



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique



INTRAACP
Agricultural Policy Programme

PAPP
Pacific Agriculture Policy Project



CONCEPT NOTE

Workshop Activity	Capacity development support for Agricultural Policy, Research and Extension Services through Applied Knowledge Management Tools and Approaches
Country	Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Marshall Islands and Nauru
Date	17 – 21 October, 2016, Pohnpei, FSM
Reference to SPC APP KRAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAPP KRA 2 - Improve the dissemination and adoption of applied agricultural production research technologies • PAPP KRA 2 - National Agriculture and Research and Extension Services (NARES) in at least 10 of PACPs have adopted and disseminated new climate change crop technologies by end of year 4 • PAPP KRA 3 - At least 10 technical exchanges
Background - Summary	<p>The Pacific Community (SPC) and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) are jointly implementing a partnership to support Agricultural policy processes, value chains and extension support through stronger knowledge management (KM) concepts, approaches and tools.</p> <p>The challenges for the agriculture sector in the Northern Pacific are immense. As small island states, they face special problems of scale, isolation and lack of resources but also vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change. However there opportunities to be gained by leveraging on digital and ICT, collaborating on common sector priorities and promoting niche products from the sub-region.</p> <p>As small island states, much can be gained from regional or complementary approaches. One of these is around organizing, sharing and disseminating information among key stakeholders particularly the extension and research practices. As such, the SPC-CTA partnership is aimed at bringing in tested regional KM tools, approaches and products from SPC, CTA and other partners to build the knowledge base of the Pacific countries and how KM is better utilized to support agricultural policies, value chains and extension. SPC for instance has knowledge products and services such as crops and livestock databases which is aimed at ensuring these are visible and accessible to various stakeholders.</p> <p>This Activity will support a number of major national initiatives for each of the Northern states such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Agricultural Census (FSM)</i> – FSM is to conduct its first Agricultural Census – the first for 60 years in 2016-7 – with assistance by FAO and SPC (EU-APP program). This will establish a much needed baseline for agricultural work. More immediately, this Activity will equip FSM with a number of processes and tools to communicate key data to support the Agriculture’s work • <i>Climate Change Resilience Support (RMI, Palau and FSM)</i> – this is integral

	<p>to the sector plans for RMI, Palau and FSM. This workshop will also entail participatory extension training for cassava and taro which enables a follow on demonstration of how extension training – so crucial to supporting framers -- might be captured into national KM processes and distributed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Policy Development (FSM, RMI)</i> – FSM is planning to update sector action plans for its states and also RMI. This Workshop will help feed into policy development work by demonstrating a clear engagement processes and how KM tools can be utilized as a complement to existing processes - from design through to evaluation. • <i>Pacific Islands Research and Advisory Services (PIRAS)</i> - To advocate the issues related to agriculture and rural advisory services in the region, an extension and rural advisory services (PIRAS) network was established to provide support to the Pacific region. PIRAS highlighted the need to collect, collate, store and translate research results to meaningful form and disseminate in the region; Develop and promote evidence-based best practices and policies for effective RAS in the PICTs; Maintain and enhance PIRAS links with national, regional and global agencies,
<p>Objectives</p>	<p>Component 1: Strengthen knowledge management capacities for Northern Pacific</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. To create awareness of KM for ARD, its processes, approaches and addressing needs for KM in the Pacific ii. To discuss and validate KM scan results, Inventory of existing KM resources and investment demands, in groups, and discuss whether or not action is needed <p>Component 2: Promote Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools to assess community vulnerability to climate variability and change</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Research and extension officers trained on PRA tools to assess community vulnerability to climate variability and change ii. Pilot a selected community in Pohnpei to apply skills gained to assess impacts of climatic variations and change on food production systems (including staple crops) <p>Component 3: Using a write shop as a knowledge management tool to harvest at least two stories from the participatory rural appraisal community assessment</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Feedback on the PRA methodology for adoption by field practitioners and vulnerability analysis results ii. Feedback responses from farmers on the PRA approach to help them understand climate change, their vulnerability and in identifying possible adaptation options good practices and lessons learned iii. Highlighting ongoing research and development of climate-ready crops (such as cassava, taro leaf blight etc) that are vulnerable to climate change and applying change in knowledge (this will ensure that the national Agriculture and Research and Extension Services (NARES) have

	<p>applied the knowledge, adopted and disseminated new extension approaches such as climate change crop technologies)</p> <p>Component 4: Using knowledge management techniques to promote learning exchange between agricultural officers, farmers, youths and women</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Using video documentation/interviews ii. Using social media to promote the learning exchange
<p>Process/Agenda</p>	<p>Participants homework</p> <p>KM approach B will be applied – The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) as one principal lead actor will set the agriculture and forestry policy agenda focussing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completing the knowledge management scan via email • Completing the inventory of current knowledge products and services <p>Note: Other countries such as Nauru, Marshall Islands and Palau will be invited to provide a baseline of their knowledge management products and services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collecting agriculture policies, plans and other documents (using the homework template) • Using PAP impact story template and linking it to writeshop <p>Pre-workshop (Side Event)</p> <p>Social media training to promote the sharing and exchanging of agriculture stories particularly focusing on extension and research practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Understanding how social media has transformed the agriculture sector. b. Brainstorming innovative techniques through visuals <p>Day 1 and 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Countries will be presented with the knowledge management process, concept, approaches and addressing needs for KM in the Pacific. ○ Countries will be analyzing and validating the results of the knowledge management scan Inventory of existing KM resources and investment demands, in groups, and discuss whether or not action is needed. ○ A team will facilitate a training on participatory rural appraisal approaches and tools where agriculture officers, researchers, extension officers, farmer’s association, farmer’s agricultural students and women’s association will participate in theory and application of skills in practical training sessions and demonstrations in a selected community to assess the community vulnerability to climate variability and change <p>Day 3, 4 and 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sharing of PRA results and feedback lessons on the methodology and results

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Beginning of the writeshop to harvest stories from the participatory rural appraisal community assessment – this will include the writeshop methods and process of capturing information through a series of consultative methods and techniques to create awareness and explore the constraints or opportunities presented by stakeholders ○ Impact story - Adoption of methodology, feedback and training focusing on extension methods, good practices and lessons learned ○ This approach will demonstrate how stakeholders harvest all the knowledge, technologies and skills in applying the participatory methods to understand the agricultural and extension practices ○ Impact story - Highlighting the research and development of climate-ready crops (such as cassava, taro leaf blight etc.) that are vulnerable to climate change and applying change in knowledge (this will ensure that the national Agriculture and Research and Extension Services (NARES) have applied the knowledge, adopted and disseminated new extension approaches such as climate change crop technologies). ○ The stakeholders who harvest the knowledge from the demonstrations and participatory rural appraisal will combine the information, skills and experience and present the learning methods in a knowledge basket. This will be through the validation of knowledge products to capitalise on the stakeholder’s experience in adopting new knowledge through KM and PRA methods and approaches.
<p>Outputs</p>	<p>The expected outputs of the workshop:</p> <p>Component 1: Strengthen knowledge management capacities for Northern Pacific</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Participants have knowledge and skills on the KM processes, approaches and understanding the steps to apply the methods in their organisations ii. Participants have discussed and validated KM scan iii. A complete list of Inventory of existing KM resources and investment demands <p>Component 2: Promote Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools to assess community vulnerability to climate variability and change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Participants have an understanding of PRA approaches and tools that can be applied to assess community vulnerability and project intervention designs <p>Component 3: Using a write shop as a knowledge management tool to harvest at least two stories from the participatory rural appraisal community assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Participants have an understanding of writeshop ii. Capturing of the KM learning journey iii. Participants have collected, collated and formulated at least 2 stories on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Feedback on the PRA methodology for adoption by field practitioners and vulnerability analysis results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback responses from farmers on the PRA approach to help them understand climate change, their vulnerability and in identifying possible adaptation options

	<p>b. Research and development of climate-ready crops (such as cassava, taro leaf blight etc.) that are vulnerable to climate change and applying change in knowledge (this will ensure that the national Agriculture and Research and Extension Services (NARES) have applied the knowledge, adopted extension approaches and disseminated new information and knowledge generated from the exercises.</p> <p>Component 4: Using knowledge management techniques to promote learning exchange between agricultural officers, farmers, youths and women</p> <p>i. Documentation of knowledge management techniques to promote learning exchange between agricultural officers, farmers, youths and women</p> <p>ii. Key stories on best practices</p> <p>iii. Key stories on lessons learned</p> <p>iv. Interviews conducted to document the learning exchange – what they learned, how was information, skills and experience applies and what was new knowledge</p>
<p>Approach and knowledge management methodology, tools and techniques</p>	<p>The workshop will feature the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge audit and scan • Storyboard/storytelling/networking; group work • Presentations/group discussions • knowledge harvest and transfer • Field work/practical • Knowledge exchange and transfer; • Reflections and Learning • Documentation of impact stories • Participatory writeshop
<p>Participants/target audience</p>	<p>1) Agricultural (incl. forestry) Researchers, Extensionists and Information Officers from FSM National Government and its State Governments (Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae); COM-FSM Cooperative Research and Extension;; Pohnpei NGO’s involve in agricultural research and extension services (Island Food Community of Pohnpei); Agriculture students, Pohnpei Farmers Association, Pohnpei Women’s association.</p> <p>2) Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru (agricultural information officers, agricultural extension and research officers from Ministries of Agriculture and Cooperative Research and Extension Programmes)</p> <p>3) Optional: PIFON, PIPSO and NARI</p>
<p>Alignment to SPC LRD KRA</p>	<p>1) LRD SO1 - Strategic Objective 1: To Support informed Policy Decisions, advocacy and Knowledge Sharing on Sustainable Land, agriculture and Forestry Management and Development</p> <p>2) LRD SO1 - Development of policies and extension approaches for production, marketing and consumption of locally grown food sources supported between Farmer Organisation and private sector by end of year 4</p>

Organisers	SPC – EU Pacific Agriculture Policy Project and Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA)
Partners	SPC, PIRAS, CTA, NARI
Duration and time	17 – 21 October, 2016
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Annex – Background notes

One of the key objectives of the joint project is to organise regional capacity workshops to promote the capitalisation of experiences and generation of knowledge products. SPC through the support of CTA has facilitated a series of KM workshops for the Pacific region:

- Pacific Agriculture Knowledge Management and Policy Bank Workshops - Series of Two Workshops and Policy Bank Launch Event, September 2015
- Country approach to develop national knowledge management action plan for Samoa, December 2015
- Country approach to develop national knowledge management action plan for Vanuatu, March 2015
- Developing knowledge management capacity for improved agriculture information, research and policy banks in the Pacific

With the above workshops being held in other Pacific sub regions, there was a strong demand from Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and Palau to host another knowledge management workshop in Micronesia sub regional. In addition, at the first regional workshop in September 2015, it was agreed that SPC is to assist three countries from each of the Pacific sub regions (Micronesia, Polynesia and Melanesia) to develop their own knowledge management Action Plans using one of the following approaches:

- Approach A – multiple actors dominate the agriculture and forestry policy agenda within one country
- Approach B – One principal lead actor to set the ag and forestry policy agenda in a country
- Approach C – actors have a need and willingness to collaborate to set the policy agenda for multiple small countries.

In this context, FSM will be the lead actor to set the agricultural and forestry policy agenda with other stakeholders from Palau, Marshall Islands and Nauru to be part of the awareness workshop on knowledge management.

Strengthening capacity and knowledge management practices in the work of agriculture stakeholders, requires continuous sharing of good practices and a multi-sectoral approach to foster collaboration and knowledge sharing. The KM approach provides the basis of informing key stakeholder such as extension and rural advisory services (RAS), research officers and other agricultural officers to understand the need to efficiently share and manage knowledge. The assumption is that extension workers have been using knowledge management methods and techniques but with limited capacity to capture the knowledge generated in the field, documentation, and translating into learning and dissemination for wider adoption.

However, there's evidence that information from research and extension services are not efficiently documented, shared and or managed due to many factor including, resource constraints (human and financial) limited advisory infrastructure and a lack of platform to facilitate sharing and networking among key practitioners in the region. As such, knowledge management tools and methods can be used to collect, collate, store and translate research results to meaningful form and disseminate to the region. This will be the true essence of how extension workers can create, share, utilize, and transform information into knowledge and learning to bridge the knowledge divide between extension workers and farmers. Exposure to practical examples of KM tools will allow a better understanding of how things work.

Knowledge management tends to lean toward the theory side of the spectrum but practical knowledge teaches us the tools and techniques that allow us to understand how things actually work. PRA is an approach now widely promoted across countries not only to strengthen knowledge management but in empowering communities to be able to study and analyse situations, identify problems and prepare and implement their own plans. Using a combination of PRA approaches and tools, SPC has developed a community vulnerability assessment framework and have been widely adopted in pilot countries. PRA approach assumes that every community member has knowledge and experience on particular subjects based on their experiences. PRA promotes the sharing of these knowledge and experiences. It also supports in decentralization, democracy, community participation, transparency, empowerment and sustainability. PLA information are reliable as the approach is based on group discussions and are validated through transect walks. PRA promotes the local skills and knowledge, interests of disadvantaged groups as they also participate in the discussion process. It is transparent, unbiased and flexible as it is exercised through fitting into local context. This practice enhances cooperation and mutual trust among the community members and all stakeholders.

The capacity building workshop will include discussions on knowledge management concepts, processes and approaches, a Participatory Learning and Action (PLA), a participatory writeshop exercise to develop knowledge management products such as stories from the field on extension and research practices and a learning exchange session. It will also highlight the ongoing projects implemented by Pacific Community to improve the understanding of potential impacts of climate change on food security. The workshop will highlight the research and development of climate-ready crops that are more tolerant of drought, floods and salinity, and early-maturing species better suited to post-disaster recovery efforts. Creating awareness by applying participatory approaches ensures that the capacity building programmes is demand led and appropriately targeted. The capacity development workshop will ensure that the participants will understand the knowledge management process and approaches to be able to promote participatory rural appraisal and analyse results, collect stories from the community assessment and promote learning exchange between agricultural officers, farmers, youths and women. It will also promote how agriculture and Research and Extension Services (NARES) have applied new knowledge on new extension approaches such as climate change crop technologies.