



The Pacific: Emerging plant virus diseases of vanilla and other crops

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Look at any crop in the Pacific Islands and you are almost certain to find viral diseases. However, our knowledge of plant viruses in the Pacific Islands is still very limited and surveys continue to produce new species records for the country or region and even detect completely new virus species. Many of the important crops in the Pacific are vegetatively propagated and in these virus infections are perpetuated from generation to generation, often resulting in multiple infections. The lecture will discuss the importance of plant virus diseases in the Pacific Islands and specifically review our research on vanilla, and kiwifruit. Prior to the mid 1980's very little was known about viruses of vanilla, we have now identified 10 different virus species worldwide, largely as a result of work initiated in the Pacific Islands. A similar situation exists with kiwifruit for which, prior to 2003, there were no definitive virus identifications. Since 2003 several different virus species have been identified from imported germplasm in quarantine, raising important questions about the international movement of Actinidia germplasm.

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6.00 pm
Archway 2 Lecture Theatre,
access from Union Street East

