

## Fiji sharpens skills on vector mosquito identification, surveillance and control

In September 2010, 26 health professionals (22 environmental health officers, three laboratory technicians and one medical officer) from Fiji Islands took part in a four-day entomology training course on vector mosquito identification, surveillance and control.



Participants really appreciated the mosquito identification and laboratory sessions.

Lectures, field surveys and practical laboratory sessions organised during the four days covered 15 topics, including mosquito capture using various traps, mosquito identification (adult/larvae), surveillance, calculation of vector (mosquitoes) indices, monitoring resistance to insecticides and implementation of appropriate control methods.

The training allowed the country to strengthen both its coordination in implementing the National Vector Surveillance Programme, as well as the capacity of the National (dengue and

filariasis) Control Programme at the district level to monitor vector control activities and improve decision making. It also increased the participants' skill, competence and knowledge of vector control methods, surveillance and vector-borne diseases.

Dr Josefa Koroivueta, Deputy Secretary for Public Health in the Fiji Ministry of Health said, 'This is worthwhile training that will help upgrade staff skills and allow opportunities for discussion and effective vector control activities to be implemented in the country. In addition, now it should be much easier to implement Fiji's dengue fever strategic plan as we will have more skilled people.'

The training was organised by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community in collaboration with the Pasteur Institute of New Caledonia and with financial assistance from the French Agency for Development. It was conducted at the Fiji School of Medicine's Environmental Health Laboratory.

This was the fourth such training organised in the region by Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network members. The other three were held in Guam (2005), Northern Mariana Islands (2006) and Cook Islands (2007). For more information, check the articles published in Inform'ACTION 21, 24 and 28 available on line on the PPHSN website: [www.spc.int/phs/PPHSN](http://www.spc.int/phs/PPHSN).



The facilitators of the training from left to right: Dr Narendra Singh, SPC Training Specialist (course convenor); Laurent Guillaumot, IPNC entomologist; and Lucien Swillen, consultant in mosquito control methods.