

REGIONAL INITIATIVE TEMPLATE

Please complete each section below.

1. Contact Details

Please provide the following contact details:

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2. Name of Initiative

BUILDING RESILIENT FOOD PRODUCTION SYSTEMS FOR FOOD AND LIVELIHOOD SECURITY IN THE PACIFIC COMMUNITIES

3. Background and Rationale

You may consider: What is the issue being addressed by this initiative? What are the causes of this issue? Are there relevant studies that have been carried out to support the issue? Are there links to national, regional or international goals/policies?

Please limit your response to no more than 750 words.

The right to adequate and safe food is a fundamental human right affirmed by the UN and recognized in various international and regional human right treaties. Currently, however, the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) face many challenges to achieve this basic human right stemming from their small physical size with increasing population pressures, narrow range of resources, fragility of island ecosystems, isolation from main markets with increasing dependence on international trade and high transport and communication costs.

Substantial studies have also indicated that agricultural production and productivity has declined since the 1990s due to factors such as declining arable land and land use issues, declining soil fertility, increasing incidences of pests and diseases, poor quality of water, poor genetic resources (both crops and animals) and loss of labor due to urbanization and migration (predominantly in Polynesia and Micronesia) resulting in weakening local capacity to supply food competitively. In the low lying atoll communities, the prevailing atoll conditions are generally very harsh for agricultural production.

In addition, the region's vast coastal and marine resources are fundamental to the diets, cultures and livelihood systems of the Pacific islands. Most fish consumed by rural people comes from subsistence fishing and to maintain the recommended per capita consumption of 35kg/person/year for the growing population would require another 115,000 tons of fish per annum in 20 years' time. Studies by SPC have indicated that most fisheries resources will not be able to provide the additional fish needs. This indicates that sustaining productivity of fisheries resources will be critically challenging to maintain contribution of marine resources to households diets.

Climate change, frequent natural calamities and unsustainable practices are of special concern to small islands because of their fragile environments and limited scale of agriculture. Community based vulnerability assessments conducted by SPC has shown that food production systems are highly vulnerable to climate change and variability. These studies have indicated that behavior of traditional crops and animals are changing contributing to the declining production and productivity of food production systems. In the atoll countries/communities, staple food crops such as swamp taros (*Cyrtosperma chamissionis*) are impacted by salt water intrusion threatening food security for these communities. The same studies also show that adaptive capacities of many of these communities are very low in terms of financial, natural, human and physical capitals.

Excessive dependent on imported food make PICTs extremely vulnerable to global food price shocks. The global food price increases in 2007/08 and later in 2011 demonstrated the vulnerability of the PICTs to price shocks when prices of major staples rose from 3 to 5 folds causing some countries still recovering from these price shocks. Results from household income and expenditure surveys indicated that, nationally, dependence on food imports varies by commodity and country but in most Pacific island countries it ranges between 36 and 89%, causing severe trade imbalances. Imports of affordable (e.g. rice, wheat) but low quality (e.g. lamb flaps, turkey tails) and convenient (e.g. ready-to-eat) foods now compete with domestic foods (e.g. root crops) that often have higher production costs and are less convenient to store and prepare. Most recent community surveys conducted by SPC found that contribution of low quality imported food (mainly rice, flour, noodles and tinned meat) ranges from 57.7% in a rural remote village in Solomon Islands to 91% in three remote villages in Marshall Islands. As a consequence of heavy reliance on low quality imported food, the Pacific Islanders have some of the highest incidences of NCDs. Available information indicated that about 75% deaths are due to NCDs. Also, prevalence of anemia is reported to be 20% or greater, in both children and pregnant women, in 15 of 16 countries. In addition, vitamin A deficiency in at least 4 countries (Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia and PNG) is among the highest in the world. WHO STEPS surveys indicated that sedentary lifestyle and low diet diversity (consumption of fruits and vegetables <5 times/week) are major NCD risk factors.

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These challenges and issues have multidimensional impacts on food and nutritional security for many Pacific communities. Thus, in order to improve food security in PICTs, investments/interventions need to be directed toward improving food availability, food access, food utilization and stability of food supply systems in the PICTs.

4. Description

Please provide a brief overview of this initiative. Try to address the following: Does this initiative contribute to a positive change to the region? What makes this initiative of importance to the Pacific region as a whole? Who would implement this initiative? Who are the main beneficiaries? Are regulatory or legislative changes required at the national level to implement this initiative? How would the initiative be funded? Has this initiative been carried out previously? What are the key risks in implementing this initiative? Are there any complementary projects and programmes currently active? What is the proposed timeframe for this initiative? How would the initiative be sustained over the proposed timeframe?

Please limit your response to no more than 750 words.

Overall objective of the project, purpose, and expected key result areas

The overall objective of the project is to build resilient food production systems through innovative and integrated approach of strengthening food, nutrition and livelihood securities for local communities in the PICTs. The project will do this through partnership with farming communities and national research, extension and advisory services (REAS) to identify and develop appropriate technologies through innovative agricultural systems and implement integrated approach for sustainable food production in the PICTs.

The project has four key result areas which will contribute to achieving the project goal:

Result 1: Sustainable and appropriate forest, agriculture and land use management practices developed and promoted.

Result 2: Agro-biodiversity conserved, developed, promoted and utilised.

Result 3: Diverse food supply systems promoted.

Result 4: National and regional capacity of extension, outreach and information services strengthened.

Result 5. Strengthen adaptive capacity of communities to impacts of climate change

Proposed activities and key performance/success indicators

Result 1: Sustainable and appropriate forest, agriculture and land use management practices developed and promoted.

- Facilitate and support on-farm demonstrations and extension through technical assistance and financial support, with the involvement of farmers.
- Increasing regional capacity to support and implement sustainable land management
- Supporting and promoting community-based initiatives on integrated land resource management
- Supporting improved, sustainable land management and production systems for greater economic returns
- Promoting and supporting initiatives to ensure food security and small-scale livelihoods for Pacific people.

(Performance indicators: Sustainable and appropriate forest, agriculture and land use management practices developed and promoted and on-farm participatory demonstration sites of integrated farming systems established in at least five ACPs.)

Result 2: Agro-biodiversity conserved, developed, promoted and utilised.

- Promote community genebanks and nurseries for providing/assisting supply of crop and livestock varieties, research and conservation in countries.

(Performance indicators: Increased adoption of community genebanks; distribution of improved and diverse livestock and crop materials.)

Result 3: Diverse food supply systems promoted.

- Develop small-scale food processing and research aspects of diet and health
- Support establishment of school lunch programmes based on local food
- Document traditional food systems

(Performance indicators: Increased diversity of production systems and increased diversity of nutritional foods in Pacific diets.)

Result 4: National and regional capacity of extension, outreach and information services strengthened.

- Support for development of participatory extension policies and outreach
- Support for the engagement of youth and women in agricultural and forestry activities.

(Performance indicators: Extension policies developed in 10 ACPs with participatory outreach methods adopted; and a regional strategy for engaging youth in agriculture developed.)

Result 5. Strengthen adaptive capacity of communities to impacts of climate change

- Assess community vulnerability to climate change threats and design adaptation measures
- Evaluation of resilient food production systems

Implementation Process

The project, over a 36-month period and will build on the success of its 'Development of Sustainable Agriculture in the Pacific' (DSAP) project and other related projects such as an SPC/USAID project on 'Enhancing Resiliency of Food Production Systems in the Pacific' (SPC/USAID) by supporting local communities through extension services, developing model agricultural areas, and ongoing nutritional research. The DSAP project has developed particularly effective mechanisms for building the capacity of extension services and communities by employing a participatory approach, with resource owners fully involved in identifying needs and developing solutions. Under the SPC/USAID project, a community vulnerability assessment framework was developed also employing participatory approach, was used to identify adaptation measures to enhance resiliency of food production systems in the targeted communities. This project will support the expansion of these approaches beyond the existing focus of crop production in a multi-sectoral approach to incorporate forestry, water, fisheries (aquaculture promotion) livestock production (husbandry and waste management) and climate change adaptation through promotion of resilient food production systems.

The project will be delivered by a multi-disciplinary team of skilled professional specialists and technical support staff within the SPC, in conjunction with stakeholders from national governments, non government and the private sector. A key project outcome will be the development of human skills capacity at the national and farm level, supported by SPC technical specialists at the regional level, thereby contributing to sustainability after the completion of the project.

Involvement of implementing partners

SPC will work with international, regional and national partners in the project. The project will be implemented by SPC's LRD in close collaboration with Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Health, Education, Environment and Climate Change, Women and Youth Departments in each of the PACPs. SPC will also work with other CROP and NSA partner's in-country and with farming and local communities as appropriate, to maximise implementation at the community level. The establishment of rural call centres and help desks in partnership with local ICT providers will help ensure effective communication at all levels and provide the most cost-effective communication approach. It will also strengthen LRD's cooperation with the private sector as a way of ensuring sustainability.

Other possible stakeholders

Several regional and international organisations are seen as key stakeholders to support and complement the activities of the project. It is envisaged that FAO's expanded food security programme will complement some of the activities of the project. The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research will support participatory capacity building components of the project. The International Fund for Agricultural Development will support the project through funding of the Centre of Excellence for Atoll Agriculture Research and Development. The Institut Agronomique neo-Calédonien

in New Caledonia will assist the project when needed in areas of horticulture on atolls. The project will work closely with relevant NSAs in engaging communities in some of the countries.

Sustainability

Model case studies developed under the project can be used to share information and approaches with others. It will work to empower local communities to improve their food production systems and better manage their shared resources by providing training to all groups, including youth and women. And it will work to improve the capacity of local communities to advocate for their collective aims for land resource management to government and regional authority policy makers. It will also work with its partners in extension services to establish mechanisms for the promotion and distribution of resilient and nutritionally valuable crop varieties to PICTs. In addition, LRD will continue to improve on the rural information centres established under DSAP through utilisation of the information communication technology (ICT) provided through the Pacific Digital Strategy to ensure that relevant information is distributed to all levels of communities. The project will continue to strengthen the activities of the Pacific Islands Extension Network (PIEN) which was established at the 1st Pacific Extension Summit, Tonga 2005 to improve extension delivery mechanisms at state and non-state levels.

Target groups and final beneficiaries

The project's target groups are National Agriculture and Research Services (NARES) and national Non State Actors (NSAs) where relevant. Final beneficiaries will be local communities, and all stakeholders involved in the development and implementation of national sustainable agricultural management plans. This project will ultimately affect all people in the Pacific by enabling them to better protect their food and nutritional security.

A description of monitoring and evaluation procedures

The project will involve a range of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) procedures. The project coordinator and project administrator will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the project. An Advisory Committee, made up of Pacific Heads of Agriculture and representative of communities for the 14 PACP countries, the RAO and EC, will give annual guidance and input to the project. Mid-year and end-of-year reports will be provided with audited accounts to the RAO and EC. There will be an annual monitoring mission, a mid-term review and a final evaluation of the project, all coordinated by the RAO. Community participatory monitoring and evaluation practices will be adopted and integrated into the overall M&E framework of the project.

5. Alignment to Regional Vision, Values and Objectives

Briefly describe how your initiative supports the vision, values and objectives set out in the Framework for Pacific Regionalism. These can be found in the Framework for Pacific Regionalism document or in the submissions guideline document.

Please limit your response to no more than 500 words

Pacific Leaders have recognised the threat that food insecurity poses to the future well-being of people across the region and have prioritised action on food security under the Pacific Plan. In particular, the Pacific Forum Leaders' Niue Communique (August 2008) (i) recognised that high food prices provide a strong incentive to increase Pacific food production; (ii) committed their governments to immediate action to address food security issues regionally; and (iii) called on regional technical agencies to assist in supplementing national capacity in agriculture by assisting in research and development of more robust national policies and responses. In 2010, a Food Secure Pacific Framework was developed and endorsed by the PICs which call for enhancing cooperation and support on food security in the region.

Building the capacity and resiliency of local communities to improve their production of local foods requires the direct assistance of technical agencies. The project will work with government of the Pacific Islands and other partner agencies

to develop and implement sustainable agricultural management plans and enhance their capacity to work with national and regional decision makers. It will thus enable local communities to better protect their food and nutritional security. It will also work to raise awareness of the strong links between good health and nutrition, and between local production of traditional root crops and good nutrition, in co-operation with national governments and regional agencies. Addressing these health and nutrition challenges necessitates a holistic approach and will require extension officers to play a role in promoting diverse systems for local production of nutritious food. Recognising traditional structures and systems will also assist in ensuring community implementation.

6. Additional Information

Please provide or attach additional information in support of this initiative.

Please limit your response to no more than 5 pages.

Project Logframe			
Project Description	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
Overall Objective: Food, nutrition and income sources secured and agricultural and forestry resources managed in a sustainable way	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prevalence of dietary related diseases and malnutrition reduced 2. Rate of deforestation, land degradation and biodiversity loss reduced in PACPs 	Ministry of Health, WHO reports, nutrition surveys UNCCD / FAO – forest resource assessment, CBD reports, Biodiversity Index	
Project Purpose: Capacity of farming communities, NARES, and NSAs for identification, development, and promotion of sustainable natural resource management solutions improved.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More efficient NARES and NGO staff operational in the countries before the end of the project. 2. Adoption rates and participation of communities. 	Participatory impact assessment on a representative sample of target farmers Focus surveys, national statistics	Farmers' problems and priorities remain unchanged. Socio-economic situation allows countries to actively participate
Results <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sustainable and appropriate natural resource management practices developed and promoted 2. Agrobiodiversity conserved, developed, promoted and utilized 3. Diverse/resilient food supply systems promoted 4. National and regional capacity of extension, outreach and information services strengthened 5. Strengthen adaptive capacity of communities to impacts of climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-farm participatory demonstration sites of integrated farming systems established in at least 5 ACPs • Increase in the adoption of community genebanks • Improvement in the genetic base and distribution of selected livestock materials • Increased diversity of production systems • Increased diversity of nutritional foods in Pacific diets • Aquaculture farming promoted • Extension policies developed in 10 PACPs with participatory outreach methods adopted • Regional strategy for engaging youth in agriculture implemented • Improved understanding on climate change impacts • Resilient food production systems developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LRD thematic teams quarterly reports • CePACT collection database • LRD thematic team quarterly reports • Nutritional research and surveys • Thematic team reports • Forestry inventories • Annual national progress reports • Youth in Agriculture strategy document 	Agricultural policies remain in harmony with participatory extension approach Stakeholders participate Partnership funding from countries is forthcoming. Consistent political support National support
Activities			
Results 1:			

<p>Facilitate and support on-farm demonstrations and extension by technical assistance and financial support, with involvement of farmers, extension workers, NSAs and researchers.</p> <p>Result 2 2.1 Promote community genebanks and nurseries for providing planting material, livestock varieties, research, and conservation in countries. 2.2 Develop policies to support consumption and utilisation of locally grown food sources.</p> <p>Result 3 3.1 Develop small-scale food processing and research aspects of diet and health. 3.2 Support to establish school lunch programmes, based on local food 3.3 Documenting the traditional food system</p> <p>Result 4 4.1 Support development of participatory extension policies and outreach. 4.2 Support engagement of youth and women in agricultural and forestry activities.</p> <p>Result 5: 5.1 Assess community vulnerability to climate change threats and design adaptation measures 5.2 Evaluation of resilient food production systems</p>	<p>Number of training sessions on establishment of on-farm trials, analyses, and reporting</p> <p>Number of genebanks and nurseries Livestock varieties distributed</p> <p>Number of countries with policies</p> <p>Number of processing units Number of researches</p> <p>Number of countries promoting school lunches Countries carrying out documentation</p> <p>Number of countries developing policies</p> <p>Number of youth and women's activities in countries</p> <p>Resilient crop varieties (from CePaCT) evaluated and utilised</p>	<p>Training materials used for training</p> <p>Thematic team reports Thematic team reports</p> <p>LRD report</p> <p>LRD reports Thematic team reports</p> <p>National and LRD reports</p> <p>LRD reports</p> <p>Pacific Islands Extension Network reports</p> <p>National and LRD reports</p>	<p>Research and extension cooperation in on-farm activities</p> <p>Partners fully supportive Stakeholders participate</p> <p>NARES structure and culture conducive to improved linkages</p>
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Budget

Budget Lines of Direct Eligible Costs	Project Total	Total Grant Requested	Co-financing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total staff costs (including in- country staff in all 14 ACP countries)¹ 1,110,000 		1,110,000	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,200,000 Travel and subsistence costs (including extension summit) 		1,200,000	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchasing or renting equipment/ services, including renting offices or other infrastructure 500,000 		500,000	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,100,000 Consumables and other supplies 		1,100,000	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subcontracts/consultancies 	200,500	200,500	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dissemination of project results, information, including translation, printing, etc. (including EU visibility) 250,000 		250,000	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100,000 Monitoring and evaluation. 		100,000	

• Audit, and insurance.	25,000	25,000	
<i>Subtotal direct eligible costs</i>	4,485,500	4,485,500	
Eligible indirect costs (overheads)	313,985	313,985	
Contingency reserve	500,000	500,000	
TOTAL	5,299,485	5,299,485	
