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Pacific Agriculture Policy Project

## Concept Note

# ***Developing Knowledge Management Capacity for Agriculture in the Pacific***

***“Improving Agriculture Information, Research and Policy Banks in the Pacific”***

**SPC PASIFIKA CONFERENCE ROOM, Nabua, Suva**

**31 May – 3 June, 2016**

## **BACKGROUND**

There is a plethora of agricultural information available in the Pacific countries; policies, research, extension information and other technical reports. These reports or resources are held by Governments (Ministries of Agriculture), technical partners, private sector, educational institutions, donors and other partners. However many of these reports are not easily accessible or available to targeted audiences; farmers, business, policy makers, extension officers and other stakeholders.

The workshop builds on existing efforts through the joint EU-SPC “Agriculture Policy Program” to organise agricultural information and build the capacities of how Pacific Ministries of Agriculture (MOAs) manage and disseminate information. This Workshop will build on “Agricultural Policy Banks” (APBs), <http://www.spc.int/pafpnet/policy-bank>, a newly established portal for policy information including updating content, designing outreach and building the capacity of national officers to manage these information portals. This Workshop will also exchange information about country and other partner experiences with knowledge management.

More broadly, this work demonstrates how the agriculture is using ICT and technology to develop this important sector. This initiative is about helping countries embrace and work with technology in an important sector that works with very limited resources.

## **PROGRESS TO DATE**

The European Union (EU) supported Pacific Agriculture Policy Project (PAPP), implemented by the Land Resources Division of the Pacific Community (SPC) has designed and implemented a number of initiatives to promote information transparency for MOAs and related stakeholders to better inform and engage all key stakeholders. These initiatives include:

- Establishment of electronic libraries or the APBs. These have already been nationally launched and extremely well received in Vanuatu and SI.
- Agricultural technical exchange portal (PAFPNet) that promotes exchange of extension and technical information on a wide range of agricultural topics;



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- KM Capacity assessments for Tonga, Samoa, Cook Islands and Vanuatu;
- Market Information Systems and mobile-based services for farmers
- Strengthening of databases for agricultural research and extension information

This work complements existing national KM mediums (where they exist) that are already present in Pacific MOAs and also those provided by other partners. This training now aims to go a step further by building a structure for wider outreach at the national-level and building the capability of KM officers to better manage their overall KM systems.

## Workshop Objectives

This is primarily designed as technical workshop aimed at national technical officers that have an existing role (fully or partially) with managing and disseminating agricultural policies, research information and other information.

The Workshop objectives are to:

- (i) Provide and update key agricultural content for the APBs and other related databases;
- (ii) Design national outreach plans for agricultural policy and research information;
- (iii) Share information on national and regional initiatives on knowledge sharing in the agricultural sector;
- (iv) Discuss the next steps for promoting KM and information sharing at the national and regional levels.

## Expected Results

At the end of the Workshop, the expected results are:

- (i) Completed Agricultural Policy Banks with key information, policy maps and other minimum content. **A showcase of the ABPs is scheduled at the end of the week.**
- (ii) Initial joint design of a National KM Outreach Plan;
- (iii) Increased capacity on KM and how to manage a number of KM tools including the APBs;
- (iv) Initial creation of Factsheets, country KM profiles, R&E information
- (v) Input/Feedback for the next steps for agricultural KM

## Workshop Content

The workshop will constitute a mix of hands on training, knowledge sharing forums, and discussions on specific policies. The hands-on aspect will include practical sessions using the web-portal to upload national agricultural plans, policies, documents and other relevant resource materials. See the draft Agenda for Sessions.

## Target Participants



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Targeted participants are:

- Officers who has some responsibility (fully or partially) for managing and uploading policy and research information
- Information officers and knowledge management officers
- Farmers organisations
- Regional and International organisations
- Participants must be computer literate and have a basic knowledge of internet-based knowledge sharing tools.
- Participants will be expected bring their own laptop computer, which has Wi-Fi connectivity.

## Preparation by Participants

Participants will be requested to bring to the workshop:

- E-Copies of national sector and subsector policies, plans and strategies (or hardcopies if eCopies not available)
- Sector-relevant publications and reports that may be included in their policy bank
- Staff Hierarchy charts of their ministry or organisation
- Research documents and publications (provide links)
- Research inventory of projects and crops
- Extension materials (in e-copies)
- Other relevant documents

## Dates, Duration and Venue

- Venue: SPC Pasifika Conference Room, Suva, Fiji
- Dates: 31 May – 3 June, 2016
- Time: 8.30am – 4.30pm daily

## Other Matters

- The Pacific Community will be responsible for the invitations to the 15 ACP member States
  - Nomination forms will be sent to member states
  - The Pacific Agriculture Policy Project will provide secretariat support and flights, accommodation and per diems to nominated participants
  - The workshop will be conducted in English
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## Additional Information

### Partners

The regional workshop is being led by SPC PAPP in close collaboration with the Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation (CTA) and its global component of Intra-ACP Agriculture Policy Programme (Intra-ACP APP). Other regional and international partners will also be invited to attend and present on existing information and knowledge products and strategies.

The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) plays a central role in assisting countries to strengthen information and knowledge management capacities. SPC PAPP and CTA together with Global Intra-ACP APP continue to work in partnership to strengthen agriculture policies, research, value chains and markets by facilitating learning and information sharing among key stakeholders. CTA plays a key role in transforming the agricultural sector by creating an environment for smallholder farmers and private sector partners to access up to date information on agricultural policies.

Central to PAPP achieving its knowledge sharing objectives is its facilitation of the PAFNet e-forum, a cornerstone of the PAPP portfolio, and its initiation of the Agriculture Policy Banks (APBs). APBs complement the knowledge management objectives of the PAFNet by enabling knowledge sharing across ACP countries, and by facilitating online discussions and queries that may be raised by policy bank users.

The genesis of the policy bank initiative, as well as PAFNet and other knowledge management (KM) activities, is that there is an evidence-based need in the agriculture sector for stakeholders to increase channels of communication and knowledge sharing, in order to more effectively grow the sector to its full capacity.