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By Liam
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Growing Pacific Island agricultural trade



Australian government will work with DT Global to improve market access and boost trade

The Australian federal government has partnered DT Global as part of an effort to grow agricultural trade between Pacific Island countries and Australia.

The memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) and DT Global is designed to promote improved food security, better market access and biosecurity outcomes.

The MoU is set to strengthen the partnership between the department and DT Global through the Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access Program (PHAMA Plus).

PHAMA Plus is funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the New Zealand Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Australian chief plant protection officer, Gabrielle Vivian-Smith said the

partnership focused on growing agricultural trade between Pacific Island countries and Australia.

"Through this partnership, Pacific Island producers will improve the quality of their produce and find markets for their goods. The department will work closely with PHAMA Plus to help these countries manage biosecurity risks, to increase agricultural trade and help to secure the livelihoods of families across the Pacific," Vivian-Smith said.

DT Global will help Pacific Island exporters to comply with Australian biosecurity requirements; strengthen the capacity of biosecurity authorities through training and knowledge-sharing; and support biosecurity processes, including surveillance and emergency preparedness.

PHAMA Plus team leader, Andrew Piper said the pandemic has created additional urgency to support economic recovery,

particularly in the Pacific Island agriculture and horticulture sectors.

"This MoU will strengthen our existing collaboration with DAWE and provide our partner biosecurity authorities and exporters with access to the full spectrum of technical support that helps us to achieve our ultimate goal of supporting rural household income in the Pacific," Piper said.

The partnership will focus on countries in which PHAMA Plus operates including Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Tonga and more.

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