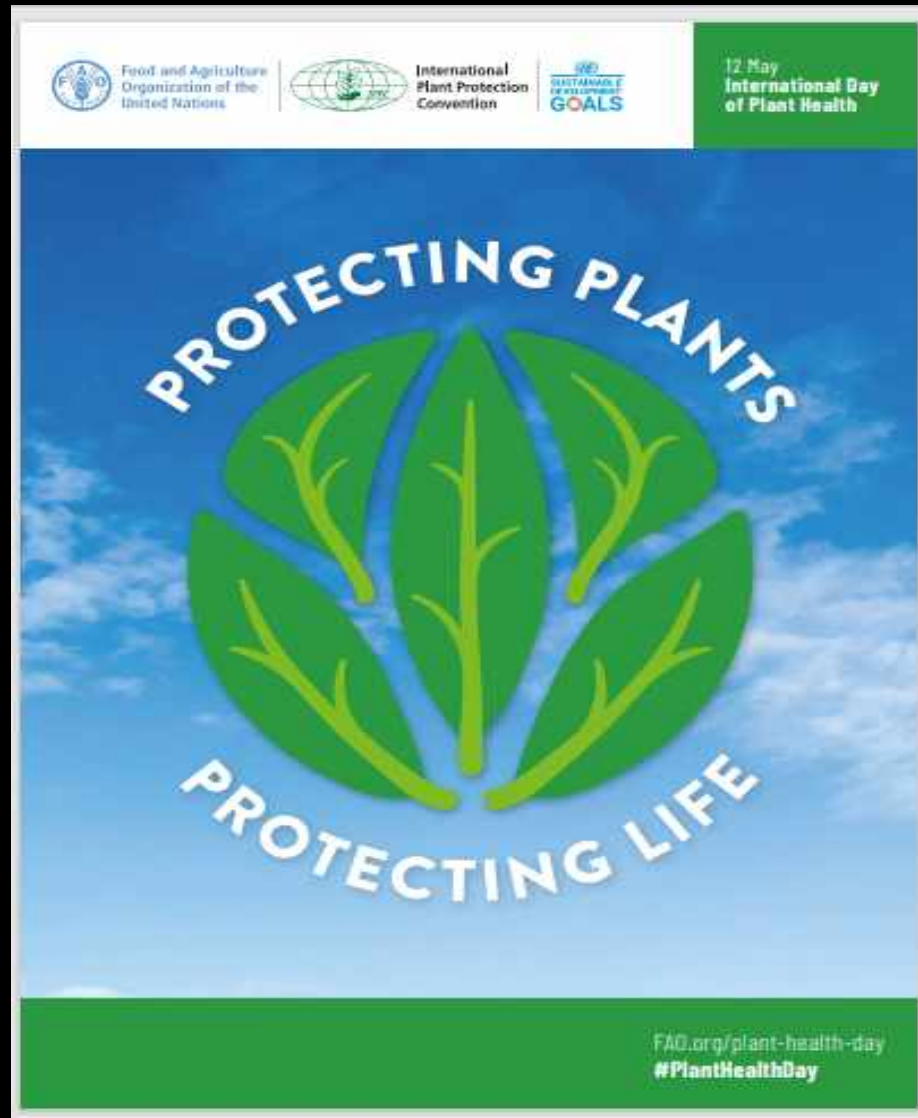


INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
PLANT HEALTH

2020

**PROTECTING PLANTS,
PROTECTING LIFE**

Int'l Day of Plant Health: May 12



Community Resilience

- Invasive species invasions – are real
- Impact on natural resources – are always negative
- Pathways – movements of cargoes, passengers and conveyances
- Management options: coordinated approach via One Health
 - “Prevention is better than cure”

UN FAO IPPC



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



International
Plant Protection
Convention

R-09
2021

ENG

COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES RECOMMENDATION R-09

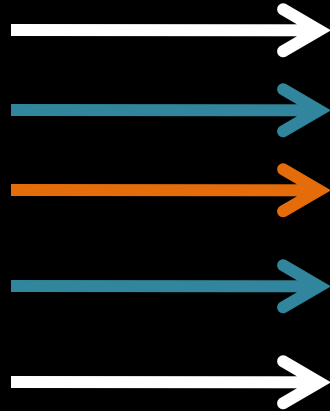
Safe provision of food and other humanitarian aid to prevent the introduction of plant pests during an emergency situation

ADOPTED 2021 | PUBLISHED 2021

ROLES



Exotic pests and diseases

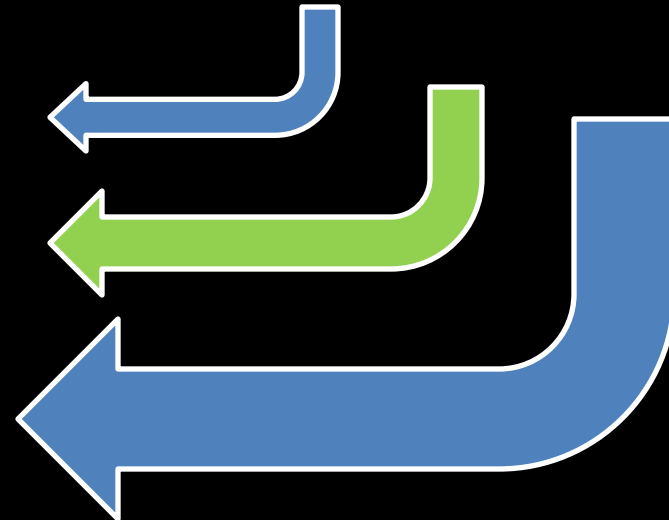


STOP



- Facilitate Export
- Better Environment
- Tourism
- Paradise !!!

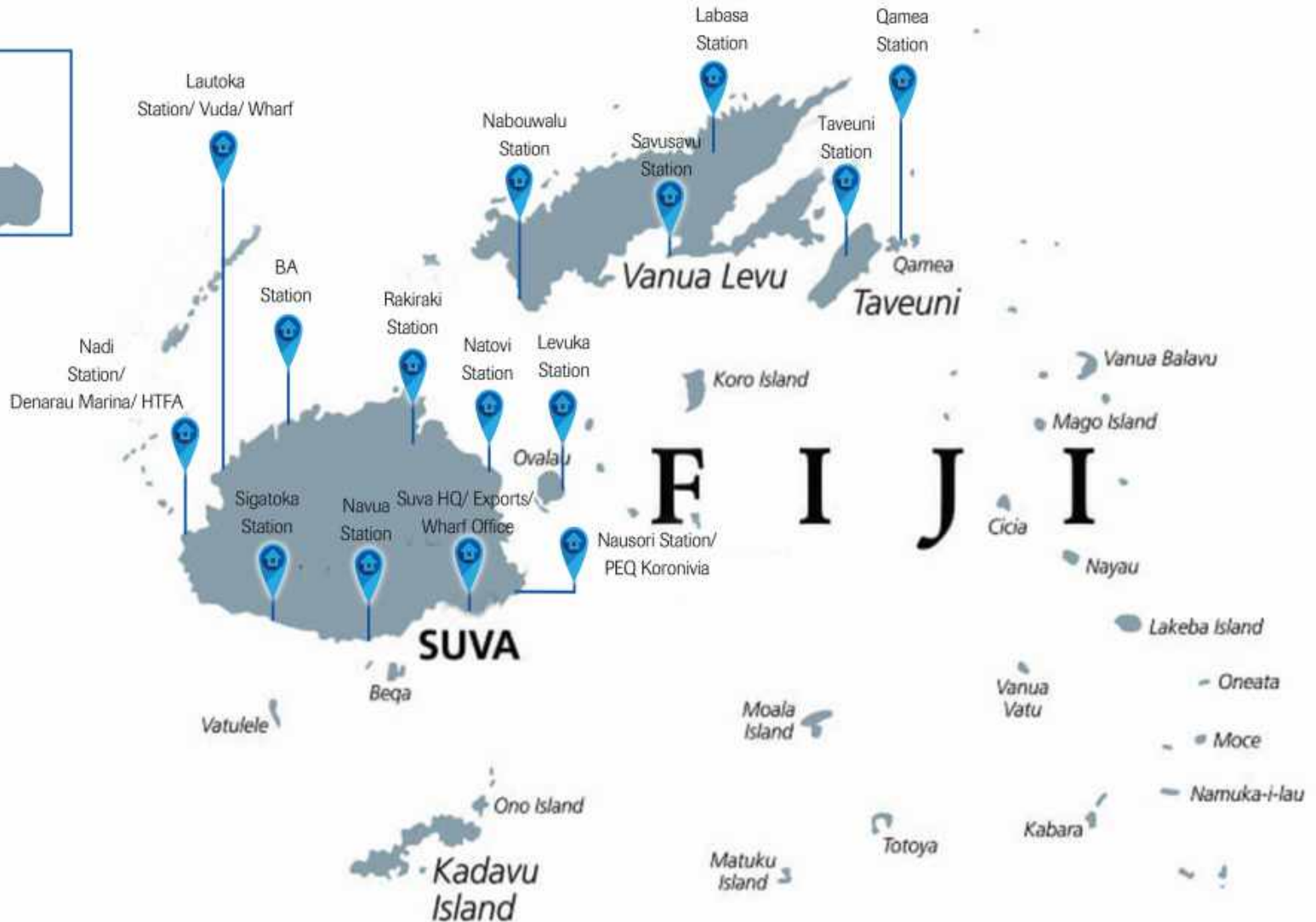
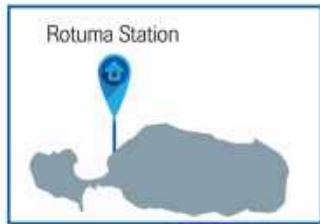
ALLOW



Concluding...

- It is important to note that biosecurity services in the country is extremely important for trade and wellbeing.
- therefore the authority together with all the stakeholders, NGOs and general public should make it their responsibility to work hand in hand to protect Fiji's unique flora and fauna from exotic threats.
- BAF has a "farm to fork" approach whereby it ensures that consumers and the biodiversity is safe and sustainable for all Fijians and our visitors.
- Food and income security for all Fijians via bio-secure measures is of utmost importance.

Biosecurity Stations



Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF)

Suva
3312512

Nadi
6725092

Labasa
8921114

Lautoka
6665984

Savusavu
8850864

Rotuma
6282533

Sigatoka
8891040

Ba
6674354

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Thank You
VINAKA VAKALEVU
Questions???
All the best!...