

## Pacific Agriculture Policy Program (PAPP)

### Inventory of national Agriculture/Forestry Policies: National Questionnaire

This form can be filled out either in electronic or paper copy; please feel free to expand the text boxes or use additional pages if you wish.

#### Country / contact information

<b>Country:</b>	Samoa
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Tusolomanaia Dr Faletoi T Suavi
<b>Job Title:</b>	Assistant Chief Executive Officer
<b>Agency:</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
<b>Email address:</b>	Faletoi.suavi@maf.gov.ws
<b>Telephone:</b>	(685) 22561

#### National policy/strategy/agenda

Please identify the **most important national level policy/strategy that applies for agriculture/forestry** (if there is more than one, e.g. one for agriculture, one for forestry, then one please use a separate sheet for each)

Full Title of policy/strategy	
<p><b>What are the key <u>issues</u> identified? (please list)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lack of a coherent policy, legal, regulatory and institutional framework;</b></li> <li>• <b>Institutional capacity issues</b> – the continuing decline in agriculture sector has been attributed to such issues as weaknesses in policy, legal and planning frameworks to guide development as well as the failure of commercial agriculture to lead any sustained increases in agricultural production and exports;</li> <li>• <b>Availability of data</b> – the availability and quality of agricultural statistics has declined over the years and is one of the key challenges now facing the sector;</li> <li>• <b>Leasing of customary land</b> -- increasing agricultural production and productivity will also depend on the greater economic use of customary land either by landowners themselves or by others through leasing;</li> <li>• <b>Village agriculture to support national food and nutritional security:</b></li> <li>• <b>Blending of village traditional authorities and commercial practices to achieve national food and nutritional security;</b></li> <li>• <b>Strengthening agriculture extension service to provide technical support and advice to farmers and fishers on cost efficient and high yielding production practices will increase productivity in the sector.</b> E.g. the timely dissemination of market and pricing information will assist producers in assessing which crops are profitable for them to invest in;</li> <li>• <b>The growth in the importation of agriculture based products to meet the demands of the tourism industry and for domestic consumption due to the inability of domestic agriculture and manufacturing sectors to provide consistent supplies of fresh and processed substitutes is placing significant pressure on Samoa's balance of payments.</b></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Private sector involvement in agriculture</b> – the private sector has been tasked by Government in its development strategies to be the engine of growth for the national economy. In SDS 2008-2010, agriculture is described as the key sector for achieving private sector led economic growth and improved wellbeing for the people of Samoa via employment creation and income generation leading to poverty alleviation;</li> <li>• <b>Incentivizing private sector led and funded agricultural commercial operations;</b></li> <li>• <b>Market access and Value Adding Opportunities;</b></li> <li>• <b>Sustainable management of agricultural resources.</b></li> </ul>
<b>What are the key <u>commodities</u> identified? (please list)</b>	Coconut, cocoa, coffee, banana, taro, fruits and vegetables
<b>Are there any specific directions in the current policy that <u>link farmer's to markets?</u> (please list)</b>	Yes, opportunities exist for increasing agro processing and value adding of agricultural products for exports and import substitution and for growth in trade in organic and fair trade products based on the work already done by WIBDI in these areas. (e.g. the establishment of coconut and coconut cream plants has increased the demand for copra to sustain these plants and raised opportunities for further value adding of coconut oil into other by products such as cooking and health products which will reduce the import of these in the future).
<b>How is <u>evidence or data</u> used to support directions set out in the strategy? (if possible please give 2 examples)</b>	These activities involving coconuts have highlighted the need for research to explore opportunities for agro-processing of other traditional food and tree crops to increase the economic benefits from these crops that are commonly developed and harvested throughout the country. The SROS has been doing research into possible commercial use of crops including the breadfruit. There is also potential for innovative value adding of coco-wood, based on the usage of old coconut trees as timber for making furniture and building materials.
<b>What agency is responsible for implementing the policy/strategy?</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) with the support of other government agencies (MNRE, MCIL, SROS, WIBDI, etc).
<b>Does the strategy have a fixed term? (e.g. 2012-17; or ongoing)</b>	On-going
<b>When is it scheduled for review?</b>	2014 – Mid-term Review  2015 – Final Review
<b>Any other comments</b>	It is anticipated that following the review of ASP would highlight some gaps (drawbacks) of ASP during the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The outcome would assist the MAF planners and stakeholders in the development of new ASP for the next 5 years as a basis for policymaking and planning.