

Technical Report 88

SOLS19: Addendum to Technical Report 87 – Bilateral Quarantine Meeting between Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea



Technical Report 88

SOLS19: Addendum to Technical Report 87 – Bilateral Quarantine Meeting between Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea

Client: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

ABN: 20 093 846 925

Prepared by

AECOM Services Pty Ltd

Level 28, 91 King William Street, Adelaide SA 5000, Australia

T +61 8 7223 5400 F +61 8 7223 5499 www.aecom.com

ABN 46 000 691 690

02-Oct-2015

Job No.: 42444251

AECOM in Australia and New Zealand is certified to the latest version of ISO9001, ISO14001, AS/NZS4801 and OHSAS18001.

© AECOM Services Pty Limited. All rights reserved.

No use of the contents, concepts, designs, drawings, specifications, plans etc. included in this report is permitted unless and until they are the subject of a written contract between AECOM Services Pty Limited (AECOM) and the addressee of this report. AECOM accepts no liability of any kind for any unauthorised use of the contents of this report and AECOM reserves the right to seek compensation for any such unauthorised use.

Document Delivery

AECOM Services Pty Limited (AECOM) provides this document in either printed format, electronic format or both. AECOM considers the printed version to be binding. The electronic format is provided for the client's convenience and AECOM requests that the client ensures the integrity of this electronic information is maintained. Storage of this electronic information should at a minimum comply with the requirements of the Electronic Transactions Act 2002.

Quality Information

Document Technical Report 88

Ref 42444251

Date 02-Oct-2015

Prepared by Sidney Suma, Short-Term Adviser – Biosecurity and Quarantine Specialist

Reviewed by Dale Hamilton, Deputy Team Leader

Revision History


Revision	Revision Date	Details	Authorised	
			Name/Position	Signature
1.0	02-Oct-2015		Sarah Nicolson Project Director	

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	i
1.0 Background	1
2.0 Delegations and Agenda	2
2.1 Attendees	2
2.2 Agenda	2
3.0 Discussions and Decisions	3
3.1 Draft MOU	3
3.2 Annex A to the Draft MOU	3
3.3 Solomon Islands Request for Chilli Market Access to PNG	3
3.4 Solomon Islands Request for Market Access to PNG for Pre-cooked/Cooked (non-Meat) Food for Personal Consumption	4
3.5 PNG Chicken Meat Exports to Solomon Islands	4
3.6 Solomon Islands Import of Day-Old Chicks and/or Fertile Eggs from PNG	4
3.7 Solomon Islands Import of Weaner and/or Breeder Pigs from PNG	5
3.8 Solomon Islands List of Potential Export Products to PNG	5
3.9 PNG Export of Non-Fruit Fly Host Vegetables to Solomon Islands	5
3.10 Common Border Operations and Administration	5
3.11 Surveillance, Joint Surveys and Information Exchange	5
3.12 Training Exchanges	6
3.13 Animal Health – Veterinary and Other Technical Assistance	6
3.14 Discussions with (NAQIA) Import Permit Officer	6
4.0 Recommendations on Next Steps	7
Appendix A	
Finalised Draft MOU on Quarantine Cooperation between Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands	A

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
BSI	Biosecurity Solomon Islands
GoPNG	Government of Papua New Guinea
MAL	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAQIA	Papua New Guinea National Agriculture Quarantine and Inspection Authority
NDV	Newcastle Disease Virus
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
PHAMA	Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access program
PNG	Papua New Guinea
SIG	Solomon Islands Government
SPS	The Agreement on the Applications of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization

Executive Summary

Under Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access program (PHAMA) activity SOLS19 (Technical Report 87), it was recommended that PHAMA assist Biosecurity Solomon Islands to convene a bilateral quarantine meeting with the Papua New Guinea National Agriculture Quarantine and Inspection Authority (NAQIA) to discuss and finalise the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on quarantine cooperation between the two countries. This meeting was convened on 25 November 2014, at the NAQIA Board Room in Port Moresby. This report captures the outcomes of that meeting and is intended to serve as an addendum to Technical Report 87.

The main outcome of the meeting was reaching agreement over draft MOU text on the Bilateral Quarantine Cooperation between the Solomon Islands Government and the Government of Papua New Guinea.

The meeting also agreed on a series of recommendations, including that NAQIA progress the MOU through its national formal process and that both countries collaborate on progressing market access for a list of selected commodities agreed at the meeting.

1.0 Background

Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea (PNG) share a common marine border, with their land masses being 10 kilometres apart at their closest point. There is an existing formal agreement in this regard that governs and ensures the normal administration of the border from both sides. The agreement allows for the central governments' administration of the common border from either side and with due respect to traditional practices and exchanges, traditional movement of people and goods that have existed long before formal governments and administrations.

In addition to the traditional movement and informal trade (for traditional purposes) across the border, formal business activities (trade, investment and passenger movement) have increased between Honiara and Port Moresby in recent years. Both countries have been seeking to facilitate and increase formal trade between them, either bilaterally or through the Melanesian Spearhead Group arrangements.

As part of this effort, the Biosecurity (Quarantine) Services from both countries have been trying to formalise a bilateral arrangement through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Biosecurity (Quarantine) Cooperation between the Government of Papua New Guinea (GoPNG) and the Solomon Islands Government (SIG). The discussions on the MOU have been ongoing since 2005.

This particular bilateral meeting was initiated by Biosecurity Solomon Islands (BSI), with facilitation by the Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access program (PHAMA). The bilateral meeting follows an informal meeting held in Port Moresby on Monday 6 October 2014, and subsequent email and telephone discussions.

SIG was represented by BSI, a Division within the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL). GoPNG was represented by the National Agriculture Quarantine and Inspection Authority (NAQIA), a statutory authority responsible for the provision of quarantine, quarantine inspections, and animal and plant health services in PNG.

The objectives of the bilateral meeting were to:

- Discuss and finalise the text of the draft MOU
- Discuss products of export potential from Solomon Islands to PNG
- Discuss products that Solomon Islands would like to import from PNG and other products of export potential from PNG to Solomon Islands
- Explore opportunities for collaboration – for example, joint surveys, information exchanges, training and technical assistance.

2.0 Delegations and Agenda

2.1 Attendees

PNG attendees (all NAQIA)

- Mr. Joel Alu, acting Managing Director
- Dr. David Thomson, General Manager – Operations
- Dr. Nime Kapo, General Manager – Technical Services
- Dr. Gibasa Asiba, acting Chief Veterinary Officer
- Mr. Pere Kokoa, Chief Plant Protection Officer
- Mr. Alphonse Bannick, Chief Agriculture Quarantine Officer
- Mr. David Tenakanai, Principal Plant Protection Officer / Entomologist
- Dr. Amanda Mararuai, Senior Technical Officer – Plants
- Mr. Michael Areke, Quarantine Officer
- Mr. Andy Yombo Keponge, Epidemiologist
- Mrs. Saine Eliakim, Import Permit Officer (*met the Solomon Islands delegation at the end of the meeting to discuss import permit application procedure and fees*).

Solomon Islands attendees

- Mrs. Irene Nanau (Chief Quarantine Officer, Market Access, BSI)
- Mr. Barney Keqa (Director, Livestock Division, BSI)
- Mr. Bob Macfarlane (Biosecurity Adviser, Australian Aid Biosecurity Project, BSI)
- Mr. Max Kolubalona (Chief Quarantine Officer, Operations, BSI)
- Mr. Russell ... (Solfish Ltd)
- Mr. Sidney Suma (PHAMA Short-Term Adviser, Solomon Islands)

2.2 Agenda

BSI requested that the meeting agenda be amended to include the following additional items:

- Market access for chilli products (fresh, dried and seeds)
- Access for pre-cooked/cooked (non-meat) food for personal consumption
- Import of chicken meat (follow-up on current restriction following Newcastle Disease Virus [NDV] outbreak in PNG)
- Import of day-old chicken and fertile eggs
- Import of weaner and breeder pigs
- List of products of potential export to PNG (see Annex A of MOU [Appendix A])

It was also noted that the Solomon Islands delegation wished to discuss the following points as part of the meeting general discussions:

- Common border operations and administration
- Surveillance, joint surveys and information exchange
- Training and exchanges
- Animal Health – veterinary and other technical assistance

NAQIA members also suggested that the meeting consider export of non-fruit fly host fresh vegetables from PNG to Solomon Islands.

3.0 Discussions and Decisions

The discussions on each agenda item were rich and varied; however, the following are the summary records of the respective agenda items.

3.1 Draft MOU

The meeting reviewed and discussed the version of the MOU that was forwarded to NAQIA in November 2014 by BSI following its internal review. The group agreed to change the title of the MOU to read 'Memorandum of Understanding on Biosecurity Cooperation between Solomon Islands Government and the Independent State of Papua New Guinea'. It was agreed that 'Biosecurity' was a more appropriate reflection of the cooperation than 'Quarantine'. The meeting then reviewed the MOU, article by article, and made amendments to the text where appropriate. Each amendment was mutually agreed to before the meeting moved on to the next article. The revised text of the MOU (including Annex A) is appended to this summary report as Appendix A.

Dr. Thomson explained how the draft MOU would progress through the PNG process and what NAQIA would be doing. He stated that BSI would be kept informed of the progress accordingly.

He also stated that it is important to start thinking about the programming of the MOU activities, particularly if BSI and/or NAQIA intended to utilise resources from the PNG Bilateral Aid Program to Solomon Islands. Some of the ideas are discussed under other business.

3.2 Annex A to the Draft MOU

The meeting considered, as an Annex to the MOU, a list of products of export potential to each other's markets. This non-exhaustive list is a 'wish list' that both countries agree to work on (undertake risk analysis) but only at the formal request of the exporting country. The Solomon Islands' list contained products that were compiled and prioritised at the Solomon Islands Horticulture Industry Working Group planning meetings facilitated by PHAMA in October 2014. Annex A also contains some products that are currently traded between both countries.

3.3 Solomon Islands Request for Chilli Market Access to PNG

Mrs. Nanau explained Solomon Islands' interest in exporting fresh, dried and seed chillies to PNG. She mentioned that there was an interested importer in PNG for the products and a private company in Solomon Islands interested in supplying the importer. Mrs. Nanau asked whether it would be possible to consider the chilli request a single species market access request. Mrs. Nanau then asked Mr. Suma to provide further details on the subject matter. Mr. Suma concurred with the information provided by Mrs. Nanau and added that the PNG importer was RD Tuna, which had gone into production of chilli tuna and was exploring the possibility of importing chilli from Solfish Limited. He further added that chilli exports to PNG was identified as priority by the Horticulture Industry Working Group established under PHAMA in Solomon Islands; hence the idea had buy-in and could lead to tangible trade, should market access be granted.

Dr. Thomson responded that NAQIA considers each request/application for import permit on a consignment basis and asked Dr. Kapo (General Manager – Technical Services) and Mr. Kokoa (Chief Plant Protection Officer) to explain the process and the procedures involved. Dr. Kapo explained NAQIA's risk-based consideration of such requests and what Solomon Islands would need to do to initiate the process. He also explained that NAQIA operates a user-pays policy and that fees and charges are applied all to applications for import permits and to the risk analysis, if required. He said further explanation on the process could be provided by the officer responsible for the import permit section. There was extended discussion on the basis of the risk analysis and how many import permit applications would need to be submitted.

After much deliberation, the meeting agreed on the following:

- The NAQIA import permit officer would explain the import permit process, what application forms to fill, fees charged and the processing time, etc. to the Solomon Islands delegation at the end of the meeting.
- The private company (Solfish Ltd) in Solomon Islands could be asked to apply for the relevant import permits through its business partner in PNG.

- The importer could submit two applications to NAQIA for permits to import: (i) Application for permit to import plant products for fresh chilli and (ii) Application for permit to import live plants (seeds) for dried and chilli seeds.

3.4 Solomon Islands Request for Market Access to PNG for Pre-cooked/Cooked (non-Meat) Food for Personal Consumption

Mrs. Nanau informed the meeting that currently returning members of travelling public from Solomon Islands find it difficult to bring cooked food into PNG for personal consumption due to the existing regulatory requirements for an import permit. Following the explanation, Mrs. Nanau requested if PNG could consider allowing access for pre-cooked/cooked non-meat food brought into PNG in or as passenger baggage by aircraft passengers arriving from Solomon Islands for personal consumption. Mr. Kolubolona added that Solomon Islands currently has arrangements with other Melanesian Spearhead Group countries regarding cooked food for personal consumption but access was restricted to non-meat food or that containing fish or marine products.

In response, Dr. Kapo explained that NAQIA considers all requests for imports based on the biosecurity risks posed by the consignment. He further stated that in most cases the biosecurity risks were similar regardless of the end-use or the quantity of the consignment imported; consequently, an appropriate risk analysis would be required before a decision is made to allow or not to allow import.

In this case, he suggested that BSI submit a formal request to NAQIA to initiate the risk analysis process. The formal request could ask NAQIA to assess the possibility of allowing entry of pre-cooked/cooked non-meat food from Solomon Islands brought into PNG in or as personal baggage by arriving (aircraft) passengers for personal consumption. Furthermore, BSI could provide additional information on the types of food, modes of cooking/preparations and suggest maximum quantitative limit per passenger. It could also offer suggestions on appropriate packaging of the consignments. The meeting agreed that the suggestions offered by NAQIA were constructive and that BSI would proceed accordingly.

3.5 PNG Chicken Meat Exports to Solomon Islands

Dr. Kapo briefed the meeting on the status of the NDV outbreak in Sandaun Province. He mentioned that the eradication efforts in response to the disease outbreak had been communicated by way of a technical advisory to OIE (the World Organisation for Animal Health), Solomon Islands and other interested parties in March 2014. The advisory provided information on the methodology applied, facts and figures, and the status of the disease outbreak at that time, which was 'under control and possibly eradicated'. As of now, the disease has been eradicated according to OIE guidelines and NAQIA is waiting for the official declaration by the Minister to that effect.

Dr. Kapo further mentioned that the outbreak was several thousand kilometres away from the main poultry production areas around Lae in Morobe Province and around Port Moresby in Central Province. These areas have never had any incidence of NDV and therefore all commercially produced and packed chicken meat and eggs are considered free from NDV.

Dr. Kapo asked MAL Livestock Division and BSI whether the technical information provided was sufficient to lift the temporary ban by Solomon Islands on import of chicken meat from PNG.

Mr. Barnabas Keqa, MAL Director – Livestock, thanked Dr. Kapo for the comprehensive update on the status of the NDV outbreak in Sandaun Province. He stated that Solomon Islands allowed chicken meat imports from production units around Lae and Port Moresby areas only prior to the temporary ban. He requested that NAQIA forward the most up-to-date information on NDV, particularly if the eradication declaration has been effected by the Minister, and MAL would consider allowing access.

3.6 Solomon Islands Import of Day-Old Chicks and/or Fertile Eggs from PNG

Mr. Keqa indicated that Solomon Islands intends to import day-old chicks and/or fertile eggs from PNG. Solomon Islands' preference would be to import fertile eggs, as the interested company (importer) has incubators and is capable of hatching eggs locally. In this regard, Mr. Keqa requested that NAQIA provide relevant technical information in order to undertake the risk analysis.

Dr. Kapo responded that NAQIA would provide the necessary technical information required to enable Solomon Islands to undertake the risk analysis. He suggested that Solomon Islands submit a formal request for the information to NAQIA to initiate the process.

There was much discussion on the merits of importing day-old chicks versus fertile eggs. However, the meeting agreed that would be best left to the importer and the risk analysis process to determine.

3.7 Solomon Islands Import of Weaner and/or Breeder Pigs from PNG

Mr. Keqa expressed Solomon Islands' interest in importing weaner and/or breeding pigs from PNG to improve their current stocks. He stated that Solomon Islands has imported pigs from Australia and New Caledonia in the past. However, the particular importer in question was interested in importing pigs from PNG. Mr. Keqa added that this company had already communicated with the potential suppliers in PNG.

He stated that Solomon Islands would require the relevant information on swine diseases and health status in PNG and other relevant information in order to undertake the risk analysis.

Dr. Kapo in response mentioned that PNG has a good disease surveillance system for the pork industry and the swine population at large. He added that NAQIA would be happy to provide the information upon formal request from Solomon Islands.

Dr. Kapo also took the opportunity to brief the meeting on the developments in the animal health area in PNG, particularly the introduction of zones for delineating and addressing animal health issues – surveillance, surveys, emergency responses, and control and management of disease-infected or disease-free production areas. The zones would be determined or delineated based on geographical and animal disease distribution/occurrence status.

3.8 Solomon Islands List of Potential Export Products to PNG

Mrs. Nanau mentioned that she had intended to share with the meeting a revised list of products that Solomon Islands had compiled as products of export potential to PNG but she now noted that these products were already included in the circulated revised Annex A of the MOU. Thus no further discussion was held on this matter.

3.9 PNG Export of Non-Fruit Fly Host Vegetables to Solomon Islands

Mr. Tenakanai explained that the farmers in the highlands of PNG produce a wide variety of non-fruit fly host vegetables that could be exported to Solomon Islands. This fresh produce includes cabbages, beans, carrots, broccoli and potatoes. Mrs. Nanau in response mentioned that there was indeed interest in Solomon Islands to import vegetables from PNG and that BSI would consider this in the context of the bilateral trade arrangement. The meeting agreed that NAQIA could send a formal request to BSI with a list of the potential products for market access, or alternatively any interested importer(s) in Solomon Islands could apply for import permit(s) to initiate the (risk analysis) process.

3.10 Common Border Operations and Administration

There was much discussion on the current cross-border activities and what could be done to minimise biosecurity risks while facilitating traditional exchange activities in the border area. NAQIA informed BSI that they would be opening a NAQIA office in Kieta and would be moving staff there in the near future. However, they currently do not have staff housing there and are sharing a small office space with Customs, which has delayed the mobilisation of the office. The meeting agreed to look at this matter in the context of the MOU programming.

3.11 Surveillance, Joint Surveys and Information Exchange

The meeting agreed that both BSI and NAQIA could make a concerted effort to undertake joint surveys, and share surveillance and survey information. Mr. Macfarlane emphasised the need to share information, particularly results of national pest and disease surveys that were conducted as part of a routine surveillance exercise or as targeted national surveys. He mentioned that this information could provide very useful information for either country to undertake the necessary measures to prevent the spread of pests or be better prepared to deal with incursions of new pests.

The meeting agreed to share technical information on a regular basis and particularly on request.

3.12 Training Exchanges

The meeting acknowledged that there were training exchanges of technical staff between both countries in the past, supported through national or other sponsored initiatives. These exchanges were particularly beneficial to Solomon Islands and it would be useful to revive the practice. The meeting agreed to consider this as part of the MOU programming or as and when opportunities arise.

3.13 Animal Health – Veterinary and Other Technical Assistance

Mr. Keqa asked if NAQIA could provide veterinary and/or technical backup services to the Solomon Islands Livestock Division. He stated that the division has been without a veterinary officer for a while, which has limited its animal health capacity. He suggested that one option would be for NAQIA to consider releasing one of its Veterinary Officers for short missions of 3–6 weeks on a demand basis.

In replying, Dr. Kapo mentioned that NAQIA too has been stretched to capacity in meeting its own needs, but that they are improving their service delivery with better problem or need identification and appropriate responses. He further added that not all problems require a Veterinary Officer's intervention and that there are ably qualified and experienced animal health technicians in NAQIA that could do the job.

He suggested that MAL formally write to NAQIA's Managing Director to explore the possibility of NAQIA providing technical assistance/backup to the MAL Livestock Division, particularly in veterinary and animal health services, on a need basis.

3.14 Discussions with (NAQIA) Import Permit Officer

The Solomon Islands delegation met briefly with Mrs. Saine Eliakim, Import Permit Officer at the NAQIA Import Permit Office. She brought specimens of import permit application forms and went through the relevant forms with the delegation. She also explained the permit processing process and the fees and charges for the various types of applications. She also explained the decision-making structure, particularly who decided whether a risk analysis would be required or not and how much this would cost.

4.0 Recommendations on Next Steps

Following the decisions taken during the meeting, the following recommendations are presented as guide to next steps by both parties:

- 1) NAQIA will finalise the changes to the draft MOU and prepare the necessary instruments they require to get the National Executive Council's endorsement of the draft MOU. It will keep BSI abreast of the progress through the PNG national process.
- 2) BSI will liaise with the private company (Solfish Ltd) in Honiara to apply for the import permits for the chilli products through its business partner in PNG. The importer will be asked to submit: (i) an application for permit to import plant product for fresh chilli and (ii) an application for permit to import live plant (seeds) for dried and seed chilli.
- 3) Regarding Solomon Islands' request for entry access for pre-cooked/cooked non-meat food for personal consumption, BSI will submit a formal request to NAQIA to consider allowing "pre-cooked/cooked non-meat food from Solomon Islands brought into PNG by arriving aircraft passengers, in or as personal baggage, for personal consumption". In the request, BSI will provide information on the types of food, modes of cooking/preparation and suggested maximum quantitative limit per passenger, and types of appropriate packaging.
- 4) The MAL Livestock Division will formally request that NAQIA provide further technical information on:
 - NDV situation in PNG
 - Swine diseases and swine health status in PNG
 - Animal disease surveillance and general animal health status.
- 5) MAL (Livestock Division and BSI) will consider technical information provided by NAQIA on NDV and related poultry industry information to make a decision on the current temporary ban on chicken meat from PNG. MAL will communicate the decision formally to PNG (NAQIA).
- 6) NAQIA will formally write to MAL BSI to request market access for non-fruit fly host products. The request would include a list of potential products for export and relevant technical and production or other relevant information.
- 7) Both countries will consider programming of the MOU activities as soon as practical.
- 8) Both countries will discuss ways to increase cooperation at the border, particularly in the areas of biosecurity surveillance activities, joint pest and disease surveys, and sharing technical information.
- 9) MAL (Livestock Division) will formally write to NAQIA to request that NAQIA consider the possibility of providing veterinary and other animal health services to Solomon Islands on a needs basis.

Appendix A

Finalised Draft MOU on Quarantine Cooperation between Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands

Appendix A Finalised Draft MOU on Quarantine Cooperation between Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands

Memorandum of Understanding on Biosecurity Cooperation between the Government of Solomon Islands and the Government of Papua New Guinea

PREAMBLE

The Government of Solomon Islands and the Government of Papua New Guinea hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”;

Desiring to further strengthen the existing friendship, relationship and cooperation between the two countries;

Taking into account the Basic Agreement between the Government of Solomon Islands and the Government of Papua New Guinea on Border Arrangements on 10th July 1997; the Framework Treaty Guiding Relations between the Independent State of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands on 27 July 2004; the Agreement Concerning Development Co-operation between the Government of Papua New Guinea and the Government of Solomon Islands on 15 April 2005;

Recalling the discussion of the Joint Border Committee meeting and Senior Officials Meeting in 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010, on cooperation in biosecurity related matters;

Recognising their obligations under the Agreement on the Applications of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization (SPS) aspire to facilitate safe trade;

Being inspired by their common objectives of preventing the introduction and the spread of pests and diseases of plants and animals;

Pursuing a joint and coordinated undertaking, exchanges and cooperation in biosecurity matters;

Hereby reached the Understanding as follows:

ARTICLE 1 DEFINITION

1.1 *In this Memorandum of Understanding, unless the context otherwise requires -*

“BSI” means the competent authority for biosecurity currently being Biosecurity Solomon Islands within the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock;

“GoPNG” means the Government of Papua New Guinea;

“NAQIA” means the competent authority for biosecurity currently being National Agriculture Quarantine and Inspection Authority of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea;

“SIG” mean Solomon Islands Government;

“SPS” the Agreement on the Applications of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization;

“MOU” means this Memorandum of Understanding;

ARTICLE 2 AREAS OF COOPERATION

2.1 *Joint and coordinated collaborative activities will be undertaken as follows:*

(a) *Training through the following methods -*

(i) *Conduct biosecurity training workshops;*

(ii) *Provision of short-term attachment trainings on specific areas of common interests in the field of pest and disease control, diagnostics and testing, treatments, auditing, trans-border. Biosecurity surveillance information gathering and dissemination, pest and diseases identification,*

(iii) *survey methods for all plant and animal pests and diseases,*

- (iv) *border inspections on the movement of agricultural goods to and from both countries,*
- (v) *market access requirements,*
- (vi) *the exchange and sharing of expertise and information in other fields where either the BSI and/or NAQIA is lacking as may be agreed upon by both participants under this MOU;*
- (b) *Conduct joint and coordinated Pests and Diseases Surveillance and Monitoring at the Solomon Islands-PNG Border region biannually and alternating on both sides of the Border and other areas as appropriate;*
- (c) *Conduct joint and coordinated public awareness activities at both sides of the common border.*
- (d) *Conduct joint and coordinated border compliance enforcement and intelligence arrangements and activities;*
- (e) *Facilitate trade through the exchange of relevant information on Pest and Disease status of each country and recognition of systems and facilities;*
- (f) *To promote formal international trade between the countries where they are obliged to adhere in accordance with each country's developments and trade needs and objectives on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. In particular, to promote trade in the products listed in Annex A;*
- (g) *Collaborate in any other areas in conformity with the laws and agricultural policies of the Parties.*

ARTICLE 3 COOPERATION

3.1 *The effect of this cooperation will be through:*

- (a) *Progressive harmonisation of regulatory practices and procedures;*
- (b) *the provision of scientists, experts and trainers;*
- (c) *exchange of information, joint publication of studies and surveys;*
- (d) *organisation of trainings, workshops, public awareness campaigns and conferences related to the development of biosecurity between the participants;*
- (e) *conduct of strategic market facilitation activities including agricultural trade fairs and special exhibitions; and*
- (f) *any joint ventures, and other means as may be agreed upon by the Parties.*

ARTICLE 4 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

4.1 *The Government of Papua New Guinea, represented by NAQIA agrees:*

- (a) *to meet the cost of return airfare for its scientists, experts and trainers to Solomon Islands, including their remuneration and other living expenses and allowances during the course of their duties in Solomon Islands;*
- (b) *to facilitate the training of BSI trainees in PNG, while on training attachments;*
- (c) *to defray all the administration expenses of the Papua New Guinea scientists, experts and trainers except as specified otherwise in this MOU;*
- (d) *to be responsible for the life and accident insurance for the scientists, experts and trainers of the NAQIA whilst on duty in Solomon Islands;*
- (e) *to provide necessary facilities, equipment, tools and transportation required by the scientists, experts and trainers which are not procurable in Solomon Islands; and*
- (f) *to provide local transportation and accommodation for BSI trainees during the course of their attachment trainings in Papua New Guinea;*

~~**4.2** *To enable the BSI trainees to effectively and efficiently carry out their responsibilities under this MOU, the GoPNG undertakes:*~~

- ~~(a) *to grant tax exemption on any stipends, emoluments, and allowances paid to them and;*~~

~~(b) to accord them the right to open a "non resident external account" with a commercial bank in Papua New Guinea for depositing their stipends, emoluments and allowances received and the right to transfer to any country at any time the balance in such an account, however, subject to the applicable requirements of the commercial banks and the Central Bank of Papua New Guinea.~~

ARTICLE 5 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

- 5.1** *The Government of Solomon Islands (SIG) through BSI of Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock agrees:*
- (a) *to meet the cost of return airfares and all costs for BSI trainees including living expenses and allowances during their training attachments in PNG unless funding is secured from other sources;*
 - (b) *to be responsible for the life and accident insurance for BSI trainees undertaking training attachments in Papua New Guinea;*
 - (c) *to provide board and lodging, logistics and facilitate movement of NAQIA scientists, experts and trainers in Solomon Islands while under this MOU;*
to provide, subject to the approval of the Minister for Finance and Treasury, import duty exemptions on items referred to in Section 4(e) of the Customs and Excise Act;
 - (d) *to provide the scientists, experts and trainers with the facilities, equipment and tools deemed to be necessary to supplement those specified in Article 4.1 (e).*
 - (e) *provide local transportation and facilitate the operations of NAQIA personnel (scientists, experts and trainers) and other experts engaged by NAQIA while undertaking duties under this MOU in the Solomon Islands;*
- ~~**5.2** *To enable the NAQIA scientists, experts and trainers to effectively and efficiently carry out their responsibilities under this MOU, the SIG undertakes to:*~~
- ~~(a) *grant tax exemption subject to the approval of the Minister for Finance and Treasury on the stipends, emoluments, and allowances paid to them by the Government of Papua New Guinea and;*~~
 - ~~(b) *accord them the right to open a "non resident external account" with a commercial bank in Solomon Islands for depositing their stipends, emoluments and allowances received from the Government of Papua New Guinea and the right to transfer to any country at any time the balance in such an account, however, subject to the applicable requirements of the commercial banks and the Central Bank of Solomon Islands.*~~

ARTICLE 6 LIABILITY FOR ANY DAMAGES AND SETTLEMENT OF DIFFERENCES

- 6.1** *The Parties shall waive any claims they have against each other.*
- 6.2** *The Parties shall mutually indemnify each other against any loss or damages suffered by a third Party arising from and associated with the execution of this MOU, and shall be responsible for settling any claim for damages that may be brought against each Party's scientists, experts and trainers arising from any activities in connection with this MOU, unless the damage, as determined jointly by the Parties, is due to gross negligence, willful misconduct or criminal in nature as defined by the laws of the Parties' jurisdictions.*
- 6.3** *The parties agree to resolve differences amicably through diplomatic channels by consultation in the unlikely event a dispute arises concerning this MOU or any undertaking relating to this MOU.*

ARTICLE 7 COMMENCEMENT AND RENEWAL

- 7.1** *This MOU shall come into force from the date the Parties affix their signatures, and shall remain in force for three (3) years from that date, unless sooner terminated pursuant to Article 10.*
- 7.2** *The MOU shall be formally reviewed not less than six (6) months before termination date or at any other time as mutually agreed; and*
- 7.3** *This MOU may be further renewed or extended upon mutual agreement between the Parties, which shall be made not later than six months prior to the termination date.*

**ARTICLE 8
SHARING OF BENEFITS AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

- 8.1 *In the event that opportunities arise as a result of this MOU, the Parties will equitably share all benefits included in a mutually benefiting manner. All publication of research results as a result of this MOU will be equally shared, while recognising the level and amount of efforts and contributions of participating entities.*
- 8.2 *In accordance with the laws of respective jurisdictions.*

**ARTICLE 9
AMENDMENTS**

- 9.1 *The Parties to this MOU may, by mutual consent, add, delete, or amend any words, sentences or articles in this MOU by mutual agreement between the Parties through the exchange of notes.*

**ARTICLE 10
TERMINATION**

- 10.1 *The MOU may be terminated upon written notice by either Party and shall so be terminated ninety days after the receipt of written notice unless the Parties agree on another date to effect the termination.*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, duly authorised by their respective Governments, has signed this Understanding.

Done at: _____ on this _____ day of _____ 2015, in two original texts, both in the English language.

For the Government of Solomon Islands

*For the Government of the Independent State of
Papua New Guinea*

.....

.....

Hon.

Hon.

Minister of Agriculture and Livestock

Minister of Agriculture and Livestock

ANNEX A**Priority list of products for future discussion and market access**

From PNG to Solomon Islands	From Solomon Islands to PNG
<i>Fertile eggs, day-old chicks</i>	<i>Chillies (fresh, dried, seed)</i>
<i>Live pigs</i>	<i>Sago and sago palm leaves</i>
<i>Non-fruit fly hosts fruit and vegetables</i>	<i>Bananas</i>
<i>Fresh (uncooked) chicken and beef meat</i>	<i>Root crops (taro, cassava, sweet potato, yam)</i>
<i>Vanilla</i>	<i>Betel nut and pepper</i>
<i>Stockfeed</i>	<i>Marine products (fresh, frozen, dried)</i>
<i>Live cattle</i>	<i>Pineapples</i>
<i>Oil Palm seeds</i>	<i>De-husked Coconut</i>
<i>Processed food (canned, cooked)</i>	<i>Forest products</i>
<i>Ornamentals</i>	<i>Artefacts</i>
<i>Forest products</i>	<i>Copra</i>
<i>Artefacts</i>	<i>Cocoa</i>
<i>Coffee (seedlings, beans)</i>	<i>Ngali nut (Canarium indicum)</i>
<i>Galip nut (Canarium indicum)</i>	<i>Kava</i>
<i>Kava</i>	<i>Coconut oil</i>