

MEDIUM TERM COOPERATION PROGRAM WITH FARMERS' ORGANIZATION
IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION PHASE 2 (MTCP2)



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2016**
PACIFIC ISLAND

CONSORTIUM ASIAN FARMERS' ASSOCIATION FOR
SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT (AFA)
AND LA VIA CAMPESINA (LVC)

MEDIUM TERM COOPERATION PROGRAM WITH FARMERS' ORGANIZATION
IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION PHASE 2 (MTCP2)



ANNUAL REPORT 2016

PACIFIC ISLAND

CONSORTIUM ASIAN FARMERS' ASSOCIATION FOR
SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT (AFA)
AND LA VIA CAMPESINA (LVC)



ABOUT MEDIUM-TERM COOPERATION PROGRAMME WITH FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION PHASE 2 (MTCP2)

The Farmers' Forum (FaFo) which was established in 2005 is an ongoing dialogue between IFAD and the small-scale women and men farmers. The forum aims to strengthen the partnership and collaboration between IFAD and FOs in country programmes, investment projects and in building FO capacity. In support to farmers forum, projects are established to strengthen the FOs and activities in the field. Thus, the first phase of the Medium Term Cooperation Program for Farmers Organizations in Asia and Pacific (MTCP1) was implemented from 2009 to 2012. The second phase of the Medium-Term Cooperation Programme with Farmers' Organizations in Asia and the Pacific Region – Phase 2 (MTCP2) was approved by IFAD on 12 June, 2013, and the Large Grant Agreement became effective on 4 September, 2013. The Programme's completion date is 30 September, 2018, and the financing closing date 31 March, 2019. The Programme builds on lessons learned from the MTCP1, which was in part implemented by FAO.

Objectives: MTCP2 aims to further strengthen the capacities of farmers' organizations (FOs) in Asia and the Pacific to deliver better, improved and inclusive services to their members and to engage in effective dialogues with governments, thereby making FOs more viable, responsive and accountable to their members, more respected by their partners and with greater participation in policy-making and program implementation processes of governments and IFAD country operations. Its primary beneficiaries are smallholder farmers who are current or potential members of participating FOs. The MTCP2 is benefiting 200 national FOs as members of the national platforms/forums in the 17 participating countries in the three sub- regions (South-East Asia + China, South Asia and Pacific Regions). This includes 1045 sub-national FOs, together representing an estimated membership of about 22 million individual farmers, consisting of about 13 million members in South-East Asia + China, about 9 million in South Asia, and about 0.025 million in the Pacific sub-region.

Components: The Programme is articulated around four components: (i) Component 1 - Strengthen FOs and their networks; (ii) Component 2 - Support participation of FOs in policy processes; (iii) Component 3 - FO Services and Involvement in Agricultural Development Programmes ; and (iv) Component 4 - Programme management and coordination.

Geographical coverage: The MTCP2 is evolving in terms of geographical coverage and implementation modalities, aiming to increase the benefits of its actions to a larger number of farmers' organizations in the region, and also to enhance the FOs' ownership - both at regional and national level - in the implementation of the Programme's activities. Therefore, MTCP 2 has expanded its geographical coverage within South Asia and South East Asia, and has opened it to the Pacific Region.

Implementation modalities: The programme is based on national platforms grouping all farmers' organisations of each country deciding their own annual work plan and facilitated by a national implementing agency. Each sub-region is coordinated by a Sub-regional implementation agency (ANFPA, LVC/AFA and PIFON and the whole regional MTCP2 is under the coordination of the Regional Implementing agency managed by the consortium of AFA/LVC. RIA and SRIAs are farmer organisations, selected through a competitive process to ensure direct implementation of the Programme's activities.

The total programme base cost is estimated as of now for a total of USD 19,178,000. Programme costs are co-financed by an IFAD grant of US\$ 2 million (10% of total costs), a grant from SDC of US\$ 3 million (16% of total costs) and a contribution of EU (through AFOSP programme, see below) of US\$ 10 million (52% of total costs).

Additional EU funds focusing on the ASEAN sub region: the AFOSP. On 12 June 2015, MTCP2 received a new grant of EUR 7.4 million [= USD 8.3 million] under an agreement signed between the European Union (EU) and IFAD for the funding of the Asian Farmers' Organisations Support Programme (AFOSP) and Medium Term Cooperation Programme Phase 2 and regional policy dialogue in Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region (AFOSP/MTCP2 ASEAN). The EU contribution through AFOSP/MTCP2 ASEAN is focused on the ASEAN sub-region; it is one of the two pillars of the global EU-funded AFOSP programme supporting MTCP2 and AgriCord under the AFOSP/FFP ASEAN grant agreement. The AFOSP was launched in September 2015. The recipient of the grant and implementing agency for the AFOSP/MTCP2 is AFA in partnership with LVC as SRIA. The funds will be downloaded to NIAs.

To learn more on MTCP2, visit our website: <http://www.asiapacificfarmersforum.com>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Figures and Tables	IV
Figures	IV
Tables	IV
Acronyms Used	V
1. Executive Summary	1
2. Update from National Implementing Agencies	3
2.1. Fiji	3
2.2. Tonga	4
2.3. Vanuatu	5
2.4. Papua New Guinea	6
2.5. Samoa	6
2.6. Solomon Islands	7
2.7. Timor Leste	8
3. Update on Regional Activities	9
3.1. Pacific Breadfruit Roundtable	9
3.2. Pacific Open Pollinated Seed Learning Exchange	10
3.3. Pacific Open Pollinated Seed Learning Roundtable	11
3.4. PIFON Learning and Planning Meeting	11
4. Highlights of Key Accomplishments Over Reporting Period	15
4.1. Component 1: Strengthening of Farmer Organisations and their networks	15
4.2. Component 2: Participation in Policy processes	26
4.3. Component 3: FO Services and involvement in Agricultural Development Program	30
4.4. Component 4: Program Coordination and Management	34



ACRONYMS USED

AFA	Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development
AFOSP	ASEAN Farmers' Organization Strengthening Program
AFFM	Association of Farmers Federation in Myanmar
ANAPROFIKO	National Association of Commercial Seed Producers
ANPFa	All Nepal Peasant Federation
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AsiaDHRRA	Asian Partnership for the Development of Human resources in Rural Areas
AWPB	Annual Workplan and Budget
CSA	Climate Resilient Agriculture
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DAR	Department of Agrarian Reform
EU	European Union
FACT	Farmers Advocacy and Consultation Tool
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FAO APRC	Food and Agriculture Organization – Asia Pacific Regional Conference
FNN	Farmers and Nature Network
FO	Farmers' Organization
FSA	Farm Support Association
FU	Farmers' Union
GAFFSP	Global Agriculture and Food Security Program
GCARD3	Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development
CGIAR	Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
GroFed	Growers' Federation of Tonga, Inc.
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IRR	Implementing Rules and Regulations
KGA	Kastom Gaden Association
KM	Knowledge Management
LEAP	Laos Extension for Agriculture Program

LFN	Lao Farmers' Network
LURAS	Lao Upland Rural Advisory Service
LVC	La Via Campesina
LWF	Lutheran World Federation
MFF	Myanmar Fishery Federation
MTR	Medium Term Review
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MTCP2	Medium Term Cooperation Program Phase Two
NAC/NSC	National Advisory Committee / National Steering Committee
NAPC	National Anti-Poverty Commission
NFA	National Food Authority
NIA	National Implementing Agency
NSC	National Steering Committee
NWC	Nature's Way Cooperative
NWP	Netherlands Water Partnership
PARO	Provincial Agrarian Reform Office
PCA	Philippine Coconut Authority
PIFON	Pacific Island Farmers' Organization Network
PNG	Papua New Guinea
PWC	Philippine Women Commission
RECOFTC	The Center for People and Forests
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RIA	Regional Implementing Agency
TA	Technical Assistance
TRTC	Tutu Rural Training Center
TTT	Tei Tei Taveuni
SA	South Asia
SAGDD	Summary of Activities with Gender Disaggregated Data
SEA	Southeast Asia
SEARICE	Southeast Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment
SEWA	Self-Employed Women's Association

SKP	SorKorPor Farmers' Federation for Development Thailand
SRIA	Sub-Regional Implementing Agency
SRSC	Sub-regional Steering Committee
TTT	Tei Tei Taveuni
VCOPA	Virgin Coconut Oil Producers' Association
VNFU	Vietnam Farmers' Union
WA	Withdrawal Application
WIADF	Women in Agriculture Development Foundation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PIFON began 2016 dealing with the impact of Tropical Cyclone Winston in Fiji. This extreme natural disaster had a significant impact on the workload of the PIFON Secretariat in Fiji with a flooded office and the temporary leave of its COM required concerted efforts of the two men team of Kyle and Aneet which enabled the signing off the LOA's with the NIA's in anticipation of 2016 AWPB's. Additional to the regular AWPB's for 2016 was the operationalizing of its very own Pacific Breadfruit and Seeds Program.

For SRIA, the main focus was the Mid Term Review for the first quarter, emphasis was placed on preparatory work in the Solomons with KGA, in Fiji on Taveuni Island with Teitei Taveuni for the site visitations. The recruitment of a Program Manager and Ana rejoined to give the office capacity to push ahead with the MTR visits. The RSC in Laos quickly followed with PIFON scoring a high 4 overall on its activities and MTCP II program outcomes, lessons learnt and recommendations were filed to set the stage for the remainder of 2016.

The regional focus for MTCP II 2016 was activities surrounding PIFON's Pacific Breadfruit and Seeds Program which included farmer to farmer exchange visits and the two Regional Roundtables that weren't to be hosted in Fiji as has been the case but rather using NIA's in the other regional countries of Tonga and Solomons to host. This was a new concept that the PIFON Board had approved, to allow members to visit other countries, be exposed and visit the FO members in those countries but also to allow capacity building in hosting for its members. Tonga to host the Pacific Breadfruit Roundtable and Solomons to host the Pacific Open Pollinated Seeds Roundtable.

Additionally, a new NIA was welcomed into PIFON, ANAPROFIKO of Timor Leste was formally accepted and signed an LOA to receive funds through the MTCP II program for its capacity building and support of its Strategic Plan that it filed with PIFON.

The operationalizing of the Pacific Breadfruit and Seeds Program was rolled out as Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga and PNG were the only countries that responded with proposed activities under this initiative. LOA Addendums were signed concurrently with TRTC, KGA, GroFED and PNGWiAD to enable activities in these two specific areas of Breadfruit and Open Pollinated Seeds.

Several regional and international events also took place during 2016 where PIFON was represented and gained networking and recognition, these were the IFAD Farmers Forum in Rome in February; Seeds of Life Conference, Timor Leste in March; Harmful Chemicals Workshop, Cook Islands; Agribusiness Conference in Samoa; Global Breadfruit Summit held in Hawaii; Australian Women in Agriculture AGM Conference in Canberra, Australia; Caribbean Week of Agriculture in the Cayman Islands, Caribbean. At these Conferences, representatives of PIFON attended and gained very valuable lessons that they are able to impart to their fellow farmer members in their organisations.

However, the Roundtables for the Breadfruit co-hosted by GroFED, Nishi Foundation and MORDI held in Nukualofa Tonga and the Open Pollinated Seed co-hosted by KGA, Za Tina held in Honiara, Solomon Islands were the highlight of the PIFON 2016 Calendar year. Roundtable reports are being prepared for dissemination from these meetings and the main outcomes from these two roundtables were the Country Work plans that were put together at the roundtable by country representatives who looked at where their country was and to put in place work plans after presentations, discussions and seeing what other countries had done. The events also allowed participants to come up with possible solutions that Governments and their donor partners could look at to assist farmer organisations with Breadfruit and Open Pollinated Seeds in our region.

To wrap up a very good year, PIFON co-hosted an IFAD Indigenous Peoples Forum at the Lagoon Resort, Pacific Harbour alongside its Learning and Planning meeting which also coincided with its MTCP II Sub-Regional Steering Committee, an Impact Workshop with SPC PAPP on its PAPP Agreement, and a WRF Family Farming Consultation Workshop. The attendance of the NIA's from its country membership ensured that the meetings were well represented and very frank robust discussions and debates were concluded over the week long meetings. Those that attended agreed that the week was very intensive with solid outcomes that will help continue to map the way forward for PIFON's network and its members.

We wish to thank everyone for work well done this year and looking forward to a fruitful 2017 year and the upcoming AGM meeting scheduled for first quarter of 2017.

UPDATE FROM NATIONAL IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

FIJI

The signing of the LOA between PIFON as the Sub-regional Implementing Agency (SRIA) for the Pacific and Fiji's National Implementing Agency (NIA), Tei Tei Taveuni (TTT), was completed on 27 January 2016.

To date the main activities completed by TTT have included:

A series of floriculture training sessions was hosted by Tei Tei Taveuni and Tutu Rural Training Centre for their members in May 2016. The trainings were conducted by Donald and Aileen Burness of the South Sea Orchids Floriculture Group using the CTA funded Fiji Floriculture Handbook.

Fiji was represented at the 2016 Hawaii Global Breadfruit Summit held in Hawaii on 29 – 31 August 2016. The Summit was hosted to create a global breadfruit network that honours and sustains the breadfruit tree with the weaving of traditional wisdom and modern science and technology to raise the common good of man and nature.

A short term consultancy was awarded to PIFON Associate member, Bula Agro Enterprises owner to play the role of Seed Coordinator to the Fiji component of the Open Pollinated Seed Supply programme. This 8 day per month contract was signed in August and is to close in December.

A vanilla scoping visit was made by two representatives from Tei Tei Taveuni (TTT), Fiji's NIA, to Tonga. This was carried out on September 17 – 21, 2016. Visits were made to a leading vanilla farm and the two vanilla producers/exporters in Vava'u, namely, Queen Vanilla and Heilala Vanilla.



VANILLA DRYING IN TONGA

TONGA

The signing of the LOA was completed on 17 February 2016.

Activities completed to date have included:

A Papaya and Breadfruit Technical exchange was conducted for the Growers Federation of Tonga from the 17th to the 21st of May, 2016. The objective of the technical exchange was to expose the growers from Tonga to Fiji's current best practices with regards to the papaya and breadfruit export industry. The CTA funded and SPC-PAPP printed Pacific Value Chain Guide was the tool used to articulate all the actors in the chain and all costs involved from the suppliers to the point of export and beyond.

Funds were transferred to GroFed for the PBSP activities for 2016.

GroFed contracted out the development and printing of a GAP guidelines for growers in Tonga.

Nine representatives from Tongan farmer organisations comprising of 2 women and 7 men, participated in the Breadfruit Learning Exchange in Fiji from 03rd – 05th August, 2016.



A MANUAL BREADFRUIT CHIP GRINDER AT BULA AGRO ENTERPRISES, VONTUALEVU, NADI, FIJI.

A HOT AIR DRYER USED TO DRY BREAD-FRUIT CHIPS AT BULA AGRO ENTERPRISES, VOTUALEVU, NADI, FIJI.



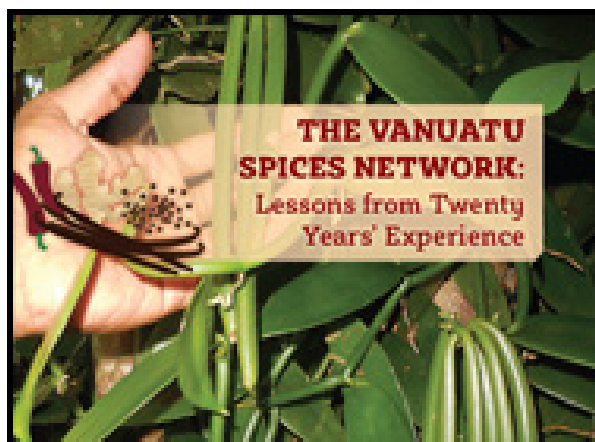
VANUATU

The signing of the LOA between PIFON and the NIA for Vanuatu, the Farm Support Association (FSA) was completed on 02 March 2016.

Activities completed so far are as follows:

A publication was prepared for PIFON member Farm Support Association (FSA) highlighting a number of key lessons that come from the twenty years of experience with the Vanuatu Spices Network. This publication is a useful resource for other Pacific Islands involved in spice production and marketing as it highlights key success factors for an export spice industry as well as an interesting model linking small holder farmers in remote locations to agribusiness. The publication also explores the role of organic certification in the development of the Vanuatu Spices Network and how this has evolved over a period of twenty years.

THE VANUATU SPICES
NETWORK: LESSONS FROM
TWENTY YEARS' EXPERIENCE



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

PNG WiADF signed its LOA as the NIA for PNG, with PIFON on 11 February 2016.

Activities completed to date are as follows:

A livestock and fish farming training was conducted for farmers in the highlands of PNG from May 09th – 12th. Livestock included poultry and pig. The basic training highlighted many cost effective methods in fish and animal husbandry. The final phase of this training involved basic book keeping and financial literacy.

Support was provided to PNG Women in Agriculture Development Foundation (WiADF) to contract a consultant to document and profile 15 farmer organisations both in picture form and short videos.

Support was also provided for the write-up of 3 project proposals and to conduct a proposal writing training for 20 participants.

A short term consultancy was also awarded to conduct meetings of farmer groups to carry out awareness, needs assessments and profiling of groups across four regions in PNG. The goal is to strengthen and better integrate smaller FOs in PNG into the WiADF platform.

A REPORT ON A LIVESTOCK
AND FISH FARMING TRAINING
CONDUCTED FOR FARMERS IN
THE HIGHLANDS OF PNG.



SAMOA

The signing of the LOA between PIFON and Samoa's NIA, the Samoa Farmers Association (SFA) was completed on 02 June 2016.

Activities completed to date are as follows:

A follow up on the pineapple technical exchanges conducted in 2014 and 2015 from Fiji to Samoa was implemented from October 01 – 05, 2016.

A papaya technical exchange follow-up to the November 2015 training from Fiji to Samoa was implemented on October 10 – 14, 2016.

CULLED TREES ON AN
SFA'S MEMBERS FARM TO
ENCOURAGE MORE HER-
MAPHRODITE FRUIT



SOLOMON ISLANDS

The signing of the LOA between PIFON and Kastom Gaden Association (KGA), the National Implementing Agency (NIA) for the Solomons was completed on 26 January 2016.

Agreed work plan is in progress with the following being completed:

The Virgin Coconut Oil Producers Association (VCOPA) endorsed by Kastom Gaden Association (KGA) as an observer, is working in partnership with PIFON to undertake a strategic planning exercise to formulate its 5 year Strategic plan. VCOPA is working to align its Strategic Plan to the Solomon Islands Government agriculture development plans to ensure steady growth of the industry in the years to come. It brings in nuts from the main island of Guadalcanal and other islands into its site to produce virgin coconut oil (VCO).

Support was provided to KGA for the re-printing of an organic farming guide, produced by POETCOM.

Funds were transferred to KGA for the PBSP activities for 2016.

Guide to the Production of Organic Crops for the Pacific

ROTF 2009

AN ORGANIC FARMING GUIDE PRODUCED
BY POETCOM THAT IS TO BE REPRINTED.

TIMOR LESTE

New inclusion to the PIFON network, Asosiasaun Nasional Produtor Fini Komersial (ANAPROFIKO), the National Association of Commercial Seed Producers is now officially the National Implementing Agency (NIA) for Timor Leste. ANAPROFIKO is the national umbrella association of seed producer groups in Timor Leste and has signed its Letter of Agreement (LOA) with PIFON on 23rd August, 2016.

Timor Leste is the newest member to the Pacific Community.

ANAPROFIKO promotes the development of commercial seed trade to achieve seed security and seed sovereignty leading to food and nutrition security.

ANAPROFIKO has carried out its own Strategic Plan internally outlining its requirements and the Secretariat has transferred funds to ANAPROFIKO to carry out its activities as outlined in its Strategic Plan.

Activities under its MTCP II program work plan for 2016 include training on seed quality control and proposal writing.

A farmer to farmer learning exchange was carried out between delegates from 5 different municipalities. It was in support of the farmers' member associations to understand how to implement the program CA (Agriculture Conservation).



ANAPROFIKO FARMER
MEMBERS WITH SUPPLY
OF SEED

UPDATE ON REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

PACIFIC BREADFRUIT ROUNDTABLE

The Pacific Island Farmers Organisation Network in partnership with Nishi Foundation, GroFed (Growers Federation of Tonga) and MORDI (Mainstreaming of Rural Development Innovation Tonga Trust) co-organized a Pacific Breadfruit Roundtable. This two-day consultative roundtable was held in Nuku'alofa, on the friendly islands of Tonga from September 15th - 16th, 2016. The event was attended by 50 participants from seven Pacific Island countries including farmers, farmer organisation representatives, research organisations, government partners and aid agencies.

This event, a first of its kind for the region, was co-funded by the EU funded SPC PAPP (Pacific Agricultural Partnership Program) and IFAD/SDC funded MTCP II project.

The objective of this roundtable was to bring together PIFON members and other partners who are actively involved in breadfruit research and development in the Pacific to share experiences, get updated and work to synergize regional breadfruit activities. Discussions on the context for breadfruit development in the region as well as PIFON's Pacific Breadfruit and Seed Supply Programme (PBSP) were the focus subjects. The roundtable also included four technical sessions including: Breadfruit Varieties and Propagation, Breadfruit Production Systems, Fresh Exports of Breadfruit and Breadfruit Processing.

A key outcome from the roundtable meeting were detailed national work plans for each of the seven countries represented along with a series of inter-regional technical partnerships being established. PIFON is now seeking additional funding for its PBSP to help support the national activities identified. Proceedings from this roundtable will be released by PIFON in due course.

THE PACIFIC BREADFRUIT ROUNDTABLE PARTICIPANTS AT THE NISHI TRADING FACILITY IN NUKU'ALOFA, TONGA



PACIFIC OPEN POLLINATED SEED LEARNING EXCHANGE

A Pacific Open Pollinated Seed Learning Exchange was hosted by Terra Circle Australia in Brisbane from October 25 – 29, 2016 targeting Farmer Organization members who work in the area of open pollinated seed production. A total of 11 farmer organisation representatives participated in this event from 6 countries (Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Solomon Islands, PNG and Timor Leste).

The Learning Exchange included technical presentations, field visits and hands on training. Specific topics for the Learning Exchange included: variety selection, growing, processing, packaging and storage of Open Pollinated seed. Sites visited include: Green Harvest Seeds, Eden Seeds, UQ Gatton and QDAFF. The Learning Exchange also included visits to suppliers of seed processing and packaging materials.

A report from the Learning Exchange is now available on the PIFON website via <http://www.pacificfarmers.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Trip-Report-for-the-Open-Pollinated-Seed-Learning-Exchange.pdf>



JOELI NATAKI OF NATURE'S WAY COOPERATIVE TRIES OUT THE MECHANICAL SEED PROCESSOR AT EDEN SEEDS

PARTICIPANTS OF THE PACIFIC OPEN POLLINATED SEED LEARNING EXCHANGE AT EDEN SEEDS



PACIFIC OPEN POLLINATED SEED LEARNING ROUNDTABLE

The first ever Pacific Open Pollinated Seed Roundtable was hosted by Kastom Gaden Association (KGA) and Zai Na Tina Farms in Honiara, Solomon Islands on October 31 – November 01, 2016 bringing together farmers and researchers from around the region to share information and lessons learnt on developing open pollinated vegetable varieties in the Pacific. The event was successful being the first of its kind, attracting at least 60 participants from around the region.

Funding for this event was provided through the IFAD Medium Term Cooperation Project – Phase II (MTCP II) and the EU funded SPC Pacific Agricultural Policy Project (PAPP).

The two day roundtable event brought together PIFON members and other partners who are actively involved in open pollinated seed research and development within the PIFON network to share experiences, get updated and work to synergize seed activities. Discussions on the context for open pollination seed development in the region as well as PIFON's Pacific Breadfruit and Seeds Programme (PBSP) were the focus subjects.

Important case studies from the Solomon Islands, Fiji and Timor Leste were presented to promote the sharing of key lessons learnt amongst farmer organisations in the region. Planning for future activities at the national level to improve access to open pollinated seeds for farmers was a key outcome at the event.



PIFON LEARNING AND PLANNING MEETING

PIFON held a three-day Learning and Planning Meeting for its NIAs from November 23 – 25, 2016 at the Lagoon Resort, Pacific Harbour comprising of a PIFON-SPC Impact Workshop, the Sub-Regional Steering Committee (SRSC) meeting and a Farmer Organisation Consultation meeting on Family Farming.

A. PIFON-SPC IMPACT WORKSHOP

In its bid to build stronger partnerships to improve farmer livelihoods, PIFON held an impact workshop on November 23 to assess impacts of activities under the PIFON-SPC partnership (2014-2016) and also discuss the way forward for building on the foundation laid between SPC and Pacific farmer organisations.

B. SUB-REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

At the Annual SRSC meeting held on November 24, present were representatives from the 7 of the Pacific NIA's whereby each delegate presented their Country Report activities held in 2017 and expectations of 2018 year forward, issues and lessons to learn going forward into 2018.

C. FARMER ORGANISATION CONSULTATION ON FAMILY FARMING

A Farmer Organisation Consultation on Family Farming meeting was held on November 25 to identify and address policy constraints impacting smallholder farmers. Also discussed at the meeting was the potential role that farmer organisations (FOs) could play in addressing policy constraints and how to improve their capacity in influencing policy.

PIFON recently signed a partnership contract with the World Rural Forum as a partner and signatory to Family Farming. In 2014, the UN declared it as the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF), a resolution was then adopted that the good work would continue into a decade thus the initiative is now called IYFF+10.

Family farming is a means of organizing agriculture where the production is managed and operated by a father, mother, children of a family unit working together to toil their land and provide for their food security or livelihood.

In the Pacific it is widely practiced but it is often called subsistence farming, farming, smallholder farming, traditional farming, indigenous farming or organic farming.

At the policy levels of the UN, the Family farming initiative pushes to enable the proper enabling environment to ensure a dignified life for smallholder families, indigenous communities, fishers and pastoralists; and to meet consumers' needs more appropriately and more effectively.

At its first session held at the Lagoon Resort in Pacific Harbour on November 25, 2016, PIFON members recognized the important role that their farmer organisations must play in strengthening policy issues. There was agreement that representation at forums nationally and regionally is needed to raise their voices on their issues.

The IYFF+10 initiative promotes the fact that family farms produce 80% of the world's food in terms of value, thus confirming family farming's vital importance for global food security and food sovereignty for present and future generations.



KYLE STICE, PIFON MANAGER, MAKING HIS OPENING PRESENTATION AT THE 2016 PIFON LEARNING AND PLANNING MEETING



SINAI TUITAHI OF GROWERS FEDERATION OF TONGA
MAKING HER COUNTRY PRESENTATION AT THE 2016
PIFON LEARNING AND PLANNING MEETING



MARIA LINIBI OF PNG WIADF PRESENTS
ON THE IMPACTS OF HER WORK UNDER
THE PIFON-SPC PARTNERSHIP AT ONE OF
SIX 'IMPACT STATIONS' WHICH ALLOWED
STAKEHOLDERS TO ENGAGE DIRECTLY
WITH THE FOS WHO IMPLEMENTED AND
BENEFITTED UNDER THE PARTNERSHIP



PETER KAOH OF FSA IDENTIFYING
AND ADDRESSING POLICY CON-
STRAINTS IMPACTING SMALLHOLDER
FARMERS OF VANUATU

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS OVER REPORTING PERIOD

COMPONENT 1: STRENGTHENING OF FARMER ORGANISATIONS AND THEIR NETWORKS

REGIONAL EXCHANGES OF EXPERTISE BETWEEN FOS AND THEIR ASSOCIATED PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERS

FIJI

A series of floriculture trainings was conducted in May 2016 by the Burness's of the South Sea Orchids Floriculture Group in Taveuni. The trainings were hosted by Tei Tei Taveuni and Tutu Rural Training Centre. The CTA funded Fiji Floriculture Handbook was the tool utilised in the trainings.

Topics covered at the training workshop included the three levels of floriculture: backyard floriculture, semi-commercial floriculture (both open and shade-house) and landscape gardening. The general care of orchids and the planting, growing practices and harvesting of dendrobium cut flower orchids were also part of the curriculum and to top it off a session on how to successfully run a floriculture business was also included.

Floriculture is seen as an important diversification activity for interested farmers who can link up with both the tourist and non-tourist domestic markets.

MR DON BURNESS EXPLAINS
HOW TO GROW AND HARVEST
ANTHURIUMS



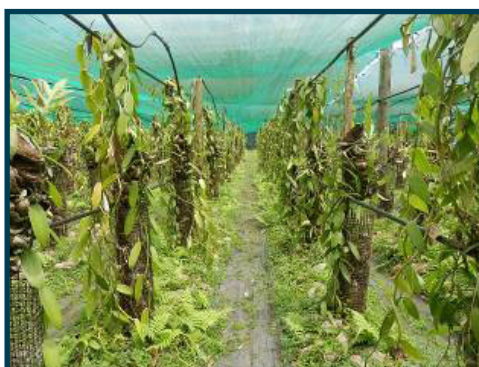
COCONUT HUSKS BEING EXPOSED TO
THE SUN TO REMOVE 'TANNINS' THAT
ARE HARMFUL TO THE PLANTS. RICE AND
COCONUT HUSKS ARE THE RECOMMENDED
MEDIUM FOR ANTHURIUMS.

A vanilla scoping visit was made by two representatives from Tei Tei Taveuni (TTT), Fiji's NIA, to Tonga. This was carried out on September 17 – 21, 2016.

Visits were made to a leading vanilla farm and the two vanilla producers/exporters in Vava'u, namely, Queen Vanilla and Heilala Vanilla. Knowledge gained from these visits included the knowledge of the history of vanilla in Tonga, the number of farmers, processing vanilla, methods/farm management practices and marketing opportunities available.

Lessons learnt from this scoping visit include:

- The current shortage of Vanilla is the cause of the high prices.
- Both Queens and Heilala are willing to purchase all beans (processed) produced by TTT and are willing to provide assistance.
- There is a need to multicrop as there will be variations in vanilla prices. Vanilla is definitely an excellent high value crop that could be easily grown in a multi cropping system.
- TTT could work with Queens or Heilala to get a letter of intent to assist financing for farmers (start-up capital) and project to set up 10 trial farms.
- Central processing and buying green beans is essential to ensure quality control
- PGS organic certification should ensure better prices for vanilla or other intercropped commodities
- Processing is pretty straight forward and basic, but an honest and dedicated team is required.
- Farmers must be dedicated for the rewards are good
- TTT will have to process or get someone to process beans
- Vanilla is an easy crop to grow and needs attention in the first 2 months. Once it has established itself, it is a pretty hardy plant.
- Expertise in Vanilla growing is available in Fiji, Sanfred Smith (SPC), Spices of Fiji (Veronica Hazelman) and Lui (Sawani), to name a few.
- Farmers need to know the pros and the cons of vanilla farming before committing to the project.



VANILLA GROWN BY HEILALA

VANILLA DRYING BY QUEENS



A farmer technical exchange on sustainable agriculture was carried out by Ranadi Plantation to Tei Tei Taveuni from November 29 to December 01, 2016. The three day workshop comprised of lessons on how farmers could contribute to carbon sequestering and food security and how to make Bio-vital fertilizer from natural on-farm ingredients. 32 farmers participated in this workshop at Tutu, Taveuni.



MAKING SOIL PROBIOTIC AND BIO FERTILIZER



MAKING COMPOST

TONGA

The Growers Federation of Tonga in partnership with PIFON facilitated a farmer technical exchange on breadfruit and papaya to Fiji from the 17th to the 21st of May, 2016. The seven member group consisted of farmers and two exporters who are all currently engaged in commercial production of papaya and breadfruit and geared towards exports to New Zealand.

The objective of the technical exchange was to expose the growers from Tonga to Fiji's current best practices with regards to the papaya and breadfruit export industry. The CTA funded and SPC-PAPP printed Pacific Value Chain Guide was the tool used to articulate all the actors in the chain and all costs involved from the suppliers to the point of export and beyond.

The program included visits to all of the 'actors' in the value chain including: commercial nurseries, commercial farms, exporter pack-houses and Fiji High Temperature Forced Air treatment chamber and packing facility.

It is envisioned following this technical exchange, the participants would be in a better position to fully exploit the papaya and breadfruit industries in Tonga.



THE TONGANS VISIT DEVESH BHAROS' NURSERY IN VOTUALEVU, NADI, FIJI



NATURE'S WAY COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION OFFICER, KAITU ERASITO, EXPLAINS HOW TO BAG THE PAPAYA FLOWER

Fiji and Tonga are both exporters of fresh breadfruit. Through PIFONs Pacific Breadfruit and Seed programme, a learning exchange was facilitated between these two countries to share experiences and promote best practices.

Nine representatives from Tongan farmer organisations comprising of 2 women and 7 men, participated in the Breadfruit Learning Exchange in Fiji from 03rd – 05th August, 2016.

Farmer organisations represented were Nishi Trading, Growers Federation of Tonga and Mainstreaming of Rural Development Inc (MORDI). The 3 day exchange involved breadfruit orchard and farm visits, visits to Ministry of Agriculture Research Stations and farming input supplier organisation, Marco Polo and also the Pacific Community's Centre of Pacific Crops and Trees (SPC CePaCT) in Suva.

Topics covered included: the fresh export breadfruit value chain, expected returns from breadfruit production, a visit to a large scale breadfruit production site showcasing trials of the three different propagation types – tissue culture, root sucker and marcotting trials, bait spraying demo, breadfruit characterization, hands-on training on marcotting, and briefing on tissue culture breadfruit systems et cetera by the SPC CePaCT staff. To sum up the exchange, a climate change adaptation presentation focusing on Breadfruit as the key crop for the future food security of the Pacific Islands was conducted by Koko Siga Pacific (Fiji) Ltd.

Action plans completed by participants following the exchange stated planting breadfruit orchards and sharing of lessons learnt as the top priorities for when they return home.



PARTICIPANTS OF THE TONGA-FIJI BREADFRUIT LEARNING EXCHANGE AT THE PACIFIC REGIONAL BREADFRUIT COLLECTION CENTRE FOR PACIFIC CROPS AND TREES, SPC, SUVA

VANUATU

Technical assistance was provided to the Farm Support Association (FSA) in the professional write-up of lessons learnt and experiences over the 20 years of the running of the Vanuatu Spices Network. The publication is now available on the PIFON website via <http://www.pacificfarmers.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Spice-Handbook-5.pdf>

SAMOA

A follow-up assessment on the pineapple production training completed in 2014 and 2015 was implemented from October 01 – 05, 2016. The purpose of the follow-up was to solve remaining production problems and work out a system to manage the crop production and its future sustainability. The first 2 trainings held in 2014 and 2015 consisted of classroom presentations of intensive off season production systems used in Fiji followed by field demonstrations of planting, flower induction, nursery propagation of planting material etc. The ultimate goal of the trainings was to introduce off season production of pineapple in Samoa.

10 – 12 tonnes of fruit was sold locally through “Farmer Joe’s” shops in Apia during the off season of 2016, this being regarded as a substantial and profitable success, however, with better management the production could have been twice the volume.

A follow-up assessment on the papaya technical exchange from Fiji to Samoa conducted in November last year, was implemented from October 10 – 14, 2016. The purpose of the training is to assess and review results of the papaya trainings and activities of 2015 taking into consideration the following factors:

- Yields achieved
- Major problems encountered by farmers with regards to pests and diseases
- Soil management and impact on yields.

Main points in moving forward:

1. Establish good productive seed blocks for sustainability
2. Expand the current production to other geographical areas
3. Conduct more training with farmers on best practices
4. Monitor and mentor current active farmers to point of export
5. Develop a program for 2017 with a view to exports

PARTICIPANTS OF THE
TONGA-FIJI BREADFRUIT
LEARNING EXCHANGE AT
THE PACIFIC REGIONAL
BREADFRUIT COLLECTION
CENTRE FOR PACIFIC
CROPS AND TREES, SPC,
SUVA





YELLOW LEAVES AND UNDERSIZED FRUIT ON THE DEMO PLOT PLANTED IN 2015 DUE TO NON-AVAILABILITY OF THE GROWTH REGULATOR FOR OFF SEASON FLOWER INDUCTION

TIMOR LESTE

A farmers to farmers species farming exchange from Dili to Bobonaro, was implemented in October/ November. The visit was to support the farmers' member associations in understanding the implementation of the program CA (Agriculture Conservation).

TECHNICAL ADVISOR ASSISTING MEMBERS IN THE ORGANISATIONAL REVIEWS, STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PREPARATION OF FUNDING PROPOSALS

FIJI

Technical assistance was provided to Nature's Way Cooperative (NWC) in the undertaking of its Strategic Review in its bid to improve the current practices and find innovative ways of accomplishing goals.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

The Virgin Coconut Oil Producers Association (VCOA) is being provided assistance in the formulation of its 5 year Strategic Plan to align to its nation's agriculture development plans.

PIFON is currently preparing and negotiating a proposal to FAO for a PIFON-KGA led initiative project in the Solomon Islands.

PNG

Support was provided to PNG WiADF for the write-up of 3 project proposals and to conduct a proposal writing training for 20 participants

Services to be provided based on this consultancy:

- Training in project proposal writing for farmer leaders of 20 farmer groups.
- 3 pilot project proposals to be written for submission to donors and other stakeholders.
- Documentation of FOs as well as training activities involving PNG WiADF.

REGIONAL

Technical support in the Strategic review of the PIFON Secretariat in preparation for the 2017-2020 Strategic Plan. This activity was considered a necessity to assess the performance of PIFON in terms of meeting objectives of the current Strategic Plan (2014-2016) and if the needs of its members were met with a view to improvement. The performance of PIFON was also assessed in terms of project delivery to its partners (IFAD, SPC and AFA). Key recommendations have been forwarded to the Board and a publication on lessons learnt highlighting key findings have been circulated to the PIFON network. The Board has endorsed a TOR to be written to formulate a Strategic Plan for 2017-2020.

KEY TRAINING ACTIVITIES BASED ON THE NEEDS OF MEMBERS

PNG

Support was provided to PNG Women in Agriculture Development Foundation (WiADF) to conduct training for the PNG Highlands Region on best management in feed making for fish, pig and poultry and financial literacy.

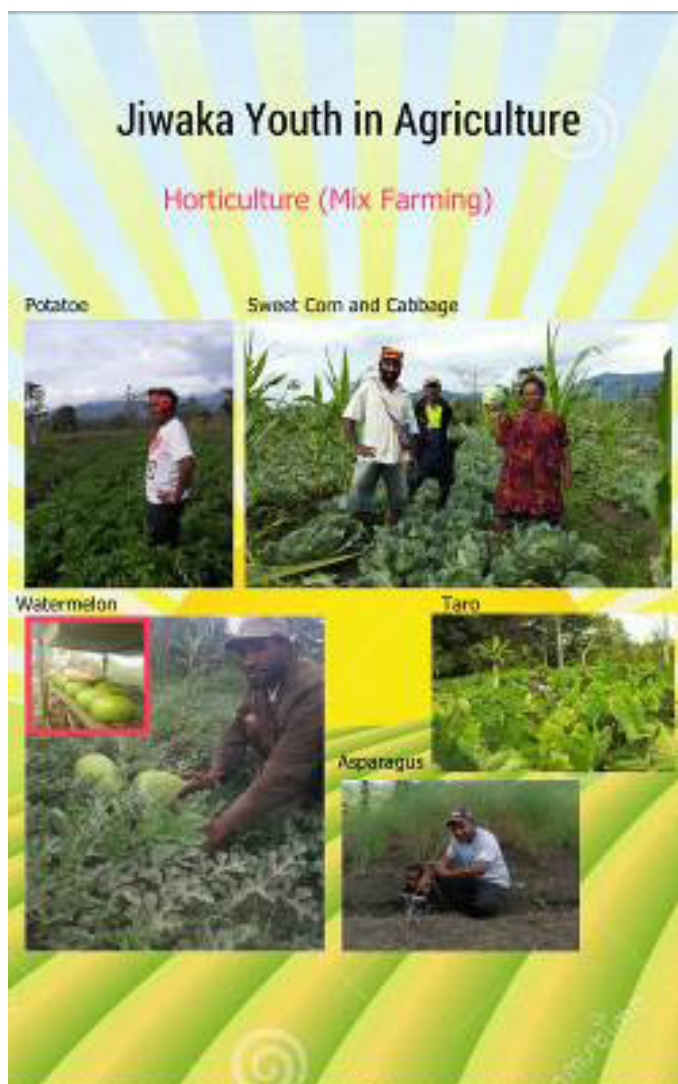


A short term consultancy was awarded to conduct meetings of farmer groups to carry out awareness, needs assessments and profiling of groups across four regions in PNG. The goal is to strengthen and better integrate smaller FOs in PNG into the WiADF platform.

The services to be provided as per the consultancy are as follows:

- Providing support in creating awareness of PNG WiADF, who it is and what it does
- Conduct meetings
- Conduct needs assessments and profiling of the smaller FOs
- The organization of support staff to conduct surveys and the provision of feedback to support profiling and the write-up of project proposals
- Provision of a brief report on recommendations for PNG WiADF moving forward in providing support for its FOs etc in future.

In line with the previous consultancy awarded, a short term consultancy was also awarded by the PNG Women in Agriculture Development Foundation (WiADF) to have 15 farmer organisations profiled and documented in picture form and short videos.



AN EXAMPLE OF A FARMER ORGANISATION PROFILE THAT HAS BEEN DOCUMENTED

SOLOMONS

The POETCom guide is worth reprinting for use by farmers, schools and promoters of organic practices in Solomon Islands. This activity was in replacement of the original plan to develop a new manual/guide on organic farming practices, incorporating PGS and Pacific Organic Standard requirements for use by farmers. Awaiting an update on number of copies printed.

ASSISTANCE TO NATIONAL FOS IN THE PROFESSIONAL WRITE-UP OF LESSONS LEARNT AND EXPERIENCES

VANUATU

Technical support was provided by PIFON to help FSA highlight key lessons learnt from their 20 years of experience with the Vanuatu Spices Network. A publication on this is now available for downloading on the PIFON website.



PUBLICATION DOCUMENTING LESSONS LEARNT FROM 20 YEARS OF THE VANUATU SPICES NETWORK

INSTITUTIONAL POSITIONING

TIMOR LESTE

New inclusion to the PIFON network, ANAPROFIKO, the National Association of Commercial Seed Producers is now officially the National Implementing Agency (NIA) for Timor Leste under the International Fund for Agricultural Development and Swiss Development Corporation funded MTCP II program. ANAPROFIKO is the national umbrella association of seed producer groups in Timor Leste and has signed its Letter of Agreement (LOA) with PIFON on 23rd August, 2016.

Timor Leste is the newest member to the Pacific Community.

ANAPROFIKO promotes the development of commercial seed trade to achieve seed security and seed sovereignty leading to food and nutrition security.

ANAPROFIKO has carried out its own Strategic Plan internally outlining its requirements and the Secretariat has transferred funds to ANAPROFIKO to carry out its activities as outlined in its Strategic Plan.

Activities under its MTCP II program work plan for 2016 include training on seed quality control and proposal writing.

SECRETARIAT

During the 2nd quarter, PIFON's Secretariat office took an important step in increasing its capacity and manpower from historically two to three last year and four today. Additionally, the Secretariat has moved to a new office after being co-housed with one of its FO members since inception. The Secretariat and PIFON Board is appreciative of NWC's co-housing which enabled PIFON to grow as a young organisation. Today, PIFON now boasts its own Secretariat office equipped adequately to address the needs of its members, located conveniently in Nadi, Fiji next to the Nadi International Airport surrounded by hotels. PIFON is now regionally positioned strategically as Fiji is also the hub center and airport for the Pacific region, making it plausible to host workshops, conferences and exchanges with ease both locally, regionally and internationally. For PIFON as an organisation, the additional manpower capacity and the move to its new office heralds in an exciting era as it continues to grow into its role as SRIA for the Pacific region.

A capacity building workshop was organized and implemented by AFA for the PIFON Secretariat staff from Sep 27 – 30, 2016. The purpose of the workshop was to re-tool and mentor the staff to ensure that the team was levelled-off and consistent in the interpretation of the MTCP2 logframe plan and budget.

Topics covered in the three and a half day workshop included the review and adjustment of quantitative and qualitative targets, the 2017 work plan and budget and the review and upgrading of the PIFON M&E, Finance and Procurement Policy/Procedures and KM plan. The PIFON team are now in a better position to conduct training on KM, Finance and M&E at the next Learning and Planning meeting.



THE PIFON-AFA TEAM AT THE PIFON OFFICE FOLLOWING A WEEK-LONG WORKSHOP IN CAPACITY BUILDING

INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT BY HLB CROSBIE

Under the direction of its Board, the Management of PIFON opened its books for financial scrutiny to its auditors. This report was presented to the Board at its Board meeting in Tonga and the Board was pleased with the overall outcome of the report showing the Board that processors were in place and that transparency of its donors funds were being well accounted for by the Secretariat according to the Financial Policies that the Board had endorsed. The Report was an example to the Board that its directives were also being adhered too and it thanked the Management team for carrying out its due diligence in its custodian duties of its financial matters that the Board had delegated to it, this was a highlight of the finding.

BOARD ADOPTS STRATEGIC REVIEW

At its meeting in Nuku'alofa Tonga, the Board adopted the Final Report from Dr Lex Thompson on PIFON's Strategic Review. The Strategic Review which has key elements and lessons to learn and work from will assist the management put together the foundations of its new Strategic Plan 2017-2020. The Strategic Review Final document report has been prepared to be published and has just been published as an e-copy to PIFON's email circulation list. Hard copies are also being arranged for copies to its partners and donors. The document is a result of the review that was undertaken by Dr Thompson with PIFON's members and its stakeholders and is a key document that documents the lessons learnt and the way forward for PIFON.

ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

FIJI

The objectives of the Fiji component of the Open Pollinated Seed Supply programme are:

Phase 1: To collect, multiply and distribute a range of open pollinated vegetable varieties available in Fiji, to PIFON members within Fiji.

Phase 2: To establish on-farm variety evaluation trials through farmer organisations to determine the suitability of these open pollinated vegetable varieties.

Phase 3: To train farmers and farmer organisations in open pollinated seed production and storage for these selected varieties.

Bula Agro Enterprises owner, Sant Kumar as Seed Coordinator is being contracted to implement Phase 1 of the OPS programme.

Deliverables to this contract include:

- Producing a list of the available open pollinated varieties along with their descriptions for PIFON members and associated FOs to determine interest in the various varieties and required volumes.
- Collecting foundation seed of the desired varieties from research stations and other reliable sources.
- Identifying seed production farmers to be contracted to plant foundation seed for bulking and distribution.
- Conducting training for contracted seed producers on the required guidelines for seed production.
- Monitoring all contracted seed producers and providing advice throughout the growing cycle.
- Collecting, processing and packaging seed for distribution to PIFON members according to requirements.

STRUCTURING OF SERVICES TO MEMBERS

TONGA

The development and printing of a GAP guidelines for the growers in Tonga is now in progress.

The scope of this consultancy work includes the following:

1. List Key Perennial and Annual Crops with their sowing and planting time, related pests and diseases, acceptable pest control, safe application of fertilisers and pesticides;
2. Climate Resilient crops;
3. Safety standards and efficient use of tools;
4. Harvesting – acceptable protocols for harvesting and storage;
5. Traditional Cropping
6. Export Crops and bio-security requirements
7. Mix cropping of export crops
8. Effects of over-croppin
9. Cash cropping for beginners
10. Fallowing

COMPONENT 2: PARTICIPATION IN POLICY PROCESSES

PROVIDE REPRESENTATION FOR FOS AND PIFON AT REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FORUMS

REGIONAL

The PIFON Chairman represented PIFON at the Farmers Forum in Rome from February 15 – 16, 2016.

The PIFON Programme Manager represented PIFON at the Fiji Agriculture Partnership Project Meeting in Suva, Fiji on 27th April 2016.

PIFON was represented by the Manager, the Programme Manager and an FO representative from Samoa at the 2nd Regional Steering Committee (RSC) meeting that was held on June 6-8, 2016 at Vientiane province, Lao PDR. The Mid Term Review report of PIFON and its NIAs has been accepted by the forum.



PARTICIPANTS AT THE
2ND RSC MEETING
AT VIENTIANE
PROVINCE, LAO PDR

AWIA CONFERENCE

Thirteen women represented the Pacific Island Farmers Organisation Network (PIFON) to the 2016 Australian Women in Agriculture (AWiA) conference and AGM hosted in Canberra, Australia from September 09 – 11, 2016. The event was themed “Women shaping our future: Reflections from the Limestone Plains”. The representatives consisted of nine women from farmer organisations in Papua New Guinea, one from Fiji, one from the Solomon Islands and two women from Western Samoa.

The three-day event included key presentations and learning/sharing platforms hosted at various venues including the University House at the Australian National University (ANU). A highlight for the Pacific women farmers was the networking with industry and political leaders which served as an inspiration and motivation.

PIFON used the opportunity to present its concept paper to host a “2017 Pacific Women In Agriculture Conference” in partnership between AWiA, PNGWiADF and PIFON. The concept was well received and plans are now being forged to co-host this event in 2017.

A PIFON report on the event will be available on our website soon.



PACIFIC DELEGATION TO THE AWIA CONFERENCE
IN CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

GLOBAL BREADFRUIT SUMMIT

A Global Breadfruit Summit held at the Polynesian Cultural Centre in Laie, Hawaii was attended by Kaitu Erasito and Lavinia Kaumaitotoya representing PIFON. Both participants made presentations at this important forum with Kaitu presenting on the breadfruit research and development work of Nature's Way Cooperative (NWC) whilst Lavinia presented on PIFON and the Pacific Breadfruit and Seed Program (PBSP) and the role of farmer organisations in agricultural research and extension.

The summit was attended by various experts and professionals on Breadfruit including those from around the South and North Pacific, US Mainland, Caribbean and Japan. It began with a Breadfruit Festival and displays of various breadfruit dishes cooked by top chefs of Hawaii including Hawaii's very own Sam Choy.

The Summit was hosted to create a global breadfruit network that honors and sustains the breadfruit tree with the weaving of traditional wisdom and modern science and technology to raise the common good of man and nature.

It was agreed that a follow up summit would be held in 2017 with the Minister of Samoa who was part of the Samoan delegation raising their hands to host in Apia, Samoa

A PIFON report on the event will be available on our website soon.



ENTRANCE TO THE IMAX THEATRE AT THE POLYNESIAN CULTURAL CENTRE IN LAIE, THAT WAS HOST TO THE GLOBAL BREADFRUIT SUMMIT IN HAWAII

KAITU PRESENTING ON THE BREADFRUIT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WORK OF NATURE'S WAY COOPERATIVE (NWC)



PACIFIC BREADFRUIT ROUNDTABLE

The Pacific Island Farmers Organisation Network in partnership with Nishi Foundation, GroFed (Growers Federation of Tonga) and MORDI (Mainstreaming of Rural Development Innovation Tonga Trust) co-organized a Pacific Breadfruit Roundtable. This two-day consultative roundtable was held in Nuku'alofa, on the friendly islands of Tonga from September 15th - 16th, 2016. The event was attended by 50 participants from seven Pacific Island countries including farmers, farmer organisation representatives, research organisations, government partners and aid agencies.

This event, a first of its kind for the region, was co-funded by the EU funded SPC PAPP (Pacific Agricultural Partnership Program) and IFAD/SDC funded MTCP II project.

The objective of this roundtable was to bring together PIFON members and other partners who are actively involved in breadfruit research and development in the Pacific to share experiences, get updated and work to synergize regional breadfruit activities. Discussions on the context for breadfruit development in the region as well as PIFON's Pacific Breadfruit and Seed Supply Programme (PBSP) were the focus subjects. The roundtable also included four technical sessions including: Breadfruit Varieties and Propagation, Breadfruit Production Systems, Fresh Exports of Breadfruit and Breadfruit Processing.

A key outcome from the roundtable meeting were detailed national work plans for each of the seven countries represented along with a series of inter-regional technical partnerships being established. PIFON is now seeking additional funding for its PBSP to help support the national activities identified. Proceedings from this roundtable will be released by PIFON in due course.

THE FIJI DELEGATION TO
THE PACIFIC BREADFRUIT
ROUNDTABLE IN DEEP
DISCUSSION AT THE NISHI
TRADING FACILITY



PARTICIPANTS TO THE PACIFIC BREADFRUIT ROUNDTABLE IN TONGA

COMPONENT 3: FO SERVICES AND INVOLVEMENT IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

JOINT HIGH LEVEL PIFON-SPC-IFAD MEETING

A joint meeting between the PIFON board and key development partners, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) was held at the PIFON office in Nadi on June 02, 2016.

PIFON Manager, Kyle Stice, made a presentation on activities completed thus far in partnership with SPC and IFAD including joint activities. The 2016 work plans for both PIFON run programmes, PAPP and MTCP II were highlighted and discussed.

PIFON began the process of drafting and negotiating an MOU with IFAD to formalise the partnership.

Preliminary findings from the strategic review carried out on PIFON were also a part of the limelight of the stakeholder meeting including an update on the IFAD MTCP II Mid-Term Review.

In general, PIFON is working to get more farmer organisations directly involved in agricultural development projects in the region. In order to achieve this, PIFON is working to highlight the good work that farmer organisations are already doing in relation to research and extension in the region. PIFON has recently released two policy briefs on this subject which are available on the web via <http://www.pacificfarmers.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Agricultural-Research-and-Farmer-Organisations-in-the-Pacific-1.pdf> and FOs and Agriculture Extension Policy via <http://www.pacificfarmers.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/FOs-and-Agricultural-Extension-Policy-Brief.pdf>



PIFON BOARD AND KEY PARTNERS FROM SPC AND IFAD
STAND OUTSIDE PIFON'S NEW OFFICE IN LEGALEGA, NADI.

ESTABLISHING STRONG TIES WITH IFAD STAFF IN THE PACIFIC

PIFON signed a historic Declaration of Commitment (DOC) with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) related to the engagement with farmer organizations in the region. The declaration was made official during a signing ceremony on 21st November, 2016, by Afamasaga Toleafoa, PIFON Chairman and Ronald Hartman, IFAD Pacific Country Director and witnessed by approximately 30 participants from around the region.

“This is the first official declaration of this type between IFAD and farmer organisations anywhere in the world and we are very proud to have established this partnership which will allow for greater impacts of our programs down to the small-holder farmers of the Pacific” said Mr. Hartman.

The DOC represents an agreement between the two organisations on the important role of Farmer Organisations in agricultural development in the region. Specifically, the DOC is intended to:

- Enhance relationships between PIFON and IFAD related activities
- Increase the opportunity for both parties to complement each other’s programs
- Establish better network and linkages between IFAD and PIFON members
- Develop policies, strategies and/or programs that will allow mutual benefits to its members.

PIFON and IFAD Pacific agree that a relationship between the two organisations provides many opportunities to bring the voice of farmers in the region to policy makers and planners and that both parties will continue to explore opportunities to capitalize on this relationship such as the IFAD Farmers Forum.



AFAMASAGA TOLEAFOA, PIFON CHAIRMAN AND RONALD HARTMAN, IFAD PACIFIC COUNTRY DIRECTOR SIGN THE DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT AT LAGOON RESORT, PACIFIC HARBOUR, FIJI ON NOVEMBER 21, 2016.

IFAD INDIGENOUS PEOPLES FORUM PACIFIC CONSULTATION WORKSHOP

PIFON in its capacity as a service provider and as part of its business model organised the Pacific Consultation workshop in collaboration with The International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to prepare for the Third Global meeting of Indigenous Peoples Forum.

Economic empowerment of indigenous peoples, with a focus on women and youth was the overall theme for this meeting, scheduled to take place at IFAD Headquarters in Rome on 10 and 13 February 2017. This is also the theme for the regional consultation workshop that was organized by PIFON for the 3rd time in a row, in November 21 – 22, 2016, in preparation for the global meeting. Twenty participants from around the region including four IFAD representatives attended this workshop at the Lagoon Resort in Pacific Harbour, Fiji.

The Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD is a concrete way for IFAD to institutionalize consultation and dialogue with indigenous peoples' representatives.





PARTICIPANTS OF THE IFAD IP FORUM
PACIFIC REGIONAL CONSULTATION
WORKSHOP HELD AT THE LAGOON
RESORT, PACIFIC HARBOUR, FIJI FROM
NOV 21 - 22, 2016

COMPONENT 4: PROGRAM COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT

NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

SUB-REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

The PIFON MTCP II Sub Regional Steering Committee (SRSC) meeting this year took place on Nov 24, 2016 at the Lagoon Resort in Pacific Harbour, Fiji. This was attended by ten (10) participants comprising of representatives from the six (6) National Implementing Agencies (NIAs), Farmer Organisation representatives and PIFON secretariat staff.

Each delegate presented their country reports of 2016 for the benefit of the Sub Regional Implementing Agency (SRIA) and the other NIAs. Each country report also highlighted some of the issues and lessons learnt going forward.

An update on the Pacific Breadfruit and Seeds Programme and other regional activities was provided by the PIFON Secretariat which is also the SRIA. Reporting was also made on the MTCP II Mid-Term Review Report, finance, knowledge management and monitoring and evaluation issues.

Resolutions agreed to at the meeting will be implemented in 2017. The next SRSC meeting is scheduled for February 2017.

NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

NIA Fiji coordinated consultations and held meetings with national FOs in support of MTCP II implementation. A report is yet to be submitted.

BOARD MEETING

The 6th PIFON Board Meeting was held in Nukualofa, Tonga at the Growers Federation of Tonga facility on 14 September, 2016. At this meeting, PIFON's Internal Audit Report was presented and adopted to be a guiding and monitoring tool for the Board providing good governance overall. PIFON has been healthily checked off as being transparent and accountable of its funds by the auditors.

The Final Report from Dr Lex Thompson on PIFON's Strategic Review which had some key elements and lessons to learn and work from was also accepted by the Board. The Strategic Review is now being prepared to be published to be made available for PIFON's members viewing. The document is a result of the review that was undertaken by Dr Thompson with PIFON's members and its stakeholders and is a key document that documents the lessons learnt and the way forward for PIFON.

To download a copy of PIFON's Strategic Review Summary visit <http://www.pacificfarmers.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/PIFON-Strategic-Review-18.10.16.pdf>

The Board were presented with PIFON's Internal Audit Report that had been commissioned by HLB Crosbie & Associates that was undertaken as a guiding and monitoring tool for the Board and to provide good governance overall, the Report was adopted by the Board at its meeting and the Management team of PIFON was congratulated for ensuring transparency and accountability of its funds had been duly checked off and had received a healthy check off by the auditors.

The PIFON board also approved and welcomed into the network as new members from New Caledonia, the Chamber of Agriculture. This is in response to PIFON's new membership drive and direction of spreading its reach across the Pacific including into the French territories. New Caledonia is the first French Territory to become a member of PIFON.

Additionally, the Board were updated that the new Farmer Organisation member from Timor Leste, ANAPROFIKO had recently signed their LOA with PIFON to enable them to carry out their Strategic Plan work.

A joint meeting between the PIFON board and key development partners, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) was held at the PIFON office in Nadi on June 02, 2016.

PIFON Manager, Kyle Stice, made a presentation on activities completed thus far in partnership with SPC and IFAD including joint activities. The 2016 work plans for both PIFON run programmes, PAPP and MTCP II were highlighted and discussed. Preliminary findings from the strategic review carried out on PIFON were also a part of the limelight of the stakeholder meeting including an update on the IFAD MTCP II Mid-Term Review.

In general, PIFON is working to get more farmer organisations directly involved in agricultural development projects in the region. In order to achieve this, PIFON is working to highlight the good work that farmer organisations are already doing in relation to research and extension in the region.

PIFON has recently released two policy briefs on this subject which are available on the web at <http://www.pacificfarmers.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Agricultural-Research-andFarmer-Organisations-in-the-Pacific-1.pdf>

There is now increasing collaboration and more active participation of PIFON in IFAD and SPC activities.

MILESTONES FOR PIFON ENGAGEMENT WITH IFAD AND SPC

- 15th April 2013 - IFAD supports PIFON inception meeting
- 14th October 2013 - PIFON signs agreement to implement IFAD-SDC funded MTCP II
- 24th October 2014 - PIFON signs partnership agreement with EU funded SPC-PAPP
- 26th-27th November 2014 - PIFON hosts IFAD Pacific Regional Workshop on “Indigenous food systems and sustainable livelihoods”
- 21-23rd October 2015 - PIFON hosts IFAD Pacific Programme Review
- 21-22nd November 2016 – PIFON hosts IFAD Regional Consultation Workshop on Economic empowerment of indigenous peoples, with a focus on women and youth in preparation for the Third Global meeting of Indigenous Peoples Forum scheduled for February 2017 in Rome, Italy.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The next PIFON Annual General Meeting is scheduled to be held in February 2017.

PARTICIPATION IN THE MID TERM REVIEW

The MTCP II project has now reached its halfway mark and has undergone a Mid Term Review (MTR) in late May, 2016.

The review was conducted by IFADs Farmer Organisation Specialist, Ms Fanny Grandval to assess the performance of the project within the Pacific region since its commencement in 2014. The review took into account the project's accomplishments and shortcomings and most importantly, the opportunities for the second half of the project. Ms Grandval was accompanied by PIFON Program Manager, Mrs Lavinia Kaumaitotoya who travelled to the Solomon Islands and then later to Taveuni, Fiji to evaluate two of PIFONs National Implementing Agencies (NIAs), namely, Kastom Gaden Association and Tei Tei Taveuni respectively.

The findings from this MTR were presented to the 2nd Regional Steering Committee (RSC) meeting for MTCP II which was held on June 6-8, 2016 at Vientiane province, Lao PDR. PIFON scored a satisfied rating of 49% according to IFAD donor grading standards. PIFON was the highest scorer amongst the SRIAs.

REPORTING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Continue implementation of information dissemination strategy for PIFON

Sixteen e-bulletins and three newsletters have been disseminated within this period highlighting PIFON activities including member success stories and lessons learnt.

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

(1) Maintain the website and continue updating repository of key information resources.

PIFONs website (www.pacificfarmers.com) is being constantly updated and is considered to be an up-to-date repository of key information resources relevant to FOs.

(2) KM Fair

A Knowledge Management (KM) Fair was held in conjunction with the MTCP II Sub-Regional Steering Committee (SRSC) Meeting on 24 November, 2016 at the Lagoon Resort in Pacific Harbour, Fiji. The KM Fair theme was "Showcase an innovative farming practice that is being promoted by your farmer organisation". The purpose of the Fair was to encourage FOs to document and share their best practices, hence share the results of the MTCP II program. The entries could be in the form of a video, poster, leaflet or any other knowledge product such as a story. Each NIA representative to the SRSC meeting was given 5 minutes to present their submissions to the rest of the participants.

Maria Linibi of PNG WiADF was announced the winner determined through a score determined by a panel of judges and voting by participants of the SRSC meeting. Her winning video entry was on solar-powered agro processing machines that her FO network had produced. She has won a trip to one of the countries that participated in the KM Fair to learn about one of the practices showcased. Her prize will be redeemable in 2017.



PIFON

Knowledge Management (KM) FAIR
in conjunction with
**2016 MTCP II Sub-Regional Steering
Committee Meeting**

November 24, 2016 | Lagoon Resort, Pacific Harbour

**Showcase an innovative farming practice
that is being promoted by your farmer organization**

WHEN

Submissions have to be made by the **deadline: Nov 22, 2016**

WHAT FORM

The entry can be a video, poster, leaflet, or any other knowledge product

Entries can only be submitted in electronic format via an email to info@pacificfarmers.com. Video entries are to be uploaded onto YouTube with a link and associated script sent to the above email.

WHY

- To encourage FOs to document and share their best practices.
- To show results of the program.

HOW

NiAs will be given 5 minutes each during the SRSC Meeting to present any submissions from their countries to the rest of the participants (using a video, power point, photos, demonstration, storytelling, etc.)

Judging of entries

The winner will be determined through
A score determined by a panel of judges •
Voting by participants at the SRSC meeting •

Prize

A trip to a country to learn about one of the
good practices showcased. The prize will be
redeemable in 2017.



MARIA MAKING HER WINNING VIDEO PRESENTATION ON SOLAR-POWERED AGRO PROCESSING MACHINES



ANDREW WELEILAKEBA OF AGRONET, FIJI DISCUSSING HIS BLOG (AGROFIJI.BLOGSPOT.COM) AS HIS KM ENTRY

Contact Us



Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA)

Esther Penunia <afaesther@asianfarmers.org>
Lany Rebagay <afalany@asianfarmers.org>
Rm 206 Partnership Center, 59 C. Salvador St., Loyola Heights,
Quezon City 1108 Philippines
www.asianfarmers.org



La Via Campesina (LVC)

Henry Saragih <hspetani@gmail.com>
Zainal Fuad <zainal@spi.or.id>
Jakarta, Indonesia
www.viacampesina.org

Development Partners:



ASEAN Foundation (AF)

Elaine Tan <elaine.tan@aseanfoundation.org>
Jakarta, Indonesia
www.aseanfoundation.org



Investing in rural people

International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD)

Benoit Thierry <b.thierry@ifad.org>
Rome, Italy
www.ifad.org



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Alexandre Ghelew <alexander.ghelew@eda.admin.ch>
Bern, Switzerland
www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home.html



European Union (EU)

Franck Viault <Franck.VIAULT@eeas.europa.eu>
Jakarta, Indonesia
www.europa.eu