



**Summary**

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Establishment of health and safety standards for the production and export KAVA-based products.</b>
<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Pacific Countries (Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu)</b>
<b>Duration of the Project</b>	The intended commencement date is <b>October 2011</b> and the period of implementation of the contract will be <b>4 months</b> from this date.
<b>Purposes of the action</b>	The purposes of this contract are, firstly to establish scientific evidence to ensure that quality and safety standards of KAVA are met in order to comply with SPS requirements, and to encourage the countries of the region to establish a system of traceable origins.
<b>Target group(s)</b>	The beneficiaries include the governments and the people of Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu. These include small rural communities (mainly women, elderly and local dwellers) who are employed by the KAVA industry and are involved in the farming, harvesting, preparation and export of KAVA to markets in Europe and America. Other beneficiaries are KAVA farmers, wholesalers, producers and traders of the PICs including a number of European Pharmaceutical companies producing and/or marketing KAVA-containing medicinal products before June 2002.
<b>Expertise Required</b>	Two scientists knowledgeable on SPS, TBT and Codex Alimentarius standards will be recruited for this assignment. A trade expert conversant with health and safety standard setting procedures, particularly the SPS and TBT Agreements, will also be involved in the assignment.
<b>Expected results</b>	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Officials in the Pacific KAVA growing countries are made aware of the need to adhere to SPS requirements and quality standards in order to boost the export of KAVA;</li> <li>2. Establishment of a system of controlled origins of KAVA by holding of a brainstorming workshop to define a road-map for scientific studies for the establishment of safe KAVA qualities in accordance with SPS compatible standards;</li> <li>3. Develop draft SPS standards and seek their approval by "Codex Alimentarius"; and</li> <li>4. Ensure that all scientific inputs and results of the project are put in context and compliant with WTO requirements, obligations and rights.</li> </ol>

<b>Main activities</b>	
	<p>The experts will specifically be required to review the existing literature and propose standardized protocols for further studies on the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Analysis of Traditional aqueous KAVA beverages specifications</li><li>- Enzymatic studies</li><li>- Toxicological studies</li><li>- Hepatotoxic studies</li><li>- Ethnobotanical studies</li><li>- Cultivar identification</li><li>- Technical specifications</li><li>- WTO contextualization</li></ul>
<b>Budget Estimate</b>	<b>€ 199.082</b>