

# SPC Plant Health Laboratory: developing effective integrated pest and disease management strategies



## Key details

### Location

Fiji

### Duration

Start Mar 2025

End Oct 2026

### Budget

AUD 363,332

### Commissioned organisation

[Pacific Community](#)

### Project Leadership

Clement Gandet

### ACIAR Research Program Manager

Dr Sandra McDougall

### Program

[Horticulture](#)

### Project code

HORT/2024/148

## Research need

The aim of this small research activity is to develop effective programs for rearing biocontrol agents for priority pests, as part of the service to the Pacific region provided by the SPC Plant Health Lab.

High levels of agricultural chemical use across the Pacific region are cause for concern, impacting the environment and human health. Although the metric tonnes of active ingredient applied are comparatively small compared with the rest of the world, increase in use in the Pacific region is second highest next to Latin America and the Caribbeans, which translates to substantial volumes given the small landmass of the region.

More effective integrated pest and disease management strategies are needed. ACIAR has supported previous projects that have demonstrated the importance of biocontrol work in the development of such strategies. The establishment of the SPC Plant Health Laboratory has further strengthened the capacity of the region to develop management strategies.

The results of this project will inform the longer-term sustainability plans for the Plant Health Laboratory and its capacity to serve its purpose as a regional public good that supports research to tackle priority pests in the region.



