Analysis of the multiple coffee pathosystem in the South Pacific

Epidemiological research on Coffea arabica (var. Typica and Bourbon) has been conducted in the Plant Pathology Laboratory at ORSTOM's New Caledonia Centre since 1991. The aim is to understand the functioning of the 'pathosystem', which comprises coffee, its main pathogenic fungi (Hemileia vastatrix, Coleotrichum gloeosporioides and Cercospora coffeicola) and the environment, in order to model their interrelationships. More specifically, the goal is to identify the environmental conditions which influence the dynamics of coffee diseases. Regular epidemiological surveys are carried out in arabica coffee plantations for this purpose. The biometric evaluations of these data take into account the spatial and temporal dimensions of the events occurring. The ultimate objective of this research is to use modelling to devise a decision-making tool, permitting a forecast of the risk of an epidemic in a defined environmental context.

Improved seed-supply strategies for Pacific Island countries

The PRAP Seed and Planting Material Project (PRAP-3), in collaboration with the Asia and Pacific Seed Association (APSA) and the FAO-Danida project 'Establishment of an Asia and Pacific Seed Association', is organising a workshop on 'Improved seed-supply strategies for Pacific Island countries', to be held in Nadi from 25 to 29 November 1996. Participants will include heads of government agencies involved in variety testing, seed multiplication and distribution; private seed importers, retailers and producers; and NGOs involved in seed issues. It is considered essential for the success of this workshop that private entrepreneurs involved in seed supply participate actively.

Dr Mike Turner, a seed industry specialist from Edinburgh University, will visit Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Fiji in August and September to prepare a position paper on 'Seed Issues in Pacific Island countries'. Dr Joe Cortez, Co-ordinator of International Seed Programmes at Iowa State University, will present a paper on organising farmer collaboration in quality seed production and supply—formalising informal seed supply.

For further information, contact: PRAP-3, PO. Box 65, Sigatoka, Fiji. Fax: (679) 370 021; E-mail: seed@pactok.pegas.org
A leaf-pruning trial on coconuts in the Philippines

Good drip-irrigated taro yields in the Cook Islands

Opening ceremony for the laboratory at Totokoitu Research Station, Cook Islands