



JOINT MEDIA ALERT

New Agriculture Policy Bank and workshops to enable easy access to agriculture information

Monday 31 August 2015

A new Agriculture Policy Bank and workshop series involving participants from up to 15 Pacific countries including key stakeholders from the Government of Vanuatu's Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity, is being launched in Vanuatu to allow access to the latest policies, research and information.

The workshops which will be held in Port Vila, Vanuatu from 7 – 10 September is a collaborative effort between the European Union-supported Pacific Agriculture Policy Project (PAPP), implemented by the Land Resources Division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the Government of Vanuatu's Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity, the EDF-10 IntraACP Agriculture Policy Programme and ACP-EU Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA).

Agriculture is the backbone of many Pacific Island economies, but with new domestic and global challenges every year countries need to constantly review their policies. Vanuatu is just one Pacific Island country that recently finalised, or is in the process of, a policy update to adjust to ongoing disasters, challenges and changes that impact nations every year. The challenge is ensuring each policy change is clearly communicated to stakeholders.

This is being addressed at the Pacific region's first *Strengthening Regional Knowledge Management Capacities* workshop from 7-9 September.

For the workshop, Vanuatu's social media officers and journalists are invited to join agriculture and communications professionals from up to 15 Pacific countries, to help develop better ways of sharing important policy information to farmers and farmer groups.

The regional event is being hosted in Vanuatu to link with a second national workshop, the *Vanuatu National Agricultural Policy Awareness and Implementation Workshop* on 10 September.

This second workshop will provide national stakeholders an outline of the recent *2015-2030 Vanuatu Agriculture Sector Policy's* content, stakeholder roles and implementation plans.

The workshops culminate on 10 September with an evening launch of the *Vanuatu Agriculture Policy Bank*, an online library that is easily accessible to everyone and provides translated summaries of key policy documents (English, French and Bislama).

The PAPP developed Policy Bank is hosted on SPC's Pacific Agriculture and Forestry Policy Network (PAFPNet) portal (www.spc.int/pafpnet) and will also be part of a mixed-media rural outreach programme.

Media Invitation: Social media experts, journalists and communicators from Vanuatu are invited to attend any of the events.

What: Two agricultural workshops and national launch of the Vanuatu Agricultural Policy Bank

When: 7-10 September, 2015

Where: Warwick, Le Lagon, Port Vila, Vanuatu

Who: Agriculture extension officers, information, communication and knowledge management officers, policy makers, farmers, farmers' networks, donors and partners etc

Why: To ensure stakeholders have easy access to agriculture policies, research and information.

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