

Creating a Supportive Policy Environment for Development of the Organic Sector



Pacific Organic & Ethical Trade Community (POETCom)

- provides effective governance for the movement and management of the Pacific Organic Standards – including 3rd party and PGS certification
- *advocates at the international level on issues that impact on the development of organics and at regional and national levels for the promotion and development of organics*
- provides training and capacity building for organic farmers .



POETCom services

Advocates for supportive policy

- Developing a policy toolkit to assist Governments and policy makers develop policy that supports the development of the organic industry
- Fact sheets on organics and Climate Change; Biodiversity; Food Security etc
- Programme and policy advice



Build capacity of industry

- Training and capacity building for certification and organic production
- Development of farmer extension materials
- Work with members to develop funding proposals to meet their needs



Implements and manages Pacific Organic Guarantee System

- local, regional, export and tourism

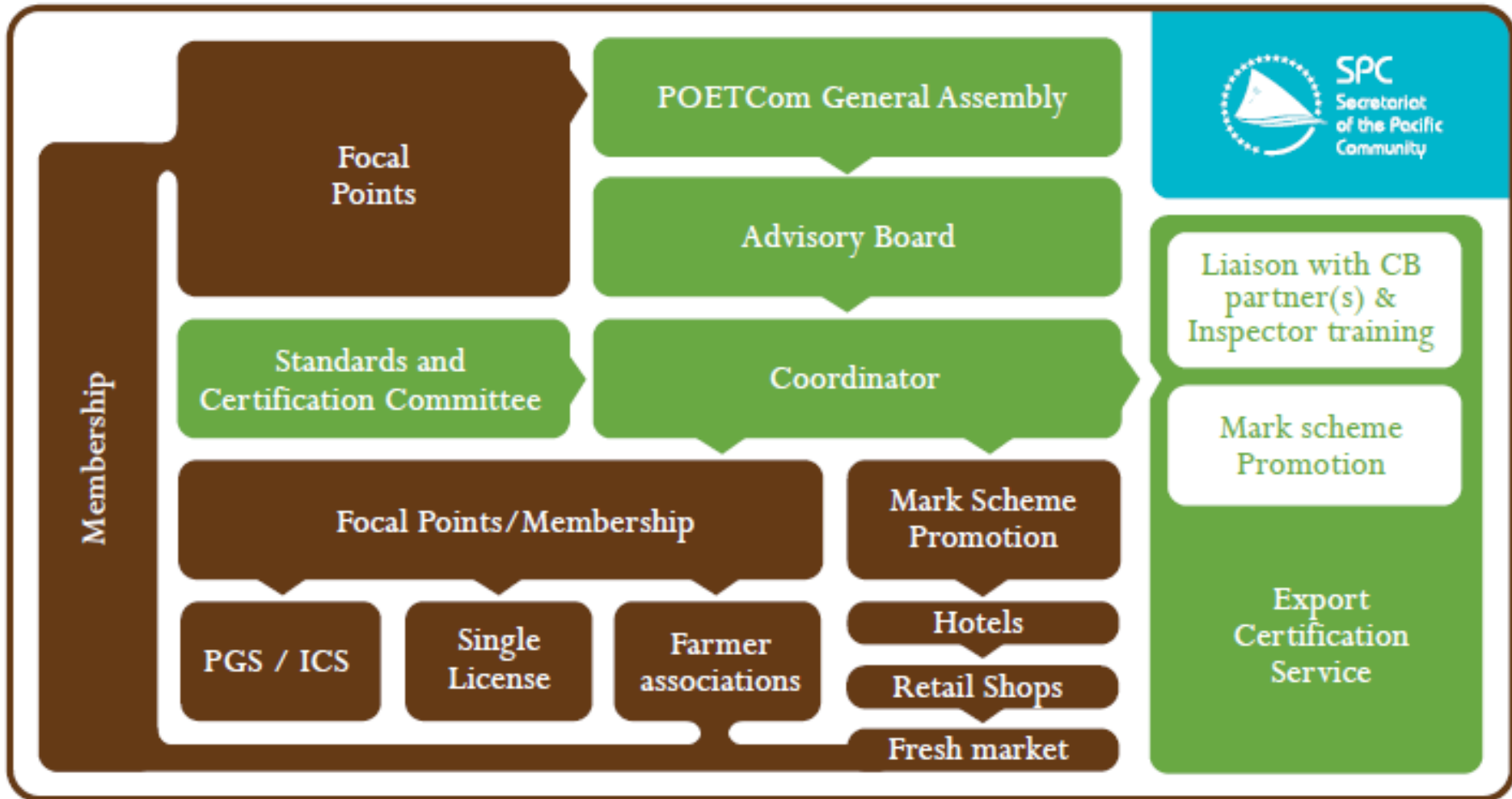
Facilitating Access to Certification

- **Pacific Organic Guarantee System**

- ✓ Development of *Pacific Organic Standard* (POS)
 - Suits local conditions
 - Fair trade component
 - Recognised by regions Governments
 - through HOAFs & MOAFs and the PIFS leaders
 - meeting (2008)
- ✓ National/regional & export certification
- ✓ Partner Certification Bodies
- ✓ Organic Pasifika Marks



Pacific Organic Guarantee System



Local & Regional Market Development

-meeting local needs and preparing for export-

Participatory Guarantee Systems

- PGS using POS as production standard
- Meets the POETCom criteria (based on IFOAM PGS Self Assessment)
- Approved by the POETCom Standards & Certification Committee
- Licensed to use the “Organic Pasifika Guaranteed by” Mark



SPC's Organic Policy Brief

1. Need for national organic policies or strategies.
2. More research, education and training.
3. Greater awareness needed:
 - Consumers
 - Producers
 - Policy makers.



UNEP/UNCTAD

- best practices for organic policy

- A national or regional standard for organic production should be developed, through close cooperation between the private sector and Government. It should be well adapted to the conditions in the country and mainly focus the domestic market.
- Governments should facilitate the access to certification services, either by stimulating foreign certification bodies to open local offices or by supporting the development of local service providers.
- Compulsory requirements for mandatory third-party certification should be avoided as they will not enable other alternatives to emerge. Other conformity assessment procedures, such as participatory guarantee systems, should be explored.



Background to the policy toolkit

- Government interest in organics has grown in last 12 – 18 months
- Most Governments do not have organic expertise
- Knowledge of certification requirements is held in the private sector
- Organic s is a cross cutting issue
- International experience has shown that Governments first response is to regulate – which is not the most helpful action.



- Mandatory **regulations** should only be considered when the need is clearly established and other simpler options have been ruled out. In the early stage of development, a mandatory organic regulation should not be a priority. Regulations for domestic markets should be based on local conditions, and not mainly on the conditions in export markets.



Organic Policy Toolkit

- The purpose is to develop an online toolkit for government policy and decision makers to facilitate national policy development and promote the organic industry at national levels aligned with the Pacific Organic Guarantee System.
- The Toolkit will also facilitate development of regionally compatible national policies in line with the Framework for Regionalism



- The Toolkit will enable organic advocates and governments in their dialogue on support strategies for expanding organic agriculture and markets by providing templates, resources and guidance for developing policies supporting the organic sector.



Steps:

- IFOAM – Organic International won the tender
- International scoping of what good/best practice in policy already exists.
- Facilitate a consultation with relevant stakeholders in the Pacific organic movement and national governments to identify key content and requirements for an online toolkit including but not limited too;
 - National organic policy template
 - Template national organic promotion policy
 - Other relevant policy interventions
 - National organic regulation template
 - Information package on the Pacific Organic Guarantee Scheme.



Steps:

- Field testing of Toolkit with 2 countries
- Provide training for POETCom Focal Points and government officials on use of the toolkit to support policy development at national level
- Ongoing support will be provided to Governments to use the tool



Our Vision

Organics and ethical trade: the key contributor to sustaining our cultures and communities; improving farmer livelihoods, people's health and the environment in the Pacific.

Our Mission

Through coordination, information sharing, networking, capacity building and establishing a regional certification scheme; grow the organic and ethical trade movement and contribute to a productive, resilient, sustainable and healthy Pacific Island region.

