



NEW VANUATU AGRICULTURAL POLICY BANK LAUNCH AND AWARENESS WORKSHOP

CONCEPT NOTE

Proposed Dates: 7-10 September, 2015

Venue: Port Vila, Vanuatu then Penama

B. Background

Clear, evidenced based national agriculture/forestry (“AgF”) policies are critical to ensure that there is a coherent plan for Government, farmers, private sector and other stakeholders to secure rural livelihoods, secure food security and collectively grow the agricultural sector and its contribution to national development.

Vanuatu’s Ministry of Agriculture has recently completed its *National Agriculture Sector Policy 2015-2030*. (See table summary below) This has been an impressive achievement – a process of several years of hard work, consultations, review and planning. This overall National document gives key stakeholders a synthesis of key priorities, issues and how they might be achieved. While a National Agriculture Policy document sets the overall framework, ‘sub-sector’ plans, industry plans or policies are also put in place to help progress specific commodities, products or industries. Many of these sub-sector plans/policies such as biosecurity, livestock, coffee etc for Vanuatu are in already place or are being updated. There are also new ussyes

The Challenge

Policies need to be made easily accessible to all key stakeholders. Most Agriculture/Forestry policy documents in the Pacific are available only in hardcopy form. Limited resources often mean that these documents have limited circulation and therefore not easily accessible – not only to national stakeholders but also international investors, development partners, researchers and other institutions. A recent SPC policy study also showed that policy national Ag/F Policy documents can vary in length and readability. PNG and Tonga national documents stretch to almost a hundred pages. Detailed documents need to be translated into succinct forms – written or orally - so that farmers and stakeholders can easily understand the contents of key policy documents. The legal and policy context within Government is also important for clarity. The Agriculture sector itself may be governed by several legislations and cross-cutting national policies and implemented by different actors, Ministries, agencies etc. Examples are trade, HACCP, quarantine, food security, rural development, youth and health.

Through the SPC Pacific Agriculture Policy Agriculture, Vanuatu’s Ministry of Agriculture has established its first ever [Vanuatu Agriculture Policy Bank](#). Vanuatu will be the first country in the Pacific to launch such a policy bank for agriculture. This aims to provide:



- (i) A repository of key National Agriculture Policy Documents – covering sector and sub-sector plans/policy documents. This means documents will be easily accessed online – nationally and internationally;
- (ii) Translated summaries of key policy documents (English and Bislama) This will enable easier dissemination to the public and rural stakeholders including forming the basis of **rural radio outreach**;
- (iii) A policy map of key documents and which actors lead key related Policies.

C. What is Planned?

Three events are planned for the week starting 7 September 2015. These are

7-9 September 2015 (3 days) Sub-Regional Agricultural ICT/Knowledge Management Workshop involving PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji (SPC, CTA, PINA)

10 September 2015 (1.5 day) National Agricultural Policy and Media Workshop, Port Vila followed by launch of the new Vanuatu Agricultural Policy Bank (afternoon function) (Government of Vanuatu, SPC, PINA)

16 September 2015 (1 day) – – Penama Provincial Ag Sector Policy Launch & Livestock Shipment (Government of Vanuatu, SPC)

D. Expected Outcomes

Sub-Regional Agricultural ICT/Knowledge Management Workshop involving PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji

1. Stronger agricultural information outreach by MAFF through a needs analysis/toolkit approach for Agricultural ICT/information needs
2. Stronger collaboration for agricultural research/practices with other countries using ICT platforms

National Agricultural Policy and Media Workshop, Port Vila and new Vanuatu Agricultural Policy Bank (afternoon function)

3. Greater awareness of content of National Agriculture Policy Document
4. Greater awareness of what sub-sector policies exist and work in progress
5. A new/supplemented agricultural radio outreach program in partnership with local media

Penama Provincial Ag Sector Policy Launch & Livestock Shipment (Government of Vanuatu, SPC)

6. Launch of livestock/transportation completed
7. Greater awareness of content of National Agriculture Policy Document
8. Greater awareness of what sub-sector policies exist and work in progress



E. Expected Participants

Sub-Regional Agricultural ICT/Knowledge Management Workshop involving PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji

- 9. Agricultural ICT/information personnel/officers
- 10. Policy Officers
- 11. Government media
- 12. Media personnel for key farmer organisations, private sector

National Agricultural Policy and Media Workshop, Port Vila and new Vanuatu Agricultural Policy Bank (afternoon function)

- 13. Government
- 14. Farmers, NGO
- 15. Private Sector
- 16. Donors, Development partners

Penama Provincial Ag Sector Policy Launch & Livestock Shipment (Government of Vanuatu, SPC)

- 17. Agricultural ICT/information personnel/officers
- 18. Policy Officers
- 19. Government media
- 20. Media personnel for key farmer organisations, private sector

Table 1 Snapshot of Pacific Agriculture Documents

Table 1:PAPP Inventory - Summary of source documents and review timeframes					
Country	Title of Document [type of document]	Type of document	Status	Mid-term review	Terminal review
Fiji	Fiji 2020 Agriculture Sector Policy Agenda "Modernizing Agriculture"	National agriculture sector policy	Current	Mid-term (2017)	End term (2020)
Palau	Bureau of Agriculture Strategic Plan FY 2014-2019	Agriculture agency strategic plan	Current		End term (2019)
PNG	National Agriculture Development Plan 2007 - 2016: "Growing the economy through agriculture"	Nation Agriculture sector plan	Current		End term (2016)
Samoa	Agriculture Sector Plan 2011 - 2015 "...farming and fishing first..."	National Agriculture sector plan	Current		2014-15
SI	National Agriculture and Livestock Sector Policy 2009-2014	National Agriculture sector policy	Most recent		
Timor-Leste	Timor-Leste Strategic Development Plan 2011 - 2030	National development plan	Current		
Tonga	Ministry of Agriculture & food, forests and fisheries Corporate plan 2014/15 - 2016/17	Agriculture agency corporate plan	Current		
Vanuatu	Vanuatu Agriculture Sector Policy 2014 – 2024	National Agriculture sector policy	Launched	2018	2023-24