



Q: Women and young people are important to agriculture in the Solomon Islands. What does this Policy say about opportunities for women and young people to engage in the sector?

In this Policy the Government formally recognises the invaluable role women and youths play in agriculture in the Solomon Islands. One of the areas for MAL to focus on is the promotion and empowerment of women, youth and people with special needs to participate in all agricultural developments and activities. Extension services will also develop programs to enhance women and youth involvement in agricultural production

Q. Where can I find support or more information?

The Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock can provide you with information and support - phone (677) 22-143 / 28-615 or email psagriculture@pmc.gov.sb

Contact details for other useful organisations are available on the Solomon Islands Agriculture Policy Bank website – goo.gl/8h71aP

References:

¹ – SPC National Minimum Development Indicators website <http://www.spc.int/nmdi/> (Accessed 16 November 2015)



Pacific Community
Communauté du Pacifique



Solomon Islands Agriculture & Livestock Sector Policy 2015-2019 Summary



VISION

Sustainable agriculture and rural development for food sovereignty, economic stability, and improved rural livelihoods for Solomon Islanders.

GOAL

The Solomon Islands Agriculture and Livestock Sector Policy 2015-2019 has four clear key goals:

- I. To achieve food sovereignty;
- II. To improve rural livelihoods;
- III. To promote agriculture for import substitution; and
- IV. To increase trade.

Q. What is the purpose of the Agriculture and Livestock Sector Policy?

This Policy outlines how the Solomon Islands Government plans to help bring about sustainable rural development, food security, and economic stability for improved livelihoods during the next 5 years.

Q. Why is this Policy important for me to know about?

Farmers/Private Sector/Industry:

This Policy explains how the Government will help you develop your farming business. More details on specific crops will be outlined in Subsector strategies that are currently under development.

Government and Policy Makers:

This Policy provides a comprehensive outline of the Ministry's position on the agriculture and livestock sector and their objectives, and how the whole of Government can contribute to creation of an enabling environment.

Women, Youth, and NGOs:

This Policy recognises the importance of inclusive development and the role played by NGOs in the agriculture and livestock sector in the country;and outlines how.

Development Partners:

This Policy gives an overview of the Solomon Islands Government's plans for developing the Agriculture & Livestock sector and gives guidance on how you might best contribute.

Q. What is in the Agriculture & Livestock Sector Policy?

This Policy focusses on the Ministry's vision to 'Enhance and promote sustainable agriculture and rural development in the Solomon Islands for economic stability, food sovereignty and improved rural livelihoods.' It covers the Ministry's core role in realising this vision through its land use & planning, extension services, research, plant health, livestock, biosecurity & quarantine departments; and also identifies key priority crops including cocoa, coffee, kava, palm oil, coconut, rice, and vanilla.

Q. Why is agriculture so important to the Solomon Islands?

Agriculture is the most important sector for the Solomon Islands economy. It is estimated that approximately 80% of the population live in rural areas, and subsistence agriculture is the predominant occupation of 80% of these rural people.

Agriculture contributes 24% to the national GDP¹. On average, 42% of household income comes from the sector, and 41% of the national labour force are engaged in agriculture and forestry activities as their main economic activity¹.

Agriculture and forestry products accounted for 84% of the total value of exports from the Solomon Islands in 2011, however only 2.5% of the national budget was allocated to agriculture and forestry in the same year¹.

Q. How will this Policy be implemented?

The Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock will be responsible for coordinating the implementation of this Policy. The Ministry will work closely with other Government departments and agencies, as well as farmers' organisations, NGOs and development partners to achieve the Mission and Goals for the sector.

