

6.4 APPENDIX – National Policy Bank Workshop and Launch

6.4 Complete Presentations - Vanuatu National Agricultural Policy Awareness and Implementation Workshop

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6.4.1 Summary of Event

The *Vanuatu National Agricultural Policy Awareness and Implementation Workshop* was held on 10 September, along with the evening launch of the new *Vanuatu Agriculture Policy Bank*.

The new *Vanuatu Agriculture Policy Bank* aims to give farmers, farmer groups and other stakeholders an easily accessible online library of translated recent *Vanuatu Agriculture Sector Policy 2015-2030's* content, stakeholder roles and implementation plan. Summaries of key policy documents in English, French and Bislama. It was launched at the conclusion of the *Vanuatu National Agricultural Policy Awareness and Implementation Workshop*, held on 10 September to provide national stakeholders with an outline of the *Policy Bank* is a repository of key national agriculture documents covering sector and sub-sector plans and policies, now easily accessible online to local and overseas stakeholders. The translated summaries of key policy documents in English, French and Bislama aim to help farmers access this information, and will be supported by planned outreach to rural stakeholders using cross-media platforms such as rural radio, television and print programs.

The *Policy Bank* is hosted on SPC's Pacific Agriculture and Forestry Policy Network (PAFPNet) portal: www.spc.int/pafpnet

6.4.2 Key Discussions – Day Four (Policy Bank Workshop)

40. Policy bank workshop (Day Four). Agriculture is the lifeblood of the economy with half of the population's income from agriculture, and it has to keep moving to create change, employment and opportunities. There are two important aspects to the launch of the policy: raise awareness of the existence, and knowledge about the content, of the new policy; and implementation, monitoring and evaluation for this new policy is essential.
41. Discussed how people develop policies, documents and publications but there is not much focus on raising awareness and knowledge of the product, and often it is difficult to find agriculture information. Vanuatu first to launch an agriculture policy bank in the region plus great they are complementing it with this awareness workshop plus series of provincial launches planned.
42. With partnership with CTA, opportunity to share overseas experiences especially from Caribbean (also Africa).

43. Discussed the “big opportunity” for farmers to address more supply to tourism and to encourage more use of local rather than imported foods.
44. Discussed rural areas’ access to the Policy Bank, and how will those in provinces (farmers) have access? Extension officers in provinces have access to the brochures summarising the policy, also computers and internet to access the Policy Bank to pass details on to farmers. Another dream is to push ICT so that message perhaps in five years more farmers will use technology.
45. Not just Vanuatu, but the entire Pacific has only a small amount allocated to agriculture. Vanuatu is the worst for budget allocation to agriculture as government has prioritised the social sector but with more awareness raising about the importance of agriculture this may change. (Again referred to Mr Caniogo’s presentation and statistics that for agriculture aid agencies globally spend less than 2% and in the Pacific governments all spend less than 5%).

Policy’s 13 thematic areas - actions discussed (following is an overview, and for comprehensive details of all discussions for each of the 13 thematic areas refer to the full report minutes):

46. Thematic area 1: Institutional Set-Up and Compliance - Completion of the Agri. Act and Regulations.
47. Thematic area 2: Extension and Training - Develop inventory of training activities and materials in order to identify needs for rural communities to address gaps and guide training activities
48. Thematic area 3: Finance – It is hard for farmers to access credit so good to have: address the gap in the financing sector for smallholder farmers perhaps with more Reserve Bank regulation or for farmers to establish their own Farmers Bank like Vanwoods microfinance scheme; have more awareness training about loans that may be accessible to farmers (what it involves, conditions and risks); have training for ‘farming as a business’ (book-keeping, ledger, and financial literacy); and also develop cost-saving strategies, ie farmer assn or cooperative.
49. Thematic area 4: Agricultural Land Use - There is a Land Use Policy already in place but perhaps need to review how agricultural zones are divided especially as more land use is now for residential and other activities; mass production is hard because people own small pieces of land everywhere; in livestock vision is to raise 500,000 herds of cattle by 2025 but not sure how given limited land space.
50. Thematic area 5: Agriculture investment - Design new loans and savings products and services for more rural farmers, youth and women (need something different to what exists, probably without interest rates or low rates that can be accessible for rural farmers, youth and women.)
51. Thematic area 6: Research and Development - Collate materials to ensure that Vanuatu becomes an example for other Pacific countries (ie find and collate products and materials needed by farmers); educate farmers on adopted materials and approaches according to their needs, and assist them to adapt; also identify pests and diseases and effective treatments; investigate soil as well.
52. Thematic area 7: Planting materials, tools and agricultural inputs - Build seed centres in all provinces; import OP seeds (open pollination); perhaps duty exemption on agriculture tools and inputs.
53. Thematic area 8: Environmental Protection and Sustainable Farming - Develop Vanuatu specific instruction manual on farming systems, environmental protection and management; review existing policies, laws, action plans; raise awareness and understanding of organic practices and farming in Vanuatu; for Traditional knowledge (TK) develop a Vanuatu Specific Instruction Manual.
54. Thematic area 9: Production and Market Access - Recover and fix existing production toward a resilient future; promote medium term ag trees and crops (ie fruit trees and kava);and promote an encourage long term sustainable ag production (ie fruit, essential oils, biofuels, etc). Also discussed how maintaining our current, potential market is an opportunity to highlight versus aiming to increase production (ie rather than aiming for increased production first look at maximising current capacity and maintain access to the market (consistency, quality, quantity).
55. Thematic area 10: Food Security - Identify best nutritious food coupled with best growing methods to educate farmers about these foods and techniques; strengthen extension services (ie reduce logistic

costs); publicity through media outlets and promotions in the education and tourism sectors; develop and promote preservation techniques. Ideally develop strong links with other departments such as health (to combat increase in Ni Vanuatu NCDs), youth and sports (educate youth), tourism, etc.

56. Thematic area 11: Employment – in today's generation youth are migrating to towns leaving a shortage of labour in the rural areas, so need to engage more young people in agriculture. Also regarding employment, idea to consider RSE workers going to NZ and Australia in huge numbers, and upon their return asking them to come back and share their overseas learnings about trades, adaptation to climate, farming techniques, etc.
57. Thematic area 12: Climate Variability, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction - streamline all climate change and DR training packages; database of all climate change and disaster projects (should be coordinated through a particular portal (NAPP & IGCI0); have dedicated unit in MALFFB to mainstream climate change and disaster to all ag activities.
58. Thematic area 13: Gender and Vulnerable Groups - Conduct awareness training on the importance of gender in ag production; formation of specific gender asn and provide access to available resources; involvement in decision making at all levels of governance (national, provincial, area council).
59. Discussion about new National Livestock Policy (draft in the final stages of development including this week's validation workshop) and that after 35 years of not having a clear roadmap the livestock sector will soon have the policy in place along with its vision of achieving a national cattle herd of 500,000 heads by year 2025.

6.4.3 Presentations

SESSION: INTRODUCTION

Introduction: Mark Vurobaravu, Organiser

- 2 sets of programs – workshop in morning and launch in afternoon

SESSION: OPENING PRAYER

Opening Prayer, Permanent Secretary Bernard

- Opening prayer

SESSION: WELCOME

Howard Aru, Director General, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity (MALFFB)

SUMMARY:

Welcomed all dignitaries, participants, event coordinators, guests, farmers especially those from the provinces, senior officers and guests.

Agriculture is the lifeblood of the economy and the sector has to keep moving to create change and employment. Perhaps in Vanuatu the sector has been asleep for far too long and is 5-10 years behind, as things that are supposed to be happening are not yet. But it is "better to dream than not to dream", for example, cattle are moving to the provinces already to achieve the 2025 vision of having 500,000 head nationally. Agriculture "wants to turn a new page" and go somewhere. We can only do more, create change in Vanuatu agriculture.

PRESENTATION *(translated from Bislama):*

- Special welcome to all participants, especially:
 - those new this morning for this 2nd workshop (last three days spent on Information Knowledge Management workshop)
 - big thanks to SPC, CTA and other event partners for helping to push agriculture in Vanuatu
 - farmers from the provinces – Penama, Malampa, Shefa, Tafea and Sanma (SG Penama – thanks for your presence; Andrew Napwatt from Tanna – appreciate what you are doing).
 - Senior officers of agriculture dept & ministry
 - Private sector present
 - Social media here, embrace it for social network – event broadcasted around globe – Pacific, Carribean & Africa
 - facilitators & media personnel
- Agriculture is the lifeblood of economy, and it has to keep moving to create change, employment
- Agriculture wants to turn a new page – far too long been asleep, want to go somewhere
- We are 5-10 years late, things that are supposed to be happening are not yet
- For livestock the vision is to have 500,000 cattle by 2025, this year moving towards that vision with 500 cattle of livestock already in Torba, next week more cattle head to Penama, then move to other provinces
- Better to dream than not to dream
- We can only do more, create change in Vanuatu agriculture.

SESSION: REMARKS

Mr Vili Caniogo, Team Leader PAPP-SPC

SUMMARY:

Welcomed local dignitaries and guests, plus also regional colleagues from 8 countries across the Pacific who joined at the start of the week for a regional agriculture Knowledge Management (KM) workshop, which links to today's policy workshop and Policy Bank launch for which they are here to observe and take home lessons learned.

He congratulated the Vanuatu team to be the first to launch an agriculture policy bank in the region, adding it's "really an exciting achievement, and also congratulations for doing this workshop."

People need to access information, such as policies, then they need to know what is in it and that is the premise of this week. The week's themes are around promoting information and promoting knowledge. For such a long time, people develop policies, documents and publications but there is not much focus on raising awareness and knowledge of the product, and often it is difficult to find agriculture information.

The SPC-PAPP project is trying to support countries, whether that means helping them complete their policy or assist them run an awareness activity to ensure stakeholders are aware of what is in their policy document. In addition, there is the internet-based Policy Bank concept that is just one tool to enable people to access policy documents, especially government, policy makers, farmers, and research and private business.

This is an exciting time; it's new and we are going to learn as we go along.

PRESENTATION:

I want to welcome our regional colleagues, as we also have some colleagues here from throughout the region from at least 8 countries. They are here to take part in the events that started on Monday but they are also here to observe today's events and this evening activities.

So it is a pleasure to be here and to have that added bit of regional content to what is happening this week. I hope that our regional colleagues, when they go back (home), they will be taking some of the elements they learnt this week. I would also like to congratulate the team to be the first to launch an agriculture policy bank (really an electronic library). That's really an exciting achievement, and also congratulations for doing this workshop.

For such a long time... people come up with policies, documents and nice books but there is not much awareness. The whole premise of this week is that people need to access information first... it is difficult to find agriculture information. **They need to access it then they need to know what is in it** and without that, it is difficult to engage (stakeholders). We have so many workshops but it is important to know the framework first, ie policy. This project is trying to support countries: in some cases complete their policies, and as a minimum run an awareness of what is in their policy document.

In addition to that is this policy bank. It's just one tool to enable people, especially government, policy makers, farmers, and research and private business to access that document (the policy). It's on the internet so can access it here or overseas.

This week's themes are around promoting information and promoting knowledge. (For the preliminary regional knowledge management workshop the participants here were selected, as they are the information officers within their ministries who have a key role, so within their agriculture ministries they are trying to do their work and push information sharing and knowledge generation. They are here to learn about tools and processes so they can go back, with our support, to elevate their role and help strengthen the region's information and knowledge remit.

I think this is an exciting time it's new and we are going to learn as we go along. We are keen to hear about how they (regional participants) are going and how Vanuatu is going, and I must say they are going very well in terms of adopting this proactive approach and running the events of this week.

On this note thank you all for coming and we look forward to the discussions today and your attendance this afternoon as we launch that policy bank and have a look at what's inside it.

Thank you very much.

SESSION: REMARKS

Mr Samson Vilvil Fare, CTA, Netherlands

SUMMARY:

Thanks all partners and in particular the Ministry of Agriculture, and CTA's main partner in the Pacific, SPC.

CTA has a 30-year history, with a focus on policy in knowledge management, work in publication-magazine & books in agriculture (policy, value chain), and University curriculums in agriculture. It works across 6 regions – 4 African, 1 Caribbean, 1 Pacific – and 80 countries and aims to bring experiences from Africa, etc to the Pacific.

PRESENTATION (translated from Bislama):

- Thanks to
 - DG for agriculture, thanks for arranging for us to be here
 - chiefs,
 - acting SG for Penama
 - Rep for private sectors
 - Farmer reps
 - CTA colleague
 - Technical staff for agriculture, backbone of agriculture in v2 to move forward
 - SPC colleagues
- CTA history – existed for 30 years, policy in knowledge management, work in publication-magazine & books in agriculture (policy, value chain), and University curriculums in agriculture
- Exchange in experiences – main partner in Pacific is SPC
- CTA privileges to work with stakeholders in 6 regions – 4 African, 1 Caribbean, 1 Pacific; want to bring experience from Africa, etc to the Pacific; CTA works in 80 countries, also want Pacific to be assisted
- Happy to work with regional organisations to help agriculture in Pacific, including women in business; look at current status and then assist organisations to improve
- Help private sectors also – engage in agriculture business
- In Pacific, CTA involved many with organisations, stakeholders and farmer organisations like PIFON – particularly in management and governance
- Farmers also to have a say in policy-making.

SESSION: POLICY OVERVIEW - *Vanuatu Agriculture Sector Policy 2015 – 2030 in 10 Questions*

(*Laef mo Mane i stap long Agrikalja*)

James Wasi, Acting Director, Vanuatu Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

SUMMARY:

Agriculture is important with half of the population's income is from agriculture, so there is big potential for the policy to directly affect the lives of many people in Vanuatu. There are two important aspects to the launch of the policy:

- Raise awareness of the existence, and knowledge about the content, of the new policy
- Implementation, monitoring and evaluation for this new policy is essential. As with all policies, it is a general guide and the way it's implemented effectively depends on the sector, and sub-sectors, plus there is also need to monitor and evaluate the policy in the years to come.

There are 13 thematic areas in the *Vanuatu Agriculture Sector Policy 2015-2030's* with Mr Wasi providing a general overview of the policy content by answering 10 core questions including: What is the purpose of the Agriculture Sector Policy, and why is this Policy important for me to know about?

The updated Vanuatu Agriculture Sector Policy was released in June this year, and is a policy that the department wants to ensure people understand and use. The policy contains a vision and a goal. The Vision talks about sustainability, profit, development, wellbeing of people. The goal is to be achieved in 15 years, that: "the nation's agricultural resources are managed in an integrated and sustainable manner to provide food and improved incomes as well as contribute to environmental and social services to enhance wellbeing of all people in Vanuatu."

Process of developing the policy involved multiple consultations, including seven workshops, and engaged several target audiences especially these five main groups: Private sector, government and policy makers, NGOs and civil society, Development partners, and Researchers. Next steps are a series of launches, starting with this national launch then expanding to the provinces starting with Penama Province. These launches are being supported by a series of multilingual brochures that provide a simple overview of the policy.

Also discussed the “big opportunity” for farmers to work together to address a need in tourism and to encourage more use of local rather than imported foods; and the challenge to engage more young people in agriculture as many farmers are aging and so there is a need for succession planning to ensure agriculture’s ongoing contribution to the economic development of the nation.

The policy is online on the Policy Bank, with DARD able to provide links to the policy from its website.

PRESENTATION:

Mr Wasi welcome dignitaries, participants and guests. Highlighted importance of this workshop in terms of seeking feedback on stakeholders and actions for the policy’s effective implementation and M&E.

With half of Vanuatu’s population’s income coming from agriculture, it is an important industry, yet only 2% of Vanuatu’s budget is allocated to agriculture & forestry. There is big potential for the policy to directly affect the lives of many people in Vanuatu. There are two important aspects to the launch of the policy:

- Raise awareness of the existence, and knowledge about the content, of the new policy
- Implementation, monitoring and evaluation for this new policy is essential. As with all policies, it is a general guide and the way it’s implemented effectively depends on the sector, and sub-sectors, plus there is also need to monitor and evaluate the policy in the years to come.

There are 13 thematic areas in the *Vanuatu Agriculture Sector Policy 2015-2030’s* with Mr Wasi providing a general overview of the policy content by answering 10 core questions including: What is the purpose of the Agriculture Sector Policy, and why is this Policy important for me to know about?

The updated Vanuatu Agriculture Sector Policy was released in June this year, and is a policy that the department wants to ensure people understand and use, and that includes ensuring the sector dialogues about it and reviews its implementation. The policy outlines the path that government wants to take to develop agriculture sector for next 15 years, linked with a theme that “life and money is in agriculture”.

In this policy, there is a vision and a goal. The Vision talks about sustainability, profit, development, wellbeing of people. The goal is to be achieved in 15 years, that: “the nation’s agricultural resources are managed in an integrated and sustainable manner to provide food and improved incomes as well as contribute to environmental and social services to enhance wellbeing of all people in Vanuatu.”

Process of developing the process involved multiple consultations, including seven workshops, and engaged several target audiences especially these five main groups:

- Private sector/industries/farms – important to know what will affect them
- Govt & policy makers – what is their vision for agriculture?
- NGO’s and civil society – important partners, how they can contribute?
- Development partners – outline priorities that support partners can assist us
- Researchers – key stakeholders in the policy.

Next steps are a series of launches, starting with this national launch then reaching out to the provinces with Penama Province launch next week. These are being supported by a series of multilingual brochures that provide a simple overview of the policy.

How the policy is implemented is also important: Bill when it becomes law will implement this policy, to identify structure of agriculture; Follow this process to meet requirements in policy; monitor and evaluate in the years to come; strengthen farmer organisations and networks.

Also discussed the “big opportunity” for farmers to work together to address a need in tourism and to encourage more use of local rather than imported foods; and the challenge to engage more young people in agriculture as many farmers are aging and so there is a need for succession planning to ensure agriculture’s ongoing contribution to the economic development of the nation.

The policy is online on the Policy Bank, with DARD able to provide links to the policy from its website.

Powerpoint presentation notes

Q: What is the purpose of the Agriculture Sector Policy?

This policy outlines how the Government of Vanuatu will help bring about sustainable development in the agriculture sector over the next 15 years.

- **VISION** *Agricultural food and cash crops of Vanuatu are sustainably and profitably managed, contributing to sustainable development for the wellbeing of all people in Vanuatu by 2030*
- **GOAL** *The nation’s agricultural resources are managed in an integrated and sustainable manner to provide food and improved incomes as well as contribute to environmental and social services to enhance wellbeing of all people in Vanuatu.*

Q: Why is this Policy important for me to know about?

- **Private Sector/Industries/Farmers:** This Policy explains how the Government will provide support for the development of your agricultural business, and outlines the roles of the private sector, industries and farmers in contributing to increased productivity and sustainability in agriculture. More details on specific crops will be outlined in Subsector Plans.
- **Government & Policy Makers:** This Policy provides a comprehensive outline of the Government’s position on Agriculture sector development; policy objectives; clear directives; and implementation processes.
- **NGOs & Civil Society:** This Policy outlines the importance of inclusive development and collaboration and roles of NGOs, CSOs
- **Development Partners:** This Policy gives an overview of the Vanuatu Government’s plans for developing the Agriculture sector, and gives guidance on how you might best contribute.
- **Researchers:** This Policy outlines clear plans for Research and Development to contribute towards the objective of quality and productive agriculture produce.

Q: How is the Government making people aware of this Policy?

- The **Vanuatu Agriculture Policy Bank** will be launched this afternoon (September 2015) – goo.gl/GLDC3C. You can access the Sector Policy, other policies related to Agriculture, and details of where to find Technical and Financial support for Agriculture, all on the Policy Bank. You can also visit the Ministry website www.malffb.gov.vu for a copy of the policy and sector strategies
- DARD has also conducted extensive consultations during development of this policy, and will continue to conduct awareness workshops and follow up consultations for the duration of the Policy.

- DARD is also doing a series of launches for all provinces with the shorter Bislama version of the Policy starting in Penama Province next week on the 15th of September

Q: What is in the Agriculture Sector Policy?

- The focus of the Policy is on pillars for inclusive sustainable Social, Economic and Ecological development and well-being for the people of Vanuatu. 13 themes identified including Research & Extension, Production & Market Access, Capacity Building, Finance, Land Use and Climate Adaptation; etc
- Some of the key subsectors identified for action are Coconut, Cocoa, Kava, Coffee, Fruits & Vegetables, Root Crops and Agroforestry.
- These crops, issues and founding pillars are similar to those in other Pacific countries, where research has shown that regional priorities span Food Security, Economic Development, Sustainability and resilience, and Effective Institutions.

Q: Why is agriculture so important to Vanuatu?

- 54% of Vanuatu's total household income is from agriculture and forestry activities and 58% of Vanuatu's labour force is primarily engaged in the sector.
- 42% of Vanuatu's exports are agricultural and forestry products, and in 2013 the sector represented 24% of Vanuatu's economic output. 75% of the Primary Sector contribution to Gross Domestic Product comes from Agriculture.
- Just 2 per cent of Vanuatu's national budget was allocated to the agriculture and forestry sector in 2015.
- Big potential for policy to directly affect lives of people in Vanuatu

Q: How will this Policy be implemented?

- The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) is responsible for coordinating implementation of this policy. Other departments under MALFFB and other Ministries, including Trade & Industry, will also be involved.
- Development of key subsector strategies; an Agriculture Bill to assist policy implementation; restructuring of DARD; M&E framework for regular monitoring and reviews; strengthening of Farmer Organisations in the provinces; and ensuring ongoing dialogue among stakeholders.

Q: Tourism is important to Vanuatu. What does this Policy say about opportunities for linking farmers to tourism

- This Policy talks about encouraging collaboration among stakeholder to increase the marketing of agriculture products to specific markets including the tourism industry; and to promote the farming of high value food crops demanded by the growing tourism industry.

Q: Young people are important to Vanuatu. What does this Policy say about opportunities for young people to engage with agriculture?

- This Policy talks about 'mainstreaming' the inclusion of young people in agriculture initiatives, including encouragement; recognition of their contributions; providing equal opportunities in the agriculture workforce; and allocating sufficient funds for agriculture activities undertaken by youths.

Q: Where can I find support or more information?

- The Department of Agriculture & Rural Development can provide you with support and direct you to other agencies that can also assist –
- Contact details for other useful departments and organisations are available on the Vanuatu Agriculture Policy Bank website – goo.gl/GLDC3C and www.malffb.gov.vu

GROUP DISCUSSION (translated from Bislama):

Questions from delegates in response to the welcome speeches and policy overview:

- Question (SG Malampa): Question about access to the Policy Bank and its dissemination to rural areas, how will those in provinces (farmers) have access to the Policy Bank?

Answer (DG): It is not a bank of money but a bank of policies, ie ag, fisheries, livestock. Never had a website like this before, where you can find all this information in one place, and where we can know what's the govt's vision for today, as detailed in the policies. The bank is important as it passes on information about the govt, sourced from initial consultations, so it captures the whole voice of Vanuatu. This is what we want. Farmers work with this thought. We are promoting areas that need marketing.

In terms of access, extension officers in provinces have computers and internet, and so information from these tools can be passed on to farmers. Another dream is to push ICT so that message can reach farmers, and perhaps in another 5 years it will materialize that farmers will be using technology more. We are working towards it. We may need to put information to the provinces in hardcopy for the time being (ie brochures produced), so farmers have access in provincial offices.

- Question: In presentation, nothing to do with women, only youth. What about gender policy and anything relating to women in ag?

Answer: Gender is detailed within one of the 13 thematic areas.

- Question (SG Penama): Good to know what government wants to do in agriculture. Last week had a similar meeting in Santo about livestock, and talked about the vision for cattle livestock by 2025. We might need a certain checklist for what we need to achieve. What agriculture will contribute in terms of GDP to the country, so we know by 2025 if we are moving forward or not. This should include mid-term reports to evaluate, simple guides and targets. Agriculture's budget is only 2% (of the national budget), that's really tough, so we need to see how these policies will be carried out

Answer (Director): Hope that today's workshop will help to analyse policies and set certain targets. We have a good plan, but of key importance is the policy's implementation.

Answer (DG): Not just Vanuatu, but the entire Pacific has only a small amount allocated to agriculture. Vanuatu is the worst for budget allocation to agriculture, but the government has decided to prioritise the social sector – 4 bills in education and 1 bill in health. So much money that is mismanaged, too. Good news is government has released support to NPP practices; submission to MBC is a success story in the last NPP. So maybe a move out of the social sector (normal budget) to start allocating funds to productive sectors to promote and assist social sectors.

Answer (CEO, Agriculture College, John Timothy): Happy for the policy in agriculture and to see a section dedicated to extension and training, which is important especially with an aging population in farmers. Agriculture College and certain rural training centres, we work together for human resource aspects of farming. There is informal and formal training, and there are major issues so happy that you have addressed these issues. Look forward to a proactive role to change policies that are affecting training. Certain regulations held us back for about 10 years about training for agriculture.

Priority is that we need to know what the priority for training.

GROUP ACTIVITY – POLICY WORKSHOP (THURSDAY, DAY 4)

SESSION: GROUP ACTIVITY - 13 Thematic Areas of the Policy

The Group Activity required delegates to divide into 13 groups. Each group was allocated one of the 13 thematic areas to discuss possible actions and considerations for the Policy's Implementation Plan and M&E approach.

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. Identify existing and potential stakeholders under each Policy Directive (13 themes)
2. Discuss and identify 3 key actions for implementing each Policy Directive and the lead implementing agencies for each action.
3. Categorise each key action as Short term (3-6 months), Medium (6-12 months) or Long term (2-3 years).

GROUP LEADERS:

Delegates to join the table allocated to a Group Leader (one Leader for each of the 13 themes):

1. Jude Tabi
2. Antoine Ravo
3. (changed from Mark Vurobaravo)
4. Mathias Bule
5. Joel
6. Vernon
7. Sam
8. Peter Iesul
9. Gwenneth
10. Philip Panpan
11. Willie Iau & Charles
12. Emma
13. Charity Alick

GROUP FEEDBACK / PRESENTATIONS:

Group 1 – Institutional Set-Up and Compliance

KEY ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	POTENTIAL STAKEHOLDER	TIMEFRAME
Completion and development of sub-sector policies: -Cocoa -Coconut -Fruit, spices and veggies -Coffee -root crops	DARD (consultant)	MAFFLB DoE DoL Farmers Assn Industry	Short (3-6 months)
Completion of the Agri. Act and Regulations	DARD (consultant)	MAFFLB SLO Industry	Medium (6-12 months)

Institutional strengthening at national and provincial level	DARD (consultant) -provinces restructuring	MAFFLB PSC DLA (province)	Long term (2-3 years)
Revise existing legislation eg Kava and Cocoa Act	DARD (consultant)	SLO Industry	Medium (6-12 months)

DISCUSSION (*translated from Bislama*):

- Policy already there, just need to identify some missing points
- Tight legislative laws for Vanuatu have opened market for Solomon, while we are still looking for other export markets

Group 2 – Extension and Training

Potential stakeholders:

National: VQA, TVET, RTS, VAC, DARD, VARTC, LLEE chamber commerce, provincial govt, national youth council, donors, etc

External: CTS, SPC, PIFON, FAO, USP

Key actions:

1. Develop inventory of training activities and materials in order to:

- know who is doing what and which partners the DARD should work closely with to coordinate extension and training activities.

Lead Agencies: VQA, VAC (also RTC, TVET, VARTC, LLEE, WV, VCCI, etc)

Timeframe: short

2. Identify needs of rural communities in order to:

- determine relevance of existing extension and training activities
- address gaps through new extension materials

Lead Agencies: DARD, VAC, TVET (NGOs, PGC (area council), NYC. Etc

Timeframe: Medium

3. implementation and monitoring of extension and training

- formulating demand for funding to implement (1) and (2)

- establish a coordinating committee

- implement training and extension projects incl. M&E

- document results and impacts (reporting) to policy makers.

Lead Agencies: DARD, Coordination Committee (all agencies)

Timeframe: Long

Notes from Presenter (*translated from Bislama*):

- Important to know who is doing what, which partners are involved that Ag Dept can work closely with
- Identify needs for rural communities that can determine or guide training activities
- Address gaps for extension materials
- Coordinate a committee that can look at monitoring, evaluating, reporting to policy makers – especially for the information of extension officers
- Implementation part of the policy is viewed as long term (2-3 years) with Dept of Agriculture and the proposed new Coordination Committee to head this.

DISCUSSION (translated from Bislama):

-There is a need to develop agri-business training for farmers' livelihoods and work.

Response: When inventory is done, resources listed, then demand will identify what needs to be implemented

Group 3 - Finance

Stakeholders:

Govt – finance, MALFFB, Cooperatives, trade and industry

VADB

Banks, BRED, ANZ etc

NGOs (World Vision, LLEE (Live and Learn), etc)

Donors (DFAT, NZAid, JICA, China, etc)

Etc (long list)

Key actions (incl. stakeholders and timeframes):

3.1 Actions:

a)Awareness and training on farming as a business, training on management and bookkeeping and financial literacy

Stakeholders: DARD, Cooperatives, TVET, NGOs

Timeframe: Medium

b)Develop cost-saving strategies et farmer assn / cooperative

Stakeholders: cooperative dept, DARD, NGOs, banks

Time: long

c)Understanding or training about types of ag land use

Stakeholders: DARD and Lands Dept

Time: Long

3.2 Actions:

a)appropriate / formal land registration

Stakeholders: lands dept and surveys, council of chiefs

Time: long

b)Recognition of ag land as collateral

Stakeholder: banks, Ministry finance, Council of chiefs

Time: long

c)Banks to provide mobile services to farmers

Stakeholder: banks

Time: long

3.3 Actions:

a)Study to find out all lending, institutions for ag

Stakeholders: DARD

Time: Long

b)condition of loans must be tailored to the nature of farming:

stakeholders: DARD, banks

Time: Long

c)Amend financial regulations to enable lenders to tailor loans

Stakeholders: Reserve Bank, MALFFB

Time: Long

Notes from presenter (*translated from Bislama*):

- Good to have awareness training about loans that may be accessible to farmers - what it involves, conditions and risks. Also include in the training 'farming as a business' (book-keeping, ledger, etc)
 - Need mobile bank service
 - Can be difficult and costly to repay loans
 - Find learning institutions that are effective to assist farmers when accessing loans
 - Condition of loan should be developed in a way that meets different farming methods (eg. Livestock, fisheries need time to farm animals before profit generated)
- Develop cost-saving strategies, ie differentiate between farming and marketing as doing both may cost more
- Most important asset is land, but also many issues with land:
 - Have training about different types of land use (eg. Plant peanut on particular soil).
 - Good plan is to register lands before applying for a land – security for land resource
 - Regulation of agricultural land collateral (use land as guarantee for project loans)

DISCUSSION (*translated from Bislama*):

- Van. Agriculture Bank covers agriculture – but it is very hard for farmers to access loans from them. Commercial banks (such as ANZ, Westpac, etc) are even more difficult to access loans.
- Perhaps farmers can set up their own Farmers Bank, like Vanwoods Microfinance scheme. Farmers can harvest and use those funds to deposit into this Bank, and use for small loans.
- There is a gap in the financing sector for smallholder farmers to be addressed – perhaps need to review purpose and services of Van Agriculture Bank.
- Farmers' access to credit is very hard. Need to look towards Reserve Bank to regulate commercial banks to reduce interest rates, for credit to farmers. Already reduced to 5% in other Pacific countries.

Group 4 – Agricultural Land Use

Stakeholders:

EXISTING	POTENTIAL
Lands Dept	Loan management
Provincial authorities	Dept environment
Land owners	Tourism
Development Partners	Mines
-commercial bank	Civil aviation
-donor agencies	Real estate
Council of Chiefs	

3 key actions (and timeframes):

Ag loans / policy development – medium

Develop mapping of Ag land (GIS) – short term

Ag legislation – long

Notes from presenter (*translated from Bislama*):

- There are land use policies, but may be too general and need to be more specific
- Mapping of agriculture land zoning needs to be more specific
- Legislation needed for agriculture land

DISCUSSION (*translated from Bislama*):

- There is a Land Use Policy already in place, so when we further develop this issue should consult the existing policy that the council of ministries has approved.
- How we divide agricultural zones is vital, plus need to address risk in vulnerable areas (eg. Teoumaville classified as agriculture area, but land use in this area is now turned to residential and all sorts of activities.)
- Wild peanuts growing in many land areas.
- Need to maximize areas that farmers can use for agriculture.
- Perhaps legislation can be set up, given Ni Vanuatu people own the land and can retrieve it for their own use. Agriculture can use the land but when all is harvested, the owner can take back their land.
- There should be guiding principles for customary land ownership. Fiji has already set up land sectors, but need this in Vanuatu.
- Mass production is hard because people own small pieces of land everywhere.
- In livestock, we want to raise 500,000 herds of cattle by 2025 but not sure how we do that with the land space available, and because much land is used for planting. Cattle also needs good pastoral land.
- Dept of Lands perhaps needs to review process of farmers giving leases to foreign investors and re-evaluate timeframes, ie look at smaller pieces of land and a shorter period of lease (delegate's understanding is that government's lease to farmers is for 75 years for bigger hectares of land).
- Only 9% of land is owned by or leased to the government, but about 89% of land still under customary ownership.

Group 5 – Agriculture investment

Stakeholders: DARD, VIPA, DCNVB, Provinces, Farmers, NGOs, Industry, Trade, Donors, Private entrepreneurs.

KEY ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	TIMEFRAME
Awareness for farmers	DARD, Provinces, Lead farmers	Short
Introducing tax holiday on key ag inputs (Govt should introduce tax on important & key agricultural imports)	Customs, DARD, SLO, Ministry Finance,	Long
Design new loans and savings products and services for more rural farmers, youth and women. (Need something different to what exists, probably without interest rates or low ones and that can be accessible for rural farmers, youth and women.)	DCNVB, DARD, Van wood, RBV,	Medium

DISCUSSION (*translated from Bislama*):

- Headache for Livestock Department – policy directive to incorporate the welfare of investors. Owners fighting with investors.
- DCNVB can assist to draw up a new one, from the experience of the existing ones and even those no longer implemented.

Group 6 – Research and Development

KEY ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	TIMEFRAME
6.1 Includes: -Collect materials -Make Vanuatu a role model of material collections in the pacific	VARTC, fama, international research institution, donor partners	Long term – ongoing
6.2 Find products that are needed for collection	VARTC, fama, consumer	Medium
6.3 Exchange of knowledge with international research centre	VARTC, donor, partner	Long – ongoing
6.4 Educate the farmers to adopt new materials	VARTC, DARD, NGOs	Medium
6.5 Includes: -Identify pests and disease -Monitor pests and disease that are happening -Monitor the treatment efficiency	VARTC, DARD, biosecurity, Fama	Long – ongoing
6.6 Need to do a study on the soil	VARTC, DARD, FSA, NGOs	Long
6.7 Need funding	Van govt, donors and partners	Long – ongoing
6.8 Use traditional methods of farming	VARTC, Fama, DARD, VKS	Medium

Notes from Presenter (translated from Bislama):

- Collate materials to ensure that Vanuatu becomes an example for other Pacific countries
 - Find products that need to be included in collection
 - Find materials that are needed by farmers
- Research according to national standards, to assist with exportation
- Educate farmers on adopted materials and approaches, according to their needs, and assist them to adapt
- Identify the best crops to produce the food quality (healthy and nutritional) and quantity
- Protect produce from pesticides and harmful diseases, including more effective treatment
- Study on land site for physical and biological properties
- Provide funding to improve research – need support from govt and donor partners
- Include customary and traditional inputs in research
- Follow tradition laws/rules of farming (306(?) months as it is important)

Group 7 – Planting materials, tools and agricultural inputs

Stakeholders: Biosecurity, VAS, Syndicat Agricole, World Vegetable Centre, SPC, Farmer Assns, NGOs, etc

KEY ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	TIMEFRAME
Build seed centres in all provincial head quarters	-	Medium to long
Importation of OP seeds (world vegetable centre)	-	Short
Duty exemption on agri tools and inputs	-	Short

Notes from Presenter (translated from Bislama):

- Everything in policy, but want to add some more things to clarify some points
- Information needed from stakeholders on what is being brought into Van.
- First action needed is the development of seed centres in provincial headquarters, including open-pollinated (OP) seeds to use, instead of buying from overseas (medium to long-term)
- Import open-pollinated seeds for distribution to provincial centres, to further develop there.
- Need duty exemption to increase production in country (short term) as need planting materials and tools.

Group 8 – Environmental Protection and Sustainable Farming

Stakeholders: Biosecurity, Dept lands, Dept ag, NGOs (LLV, care, world vision, etc), schools , churches, SPC, FAO, farmer assns. And groups, etc

KEY ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	TIMEFRAME
Develop Vanuatu specific instruction manual on farming systems, environmental protection and management	DARD, NGOs, DEPC, DOF, Biosecurity	Medium
Review existing policies, laws, action plans, etc to include these practices ad policy directives	All stakeholders	Long
More awareness and understanding of organic practices and farming in Vanuatu	POETcom (SPC)	Medium

Notes from Presenter (*translated from Bislama*):

- Land stays the same but the population increases – so need to maintain land, ie environment protection
- Churches such as VCC, helps with production of potatoes in Tanna
- Produce a manual that contains every sustainable farming system and how it can be implemented, maintained and sustained
- Traditional knowledge: Information passed down (through generations) but some knowledge has been lost, so need to development a Vanuatu Specific Instruction Manual for TK.
- Information on leaflet to combine into a manual.
- Review existing policies to include these directives and practices, ie M & E
- To target organic farming – understanding of organic farming practices in Vanuatu. Need more awareness in our farming communities. POETCOM to lead on this.

DISCUSSION (*translated from Bislama*):

We can have traditional systems but also need to consider changes in today’s farming (eg, harvesting is not similar to previous generations).

Might need traditional systems to protect the land and environment for farming.

GMOs – we do not promote, but policy protects our species and local crops

Group 9 – Production and Market Access

Stakeholders: Farmers, DARD, NGOs, CSOs, development partners, industry

KEY ACTIONS
Increase overall ag production
Identify key stakeholders and encourage private / public partnerships
Assist and encourage increased quality, quantity and sustainability
Provide increased agricultural training for young farmers

TIMEFRAME	PRIORITIES
Short term	Recover and fix existing production toward a resilient future
Medium term	Promote medium term ag trees and crops (ie fruit trees and kava)
Long term	Promote an encourage long term sustainable ag production (ie fruit, essential oils, biofuels, etc)

Notes from Presenter (*translated from Bislama*):

- This chapter has 2 specific directives – total of 14 points in this chapter
- For imports and exports, need to:
 - encourage import substitutions and value addition
 - support ag exports
- To increase overall agricultural production and access to market
- To identify stakeholders and encourage public partnership
- To assist and increase quality and quantity of production
- To provide increased agricultural training for young farmers

DISCUSSION (*translated from Bislama*):

- How can we increase production when there is a set amount of land available divided across farming, cattle, fisheries, etc? Maybe we can zone islands or areas for mass production. Can this be implemented into policies as we are mainly only catering for small farms?
- Access to the market is only one step. Ie we have limited land, so rather than aiming for increased production let's look at maximising our current capacity in particular maintaining access to the market (ie while focus on increasing market may have inconsistent production and lose access to market). we have to maintain the market before we lose it.
- Maintaining our current, potential market is an opportunity to highlight versus aiming to increase production. 2010 statistics shows that 236,000 people eat from 198 gardens [*delegate statistic*]. Others depend on imported food. So it is better to look within, domestically, before we look outside to export mass production.

Group 10 – Food Security

Stakeholders: VARTC, DARD, Health, FAMA, NGOs, etc

KEY ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	TIMEFRAME
10.1 -Identify best nutritious food contributing to good health (medium) -identify the best ways to grow food (6-12 months) -educate the farmers on growing techniques (med)	VARTC, DARD, health, FAMA	Medium
10.2 Strengthen extension services: -reduce logistic costs	DARD, NGOs, FAMA, logistic	Short

	market, hotels and shops	
10.3 Publicity through media outlets; promote good food in schools and in the hotel industry; promote island food	Health, NGOs, consumers	Medium
10.4 Develop and promote preservation techniques; promote the use of preserved products (medium); training and awareness (medium)	DARD, private sector, media	Medium - Long

Notes from Presenter (*translated from Bislama*):

- Build our bodies with healthy food
- Find out best ways to grow our crops. In provinces, we have different farming methods.
- Educate farmers on techniques to grow and sustain crops
- Cut expenses, eg. Transportation to markets
- Prepare leaflets
- Promote good food in schools and restaurants (instead of same food, such as rice)
- Develop and promote techniques for preservation (eg. manioc flour)
- Promote use of preservation products

DISCUSSION (*translated from Bislama*):

- What is our link between Agriculture and Health Depts? We want to reduce NCDs with healthy food but how can legislation and policies to respond to this?
-Response: DG – We have discussed with Health and met with former DG, Meriam. We have all been too busy with separate agendas, but we need to make it happen and address this issue. NCDs is a big disaster in the Pacific and we need to address this in the near future.
- We need to add Ministry of Education as paramount, to ensure food security is implemented in the curriculum of the country's education system.
- Local crops must be included in Chinese take-aways, must be implemented as compulsory.
- Public health also needs to address the issue of ensuring more local crops are used in take-away and restaurant menus.
- (DG) Youth & Sports should also be about livelihoods, not just about sports. Minister of Agriculture went to Torba and engaged with youth. We need to engage more with Youth & Sports to address crime, unemployment, food security and health.

Group 11 – Employment

Stakeholders:

Existing: DARD, Local authorities, land dept industry, coops, ni van business, municipalities, tourism, hotels, etc

Potential: VIPA, Development partners, NGOs (world vision, save children, etc),

KEY ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	POTENTIAL STAKEHOLDER	TIMEFRAME
Visibility structure	-	-	Short
Establishing strategy / policy	-	-	Medium

Sustainability (urban drift) – M&E, review, strategic.	-	-	Long
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DISCUSSION (*translated from Bislama*):

- In today’s generation, youth are migrating to towns, and thus a shortage of labour in the rural areas (this issue was discussed last week to do with livestock). This is creating a big problem of shortage in human resources. Youth go and graduate but stay in towns leave out agriculture in rural areas. We should address the importance of agriculture in careers otherwise agriculture will not develop in our country.
- Regarding employment, we need to consider RSE workers with a huge number going out to NZ and Australia. We can put guidelines for farmers that can learn trades, adapt to climate, techniques, then come back and teach our young people.
-Response: (Min Ag) The Dept of labour is included as Key stakeholder to address these issues.

Group 12 – Climate Variability, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction

Stakeholders: Farmers, consumers, CDCCCs, PDCs, Min climate change, NDMO, IRCCNH, Women and youth groups, VAC, VARTC, TVET, FSA, private sector, extension officers, etc

KEY ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	TIMEFRAME
Streamline all climate change and DR training packages	Min Climate Change / NDMO	Short
Database of all climate change and disaster projects (should be coordinated through a particular portal (NAPP & IGCI0)	NAB, OGCI0	Short
Have dedicated unit in govt (ie MALFFB) to mainstream climate change and disaster to all ag activities	MALFFB	Long

DISCUSSION (*translated from Bislama*):

- The new policy is alive till 2030, so any reviews will be added to policy in 2030. Implementing agencies for Forestry are drafting approaches for that sector, so these ideas can be incorporated. It is still difficult to break up policies and target stakeholders to inform them about their roles.
- All consultations are made, but the farmers are still struggling. We need to give them clearer access to credit.
- The Vanuatu Agriculture Bank is not encouraging farmers, however NBV is doing more mobile banking in rural areas that can assist farmers, but need system with lower interest rates.

Group 13 – Gender and Vulnerable Groups

Stakeholders: Dept womens affairs, VNCW, VNYC, Provincial youth councils, TVET, save the children, dept of industry, electoral office, lands dept, etc (long list of most govt depts, CSOs, donors, NGOs, etc)

KEY ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	TIMEFRAME
Conduct awareness training on the importance of gender in ag production	DARD, DWA, Disability and youth	Short-medium

Formation of specific gender associations and provide access to available resources	DARD, DWA, existing NGOs, gender groups	Long-term
Involvement in decision making at all levels of governance (national, provincial, area council)	DWA, Dept youth and disability, DARD, Electoral Office	Long term and ongoing

Notes from Presenter (*translated from Bislama*):

- Need to support women and youth with initiatives in agriculture
- Conduct awareness training in gender equality – to change mindset. Women work the hardest in agriculture, so women should also be included in trainings/workshops
- Perhaps form special gender associations, include way to promote access to available resources.
- Form more women and youth groups
- Involve gender groups in decision making (province, nation)
- Women still do not have voting rights for their voices to be heard in discussions/decisions in different levels of the country

SESSION: VANUATU NATIONAL LIVESTOCK POLICY (Draft)

Tim Tumukon, Director of Biosecurity - Vanuatu Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity

SUMMARY:

After 35 years of not having a clear roadmap, the livestock industry is preparing to welcome its new National Livestock Policy, with the draft in the final stages of development including this week’s validation workshop. As stated in the Vision of the draft policy, the sector “contribute to greater socio-economic development, and in its endeavours ensures sound environmental and climate proofing practices, including, achieving a national cattle herd of 500,000 heads by year 2025.”

There has been peripheral legislation but this will be the first clear policy, and one that the sector hopes government will focus on, and not just for larger agribusiness but for the smaller players too. The draft policy outlines 16 strategies to address the many livestock sector issues and constraints.

PRESENTATION:

The National livestock policy (draft version) is in its final stages of development, including this week’s national stakeholder validation workshop.

It is about having a vision for the livestock industry; for over 35 years the livestock industry has not had a roadmap. It has had a lot of peripheral legislation but the sector had not embarked on the main component of production.

Livestock competes with other govt development initiatives, so we need it standing on its own. We want govt to have a good look at it. It’s also not just for larger agribusiness but for the smaller players too.

Vision:

“The livestock sector is modern, sustainably managed to benefit all its stakeholders, contribute to greater socio-economic development, and in its endeavours ensures sound environmental and climate proofing practices, including, achieving a national cattle herd of 500,000 heads by year 2025”

Mission:

“To provide the enabling policy environment, recognises new technologies and knowledge that increases overall productivity of Vanuatu’s livestock sector and protects it from diverse risks by ensuring that critical services and products are provided equitably to the people of Vanuatu through collaborative arrangements among all sectors”

Main livestock sector issues and constraints:

1. There is lack of knowledge and skills on breeding methods and management of genetic diversity (e.g. inbreeding and stock reproductive ratios), livestock production outputs and reduced reproductive efficiency;
2. There are few improved breeds which give rise to many farmers not having good breeds and are achieving sub-optimal growth, small litter sizes and reduced production. The current improved breeds are found on the islands of Efate and Santo. Farmers on other islands must pay a huge price for these improved stocks and the transport to have the animals moved to their islands each time they want to introduce new genetics or breeds onto their farm;
3. Vanuatu lacks expertise in feed formulation which currently contributes to under nourishment, malnutrition and poor production. The desire is to develop desired feed compositions using local food products and ingredients;
4. Shortage of land and other farming resources often result in disputes which limit the commercialization of many livestock species;
5. The inability of farmers or extension officers to identify, prevent and/or control common diseases which cause high mortality and reduce productivity;
6. High wharfage and storage fees for imported animal feeds and equipment and handling fees for imports and exports by ISD and NISCOL;
7. The demand for Vanuatu livestock products outstrips supply both in the local and external markets;
8. There is no recognised guideline on product prices and this gives rise to high variability in livestock products prices in local regions and islands;
9. Producers lack appropriate marketing knowledge and skills which contribute to low economic returns;
10. Farmers on outer islands do not have the essential information and knowledge to make decision on best farming practices;
11. Extension, awareness and communication strategies are poor and not effectively utilising existing bodies, the industry, VARTC, VAC etc;
12. Farmers do not have good business plans to conduct livestock farming as a business;
13. Farmers lack investment capital to start or improve their farming operations. The current lending rates are prohibitive to growth in the livestock sector;
14. Farmers do not have sufficient knowledge or skills on breeds, farming systems or other adaptation methods to cope with the negative impacts of climate change;
15. Farmers do not have sufficient knowledge on pasture establishment and management (including weed management), most do not have access to improved pasture species; and
16. There is a lack of coordination among stakeholders in the livestock sector which leads to duplication of efforts by service providers and other industry players.

Strategies (16):

1. Smallholder livestock production - we don't want to leave anyone out and so looking at how we engage and contribute to the smallholder farmers.
2. Commercial livestock production - livestock other than cattle do not feature as prominently than cattle.
3. Livestock industries and marketing - Need to have strategy and actions of where and how you can sell your products.
4. Livestock genetic resources - Cattle and chicken have old genetics so need to bring in new breeding
5. Animal health and public health
6. Land-use – can be a controversial issue but need to note it, as can impede progress
7. Livestock feed water and nutrition – currently El Nino period (dry)
8. Environment, climate change and disaster risk management
9. Finance and planning
10. Institutional set up and governance
11. Communication, extension awareness and training
12. Research
13. Infrastructure and technology
14. Women and vulnerable groups
15. Investment – where get money from and how invest it?
16. Monitoring and evaluation

SESSION: PAFPNET PRESENTATION

Mr Vili Caniogo, Team Leader PAPP-SPC

SUMMARY:

Highlighted that this agriculture policy workshop links directly with the week's theme of accessing information and promoting knowledge, which was also the focus of the regional agriculture workshop that was held earlier in the week. The theme is part of a broader, regional movement to raise the profile of agriculture and increase its "visibility" and to better "sell the sector". These approaches aim to ensure the more effective generation and distribution of key information to achieve improved knowledge among target audiences.

Mr Caniogo provided an introduction and overview to PAFPNet; a network for sharing information based on a website and an interactive member-based e-network and that also coordinates online topic-based conversations, seminars, and hosts the initial regional Policy Bank. Explained the implementing and donor partners for PAFPNet as well as its objectives and, in particular, three key result areas.

Notably, Mr Caniogo provided statistics to demonstrate the limited funding received by agriculture; disproportionately low versus other sectors. For example, of the total budget for aid agencies it is estimated that less than 2% goes towards agriculture (2012; global data indicates Oceania has the smallest spend, with Africa the greatest) and in Vanuatu's national central government budget, less than 5% (in the Pacific, governments all spend less than 5% of total govt budget on ag).

PRESENTATION:

Today's agriculture policy workshop links directly with the theme of accessing information and promoting knowledge, and the regional agriculture workshop that was held earlier in the week.

(Video for PAFPNet presented to delegates)

PAFPNet is a network for sharing information, based on a website and an interactive member-based e-network. It has monthly discussion topics and discussion summary (of all the comments that came from local contributors to the specific topic moderated that month). It's the premier regional network connecting and empowering Pacific islands to the experiences and promote dialogue on issues related to agriculture and forestry policies and best practices. The network also coordinates external public seminars where experts are brought in from the agriculture sector, to share knowledge.

Covers 15 countries (includes 5 LDCs): PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji (4); Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands, Niue (4); Nauru, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Palau (6); Timor- Leste (1).

Regional policy bank is also being hosted on PAFPNet (different to the Vanuatu Policy Bank, as this is a regional "library").

Project:

- Implementation Partner – Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), New Caledonia, Fiji
- Contribution Agreement with EU- Signed March 2013 for 4 years – March 2017
- PAPP only fully commenced in June 2014

Context for PAPP – some quick pointers

- Pacific encompasses largely agri-based economies.
- Australia, NZ, US are key export agri-markets. EU for mainly fisheries.
- Up to 85% rural based populations
- Estimated 70-80% are financially excluded. Includes smallholder farmers.
- 5 LDCs – means relatively high aid per capita (PNG)
- Relatively low but increasing Internet Penetration
- High mobile phone penetration
- Rural Communities
- High Youth Unemployment/Move away from Agriculture

HOW IS PAPP ASSISTING?

Three (3) key result areas (*objective of overall poverty alleviation for smallholder farmers*):

- **Key Result Area (KRA) 1: Policy** (Strengthen regional /national agricultural development strategy).
Problem: difficult to access, read and understand the content
Some steps:
 - completion of national-level and key policies (helping countries complete their plans)
 - Policy awareness workshops (outreach, produce minimum publicity material) . (ie How does the ag policy link to national policies and other policies and frameworks?)
 - National Awareness Outreach – at least one national workshop with NFOs, commercial sector
 - Minimum Publicity material
 - Policy Banks for all countries with summaries
 - Regional Policy Bank
 - Agricultural Statistics Capacity
 - Cost Benefit Analysis Training
 - Agricultural Survey/Census (SPC/FAO)
- **KRA 2: IKM** (Improve the dissemination and adoption of applied agricultural production research technologies.) Valuable to raise visibility and profile of ag.

Steps or ways we are disseminating information include:

- Research and extension
- Outreach to farmers, commercial sector
- Outreach to extension officers especially research (climate change crops, livestock feed etc)
- IKM Assistance to Countries (July-Dec 2015): *IKM Scan, IKM Plan for Agriculture (!) – templates in place, Training.*

- KRA 3: Markets (Improved market linkages.)
Some steps:
 - Linkages to Buyers
 - Farmer/commercial sector exchanges
 - Value Chain linkages
 - Research, Support for Value AddAlso:
 - AgriTourism Plan/Strategy
 - VC training for priority commodities (2)
 - Market Research/support (catalyse value add)

There is limited funding for agriculture (MAFS are working with very little):

- Aid agencies: Less than 2% of total aid in 2012
 - Central govt less than 5% on ag
- (Oceania the smallest spend, with Africa the greatest)
(In the Pacific, governments all spend less than 5% of total govt budget on ag)

Thus, KM is important as we need to:

- Increase visibility
- Sell the sector

NEXT STEPS:

1) Development of national ag sector KM plans:

- Need to elevate awareness, better linkages, dissemination
- Caveat funding availability. Possible sub-regional approaches.

1.Steps:

- Complete mapping exercise
- Commitment (national awareness, preparations, etc) and driving new content especially R&E– websites/PAFPnet
- Supporting policy awareness events / Policy Banks.

2) Pacific Agricultural KM Network

- PAFPnet
- Discussions/exchange of ideas
- PAFPnet focal points

3) Possible Regional Agricultural KM/PAFPnet Steering Group

- Drawn from focal points plus other partners - PIRAS, PIFON

[ENDS]