

Pacific Agriculture Information Systems (PAIS)

Across the Pacific, in countless offices and laboratories, is evidence of the vast amount of agricultural research and development that has taken place since the early 1920s.

Knowledge retention is being able to access information on past research and development activities. This information is captured in annual reports and project reports, but as the years recede, knowledge of past activities, what they were for, who was involved and what was achieved is lost. Knowledge of past research, for example, can ensure that research is not duplicated, but is built upon, expanded and applied.

To better capture and disseminate agriculture research reports in the region, the Land Resources Division of SPC, under the auspices of the European Union-supported Intra-ACP Agricultural Policy Programme (APP) has developed the *Pacific Agriculture Information Systems (PAIS)* for the Pacific region.

The *Pacific Agriculture Information Systems (PAIS)* consolidates research reports from Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Fiji and Vanuatu and already has **over 38,000 digital records** logged into the system. The online bank includes both bibliographic content and non-bibliographic content:

- **Scientific and Extension Information** – with categories such as Crops and Livestock; and sub-categories such as Root Crops, Pigs.
- **Publications** – stories, articles, serial publications and by organisations
- **Organisations** – reports and activities by partner organisation such as Land Resources Division of the Pacific Community.
- **Countries and regions** – reports and activities by partner organisations.

The establishment of PAIS was a priority from the regional Research and Extension Forum held in Samoa in 2015. The Forum highlighted the information gap between agricultural research and extension services, which is failing to translate research findings into improvements in agricultural productivity for smallholder farmers. A key outcome from the Forum was agreement to establish the Pacific Islands Rural Advisory Services network (PIRAS) as a platform to facilitate information sharing and networking, and to collaboratively build the capacity of research and extension services in the Pacific.

The *Pacific Agriculture Information System (PAIS)* will be officially launched on 31 August in Nadi, Fiji.

* For more information on PIRAS visit <http://pafpnet.spc.int/research-and-extension/pacific-island-rural-advisory-services-piras> - Background: The Pacific Agricultural Information System (PAIS) has had a long history, from its creation as an in-house library catalogue in 2001, to becoming the National Agricultural Information System (NAIS) in Papua New Guinea in 2004/5, to then becoming the Melanesian Agricultural Information System (MAIS) in 2011; and now as the e-platform for the Pacific Islands Rural Advisory Service, *Pacific Agriculture Information System (PAIS)*.