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MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

TO : Representatives of Governments and Administrations of Cook Islands, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Vanuatu **No. :** 15/27

FILE : PRO 127/2 **DATE :** 20 August 2015

SUBJECT: “PACIFIC AGRICULTURE POLICY PLANNERS WORKSHOP”, SUVA, FIJI, 22–25 SEPTEMBER 2015

1. I am pleased to announce that the European Union (EU) supported Pacific Agriculture Policy Project (PAPP) implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), in collaboration with the World Bank will be convening a sub-regional ‘Pacific Agriculture Policy Planners Workshop’, from 22 to 25 September in Fiji.

OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

2. The overall objectives of the workshop are to:
 - (i) Inform policy planners about the role of agriculture sector public expenditure review (AgPER) and plans for the World Bank and SPC to conduct AgPERs in partner countries.
 - (ii) Plan a timetable for reviews to be completed in eight PICTs over the next two years.
 - (iii) Develop a plan for a learning event on AgPERs in the Pacific that will be documented to form the basis of knowledge products.
 - (iv) Facilitate the provision of technical assistance from the SPC to partner countries and territories on major areas of agricultural policy in the Pacific region, including the development of a regional agricultural policy framework, an extension policy, and on markets, by providing representatives of participating countries and territories with:
 - a. Information on the SPC PAPP’s planned work programme and capacity in these areas of agricultural policy.
 - b. A forum for communicating each country’s needs for technical assistance on these three areas of agricultural policy to SPC PAPP.

BACKGROUND

3. The European Union (EU) supported Pacific Agriculture Policy Project (PAPP), implemented by the Land Resources Division (LRD) of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), aims to increase the capability of governments and administrations in Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs)

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to address the development needs of smallholder agriculture. PAPP is part of the EDF-10 Intra ACP Agriculture Policy Programme across the Pacific Island and Caribbean regions. Please see <http://www.spc.int/pafpnet/> for more information on PAPP.

4. The agriculture sector has great potential as an engine of growth and poverty reduction in PICTs. Governments have a key role to play in enabling the sector to achieve its potential, including through the setting of an appropriate policy framework, and well targeted public expenditure.
5. SPC PAPP is helping to strengthen agriculture policy making in the Pacific Islands region by providing technical assistance on the following:
 - a. Improved targeting of government expenditures on the agriculture sector.
 - b. Development of a regional agricultural policy.
 - c. Development of national agricultural policies.
 - d. Development of a regional extension policy.
 - e. Development of a regional policy for organic markets.
6. SPC is working in partnership with the World Bank to conduct agriculture sector public expenditure reviews (AgPERs) in selected PICTs in order to improve the effectiveness of government expenditures on the agriculture sector in the region.
7. In order to better target technical assistance on agriculture policy to governments and administrations of PICTs, PAPP is planning to hold the Pacific Agriculture Policy Planners Workshop to better inform the region about the assistance that SPC can offer, and to provide representatives of governments and administrations in the region to coordinate with PAPP on the targeting and delivery of this technical assistance.

VENUE

8. The Pacific Agriculture Policy Planners Workshop will be held at the Holiday Inn in Suva, Fiji.

DATES

9. The workshop dates are 22–25 September 2015.

WORKSHOP TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

10. A draft Agenda is attached (**Annex 1**).

SPONSORS/ORGANISERS

11. The European Union funded Pacific Agriculture Policy Project, implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, is funding the workshop.

PARTICIPANTS

12. Participants will be government officials from Cook Islands, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, and Vanuatu. Other participants include technical specialists from the World Bank, and representatives from international and regional development partners.

NOMINATION OF PARTICIPANTS

13. The nomination of participants will be facilitated through SPC PAPP. All nominees should reach the workshop organisers (with full names and contact details) **by 28 August 2015**.

TRAVEL AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

14. The workshop organisers will provide the following for nominated participants:
- a. A round trip or return air ticket by the most direct and economical route from his/her capital city to Suva, Fiji. All tickets must be used as issued or authorised. Any other extra costs other than the authorised tickets will be at the participant's cost.
 - b. The Secretariat will be responsible for reservation and payment of hotel rooms for sponsored participants. Names of participants (**Annex 2 – Nomination form**) should be sent to the Secretariat **no later than 28 August 2015** for early confirmation of room reservations. No payment will be made to participants who decide to stay elsewhere unless approved by the organisers. [Non-sponsored participants are asked to make their own hotel bookings at any of authorised hotels or other hotels of their choice.]
 - c. Participants shall make their own arrangements for accommodation and airport transfers on transit to and from Suva, Fiji.
 - d. An allowance to cover food, accommodation and other expenses for obligatory stopovers to and from the meeting on the basis of the travel itinerary booked by the SPC PAPP, Land Resources Division.
 - e. An allowance at SPC rates to cover incidentals in Suva, Fiji.
15. All other interested individuals will participate at own expense however morning and afternoon tea and lunch will be provided.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

16. Participants should ascertain with their travel agents the requirements for a visa to enter Fiji including those required for transit travel.

LANGUAGE

17. The workshop will be conducted in English.

INSURANCE

18. The Secretariat does not cover insurance for meetings and workshops. Participants are encouraged to obtain their own insurance cover for the duration of this workshop and related travel.

FURTHER INFORMATION

19. Enquiries for further information on the workshops should be addressed to:

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20. Enquiries on workshop logistics (accommodation, travel etc) should be addressed to:

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Dr Colin Tukuitonga
Director-General

Attachs

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