

Agriculture Extension Service

II. Policy Options for MAL Core Activities

a. Agricultural Extension Services

Agricultural extension service is defined as the transfer of agricultural technology from experts to farmers, livestock keepers, and other stakeholders. The experts are the link between the farmer, livestock keepers and research where agricultural technologies are developed, tested and modified.

Generally, the experts have three roles;

- * 1. The transfer of readily usable technologies;**
- * 2. To simplify technologies which cannot be transferred in the form produced by the research institutions; and**
- * 3. To identify and transfer farmers/livestock keepers problems to research institutions. The evolution of extension services in Solomon Islands has a long history.**

However due to recent economic crises and insignificance of Agriculture Budgetary Provisions the extension services are virtually weak.

Objective:

- * To strengthen the linkage between research - extension - farmer and livestock keeper and to convert the extension services into an instrument of agricultural growth, as well as to provide a framework to interpret research findings and advice farmers on improved technology to stimulate sustainable agricultural growth.**

Policy Statements/Focused Activities

- 1. Provide delivery of extension services in a cost effective and sustainable manner. The approaches and methods will involve regular visits to farmers/livestock keepers and groups, regular training of extension staff and frequent interaction between researchers and extension staff**
- 2. Revitalize and strengthen the extension services with more qualified staff and budgetary resources to enhance its effectiveness in delivery of the required services**
- 3. Extension services will develop programs to enhance women and youth involvement in agricultural production**
- 4. Extension services will be demand driven and will address farmers and other beneficiaries' needs**
- 5. Provide periodical training for extension staff in order to acquaint and increase their knowledge base with new technological changes**
- 6. Extension services will encourage and support farmers; livestock keepers, traders and processors to establish groups, associations, and cooperatives for participatory and collective action**
- 7. Integrated pest management measures, safe handling and use of agrochemical and other plant protection inputs will promoted by extension services**

Contd.....

8. Extension services will promote commercialization of crops and livestock enterprises. This will include appropriate mechanisms for minimization of production risks
9. In collaboration with the Health Authorities will promote utilization of local staples and sub-staples through appropriate post-harvest technologies, to maximize the nutritional value of local food product
10. In collaboration with the Republic of China - Taiwan technical mission activities will promote new technologies in production of rice, vegetables and livestock to increase production and maximize the nutritional value of local food product
11. Integrate the comparative advantages of each of the areas.
12. Facilitate community based trainings in the provinces with NGO's, RTC's, CBO's etc. will promote technologies related to different enterprises



2015 Department of Extension Budget

RECURRENT BUDGET

Salaries	7,152,904
Other Charges	2,602,414
Total	9,755,318

DEVELOPMENT BUDGET

1	Agriculture Livelihoods Improvement & Export Based Expansion	3,060,800.00
2	National Food Security Enhancement Programme	2,325,800.00
	Total	5,385,600.00

Development budget: 80% in rural areas = 11.00/ rural habitant



MAL Extension Manpower



- * Current staff establishment = 138
(31 female staff, 107 male staff)
- * Currently average ratio of staff to farmers 1: 3,818 farmers.
- * Area coverage per staff 203 km²/ Staff
- * Target ratio of staff to farmers should be at 1: 200.
- * Solution; Staff increase (MAL requirement 545)? **WORK SMART**





Development Budget

1.0 Agriculture Livelihoods Improvement & Export Based Expansion

1.1 Proposal Description MTDP 2014- 2018

- * This proposal seeks to improve the livelihoods of about 10,000 rural and urban dwellers by 2018 through the provision of both technical and project support assistance to the most vulnerable and remote communities in the country.
- * The programme aims to assist 500 highland crops farmers in the production of Onion, Carrot, Head Cabbage, broccoli and other high value crops.

- * It will also support about 1,000 **women and youths** throughout the country with project support on crop production, floriculture and livestock.
- * 500 **urban and peri-urban farmers** would be assisted in small back yard farming initiatives.
- * 1.2 In the **agriculture export based expansion** will assist 200 coffee and 200 Kava farmers in the coffee and Kava planting regions of Isabel, Malaita, Makira, Choiseul and Guadalcanal the programme will support the farmers to expand their export potential crops in terms of expanding their current stand through provision of planting materials, basic processing infrastructure, technical and labour support.

2.0 National Food Security Enhancement Programme **[470-0001-4006]**

2.1 Proposal Description

- * The proposal seeks to improve the food security status of the country by promoting the production and conservation of indigenous crop and will assist farmer in the production of exotic imported crops locally for import substitution. It will also through a nation-wide household level food security survey try and get the actual food security status of the country, this will enable the ministry and SIG as a whole to come up with strategies to address food production and nutrition for the country.**

Explanatory Notes; National Food Security Enhancement Programme

Food Crop Production

Support to Root crop farmers.

1.1.1 Provide technical support to at least 100 root crop famers throughout the country by 2014

1.1.2 Project Support of planting materials and Tools to selected farmers throughout the country by 2014

1.1.3 Conduct Root crop husbandry trainings in selected provinces by 2014.

Support to Vegetable farmers

1.2.1 Provide technical support to at least 200 vegetable farmers throughout the country by 2014

1.2.2 Project Support of planting materials and Tools to selected farmers throughout the country by 2014

1.2.3 Vegetable husbandry trainings in selected provinces by 2014.

Support to Fruit Tree farmers

1.3.1 Provide technical support to at least 100 fruit tree farmers in 2014

1.3.2 Project Support of planting materials and Tools to selected farmers throughout the country in 2014

1.3.3 Fruit tree husbandry trainings in selected provinces in 2014.

1.4 Support to Rice Farmers

1.4.1 Provide technical support to at least 5 semi commercial rice projects by 2014

1.4.2 Provide technical support to at 20 small holder rice farmers by 2014.

1.4.3 Development of 80 ha of commercial rice farm in Gozoruru and Paradise in 2014.

1.5 Promotion of lokol Kakai (Traditional Foods)

1.5.1 200 farmers and staff trained in traditional food production.

1.5.2 Awareness and Promotion, 1 national and nine lokol kakai food shows in Honiara and in the provinces.



2.0 On Farm and Station Research

2.1 one taro germplasm collection established

2.2 one pana germplasm collection established

2.3 one Yam germplasm collection established

2.4 one Sweet potato germplasm collection established

2.5 one Indeginous vegetable germplasm collection established

2.6 one Indeginous fruit tree germplasm collection established

3.0 Project Support and Implementation

3.1. Conferences, Seminars and Workshop, A total of 10 trainings carried out in 9 provinces and Honiara City in 2014.

3.2 Project Monitoring and Evaluation, 9 provinces province including Honiara with two M&E per annum.

3.3 Project implementation tours to all provinces in 2014.

3.4 Freight, shipment of materials and goods to all provinces each month in 2014