

PAPP Activities – July 2016

1. Tonga Agriculture Public Expenditure Review

Tonga is among the first countries to participate in a joint World Bank and PAPP programme of public expenditure reviews (PERs) for agriculture, forestry and fisheries in the Pacific. These reviews will analyse how governments are using budget and donor finance, examine the alignment of these expenditures with sector development priorities, and suggest areas where public finance can be used more effectively.

The Tongan government has recently adopted a new strategic development framework and a new agriculture sector plan hence the public expenditure review is timely. A mission for preliminary field work was undertaken between the 11th and 30th of April by an international agricultural economist to support the work of national counterparts in the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Forests and Fisheries (MAFF) as well as the University of the South Pacific who are partnering on the PER.

A Report was submitted and finalised in July which provides a comprehensive overview of the sector and related expenditure by the MAFF and outlines several key findings and areas for further development. Work is ongoing for the establishment of a PER database which will compile indicators of expenditure which will then be compared with 2-3 other Pacific islands for a piece of regional research.

2. Ginger Value Chain training for FCLC Farmers

The Fiji Crops and Livestock Council (FCLC), Fiji's leading farmer organization and the EU funded PAP project facilitated a value chain training for 40 of its leading ginger farmers and stakeholders. The training held in July themed "Roadmap for our farmer's economic recovery, growth for food security and sustainability" included field visits to ginger farms and the Kaiming Agro Processing Facility in Navua. FCLC is a member of the Pacific Islands Farmers Organisation Network (PIFON) that conducted the training as part of their technical assistance to strengthen the ginger association and its members, through their service to Commodity Associations.

Ginger farmers from four provinces (Naitasiri, Namosi, Tailevu, and Serua) participated in the training to strengthen their understanding of the value chain process, the different roles each players play, and to appreciate their respective roles in making it a successful partnership. The training covered information flow, partnership between farmers and businesses, agribusiness to "pull" products rather than farmers "pushing" products through the chain; customer relationship; balancing commercial interests and environmental sustainability.

The training concluded with the participants visiting a ginger seed production site in Navua to see the importance of ginger seed production, to a lead farmer to learn the good agricultural practices for ginger farming, tour of Ranadi organic ginger farm to explore organic ginger production and marketing strategies, and finally to Kaiming Agro Processor, a ginger enterprise to learn about ginger processing and marketing. At the end of the training, participants gained a better understanding of key messages of value chain and walking the value chain process during the field visits.

3. Samoa Launches New Five Year Agriculture Sector plan

The Samoan government recently launched the Agriculture Sector Plan 2016-2020, aiming at improving the quality of life in Samoa and advancing Samoa's attainment of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, Laaulialemalietoa Leuatea Polataivao in launching the plan stated that agriculture is the backbone of every Samoan family. The Agriculture Sector Plan sets out the strategic direction and priority areas to focus on resources for agriculture development and provides the framework to guide coherent actions from all key stakeholders to improve food, nutrition and income security for Samoa.

The Agriculture sector plan aims at strengthening government partnerships, particularly with the private sector, Non-Government Organizations (NGO's) and development partners to leverage agriculture's potential to promote and enhance health, prosperity, job creation and resilience. The plan includes an implementation plan and performance monitoring framework.

Consultations involved all stakeholders from Savaii and Upolu.

4. A supply chain and financial investment proposal for virgin coconut oil to the Australasian markets from Malekula in Vanuatu.

The Cocoa Growers Association (CGA) is a farmer's organization based out of Malekula in Vanuatu with a total membership of approximately 600 farmers who are predominantly small holders of cocoa, coconut and kava plantations. The association was born out of farmer's desperation in 2005 to establish a long term marketing solution for their cocoa crops. Unstable prices and unscrupulous business tactics more than often had put these small holder farmers at a disadvantage offering low buying prices for their dry and wet cocoa beans. At the end of the day the farmers felt that take home money was not worth the effort.

Recently overseas investors in the Australian market have expressed interest in acquiring Virgin Coconut Oil from CGA. This has sparked new interest where CGA sought the assistance of the Pacific Community to conduct an inventory of CGA's member plantations and to develop a supply chain model that would enable CGA to tap into the VCO markets in Australia.

Data collection methodologies involved the use of handheld GPS units in field visits and boundary traversing of individual farmer plantations, interview questionnaires and data collection, spatial data maps obtained from the Ministry of Lands and Forestry in Port Vila.

PAPP Activities – June 2016

1. Review of Pacific Farmer Organisation Network

A recent combined meeting between the board of the Pacific Island Farmers Organisation Network (PIFON), IFAD and SPC, has led to advances in shared outcomes and reduced reporting burden for the group.

Ms Fanny Grandval, mid-term reviewer for the IFAD-supported MTCP II project, was present at the meeting and remarked positively on the quality and breadth of complementary work

carried out by PIFON under support from both partners. She also shared some preliminary findings from her review.

One of the key outcomes from discussions was an agreement for PIFON to provide one combined report on activities and results to both IFAD and SPC. This will reduce the administrative requirements for the network and, importantly, enable both partners to review the complementarity of actions.

PAPP is designed to address the development needs of smallholder agriculture by improving their linkages to markets and increasing the capacity of farmer organisations to contribute to agriculture policy development. In October 2014 SPC signed a partnership agreement with the Pacific Island Farmers Organisation Network (PIFON), and since then PAPP has been working closely with PIFON and their national farmer organisation members to collaborate across three key areas:

- Advocacy and information outreach
- Promotion of sustainable production practices
- Capacity building

As part of this ongoing partnership, and in an effort to improve collaboration and reduce duplication, combined PIFON-IFAD-SPC board meetings are held at least once a year, most recently on 2 June in Nadi, Fiji. This joint meeting, themed *“Building stronger partnerships between SPC, IFAD and Pacific Farmer Organizations”*, was hosted at the PIFON office in Nadi, Fiji.

Chairman of the PIFON board, Mr. Afamasaga Fa’amatala Toleafua warmly welcomed and thanked SPC and IFAD for all the support towards building stronger partnerships with Pacific Farmers Organisations and enabling PIFON to extend its reach to the smallholder farmers in the Pacific Region.

Another important aspect of this meeting was to highlight the range of activities being implemented under PIFON-SPC partnership, and under the IFAD-support MTCP II project. These have resulted in increased awareness and visibility for Pacific farmers within the region, improved extension outreach to smallholder farmers in the Pacific, and capacity building for national farmer organisations.

2. Pacific Agriculture Policy Banks presented at the 9th Caribbean Regional Planners Forum on Agriculture

The 9th Caribbean Regional Planners Forum on Agriculture was held in Trinidad and Tobago 7-9 June, attended by senior agricultural planners from across the Caribbean with the aim of strengthening regional policies and strategies to improve the performance of the region’s agriculture sector.

As part of the inter-regional component of the Intra-ACP Agriculture Policy Programme, PAPP was invited to make a presentation to the Forum on the Policy Inventory and Agriculture Policy Banks which have been developed in the region.

This presentation, made remotely, outlined how the policy inventory and analysis came about, what they have shown, and how they have guided PAPP's work to date. It also highlighted how this work led to the development of the Policy Banks, and the importance of this new initiative for farmers, businesses, policy makers and the government.

There was a high level of interest from the Caribbean participants in learning from the Pacific work and developing similar initiatives in their region.

3. Development of Fiji Ginger Industry Plan

Following on from the Fiji Crop Sector Forum, held in Nadi in November 2015, the Pacific Agriculture Policy Project (PAPP), in partnership with the Fiji Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), has been working to facilitate the development of a range of Industry Plans for the sector.

A consultant from Koko Siga Pacific has recently been engaged to commence work on the Fiji Ginger Industry Plan (IP). This IP will be developed focussing on the priority areas, activities and resources needed over the next five years, and will be guided by recommendations contained in the Fiji 2020 Agriculture Policy Agenda.

The consultant will work closely with the Ministry of Agriculture, farmers, exporters, the Fiji Ginger Association reps, and other sector stakeholders to define the goals of the industry and identify methods for overcoming existing constraints.

A Fiji Ginger Working Group meeting is scheduled for 19 July.

4. Fiji Crop and Livestock Council farmer registration continues

The second round of the Fiji Crop and Livestock Council (FCLC) farmer registration drive, supported by PAPP, has commenced this month. The target is an additional 5000 farmers to be registered, on top of the 10,000 members already included in FCLC's SMS based market information system platform.

The existing 10,000+ members make FCLC one of the largest national farmer organisations in the Pacific region.

5. Pre-consultation for Tonga Media Awareness Training and Capacity Building, Donor Forum on Tonga Agriculture Sector Plan, CePACT Climate Resilient crops handover and Tonga Policy Bank Launch

The Pacific Agriculture Policy Project (PAPP) is working in partnership with Tonga's Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Forests and Fisheries (MAFFF) to facilitate more effective policy

dialogue engaging both development partners and media as key stakeholders, access to Tonga Agriculture sector policy information, and support for knowledge sharing around climate resilience in the Agriculture sector.

The pre-consultation mission for Tonga was conducted with the following objectives:

- Consultation with and support to relevant national stakeholders to identify training gaps in access to Agricultural policy information and linkages between the Agriculture sector and other public-private stakeholders.
- Confirmation of draft programme for events in support of Tonga policy bank launch, development partner/donor engagement and CePACT handover.
- Confirmation of support by Ministry of Finance and National Planning towards incorporation of TASP/Agriculture Sector financing discussion into multi-sector development partner roundtable (annual multi-sector dialogue for Government of Tonga with its development partners).

The following outcomes were achieved as direct results of this mission:

- Development of Concept Note for National Agricultural Policy, Research and Extension Awareness and Capacity Building workshop in consultation with National Media Authority and Government of Tonga.
- Briefing and capacity building of relevant MAFFF Communications staff to ensure effective implementation of event plan.
- Confirmation of Government of Tonga support towards planned activities.