

Solomon Islands Agriculture & Livestock Sector Policy

2015-2019

Awareness Workshop & Policy Bank Launch

**ROLE OF FARMERS' ORGANISATIONS IN SOLOMON
ISLANDS AGRICULTURE**

A KGA PRESENTATION

By Moses P. Pelomo

(Chairman, Board of Trustees)

Facilitated by PAPP/SPC

Honiara. 19th – 20th November 2015

FARMERS' ORGANISATIONS

- FOs are often established to cater for the mutual interest of members with a common bond in a cooperative and collaborative effort to serve common objectives
- Can be legal or informal entities
- Membership can be open, exclusive, geographical, tribal or communal
- Governance through Committees
- Wide range of scope of activities

PROFIT AND NON-PROFIT ORIENTED FARMERS ORGANISATIONS IN SOLOMON ISLANDS

❖ PROFIT ORIENTED

- VCO Producers Association (DME operators)
- SOLKOM Ltd (Cocoa exporter)
- Bara Cooperative Society Ltd - Isabel

❖ NON-PROFIT ORIENTED

- Kastom Gaden Association (KGA)
- Nut Growers Association of Solomon Islands (NGASI)

❖ PROFIT & SERVICE- ORIENTED

- Kolomola Holdings Ltd –

Types of Agricultural FOs in SI

- Family Communal Groupings
- Tribal Communal Groupings
- Common Interest/Bonding Groupings
- Trading/Value-chain Linkages
- Registered Associations
- Cooperatives
- Land Purchase Cooperatives
- Communal companies
- Development Companies with rural HH share-holding
- FOs providing Agric Support services to the industry

SOME EXAMPLES OF FOs in SI

- VCO- Producers Association
- SOL-KOM Ltd (Cocoa exporter)- 3 Cocoa Growers Associations
- Varivao Holdings Ltd
- Value Added Timber Association (Sawn timber)
- “Bara” Cooperatives
- Land Purchase Cooperatives (returned alienated plantations)
- Rokotanikeni Women Association
- Kastom Gaden Assn. (KGA) – Services Provider (Non-profit)
- Nut Growers Association of Solomon Islands (NGASI) – Non-profit service provider
- KGA CBO Partners (13)

KGA Case

**A NON-PROFIT SERVICE
PROVIDER**

KGA : FOCUS, POTENTIAL & OPPORTUNITIES IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR

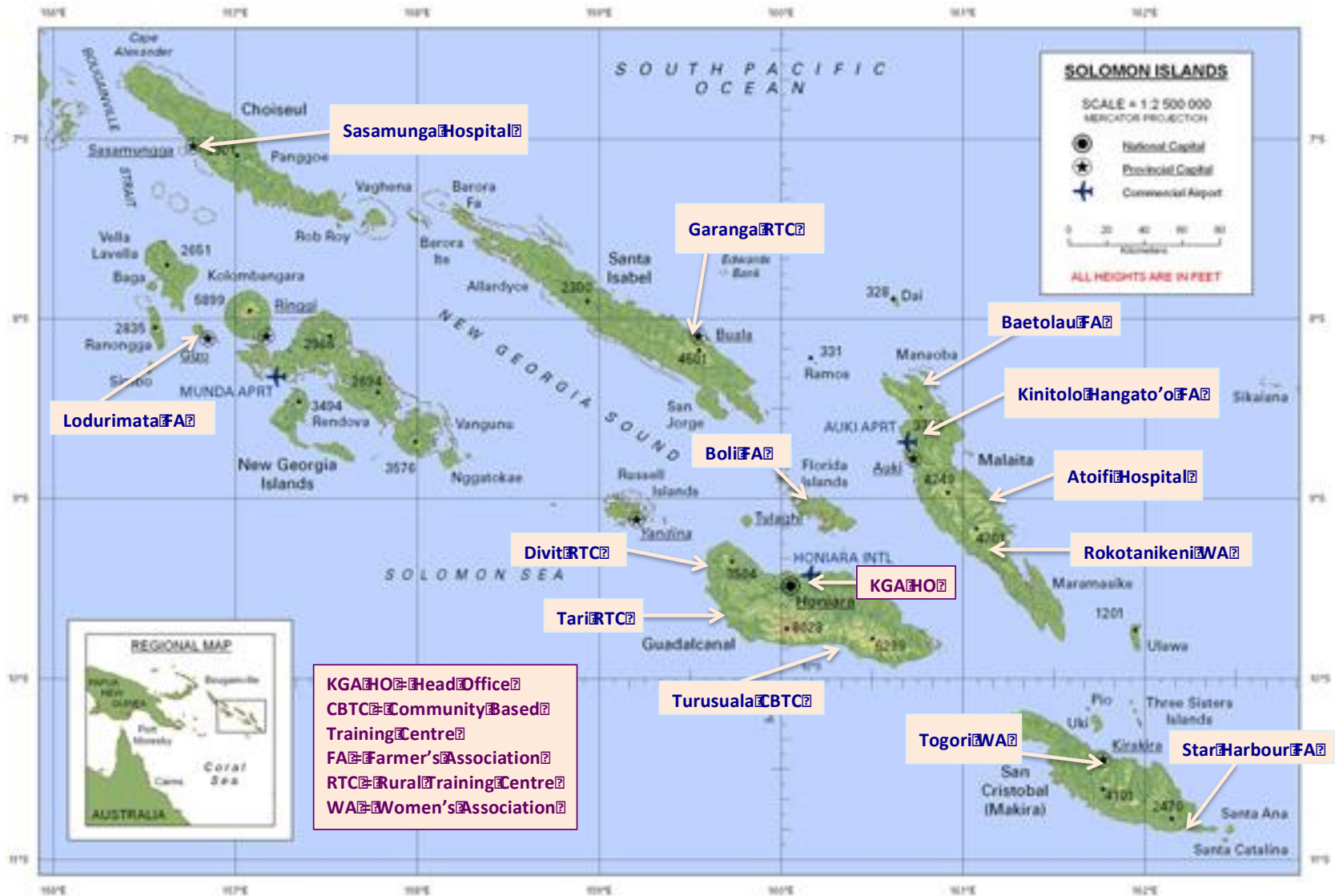
FOCUS

- Food Security
- Health & Nutrition
- Organic Farming
- Sustainable farming
- Seed Production & 16 bulking centres
- Value-adding
- Savings Clubs
- Youth

POTENTIAL & OPPORTUNITIES

- Over 5,000 PMN members
- 13 CBO Partners
- Use of Lead Farmers as Trainers
- “King Cropping”
- National Implement Agent for PIFON
- National Focal Point for POETcom (PGS Certification)

Map of KGA Provincial Partners - December 2013

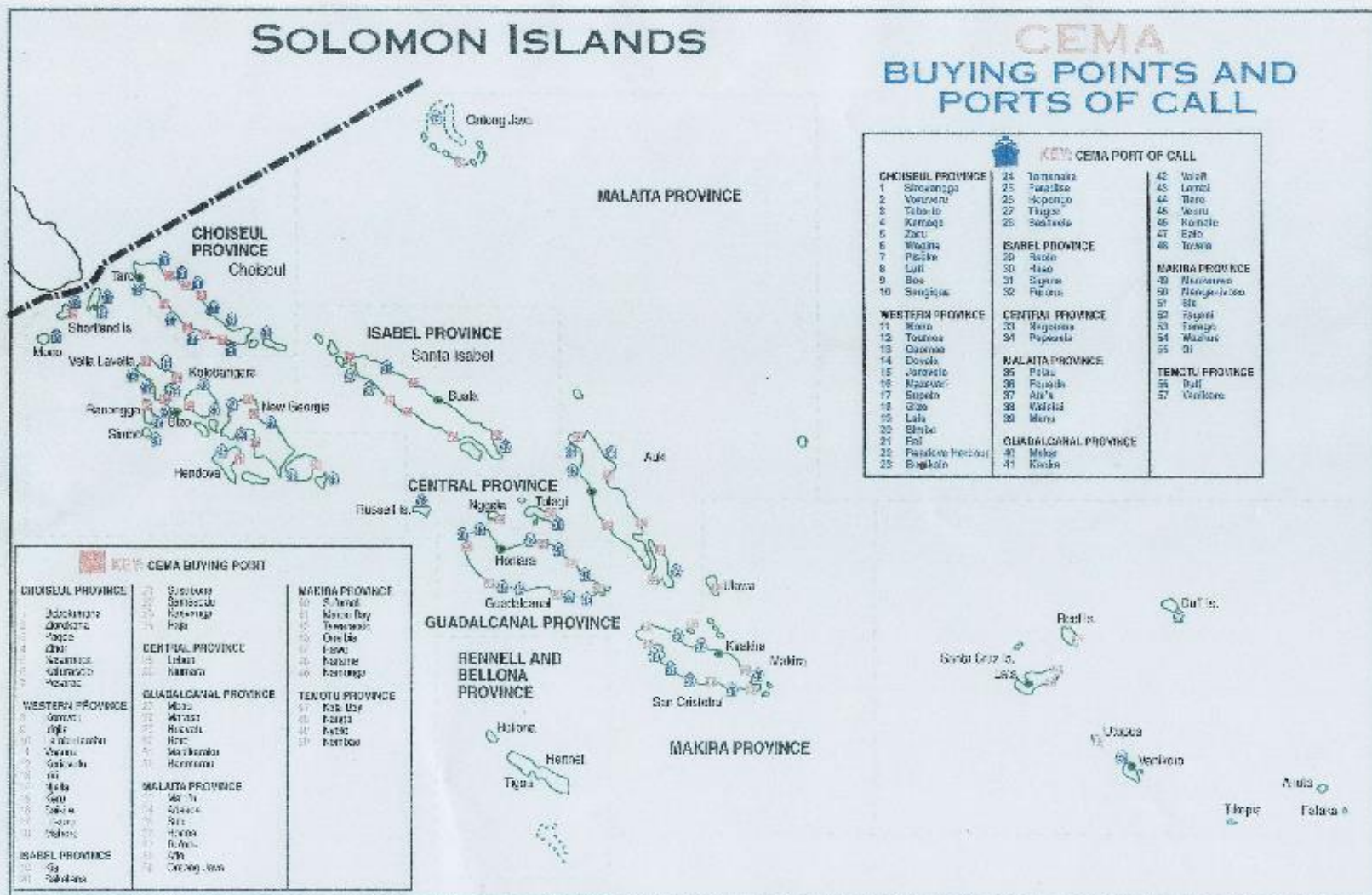


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PROFIT – ORIENTED FOs

Over 66 former CEMA Copra Buying Point Agents (formal and informal entities) addressing a domestic marketing issue

POTENTIAL ROLE AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SI FO IN THE COCONUT INDUSTRY



POTENTIAL ROLES AND OPPORTUNITIES for SI FOs in Agriculture development

- Agriculture farming is Small holder based- many scattered production units
 - Land Tenure- over 80% of land is owned and control by tribes
 - Pooling of resources (land, capital, labour)
 - Economy of scale for various activities
 - Solidarity of lobbying for support
 - Resilient despite economic or natural down turns
 - Benefits localised – providing cash flow in rural areas
 - Self-employment – reducing urban drift
 - Caters for Common Good and welfare
 - Strengthen social fabric coherence through economic inclusive empowerment thru' participation of resource owners
 - Satisfy socio-economic welfare oriented market demands
- ❖ **Role of FOs agric sector and community will be different**

Why FOs could play more active participation in Agriculture Development in SI

- **Agricultural sector is small holder farmer based**
- **Much of agric land is customary tenure – communally owned**
- **Titles to large number of returned “alienated lands” to tribal land-owners were coconut/cocoa/cattle plantations**
- **Other communally owned land were also registered to tribes for development purposes FO – based production units help consolidation of supply side of commodities**
- **Registered communal land ideal for development and commercialisation of potential higher value coconut products**
- **Ideal for complying with niche – market (Organic, Fair-trade etc) requirements**
- **Facilitate investment and strengthen linkages with the higher marketing/trading /value-chain**
- **May facilitate access to financial credit along the value-chain**
- **Pooling of resources (land, capital and labour)**
- **Rise of Savings Clubs**
- **Economy of scale lead to high chances of viability**
- **Ensure focused support services to the FOs rather than thinly spread to individual HHs**
- **Enable FOs to venture into more sustainable businesses and self-reliance**
- **Immediate benefits to members**
- **Common Goods and community welfare can be facilitated**

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FOs

**STRENGTHENING LINKAGES
AND SUPPORT**

***PIFON**

***POETCOM**

***ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL FO
NETWORK**

PIFON: PACIFIC ISLANDS FARMERS ORGANISATIONS NETWORK

MEMBERS AND NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION AGENTS (NIA) :

- ❖ **FIJI** - Tei Tei Taveuni (TTT)
- ❖ **SAMOA** - Samoa Farmers Association (SFA)
- ❖ **SOLOMON ISLANDS** – Kastom Gaden (KGA)
- ❖ **TONGA** – Tonga Growers Association (TGA)
- ❖ **VANUATU** - Farmers Support Association (FSA)
- ❖ **PNG** – Women in Agriculture

Directors are from the above NIAs; current Chairman is [Afamasaga Toleafoa of SFA, Samoa](#)

SUPPORT and LINKAGES

❖ **Support:**

- IFAD thru' the Asia Pacific Regional FO Network based in Manila
- EU – Under PAPP through SPC signed in 2014

❖ **Linkages**

- PIFON is represented in the PAPP Steering Committee (KGA Chairman)
- POETcomm (KGA is National Focal Point)
- NIA membership in their national organisations
- FOs at national and regional levels

PIFON OBJECTIVES

- 1. To establish a sustainable organisation with wide membership across the Pacific Islands.**
- 2. To provide national FOs with key contacts, information and the technical expertise required to achieve overall viability.**
- 3. To provide national FOs with key contacts, information and the technical expertise required to enable their members to better participate in commercial agriculture.**

PIFON OBJECTIVES (Cont.)

4. To provide national FOs with key contacts, information and the technical expertise required to increase the productivity and environmental sustainability of their members farming operations.
5. To raise the profile of FOs in the Pacific and give farmers a voice in regional and international forums – influencing and securing farmer driven donor support.

Objectives translated into three (3) broad types of activities:

- 1. Enhancing viability and sustainability of national FOs;**
- 2. Providing practical information to member farmers to enable them to better participate in income generating activities; and,**
- 3. Providing practical information to member farmers to enable them to adopt more sustainable production practices.**

THANK YOU

