**Fertilizer Import Data: 2017-2019**

The graph indicates a decreasing trend of fertilizer imports into the Cook Islands.

a. In 2017, 63 tonnes of fertilizer was imported - NZD 120,600  
b. In 2018, 43 tonnes – NZD 94,661  
c. In 2019, 41 tonnes - NZD 90,258

The Ministry imports two types of slow-release fertilizers, Yara Mila Complex and Nitrophoska Perfekt. These fertilizers slowly release nutrients to the plant for a period lasting up to 3 months. These fertilizers are formulated with an outer coating to ensure a slow-release of nutrients with minimal leaching.

a. In 2017, the Ministry imported 50 tonnes of slow releasing fertilizers  
b. In 2018, 31 tonnes  
c. In 2019, 28 tonnes

The Ministry will continue to import these slow-release type fertilizers to assist farmers on Rarotonga and the Pa Enua with their nutrient requirements in crop production and management.
**Pesticide Import Data: 2017-2019**

Graph 1 indicates a decreasing trend in the importation of Pesticides to the Cook Islands.

a. In 2017, 3,563 kgs were imported - NZD $845,018  
b. In 2018, 3,262 kgs - NZD $749,751  
c. In 2019, 2,833 kgs - NZD 735,797

The Ministry will continue, through its regular programs and in collaboration with its national and regional partners, to promote the safe and proper use of pesticides and at the same time, promote the use of organically certified and less hazardous pesticide formulations in crop production on Rarotonga and the Pa Enua.

It is to be noted that Pesticides that are imported into the Cook Islands are only from New Zealand suppliers.

80% of the pesticides imported for years 2017-2019 is the herbicide Glyphosate and Paraquat as shown in Graph 2.
The Herbicides imported are used for the management of weeds in crop production. Although, there has been a reduction in the herbicide imports by 67% in 2019 when compared to prior years, there is still extensive use amongst farmers on Rarotonga and the Pa Enua.

The Ministry continues to assist farmers reduce the use of herbicides by advising:

a. Adherence to the recommended application rate;
b. Use only when necessary;
c. Reducing the frequency of use; and
d. to use alternative means - mulching, use of a weed eater, hand weeding and the use of small machinery cultivators.

As a result of the Ministry’s promotion for the use of organic pesticides, this has resulted in an increase of Insecticides imports by the Ministry (Organic pesticides) – Neem, Mineral oil and Dipel (Bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstaki). These organic pesticides are used for pest management on fruits and vegetable crops.

Over the past 3-5 years, the Ministry has seen an increase in the use of mineral and neem oils on Rarotonga and the Pa Enua, whilst at the same time, a reduction of some highly hazardous pesticides (insecticides) such as Imidacloprid and Permethrin to non-target species.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community Land Resources Division has indicated that the Cook Islands is the most active country in the Pacific promoting the use of Mineral oils for the management of various invertebrates on fruits and vegetables.

The Ministry will continue its efforts to explore and promote the use of safer alternatives for pest management in the country.