

[LEGAL NOTICE NO. 21]

BIOSECURITY ACT 2008

Declaration of Biosecurity Emergency Areas for Fall Armyworm

(Spodoptera frugiperda)

IN exercise of the powers conferred on me by section 77 of the Biosecurity Act 2008, on the advice of the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji and in consultation with the National Disaster Risk Management Council, I hereby declare the whole of Fiji as a biosecurity emergency area for Fall Armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*).

This Declaration is in force for a period of 6 months from the date of its publication in the Gazette.

Any movement of infested or potentially infested plant materials and associated articles, specifically maize/corn and cobs, rice and associated plant material, vegetables, particularly *Brassicas* and any additional host plants identified during delimiting surveys is strictly prohibited unless the Authority provides prior authorisation for the movement.

Any movement of machineries and equipment exposed to infested fields, is subject to mandatory cleaning and decontamination within Fiji and is strictly prohibited unless the Authority provides prior authorisation for the movement. The request for any movement will be facilitated based on standard operation procedures issued by the Authority.

Pursuant to Section 79(2) and (4) of the Act, the Authority has the powers to enact quarantine and treatment protocols for properties with confirmed or suspected infestations. The Authority also has the powers to enter any land at any time to ascertain the status of any pest or disease. If found to be infested or infected, control measures may include the application of chemical treatment.

Pursuant to Sections 79(3) and 94 of the Act, any person who contravenes any direction made pursuant to this Declaration commits an offence and is liable to the penalties prescribed under Schedule 5 to the Act.

Dated this 1st day of May 2025.

V. T. T. K. RAYALU
Minister for Agriculture and Waterways