

MEDIA ALERT

Media are welcome to attend and prearranged interviews are encouraged.

Please contact: Cathy Reade, Media Manager IHC2014 0413575934 cathy.reamde@crawfordfund.org

Or

Luseane Taufa, Congress Vice President representing the Pacific Islands, who can talk on the significance of the event worldwide, the plans for the week ahead and the involvement of Brisbane's Pacific Island Community.

Contact 0416115526

THE PACIFIC COMMUNITIES (PCs) ENGAGEMENT IN THE INTERNATIONAL HORTICULTURAL CONGRESS Brisbane 17-22 August, 2014

Over 3000 delegates from more than 100 countries will attend the International Horticulture Congress (IHC2014) – the world premier horticulture event - in Brisbane from 17-22 August at the Brisbane Exhibition and Convention Centre. It will mark the 150th anniversary of the International Society for Horticultural Science.

This note gives the summary of actions of the PCs engagement in the IHC2014. Actions aim at leading up to a special effort by more than 40 delegates of the PCs to showcase Pacific horticulture.

Training

Delegates from the Pacific Island Countries lead by SPC completed Pre-Congress training on production and post-harvest skills. Training was financially supported by ACIAR, CTA and the Crawford Fund.

Prospects for horticulture in the Pacific islands

Horticultural crops - such as taro, yams, plantain and breadfruit - have traditionally provided the foundation of food security and livelihoods in the Pacific islands. Moreover, increased production of horticultural crops and increased trade in high-value horticultural products have been identified by many governments as a priority for economic development, offering benefits for food security, incomes and health, as well as a means to correct trade imbalances.

A number of initiatives have been taken at national, regional and international level to promote research and development (R&D) in horticulture and to establish an enabling policy framework for such development. However, progress is constrained by a lack of access to suitable technologies for the sustainable intensification of horticulture and by lack of formal R&D capacity to support the development effort.

The PIs engagement in the IHC2014 is an opportunity to connect with professional members of the International Society of Horticultural Science (ISHS) and to raise awareness of Pacific horticulture and the opportunities it offers. Pacific horticulturalists representing 'Oceania' co-host the event, with their counterparts from Australia and New Zealand; symposia, workshops and other events being organized to highlight Pacific horticulture.

Plan of actions for PICs performance at the IHC2014 Opening Ceremony, Sunday 17th August, 2014

12 noon - IHC2014 Registration Opens

12:00-1:00 pm Ocean Star Group, Pacific Community in Brisbane

1:00 - 2:00 pm Papua New Guinea, Brisbane PNG Community

2:00 - 3:00 pm Kiribati Group, Brisbane Kiribati Community

3:00pm - 4:00 pm Mix Pacific Islander Group, Combined PCs in Brisbane

4.30pm Opening Ceremony including Pasifika Voices Performing Arts, USP Fiji performance

At the end opening Pacific Community Performance with 50 performers singing and dancing and 25 flag bearers dressed in traditional costume to hold 25 flags of the PICs including Australia