

# PACIFIC AGRICULTURE POLICY PROJECT

## IMPACT STORIES

### Pacific Breadfruit Value Chain

- a traditional crop for **food security, climate resilience** and **rural livelihoods**.

#### ✦ PAPP KRA/INDICATOR

KRA 3 – Contribute to agricultural enterprise development through improved market linkages.

**INDICATOR 1 : 10 TECHNICAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN FARMER ORGANISATION AND PRIVATE SECTOR BY END OF PROJECT.**

**RESULTS TO DATE : 12 TECHNICAL EXCHANGES COMPLETED.**

#### ✦ COUNTRY/S

Tonga, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea, Hawaii

#### ✦ DETAILS

The Pacific Island Farmers Organisation Network's (PIFON) Pacific Breadfruit and Seed Programme (PBSP) has been in staged development over recent years. In 2013, PIFON members identified these two streams as important focus areas for farmers across the region. Over the last 3 years, significant assessment and planning has occurred in preparation for a regional program. The PBSP is designed to build on a number of existing initiatives supporting the development of breadfruit and seeds in the region, and commenced operationalisation in 2016 with support from PAPP and IFAD.

Farmers organisations and private sector operators in Tonga have been very active in research and development of the breadfruit value chain, and kicked off the PBSP with a learning exchange to Fiji. Fiji and Tonga are both exporters of fresh breadfruit. Through the PBSP a learning exchange was facilitated in August 2016 between these two countries to share experiences and promote best practices.

The 3 day exchange involved visits to breadfruit orchards, government research stations, a farming input supplier business, the Pacific Community's Centre of Pacific Crops and Trees (SPC CePaCT), and to a large scale breadfruit production site that showcased trials of three different breadfruit propagation types (tissue culture, root sucker and marcotting). The participants were actively engaged in learning about fresh export breadfruit value chain, expected returns from breadfruit production, tissue culture breadfruit systems, with demonstrations



Participants at the Pacific Breadfruit Roundtable meeting held in Tonga in September 2016



## FARMER FILIPE

Tongan farmer Filipe is a member of the farmers' organisation Mainstreaming of Rural Development Innovation (MORDI), and participated in the learning exchange to Fiji in August 2016. Filipe was particularly inspired by the work of Kaitu from Nature's Way Cooperative, and has already started applying some of what he saw to his own farm.

Filipe keeps pigs on his home plot, and also leases a number of nearby plots of land for cropping. He pays 'rent' to his landlord by including a specified number of sandalwood seedlings in his plantings. Since returning from Fiji Filipe has set up a number of new mixed plantings – planting breadfruit suckers directly into the field, intercropped with coconut, sweet potato, kava and sandalwood.

During the roundtable field visit, Filipe showed participants some marcots he had already started in preparation for future plantings, and he demonstrated the hand-on technique.

Filipe is one of the first farmers in Tonga to set up a breadfruit orchard.

and hands-on training in bait spraying, breadfruit characterization, and marcotting.

Individual action plans completed by participants following the exchange stated planting breadfruit orchards and sharing of lessons learnt as the top priorities for when they return home.

The inaugural Pacific Breadfruit Roundtable held in Tonga in September was a regional follow up to the Global Breadfruit Summit in August, and was timed to drive the development of national and regional activity plans under the PBSP. The next Global Breadfruit Summit will be hosted by Samoa in 2017.

Participants were from Fiji, Samoa, PNG, Cook Islands, Tonga, Solomon Islands and Hawaii and included representatives from farmer organisations, private sector, government, researchers, development partners, and other stakeholders. For two days, participants heard of breadfruit work undertaken in participating country and with active learning also taking place during half-day field visits. The event was co-funded by PAPP and IFAD.

A key outcome from the roundtable meeting was the creation of national Breadfruit Workplans for each of the seven countries represented, along with an

outline of the key themes and issues for farmers, private sector and researchers involved with this commodity across the region.

The Country Workplans pave the way for a combined regional effort in development of the production and value chain for this important crop. A series of inter-regional technical partnerships were also established, which will be vital to driving this action forward.

## ➤ NEXT STEPS

PIFON is now seeking additional funding for the PBSP to help support the national activities identified by the country members that attended the Roundtable, a firm reflection of what is needed on the ground to grow this important value chain.

*"Regarding food if a man plant ten (breadfruit) trees in his life, which he can do in about an hour, he would completely fulfill his duty to his own as well as future generations"*

*Sir Joseph Banks 1769*

THE PACIFIC AGRICULTURE POLICY PROJECT ENHANCES THE REGIONAL AND INTER-REGIONAL CAPABILITIES OF THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR TO ERADICATE POVERTY



Pacific  
Community  
Communauté  
du Pacifique

