

## PACIFIC COMMUNITY, LAND RESOURCES DIVISION IN THE PACIFIC Overview of Current and Future Support



LRD  
Land  
Resources  
Division

POPULATION  
(2020)  
**17,930**

POPULATION  
GROWTH (2020)  
**+0.21%**

GDP PER CAPITA  
(USD) 2020  
**15,673**

### Palau - LRD Cooperation Summaries



#### **OBJECTIVE 1: Land, agriculture, forestry and genetic resources are sustainable managed/ conserved**

- The GRIN-Global genebank information system was installed to trial its compatibility with CePaCT's documentation systems. The new system will have a website where users can access information on crops that are available from the CePaCT genebank.
- At end of December 2020, a total of 2,241 accessions of 18 crops were conserved at CePaCT. A total of 67% of the accessions originated from the Pacific, representing diversity from 16 Pacific Island Countries and territories, including Palau with a total of 27 accessions of 2 crops (Giant Swamp taro, Taro).
- Two regional workshops were held by PROTEGE (coconut and forests/ agroforestry). These workshops made it possible to develop two regional action plans (one for the coconut sector and one for forestry and agroforestry).



#### **OBJECTIVE 2: Enhanced ability to meet local and international market requirements for agricultural and forest products**

- Two workshops were facilitated by Palau in-country partners, with remote support from POETCom (Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community). The first workshop on soil fertility and plant nutrition was attended by 22 participants (11 women, 6 men, 5 unreported). The second workshop, an introduction to organic farming, was attended by 19 participants (14 women, 4 men, 1 unreported).
- COVID-19 delayed work on the diversification of livelihoods and value chains. However, the work is expected to be on track as the situation normalises. The gender and value-chain assessment toolkit is being developed.
- The gender and value-chain assessment training module for agricultural products is being developed. A financial training module, the Participatory Guarantee System and the Pacific Organic Standard are being revised.

- The LRD team is currently engaging a video production company to film biosecurity training videos on biosecurity operating procedures for pre-border, border and post-border risk assessments.
- Ongoing technical advice and support is being provided remotely to farmers on request. Organic farming practices were promoted through weekly posts and the POETCom (Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community) Quarter 3 newsletter, as well as through POETCom's website and social media platforms.
- A workshop on the regional International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is scheduled to be held from 31 August – 3 September 2021.



#### **OBJECTIVE 3: Access to diverse and nutritious agriculture and forestry resources resilient to impact of climate change and disasters**

- An assessment of the seed production programme in Sigatoka and Legalega Research Station, Fiji, with targeted support collated to strengthen the seed unit can also benefit the whole region including Palau.
- LRD has developed models for crop variety development and seed production, dissemination of seeds and planting material, and Quality Declared Seeds/Quality Declared Planting Materials for sustainable seed systems in the Pacific that benefitted Palau.
- An economic analysis of growing capsicum and tomato in the off season under a protected cropping system showed higher returns compared with field growing. The results provide an important decision tool for governments and farmers. Economic analysis of protected cropping is being incorporated in a new manual currently being finalised.
- The design of the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) database was finalised. The database is now operational, with data entered using the KoBo Toolbox.
- The Plant Health Team, in partnership with country plant doctors, collated and analysed plant health clinic (PHC) data and results collected via WhatsApp. PHC results are compiled to support mapping of pests and disease trends and distributions in selected localities and data will be incorporated in the pest database.

- A Plant Health Clinic manual was finalised and published in 2020. This manual is used to support extension services in pest and disease surveillance and diagnostics at the farmer field level.
- The coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) training manual was finalised and published to guide regional efforts in combating CRB.
- A draft protected cropping field manual is being developed in collaboration with Fiji's Ministry of Agriculture. The manual will provide a tool that governments and farmers can use to support scale-up of protected cropping systems.



**OBJECTIVE 4: Regional and national policies, programmes and services in agriculture and forestry are gender responsive, socially inclusive, and promote and protect cultural heritage and human rights.**

- The Genebank Policy under development will benefit the region, including Palau, and is expected to be further developed in the fourth quarter of the year.
- The regional seed systems roadmap is currently being reviewed and edited for the implementation by the Pacific Seeds for Life programme. This benefits the region, including Palau.
- Under the PHAMA plus project, the Animal Health and Production (AHP) framework has been drafted and currently under review and this will benefit the region, including Palau.
- Ten women were supported (through the payment of the registration fee for the workshop) by the project to

participate in *Protecting your business against corruption* workshop in Palau

- A business plan (to identify project investment in value chains) is in progress in Palau.
- The Palau National Organic Policy is in progress. A situational analysis of organic agriculture in Palau was completed. This sheds light on organics in Palau, which in turn helps to design and develop the national organics policy.



**OBJECTIVE 5: Integrated farming systems and services strengthened**

- The soil sampling protocol is now being prepared for printing as a field booklet for distribution.
- The USP-SAFT (School of Agriculture Food and Technology) is currently developing soil correlation studies.
- Soil Dr Programme guidelines that will provide an outline of how to address capacity building needs in soil management will be completed in June.
- Building capacity in Pests and Disease description such as insects, fungus, bacteria and unknowns' diagnosis, as well as management for national Plant Health Clinic champions, is on-going through the Centre of Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI).
- LRD successfully facilitated the level 3 certification of the Plant Health Lab in coordination with the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji and the National Fire Authority of Fiji.

## LRD Priorities for Partnership with Palau

PALAU NATIONAL AGRICULTURE POLICY GOALS	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL	LRD PRIORITIES
<b>POLICY GOAL 1:</b> Encourage and promote expansion of existing farms <b>POLICY GOAL 2:</b> Encourage development of new farms. <b>POLICY GOAL 3:</b> Encourage and promote development of new plantations of local tree species with eco values.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable management of forests and landscapes to provide for our future</li> <li>• Restoration of our ecosystems to safeguard our children through sustainable practices and systems</li> <li>• Conservation and distribution of genetic resources</li> <li>• Access and linkages to international networks that support Pacific development</li> </ul>
<b>POLICY GOAL 4:</b> Improve and strengthen watershed management, protection, and rehabilitation of degraded lands. <b>POLICY GOAL 5:</b> Improve and strengthen Plant and Animal Health Protection and Quarantine. <b>POLICY GOAL 6:</b> Improve the sustainability of agriculture-based livelihoods through enhanced farm management and marketing skills.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellence in agriculture and forestry research and development in the Pacific</li> <li>• Ability to mobilise technical resources</li> <li>• Pacific Innovation Hub for agriculture and forestry</li> <li>• Understanding of the regional environment and contexts that helps in developing Pacific solutions for Pacific problems</li> <li>• Expert technical knowledge built over time in atoll agriculture, genetic resources forestry and land use management and policies, biosecurity and value chain work</li> </ul>
<b>POLICY GOAL 7:</b> Encourage and promote livestock production  <b>POLICY GOAL 8:</b> Strengthen prevention, detection, response, control, and eradication of invasive species.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International biosecurity laboratories for conservation and distribution of genetic resources and insects</li> <li>• Opportunities to collaborate on cross cutting regional problems (Climate change, food systems, pest and disease incursions)</li> <li>• Convening power and ability that improves country visibility</li> </ul>

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### FOR ENQUIRIES

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