

The Pacific Community

*Sustainable Pacific Development
through Science, Knowledge
and Innovation*



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique

PACIFIC FOOD SYSTEMS

Toward a future where everyone in the Pacific is well nourished, by resilient equitable food systems that contribute to healthy people, ecosystems, vibrant cultures, and prosperity for all.

The Pacific region has a unique place in the global food system.

Between 50 – 70 percent of Pacific people depend on agriculture and fishing activities for their livelihoods. The region's sustainably managed tuna fisheries contribute 50 percent of the global tuna catch. The Pacific is also home to extensive crop biodiversity, and Pacific countries are developing unique value chains for markets and international supply, including of high-value products. The sustainable management of these food systems provides significant contributions to the global food supply chain.

However, Pacific countries face unique challenges in realising equitable benefits in the global food system, with implications for the health and livelihoods of Pacific people and the economic development of the region. The Pacific faces a triple burden of malnutrition, and non-communicable diseases and associated risk factors are the leading causes of premature death in most PICTs. Climate change poses a fundamental threat to Pacific

food systems. Urgent global and local action is needed to manage climate change and other risks, including for the most vulnerable, to ensure no one is left behind.

The Pacific Community (SPC) is proud to partner with our member countries and territories on our shared food systems journey. Our shared Blue Pacific identity connects our diverse cultures and ways we manage our food systems. The Pacific Community is the only regional agency that has combined competence in multiple areas related to the “blue” and “green” nexus of food production, consumption, trade, and policy. This includes work in health, climate and oceans science, disaster resilience, agriculture and forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, water, energy, culture, human rights, youth, gender, and statistics.

The **Pacific Food Systems** Flagship programme brings together this expertise and existing centres of excellence to realise national and regional food systems priorities, and elevate the voice of Pacific people in global forums.

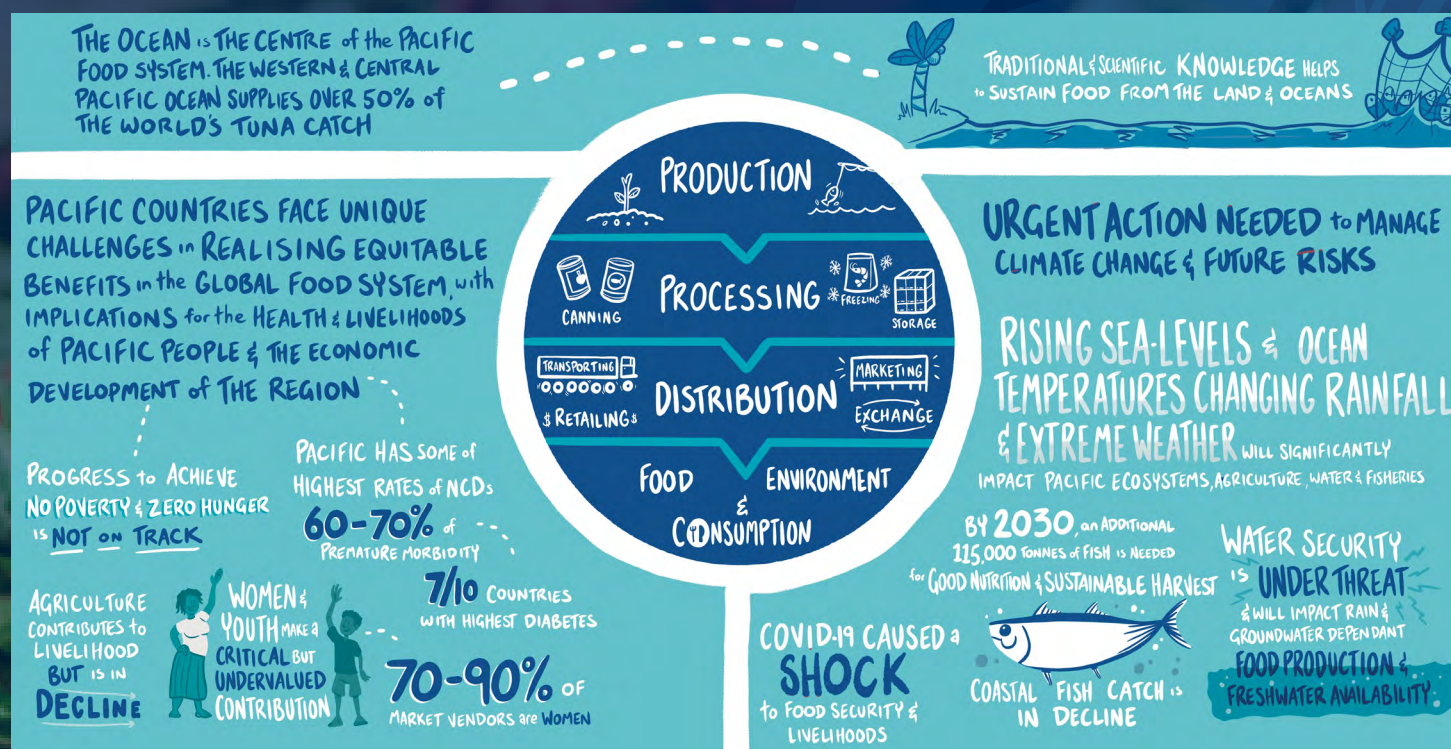


A systems approach

Food systems thinking is essential to address the food and nutrition, sustainability and climate challenges for Pacific countries and territories. In simple terms, a food system is that set of interacting elements and outcomes that describe the production, processing, trade, and consumption of food. This includes both “green” (land centred) and “blue” (ocean and aquatic centred) and people-centred dimensions. Equitable, regenerative food systems are essential to food and nutrition

security, and for the health, wellbeing and prosperity of Pacific people in all their diversities.

The 2021 UN Food Systems Summit set the stage for global food systems transformation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Pacific countries have developed food systems pathways that articulate a national food systems vision and means to reaching that vision.



A long-term commitment

SPC's Strategic Plan identifies food systems as a Key Focus Area that will shape our work in the coming decade.

We are committed to:

- supporting our member countries to implement national food systems pathways that link blue and green through the interplay of land, ocean and people
- creating space for regional dialogue and collaboration to share learning and leverage new science and traditional knowledge
- building bridges between sectors, institutions and interest groups, including between private sector, civil society, communities and governments.
- an inclusive and equitable approach so that Pacific food producers and consumers, in all their diversities, benefit from food systems.
- developing partnerships and mobilising resources for and with the Pacific
- elevating Pacific voices (including those of women, youth and elders) and priorities on the global stage.

Recognising that the ocean is at the heart of Pacific food system, SPC has joined the **Coalition for Aquatic / Blue Foods**, striving to realise the full potential of sustainable blue foods, to help end malnutrition and build nature-positive, equitable and resilient food systems.

The Pacific Food Systems Flagship

Our Goal

Pacific food systems are accessible, regenerative, biodiverse, equitable and resilient to shocks. They provide access to safe and nutritious food and contribute to healthy people, ecosystems, vibrant cultures and prosperity for all

Action Areas

SPC, with our partners, is developing a set of interconnected action areas and a value chain approach to realise this food systems vision and advance national food systems pathways.

Science for nutritious and resilient food production



If we advance understanding of the nutritional value of a broad range of Pacific foods, build on local and traditional knowledge, and apply research on the resilience of food production systems we can ensure that **Pacific people have access to nutritious diets in the face of climate change.**

Healthy and equitable food environments



If policies promote fair access to healthy and nutritious food, and are combined with education and awareness on healthy eating and fair market access for Pacific food producers, the Pacific can **combat the crisis of non-communicable diseases, supporting health, wellbeing, sustainable consumption and greater equity for Pacific producers.**

Critical public goods for Pacific Food Systems



Through long-term planning and investment for critical regional public goods, including conservation of the genetic diversity of crop and tree species, the safeguarding of biosecurity and developing regional aquaculture capabilities, **we will enhance food production potential while safeguarding the rich genetic diversity of Pacific foods.**

Innovation in coastal and atoll food systems



By taking an integrated approach that applies agroecological approaches, nature positive, circular solutions to land use and water management, coastal fisheries and aquaculture, we can **boost food production by coastal populations who are most exposed to climate change impacts while protecting reef and ocean health.**

Future food capacities



By investing in the capabilities of governments and food systems actors to apply systems approaches to food systems challenges, apply One Health approaches that address interface between animal, environmental and human health, and provide opportunities for women and young people, **Pacific food systems leaders will drive local and global transition to nutritious and sustainable food systems.**

Harnessing digital technologies



By encouraging the uptake of appropriate innovative technologies by food systems stakeholders, we can better understand large scale drivers in the food system, support decision making from household through to national and regional level, leading to **better informed and engaged consumers and producers, smarter farming and fisheries systems, and improved policies.**

A knowledge base for action

SPC is a research and statistical systems leader in the Pacific, continually producing products that contribute to understanding of food and nutrition security in the Pacific region and the evolution of the Pacific food system. This work is crucial to understanding food systems, the outcomes of any interventions (including for women and youth) and progress toward the SDGs.

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