

# Piloting ePhyto: Samoa's Experience



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# ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

- GDP per capita 4395.97 USD in 2016/17
- Labour Force
  - Industry sector: 58.4%
  - Services sector: 30.2%
  - Agriculture sector: 11.4%
- Dependent on Development Aid, family remittances
- **Agricultural commodities:** Fish, Coconuts, Taro, Giant taro, Breadfruit, Bananas, Papaya, Eggplants, Cocoa, Yams, Cassava, Noni, Honey & various fruits.
- ✗ **Natural resources:** hardwood forests, fish, hydro-power, solar-power
- ✗ **Export commodities:** fish, coconut oil and cream, copra, *Morinda citrifolia* (noni juice), taro, automotive parts, garments, beer
- ✗ **Major export partners:** NZ, Australia, USA & American Samoa.
- ✗ **Major import partners:** NZ, Australia, USA, China and Fiji





# SAMOA



**Area:** 2,842 km<sup>2</sup>

**Capital:** Apia

**Population:** 192,342

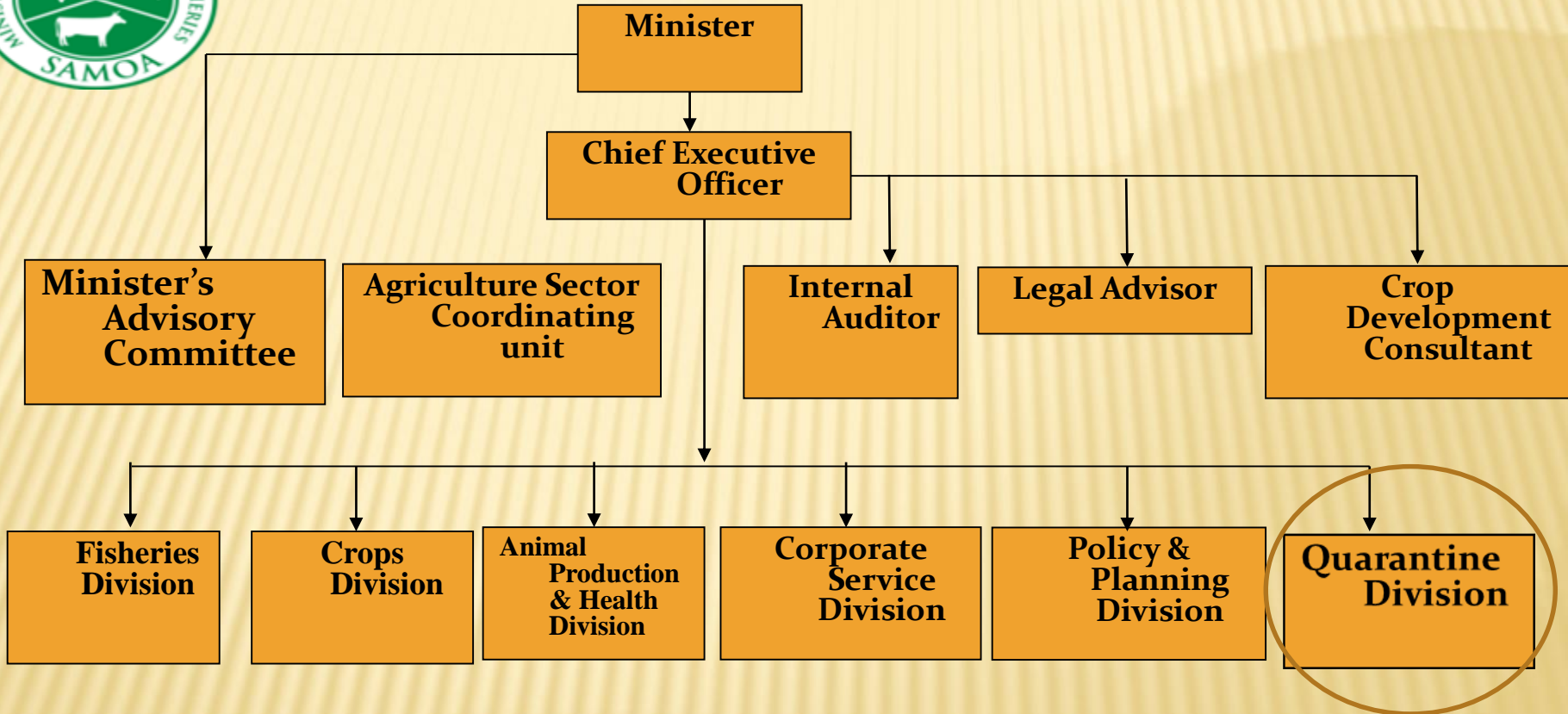
**Ethnic groups:** 92.6% Samoan,  
7.0% Euronesians, 0.4%  
Europeans & 0.1% East Asians.



# ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE



## Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries





## Samoa Quarantine Division (SQS):



# SQS SECTIONS:

- ✓ Airports: Faleolo, Fagalii & (Maota-Savaii)
- ✓ Seaports: Matautu-tai, Satitua & (Saleologa-Savaii)
- ✓ Technical policy
- ✓ Regulatory & Enforcement
- ✓ Public Awareness
- ✓ Pesticides

Human resources: 33





# SQS Roles



# DISCUSSION TOPICS





# Current situation:

- Stand alone electronic system: SQID system (Access programme)
- SQID processes Phyto certs, Import Permits, Releases & Transfers.
- Certs and permits etc. are printed out manually, endorsed and handed to clients.
- Printed, endorsed, scanned then emailed to clients if they are overseas.
- Payments made at the office or boarder upon arrival of goods.
- No form of online payment at present linked directly to the Samoa Quarantine Division (SQS).
- No online registration for exporters.





# Keeping the risk offshore whilst facilitating Trade

## Biosecurity in action!





# Keeping the risk offshore whilst facilitating Trade

## Timber/Wood products



## Containers



## Pest diagnostics



## Spot checks





## Proper collection of rubbish



## Fumigation



## Incineration



## Heavy Duty Machinery



## Vehicles





# Keeping the risk offshore whilst facilitating Trade

## 1. HTFA



## 2. FUMIGATION



## 3. CLEAN AND SECURE



## 4. Trade commodities, not pests & diseases.





# Steps taken so far:

- Updated & sought support from MAF CEO & Minister.
- ePhyto Project Planning (EPP) workshop and field visit with officers from the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries was conducted from 22-26 August 2016.



- Established Management Team
- Established ePhyto Working Group & mailing group.
- Teleconferences conducted with facilitators.
- ePhyto work plan was finalised & submitted .





## Cont' STEPS TAKEN SO FAR:

- Compiled process maps (Imports/Exports)
- Treatment lists compiled: Current & future
- Training requirements: scope of ePhyto training needs
- Change assessment
- Training assessment
- Stakeholder register
- Reporting requirements
- Legislation:
  - Recognising the production of electronic copies of Phytosanitary certificates.
  - Offshore storage of data
- Inclusion of Legal officer in process.



# CONT' STEPS TAKEN SO FAR:I

- Workstation estimates
- Contingency Plan was compiled by MAF IT unit.
- IT security: Policies in place
- Resource requirement: IT checks to see whether it can support GeNS.
- ePhyto Financial proposal submitted (Project Manager & Secretary)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> visit by consultants (Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources) was from 3-6 April 2017.



*Dr. Chin Karunaratne, Senior Project Scientist (ePhyto), Business Systems Program, Plant Export Operations of the Department of Agriculture in Australia*



# Additional steps taken:

- Trust account (MoF) & documents on Aid coordination.
- Updated Quarantine Export Advisory Committee about ePhyto pilot programme.
- Discussions with World Bank Mission & IPPC consultant (May & November 2017).
  - Sustainability: Local resources & Cost recovery mechanism.
  - Cost benefit analysis
  - Linkages/alignment to Asycuda & Single window in the long term
  - Implementation guide for ePhyto
  - Case study: Lesson learnt & experiences



# Challenges faced:

- Lack of formal policies & procedures
- No electronic payment facility
- Security
- Lack of understanding (importers/exporters)
- People change
- Insufficient time to drive the project activities
- Cost – including cost/benefit assessment
- Ensuring adequate infrastructure in place
- Sustainability



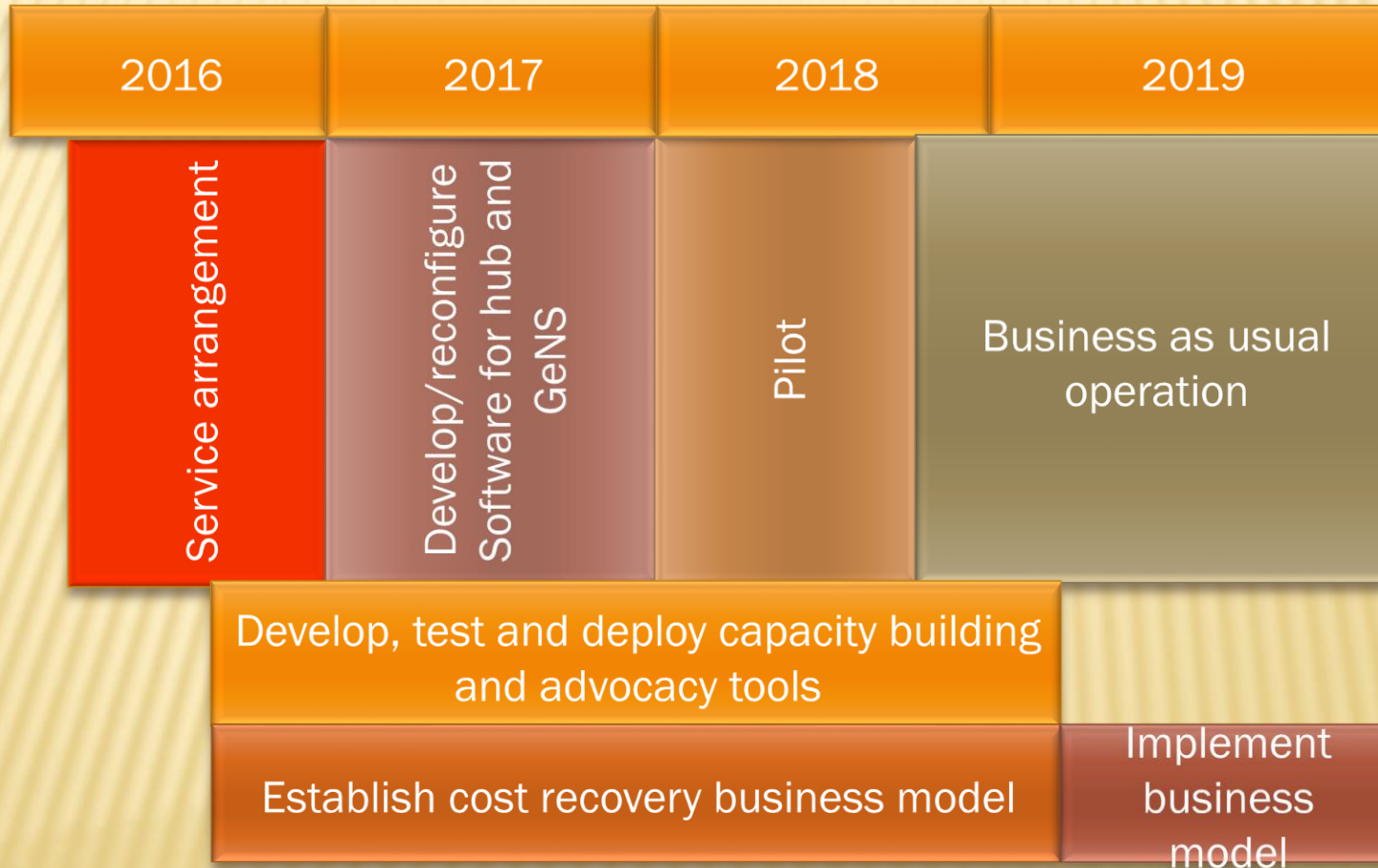


# Expectations of GeNS:

- More accurate reports generated for certs issued and received.
- Timely and secure exchange of information between competent authorities.
- Location of GeNS work stations.
- Changes in business processes.
- Improvement of security in transmission of certificate documentation (electronic versus paper).
- Various registers made redundant.
- Improvement of planning for the arrival and clearance of plants and plant products at customs that will need phytosanitary clearance.
- Conduct advocacy sessions (Seminars & workshops etc.)
- Review fees and schedule (Cost recovery)
- Sourcing external funds from various sources to improve infra-structure development to facilitate GeNS implementation.



# GeNS IN SAMOA TIMELINE





# Keeping the risk offshore whilst facilitating Trade



Terima kasih Banyak-Banyak.

