



Report of the Fourth Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services (HOAFS) Meeting

**‘Agro-biodiversity to address
climate change, food security and trade’**

14 – 17 September 2010,
Tanoa International Hotel,
Nadi, Fiji Islands



Australian Government
AusAID



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Secretariat of the Pacific Community Land Resources Division (LRD)

Nabua, Suva. Fiji Islands

phone: (679) 337 0733

email: lrdhelpdesk@spc.int

website: www.spc.int/lrd

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INTRODUCTION

The Fourth Regional Meeting of Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services (HOAFS) was held on 14–17 September 2010 in Nadi, Fiji. The meeting was attended by representatives from American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Observers were also present from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Commonwealth Veterinary Association, European Commission, EU-FACT Project, Food and Agricultural Organisation, International Society for Horticultural Science, Landcare Research NZ, National Agricultural Research Institute, the Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community, and the Pacific Cooperation Foundation.

OFFICIAL WELCOME

The Acting Director of SPC's Land Resources Division (LRD) (Inoke Ratukalou) welcomed the participants to the 4th HOAFS meeting and introduced the chief guest. In the opening address, the Minister of Primary Industries, Fiji Islands, Honourable Joketani Cokanasiga said that in the International Year of Biodiversity, the theme of 'agrobiodiversity' chosen by HOAFs was apt. The theme was also timely considering the challenges faced by the region – in particular how to ensure food security in a changing and unpredictable climate.

Agricultural practices that build on soil conservation and biological pest control, and systems that included crop and livestock diversity, could reduce the need for fertilisers and pesticides. Such practices and systems preserved the health of the agricultural ecosystem, and ensured food production into the future. Conservation and good management of genetic diversity has supported the improvement of agriculture and helped to sustain increasing populations over the years, providing the resilience required to recover from environmental stress, and addressing pest and disease problems.

Agro-biodiversity contributed to improved health. Serious health problems have emerged throughout the Pacific as a result of lifestyle changes, in particular the increased consumption of imported foods of poor nutritional quality and, at the same time, a neglect of traditional food systems. Rates of diabetes and other non-communicable diseases were escalating, while micronutrient deficiencies, including vitamin A deficiency and anaemia, also existed. Growing and consuming local island foods can help to improve the nutritional status and health of Pacific communities.

Agro-biodiversity was essential for Pacific farmers to ensure that farmers were in a position to better manage climate change. The crops and livestock of the Pacific did not get the same research attention as more globally important crops and livestock such as wheat and cattle. Therefore the region had to be more self-sufficient and reliant on traditional practices that have sustained agriculture in the Pacific for generations. The Minister wished the meeting well and declared the meeting open.



OUTCOMES STATEMENT

The Fourth Regional Meeting of Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services (HOAFS) was held in Nadi, Fiji Islands 14-17 September 2010 on the theme of 'Agro-biodiversity to address climate change, food security and trade'.

Participants attended from the member countries and territories of the Pacific Community, development partners, regional and international organisations and public and private sector bodies. The meeting was chaired by the Colonel Mason Smith, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Primary Industries, Fiji Islands.

The meeting was opened by Fiji's Minister for Primary Industries, Hon. Joketani Cokanasiga, who said the focus on agrobiodiversity was apt considering the challenges faced by the region – in particular how to ensure food security within the realities of climate change.

Agro-biodiversity is essential to better manage climate change. The regional framework is called upon to support self-sufficiency and recognise traditional practices that have sustained agriculture for generations.

The meeting noted that most Pacific island systems, though fragile and heavily impacted from human development, had not been destroyed by intensive agriculture but rather by unsustainable practices. In the search for food security the region should not lose its competitive advantage – the agro-biodiversity that sustained agriculture and forestry in a changing world.

Agro-biodiversity is fundamental to supporting development in the organics industry. This builds on traditional practices as well as a shift in some markets for more sustainable and less harmful farming methods, such as biological farming systems.

The meeting agreed that initiatives to promote traditional foods would help to address nutrition issues and support healthy lifestyles for our Pacific communities, thereby reducing the reliance on imported foods.

Challenges remain with export trade although a regional approach could be a solution to obtaining market access and addressing biosecurity concerns. Making better use of domestic markets sets the foundation for expanding into other markets as well as contributing to import substitution, especially with small island states.

A Pacific Youth in Agriculture Strategy was launched as part of wider efforts to encourage wider participation by Pacific youth in the agriculture sector, both in food production and agri-business sectoral areas.

The meeting agreed that greater efforts were needed in research so as gain a better understanding of the region's unique and diverse agricultural systems

The meeting welcomed the statements by the heads of delegation and the presentations from SPC and partner organisations.

Resolutions

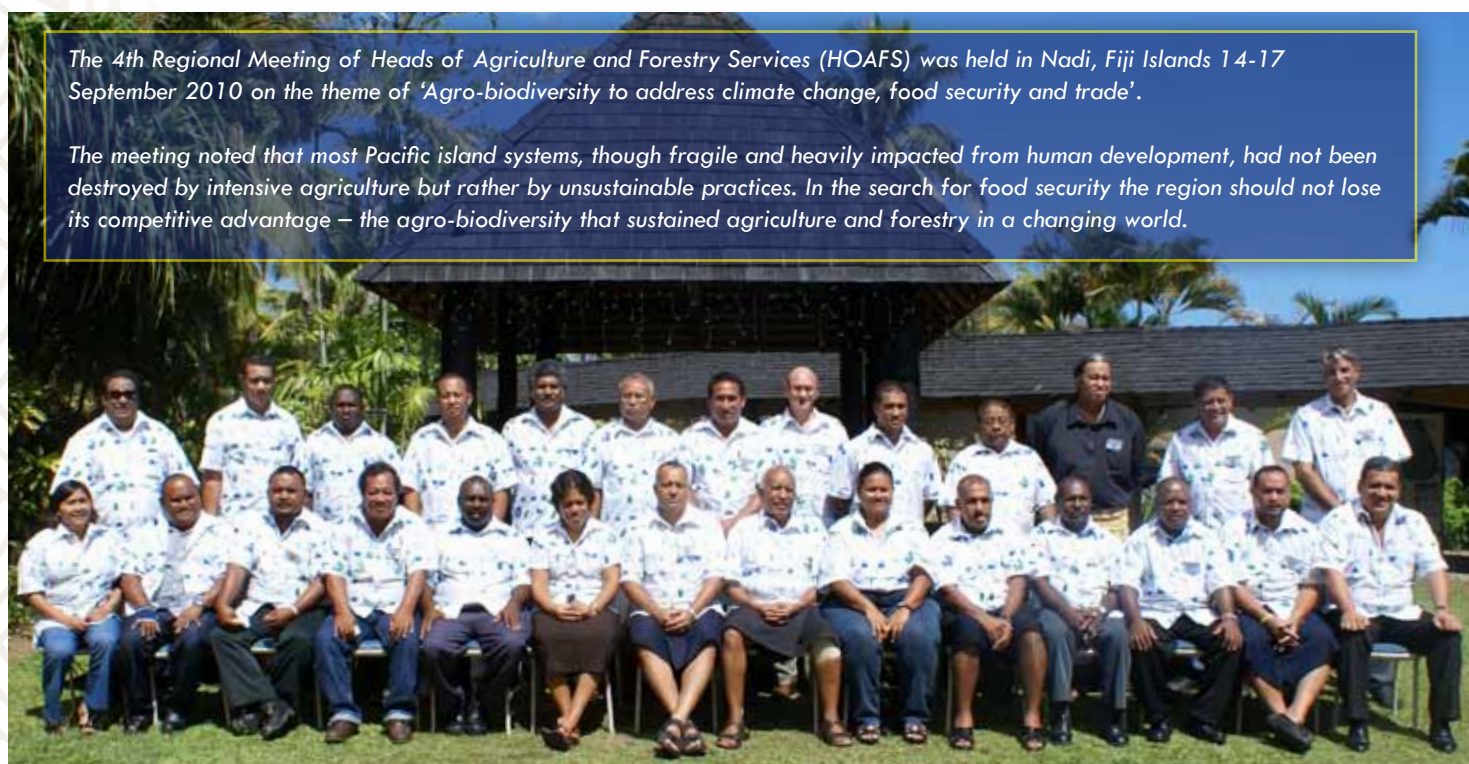
The HOAFS meeting adopted the Resolutions of their meeting.

Next Meeting

The HOAFS meeting welcomed the invitation by Papua New Guinea to host the next meeting in 2012.

Acknowledgements

The HOAFS meeting expressed their gratitude to the Government of the Fiji Islands for their hospitality and excellent meeting arrangements. The Government of the Fiji Islands thanked the delegations for their valuable contributions to a successful meeting.



The 4th Regional Meeting of Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services (HOAFS) was held in Nadi, Fiji Islands 14-17 September 2010 on the theme of 'Agro-biodiversity to address climate change, food security and trade'.

The meeting noted that most Pacific island systems, though fragile and heavily impacted from human development, had not been destroyed by intensive agriculture but rather by unsustainable practices. In the search for food security the region should not lose its competitive advantage – the agro-biodiversity that sustained agriculture and forestry in a changing world.

RESOLUTIONS

The Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services meeting agreed to:

1. SPC Land Resources Division - Director's Report

- i) Note the report of the Director; LRD, for 2009-2010;
- ii) Note the significant outcomes in PICTs as result of LRD implemented activities under its Integrated Strategic Plan, 2009-2010;
- iii) Note the effective responses of LRD to the communiqué of the 2nd Regional Conference of MOAF and recommendations of the 3rd Regional Meeting of HOAFS;
- iii) Note the challenges facing LRD in securing adequate resources to sustain the services it provides to members; and
- iv) Endorse the recommendation of the Heads of Forestry Meeting which was held in Nadi, Fiji in September, 2009.
- v) Endorse the use of the FSFP for the Pacific as the basis to develop LRD activities to support member countries in the implementation of the framework.

2. Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POETComm)

- (i) For LRD to institutionalise and implement the Pacific Organic Standard (POS) and POETComm through establishing a small POETComm secretariat within SPC to provide the administrative structure and support.
- (ii) Endorse and support SPCs actions in this area and also in providing support to organic initiatives at the national level.

3. International Year of Forests in 2011

- (i) Note of the regional activities that the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) Land Resources Division (LRD) is implementing and will be implementing to celebrate the International Year of Forests in 2011,

- (ii) Consider organising complementary national activities in support of the regional activities being organised by SPC LRD.

4. ICT for Development in the Pacific - Agriculture

- (i) Acknowledge that ICT is an important tool that contributes to the development of the agriculture sector and rural areas;
- (ii) Note the potential of the Framework for Action on ICT for Development in the Pacific in assisting the agriculture sector; and
- (iii) Note the LRD ICT initiatives in agriculture and rural development.

5. International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

- (i) Endorse the scheme for SPC to provide services on an agency basis to Pacific Island Countries and Territories that are Parties to the ITPGRFA in the implementation of the Multilateral System.

6. Implementation of multi-lateral environmental agreements

- (i) Revision of national legislations to have a common platform for pesticide management across the region;
- (ii) A harmonised system for registration at SPC developed in consultation with national regulators and with technical support by FAO;
- (iii) For LRD to request FAO for resources through its TCP to support IPM and low input agriculture based on a review of existing initiatives and to develop communication tools to assist farmers in pesticide management and safe use of chemicals.

7. Development of Plant Protection Information

LRD to seek funding to produce fact sheets and other relevant information in multiple formats on pests and diseases of crops for other PICTs based on the work undertaken in Solomon Islands.

8. Pacific Agribusiness Research for Development Initiative

- (i) Note the principles, R&D strategy and progress already made by PARDI; and
- (ii) Endorse the further development of this initiative, in line with these principles.

9. International Society for Horticultural Science

- (i) Note the steps already taken by ISHS, SPC and partner organizations to promote collaboration;
- (ii) Nominate Focal Points in each country to promote exchange of information for the further development of horticultural R&D;
- (iii) Endorse the proposed actions to promote capacity building and awareness, including promoting the active participation of Pacific horticulturalists in relevant ISHS symposia, the establishment of an internship scheme for on-the-job training and of a fund to support these actions; and
- (iv) Facilitate the participation of staff of agriculture and forestry services in such activities.

10. Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access Program

- (i) Note the assistance by AusAID for the project;
- (ii) Seek the endorsement of those countries directly involved in the project.

11. Global Soil Mapping and the Oceania Node

- (i) Request that Inoke Ratukalou be the representative of the nations within SPC within the Oceania node of the Global Soil Map initiative.

12. Establishing a Food Animal Biosecurity Network

- (i) Note with appreciation the assistance from AusAID, Queensland Department of Primary Industry and James Cook University.

(ii) Note the intended activities to be undertaken.

13. Sustainable Land Management for economic growth and security

- (i) Note the decision of Pacific Islands Forum Leaders to prioritise land management and conflict minimisation in the Pacific Plan;
- (ii) Note the findings of the study on Making land work and the assistance that Australia plans to provide to support this initiative in the region;
- (iii) Endorse the joint development by SPC the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the University of the South Pacific – with the support of national, regional and international partners – of a regional initiative on land management and conflict minimisation for economic and social development to be implemented by SPC specifically by its Land Management and Resources Support Team.

14. National and regional capacity to prepare, respond and adapt to climate change

- (i) Endorse the proposed SPC/GTZ programme 'climate protection through forest conservation in the Pacific Island Countries' and its elements funded by the German government.
- (ii) Support the extended SPC GTZ programme coping with climate change in the Pacific island region.

15. Launching of Youth in Agriculture Strategy

- (i) Endorse the Pacific Youth in Agriculture Strategy and request that SPC seek and mobilise resources for implementation at the regional level and support activities at the national level.
- (ii) Endorse the final review of recommendations.
- (iii) Commit to taking the strategy and suggested action plan to the national level and adapting to your particular circumstances.
- (iv) SPC/LRD and HOAFS to report back on progress at the next HOAFS/MOAFS meeting.

16. Validation of LRD core functions

- (i) Note the validation of the core functions of SPC LRD and accepts the exercise but requests that SPC does not lose sight of the different needs and therefore priorities of member countries, and that funding be directed to those priorities.

17. Panel Discussion (Agriculture and Rural Development) – Media

- (i) Note the Pacific Islands Extension Summit outcomes.
- (ii) Note the Brussels Declaration on the role of the Media in Agriculture and Rural Development.

(iii) Note the Pacific Media Planning Seminar outcomes and recommendations.

(iv) Note the Pacific Islands News Association Climate Change outcomes.

18. Centre of Excellence for Atoll Agriculture Research and Development in the Pacific

- (i) Note the contribution the Centre of Excellence for Atoll Agriculture Research and Development makes to the development of atoll agriculture in the region.
- (ii) Welcome the Communiqué from the atoll agriculture conference in Tarawa this year and for the Communiqué to be used as a guiding document for sourcing future funding for the centre.
- (iii) Endorse that the Centre of Excellence for Atoll Agriculture Research and Development be a framework to which donors can make contributions to research on atoll agriculture research and development.

19. EU – Facilitating Agriculture Commodity Trade (FACT)

- (i) Recognize the work done by SPC LRD EU-FACT (Facilitating Agricultural Commodity Trade) project in the Pacific Islands ACPs to promote exports of agricultural and forestry exports.
- (ii) Look forward to the early commencement of the EDF 10 funded I-ACT (Increasing Agricultural Commodity Trade) in 2011 which will build on the successes and lessons learnt under FACT, and develop national capacity for exporting of value-added agricultural, forestry and fisheries products.



HOAFS delegates agreed that initiatives to promote traditional foods would help to address nutrition issues and support healthy lifestyles for our Pacific communities, thereby reducing the reliance on imported foods.

SESSION ONE

The outgoing Chair, Samoa (Asuao Kirifi Pouono) thanked the members and development partners for their support during his tenure. Fiji (Mason Smith, Permanent Secretary, Fiji Ministry of Primary Industries) assumed the Chair and thanked the outgoing Chair for his efforts on behalf of the members. The Chair proposed that co-Chairs be appointed, bearing in mind the likely next host of the 5th HOAFS meeting and gender balance. SPC clarified that because of escalating costs whoever hosted the next HOAFS would have to cover the costs of the Secretariat. If countries were unable to meet these costs then Fiji would default as the host. At the same time SPC reminded the meeting that during the 3rd HOAFS (Samoa, 2008) it had been decided that Papua New Guinea (PNG) would be the host for the 5th HOAFS. PNG confirmed its interest in hosting the 2012 HOAFS.

The meeting appointed as co-Chairs the representatives from PNG and Kiribati. On the adoption of the agenda, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) said the proposed evening launch of the Pohnpei Agriculture Strategic Plan had not yet been endorsed by the Pohnpei state government, and requested its withdrawal from the agenda. SPC clarified who would provide the reflections as stated on the agenda on Day 2 and Day 4, and suggested that this be done on a sub-regional basis. Tuvalu queried how the sub-regional division would be achieved, and suggested a division based on atolls, semi-volcanic and big islands. The meeting adopted the agenda as amended.

SPC Land Resources Division - Director's Report

The Director's Report for the SPC/LRD outlined the operations of the LRD during 2009–2010. The report highlighted LRD's human and financial resources and outlook for the future, strategic planning undertaken, and notable sectoral meetings/workshops and publications.

The science and technology capacity of the LRD and the finances available for its operations have been robust over the last few years, thanks to the assistance of development partners. A range of

ongoing and new initiatives, supported by members and development partners, were outlined. In 2009–2010, LRD implemented more than 400 activities in member countries as well as over 70 workshops and meetings. After the 2008 HOAFS, 31 recommendations had been implemented with most ongoing. Of the LRD budget, 76% is provided by project funds. This source of funding was not sustainable, especially when it could take 3 to 4 years to achieve quality outputs. Funds were often being depleted as outputs were being achieved. Core funding came from five main sources while 11 donors provided project funding. In 2010 LRD had 88 staff. The LRD Strategic Focus included a long-term sustainable financing strategy (LTSFS), based on a decision by the SPC Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations (CRGA) in 2009. A LTSFS was conducted to identify core functions of SPC and LRD. The core functions of LRD were based on the outputs of the LRD Strategic Plan for 2009–2012. Assessing which were the most essential outputs by LRD, and which were the most essential and desirable, required validation by members.

Joint Country Strategies (JCS) had been developed for 19 of 22 members, which SPC would use as the basis of its annual Work Programme. Food security was a key health and developmental issue for the region. The Food Security Framework for the Pacific (FSFP), which outlined the Pacific approach to food security, was endorsed by all countries attending the Pacific Food Summit (April 2009, Vanuatu). SPC was the Chair of the Food Security Working Group. SPC had identified resources to take on board a Food Security Adviser. The Food Security Framework for the Pacific sought to provide an over-arching framework towards ensuring physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food. In response to a query by Tuvalu, the SPC said the new initiatives including the LTSFS and JCS would be discussed later. Cook Islands noted how LRD wanted to work on priorities in-country and also supported the recommendations.



Acting Director of LRD, Mr Inoke Ratukalou, welcomed delegates to 4th HOAFS.

The HOAFS meeting agreed to:

- i) note the report of the Director, LRD, for 2009–2010;
- ii) note the significant outcomes in Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) as result of LRD implemented activities under its Integrated Strategic Plan, 2009–2010;
- iii) note the effective responses of LRD to the communiqué of the 2nd Regional Conference of MOAF and recommendations of the 3rd Regional Meeting of HOAFS;
- iv) endorse the challenges facing LRD in securing adequate resources to sustain the services it provides to members;
- iv) endorse the recommendation of the Heads of Forestry Meeting which was held in Nadi, Fiji in September, 2009;
- vi) endorse the use of the FSFP for the Pacific as the basis to develop LRD activities to support member countries in the implementation of the framework.

Keynote Address

The keynote address was presented by Dr Richard Markham from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) on the theme 'Agrobiodiversity to address food security, climate change and trade'. Challenges facing Pacific agriculture and forestry included the need to increase production and productivity for economic development, to correct trade imbalances and improve health and nutrition. Major

constraints included climate change, difficult trading conditions, land availability and fragile resource bases. FAO estimated that food production had to increase 75% over the next 50 years to cope with population growth and higher expectations for food and nutritional security.

Agro-biodiversity included crop diversity in the landscape, cropping systems and crops, as well as crop-associated diversity such as pollinators, biological control agents, nutrient recyclers and species reducing erosion. This agro-biodiversity could be lost through neglect, the search for only highest yielding varieties and mechanisation, vested interests, changing market forces and consumer expectations, and changes in ecosystem services. For example, in the banana industry, 99% of world trade and 35% of world production was based on only one variety – Cavendish. Examples were provided from the Pacific to highlight problems that have occurred as a result of limited agro-biodiversity.

Better use of agro-biodiversity could help to address the challenges in the Pacific. Agro-biodiversity required good land use planning as well as protecting watersheds and reducing erosion. Better access was needed to well-adapted seeds and other planting material, requiring investment in both the conservation and the characterisation of genetic resources. Countries needed access to tropically adapted seeds and effective seed systems to enable multiplication. Faced with the uncertainties of climate change, a special effort may be needed to ensure that adequate levels of diversity were available in farmers' fields. Agro-biodiversity could support healthier food choices and better diets to promote healthier lifestyles. Traditional foods provided the nutrition needed by Pacific communities.



Solomon Islands' delegates, Mr Reeves M Moveni (Commissioner of Forest) and Mr John Harunari (MAL Undersecretary)

In summary, managing agro-biodiversity to meet the challenges in the Pacific would not be easily accomplished, though creativity and more research and investment over a lengthy period were needed. Better cooperation was needed across disciplines and sectors because of scarce human and financial resources. Pacific Island ecosystems were fragile and impacted, but had not suffered seriously from intensification. In the quest for better food security and economic development, the Pacific had a competitive advantage in its agro-biodiversity, which could sustain agriculture and forestry. On behalf of the meeting the Chair thanked the ACIAR for the presentation.

SESSION TWO: COUNTRY REPORTS

Country representatives presented Country Reports, which covered the outputs, opportunities and challenges of the LRD Strategic Plan.

American Samoa



The SPC had helped American Samoa to develop its five year plan. Challenges for farmers included land use, with only 10% arable land available, and much prone to erosion. Challenges for crop production included erosion, shift from traditional root crops, pests and diseases, soil degradation, the high cost of farm imports and the need to build capacity. Livestock was mainly pigs and poultry, though strict Environmental Protection Agency guidelines had reduced the number of pig farmers. The number of poultry farmers had also fallen from 11 operators to one.

Forestry was not generally used for timber. Efforts are continuing to encourage wider food production to reduce

imports, generate more income and help the environment. The health status of communities and economic factors were the influencing factors. A major cannery had cut jobs and might relocate, prompting some people to explore more local farming and small scale markets. A number of initiatives were being pursued with support from SPC.

American Samoa highlighted the shortage of animal health services and requested support from the Parvavet programme.

Cook Islands



Cook Islands was revitalising agricultural production in the Outer Islands due to land space pressure in Rarotonga, which had just 7 sq km available for farming compared with 237 sq km in the Outer Islands. Vegetable and fruit imports from NZ were costing NZD\$10 million per annum. High nutritional density could be achieved using biological agricultural practices. Cook Islands is committed to this sustainable agricultural production system, and to working under the leadership of the Titikaveka Growers Association. This approach was aligned with nature and gave back to the soil, ensuring a more robust ecosystem. Better nutrition could be achieved through biological practices. A shift in attitude was essential to achieve better health and lifestyles.

Biosecurity was being improved through legislation to give effect to the Biosecurity Act 2008. Funds were being sought to develop and draft regulations which would help to provide a revenue stream to sustain expansive border management. In terms of trade, technical assistance for the Hot Temperature Forced Air plant aimed to revive the export base. In 2001, Cook Islands held 61% of the market share for pawpaw in New Zealand but this share had dropped to zero. There was a need to work smarter on production and post harvest practices and to broaden the range of export pathways. Cook Islands expressed interest in developing generic pathways with other countries to save time and resources in developing market access.

The German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) asked how Cook Islands was managing a change in attitude toward using biological practices. Cook Islands said it had a demonstration farm in Rarotonga using these practices, in particular, the enhancement of soil health. Samoa supported generic pathways for market access to New Zealand especially when the access required consideration of similar pests. Chair said this might be an issue to take up as a region with trading partners.

Federated States of Micronesia



High logistics costs in FSM and a population shift to the main centres have affected food security. Sea level rise was a major threat to food security and biodiversity in the outer islands of the FSM. The focus for agriculture was a shift toward food security, including increasing production based on traditional farming systems; increasing volumes of surplus for market, and promoting environmentally sound and sustainable production.

In March 2010 FSM conducted its food security summit and the outcomes include development of a draft food security and action plan. Recognising the complexity of food security, the policy calls for multi-sectoral collaboration on food security and donor partner support for its implementation. Vulnerability and adaptation used a multi-disciplinary approach and included a forestry survey, household income survey and marine rapid ecological assessments.

A number of projects cover food security, planting material distribution, vulnerability and adaptation assessment, and agriculture strategic action planning; food technology training workshops; and food security assessment, training and capacity building. The Joint FSM-SPC Matching Fund had been very useful in supporting these projects.

Some projects addressed issues connected to the Guam military build-up, for example, the impact on pest risk analysis, marketing plans and production assessment. A treatment plant was needed

to meet quarantine export requirements in Guam, and SPC could help in lobbying for this activity. FSM sought more LRD support in the North via more technical assistance. The Micronesia Plant Protection position had been vacant since 2008 and the reference lab in Guam had not materialised. FSM called upon SPC to lobby for funding for the position.

Fiji



Ongoing challenges included a lack of in-country funding to do basic DNA work on plants and animals to evaluate for climate change adaptation. Fiji wanted more information on the approaches being used by other agencies to address climate change. A further challenge was to ensure proper project monitoring. Capacity to add value to products was much needed. Virgin coconut oil promotion was important especially to ensure it was competitive with other oils.

The migration of vets overseas or to the private sector was an issue. Coordination of activities by external agencies to reduce the demand on national staff was essential, as often more than one agency was involved in the same project or work area. Fiji stressed the importance of more effective consultations with stakeholders on activities and, importantly, the sharing of information with the Ministry when working with the different stakeholders. Information networks could ensure wider access.

More assistance was required on market access, especially to develop access submissions and import risk assessments, because Fiji was at the mercy of importing countries. Fiji was reviewing its forest legislation and harvesting guidelines. The



A home in Lautoka, Fiji, damaged by subterranean termites, and highlighting the need for more stringent biosecurity measures at national borders to prevent pest incursions.

recent termite threat focused attention on the need to improve biosecurity. Training on certification and other skills would help with trade development.

Vanuatu raised the issue of vet migration, and requested that SPC assist in this area. Solomon Islands also requested that SPC support PICTs with regards to limited veterinary capacity.

French Polynesia



Both food security and food safety have improved, thanks to health inspections on farm products and implementation of activities designed to increase consumption of traditional foods, which are often neglected for imported products of low nutritional value. The much higher cost of local products is one of the main problems. French Polynesia is carrying out more than 70 different activities linked to the objectives set by the LRD.

The development of agricultural resources is limited by a lack of farm land. A special effort has been made to reduce the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides. French Polynesia wants to increase the quantity of marketable farm and forestry products by 40% over 10 years, with a third of this increase coming from the traditional crops sector. The obstacles to be overcome are competition



Managing agro-biodiversity to meet the challenges in the Pacific would not be easily accomplished, creativity and more research and investment over a lengthy period is needed.

with imported products, the lack of organisation between producers and the absence of economies of scale.

Food safety is still not completely ensured on the island of Tahiti, where significant problems remain. It is also difficult to achieve in the outer islands due to a lack of human resources. Measures designed to protect fresh local produce from the large range of imports keep local prices high but do not really encourage increased farm productivity. Other activities are meant to stimulate investments in agriculture, improve the organisation of market systems, diversify production and support the creation and work of private forestry companies.

Tuvalu asked who French Polynesia's trade partners are in the Pacific. The French Polynesian delegate replied that their main supply country partners are New Zealand and Australia.

Guam



Guam promoted farming as beneficial to a healthy lifestyle in response to an increase in non-communicable disease cases on island.

Water resources are vital and in limited supply in the country and government efforts to protect water resources from pesticide and fertiliser overuse prompted agriculture officials to encourage local producers to adopt organic farming practices. One of the biggest challenges was the loss of agricultural land to urbanisation and development.



The people of Kiribati have the skills to cultivate the land and earn an income. Food security is not an issue in the outer islands, but is a problem in the urban areas.....atoll agriculture is a surmountable challenge.



Mr John Correa Borja (Chief of Agriculture, Guam), Ms Belmina I Soliva (Forest Services, Guam), and Ms Kina'ai Kairo (Director of Agriculture and Livestock, Kiribati).

Government support and legislation needed to preserve and dedicate public lands for farming. Government priorities identified with education, public safety and health and lack of interest in agriculture. In animal husbandry, raising deer as a livestock potential along with cattle and swine is increasing, but there is no slaughterhouse on the island to process meat products.

Guam acknowledged the importance of promoting and encouraging interest in farming and has introduced organic gardening projects at the elementary level, ensuring that traditional farming methods are learned. The mission of forestry was to conserve, protect and enhance the environment. In collaboration with local and federal government agencies and private land owners, the Forestry and Soil Resources Division promoted healthy and productive forests in both rural and urban areas throughout the island through five major United States Forest Service

Programmes. Implementation problems for forestry ranged from watershed protection to soil conservation practices, awareness programmes on invasive species and protection of existing indigenous species.

Kiribati



Replanting staple food crops was a challenge because of the soil and lack of suitably adapted crops, but also an opportunity. The people of Kiribati had the skills to cultivate the land and earn an income. Food security was not an issue in the outer islands, but was a problem in the urban areas. A significant opportunity existed for outer island populations to support food security, by producing food for urban areas, but the problems surrounding transport, post-harvesting and value adding had to be resolved. In addition, middlemen existed only for bananas and pumpkin – but this could be built on. Improving livestock was a priority. New blood lines were needed to replace the older genetic material; pig pens needed replacing to reduce the high mortality rate of piglets. Kiribati considered it important to incorporate agriculture into the primary and secondary curriculum but currently lacked the expertise to include agriculture in the curriculum as well as qualified teachers.

Coconuts were the key commodity in Kiribati and the priorities were to replant more atoll-tolerant varieties. Organic farming was also a priority but certification was costly. Training had been provided but little progress made due to lack of funds. The promotion of multi-purpose trees was a target, though not seen as important by the communities and more work was needed to change attitudes. Kiribati had

a competitive advantage in producing sugar from toddy. The Philippines sold toddy at a premium market price (US\$8/kg). Sugar from toddy had a low glycemic index and was better for those suffering from diabetes. PNG raised the issue of urbanisation which created problems for food security, which could be addressed by creating opportunities for farming in rural areas, so that urban communities could move back to the land.

Marshall Islands



The Marshall Islands highlighted the unique challenges with respect to food security, climate change, trade, soil, land availability and rising sea levels. However the greatest challenge was one of perception. The shift from agriculture to a monetary-based economy with the subsequent increase in imported foods meant that children no longer had a taste for local foods. A perception also existed that only the poor ate local foods, which had led to an alarming increase in non-communicable diseases, with national health experts declaring diabetes as an epidemic. The challenge was to encourage the consumption of local foods and to re-educate the public about the importance of traditional roots. This return to traditional food crops and systems would not only boost health but also improve the economy. Much had been achieved with support from donor partners. In 2010 there were two workshops in Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI) on food safety and food standards for pandanus, and on breadfruit conservation and identification. Other activities included work on invasive species; planting trees to strengthen resilience to climate change; FAO Regional Programmes for Food Security and Telefood supported livestock projects.



Mr Thierry Mennesson (Director General, IAC, New Caledonia), Mr Poi Okesene (Niue), and Mr Fernando Sengebau (Director, MNRET, Palau).

Nauru



Nauru faced challenges with climate change and the Government fully supported agriculture. A number of projects in collaboration with SPC were only partially completed because of a lack of sustainability within Nauru. In response to a request from the National Steering Committee, Nauru has a breadfruit and root crops programme in place to mass propagate these crops. Under the Food Security and Sustainable Livelihoods Programme (FSSLP), two projects have been submitted – water catchment and integrated livestock development. Nauru is also considering a fruit tree development project to complement its breadfruit project.

The 360 project is a three to six-year plan to replace six agricultural products, such as eggs or chickens, to minimise import costs. Nauru acknowledged the significant support provided by SPC over the years. Current problems were fruit fly control; more varieties of breadfruit trees and root crops; soil compilation (data) to help with the use of PlantGro; training of agriculture and quarantine staff; sustainable land management; paravet training and a resource centre.

New Caledonia



New Caledonia's institutional arrangements give the Provinces jurisdiction over economic development. This presentation covered the needs expressed by provincial departments during formulation of the New Caledonia Institute of Agricultural Research's (Institut Agronomique néo-calédonien) five-year plan. Overall, the Territory's economy is based on financial

MARSHALL ISLANDS

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transfers from the French Government and the nickel industry, while agriculture accounts for 2% of its GDP.

The questions raised revolved around these issues:

- Diversification and food security. This involves reducing food dependence by developing priority sectors (meat, fruit, vegetables, grain, tubers), in particular tubers and traditional vegetable species, so as to bolster producers' income and activities and develop crop management techniques that respect both the environment and consumers.
- The necessity to develop information systems, because risk management and securing production are achieved by reducing the vulnerability of producers, consumers and ecosystems and the Territory's biosecurity goal.
- Against the background of wide-reaching socio-economic mutations due to industrialisation, new economies and the rural world are trying to design economic models to help foster an attractive and dynamic rural way of life. In that regard, forestry, which is not very well developed at the moment, is a cause of concern and the subject of close attention because of the capacity of forests to store carbon, which will

be produced in significant quantities as a result of the smelting plants that are being built.

Finally, water resources and uses are a new theme designed to take into account the prospects of climate change and the consequences of water scarcity or of water damage during tropical storms and flooding. This also involves dealing with the situation on coral atolls, whose water lenses have to be protected.



Agriculture and Fisheries were key sectors in the Niue Islands Strategic Plan for the next three years. Niue faced challenges with limited human and financial resources, lack of interest shown by youth, high input costs and fuel costs, ongoing problems with feral pigs, loss of some plant varieties, and a lack of vets. These factors created opportunities to improve taro exports and value added products, lift demand for local produce and get more youth involved in farming. The Joint Country Strategy allows for more focused assistance by SPC to country priorities and activities.

On biosecurity, work activities continue with organics, marketing, a draft Biosecurity Bill, import/export standards and protocols, and quarantine arrangements. Niche and organic markets offered good prices if transport and other costs could be managed. Niue would continue to rely on the assistance of regional organisations, such as SPC, along with other regional and international organisations and donors to meet its aims in agriculture and forestry.

Palau

Palau sought to reduce its reliance on imported food and to diversify the employment options and incomes.



The Food Security Framework for the Pacific sought to provide an over-arching framework towards ensuring physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food.

Implementing opportunities were available within the Joint Country Strategy the Food Security and Sustainable Livelihoods Project (FAO) and the Taiwan ROC Stimulus Assistance. Palau faced ongoing challenges with manpower, government support and funding.

Palau was working with a range of partners to improve food security. Local participation in agriculture was relatively low and the youth were not very interested in this sector. The cost of inputs was high and there were other issues relating to pests and diseases as well as poor soils.



The national food programme covered food availability, access, use and distribution, sustainability and support services. Agriculture involved more than 82% of the population and provided marketing at all levels. There were spinoffs for other sectors and great potential for further development. The sector was renewable and sustainable.

Forestry added to the economic and social well-being of the rural population by providing employment and incomes, taxes, infrastructure development and community services. The forestry sector was involved in 10 economic corridors and 16 major agriculture and forestry projects.

Issues for agriculture included a high population growth rate (2.7%) and the need to increase the production of traditional staples. Poverty was an issue for rural (40%) and urban (16%) populations. Services were poor in rural areas including transport links and rural incomes were also low. The implementation of the National Development Strategic Plan (2010–2030) would help guide activities in the agriculture and forestry sector. Forestry development needed to be sustainable. Agro-forestry projects were being implemented in different areas including

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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plantation development. Other work dealt with the management of genetic resources. GTZ asked how PNG would manage the challenge of not transferring current forestry areas to cash crop projects. PNG replied that the target areas for such projects e.g. palm oil, are non-forest such as grassland areas.



The priority issues are a food security policy, diversified use and availability of plant materials. There are opportunities for international exchange of germplasm, resistant materials and development to commercial level. Challenges remain from stressed environments and the management of property rights. Samoa was looking at integrated farming with biogas applications as well as efforts to help farmers adopt appropriate technologies. There was a need to build village acceptance of proposed models for land use, while taking into account the demand for residential and commercial areas. The priorities for biosecurity were to maintain an appropriate level of protection at the border, build capacity to meet regulatory requirements, promote organic agriculture, build public awareness and also increase the level of exports.

Forestry staff worked closely with its stakeholders. Logging was banned in 2007 following an FAO-funded forestry inventory. Government made the move



Salt water intrusion is a serious problem in low lying areas.

based on the need to conserve the country's forests.

The Chair highlighted two points which had been raised by the presenter: property rights from breeding programmes, and the loss of arable land to commercial and residential development.

Solomon Islands



The fate of logging rates was driven by Asian demand and the current legislation does not have the direct legislative ability to control the level of logging. Logging was the major form of foreign revenue. Plantation forests were seen as a sunrise sector. Plantation forestry is a substitute for natural forestry, and this has been encouraged at the level of industry and smallholder plantations nationwide. These are industrial estates, focused on high value species, and small holder estates which were village or household based. Forest depletion would have serious economic and fiscal consequences especially in the next five years. A more viable plantation sector would emerge and is anticipated through a transition from 2020 and beyond.

Opportunities existed through better revenue capture, fair market prices for forestry products, better surveillance of

shipping, improved logging practices to limit damage, and more downstream processing. National development programmes aimed to establish more rice farms, promote more cash crops, and encourage small livestock projects including the cattle industry. However, farmers were basically subsistence farmers and therefore production was not consistent. Market access facilities would need to be developed. Development and the completion of the national agriculture sector policy for agriculture from 2009–2010 highlighted the importance of agriculture for food security for the population of the country. The policy provides a roadmap for the sector and aims to address food security in two ways: consolidating the sectors in order to enhance production of staple foods; and expanding efforts to develop commodities for export markets.

Tokelau



Atoll soils are very poor and only a few food crops such as breadfruit, coconut, pandanus, giant swamp taro and banana, can be supported. Livestock is limited to poultry and to some extent pigs. Quarantine services have been stepped up, and importing foreign plants into villages is not allowed.

Villages are trying out new seedlings, and are promoting the revival of local produce such as pulaka (swamp taro), and applying atoll soil management technologies to identify sustainable practices for food security. Land and poor soils are two constraints on crop



Samoa - logging was banned in 2007 following an FAO-funded forestry inventory. Government made the move based on the need to conserve the country's forests.



Kiribati have a competitive advantage in producing sugar from toddy. The Philippines sold toddy at a premium market price (US\$8/kg). Sugar from toddy have a low glycemic index.

production and technologies such as hydroponics could provide a sustainable method for crop production. Given Tokelau's plan to move towards renewable resources to generate energy, a programme for replanting coconuts in villages will need to be implemented to ensure the availability of crops. Tokelau has a relatively species-poor ecosystem. Atolls do not have a diverse plant and animal gene pool, and further degradation and/or loss of the limited biodiversity pose a real threat. The status of endangered plant and animal species on the atolls has not been assessed in recent years. Several species are generally recognised to be in decline, however, including several timber species, such as kanava (*Cordia sibcordata*), puapua (*Guetarda speciosa*), puka (*Pisonia grandis*), and fala (*Pandanua* sp. var. 'Kiekie'). Over harvesting and exploitation for building and handicraft materials has hastened the reduction of some of these species. Over-zealous clearing for coconut replanting schemes has also been cited as a factor for the depletion of some of the atolls' forest areas in the past.

Pest management is significant and control measures need to be developed and adopted. In line with this effort, would be the need for stringent quarantine and bio-security measures and the development of an Emergency Response Plan (ERP), to manage a pest or disease breakout.

Biological and natural farming systems can lift food security

Pacific heads of agriculture and forestry services (HOAFS) met in Nadi (14–17 September) with discussions focusing on the value of agrobiodiversity in addressing food security, climate change and trade challenges.

As the meeting heard, the starting point for taking advantage of Pacific biodiversity is good land use planning, and ensuring that the right crops, trees and livestock breeds are in the right places.

This planning has to be supported by good distribution of planting and breeding material. There is also a need to consider the trade-off between diversity and productivity – high yielding varieties may do well in favourable climatic conditions, but fail when conditions are adverse.

The Secretary of the Cook Islands Ministry of Agriculture, Mr Anthony Brown, emphasised to meeting delegates the need for stronger resolve on the part of heads of agriculture in meeting the challenges faced by the Pacific Islands region and the need to provide support systems to help farmers improve their livelihoods.

'The region should not take ecosystem services for granted. The Pacific has not suffered from too much intensification of agriculture, unlike other regions, and we should be mindful of this competitive advantage and not lose it'.

'We need to reflect on our social structures, and our traditional systems of farming which have a minimal impact on the environment. We need to embrace these systems developed over generations by our forefathers. The organics movement, for example, is a reflection of our traditional way of life,' said Mr Brown.

Delegates acknowledged the projected impacts of climate change on the ability of countries to ensure food security. In this regard, they called on SPC and other agencies to continue providing support to enhance the resilience of agricultural systems.

The issue of urban drift was also raised as a common concern for Pacific Island countries and territories. The meeting heard that for smaller atolls, it is not unusual for over 60% of the population to move to the main island where the capital is located.

The resulting concentration of people in one location impacts on food security. In contrast, less populated outer islands may have an abundance of produce but because of transport problems are unable to get it to markets.

Delegates agreed that national governments should build up the services available beyond the main towns, making rural areas more attractive and encouraging young people to stay on the land.

The issue of young people's lack of interest in farming or farming-related careers was highlighted and the meeting identified opportunities to address the issue at the school and community level, linking it to the wider issue of promoting and investing in agriculture and forestry development.

More support for local production was stressed as a way to meet increased demands on the food supply. Delegates noted that national food summits and the Pacific Food Summit had strongly encouraged a 'go local' approach but agreed that more education and awareness raising was needed to ensure consumers realised the nutritional value of local foods.

Demonstration farms are being used in a number of countries to promote more biological approaches to agriculture, such as organic practices. The benefits of these farms in helping to change the way people think about food security were noted.

Another regional issue raised at the meeting was the need for better animal health services and for more Pacific Islanders to train as veterinarians or paraveterinarians.

Most Pacific Island representatives expressed concern that not enough trained people were available to provide the livestock health and biosecurity services needed to control zoonotic diseases.

Tonga



A component of the agricultural policy was based on exports, and this addressed four areas – expansion (volume, value and new products), food security (local produce), resilience of resources (land and marine) and rural population (organise and engage them in exports and develop their role as custodians of the resources).

Facilities have been upgraded to handle high temperature forced air fumigation, and post harvest and food processing. Food legislation was under review. Private sector partnerships were recognised as the driver for exports and bilateral and regional trade agreements were an important part of the sector. New export products were being explored over the next few years and marine products, such as fish and seaweed, were increasingly important. Rising food imports, associated with the effects on health, prompted the push to produce more food locally. Sustainable management of forest resources was important for Tonga and a number of agroforestry projects were underway.

Tuvalu



The major problems for agriculture were the poor soils, lack of water, limited land, lack of interest in farming from youth, limited range of crops and high population density on Funafuti. Transport links were poor and costly. Human and financial resources were limited.

Priorities with SPC, identified under the JCS, were household food production, biosecurity, extension services, plant protection and production. Some activities have been completed such as PRIPS, paravet training and stray dog control. A Biosecurity Bill was being prepared. A pest list survey and other pest management activities have been completed or are underway. Tuvalu sought SPC assistance with extension services, livestock development, and funding for other services such as biosecurity. SPC could help support efforts to secure funding from donors.



Continuing challenges include limited funds, limited technical capacity, high cost of transport, and high cost of management and monitoring, and Vanuatu requested assistance to address these issues. More capacity was also needed to adapt to climate change. Erosion of agro-biodiversity was another issue for Vanuatu. Priorities included a lack of animal health services and technical expertise in a range of areas. The sector faced low output due to subsistence production, lack of quality standards, few markets for farmers and a lack of processing capacity. SPC and other partners could provide assistance in these areas.

The livestock sector lacked vets, had high production and transport costs, and difficulty in accessing markets for both commercial and small holder farms. Vanuatu needed support for livestock production and vet services, improved genetics, pesticides research and development and emergency response planning. Biosecurity needed more effective surveillance and the ability to comply with market requirements. PNG commented on the lack of vets and highlighted the high cost of training vets overseas. Paravet training was an option. The Chair added that Fiji had just lost another vet to the private practice. The lack of vets was a common issue for many countries and needs to be addressed.

Challenges facing sustainable land management in the Pacific

16 SEPTEMBER 2010 NADI (PACNEWS) --- The lack of data and information on rural land use and management is a major limiting factor to Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs).

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) acting director for Land Resources Division, Inoke Ratukalou briefed heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services in Nadi the challenges facing the region in terms of sustainable land management for economic growth and security in the Pacific.

"In most PICTs, the administrative and institutional frameworks used for resource allocation and management are highly sectoralised.

"Attempts at coordination have often proved ineffective, but lack of coordination constrains the development process, increases friction between ministries, and in many cases promotes unsustainable use of land resources," said Mr Ratukalou in his presentation.

He said customary ownership rights are not a necessary condition for increased economic activity.

"Increased economic activity can be achieved by maintaining and protecting group-based customary tenure and allowing individuals to use rights consistent with the requirements of a market-based economy.

He said the lack of clarity regarding customary landowning groups and their claims plays an important role in the apparent divide between customary and introduced land management systems.

"In most PICTs, there is limited formal recording of the activities of customary landowning groups, including membership and decision-making processes. Efforts to formally record and register customary land have had limited success and in some PICTs have actually contributed to conflict", he said.

"The use of customary land under informal arrangements has helped landowners achieve some improvements in their economic well-being. However, without proper legal backing, informal arrangements do not provide individuals with sufficient certainty to invest in longer-term productive activities, nor do they provide sufficient security to obtain loans.

He said some lease conditions encourage the optimal economic use of land, but can also be a source of conflict between landowners and investors, and between different generations of landowners.

"Landowners may not know the true economic value of their land when they enter a lease agreement. As new information becomes available to the next generation of landowners, existing lease agreements may become a source of conflict, which can in turn discourage outside investors.

Mr Ratukalou said in most PICTs they do not have an active land rental market and governments have used administratively determined rental systems that usually do not reflect local market conditions.

"Where land rent and lease conditions are directly negotiated between landowners and investors, differences in access to information have resulted in inequitable distribution of returns.

"Combined with the changing needs and aspirations of individual landowners, inequitable distribution of benefits has been a source of tension and conflict.

"Customary conflict resolution mechanisms have become less effective in a number of PICTs, and people increasingly turn to formal court processes that can be costly and time consuming. When local land-related grievances are not appropriately addressed, they can end in large-scale conflict or crises," Mr Ratukalou said...PNS (ENDS).

SESSION THREE:

Plenary

The Chair (Fiji) handed over to the Co-Chair (Kiribati) to lead the proceedings.

On behalf of the meeting the Cook Islands reflected on proceedings for Day 1. The opening speech by the Hon Minister highlighted the importance of agro-biodiversity. Country reports noted the strong move by countries towards traditional farming methods including organics. All members faced the need to cope with and respond to climate change and variability. The population shift from rural to urban areas placed more demands on food security and supply, and on sustainable livelihoods. Animal health services were in decline across many countries and a cause of concern especially in light of climate change. Forestry provided a resource that could generate significant income but had to be managed sustainably. Logging was banned in Samoa in recognition of this important resource. Biosecurity was a concern with pest incursions posing high risks. It was important for heads of agriculture and forestry to show good leadership and ensure that the challenges and issues facing the Pacific were addressed. One way was to fall back on the experience of our forefathers and our traditional structures to cope with prevailing conditions, while embracing modern technology to face these challenges.

LRD Objectives – Implementation issues, challenges and opportunities

SPC presented progress reports on the three key objectives of (i) improved food and nutritional security; (ii) integrated and sustainable agricultural and forestry resource management and development, and (iii) improved biosecurity and increased trade in agricultural and forestry products. Traditionally, Pacific Islands achieved food security through sustainable agriculture and fishing practices and reliance on local staples. In recent years, imported foods have contributed to the food supply, meeting a need for an increasing quantity and a greater variety of food. With the limited land resources existing in most Pacific Islands, the need for sustainable land management and use was important to the future well-being of Pacific Island people.

Biosecurity and trade issues were of increasing economic and ecological significance. A major challenge for Pacific Islands was to improve and increase trade in agricultural and forestry products through expansion of current market access, and to secure new niche and value added market opportunities for domestic and external trade. The capacity of PICTs in meeting quality standards remained a major challenge for the region, and was an area where SPC capacity building efforts should focus. Good partnerships were critical for LRD in implementing activities – no agency, project or programme could solve issues by themselves. Inadequate capacity within LRD often restricted the organisation's ability to respond to countries' needs, and there were certain areas within LRD where expertise was lacking. Inadequate funding was always an issue. LRD currently relied on project funding for 76% of its funds, which was not sustainable. Increasing costs were a serious concern for the implementation of LRD activities. Support for technical expertise could also be leveraged through the bilateral funding received by countries. Within the forestry sector, there had always been a lack of funding for sustainable forest management, and carbon trading systems can provide a source for this funding.

Documentation of lessons learnt was another area where LRD needed to make more effort. Better management and coordination were needed on the larger projects that cut across many countries. Furthermore, it was essential that the efforts of LRD were not duplicated by others in the Pacific. Within the region



Merremia peltata, an invasive weed species is one of identified weed problems for the Pacific.

there was a strong movement to “Go Local”, but significant funding was required to ensure more production to meet increased consumption and, at the same time, put in place promotion and awareness activities. This required a multiagency and multisectoral approach to make better use of underutilised species, and to strengthen capacity in seed-propagated systems. Several initiatives focused on trade and developing markets, and on the need to ensure that food security was not affected. The implementation of activities could be constrained by limited capacity, and affected the outputs. Better prioritisation of LRD activities was required, bearing in mind the JCS, HOAFS recommendations etc. An integrated approach helped with implementation through the sharing of resources. The lack of adequate and relevant policies was a challenge to sustainability and should be addressed. Another concern was the lack of interest by youth and the Pacific Youth in Agriculture Strategy provided a framework to attract more youth into farming.

Long-term funding is a constraint with many of the core activities within LRD and other non-traditional funding mechanisms could be explored. Every effort should be made to ensure that capacity building was part of any programme or project, and not just short-term training but also, possibly, attachments and internships. There was also a need to use more local expertise, which in turn strengthened capacity. Opportunities existed to strengthen information and communication, and regional projects could harness advances in modern ICTs. Memberships of institutes and societies, such as the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) and the Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI) Compendium were excellent knowledge providers and also strengthened networking and capacity building. Finally, biosecurity initiatives, such as the proposed Micronesia Biosecurity Plan and the Solomon Islands joint quarantine surveillance, illustrated the benefits from partnerships.

SESSION FOUR

LRD NEW AND ONGOING INITIATIVES

1. Increasing Agricultural Commodity Trade (IACT)

The Increasing Agricultural Commodity Trade project (IACT) is a new four-year project commencing in 2011 to be funded under the European Development Fund 10 (EDF10). IACT will be implemented by SPC/LRD in partnership with the SPC Division of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems (FAME). It will operate in the 14 Pacific members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP): Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, PNG, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Timor Leste will be included in the project.

IACT followed a recommendation from the Pacific Island Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry (2nd Regional MOAFS Conference, Apia, September 2008) that 'SPC expand its support to growing trade in agricultural and forestry products in PACPs and OCTs [overseas countries and territories]'. The total budget for IACT is €13 million, with €9 million being provided under EDF10. The project will run in tandem with the EDF9 Facilitating Agricultural Commodity Trade (FACT) project for the first two years, and build on lessons learnt. The aim is to 'improve economic integration through strengthened national systems and institutional frameworks to develop trade capacity, increase private sector competitiveness and increase international market access'. The project aims to strengthen Pacific ACP (PACP) productive export capacity in primary industries, that is, agriculture, forestry and aquaculture. IACT is one of four components of the Strengthening Pacific Economic Integration through Trade (SPEITT) programme.

2. Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade

After the HOAFS meeting in Nadi in 2006, SPC/LRD developed an International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)-funded project – The Development of Regional Certification Standard and Strategy for

Organic Agriculture in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories. This project was linked with an existing IFAD/International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) organic agriculture capacity building project to facilitate the development of regional organic standards through a locally owned process. This laid the ground work for providing more cost effective and relevant organic certification options for Pacific producers. This project also facilitated development of a regional strategy to map the way forward for sustainable organic agriculture development in the region.

Many outcomes have been achieved that were not in the original project but were identified as essential as the project evolved. These were accomplished through the commitment of LRD and other stakeholders. Although the project was complete there were many ongoing actions and activities. Through the formation of the Regional Organic Task Force (ROTF) to develop the Pacific Organic Standard (POS), a mechanism was formed that created a network – a public private partnership that has continued beyond the conclusion of the IFAD-funded project. This movement is now known as the Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POETCom). The POS has been recognised as technically equivalent to the EU organic regulation. Work was underway to seek equivalence with other standards such as those established in Australia. Certifying bodies in the region have agreed in principle to certify to the POS and also to train Pacific based auditors to reduce costs for producers. FAO is helping to develop the Organic Guarantee System – the structure and regulations required so that POS can be used for certification. The strategic plan for organic development has been finalised and published. Another achievement is the Pacific's first Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) which has been established in New Caledonia – 'BioCaledonia'. Institutional developments have also been undertaken regionally and nationally in support of organics and fair trade. Several JCS include organics.

High level support was important. The informal Pacific High Level Organics Group, chaired by the Prime Minister of Samoa, continues to advocate and raise awareness for organic development

SPC LRD launches new website

The Land Resources Division (LRD) of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) has launched a revamped website. The launch took place at the fourth regional meeting of Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services (HOAFS) currently underway in Fiji Islands.

In launching the website, SPC LRD acting director Inoke Ratukalou said the revamped website boasts changes that will make it easier and quicker to access information.

'The new website is built using Web 2.0 generation technology which allows for a one-stop-shop format for content delivery, information and knowledge on agriculture and forestry, climate change, and our working partners. All components contribute to a user friendly website capable of meeting LRD clients' requirements,' Mr Ratukalou said.

The LRD website was developed using Joomla, a content management system that facilitates the process of updating the site. "Joomla is a powerful open source content management system with new features such as news flashes, rss feeds, searches and support for multi-language modules," he said.

The LRD website is also designed to be accessible in the Pacific Island countries and territories, where low bandwidth Internet connections are common.

'I urge you all to visit our website and provide feedback in any areas that you feel need improvement. We look forward to receiving your feedback. You can contact us through our LRD Helpdesk,' Mr Ratukalou said.

Work on the website was made possible with funding support from German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), one of LRD's principal partners. The website can be accessed at: <http://www.spc.int/lrd>

at regional and national levels. The POETCom vision is that Pacific organics are the key contributor to sustaining our cultures and improving farmer livelihoods, communities, people's health and the environment in the Pacific. The organic market was worth US\$50 billion in 2008 and organic non-food sales grew 9.1% in 2009. In the Pacific 5000 smallholders are certified and they exported US\$6.6 million in 2009. Organic farming provides incomes at

village level, addresses health concerns about the use of agro-chemicals, and supports better management of the environment and biodiversity. POETCom acknowledges the support of governments, donors and development partners, and stakeholders.

PNG said SPC worked to help stakeholders become self sufficient and asked if POETCom needed to come under an SPC programme, as requested in the draft recommendations. POETCom said it would welcome administrative support as the SPC owned the POS and the seals, thereby fulfilling a legal role that could not be performed by a private body. The request for support was focused on the capacity to handle the certification. Ultimately, licensing fees would be paid for the use of the POS and the seals and this revenue would later help to cover the costs of operation. Until then, some help was requested for this transitional phase until the operation could support itself.

New Caledonia said that past experience showed when a farmer went organic the initial costs would be high for a few years, before incomes caught up. Because of the Pacific tradition of organic farming, farmers more easily adapted to it than in some other regions. New Caledonia had benefited from POETCom, in its efforts to develop organic certification and welcomed the opportunity to be involved in this initiative. POETCom said it was proud of the full inclusion of the French Pacific territories. French Polynesia thanked POETCom for its very useful work over the past few years. The government and the ministry were working on a standard and were setting up

the mechanisms to allow for certification. This system would be validated by POETCom in order to use the POS. It was hard to sell to Europe so it was important to have the POS recognised by the EU. French Polynesia had conducted a survey in Europe and found six standards, so that news of the recognition of POS was very important. POETCom said it was vital to have one common system to work through. EU accreditation was very important and the POS was recognised as being technically equivalent. The next step was to do further work with the EU in this area and to provide all the relevant documentation. POETCom would not be a certifying agency but would work closely with those agencies for certification and help to provide locally trained auditors. Some certifiers were concerned about the small size of some of the countries but the proposed system would allow for auditors from other countries to do the work.

Tonga said it had used a New Zealand agency to certify some products such as vanilla, but farmers found that the procedure was very expensive for processors and farmers. Other producers in Asia also gained certification for the product and flooded the market. Tonga asked how feasible it would be to use a local agency such as a government ministry. POETCom said the concept of using small, locally based certifiers was complex and the actual cost to be accredited was quite high. Most markets also would not accept a certifier that lacked international accreditation – and this was one advantage of working with certifying bodies already active in the region. There was scope to have a certifier cover more than one country on a visit to reduce costs. SPC said IACT had a proposal for POETCom coordination to be funded through IACT, and if the recommendations were accepted there would be no cost implications for LRD. Members spoke in support of the POETCom request and endorsed the recommendations.

The HOAFS meeting agreed to:

- (i) Institutionalise and implement the Pacific Organic Standard (POS) and POETCom by establishing a small POETCom secretariat within SPC to provide the administrative structure and support.
- (ii) Endorse and support SPCs actions in this area, and its provision of support to organic initiatives at the national level.

Presentation on CGIAR Fund Council

– PNG National Agriculture Research Institute

The Director, National Agriculture Research Institute (NARI), PNG, gave this presentation as the Pacific representative to the council. The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) gave a presentation on its roles and responsibilities and the implications for PICTs. The CGIAR had a new structure including a CGIAR funding council. CGIAR had 15 centres and 8500 staff in over 100 countries. Seven centres are crop specific, for example the International Potato Centre (CIP) in Peru. The new structure involves a consortium which groups all Centres and they report on mega-programmes. Its strategic objectives were based on food, environment and policies for people. The council had four functions – funding decisions, mobilising resources, governance and monitoring, and evaluation. There were three funding windows: mega programmes at the global level, specific donor funding, and the traditional funding to individual centres. Some of the mega-programmes were relevant to the Pacific, for example, Roots, Tubers and Bananas for Food Security, led by CIP (Peru). Capacity development would be available in many of the programmes. Representatives were drawn from regions and donor organisations.

Some of the implications for the region were the opportunity to contribute and influence global aid, participate and benefit from the work programme, capacity development in the Pacific, and Pacific region developing country representation. The Director, NARI would provide information regularly to HOAFS by email. He would hold that position for three years. SPC was not recognised as a regional body by CGIAR, although regional bodies could sit on the Council. This status should be addressed and could be facilitated with support from the Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research.



Tonga used a New Zealand agency to certify some products such as vanilla, but farmers found that the procedure was very expensive for processors and farmers.

FORESTS ARE VITAL TO THE SURVIVAL OF THE PEOPLE IN THE PACIFIC



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FORESTS • 2011

"Forests for People"

Celebrating the central role of people in the sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of our world's forests.



3. International Year of Forests in 2011

Forests and trees are vital to our well-being and provide vital services, such as biodiversity (flora and fauna); ecological services; water protection; soil protection; coastal protection; carbon sequestration; and social and cultural benefits. Forests and trees provide us with food and contribute to our cultural heritage. They provide a source of livelihoods for many rural communities, for example, pandanus mats. The value of exporting logs is significant, for example, providing 70% of foreign exchange in Solomon Islands. However, 350 sq km of forest was lost worldwide annually (the equivalent of Niue, Nauru, Pitcairn, Tokelau and Tuvalu). The factors for loss include unsustainable agricultural practices; unsustainable harvesting; other human developments (mining); over-grazing; and fires. As the population increased, the area of forest decreased.

In response to these concerns and to support efforts to promote sustainable management, conservation and development of forests worldwide, the United Nations General Assembly, in December 2006, adopted a resolution declaring 2011 the International Year of Forests. Various activities are being organised to celebrate the International Year of Forests and to foster more effective knowledge exchange on practical strategies to promote sustainable forest management. To support these efforts, governments, regional and international organisations and civil society organisations have been asked to organise relevant activities in consultation with the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat, the focal point for the implementation of the International Year of Forests.

The third Pacific Heads of Forestry Services meeting held in Nadi, Fiji Islands, in September 2009, recommended that the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) Land Resources Division (LRD) organise a regional activity and that Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) organise complementary national activities to celebrate the International Year of Forests. In response to this recommendation SPC is planning a number of activities in 2011. LRD requested the meeting to take note of what was being organised for 2011 and to consider organising country activities. Fiji provided confirmation on the number of trees planted up to last week – a total of 265,000 trees. The Ministry had a target of one million, but was encouraging communities to keep planting forest trees and also agricultural crops

The HOAFS meeting agreed to:

- (i) take note of the regional activities being implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) Land Resources Division (LRD), to celebrate the International Year of Forests in 2011, and to consider organising complementary national activities in support of these regional activities.

4. Information and Communication Technology for Development in the Pacific – Agriculture

The 'Framework for Action on ICT for Development in the Pacific' (FAIDP) was formulated in response to the call from Pacific Leaders at the 40th Pacific Islands Forum in Cairns (August 2009) for the Pacific Plan Digital Strategy to be reviewed and updated. This direction reaffirmed the continuing importance of ICT as a tool for development in the region and further supports the ICT Ministers' Wellington Declaration:

'We recognise that information and communication technologies (ICTs), while not an end in themselves, have a key role as a basis for economic development, while also promoting and enhancing social cohesion, cultural enrichment and environmental conservation'.

The ICT Ministers recognised that 'While the Pacific region faces a number of obstacles to the effective deployment of communications and other infrastructure, we acknowledge that the region also stands to benefit enormously from the effective use of ICTs'.

FAIDP outlined a new approach to developing and improving ICT services to support development and governance and improve the livelihoods of communities in the Pacific region. It acknowledges that national ICT policies and plans and an integrated coordinated approach are the principle means for ICT to contribute meaningfully to sustainable development. FAIDP was endorsed by Pacific Regional ICT Ministers in Tonga, in June 2010

and further acknowledged by the Pacific Forum Leaders in their 2010 Vanuatu Communiqué.

e-Agriculture

e-Agriculture is the use of ICT to deliver products and services to stakeholders of the Agriculture and Forestry sector. One of the key initiatives of FAIDP is e-Agriculture (as well as e-Government, e-Health and e-Education). And a number of FAIDP priorities are relevant to the Agriculture and Forestry sector including: developing access to rural areas and remote islands, websites, telecentre/community knowledge learning centres, financial inclusion programme, and linkages to the Energy sector. Financial inclusion (for example, via mobile phone fund transfer) would also help revitalise rural development. SPC approaches focused on 2 key areas: the use of ICT and collaborative approaches to implement activities focusing on good practices and success stories, and policies that have an impact on agriculture/forestry activities.

Mobile phones and Knowledge and Learning Community Centres can improve agricultural information sharing and increase the quantity and quality of agricultural information available, improving food production, enhancing food security and eventually enhancing market participation. These efforts could also contribute to more informed policy decisions in PICTs. PNG commented on communications being difficult due to terrain, and the use of expensive HF radio had changed to cheaper mobile phones. The ever changing nature of ICTs meant that PICTs had to keep up despite limited resources. SPC said 80% of telecentres fail due to financial constraints, thus necessitating a monitoring and evalu-

ation phase in the ICT Framework to address the issue of sustainability.

The HOAFS meeting agreed to:

- (i) Acknowledge that ICT is an important tool that contributes to the development of the agriculture sector and rural areas;
- (ii) Note the potential of the Framework for Action on ICT for Development in the Pacific in assisting the agriculture sector; and
- (iii) Note the LRD ICT initiatives in agriculture and rural development.

5. Pacific Island Countries as Parties to the International Treaty in the implementation of the Multilateral System.

The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) provides for the conservation, management and sustainable utilisation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and for the establishment of a Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (MLS) for plant genetic resources for a number of food crops considered vital for food security and livelihoods in several countries. As of 1 March 2010, five Pacific Island countries (Cook Islands, Fiji Islands, Kiribati, Palau and Samoa) were parties to the Treaty. Several other countries were making good progress in the accession process. Cook Islands said it had sourced some genetic material from France, and other genetic banks, as a result of its involvement with this arrangement. PNG recognised the benefit of the Treaty and was preparing to ratify. At a recent workshop (September 2009), concerns were raised about implementing the Treaty and its MLS. As a result the workshop recommended:

That countries consider taking full advantage of the services of SPC as an agent for Pacific Island countries to implement the MLS on their behalf and on request, both for the granting of access to countries outside the region and for requests for access to material from other countries outside the region. SPC, in consultation with the Joint Capacity Building Programme based on available resources, should draw up the proposals formalising such a scheme for submission to the next session of HOAFS, after consultation at the technical level through PAPGREN.





Dr Viliami Manu, Acting Director, Tonga MAFF, plants a tree and contributes to Fiji's Plant-a-Million-Trees campaign.

The HOAFS meeting agreed to:

(i) endorse the scheme for SPC to provide services on an agency basis to Pacific Island Countries and Territories that are Parties to the ITPGREFA in the implementation of the Multilateral System.

6. Implementation of multi-lateral environmental agreements - SPC LRD/FAO

SPC-Land Resources Division (LRD) was working with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) on the project "Capacity Building for the Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements in ACP Countries: Obsolete Pesticides and Pesticide Management". The project document identified the key focal areas for the Pacific Region as pesticide regulation, alternatives to chemical pesticides, and communication and raising awareness. The five countries identified to pilot this project are Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. The findings and results from these countries would be used to address the same issues in other countries in the region through existing regional structures or under future arrangement with FAO. FAO entrusted LRD to facilitate the key activities in each component of the project.

Cook Islands said recent meetings on registration prompted importers to ask about the urgency for this initiative. Some countries were exporting items to Cook Islands, such as Gramoxone, which were banned in the exporter country. French Polynesia said it was im-

portant to consider these issues as some pesticides were available despite being restricted elsewhere. Niue was concerned that chemicals such as Gramoxone might affect the water table because of porous soils in Niue, and it welcomed the work on this project. New Caledonia said it had green NGOs who contested the use of pesticides, and farmers would have to face this issue. Research in New Caledonia offered other options to pesticides, though SPC would need to assist with translation of the French documents.

The HOAFS meeting agreed to:

(i) A revision of national legislations to have a common platform for pesticide management across the region;

(ii) A harmonised system for registration at SPC developed in consultation with national regulators and with technical support by FAO;

(iii) For LRD to request FAO for resources through its TCP to support IPM and low input agriculture based on a review of existing initiatives and to develop communication tools to assist farmers in pesticide management and safe use of chemicals.

7. Pacific Agribusiness Research for Development Initiative

The Pacific Agribusiness Research-for-Development Initiative (PARDI) is a multi-partner project funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). It aimed to increase the competitiveness of market chains for targeted high-value commodities from agriculture (including horticulture), forestry and fisheries in the Pacific Islands. PARDI forms part of an increased allocation of support for research and development in Pacific Island countries provided by the Australian government, through ACIAR, beginning in financial year 2009/2010. The initial allocation for this work is approximately A\$12 million, over four years. As well as PARDI, this included increased support for post-graduate training in agriculture/horticulture, forestry and fisheries at the University of the South Pacific. The initiative covered Fiji Islands, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. PARDI was launched in early 2010.

Recommendations

The HOAFS meeting agreed to:

i. note the principles, R&D strategy and progress already made by PARDI; and

ii. endorse the further development of this initiative, in line with these principles.

8. International Society for Horticultural Science

SPC and ISHS supported and promoted the development of horticulture in the Pacific Islands. Actions over the next four years, leading up to a special effort to showcase Pacific horticulture at the International Horticultural Congress in Brisbane in 2014, are recommended for endorsement by Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services.

Horticultural crops, such as taro, yams, plantain and breadfruit, have traditionally provided the foundation of food security and livelihoods in the Pacific islands. Moreover, increased production of horticultural crops, and increased trade in high-value horticultural products, have been identified by many governments as a priority for economic development, offering benefits for food security, incomes and health, as well as a means to correct trade imbalances. These benefits were highlighted by the Pacific Food Summit and recognised in the Framework for Action on Food Security in the Pacific. A number of initiatives have been taken at different levels to promote research and development in horticulture and to establish an enabling policy framework for such development. However, progress is constrained by a lack of access to suitable technologies for the sustainable intensification of horticulture and by lack of formal research and development capacity to support the development effort.

Recommendations

The HOAFS meeting agreed to:

i. note the steps already taken by ISHS, SPC and partner organisations to promote collaboration;

ii. nominate Focal Points in each country to promote exchange of information for



Bare hillsides are prone to soil erosion and loss of top soil.....SPC officers, Mr Jalesi Mataboto and Ms Valerie Tuia help plant trees along a river bank in the Namulomulo Watercatchment Site, Nadi, Fiji.

the further development of horticultural R&D;

iii. endorse the proposed actions to promote capacity building and awareness, including promoting the active participation of Pacific horticulturalists in relevant ISHS symposia, the establishment of an internship scheme for on-the-job training and of a fund to support these actions; and

iv. facilitate the participation of staff of agriculture and forestry services in such activities.

9. Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access Programme

The Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access programme is a new trade facilitation programme established by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) to assist the LRD and PICTs to address market access issues. Experience has shown that the processes for gaining market access to Australia and New Zealand are lengthy, for example, gaining access for papaya to the Australian market took six years. The key

constraint is the capacity of the exporting country to prepare high quality market access submissions, and limited capacity to implement sanitary and phytosanitary measures. Countries need to prioritise those requests, so that once market access is granted, the exporting country can supply the product. The programme provides a mechanism to support export market opportunities for horticultural and other agricultural commodities. It creates a regional infrastructure that will identify and prioritise products to target and facilitate market access submissions, ensure their follow-up through the approval system of importing countries' regulatory agencies, and facilitate any necessary processes in the exporting country government agencies. The focus will be on high-value primary products (fresh and processed) with no limit on which market is accessed. Strong partnership between industry and government agencies will be encouraged and supported.

The programme will run for eight years in two phases. Phase 1 will run from mid-2009 to mid-2013 and focus on Fiji Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. Phase 2 will run from mid-2013 to mid-2017 and could expand the programme to other PICTs deemed to have strong export opportunities. Total Phase 1 cost is estimated at A\$14.0 million over the four-year implementation period. Of this amount, around 58% is allocated to Components 1–3 for establishing new or improved market access arrangements. Component 4 (regional support services, executed by SPC) accounts for an additional 22% of total cost. Market Access Working Groups will be established in the five PICTs where the Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access programmes are implemented to coordinate activities in each country. National Market Access Coordinators will be employed by the programme in each PICT, to provide secretariat support and maintain an operational link between the PMO and the programme.

Cook Islands said there were opportunities for forging generic pathways. Australia and New Zealand were traditional partners, but gaining market access was time-consuming, therefore working together could be beneficial. SPC said that the market access already gained by Samoa for Tahitian lime would reduce the time required for Cook Islands to gain access. SPC would assemble information on island cabbage for five countries and

submit it to MAF Biosecurity, New Zealand.

Recommendations

The HOAFS meeting agreed to:

- (i) note the assistance by AusAID for the project; and
- (ii) seek the endorsement of those countries directly involved in the project.

10. True Pacific Brand

This initiative aims to establish a quality mark, True Pacific, to signal the best of the Pacific and to help grow demand in developed markets. The initial pilot will be launched in June 2011 and address three sectors – fresh produce, long shelf life products, and spa and natural beauty products. Some barriers include perceptions that Pacific products are not of a high quality, that supply is unreliable and premium value is lacking, and that negative experiences with Pacific businesses have occurred in the past. Opportunities lie with perceptions of uniqueness, health benefits from natural products, and appealing to the social conscience of consumers. To use the brand, exporters must be a registered Pacific business and be export ready. Minimum standards apply which will assess business practices, product quality and product origin.

11. Global Soil Mapping and the Oceania Node

The world's soil science community is mobilising to improve access to spatial soil information. It is a response to the rising tide of challenges to food security, environmental management and the mitigation and management of climate change. The information on the soil and its processes (particularly across space and time) is not sufficiently focused on these issues, or readily enough available, to apply to the models and management systems we need in their resolution.

The global response has a number of features: (i) information should be consistent and global. Currently, the world's soil information is organised in regional or national systems which are not easily combined or accessed; (ii) the focus should be on functional soil attributes; (iii) the resolution should be fine enough for significant ecosystem and agricultural processes (no coarser than 100m grid) and



Mr Kanawi Pouru, PNG Forest Authority, plants a tree seedling and contributes to Fiji's plant-a-million-trees campaign.

have the soil depth functions consistently defined; and (iv) the information should connect with national and regional soil mapping systems. The soils community response falls within the GlobalSoilMap.net initiative (www.globalsoilmap.net). The global partnership is organised in nodes and the Oceania node includes the Pacific nations, PNG, Indonesia, New Zealand and Australia. Work has begun to understand the system requirements, identify some of the many datasets and broaden the scope and ambition for the global soils grid. There is a proposed link to the Pacific Soils Portal initiative.

PNG said it had a national soil database and Vanuatu had a similar inventory. PNG welcomed the training scheme due to the shortage of soil scientists. Tokelau welcomed soil research into atoll soil types to support agriculture development. French Polynesia asked whether the Global Soil Map would use existing maps or start from scratch. The project planned to data-mine existing maps, but to enhance them with improved information.

Recommendation

The HOAFS meeting agreed to:

(i) Request that Inoke Ratukalou be the representative of the nations within SPC within the Oceania node of the Global Soil Map initiative.

12. Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region

Climate Change is a major challenge for Pacific Island Countries in the twenty-first century and was viewed by Pacific Island Leaders in their 2010 meeting in Port Vila as '.....the greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and well-being of the peoples of the Pacific'. Since 2009, SPC and GTZ have jointly implemented the regional programme, "Adaptation to climate change in the Pacific Island Region (ACCPiR)". The project had started in Fiji, Tonga and Vanuatu. It aimed to strengthen the capacities of member countries to cope with the adverse effects of climate change and to avoid deforestation. Significant achievements have been made in all three project countries and at the regional level, namely the training of different key groups at SPC LRD in climate change issues; development of the new SPC LRD website with climate change as a major element; production of awareness and communication material on climate change; and procurement of laboratory equipment for the work of the SPC LRD 'climate ready collection'. The development of climate change adaptation strategies was progressing well in Fiji, Tonga and Vanuatu through regional workshops and national workshops in Tonga and Vanuatu. Climate change was mainstreamed in the Tonga Forest Policy – the first climate-proof forest policy in the Pacific. The project supported Fiji in the development of its Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) policy, which is currently before Parliament. Climate change was a core element in the new Vanuatu Forest Policy, and also in the Vanuatu Environment Management and Conservation Act, the Ozone Layer Protection Act, the Waste Operations and Service Act and five corresponding sets of regulations. Pilot projects on adaptation to climate change have been implemented in Tonga and Vanuatu, which will take into account sustainable land management, and utilisation of climate resilient diversity (crops, livestock and trees). Importantly, regional, national and local level communication on climate change in all project countries has been well addressed. The project recognised the importance of the media on the topic of climate change, and therefore

supported the Media Summit and the Climate Change Media Workshop. Most activities implemented under this project are undertaken by multidisciplinary teams.

In late 2009, the German government enhanced its engagement with the Pacific and pledged additional funds to the regional programme. As a result, the programme would include FSM, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu, and extend its thematic focus to marine resources, sustainable energy management and tourism and climate change. The extended regional programme is named Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island region and would run until 2015 with German government funding of €14.2 million. The strengthening of capacity at the regional level would continue and be extended to other agencies, such as the South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP) and the South Pacific Tourism Organisation. Mainstreaming climate change remained a key activity, as well as developing adaptation strategies. Capacity in the project would be strengthened with a Climate Change Coordinator based in Noumea, and a project presence in the North Pacific office and also in SPREP. Cook Islands commended the GTZ programme for its achievements and the German government for its significant commitment.

13. Establishing a Food Animal Biosecurity Network

The LRD Animal Health and Production thematic team has secured funding of A\$750,000 over three years (2010–2012) from AusAID under Australia's Pacific Public Sector Linkages Programme (PPSLP). The project is being implemented in collaboration with James Cook University and will fund the participation of both collaborating agencies (SPC and James Cook University). The project will be implemented in PNG, Vanuatu, Fiji Islands and Solomon Islands with the respective government departments and agencies responsible for animal health and production. The project will deliver enhanced animal health field and laboratory capability to the Pacific Islands to allow assessment under OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health)

guidelines for trade in animals and animal products.

Recommendation

The HOAFS meeting agreed to:

(i) Note with appreciation the assistance from AusAID, Queensland Department of Primary Industry and James Cook University.

(ii) Note the intended activities to be undertaken.

14. Sustainable Land management for Economic growth and security

Land is an essential part of cultural identity, binding communities together, and is an important element in social and political relationships. More than 85% of all land in PICTs is traditionally owned. Population pressure, unsustainable logging and the effects of tourism development all have negative impacts on land resources. These include loss of fertility, damage to watersheds, soil erosion and lagoon pollution.

Secure access to customary land for economic development, while ensuring sustainable use of that land, has become more urgent with the need to increase the pace of economic growth. Experience around the world shows that there can be no peace without equitable development, and this must include sustainable management of resources in a democratic environment free of conflict. The challenges then become, 'How can PICTs and resource owners unlock the development potential of their land, while at the same time retaining the security of their resources for current and future generations?' 'What is the role of governments in making land "work" for their people?' Sustainable land management is affected firstly by the amount of land available and then by the need to decide how best to manage that land.

The HOAFS meeting agreed to:

(i) note the decision of Pacific Islands Forum Leaders to prioritise land management and conflict minimisation in the Pacific Plan;

(ii) note the findings of the study on

Making land work and the assistance that Australia plans to provide to support this initiative in the region;

(iii) endorse the joint development by SPC, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the University of the South Pacific – with the support of national, regional and international partners – of a regional initiative on land management and conflict minimisation for economic and social development to be implemented by SPC specifically by its Land Management and Resources Support Team.

15. Joint Country Strategy process

The JCS guiding principles are responsiveness, relevance and effectiveness. They ensure that SPC activities are linked to the country's own policy frameworks, e.g. National Sustainable Development Strategy, and at the same time target SPC's approach to take account of the country's specific circumstances, needs and opportunities. The JCS approach promotes a more strategic longer-term approach to development while still retaining appropriate capacity to respond to urgent requests. The JCS enables coordination with other development partners and stakeholders, including the other CROP agencies, leading to joint strategies where mutually beneficial. The JCS is based on development priorities and strategies of member states. This approach provides a planning and monitoring tool, focuses resources on key priorities, and also promotes transparency and accountability.

The JCS design process includes a literature review, design of a JCS matrix, and the development of a member profile. Country visits enable stakeholder consultations from which a draft JCS matrix is developed for endorsement by the country. Most run from three to five years, depending on country needs. Reports are provided annually to countries, as well as an indication of the monetary value of the implemented activities. To date, 20 countries have completed JCS missions, with Vanuatu, Guam and Fiji in progress. French Polynesia, American Samoa, Samoa, and Tokelau strategies are in draft form for endorsement. PNG and New Caledonia will be completed in 2010. Marshall Islands, Nauru, Cook Islands and Kiribati are undergoing what SPC is calling 2nd generation JCS, which will

review effectiveness, to form the basis for further discussions with countries about what they expect of SPC.

Nauru told the floor that its JCS would expired in 2010 and that its National Sustainable Development Strategy was currently under review. SPC commented that this was useful information on current national strategy.

New Caledonia expressed interest in the degree of implementation. SPC told the floor that country reports and sectoral meetings had shown that substantial implementation of the JCS has taken place. SPC informed the floor that the Director's report provides information on country activities implemented under the JCS. GTZ commented that the JCS provides a sound base for collaborative partners. It facilitates effective integration of activities. SPC highlighted that under the second generation of JCS, CROP agencies had agreed to align themselves to the JCS process. This would better enable regional agencies to coordinate activities, and give members insight into regional agencies activities.

16. Long-term Sustainable Financing Strategy overview - SPC

In the SPC Corporate Plan 2007–2012 for SPC core business is defined as capacity building, capacity supplementation and



For the smaller island states, a focus could be on building their capacity to trade in domestic markets



The JCS approach promotes a more strategic longer-term approach to development while still retaining appropriate capacity to respond to urgent requests.

trans-boundary regional coordination functions (for example, regional coordination of ICTs and Food Security Framework). SPC Corporate Objectives are defined as increased focus on member priorities, strategic engagement at the national, regional and international level, and strategic positioning of the organisation. SPC had identified three key result areas, all of which had sustainability in common, namely, sustainable economic development, sustainable human and social development, and sustainable natural resource management and development. SPC's work covered more than 19 sectors, which must focus on the most important priorities where regional intervention can add value, have demonstrable effects at national level, help achieve national development outcomes, and be sustainably financed.

The SPC Conference 2009 agreed that SPC should develop a long-term financing strategy (LTFS) to sustainably finance its work. In order to develop a LTFS, decisions have to be made on the most essential, and the most essential and desirable activities. Most essential services are those that countries rely on for regional support, and which therefore require long-term financing. Essential services are those where countries rely on regional support in the short to medium term; these require medium-term funding. Desirable services would be beneficial if resources permitted, but would not affect countries negatively if not provided. Finally, is SPC the lead

agency to deliver those services, and could SPC collaborate with any other partners working in the same sector?

The process of achieving a LTFS has consisted of a number of steps, which have included commissioning of the services of a consultant, and distributing questionnaires to countries to determine country views on what constituted core services in the key sectoral areas in which SPC provides services. SPC Divisions were asked to do a similar exercise. Country visits were made by the consultant. A synthesis and analysis of results will be presented to the Sub-Committee on 29 and 30 September 2010 in Suva. Sectoral meetings will validate the synthesis and analysis of core functions. The CRGA Subcommittee will further recommend to CRGA what will constitute SPC Core Functions/ services in October 2010, to gain their concurrence. A Long Term Sustainable Financing Strategy will be developed, to try and ensure financing for the core functions/services of SPC

SPC is standardising its programmes, and therefore the Key Result Areas identified for LRD are the Outputs of the LRD Strategic Plan. These are the core functions of LRD as per the LRD Strategic Plan. The meeting was asked to consider if those outputs truly reflect the core functions of LRD, and if there were funding constraints, what functions could be put on hold until finances have been secured. GTZ commented that this is a timely exercise, but was interested to

know at what stage donors would enter into this discussion. SPC said that the EU, a key donor of SPC, was a member of the LTFS Sub-Committee, as were the Metropolitan members. SPC felt that the core functions need to be validated first. Finance for SPC activities could come from a number of sources, such as an increase in membership contributions, and members paying for services using bilateral funding. In order to determine how best funds are sourced, SPC needs to be definitive about what it does.

17. Long-term Sustainable Financing Strategy – LRD response

Group Discussion on Priority Issues

Cooks Islands referred to the difference in priorities between large and small member countries. Larger countries were better able to trade while smaller island states could be marginalised if exports were the main focus. For the Cook Islands, Niue, Kiribati and Tuvalu, import substitution was important. A lot of investment was going into Melanesia and countries like Samoa to facilitate trade. For the smaller island states, a focus could be on building their capacity to trade in domestic markets. Tuvalu said that shipping links also influenced the ability to trade, even domestically. Tokelau and Niue shared this concern and would welcome assistance. There was a need to strengthen and develop national capacity to comply with international and other relevant standards of biosecurity services. Tonga said the matrix form for priority issues should be simplified to help with forward planning. SPC said there was flexibility in the matrix which would be reflected in the range of activities under the proposed outputs. SPC said that agriculture and forestry should remain integrated and not separated, as most of the outputs affected 3 to 4 themes.

Presentations

1. Preservation of forest ecosystems in the PICTs to mitigate climate change

The regional REDD is funded by the German Government. Emissions from Pacific islands were low and there was potential in bigger islands to reduce emissions further. The Recommendations from the Heads of

Forestry meeting in Nadi, 2009, were relevant. Funding was available to help reduce CO2 emissions from the forest sector. REDD worked by linking to the trade in carbon credits and focused on forested island countries (Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu). The four-year programme has a budget of €4.9 million. Regional activities included a stocktake of existing policies and strategies, analysis of drivers of deforestation, and consultations on a draft policy to be ready for the Heads of Forestry meeting in 2014.

Recommendation

The HOAFS meeting agreed to:

- (i) Endorse the proposed programme 'climate protection through forest conservation in the Pacific Island Countries' and its elements.

2. Launching of Pacific Youth in Agriculture Strategy

Pacific youth lacked interest in farming, which led to urban drift, youth unemployment and an ageing farmer population. Ministers of Agriculture had

shown the political will to address the issue. A Youth in Agriculture Strategy 2011–2015, Echoing the Voices of Pacific Youth, had been prepared to help guide work in this area. The strategy, launched at the HOAFS 2010 meeting, recognised that countries faced different challenges and were implementing a number of activities to promote youth involvement in agriculture.

Recommendations

The HOAFS meeting agreed to:

- (i) Endorse the Pacific Youth in Agriculture Strategy and request that SPC seek and mobilise resources for implementation at the regional level and support activities at the national level.
- (ii) Endorse the final review of recommendations.
- (iii) Commit to taking the strategy and suggested action plan to the national level and adapting to your particular circumstances.
- (iv) SPC/LRD and HOAFS to report back on progress at the next HOAFS/MOAFS meeting.



The German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) has officially announced an extended regional programme – Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region, which will be funded until 2015. In making the announcement at the fourth regional meeting of Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services (HOAFS) in Nadi, Fiji Islands, GTZ Programme Director and Senior Adviser, Dr Hermann Fickinger said that in late 2009 the German government decided to enhance its engagement with the Pacific and pledged additional funds to the regional programme. It has allocated another EUR 10 million to the already existing SPC/GTZ regional programme Adaptation to Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region, bringing the overall German financing to EUR 14.2 million.

GTZ announces EUR 14.2 million extended regional programme on coping with climate change in the Pacific

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'As a result, the programme will also include Federate States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu and extend its thematic focus to marine resources, sustainable energy management and tourism and climate change,' Dr Fickinger said.

Under the new programme the focus will be land-based natural resources, marine resources, tourism, and sustainable energy.

The programme maintains the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) as the primary implementation partner and emphasises strong cooperation with the Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Programme (SPREP).

The overall objective of the extended programme is to strengthen the capacities of regional organisations in the Pacific Island region and their member states to cope with the adverse effects of and reduce their contribution to climate change.

The extended regional programme will continue the basic multi-level approach being implemented under the current regional project.

'This means strengthening regional partner institutions at national and subnational levels. Due to insufficient human and financial resources – in both larger countries and small island states – the regional component is a critical element for long term sustainable development. The thematic scope has been widened to include adaptation and mitigation issues,' Dr Fickinger said.

The existing project has an exclusive focus on land based natural resources, and therefore the project has been implemented by SPC's Land Resources Division in Suva, Fiji Islands.

Land based management will play still a very important role in the extended project.

However, marine based resources and functions of the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) that are being integrated into SPC will be important future components.

The HOAFs meeting heard that over coming decades, climate change will remain one of the key topics in the Pacific at the political level as well as at the community level, and the extended regional programme will continue to strengthen the capacities of Pacific Island countries and regional organisations to better cope with climate change through its significant funding, its long term perspective and its strong partnerships within the region and the respective countries.

For more information please contact LRD Helpdesk contact (lrldesktop@spc.int)

Youth in Agriculture Strategy gives young people a voice

An increasing number of young people need employment, yet there are limited openings in the formal employment sector. If more young people can be supported to develop agricultural enterprises and view agriculture as a viable career option, then issues of youth unemployment, food security, and rural-urban drift can be addressed.

The Youth in Agriculture Strategy gives young people a greater voice in decision-making processes related to agriculture. The strategy is the result of



a call made in 2008 by Ministers of Agriculture to explore ways in which young people could be supported to take up careers in agriculture. The strategy was endorsed at the 4th regional meeting of the Pacific Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services (HOAFS) in 2010.

Prior to the strategy's formulation, consultations with youth groups and organisations were conducted. These consultations revealed that the major constraints youth becoming involved in agriculture and agricultural enterprises lie outside the agriculture sector.

'Getting support to access land often lies within the community and family structures,' said Stephen Hazelman, Information, Communication and Extension Coordinator for the Land Resources Division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

In presenting the strategy, Mr Hazelman said that motivating youth to view agriculture as a career opportunity requires working closely with the education sector.

'We need to work a lot more closely and strategically with community structures, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), youth groups, the private sector, the education sector and financial institutions.

Under the youth-oriented extension, we need to work more with the youth ministry, private sector and NGOs that are working with youth groups already to provide extension support in a coordinated way,' Mr Hazelman said at the HOAFS meeting.

SPC's Youth Adviser, Rose Maebiru reiterated the call for a more coordinated approach when involving young people in the agriculture sector.

'One example is to encourage partnerships with the education sector to integrate agriculture into primary school curriculum. We've also heard this week about ongoing initiatives to support youth in agricultural enterprises and showcase their success.

As part of the FACT [Facilitating Agricultural Commodity Trade] meeting earlier this week, two of the awards for agriculture went to young farmers and these are great examples of how we can recognise the achievements of young farmers and showcase their success to encourage other young people to see agriculture as a viable career option,' Ms Maebiru said.

For more information please contact lrldesktop@spc.int.

SESSION FIVE

The Chair opened the session and noted that three papers were circulated for comments and amendment: a Draft Outcomes Statement, a Draft Summary Record and a Country Issues Matrix.

SPC will issue members a summary of priorities for sustainable financing for discussion by members.

Reflections on Days 2 (PNG) and 3

PNG reflected on the proceedings of Day 2 and noted the cross-cutting issues in the presentations. These issues were ongoing challenges and required action by members, partners and stakeholders. Partner presentations addressed issues such as trade for domestic and export markets, and the requirements for enabling better access to markets. The importance of forests was highlighted by activities such as the International Year of Forests 2011 and member countries were also promoting forests. Dissemination of information was an important tool for building awareness of farming issues. Opportunities existed at different levels for supporting and expanding horticulture. The work on the Joint Country Strategy programme was progressing. Long-term financing was relevant to member countries and there were opportunities to prioritise the support available.

FSM reflected on the field trip on behalf of the group. The group learned how Fiji was actively replanting as part of the one million trees campaign, and noted the Cook Islands representative had planted 29 trees during the visit. The group saw a range of activities to reduce the impact of natural disasters such as flooding. The group received 500 seedlings and planted almost all of them during the field visit. The visit to the private sector-led quarantine facility – Natures Way – provided good lessons for the group on how the private sector could work with ministries of agriculture to promote production, including for export. The group also visited a termite infestation area which has seriously affected some of the local communities. This highlighted how the Fiji stakeholders from different sectors were working together to try to address the termite infestation.

Food Security and Sustainable Livelihood Programme (FSSLP)

The FAO said the FSSLP was a framework for implementing Pacific Island Food Security and Sustainable Livelihoods. Policies and strategies were only as useful as their implementation. Key issues such as climate change, pests and diseases, and food security, could be dealt with only through partnerships across sectors. FAO and IFAD supported the programme. Meetings included the biennial meetings of the South West Pacific Ministers since 2001 which had identified three pillars – policy, trade facilitation and production. A pilot phase, costing US\$4.5 million, was agreed to in 2003 for an FAO Trust Fund. The 2005 meeting upscaled the Regional Programmes for Food Security to US\$72 million. After consultations, a final design report was prepared in 2009. In 2010 the Technical Cooperation Programme was focused on national capacity building for strategic project identification and design. The FSSLP makes use of experiences over many years and some of the partners include the FAO, EU Pacific Regional Agriculture Programme, EU/SPC Development of Sustainable Agriculture in the Pacific, IFAD and FAO Technical Cooperation Programmes. Key elements for food security include availability (domestic production), access (land), utilisation (2 to 28% children malnourished) and stability (climate vulnerability).

The four components of the FSSLP include (1) support to community and household investments (US\$18.6

million); development of service provision capacity and facilities (US\$8 million); multi-country support and food security initiatives (US\$8.1million); and programme management (US\$6.7 million). The management structure includes a regional programme steering committee as well as national programme steering committees.

The FSSLP seeks three outcomes – increased production and productivity; improvements in food security for more sustainable agricultural inputs, services and markets; and improving capacities, policies and strategic actions. Success will result from developing strong partnerships between development partners, regional and international agencies, governments, civil society and the private sector.

Some of the outcomes of stakeholder workshops during the country visits included enhancing partnerships; discussing hotspots of poverty and food insecurity; better understanding of project cycle management; and discussing gender issues. Emerging gender issues included rising food prices because women handle household budgets; women's involvement in inshore fishing and the depletion of these food sources; the need for more marketing support for women's income and livelihoods; new opportunities needed to increase rural incomes; and the gender impacts of trade policies and globalisation. Stakeholders were encouraged to include a gender analysis in their work. The emphasis was not on treating women as a bloc but focusing on those who were in the most disadvantaged communities and

households. Women's participation and inputs needed to be seen at all levels of the FSSLP.

Tuvalu said the FSSLP was timely given other issues including assisting Pacific youth into agriculture development. It was important for countries to see how the FSLP could help to build the sector. Tuvalu asked whether members had changed their priorities during the FSSLP country visits. FAO said it had not tried to evolve priorities for the members as this was a national matter. In Cook Islands, funding for mechanisation had prompted and altered the priorities previously identified. Other members had also changed their priorities in some areas. The scheme was still in the early stages and some ideas would emerge over time.

The Chair asked FAO to outline the timeline for training. FAO said the training was set for the last week of October. Some members had asked (private sector and government) to send additional people, including some who would pay their own way. FAO would develop some modules for the training which would be sent to member countries. SPC hoped to see detail on addressing youth in agriculture. SPC asked about nutritional and cash income factors and how this was covered in the data. FAO said income data varied across the region. It had found that the fisheries sector had quite elaborate data down to the household level and sometimes to gender. SPC said the region had many health issues linked to food, and asked how this would be integrated into the programme. FAO said only two out of 14 countries included the health sector in the country visits. This highlighted the need for cross-sector partnerships as health and agriculture outcomes were linked. Cook Islands said that during the next week there would be a meeting of the Cook Islands steering committee and a coordinator had been appointed. The destiny of the FSSLP rested with the members, and FAO was there to help support good outcomes. The national steering committee and stakeholders were very important to the success of the FSSLP. Strong partnerships were therefore vital across sectors and stakeholders. One way of moving forward was to coordinate national efforts across, for example, the health and agriculture sectors. New Caledonia asked if the FAO could take the OCTs into consideration so that it could be involved in these initiatives, as



Mr Anthony Brown (l.), Cook Islands Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, with other HOAFS delegates at the press conference to discuss outcomes of the 4th HOAFS meeting.



The FAO Food Security and Sustainable Livelihood Programme seeks three outcomes – increased production and productivity; improvements in food security for more sustainable agricultural inputs, services and markets; and improving capacities, policies and strategic actions.

these problems did not just concern independent states but the whole region including the OCTs. We should all belong to this initiative. FAO said that the EU was interested in food security and had visited the region to see how it might assist. The FSSLP was a multi-donor programme and the EU was most welcome to join. There were opportunities in the design for donors to be involved and to include the membership of those donors. The FSSLP was flexible enough to look after the interests of different partners. French Polynesia said it would be good to have a range of technical indicators that were reliable and objective, which could be shared so that we could measure progress as activities are implemented. In French Polynesia there would be strong interest in being involved with this analysis. FAO said it was for members to make this work for them. FAO thanked the members for their assistance during the country visits for the FSSLP.

Long Term Sustainable Financing Strategy (LTSFS) - Validation of LRD core functions exercise. (refer to Matrix, annex 2)

SPC presented that it needs a Long Term Sustainable Financing Strategy (LTSFS) to allow the organization to sustain delivery of services to its member countries and territories. Currently about 74% of the resources available to SPC is through project funding which is unsustainable. Therefore the Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations of the Pacific Community (CRGA) during its 2009 meeting in Tonga, appointed a CRGA Subcommittee on LTSFS, with the objective to analyse all of SPC's core functions delivered by its various divisions based on the three classifications - most essential, essential and desirable functions. It is through this validation exercise that LRD request the Heads of Agriculture and Forestry to provide their inputs as indicated in Annex 2.

Tonga said the question of sustainability clearly emerged during discussions. The core functions should focus on the sustainable management of resources as this affected other work. These two sectors – agriculture and forestry – are very important. There are national and global issues and needs to be addressed in the matrix structure as they were linked to funding in other areas. Some members believe that forestry was not adequately addressed in the matrix, which seems to have leaned towards agriculture. Kiribati said some of the core functions that were important to members were not identified as core functions in the matrix. SPC was asked to find other alternatives, and to identify more closely

with country needs than in a group approach. For example, food and nutritional security and the promotion of diverse food supplies were not high priority for SPC, but critical for Kiribati, because diversity was essential. SPC said the priorities would still be there as the core functions did provide some cover for other priorities that were particularly important for specific members. American Samoa said it thought they were asked to decide the most essential to desirable priorities, but the matrix suggested the higher ranked activities might knock some others off. The current matrix was based on the initial response from members earlier in the meeting. This matrix would go to the CRGA Subcommittee on LTSFS to guide further work. FAO said the activities in the matrix supported each other. FAO said the core business of LRD was to provide services to members and these services may differ for members. As long as the services were not eliminated for members, there would be benefits for members. Many of the outputs contribute to other outputs and were not isolated. It was important not to disadvantage members. Tuvalu said the reference by Tonga re forestry was a good point as forestry was important for bigger countries. Tuvalu supported the view expressed by Kiribati, that what was important for bigger countries might not be important for Smaller Island States (SIS). Care was needed to ensure that SIS members were not disadvantaged in the identification of LRD's core business as this would affect the service to members. PNG said it shared the views of members. For forestry, the 2010 HOAFS had endorsed the 2009 recommendations of Heads of Forestry. SPC said the matrix would go to management for a decision on allocation of resources.

At the suggestion of the Chair, the HOAFS meeting agreed to:

- (i) Note the validation of the core functions of SPC LRD and accept the exercise, but request that SPC does not lose sight of the different needs and priorities of member countries, and that funding be directed to those priorities.

PANEL DISCUSSION ONE

(Agrobiodiversity)

Panellists: POETCom/IRETA/CePaCT/FAO/SPC

Chaired by SPC – Dr Mary Taylor

POETCom said organic agriculture was a holistic system that drew extensive benefits from appropriate use of agro-biodiversity. Organic agriculture blended the borders between the diversity in nature through to the farm. USP said the challenges with agrobiodiversity were linked to the increase in human populations as well as agriculture and forestry development. The responses to these issues had an impact on agrobiodiversity. USP also reminded the meeting that diversity supports ecosystem services. CEPACT said promoting agro-biodiversity was very useful in helping people to respond to other challenges such as climate change. FAO said the move from subsistence to more commercial use of resources has been done well in some places but often had unintended outcomes which impact on agro-biodiversity. Many countries had also shifted to a reliance on imported foods which reduced the focus on preserving and promoting agro-biodiversity. The way forward was to show leadership on the issue of agro-

biodiversity. The importance of research must not be forgotten – agro-biodiversity has to be utilized and knowing how to use agro-biodiversity depends on the information that is available. SPC said protecting and promoting forest genetic resources and the systems that support forest genetic resources, were crucial for food security, and highlighted how resilient native tree species can be to the threats of climate change, such as cyclones. The panel discussion confirmed the importance of agro-biodiversity and also highlighted the need to utilize agro-biodiversity. Effective utilization required good research capacity.

New Caledonia agreed that research is important. French research organisations in the Pacific launched a biodiversity programme in order to progress research. This was about to be opened up to other research bodies and SPC would be advised when it commenced. SPC said it was important to have strong research programmes. There was good collaboration with French research organisations in a number of areas and these could bring about some good benefits. CePaCT could also take a leading role from a regional perspective. In the past there had not been much support for research but the time was right to promote this further. The French government and the EU supported some of the research initiatives in the region.

FSM said there was little logging but mainly their concerns were mainly on watershed management and conservation. In the North, loss of agro-biodiversity was common – it was a challenge across the region. There was a need to revive traditional practices that had sustained agro-biodiversity in the past. Imported food meant people tended to forget the

traditional knowledge and methods. There was also a reluctance to share some of this traditional knowledge. Previously, people knew how to select and harvest particular trees but now trees were being cut in an unsustainable manner. SPC reminded the meeting that agro-biodiversity also includes what happens below the ground, highlighting the importance of soil management. Samoa said if Fiji's 1-million tree campaign was also supported in the region this would help build biodiversity. Kiribati welcomed the Fiji tree campaign and said Kiribati was planting 2,000 coconut trees for each outer island towards a national goal of 20,000 trees.

CVA said the region was vulnerable to invasive species citing the invasive creeper vine (*Meremia peltata*) which is quite aggressive in the forest, destroying agrobiodiversity. Selective cutting could be an effective control. FAO said that invasive species had not been strongly supported in the exercise which determined core functions of LRD, highlighting the risks involved in making these decisions. SPC said the African tulip was a concern in some island countries and work was underway on possible biological controls to ensure they were safe to use, and highlighted how basic scientific research was needed to identify an effective biocontrol agent. Significant resources were needed for this basic research and as such limited resources added to the challenge of protecting agro-biodiversity. Tonga said forestry, soils and crops were also important. In Tonga only 10% were producing for export and the rest were subsistence. To engage the majority the main way forward was in organics but this was not as visible in the LRD key result areas. POETCom said most Pacific producers were organic but the industry was seen as a 'fringe' area. Organic

should be seen as a priority rather than as something at the end of the process, but did confirm that LRD Key Result Areas covered organics in a number of the Outputs of its Strategic Plan. SPC said a centre of excellence in the Solomon Islands would support a more holistic approach to agro-biodiversity.

French Polynesia said preserving biodiversity could compete with organic farming. One example involved the worm composting methodology, which sometimes involved worm imports - a full risk analysis would take time so the decision was made to import the compost worms. Another example was pesticides, for example biopesticides made with mushrooms, prompting concern by some that bringing in new fungi might carry risks, but a full analysis would have taken years so the risk was taken and the fungi were imported. French Polynesia said research in these areas could be conducted by SPC and shared with the region. POETCom, in response, said it would have agreed with biodiversity supporters in French Polynesia as the standard model for organic was to use the resources that were available locally. SPC said emergency response plans covered risk analysis in a range of areas.

PANEL DISCUSSION TWO (Agriculture and Rural Development) - Media

**Panellists: PINA/FSM/Solomon
Islands/SPC**

**Chaired by SPC – Stephen
Hazelman**

The Solomon Islands daily newspaper representative said local media tended to focus on the more controversial issues linked to logging. Government was often slow in releasing information to media who were trying to meet news deadlines. Media lacked an interest in the sector and often relied on official releases. Officials could help by encouraging the media to improve the news coverage perhaps through incentives such as prizes. The FSM Public Information Office disseminated government information. Working with media was useful to share information, to advertise and to encourage action. Kaselehlle Press had partnered with the Go Local programme to promote local foods. Recommended that departments have a policy for dealing with media



Research is important in LRD work. There is a need to strengthen research collaboration with national agricultural systems in a number of areas to bring about good benefits to Pacific islands.

PACNEWS Journalist, Pita Ligaiula, attended the HOAFS meeting to provide media support. His coverage is made possible with funding from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

Diversifying for food security

15 SEPTEMBER 2010 NADI (PACNEWS) ---The global demand for food will put pressure on the Pacific region to plant and produce more food.

Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) Programme Manager, Richard Markham said the Food Agriculture Organisation (FAO) estimates that food production globally will need to increase by 75% over the next 50 years, to cope with population growth and higher expectations for food and nutritional security.

"The challenge faced by Pacific Islands will vary a great deal from one country to another, depending on demography but it is certain that we will need to increase both total production and productivity," he said.

"And achieving this challenge will be made all the harder because of the demand.

Addressing the fourth regional meeting of Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services (HOAFS) in Nadi, Mr Markham said, *"The availability of land is a major concern in many islands – though the exact nature of that concern varies from one islands to another – some are among the most densely populated land on earth; others have relatively low population density – but almost everywhere the issue of making land available for intensive agriculture, horticulture or long-term forestry is greatly complicated by communal land tenure systems."*

Mr Markham said farmers need to diversify into more than one species of crops to ensure that industries are not vulnerable to diseases that wipe out total crops and industries.

He said the Pacific has a wide variety of staple crops.

"We did not learn the lesson of taro blight disease which knocked Samoa out of the export business and threatened the food security value of this crop."

Mr Markham said both crop diversity and crop-associated diversity can be managed to improve the productivity and sustainability of production.

"Probably no farmer or forest plantation manager goes out in the morning and says – "I'm going to reduce or destroy biodiversity today," he said

"Yet in most production systems, biodiversity is eroded - by management changes intended to boost productivity – or by neglect of the elements that sustain biodiversity.

He said the system of production or of post-harvest handling can be a very powerful force against diversity – because the crop or product needs to be as uniform as possible.

"For better or for worse, such high levels of mechanisation are rare in the Pacific," Mr Markham said.

"But there can still be powerful forces driving farmers to produce one variety - preferred by exporters for its handling characteristics or demanded by consumers in importing countries (often for no better reason than its familiarity)

"The forces driving the loss of crop associated biodiversity can be more subtle but nonetheless powerful. For instance, a farmer may perceive it as safer or more predictable to obtain crop nutrition from a bag of fertilizer, rather than by managing the complexities of compost and soil microorganism....PNS (ENDS)

and promoting news about the sector. The focus should be on one issue per weekly press release. PINA said media was often seen as a distant cousin in the region and a last resort. The media should be involved early rather than late. The media was a key partner in development but was often treated as a means to an end to help seek donor funding. PINA commended the work by SPC in recognising the importance of media through various activities. PINA believed that better partnerships with the media would benefit the agriculture and forestry sectors and the wider community.

IRETA asked about the view that media freedom belongs to those who own the media. PINA said everyone had a view about media freedom but this was not absolute and there were rules and regulations. FSM said editors had a role and the sectors could help by providing more content, as this helped to build public awareness. SPC said development issues were as important as media freedoms.

The HOAFS meeting agreed to endorse the:

- (i) Pacific Islands Extension Summit outcomes.
- (ii) Brussels Declaration on the role of the Media in Agriculture and Rural Development.
- (iii) Pacific Media Planning Seminar outcomes and recommendations.
- (iv) Pacific Islands News Association Climate Change outcomes.

SESSION SIX

Statements from Partners.
The meeting heard Statements from Partners which are available from SPC.

(i) Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research (ACIAR)

ACIAR supported research, development and capacity-building activities in eight countries in the region (Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu). The partnerships used expertise in Australian and national partner organizations to bear on

Mr Priestly Habru, managing editor of the Island Sun newspaper, Solomon Islands, attended the HOAFS meeting to provide media support. His coverage is made possible with funding from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). The exercise is to increase coverage of agriculture in the mainstream media.

Carbon capture' is future option for Solomon Islands forestry sector

15 SEPTEMBER 2010 NADI (ISLAND SUN) ---- Carbon trading is a future option and opportunity for the forestry sector in Solomon Islands, said the Commissioner of Forests, Reeves Moveni.

Mr Moveni and Undersecretary of Agriculture and Livestock, John Harunari are currently attending the four days regional meeting of Heads of Agriculture and Forestry sector meeting organized by Lands Resources Division (LRD) of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). Mr Moveni said carbon capture will expand the life cycle of logging plantation, reduce damage and enrich plant degraded natural forests.

Carbon trading is a form of emission that specifically targets carbon dioxide (calculated in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent or tCO₂e) and it currently constitutes the bulk of emissions trading.

This form of permit trading is a common method countries utilize to meet their obligations specified by the Kyoto Protocol, namely the reduction of carbon emissions in an attempt to reduce future climate change.

This concept is related to what is now known as Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD).

Mr Moveni said REDD is yet to be implemented in Solomon Islands but forestry officials have been introduced to the concept.

He also stated that natural forest exploitation to optimize revenue capture is also another future option for Solomon Islands.

"Making sure revenue is captured by obtaining 'fair' marketing log prices for Solomon Islands Government (SIG) and resources owners and on increased surveillance of shipping."

problem-solving research; once solutions were identified, ACIAR 'steps back' and works with larger donors, such as AusAID, and partner governments for large-scale implementation of development actions based on the outputs of research. ACIAR currently supports some 40 projects in PNG and approximately 30 in the other Pacific partner countries, to a total value of approximately AUD\$10 million per annum, equivalent to about 19% of ACIAR's total global budget. ACIAR recognizes the value of the partnership with SPC and its Joint Country Strategy process, in designing a well-targeted portfolio of regional and bilateral projects. While bilateral consultations with the government of PNG form the basis of ACIAR's program in that country, for the other Pacific partner countries it draws heavily on the prioritization process developed by SPC and accordingly ACIAR's program priorities closely follow those of SPC's Land Resources Division. Based on the expressed needs of partner countries, ACIAR's program places considerable emphasis on capacity building at several levels. Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services are encouraged to identify members of staff of their organizations who could benefit from scholarship and training schemes.

(ii) Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA)

The CVA is a voluntary association which promotes the veterinary and paravet professions. SPC is one of four associate members. A major initiative is a web-based knowledge system, which will have interactive features, and the CVA hopes SPC will become a partner. Animal health and production capacity is weak in the region and the CVA is working on a volunteer scheme to bring vets to work in the region. The human population is six billion and may exceed nine billion within fifty years. This has implications for food and other resources. A three year Diploma course in animal health would be offered soon.

(iii) European Union (EU)

The EC is very supportive of the Pacific at national and regional level with other development partners. A wide range of initiatives are focused on the Pacific. Some are directed at small island states and their need to adapt to climate change.

(iv) Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)

The partnership between FAO and SPC has been built over decades. Fiji and Samoa led a delegation to an investment summit in Manila in 2010, which led to a FAO-IFAD-UNDP joint project which also covered the Pacific. Other initiatives, including FSSLP, were in place. FAO believed it was important to have a substantive activity in each member country. The region was prone to natural disasters so flexibility was important and much FAO assistance had been directed towards responding to natural disasters. FAO had gone through reforms and SPC was doing a similar exercise. FAO had also de-centralised authority and resources in the Pacific. FAO had been asked to assess its work according to the impacts for members rather than the number of meetings and activities. FAO was moving towards evidence-based initiatives. Most of the assistance to the members was on a bilateral basis, although some issues were dealt with on a regional level. The funding to the SPC through the FSSLP, and other initiatives, would make it easier for SPC to respond to members. On forestry, the FAO was finalising a GEF project to begin in 2011 in Fiji, Vanuatu, Samoa and Niue.

(v) South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC)

SOPAC would merge in 2010 with SPC. SOPAC focused on non-living resources while SPC focused largely on living resources. Vegetation was one of several indicators for climate change as the changes could be mapped. A lot of geological maps were available but more work was needed to develop maps on soil information.

(vi) University of the South Pacific (USP) – IRETA

USP's main role was learning and teaching. The Institute for Research Extension and Training in Agriculture was re-established in 2009. IRETA offered courses and operated a farm to allow for practical experience. The research was focused on adaptation to climate change; food security and income generation. IRETA worked with a number of partners on horticulture projects and other initiatives. The extension and training arm of IRETA had an extensive programme. Agriculture being the most important occupation of the

peoples of the South Pacific, the PICTs need more qualified agriculturalists/vets to address their national food security needs. IRETA wanted members to send more students to the Alafua School of Agriculture.

(vii) SPC - Centre of Excellence for Atoll Agriculture Research and Development in the Pacific

HOAFS 2006 recommended that centres be set up in Kiribati and Marshall Islands. IFAD funded a centre in Kiribati in 2008. The aim was to establish a knowledge base on atoll agriculture, improve the approaches, and build capacity. Key challenges were the downward spiral of productivity, soil degradation, pests and diseases, water availability, deforestation, harsh conditions and loss of biodiversity. Trade and marketing was difficult due to cost and isolation. Improved crop varieties and livestock (poultry and pigs) helped to address some of the challenges. Good waste and water management were priorities for the atolls.



Tuvalu Director of Agriculture, Mr Itaia Lausaveve prepares to fly home.....the 4th HOAFS meeting ended on a high note with delegates acknowledging that the HOAFS forum is the way forward to advance the agriculture and forestry sectors of the Pacific.

The meeting observed a minute of silence for Franco Mateariki, an agriculture officer from Cook Islands who passed away while on duty travel in Micronesia.

The HOAFS meeting agreed to:

- (i) Note the contribution the Centre of Excellence for Atoll Agriculture Research and Development makes to the development of atoll agriculture in the region.
- (ii) Welcome the Communique from the atoll agriculture conference in Tarawa this year and for the Communique to be used as a guiding document for sourcing future funding for the centre.
- (iii) Endorse that the Centre of Excellence for Atoll Agriculture Research and Development be a framework to which donors can make contributions to research on atoll agriculture research and development.

SESSION SEVEN MEETING CLOSURE

French Polynesia said the importance of research needed to be better reflected in the Resolutions. This would be reflected in the Outcomes.

EU-Facilitating Agriculture Commodity Trade (FACT) Project

The HOAFS meeting agreed:

- (i) That this 4th HOAFs meeting recognises the work done by SPC LRD EU-FACT (Facilitating Agricultural Commodity Trade) project in the Pacific Islands ACPs to promote exports of agricultural and forestry exports.
- (ii) Further the HOAFs look forward to the early commencement of the EDF 10 funded IACT (Increasing Agricultural Commodity Trade) in 2011 which will build on the successes and lessons learnt under FACT, and develop national capacity for exporting of value-added agricultural, forestry and fisheries products.

The meeting adopted the Outcomes Statement and the Meeting Resolutions.

The Director SPC LRD thanked all the participants for their valuable contributions and also acknowledged the presence of the Minister of Primary Industries, Fiji Islands, Hon. Joketani Cokanasiga. LRD looked forward to working with members, development partners and stakeholders to advance the priorities of member countries and territories.

The Hon. Minister said over the last few days he had been impressed with the quality of contributions and presentations. A wide range of initiatives had been covered during the meeting. The HOAFS forum was the way forward to advance the agriculture and forestry sectors. SPC had limited resources. However the Minister hoped that development partners would take on board the range of needs in the region. He hoped the participants had a productive and enjoyable stay. The Minister wished everyone well and hoped to see them in Fiji again.

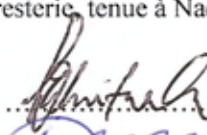
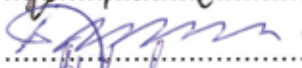

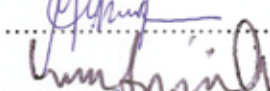

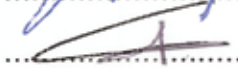

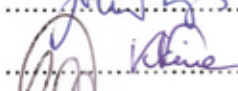

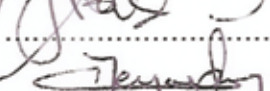
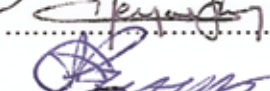

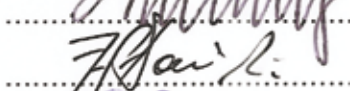
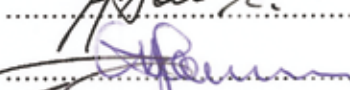
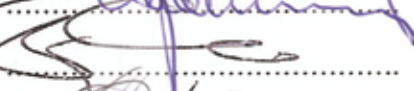
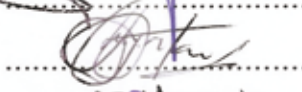
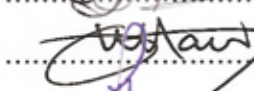


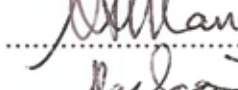
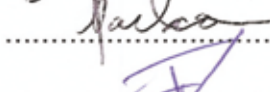




The Chair said many issues had been discussed and initiatives outlined. An important issue was also the JCS and the LTFS and the collective views on the core functions of LRD. Decisions had been made. The easy part of making recommendations and policy decisions had been done. The hard part of implementation must now start. The Chair hoped that when HOAFS met in PNG in 2012 that there would be an update on progress made. The Chair thanked the SPC staff and all those who had helped to make the meeting a success. This had made his job easier. The Chair declared the meeting closed.

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY

FOURTH REGIONAL MEETING OF
HEADS OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY SERVICES (HOAFS)
(Nadi, Fiji Islands, 14-17 September 2010)

The Heads of Agriculture and Forestry and their representatives endorse the Recommendations from the Fourth Regional Meeting of Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services held in Nadi, Fiji.

Les Directeurs de l'agriculture et de la foresterie et leurs représentants approuvent les recommandations de la quatrième Conférence régionale des Directeur de l'agriculture et de la foresterie, tenue à Nadi (Îles Fidji).

1.	Dr. Leo Leituala	American Samoa	
2.	Mr Anthony Brown	Cook Islands	
3.	Mr Gibson Susumu	Federated States of Micronesia	
4.	Mr Mason Smith	Fiji Islands	
5.	Mr Inoke Wainiqolo	Fiji Islands	
6.	M. Philippe Couraud	French Polynesia	
7.	Mr John Borja	Guam	
8.	Mrs Kinaai Kairo	Kiribati	
9.	Mr Henry Capelle	Marshall Islands	
10.	Mr Frankie Ribauw	Nauru	
11.	Mr Thierry Mennesson	New Caledonia	
12.	Mr Poimatagi Okesene	Niue	
13.	Mr Fernando Sengebau	Palau	
14.	Mr Francis Daink	Papua New Guinea	
15.	Mr Kanawi Pouru	Papua New Guinea	
16.	Mr Asuao Kirifi Pouono	Samoa	
17.	Mr Veni Gaugatao	Samoa	
18.	Mr John Harunari	Solomon Islands	
19.	Mr Reeves Moveni	Solomon Islands	
20.	Mr Pouvave Fainuulelei	Tokelau	
21.	Dr Viliami Manu	Tonga	
22.	Mr Tevita Faka'osi	Tonga	
23.	Mr Itaia Lausaveve	Tuvalu	
24.	Mr Ruben Markward	Vanuatu	
25.	Mr Livo Mele	Vanuatu	

Nadi, 17th of September 2010
Nadi le 17 septembre 2010

ANNEX 2: LONG TERM SUSTAINABLE FINANCING STRATEGY - VALIDATION OF CORE FUNCTIONS

LAND RESOURCES DIVISION	Most Essential	Essential	Desirable	%		
Food and Nutritional Security						
Policy development to support the production, consumption and utilisation of locally grown food sources	18	2	0	90%	10%	0%
Conservation , development, promotion and utilisation of Agrobiodiversity	15	3	2	75%	15%	10%
Promotion of diverse food supply systems	11	9	0	55%	45%	0%
Preservation, enhancement, utilisation and acknowledgement of traditional knowledge	6	11	3	30%	55%	15%
Integrated & Sustainable Agricultural & Forestry Resource Management and Development						
Support and development of sustainable forestry, agriculture and land use plans, policies, and legislation	16	4	0	80%	20%	0%
Development and promotion of sustainable and appropriate forest, agriculture and land use management practices	17	3	0	85%	15%	0%
Develop national and regional capacity to prepare, respond and adapt to climate change and natural disasters	16	4	0	80%	20%	4%
Support to invasive species, pests, and disease problems identification and capacity development to respond and address these at national and regional levels	16	4	0	80%	20%	0%
Strengthen national and regional capacity of extension, outreach and information services	12	7	1	61%	35%	4%
Biosecurity & Trade in Agriculture and Forestry Products						
Strengthened national capacity to comply with international and other relevant standards of biosecurity services	16	4	0	80%	20%	0%
Develop and strengthen national capacity to increase domestic and export trade	13	7	0	65%	35%	0%
Development and promotion of sustainable and viable post-harvest technologies	10	9	1	50%	45%	5%
Improved information available on plant and animal health status	11	8	1	56%	40%	4%

American Samoa / *Samoa américaines*

Dr. Leo Leituala
Territorial Veterinarian
Department of Agriculture
c/o Lutali Executive Office building
PAGOPAGO, 96799
Tel: 684-699-9272
Fax: 684-699-4031
Email: lleituala@samoatelco.com

Australia / *Australie*

Mr Tony Bartlett
Research Program Manager, Forestry
Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
(ACIAR)
38 Thynne Street, Fern Hill Park, Bruce ACT 2617
GPO Box 1571
CANBERRA ACT 2601, Australia
Tel: (61 2) 6217 0539; Fax: (61 2) 6217 0501
Email: Bartlett@aciar.gov.au

Dr Richard Markham
Pacific Crops Research Program Manager
Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
(ACIAR)
c/o Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
Private Mail Bag
SUVA, Fiji
Tel : (679) 3370 733 ; Fax : (679) 3370 021
Email: markham@aciar.gov.au

Cook Islands / *Îles Cook*

Mr Anthony Brown
Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture
P O Box 96
RAROTONGA
Tel: (682) 28711; Fax: (682) 21881
Email: abrown@agriculture.gov.ck

Federated States of Micronesia / *États fédérés de Micronésie*

Mr Gibson Susumu
Deputy Assistant Secretary – Agriculture Unit
Department of Resources and Development
Pohnpei State Government
P O Box PS-12, Palikir
POHNPEI FM 96941
Tel: (691) 320 5133; Fax: (691) 320 5854
Email: gibson.susumu@fsmrd.fm

Mr. Innocente Penno
Director
Department of Agriculture - Chuuk State
Email: innocentepenno@yahoo.ca

Mr. Valerio Hallens
Administrator
Office of Economic Affairs (Agriculture)
Pohnpei State
Email: oeaa@mail.fm

Fiji Islands / *Îles Fidji*

Honourable Mr Jocketani Cokanasiga
Minister for Primary Industries
Robinson Complex
Grantham Road, Raiwaqa
SUVA
Tel: (679) 338 4233; Fax: (679) 338 5234

Mr Mason Smith
Permanent Secretary for Agriculture
Ministry of Primary Industries
Department of Agriculture
Robinson Complex
Grantham Road, Raiwaqa
SUVA
Tel: (679) 338 4233; Fax: (679) 338 5234
Email: psagriculture@connect.com.fj

Mr Inoke Wainiqolo
Deputy Conservator of Forests (Operations)
Ministry of Primary Industries
Forestry Department
P O Box 2218, Government Buildings
SUVA
Tel: (679) 330 1611; Fax: (679) 331 8692
Email: wainiqoloinoke@yahoo.com.au

Mr Suliasi Tawake
Deputy Secretary (Agriculture Development)
Ministry of Primary Industries
Robinson Complex
Grantham Road, Raiwaqa
SUVA
Tel: (679) 338 4233; Fax: (679) 338 5234
Email: suliasi.tawake@agriculture.gov.fj

Mr Waisiki Gonemaituba
Chief Economist
Ministry of Primary Industries
Department of Agriculture
P D Patel Building, Raojibhai Patel Street
SUVA
Tel: (679) 310 0292; Fax: (679) 310 0293
Email: waisikig05@yahoo.com

French Polynesia /***Polynésie française***

M. COURAUD Philippe

Chef du service du développement

Ministère/Secrétariat d'État Ministère de l'économie rurale,
en charge de l'agriculture, de l'élevage, des forêts et de la
promotion des agro-biotechnologies

BP 100, 98713 Papeete,

Tel: (689) 42 81 44; Fax: (689) 42 08 31

Email: philippe.couraud@rural.gov.pf

Guam

Mr John Correa Borja

Chief, Agricultural Development Services Division

Guam Department of Agriculture

163 Dairy Road

MANGILAO, 96913

Tel: (1 671) 734 3946 / 735 3950; Fax: (1 671) 734 6569

Email: borjajohn@hotmail.com

Ms Belmina I. Soliva

Forester 1

Forestry & Soil Resources Division

Guam Department of Agriculture

163 Dairy Road

MANGILAO, 96913

Tel: (1 671) 735 3951; Fax: (1 671) 734 0111

Email: belsoliva@yahoo.com

Kiribati

Mrs Kinaai Kairo

Director of Agriculture and Livestock

Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agriculture
Development

P O Box 267, Bikenibeu

TARAWA

Tel: (686) 28 108; 28 507; Fax: (686) 28 121; 28 334

Email: kinaaikairo@gmail.com

Marshall Islands /***Îles Marshall***

Mr Henry Capelle

Chief of Agriculture

Ministry of Resources and Development

P O Box 1727

MAJURO, MH 96960

Tel: (692) 625 3206 / 4020; Fax: (692) 625 7471

Email: kikurto@yahoo.com

Nauru

Mr Frankie Ribauw

Director for Agriculture

Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment

Government Offices

YAREN DISTRICT

Tel: (674) 556 4106;

Email: frankie.ribauw@naurugov.nr

New Caledonia/***Nouvelle-Calédonie***

Mr. Thierry Mennesson

Directeur General

Institut agronomique néo-calédonien (IAC)

BP 73

98890 PAITA

New Caledonia

Tel: (687) 43 74 15; Fax: (687) 43 74 16

Email: tmenesson@iac.nc

Niue

Mr Poimatagi Okesene

Senior Crops Research Officer/SLM Project Coordinator

Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

ALOFI SOUTH

Tel: (683) 4032; Fax: (683) 4079

Email: livestock.daff@mail.gov.nu; poiokesene@yahoo.com

Palau

Mr Fernando Sengebau

Director

Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism

Bureau of Agriculture

P O Box 460

KOROR, 96940

Tel: (680) 544 5804; Fax: (680) 544 5090

Email: ffms@palaunet.com

Ms. Uelbil Puanani Michael

Chief Forester

Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism

Bureau of Agriculture

P O Box 460

KOROR, 96940

Tel: (680) 544 5804; Fax: (680) 544 5090

Email: palauforestry@palaunet.com

Papua New Guinea /***Papouasie-Nouvelle-Guinée***

Mr Anton Benjamin

Secretary

Department of Agriculture and Livestock

P O Box 4033

PORT MORESBY, NCD

Tel: (675) 340 2122; Fax: (675) 321 2236

Email: abenjamin@datec.net.pg

Mr Kanawi Pouru

Managing Director

Papua New Guinea Forest Authority

P O Box 5055

BOROKO NCD

Tel: (675) 327 7892; Fax: (675) 327 7856 / 325 4433

Email: kpouru@pngfa.gov.pg or kgigimat@pngfa.gov.pg

Samoa

Mr Asuao Kirifi Pouono
 Chief Executive Officer
 Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
 P O Box 1874
 APIA
 Tel: (685) 22 561, 22 562; Fax: (685) 21 865
 Email: kpouono@lesamoa.net; maffm@lesamoa.net

Mr Veni Gaugatao
 Principal Forest Officer – Forestry Division
 Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
 Private Mail Bag
 APIA
 Tel: (685) 23 800 / 51 444; Fax: (685)
 Email:

Solomon Islands /**Îles Salomon**

Mr John Maxwell Harunari
 UnderSecretary
 Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
 P O Box G13
 HONIARA
 Tel: (677) 22 143 / 28 615; Fax: (677) 28 365
 Email: harunari@solomon.com.sb

Mr Reeves M. Moveni
 Commissioner of Forest
 Ministry of Forestry
 P O Box G24
 HONIARA
 Tel: (677) 24 215; Fax: (677) 24 660
 Email: rmoveni@gmail.com

Tokelau

Mr Pouvave Fainuulelei
 Director of Economic Development
 Natural Resources & Environment
 FAKAOFA
 Tel: (685) 20 822; Fax: (685) 21 761
 Email: pouvave@hotmail.com

Tonga

Dr Viliami Toalei Manu
 Acting Director
 Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Forestry and Fisheries
 P O Box 14
 NUKU'ALOFA
 Tel: (676) 23 038 / 23 402; Fax: (676) 24 271
 Email: mafsoils@kalianet.to

Mr Tevita Faka'osi
 Deputy Director
 Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Forestry and Fisheries
 P O Box 14
 NUKU'ALOFA
 Tel: (676) 29 500 / 23 038; Fax: (676) 24 271
 Email: forestry@kalianet.to

Tuvalu

Mr Itaia Lausaveve
 Director of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture
 Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment
 Private Mail Bag
 Vaiaku, FUNAFUTI ATOLL
 Tel: (688) 20 836; Fax: (688)
 Email: ilausaveve@gov.tv; ilausaveve2@yahoo.com

Vanuatu

Mr Ruben B. Markward
 Director
 Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
 Ministry of Agriculture, Quarantine, Forestry and Fisheries
 P M B 9039
 PORT VILA
 Tel: (678) 23 406; Fax: (678) 26 498
 Email: rbmarkward@vanuatu.gov.vu

Mr Livo Mele
 Director of Forest
 Ministry of Agriculture, Quarantine, Forestry and Fisheries
 P M B 9064
 PORT VILA
 Tel: (678) 23171; Fax: (678) 25051
 Email: livomele@hotmail.com

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

Mr Mike Grundy
 Theme Leader, Sustainable Agriculture Flagship
 Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research
 Organisation (CSIRO)
 306 Carmody Road, St Lucia
 QUEENSLAND 4067
 Australia
 Tel: (61 7) 3214 2909; Fax: (617) 3214 2308
 Email: mike.grundy@csiro.au

Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA)

Dr Robin Yarrow
 Immediate Past President, Commonwealth Veterinary
 Association (CVA)
 GPO Box 15411
 SUVA, Fiji
 Tel: (679) 3384 980; Fax: (679) 3384 980
 Email: yarrow@connect.com.fj

European Commission

Ms Cristina Casella
 Attache, Regional Integration, Natural Resources and
 Environment
 Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific
 Level 4 Development Bank Centre
 360 Victoria Parade
 SUVA, Fiji
 Tel: (679) 331 3633; Fax: (679) 330 0370
 Email: cristina.casella@ec.europa.eu

EU-FACT Project Technical Advisory Group

Prof Randy Thaman
The University of the South Pacific
SUVA, Fiji
Tel: (679) 3231 000
Email: Randy.Thaman@usp.ac.fj

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) / *Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (FAO)*

Dr. Vili A Fuavao
FAO Sub-regional Representative for the Pacific Islands
FAO Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific Islands
Email: vili.fuavao@fao.org

Mr. Aleki Sisifa
Consultant – FSSLP
FAO Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific Islands
Email: Aleki.Sisifa@fao.org

Private Mail Bag
APIA, Samoa
Tel: (685) 20710 / 22127; Fax: (685) 22126

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) / *Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (FAO)*

Dr Kevin Helps
Senior Technical Officer
Pesticide Risk Reduction Group
Plant Production and Protection Division (AGP)
Food and Agriculture Organisation in the United Nations
PRETORIA, South Africa
Tel:
Email: Kevin.helps@fao.org

International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS)

Professor Ian Warrington
Vice President of ISHS, and
Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Massey University
Massey University Manawatu
Private Bag 11 222
PALMERSTON NORTH 4442
New Zealand
Tel: (64) 6 356 9099 ext 5243
Email:

Landcare Research New Zealand Limited

Landcare Research
PO Box 40, LINCOLN 7640
New Zealand
Tel: (64) 3 321 9698; Fax (64) 3 321 9989

Mr James Barringer
Scientist (GIS)
Email: barringerj@landcareresearch.con.nz

Dr Allan Hewitt
Email: hewitta@LandcareResearch.co.nz

National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI)

Dr Raghunath Ghodake
Director General
Papua New Guinea National Agricultural Research
Institute
SATRC, P O Box 4415
LAE, Morobe Province, Papua New Guinea
Tel: (675) 475 1444 / 475 1445; Fax: (675) 475 1449
Email: raghunath.ghodake@nari.org.pg

Pacific Cooperation Foundation

Ms Markerita (Meg) Poutasi
Chief Executive Officer
Email: meg@pcf.org.nz

Mr Christopher (Chris) Roy Cocker
Senior Programme Manager
Email: ChrisC@pcf.org.nz

Pacific Cooperation Foundation (PCF)
PO Box 10467
The Terrace
Wellington 6143, New Zealand
Tel: (64) 4 9319380; Fax: (64) 4 9319382

Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POETCom)

Ms Karen Mapusua
POETCom Representative
Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POETCom)
P O Box 6591
APIA, Samoa
Tel: (685) 21 959; Fax: (685) 25 246
Email: Karen@womeninbusiness.ws

Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) /

***Commission océanienne de recherches géoscientifiques
appliquées (SOPAC)***

Dr. Wolf Forstreuter
GIS-Remote Sensing Specialist
Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC)
Private Mail Bag
SUVA, Fiji
Tel: (679) 3381 377; Fax: (679) 3370 040
Email: wolf@sopac.org

University of the South Pacific (USP) / *Université du Pacifique Sud (USP)*

Dr Mohammed Umar
Director, Institute for Research, Extension and Training in
Agriculture (IRETA)
Faculty of Business and Economics
The University of the South Pacific

Private Mail Bag
Alafua Campus Apia, Samoa
Tel: (685) 22 350 / 21671; Fax: (685) 22347
Email: umar_m@samoa.usp.ac.fj

Consultant - Rapporteur

Mr Ulafala Aiavao
440 Hillsborough Road
Lynfield, Auckland
New Zealand
Email: ulafala@gmail.com

Pacific Regional Media Support

Matai Akauola
Pacific Islands News Association Coordinator
Fiji

Katalina Tohi
Radio Programme Manager, Broadcom
Tonga

Priestley Habru
Solomon Islands

Judy Mahan
FSM Special Information Officer to the President
Federated States of Micronesia

Dominic Appi
Manager, Nauru Media Bureau
Nauru

Pita Ligaiula
Pacific Islands News Association (PINA)

**SPC SECRETARIAT/SECRETARIAT GÉNÉRAL DE
LA COMMUNAUTÉ DU PACIFIQUE**

**Land Resources Division (LRD)/Division ressources
terrestres**

Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji
Tel: (679) 3370733; Fax: (679) 3370021;
Email: lrd@spc.int

Mr Inoke Ratukalou
Acting Director, Land Resources Division/
Directeur de la Division ressources terrestres
Email: inoker@spc.int

Mr Warea Orapa
Coordinator, Plant Health/
Coordonnateur du Groupe santé des végétaux
Email: wareao@spc.int

Dr Ken Cokanasiga
Animal Health and Production Adviser/
Conseiller en santé et productions animales
Email: kenc@spc.int

Dr Viliami Fakava
BioSecurity and Trade Facilitation Adviser/
Conseiller en biosécurité et facilitation du commerce
Email: viliamif@spc.int

Mr Sairusi Bulai
Regional Forests and Trees Adviser/
Conseiller en Foresterie et Arboriculture
Email: sairusib@spc.int

Dr Siosiu Halavatau
Coordinator, Crop Production/
Email: siosiuah@spc.int

Dr Mary Taylor
Genetic Resources Coordinator/CePaCT Manager
*Coordonnatrice des ressources génétiques, Directrice du
Centre d'étude des cultures et des arbres du Pacifique*
Email: maryt@spc.int

Dr Lex Thomson
FACT Team Leader - Agri-Forestry Export Production
Specialist/*Coordonnateur du groupe Facilitation du
commerce de produits agricoles/
Spécialiste de la production agro-forestière destinée à
l'exportation*
Email: lext@spc.int

Mr Stephen Hazelman
Coordinator Information and Extension Services/
Coordonnateur des services d'information et de vulgarisation
Email: stephenh@spc.int

Ms Sushil Narayan
Coordinator Administration and Finance
Email: sushiln@spc.int

Mr Emil Adams
Information Officer – LRD/
Chargé de l'information - Division ressources terrestres
Email: emila@spc.int

Ms Valerie Tuia
Curator –CePaCT/
*Conservatrice du Centre d'étude des cultures et des arbres du
Pacifique*
Email: valeriet@spc.int

Ms Anju Mangal
Training Officer – Animal Health and Production
Email: anjum@spc.int

Mr Simione Tukidia
Publication Assistant/
Adjoint du chargé de l'information (publications)
Email: simionet@spc.int

Ms Apiame Cegumalua
Export Processing Marketing Officer
Email: apiamec@spc.int

Mr Tevita Kete
Plant Genetic Resources Officer
Email: tevitak@spc.int

Mr Cenon Padolina
Regional Forest Genetic Resources Officer
Email: Cenonp@spc.int

Mr Jalesi Mateboto
Community Forestry Technician
Email: Jalesim@spc.int

Mr Usaia Tawakevou
IT Technician (SPC):
Technicien en informatique
Email: usaiat@spc.int

Mr Roy Masamdu
Biosecurity and Trade Facilitation Officer
Email: roym@spc.int

Ms Mua Tausie
Programme Assistant
Adjointe administrative
Email: muat@spc.int

Ms Jenita Prakash
Programme Assistant/
Adjointe administrative
Email: jenitaj@spc.int
Dr Ilagi Puana
Sub regional Animal Health Specialist
Email: ilagip@spc.int

Mr Tony Gunua
Plant Pathologist
Email: tonyg@spc.int

Mr Vinesh Prasad
Information, Communication and Technology Assistant
Email: vineshp@spc.int

SPC/GTZ Adaptation to Climate Change
in the Pacific Island Region
P.O. Box 14041, SUVA, Fiji Islands
Tel: +679 3305 983 / 3307 543; Fax: +670 3315 446
www.gtz.de

Dr. Hermann Fickinger
GTZ Program Director & Senior Adviser
Email: Hermann.Fickinger@gtz.de

Ms Christine Fung
Land use and Facilitation Specialist
Email: Christine.Fung@gtz.de

Ms Marita Manley
Climate Change and Knowledge Management Adviser
Email: Marita.Manley@gtz.de

Mr Felix Ries
Junior Adviser Portfolio Development
Email: Felix.Ries@gtz.de

SPC Headquarters (Noumea)

B.P.D5, 98848 NOUMÉA CEDEX, Nouvelle-Calédonie
Tel: (687) 26.20.00; Fax: (687) 26.38.18
Email: spc@spc.int

Ms Sophie Lockner
Interpreter (Team leader)/*Interprète (Chef d'équipe)*
Email: sophiel@spc.int

Ms Isabelle Barbot
Interpreter/*Interprète*
Email: isabelleb@spc.int

Mr Patrick Delhay
Interpreter/*Interprète*
Email: patrickd@spc.int

Ms Marie-Françoise Bourgoin
Translator/*Traducteur*
Email: mariefrancoiseb@spc.int

Ms Catherine Bressler
French Secretary/*Secrétaire (français)*
Email: catherineBr@spc.int

SPC Regional Office (Suva)

Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji
Tel: (679) 3370733; Fax: (679) 3370021; Email: lrd@spc.int

Ms Patricia Sach
Planning Adviser
Strategic Policy and Planning Unit
Email: patricias@spc.int

Mr Siasosi Solaveni
ICT Outreach Coordinator
Economic Development Division
Email: siasosis@spc.int

Ms Ruci Mafi
Communications and Training Assistants
Regional Media Centre
Email: rucim@spc.int

ANNEX 4: ACRONYMS

AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
ACIAR	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
CABI	Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau International
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CePaCT	Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees
CFP	Comptoir Français du Pacifique (French Pacific Franc)
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CIRAD	Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement
CRGA	Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations
CROP	Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific
DSAP	Development of Sustainable Agriculture in the Pacific programme (SPC)
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
GTZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Technische Zusammenarbeit GmbH (German Technical Cooperation Agency)
HOAFS	Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services
Impextek	Import-Export Technology Centre
IRETA	Institute for Research, Extension and Training in Agriculture
ISSG	Invasive Species Specialist Group
LRD	Land Resources Division
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MELAD	Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agriculture Development
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOAF	Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry
MPI	Ministry of Primary Industries
MRD	Ministry of Resources and Development
NZAP	New Zealand Aid Programme
OIE/WOAH	Office International des Epizooties/World Organisation for Animal Health
PACER	Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations
PAFPNET	Pacific Agriculture and Forestry Policy Network
PGRFP	SPC/GTZ Pacific German Regional Forestry Project
PICTA	Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement
PICTs	Pacific Island countries and territories
PIFACC	Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change
PPLD	Pacific Pest List Database
PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
RGC	Regional Germplasm Centre
RPFS	Regional Programme for Food Security (FAO)
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
PRIPP	Pacific Regional Influenza Pandemic Preparedness
SOPAC	Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Islands Regional Environment Programme
SPRIG	South Pacific Regional Initiative on Forest Genetic Resources
SPS	Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
USDA-FS	United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service
USDARS	United States Department of Agriculture Research Service
USP	University of the South Pacific
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization