

9th REGIONAL MEETING OF
PACIFIC HEADS OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY SERVICES (PHOAFS)
(15 - 17 May 2024) - Virtual

REPORT FROM PREVIOUS PHOAFS

Paper reference	Session 2: Agenda Item 2.0
Title	Update on implementation of decisions of the 8th PHOAFS
Action	Decision
Author(s)	SPC, FAO

Summary

The paper provides an overview of progress by the SPC and FAO on decisions taken by the 8th meeting of the PHOAFS and the 3rd Ministerial meeting held during the Pacific Week of Agriculture and Forestry in Fiji, March 2023. Details and related decision points are presented in relevant agenda items.

Recommendation:

The PHOAFS are invited to endorse the update of progress against decisions of the 8th PHOAFS.

Background

1. The 8th Regional Meeting of Pacific Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services (PHOAFS) met on 9 March 2023 in Nadi, Fiji, focusing on progress on actions since PHOAFS 2021. The meeting was attended by Heads of Agriculture and Forestry from American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, and Wallis and Futuna. Representatives and Observers from international, regional, national, government, non-government, private sector and other stakeholders also attended. The meeting outcomes were to be actioned by FAO, SPC and other stakeholders and reported on at the 2024 PHOAFS meeting.

Purpose of this paper

2. To update the PHOAFS on progress against decisions of the 8th PHOAFS meeting.
3. Decisions of the 21st of March 2023 meeting of the PHOAFS:
 - **ITEM 2.2 Development of Regional agriculture and forestry strategy using strategic foresight methodologies.**
 - Financial resources for development of the Strategy were mobilised from SPC programme funds, Government of Australia through ACIAR and the Government of New Zealand through the SPC Climate Change Flagship
 - Technical assistance was procured through a competitive process with Kerr and Associates contracted to deliver the strategy development process.
 - The process involved:
 - Horizon scanning: This identified trends and opportunities, as well as risks, that are on the horizon for agriculture and forestry in the region. Over 300 individuals were involved in the consultation process through online and in person workshops. These individuals were largely from PICTS agriculture and forestry ministries and departments and members of the technical networks that report through to the PHOAFS (PHOVAPS, PPPO, PAPGREN). Technical focal points for soils and forestry were consulted, as were meteorological services (in collaboration with SPREP). Online workshops were also held with youth, farmers organisations and the private sector as well as academics and researchers engaged with development of the Regional Research Agenda. In depth key informant interviews were also held with agribusiness, lead farmers, buyers and academics.

- Sense making: A core group consisting of 7 PHOAFS (Cook Islands Agriculture; Fiji Forestry; French Polynesia Agriculture; Guam Agriculture; Kiribati Agriculture; Solomon Islands Agriculture; Tonga Agriculture and forestry) , was identified to guide the strategy development process. The group was identified to provide a cross section of large and small economies, high and low islands, agriculture and forestry. The core group participated in one 3 day workshop in November 2023 to analyse and ‘make sense’ of the horizon scanning process. The results of this workshop along with a survey were circulated to all PHOAFS for feedback and input.
- In March 2024 the PHOAFS were invited to participate in a 2-day strategic foresight workshop to progress strategy development. 15 countries and territories participated. ‘Serious Gaming’ was utilised to provide experiential futures and support the framing of strategic choices by the PHOAFS. The core group met for an additional day to refine the key themes of the strategy.
- The draft strategy was circulated to PHOAFS for feedback, and the core group considered this input prior to finalising the draft strategy presented for validation.
- Strategy for validation and endorsement will be presented in Session 2 . Agenda Item No. 2.3

- **ITEM 2.3 Regional Research Agenda**

- The Government of Australia through ACIAR is funding the testing of the Regional Research Agenda.
- A call for nominations was made through the HOAFS in April 2023 for Regional Research Leaders who would form the Peer Review Group (Peer Reviewers).
- A total of 17 Peer Reviewers were nominated and have been working closely with SPC as the Secretariat to test the framework of the Regional Research Agenda.
- The Peer Reviewers have met five times (two face-to-face meetings and three virtual meetings) to go through each component to test and adapt the process.
- The testing of the framework of the Regional Research Agenda (RRA) was conducted for each component: Component One focuses on Hearing Pacific Voices, Component Two focuses on Peer Review and Component Three focuses on Partners in Research.
- The testing of the framework of the RRA is broken down into its three main components: Hearing Pacific Voices; Peer Review; Partners in Research.
- The Peer Reviewers and the Secretariat will finalise the research and the results will be presented to the HOAFS in May 2025.
- The progress of the testing of the RRA for endorsement will be presented in Session 2 Agenda 2.1

- **ITEM 2.4 Agriculture Workstream in UNFCCC (KJWA)**
 - Regional submissions were prepared by Fiji and submitted March 31st 2023 on behalf of the PSIDS and are attached as an Annex 1
 - FAO and SPC have prepared a brief on projects supported in 2023 that assist with implementing the KJWA. Attached as Annex 2
 - Update and decision paper on UNFCCC negotiations will be presented in Session 5, Agenda Item 5.1
- **ITEM 3.2 Pacific Soils Partnership**
 - SPC has confirmed funding to support the PSP Secretariat. The position of Soils Coordinator is under recruitment.
 - A call for nominations for PSP focal points has been made 18 countries have confirmed Focal points. Response is pending from Cook Islands, CNMI, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Pitcairn.
 - Technical assistance under recruitment to establish the governance structure and soil strategy.
 - Paper for information presented in Session 3 Agenda Item 3.2
- **ITEM 3.3 An Overview of Food Security and Nutrition in the Pacific 2022**
 - The first edition of the report has been discussed at numerous regional fora, and the feedback is very positive and aligned. The official publication is being processed.
 - FAO is leading the partnership that produced the first edition for the production of the next edition of the report, and has invested AUD 184,198 via a Letter of Agreement (LoA) with the University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia, to fund the production of next edition of the report. The next edition will cover the time period 2023 to 2024 and will cover Pacific SIDS only. FAO is communicating with IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, WHO and SPC who produced the first edition to get their commitment of their joint efforts for the development of second edition.
 - Paper for information presented in Session 3, Agenda Item 3.3
- **ITEM 4.3 Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POETCom)**

POETCom Governance Review Implementation

- A working group was created with a call for nominations, resulting in 13 members working group composed by stakeholders from 9 different countries and with diverse backgrounds: PGS, Ministry, Certification Bodies, Farmers group...
- The working group was subdivided into 2 focus groups on the following topics:
 - POETCom Governance
 - POS/PGS Management
- The Working Group met twice to discuss the priority issues including:
 - Establishing a charter between SPC and POETCom
 - Membership including voting rights, focal points and POETCom core services
 - Strengthening the PGS system

- The Working Group identified the clarification of Roles and Responsibilities between SPC and POETCom as the first step prior to creating the POETCom Governance Book. Therefore, the legal team was officially solicited to support the drafting of a charter to clarify the relationships, roles, and responsibilities of SPC and POETCom regarding the governance and management of the POS and the Organic Pasifika mark. The legal team is now studying the corpus of documents to advise the POETCom secretariat in the drafting of the documents in the upcoming months.
 - The roadmap attached for the revision of POETCom governance documents and strategic plan was defined collectively with legal team to present finalised results at HOAFS 2025.
 - Update will be presented in Session 4, Agenda Item No. 5.
- **Ministerial decisions:**
 - **Informing and catalysing national food systems transformation in Pacific Island Countries**
 - With funding support from FAO, a paper was developed to address the Ministers decision from the last Ministerial meeting in 2023, for the “Creation of a regional technical coordination committee or hub to inform and catalyse the food systems transformation agendas in PICTs”. The paper outlines the current state of regional food system coordination and includes the benefits, limitations, opportunities, and threats of establishing a regional food system coordination mechanism, and the purpose, form, and function of different approaches to this mechanism. The paper and its recommendations will be presented to the PHOAFS for feedback and decision in Session2 Agenda Item 2.2 to guide the next steps of finalisation for the 2025 Ministers meeting.
 - **Climate information tool development**
 - With funding support from Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, CSIRO and the Australian National University were mobilised to provide technical support to design the Agri-Food Systems Climate Explorer Tool.
 - The Agri-food systems climate Explorer tool proof of concept has been designed to support policy discussions associated with the development and implementation of Samoa’s Food Systems Pathway 2030.
 - The Proof of concept has been designed to help build users understanding of the risks and sensitivities of an agri-food system to climate thresholds and shocks.
 - Update and discussion paper will be presented in Session 2 - Agenda Item No. 2.4.

Recommendations:

4. The PHOAFS are invited to endorse the update of progress against decisions of the

ANNEX 1

**Submission on behalf of Pacific Small Island Developing States,
on views on the elements of the joint work referred to in paragraphs 14–15 of
FCCC/CP/2022/L.4, including views on topics for the workshops referred to in paragraph
15(b) on Sharma el-Sheikh joint work on the implementation of climate action on
agriculture and food security mandated under Decision FCCC/CP/2022/L.4, para 17**

A. Background

1. The Republic of Fiji welcomes this opportunity to make this submission on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States (Pacific SIDS). The Pacific Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry during their 3rd Meeting in Nadi, Fiji on the 10th of March 2023, endorsed the development and submitting of a regional submission on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States (Pacific SIDS). This submission is made pursuant to the request in paragraph 17 of FCCC/CP/2022/L.4.

B. Context

1. Agriculture and climate change are two key priorities for Pacific Small Islands Development States (Pacific SIDS). The Agriculture Sector, consisting of crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, is an important sector to Pacific SIDS as it contributes to the livelihoods of a significant proportion of the region's population, accounts for an important share of export earnings for many countries in the region, and food and nutrition security. Climate change is impacting climate variability, increasing intensity of extreme events, economic slowdowns and downturns, and a major driver of food insecurity, malnutrition and poverty, and setting back gains already made in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Pacific SIDS.
2. The Pacific Islands region include some of the most environmentally vulnerable nations in the world that are already facing development challenges. Climate change will present additional sets of issues for the agriculture sector, particularly in terms of managing the projected increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. The Pacific SIDS face the impacts of climate variability and extreme weather events, through from example, cyclones, droughts, floods, and intense rain. These situations have worsened and have caused significant production impacts, damages and losses to the agriculture sub-sectors in the past years. The climate projections for the 21st century and beyond, suggest that extreme events such as cyclones, heatwaves, droughts, and floods in the region are likely to increase in intensity (IPCC 5th Assessment Report). Extreme high (or king) tides and storm surges will continue to threaten low-lying islands, as will the ongoing sea level rise, which will cause

contamination of groundwater (IPCC 5th Assessment Report). Pacific SIDS reiterates the paramount importance of prioritizing and safeguarding food security, ending hunger and the particular vulnerability of food production systems to the adverse impacts of climate change as recognized^[4].

3. The adoption of the Koronovia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) at the UNFCCC COP 23 was a landmark decision highlighting the importance of agriculture in the climate change agenda. The implementation of the KJWA has focused mainly on in-session workshops with little implementation on the ground. As Pacific SIDS, we have worked with our partners such as FAO and SPC to implement the KJWA, including through awareness raising, capacity building and field demonstration of climate resilience practices in soils, nutrient use, water, livestock, methods for assessing adaptation, and socio-economic and food security dimensions of climate change across the agriculture sectors. It is therefore important that in the Sharm el-Sheikh Joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security, considers climate action on agriculture and food security on the ground, recognizing that actions and solutions are context-specific and must take into account national circumstances.

C. Views on elements of the joint work referred to under paragraph 14-15 of Decision FCCC/CP/2022/L.4

4. The Pacific SIDS welcomes the decision adopted at COP27 (FCCC/CP/2022/L.4) on the Joint Work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security. The Pacific SIDS reiterates its support of the key elements provided in paragraph 14 – 15 of the decision under FCCC/CP/2022/L.4 and further provides recommendations on how those key elements can be elaborated into actions in the table below.

Key elements paragraph 14	Recommendations
<p>(a) Promoting a holistic approach to addressing issues related to agriculture and food security, taking into consideration regional, national, and local circumstances, in order to deliver a range of multiple benefits, where applicable, such as adaptation, adaptation co-benefits and mitigation, recognizing that adaptation is a priority for vulnerable groups, including women, indigenous peoples and small-scale farmers;</p>	<p>Enhance climate actions on agriculture and food security on the ground, recognizing that actions and solutions are context-specific and must consider national circumstances.</p> <p>Promote integrated climate smart agriculture approaches, nature-based solutions, and traditional knowledge.</p> <p>Promote adoption of food system approach, build on UN Food Systems Summit.</p> <p>Enhance anticipatory action and multi-hazard early warning systems.</p> <p>Multi-stakeholder involvement and participation.</p> <p>Enhance financial tools for agriculture, including anticipatory action, insurance, and social protection.</p> <p>Establish regional expert groups to support the UNFCCC Secretariat in facilitate the collection and sharing of regional information on the online portal.</p>

<p>(b) Enhancing coherence, synergies, coordination, communication, and interaction between Parties, constituted bodies and workstreams, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund in order to facilitate the implementation of action to address issues related to agriculture and food security</p>	<p>Establish an Expert Group on Agriculture and Food Security under the UNFCCC to enhance coherence, synergies, coordination, communication, and interaction between Parties, constituted bodies and workstreams. Establish finance windows under existing climate finance mechanisms to support climate actions in agriculture and food systems.</p>
<p>(c) Promoting synergies and strengthening engagement, collaboration and partnerships among national, regional, and international organizations and other relevant stakeholders, as well as under relevant processes and initiatives, in order to enhance the implementation of climate action to address issues related to agriculture and food security</p>	<p>Enhance regional and national focused events on agriculture and climate change targeting also farmers, fishers, extension officers and communities. Enhance South-South, SIDS-SIDS cooperation, partnership and sharing of lessons and practices. Enhance engagement of women and youth in implementation of climate actions related to agriculture.</p>
<p>(d) Providing support and technical advice to Parties, constituted bodies and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism on climate action to address issues related to agriculture and food security, respecting the Party-driven approach and in accordance with their respective procedures and mandates</p>	<p>Establish an Expert Group on Agriculture and Food Security to enhance coherence, synergies, coordination, communication and interaction between Parties, constituted bodies and workstreams. Establish finance windows under existing climate finance mechanisms to support climate actions in agriculture and food systems. Strengthening effective partnerships at all levels recognising the role of governments, communities, and partner agencies in operationalising systems approaches to agroecological food production systems for resilience in the Pacific SIDS.</p>
<p>(e) Enhancing research and development on issues related to agriculture and food security and consolidating and sharing related scientific, technological, and other information, knowledge (including local and indigenous knowledge), experience, innovations and best practices</p>	<p>Enhance regional and sub-regional research agenda based on national and regional priorities and needs on agriculture and climate change nexus. Enhance collection of scientific information and data at national and regional levels, including traditional knowledge and practices to inform policies, programmes and access to climate finance.</p>

	Strengthen national information systems
(f) Evaluating progress in implementing and cooperating on climate action to address issues related to agriculture and food security;	Prepare an annual synthesis report on the work undertaken by constituted bodies and financial and other entities under the Convention, as well as by relevant international organizations, on activities related to the joint work referred to in paragraph 14 above.

(g) Sharing information and knowledge on developing and implementing national policies, plans and strategies related to climate change, while recognizing country-specific needs and contexts;	Strengthen sharing of information and knowledge at national and sub-regional levels, build into existing platforms. Support development of science, technology and innovation platform to support resilient building in the countries.
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D. Topics for workshops referred to in paragraph 15(b)

5. Pacific SIDS proposes the following topics for technical workshops referred to in paragraph 15 (b) of FCCC/CP/2022/L.4, based on Pacific regional priorities identified by Pacific SIDS.

Food systems and integrated climate resilience approaches

6. Food systems are contributing to, and affected by the impacts of climate change, ecosystems degradation and biodiversity loss. The Pacific SIDS advocates for a food systems approach involving an examination of the food system as a whole from farm-to-fork and the use of integrated climate resilience agriculture approaches such as integrated crop and livestock production systems that are also efficient and resulting in increased diversity, along with improved environmental sustainability. For the Pacific SIDS, the challenges can be achieved through food systems based on improved soil health that decrease incidences of soil borne pests and diseases, improve biodiversity, and reduce GHG emissions –thereby increasing the resilience of food production systems and communities.

Community vulnerability assessment, promoting documenting and use of traditional knowledge and practices, and building capacity on food production systems

7. Pacific SIDS agreed that work should endeavor to improve the knowledge, skills and capacity of agricultural stakeholders and communities in assessing their vulnerability to climate change and in exploring opportunities to reduce such vulnerability and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Such assessments will be carried out for different landscape units such as water-catchment, ridge to reef transects and whole of island in community-based vulnerability assessments. Agriculture-specific indicators such as soil health, production index, access to land and food security, will be included

in determining vulnerabilities of the agriculture sector. And to support sustainable intensification of food production systems.

8. Traditional knowledge (TK) and practices have played a significant part in solving problems, including problems related to climate change and variability and they continue to be used in Pacific SIDS. The appearance of certain birds, mating of certain animals, flowering of certain plants, diversity of crops and food resources that are often matched by a similar diversity in location of fields are all important signals of changes in time and seasons that are well understood in traditional knowledge systems. As TK are transmitted orally from one generation to another, they risk being lost. It is therefore important to document traditional knowledge and practices of Pacific SIDS that are related to climate resilience and adaptation, conserve local crop varieties, preserve cultural aspects of agriculture, including the promotion of their use.

Climate Information, anticipatory action, multi-hazard early warning systems

9. It is clear that the climate of Pacific SIDS has and will continue to change in diverse ways that may differ from island to island. However, constructing climate information tables for Pacific SIDS is challenging due to lack of observations and high-resolution climate projections, as well as the inadequate representation and understanding of key modes of variability and their interplay with trends. There is a great need for long and short term weather and seasonal forecasts and farming communities should be provided with downscale and usable climate information and tools to prepare and plan better.
10. While early warning systems are continually improving thanks to technological gains, there is a great need for long term weather and seasonal forecasts; and importantly to act on them. Anticipatory action meets this call and translates warnings into action to protect people and assets before a hazard develops into a disaster. The approach is being widely accepted and applied in the region, with the ASEAN Framework on Anticipatory Action in Disaster Management becoming a cornerstone piece to achieve this and the Pacific Island Forum highlighting the importance of the approach within their Disaster Risk Financing planning. FAO studies further show that for every USD 1 FAO invested in anticipatory action, families can gain up to USD 7 in benefits and avoided losses. These studies have also found that these interventions can curb food insecurity, support resilience efforts and provide a more dignified approach to aid. Now is the time to change the way we manage disasters.
11. Pacific countries during the Asia Pacific Ministers' Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in September 2022, highlighted the importance of multi-hazard early-warning systems (MHEWS) in supporting disaster risk reduction efforts. It includes investing in and strengthening people-centred MHEWS, disaster risk communication mechanisms and hazard-monitoring telecommunications systems – emphasizing a participatory and gender-inclusive approach. While early warning systems are continually improving, there is a great need for long-term weather and seasonal

forecasts, including downscaling of information for communities to prepare and plan better and drawing on indigenous and traditional knowledge.

Climate change, pest, disease and transboundary/invasive species, and related impact of food security

12. Increasing evidence shows that climate change is altering the distribution, incidence and intensity of animal and plant pests and diseases. The movement of plant pests, animal diseases and invasive alien aquatic organisms across physical and political boundaries threatens food security and creates huge concerns across the Pacific SIDS region. Climate change will especially impact vector-borne animal diseases due to the effects of climate change on the arthropod vectors and macro-parasites of animals due to the climate effects on the free stages of these parasites. With more food production becoming monocrops, the incidences of pests and diseases are increasing in the Pacific SIDS region. In livestock production, high priority should be given to address transboundary animal diseases such as the African swine fever including those that are zoonotic and other livestock production priorities such as animal nutrition and genetic improvement. Climate change is further adding to the scale and complexity of this challenge and the need for more research, information, knowledge, and actions are key priorities in the region. Huge capacity gaps exist in the region including the non-availability of Veterinary Specialist in country to deal with livestock biosecurity threats. One health approach should be strengthened in Pacific SIDS through effective partnership and coordination mechanisms.

Soil health, water management and improved biodiversity practices – Adaptation approaches with mitigation co-benefits

13. Soils are our allies in the fight against hunger and climate change and if managed wisely could sequester 1/3 of agricultural GHG emission, thus playing a significant role in the global carbon cycle. The traditional fallow or shifting cultivation in the Pacific SIDS have changed considerably. However, the productivity and sustainability of many cropping systems is threatened by a decline in the fertility, structure and biological health of soils. Appropriate agriculture practices can significantly reduce GHGs emissions from agriculture and food system related activities. A moved to systems closer to nature will improve biodiversity, increase soil carbon and promote microbial populations in the soil to enhance nutrient recycling and hence improve resilience of production systems.
14. Freshwater is an essential resource for Pacific SIDS and a major requirement in agricultural and food production systems. However, the ability of the island countries to effectively manage the water sector differs from island to island, as they are constrained by their small size, isolation, fragility, natural vulnerability, geography and a limited human, financial and natural resource base. Increasingly variable rainfall, cyclones / hurricanes, accelerating storm water runoff, floods, droughts, decreasing water quality and increasing demand for water are so significant in many small island countries that they threaten the economic development and the health of their peoples. The Pacific SIDS has some of the most vulnerable countries to climate change

and the incidences of drought are increasing in the region. A sustainable water management strategy for each country should be developed and there is a need to develop water budgets from rainfall and evapotranspiration data. A high priority for the Pacific SIDS is to promote the use of the bucket drip irrigation systems to improve water-use efficiency, increase water storage capacity (e.g. more/larger water tanks), protected cropping (e.g. protect from excessive rain), as well as wicking-based systems (which can protect water crops from saltwater).

15. Biodiversity can support efforts to reduce the negative effects of climate change and conserved or restored habitats can remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and help to address climate change by storing carbon. Conserving intact ecosystems, such as mangroves for instance, can help reduce the disastrous impacts of climate change such as flooding and storm surges, which are predicted to occur with more frequency and intensity. Resilience of food production systems in the Pacific SIDS hinges significantly on biodiversity. This is linked to the improved soil health output from below-ground biodiversity. It should be emphasized that above-ground biodiversity is dependent on healthy below-ground biodiversity. A sustainable food production system will also need to utilize the best adaptable varieties of crops, trees and animals. A priority for the Pacific SIDS is therefore to improve biodiversity in farming systems to improve soil health and increase sustainable food production; promote the cultivation of trees on farms for food security, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services; climate regulation and for carbon sequestration. Enhancing seed systems to contribute to biodiversity and food security in Pacific SIDS is a vital foundation for sustainable agriculture production systems.
16. General education and raising awareness need strengthening at the national level, especially of farmers, communities and extension officers on the importance of biodiversity.

Food loss and waste

17. Globally about 30 - 60 % of food production goes to waste. Food waste is not just a social issue – it is also an environmental one. If food waste ended up in the landfills and rots, it will produce methane. About 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions comes from food waste (FAO, 2011). There is very limited information on food waste in the Pacific SIDS. A life cycle assessment of waste in each country is required, including the development of a strategy to address the problems related to food waste in order to reduce GHG emissions. Food waste reduction strategies (post-harvest technologies, food storage, transportation of perishable foods, specialized markets for perishable foods, and downstream processing of seasonally available foods (i.e mangoes and pineapples) are needed.

Assessing adaptation-mitigation co-benefits

18. Assessing adaptation and mitigation co-benefits to explore the effectiveness of different agricultural adaptations and mitigation actions in Pacific SIDS to adopt or

scale up those approaches. This helps to document evidence of loss and damage, including residual losses in our food system and how to apply approaches including climate risk management to avert, minimize and address loss and damage in the food system and agriculture in the Pacific Islands. This helps us to use limited finances well to only action workable adaptation and mitigation actions that are best options for the place, rather than doing the same thing over and over again. Foundation to the success is promoting and improving soil health, decision making processes and context, evidence based and well researched decisions, scenario based planning.

Predictable, flexible and pre-arranged finance is crucial to allow timely implementation.

19. While anticipatory action ahead of forecasted shocks is a non-debatable concept, only a small fraction – some studies highlighted as little as 3 percent – of humanitarian financing is pre-arranged to be available when warnings materialize. We all need more innovative funding models to be able to adapt to the ever-changing Disaster Risk Management (DRM) environment which demands speed and timeliness. Stronger synergies must also be explored between humanitarian, development and climate finance for multi-risk resilience building.

[\[1\]](#) In the preamble of the Paris Agreement.

**Submission on behalf of Pacific Small Island Developing States,
on views on the operationalizing of the Sharm el-Sheikh Online Portal mandated under
paragraph 18 of FCCC/CP/2022/L.4**

A. Background

20. The Republic of Fiji welcomes this opportunity to make this submission of behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States (Pacific SIDS. This submission together with the submission on paragraph 17 of FCCC/CP/2022/L.4 has been endorsed by Pacific Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry during their 3rd Meeting in Nadi, Fiji on the 10th of March 2023. This submission is made pursuant to the request in paragraph 18 of FCCC/CP/2022/L.4 on the operationalization of the Sharm el-Sheikh online portal.

B. Context

21. The Paris Agreement highlight the “fundamental priority of safeguarding food security and ending hunger, and the particular vulnerabilities of food production systems to the adverse impacts of climate change”. This is echoed in countries’ Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) where the agricultural sectors stand out as a priority^[1]. Climate change already affects agriculture and food security and without urgent action, millions more people will be at risk of hunger and poverty^[2]. The Pacific SIDS have experienced first-hand the impacts of climate change, and the set back on sustainable development gains. Therefore, transforming and shifting to sustainable food and agriculture can maximize co-benefits of climate change adaptation and mitigation.

22. The Pacific SIDS acknowledge the progress made in the implementation of the Koronovia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) in the Pacific region. As referenced in the Pacific SIDS submission on paragraph 17 of FCCC/CP/2022/L.4, we as Pacific SIDS, have worked with our partners such as FAO and SPC to implement the KJWA, including through awareness raising, capacity building and field demonstration of climate resilience practices in soils, nutrient use, water, livestock, methods for assessing adaptation, and socio-economic and food security dimensions of climate change across the agriculture sectors. These have enabled the sharing of information, knowledge and lessons learned in the Pacific.

C. Operationalization of the Sharm el-Sheikh online portal

Objective and scope of Sharm el-Sheikh online portal

23. The objective of the Sharm el-Sheikh online portal established under the joint work referred to in paragraph 14^[3], is to share information on projects, initiatives and policies for increasing opportunities for the implementation of climate actions to address issues related to agriculture and food security^[4]. The portal should also include, scientific, technological information and knowledge including traditional knowledge and technologies, and best practices on climate actions in agriculture.
24. The Sharm el-Sheikh online portal should facilitate the exchange of information on projects, initiatives and policies between Parties, UN Agencies, International and Regional Organizations, and Civil Society. The information should be accessible to the Constituted Bodies of the UNFCCC, to Parties, farmers, fisher folks and to the public at large, especially those that will find the information useful. Information to be shared on the portal should be collected from Parties, UN Agencies, International and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders.

Host of Sharm el-Sheikh online portal

25. The Sharm el-Sheikh online portal should be developed and hosted under the UNFCCC Secretariat. Information on projects, initiatives and policies should be reviewed by the Expert Group on Agriculture and Food Security before the UNFCCC Secretariat shares on the Sharm el-Sheikh online portal.

Existing online portals on agriculture and food security

26. There are already existing online portals with information on climate change and agriculture at global and regional levels. The Sharm el-Sheikh online portal should be complementary and build on those existing online portals that contain relevant information on the climate change and agriculture nexus to build synergies and avoid duplication. Linkages should be made from the Sharm el-Sheikh online portal to other existing online portals.

Regular updates on portal

27. Regular updates on the portal should be reported to Parties, especially on use, access, traffic and usefulness.

^[1] <https://www.fao.org/3/i6273e/i6273e.pdf>

^[2] <https://www.fao.org/3/i6273e/i6273e.pdf>

^[3] FCCC/CP/2022/L.4

^[4] FCCC/CP/2022/L.4

ANNEX 2 KJWA – Current actions in the region through FAO and SPC

Project details					KJWA dimensions					
Project Name	Beneficiaries	Total funding	Source	Duration	Soils	Nutrient Use	Water	Livestock	Methods for assessing adaptation	Socio-economic food security
SPC										
Using modern biotech sustain food security in PI	Regional	€ 269,407.00	Australia	17/12/18-17/12/23						The project will ensure that Pacific island farmers have the aroids of importance with broad allelic diversity, strengthening the region's food production systems, and building resilience to future climate change impacts in both high islands and atolls
Responding to emerging pest and disease threats to horticulture in Pacific Islands	5 PICTs - Fiji, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Is. Tonga	€ 952,390.00	Australia	01/05/18- 30/09/23						Build diagnostic and strategic planning capacity for integrated pest and disease management (IPDM) including biological control, 2. control strategies for invasive and emergent pests 3. Extend IPDM and insecticide resistance management strategy
Providing for the long-term funding of ex-situ collections of germ plasm held by SPC	Regional	€ 47,667.51	Australia	17/12/18-17/12/23						long-term conservation and availability of the taro and yams

Pacific awareness and response to CRB (PARC)	Regional	€ 1,905,000.00	New Zealand	28/05/19-31/12/24						Limit spread of CRB-G, reduce existing populations, and find long term solutions through biocontrol and integrated pest management
Pacific seeds for life	Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu	€ 157,822.00	New Zealand	08/04/2020 - 31/12/24						Development of local seed systems and resilient varieties
Safeguarding threatened coconut diversity within the International Coconut Gene bank for the South Pacific	Fiji, PNG, Samoa	€ 133,895.00	FAO	14/12/2020 - 14/12/23						Use and conserve wide range of resilient coconut varieties leading to increased productivity and income.
Pacific Organic Leading Farm Network: Agroecology and agroforestry for climate resilience	Regional	€ 4,621,075.00	KIWA	28/05/21 - 28/05/25	Develop organic farming systems for food security, climate change adaptation and biodiversity conservation				Implementation of Tool for Agroecological Performance Evaluation	
Improving root crop resilience and biosecurity	Australia, Fiji, Samoa, Solom Is, Tonga	€ 420,992.00	Australia	01/07/21-31/06/24						Develop the capability for a clean seed system for the Pacific Region
Identification of drought tolerant taro varieties		€ 26,769.00	Australia	03/04/23-07/04/24						Identification of drought tolerant taro varieties

CFU	PNG	€ 10,007 000.00	GCF	2023- 2028	<p>Nature-based solutions to protect agro-ecological systems from landslides and coastal erosion.</p> <p>Reforestation program of 3000 ha around croplands, mangroves, and degraded forest, vegetation planting along riverbanks or unstable lands</p>	Eco-friendly technologies for climate-smart seed saving, post-harvest processing, and modern storage				<p>The project utilises the Adaptation Fund core and output level indicators that are specifically defined to assess adaptation and resilience capacity of beneficiaries and ecosystems.</p>	<p>The project aims to enhance the sustainability of main agricultural value chains through the adoption of climate-smart practices, contributing to improving the produce's quality, increasing access to markets, and creating green jobs for women and youth in vulnerable communities.</p>
NDC Hub	PNG	€ 53,596.00	GIZ	2023 (5 months)	<p>The project provides support for PNG's governance framework to improve the implementation of the National Sustainable Land Use Planning Policy. The work encouraged regulation within that sector that in the long term could provide for data sharing at the national and sub-national levels through a sustainable land use monitoring system.</p>						<p>Strengthening PNG's effective framework for sustainable coffee development</p>
NDC Hub	Regional	€ 0	GIZ	2023						<p>This training sought to encourage opportunities to integrate PICs to think through the process of enhancing their NDCs by including strengthened actions in the agriculture sector. A range of possible actions for climate change adaptation</p>	<p>Training session titled "Enhancing NDCs for Agri-food Systems." The training was designed to empower Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICs) to fortify their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by focusing on the agricultural sector's pivotal role in climate action.</p>

									and mitigation in the agriculture and Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sectors were discussed.	
NDC Hub	PNG	€ 49,245	GIZ	2023	The objective of the project is to support the Government of Papua New Guinea (PNG) to implement the National Sustainable Land Use Policy for PNG that was recently approved by National Executive Council, in May 2022.					PNG: Strengthening PNG's effective framework for sustainable coffee development
PROTÉGÉ	New Caledonia French Polynesia Wallis & Futuna	€ 8,000,000.00	European Union	2018-2024	<p>Network of demonstration farms on agroecology</p> <p>Assessment of the effects of some mycorrhiza's species on soil regeneration</p> <p>Develop the capability for cover crops seed production</p>	<p>The project has supported the substitution of imported nutrients by the creation of local value chains for organic resources.</p> <p>Assessment of the impact on soil fertility of pigs' arable rotation and dynamic rotating grazing for cattle</p>	<p>Assessment of agroforestry impacts on the water lens of the atoll islands</p> <p>Training on decision-making tools for irrigation</p>	<p>Assessment of the livestock carbon footprint in New Caledonia</p> <p>Assessment of the non-chemical control practices of the cattle ticks production of animal feed (poultry, pigs) from the larvae of black soldier flies</p>	<p>Implementation of Tool for Agroecological Performance Evaluation (TAPE)</p>	<p>Identification, conservation and access to planting materials of traditional food plants (roots crops, edibles leaves)</p> <p>Inclusive development of public policies to strengthen the sustainability of food systems.</p> <p>Use and conserve wide range of resilient coconut varieties leading to increased productivity and income</p>

FAO										
Integrated climate smart agriculture practices and approaches towards sustainability and climate resilience through the KJWA	Regional Coo Islands, Kiribati, Fiji, Niue, FSM, RMI, Nauru, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Samoa	USD 500,000	FAO TCP	Feb 2022 – Dec 2023				Training CSA livestock practices – Dry litter, bio-gas		
Objective: Integrated climate smart agriculture measures incorporated into Pacific agricultural policies and systems in Pacific SIDS										
					Workshop and training on soil management					
					Regional Soil guidelines			Policy Brief on water management and food system		Guideline on climate smart livestock management

Mainstreaming climate resilience food production systems for food security and nutrition	Palau	USD 200,000	FAO TCP	Aug 2021 to Dec 2023	Soil training and assessment		Livestock training - biogas			Limit spread of CRB-G, reduce existing populations, and find long term solutions through biocontrol and integrated pest management
Increased resilience and food security of women and men vulnerable to the impacts of COVID-19 in the Pacific	Fiji, Niue, Solomon Islands, Palau, FSM	USD 2,920,000	Global Affairs Canada	2021 - 2024	Soil training on soil test kits		Climate Smart Agriculture livestock practices Response to outbreak of CRB	Disaster Risk Management Plans – drought response	Women targeted beneficiaries with at least 40% and above must be women	Procurement of agriculture seeds, tools
Enhance regional animal health capacity to prepare and respond to risks of African swine fever introduction and spread in the Pacific	Cook Islands Fiji Kiribati Micronesia, Federated States of Samoa SAP - Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands, Apia Solomon Islands Tonga Tuvalu Vanuatu	USD 500,000	FAO TCP	Jun 2021 – Dec 2023			To develop, strengthen, and/or put in place selected Pacific countries' ASF preparedness and response plans including risk-based prevention and reduction by high-lighting emergency			

							response measures.			
Promoting ecologically-based alternatives to highly hazardous pesticides to enhance food safety and security in the Pacific Region	Cook Islands Fiji Kiribati Samoa SAP - Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands, Apia Solomon Islands Vanuatu	USD 441,000	FAO TCP	01-Mar-2021 - 31-Dec-2023						To provide technical assistance to promote ecologically-based alternatives to highly hazardous pesticides to enhance food safety and security in the Pacific Environmental and climate benefits of ecologically based alternatives linked to soil, water management
Enhancing water-food security and climate resilience in volcanic island countries of the Pacific (FSP)	Fiji Papua New Guinea Samoa SAP - Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands, Apia Solomon Islands Vanuatu	USD 50,000		01-Jun-2021 - 31-Dec-2023						To provide technical assistance to complement ongoing efforts in building resilience and adaptation to climate change.