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PAPP
Pacific Agriculture Policy Project

FIJI CROPS SECTOR FORUM CONCEPT NOTE

Proposed Dates: 23 – 27 November 2015

Venue: Tanoa International Hotel, Nadi, Fiji

B. Background

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) through its Land Resources Division (LRD), is implementing the Pacific Agriculture Policy Project (PAPP) funded by the European Union (EU) with a total investment of EUR 8.6 million for over four years to 2017.

The LRD PAPP is aimed at addressing the development needs of smallholder farmers and the commercial agricultural sector in the Pacific region by providing clear, evidence-based frameworks for promoting production, research and development, supporting stronger agricultural statistics and promoting stronger linkages to national and international markets through farmer associations and the commercial sector.

The Key Result Areas of the project are:

1. Strengthen regional agricultural development strategy.
2. Improve the dissemination and adoption of applied agricultural production research technologies.
3. Contribute to agricultural enterprise development through improved market linkages.

The project is being implemented in 15 Pacific ACP countries (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu) and including Timor-Leste.

The LRD PAPP Project in partnership with the Fiji Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) has been working to facilitate the development of Industrial Plans in the area of Crop Export, Import, Food Security, Value Added and AgriTourism in Fiji looking at three commodities Ginger, Dalo and Breadfruit. The Industry Plans to be developed are based on the recommendations in the Fiji 2020 Policy Agenda with the aim to modernize agriculture. There are five (5) core development objectives in the Agenda. Under core development objective 3 (Improve Delivery of support services) is the Industry Focused Program strategy that highlights the need to develop the various commodity Industry Plans.

The Challenge

The agriculture sector plays an important role in Fiji's economy. It offers both employment and opportunities for sustaining livelihoods and there are strong linkages between the sector and the rest of the economy. Fiji requires an inclusive development framework for its agriculture economy to move forward by addressing new domestic and global challenges in line with food and nutrition security, climate change, feedstock for renewable energy, the utilization of water resources for aquaculture, agriculture export and the rehabilitation of its traditional agriculture export industries, the sugarcane and the coconut industries.

Hence, the formulation of the Fiji 2020 Agriculture Sector Policy Agenda, which compliments the



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National Green Growth Framework, seeks to pursue sustainable development with an inclusive approach that will modernize Fiji's Agriculture Sector by 2020. It also creates the right atmosphere and incentive for stakeholders in particular the local farming communities and the private sector.

This Policy Agenda document identifies the development of industry plans for priority commodities as a critical step in commencement. These Industry Plans will set the roadmap for the active development of a range of export-oriented, import substitution and food security-focused crops.

The Industrial Plans developed following this Forum will focus on the priority areas, activities & budgets that need to be addressed, and promote a clear plan over the next five (5) years to:

- a. Strengthen the local crop industries through investment in research and development and improve productivity, profitability and ensure sustainability;
- b. Improve quality to encourage consumer demand for local crop products;
- c. Ensure the consistency in the delivery of agricultural support services;
- d. Provide appropriate planting programs to address the domestic and export demand and supply;
- e. Provide employment opportunities to the local communities along the supply chain;
- f. Promote crop industries domestically to ensure its competitiveness in the export market;
- g. Strengthen the capacity of the crop industry through appropriate research, development and adoption;
- h. Strengthen the resilience of the Fiji Crop industry to disaster risk and climate change; and
- i. Promote the development of agro-based industries.

C. What is Planned?

Refer Draft Agenda attached.

D. Expected Outcomes

The broad objective of the workshop is to bring crop industry stakeholders together to discuss relevant topics in order to finalise the Crop Industry Plans for selected priority commodities.

The Objectives of the Forum are:

1. To raise awareness of stakeholders on:
 - a. The Fiji 2020 Agriculture Policy Agenda
 - b. The Draft Industry Plans for Crops
2. To obtain stakeholder inputs on identified Crop Industry Plans including key results to be achieved over the next five years.
3. To determine best option industry structures to drive these Industry Plans, including Working Group formation.
4. To develop value addition and agro-tourism strategies for next five years
5. To form Industry Plan working groups that will finalise the specific Industry plans for validation by March 2016 and launching by June 2016.
- 6.

E. Expected Participants

Participants at the Forum are expected to include:

- Ministry of Agriculture staff
- Smallholder farmers



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- Farmers' organisation representatives
- Private sector, including those working in tourism
- Development partners
- Other relevant government representatives