

# Responding to and managing emerging pests and diseases of horticultural crops in the Pacific region



## Key details

### Location

Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga

### Duration

**Start** Apr 2025

**End** Jun 2026

### Budget

AUD 499,956

### Commissioned organisation

[The University of Queensland](#)

### Partners

Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa (SROS); Kastom Gaden Association; The University of Goroka; Solomon Islands National University; Fiji National University; The University of the South Pacific; Tonga National University; Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock, Solomon Islands; Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Samoa; Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways, Fiji; Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Fisheries and Forestry, Tonga; National Agricultural Research Institute

### Project Leadership

Prof Michael Furlong

### ACIAR Research Program Manager

Dr Sandra McDougall

### Program

[Horticulture](#)

### Project code

HORT/2025/100

## Research need

**This small research activity aims to improve management of emerging pests and diseases of horticultural crops in Pacific island countries by enhancing knowledge and strengthening capacity for plant health and biosecurity response systems.**

ACIAR has supported several collaborative research and development initiatives between Australian and Pacific partners to strengthen integrated pest and disease management. Two projects in particular ([HORT/2010/090](#) and [HORT/2016/185](#)) delivered sustainable control approaches for farmers, which encompassed biocontrol and pesticide resistance management strategies, the introduction of plant health clinics and the release of disease-resistant vegetables. However, it has been a significant challenge to design and implement sustainable strategies against a background of reduced national and regional resources.

Contributing to Pacific biosecurity, this project will identify practical steps to strengthen plant health and

biosecurity systems and strengthen capacity of universities to train extension staff, undertake research and share information.



**ACIAR**

