



PIFON

Pacific Island Farmers
Organisation Network

Estimated number of
farmers linked to PIFON
through key members
implementing programmes
under MTCP II and PIFON-
PAPP Partnership

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

1 overarching national organisation incorporating 136 farmer organisations with a total 10502 members (78% women)

Lead FO: PNG Women in Agriculture

SOLOMON ISLANDS

SOLOMON ISLANDS

7 national farmer organisations with a total of 8950 members (56% women)

Lead FO: Kastom Gaden Association

VANUATU

VANUATU

5 national farmer organisations with a total 840 members (35% women)

Lead FO: Farm Support Association

6
Pacific
Countries

165
National
Farmer
Organisations

Outreach to
24634
farming
households*
across the region

The average Pacific household is 4 people, therefore PIFON has the potential to impact the lives and improve the livelihoods of almost 100 000 people.

SAMOA

10 national farmer organisations with a total 1656 members (30% women)

Lead FO: Samoa Farmers Association

SAMOA

TONGA

1 national farmer organisation with a total 1200 members (<1% women)

Lead FO: Growers Federation of Tonga

TONGA

FIJI

FIJI

6 national farmer organisations with a total 1486 members (35% women)

Lead FO: Teitei Taveuni

***Latest member:**

ANAPROFIKO (Timor Leste)

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Kastom Gaden Association (KGA) Quick stats

KGA Membership		
# of male members	# of female members	Total members
2200	3050	5250

National famer organisation linked to KGA and estimated membership			
Farmer organization	# of male members	# of female members	Total members
Planting Material Network	2200	3050	5250
Baetolau Farmers Association	200	300	500
Nut Growers Association of S.I.	1100	400	1500
Lodurimata Farmers Association	300	250	550
West Are Are Rokotanikeni Asso.		900	900
Star Harbour Farmers Association	150	100	250
Total	3950	5000	8950

Total estimated farmers linked to PIFON through KGA		
# of male members	# of female members	Total members
3950	5000	8950

To provide context, there are an estimated 83,000 farming households in the Solomon Islands.

Agriculture in Solomon Islands

The Solomon Islands archipelago is part of two distinct terrestrial eco-regions. Most of the islands are part of the Solomon Islands rain forests eco-region, which also includes the islands of Bougainville and Buka; these forests have come under pressure from forestry activities. The Santa Cruz Islands are part of the Vanuatu rain forests ecoregion, together with the neighbouring archipelago of Vanuatu. Soil quality ranges from extremely rich volcanic (there are volcanoes with varying degrees of activity on some of the larger islands) to relatively infertile limestone. More than 230 varieties of orchids and other tropical flowers brighten the landscape. The islands contain several active and dormant volcanoes. The Tinakula and Kavachi volcanoes are the most active.



VANUATU

Farm Support Association (FSA) Quick stats

FSA Membership		
# of male members	# of female members	Total members
150	100	250

National farmer organisation linked to FSA and estimated membership			
Farmer organization	# of male members	# of female members	Total members
The Vanuatu Spices Network	100	50	150
Syndicate Agricole et Pastoral du Vanuatu	250	50	300
Rural training centers at Napil, Navota, Vainduhu	32	8	40
Women's groups at Nakula, Baha'i, Lawia, Lamak 1, Lamlu, Tevaliout, Tahi, Brenwei, Larvat, Botindir, Pinalum Van 1, Pinalum Van 2, Pinalum SL, Orap	15	85	100
Total	397	193	590

Total estimated farmers linked to PIFON through FSA		
# of male members	# of female members	Total members
547	293	840

To provide some context - there are an estimated 35,000 farming households in Vanuatu.

Agriculture in Vanuatu

According to the Asian Development Bank, agriculture is more important to the Vanuatu economy than it is to any other Pacific economy, since it does not have the same mineral and forestry resources like its neighbouring countries. Throughout Vanuatu, subsistence agriculture is the mainstay of the village economy, since 80 percent of the population lives in villages. Food crops produced include taro, yams, kumara (sweet potato), bananas, coconut, and a great range of fruit and vegetables.

The most important agricultural product, in terms of cash production in the villages and in terms of export, is copra. This is the dried flesh of coconuts, produced by individual households and on large-scale plantations. Production of copra is highly variable year to year depending on weather conditions and world prices; although a general downward trend in production is noticeable since the early 1980s. One explanation is that the price in real terms paid to producers has declined over this period.



FIJI

Teitei Taveuni (TTT) Quick stats

TTT Membership		
# of male members	# of female members	Total members
329	154	483

National farmer organisation linked to TTT and estimated membership			
Farmer organization	# of male members	# of female members	Total members
Nature's Way Cooperative (NWC)	215	44	259
Tutu Rural Training Centre	44	40	84
Fiji Organic Association	300	50	350
South Sea Orchids Floriculture Group	60	230	290
Sabeto Organic Producers Association	13	7	20
Total	632	371	1003

Total estimated farmers linked to NIA (TTT)		
# of male members	# of female members	Total members
961	525	1486

The total number of farming households in Fiji is estimated at around 90,000.

Agriculture in Fiji

Fiji is a Melanesian island group located in the South Pacific at 175 degrees east longitude and 18 degrees south latitude. The islands are about 1,770 kilometers (1,100 miles) north of New Zealand.

Sugar is the most important agricultural product in Fiji and generated almost 30 percent of its agricultural GDP in 1998, and 15 percent (through sugar processing) of its manufacturing GDP

Fiji also exports copra (dried coconut meat), ginger, and coconut oil, as well as bananas, rice (a product for which island country is aiming at self-sufficiency), cereals and vegetables, pineapples and other tropical fruit.

Copra, in particular, has benefitted from the removal in 1998 of the ban on its export; since the licensing of a second copra-buying company, prices for producers have increased considerably. The discovery of kava's (a shrubby pepper) medicinal qualities and its potential as a pharmaceutical ingredient have also fueled the growth of a small but promising export industry.



SAMOA

Samoa Farmers Association (SFA) Quick Stats

National famer organisations linked to SFA and estimated membership			
Farmer organization	# of male members	# of female members	Total members
Samoa Flower Growers Assoc	21	64	85
Aleisa Farmers Group	120	44	164
Fasitootai Village Growers	37	20	57
Fusi Farmers	38	12	50
Mauga Farmers	56	13	69
Mulifanua farmers	42	24	66
Fasitoota Farmers	98	37	125
Safata Growers Coop.	50	18	68
Falealii Village Growers	50	17	67
Total	512	239	751

Total estimated farmers linked to PIFON through SFA		
# of male members	# of female members	Total members
1157	499	1656

There are an estimated 16,313 households engaged in agriculture.

Agriculture in Samoa

About two-thirds of all households in Samoa depend on a mixture of subsistence agriculture and cash cropping. The main export products, in order of importance in the late 1990s were copra (dried coconut flesh), coconut oil, copra meal, coconut cream, and kava (a mildly narcotic drink traditional to the South Pacific). The importance of coconut products is obvious, but unlike many Pacific countries that only export copra, Samoa has added value to these products. For example, coconut cream canned in Samoa is worth several times its equivalent in copra. The vulnerability of dependence on a crop such as coconuts was illustrated when cyclones in 1990 and 1991 caused considerable damage to tree crops.

During the 1980s, Samoa identified an international niche market for taro, a traditional prestige root crop. The taro exported from Samoa was sold mostly to Samoan and other Pacific communities and, in 1992, made up more than one-half of all agricultural exports by value, surpassing the cyclone-depleted coconut products. In 1993, taro blight destroyed the whole crop, however, and by the late 1990s taro production was only beginning to recover.



TONGA

Growers Federation of Tonga (GroFed) Quick stats

GroFed Membership		
# of male members	# of female members	Total members
1995	5	1200

Total estimated farmers linked to PIFON through GroFed		
# of male members	# of female members	Total members
1995	5	1200

Agriculture in Tonga

As in most Pacific countries, subsistence production for domestic use is an important part of the economy, although not well recorded. The export of agricultural products has been highly unpredictable over time. Through most of the 20th century, Tonga's main export was coconut products, mainly copra (dried coconut meat yielding coconut oil), but at various times other products have been exported in sizeable quantities, particularly bananas.

A specialized market for squash was established in the 1980s when Tonga secured a quota to supply the vegetable to Japan during several months of the year when other sources, especially New Zealand, were not producing. In the early 1990s, this source of export income grew, but in the second half of that decade, production fluctuated considerably as a result of disease, weather, and oversupply. Other squash producers from Vanuatu and Mexico have also offered competition by entering the same market.



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

PNG WiADF Quick stats

PNG WiADF Membership		
# of male members	# of female members	Total members
2320	8,200	10,502

National famer organisation linked to PNG WiADF and estimated membership			
	# of male members	# of female members	Total members
	2320	8,200	10,502
Total	2320	8,200	10,502

Total estimated farmers linked to NIA (TTT)		
# of male members	# of female members	Total members
2320	8,200	10,502

There are an estimated 1.5 million farming households in PNG.

Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea occupies the eastern half of the island of New Guinea (the western half, called Irian Jaya or West Papua, is part of Indonesia), as well as some nearby islands. New Guinea is part of the Pacific island region known as Melanesia. Papua New Guinea lies at the southeastern edge of Southeast Asia, to the east of Indonesia, and north of Australia. The total area of Papua New Guinea is 459,854 square kilometers (285,753 square miles). Papua New Guinea's only land border is with Indonesia, and it is 820 kilometers (509 miles) long. The country's coastline is 5,152 kilometers (3,201 miles) long. Papua New Guinea is about the same size as California. The capital, Port Moresby, is located on the southern side of the mainland, on the Coral Sea.





Note on context of numbers provided

These membership numbers need to be seen in the context of small Pacific island countries. In the Pacific, almost all agriculture is carried out by farming families or households. In the case of membership in farmer organisations, there is generally only one farmer member representing an entire farming household (on average 4 people). Therefore, the total members could also be interpreted as total households and the number could be multiplied by 4.