



Solomon Island Agriculture & Livestock Sector Policy 2015-2019 Awareness Workshop and Policy Bank Launch CONCEPT NOTE

Proposed Dates: 19-20 November, 2015 (1.5 days)

Venue: Mendana Hotel, Honiara, Solomon Islands

B. Background

The Solomon Island's Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock (MAL) is finalising the draft National Agriculture and Livestock Sector Policy (2015-2019) to set the sector's medium to long-term agenda. The Ministry has consulted widely within the Solomon Islands on the new sector policy to replace the last sector policy which lapsed in 2014.

This draft sector policy aims to meet the target set by the Solomon Island government, through its Policy Statement, for a sustainable and productive agricultural sector. While the National Sector Policy sets the macro target, sub-sector plans and policies provides the specifics of how these goals and target would be met. However, some of the sub-sectors plans/policies are still in draft form as the prioritise areas are yet to be endorsed by the Solomon Is. government.

Consequently, this exercise will be accompanied by the up-coming review of the Solomon Island Agriculture Act, developed in the 1970s and is still in effect to date.

The Challenge

In the past, the development of sector policy was usually a response to the corporate requirement of the government, instead of it being a document to drive change and provide direction for the Ministry and its partners.

However with the increasing call from development partners and the various international conventions that require clear, evidenced based development policies for intervention, the government has embraced the opportunity through its Democratic Coalition for Change Government (DCCG) policy statement 2014-2020. MAL has therefore sought the inputs of its various partners to draw up a coherent plan for Government, farmers, private sector and other stakeholders to improve rural development, ensure food security, and increase the agricultural sector contribution to national development.

Part of the challenge in the Solomon Is. is the lack of up-to-date statistics to support evidence based policy formulation. This is compounded by policy incoherence at national level to coordinate development on the country's primary industries i.e. agriculture, forestry, and mining.

The SPC, through the EU funded PAPP, has been working with MAL to strengthen the Ministry's policy capacity. Part of this technical assistance from PAPP is the establishment of the Policy Bank to be the



repository of key National Agriculture Policy Documents – covering sector and sub-sector plans/policy documents. This allows easy access of the documents from any part of the country and internationally.

Once the Sector Strategy for Agriculture & Livestock 2015-2019 is approved by the Solomon Is. Cabinet and endorsed by Parliament, it would be uploaded to the Policy Bank

C. What is Planned?

19-20 November, 2015 (1.5 day) National Agricultural Policy Awareness & Consultation Workshop, in Honiara. The launch of the new Solomon Islands Agricultural Policy Bank will take place on the afternoon of the first day of the workshop.

D. Expected Outcomes

- Farmers, Government officials, and partners are aware of the progress and content of National Sector Policy on Agriculture & Livestock
- Greater awareness of what sub-sector policies that are still being developed and how partners could contribute to its formulation.

E. Expected Participants

- Farmer Representatives from the 9 Provinces, including reps from Youth & Women Groups
- Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock Officials
- Development Partners based in the Solomon Is.
- Private Sector
- Non-Government Organisation including Transparency International