



SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY

THE PACIFIC AGRICULTURE POLICY PROJECT (PAPP) PROGRAMME STEERING WORKSHOP

(Nadi, Fiji, 3 July 2015)

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Introduction

1. Economic analysis is important for supporting decision making and monitoring progress on agriculture, fisheries, forestry and land policies, programmes, and projects aimed at achieving development objectives of the Pacific Islands on food security, environmental sustainability and poverty reduction.
2. This paper gives a brief summary of completed and anticipated activities by PAPP to strengthen the capacity for applying resource economics to agricultural policy in the region and the dissemination of economic analysis.
3. The objective of this work stream is to strengthen regional agricultural policy by providing policy makers with the evidence base to ensure policies are appropriate and effective.

Key achievements 2014/15:

4. Some of the key achievements on resource economics since commencement of the project include:
 - i. **Capacity building for Government of Samoa:** Training conducted for Samoan public servants on the use of cost-benefit analysis (CBA) to support government policy and decision making. This was conducted as part of the Pacific Cost-Benefit Analysis (P-CBA) initiative in partnership with SPC's Geoscience Division (GSD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).
 - ii. **Capacity building for Government of Vanuatu:** Training conducted on the use of cost-benefit analysis to support decision making for staff from government agencies and NGOs. This was conducted as part of the P-CBA initiative in partnership with UNDP, USAID, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and the University of the South Pacific (USP).
 - iii. **Capacity building for Government of Fiji:** Training conducted for government officials on behalf of the Fiji Public Service Commission on the use of cost-benefit analysis to support government policy and decision making. This was conducted as part of the P-CBA initiative in partnership with GSD, UNDP, USAID, and GIZ.
 - iv. **Evaluation of organic certification scheme for virgin coconut oil production in Cicia, Fiji:** Economic evaluation of a pilot project implemented by SPC for the Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POETCom) and funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to establish a participatory guarantee system (PGS) for organic certification of virgin coconut oil (VCO) from Cicia, an island in Fiji's Lau Group was conducted to determine its effectiveness and to learn lessons for future projects.

Anticipated activities 2015/2016

5. Core pieces of work to strengthen the use of resource economics are expected to include:
- i. **Regional Capacity Building.** In partnership with other regional, national, and multilateral aid and development agencies through the P-CBA, PAPP will support the development of a 10 unit, level 300 undergraduate course in cost-benefit analysis for integration into the curriculum of the University of the South Pacific. In addition, the existing P-CBA short course will also be developed into a short course to be delivered by the USP Centre for Vocational and Continuing Education (CVCE).
 - ii. **Fiji Capacity Building:** In partnership with other regional, national, and multilateral aid and development agencies through the P-CBA, PAPP will support the development of a CBA course based on the existing P-CBA short course for integration into the Fiji Public Service Commission (PSC) curriculum. This will involve a 'training of the trainers' component where suitably qualified PSC instructors and Fiji Public Service economists are trained to become CBA instructors.
 - iii. **Economic Policy Briefs - Regional:** Development of a series of economic briefs to disseminate the results and recommendations from economic analysis conducted on natural resources and other issues throughout the region.
 - iv. **Analysis of agriculture in the economies of the Pacific Islands region:** Assess trends in the growth and development of the agricultural sector in the economy of the region and government expenditures on the sector in the Pacific region.
 - v. **What else?** Do you have something in mind for your country which would support agricultural policy? If so, speak to Anna Fink (Agricultural Statistician) about your ideas.

Recommendation

6. Participants are invited to:
- i. Note the above information on work areas, expected outcomes and proposed partnerships for PAPP's Economics activities.
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