



Pacific Island Farmer Organisation Network



23.11.13

Bangkok

Where are we???



Farmer Organisations in the Pacific

Farmer organisations in the Pacific Islands are a rarity compared with other parts of the world.

There is no real history of farmer organizations in the Pacific.

Why the lack of farmer organisations in the Pacific ?

Historically heavy government involvement in extension and commodity marketing which has stifled the development of effective farmer organizations.

The need for farmer organizations in Pacific islands?

**AN OVER ARCHING THEME:
EMPOWERING RURAL PEOPLE
TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF
OPPORTUNITIES**

Some specific areas and examples of the work of farmer organisations in the Pacific

Improving the linkages between small commercial farmers and produce marketers - The Vanuatu Farm Support Association (FSA)'s Spices Network



MTCP II Launch

Facilitating the supply of high quality planting material

The Samoa Farmers Association (SFA) supplying Tahitian lime germplasm; FSA and KGA improved root crop germplasm distribution projects and production of open pollinated vegetable seed by KGA; NWC certified papaya seed production project.



- **Promotion of farm management and business training** - Tutu Rural Training Centre on Taveuni, Fiji
- **The promotion of sustainable commercial farming systems** - Teitei Taveuni's soil schools; and FSA vetiver grass programme
- **Advocacy of farmer requirements to Ministries of Agriculture and other agencies** - NWC negotiations on the national airline air freight configuration

Challenges for Pacific FOs

- National FOs are small and still developing their communication and management capability.
- Income needs to be generated at the level of the farmer organisation to cover overhead costs and to enable the organisation to become self-sustaining.
- Pacific Island FOs need to become more “professional” and run along business lines if they are to be sustainable.

Who is PIFON?

Pacific Island Farmer
Organisation Network (PIFON)

Who is PIFON?

Network of farmer organisations that has been operating informally since 2008. Formally registered in 2013 by eighteen (18) foundation national FOs, from six (6) Island countries



Who is PIFON?

PIFON is intended to serve as an umbrella organisation for national FOs to:

- coordinate capacity building
- share success stories and the lessons learnt
- support regional exchanges of expertise between FOs and their associated private sector and donor agency partners.

Sub Regional Implementing Agency for MTCP II



National Implementing Agencies (NIAs) for MTCP II project

Fiji	Samoa	Vanuatu	Solomon Islands	Tonga
Teitei Taveuni	Samoa Farmers Assoc.	Farm Support Assoc.	Kastom Gaden Assoc.	Tonga Growers Federation

2014 Work Plan – USD 134,000

- Regional exchanges of expertise between farmer organizations and their associated private sector partners. **5 in year 1.**
- Technical advisor assisting with preparation of strategic and financing plans to enhance sustainability. **3 in year 1.**
- Developing profiles for member FO's. **For all members.**
- Assistance to national FO in the professional write up lessons learnt and experiences. **3 in year 1.**
- Technical advisor assisting members in the preparation of funding proposals. **3 in year 1.**
- Representation for PIFON and national FOs at regional and international forums. **5 in year 1.**

Examples of planned technical exchanges

- Papaya and off-season pineapple expertise from Fiji travelling to Samoa to work with the Samoa Farmers Association on improved production practices.
- Soil conservation and improvement expertise (Vanuatu Farm Support Association) travelling to Fiji to work with Tutu Rural Training Centre and Teitei Taveuni on improved practices of ally cropping and cover cropping.
- Micro food processors from the Solomon Islands (Kastom Gaden and Jedom) travelling to Fiji to work with FRIEND on improved solar drying and other technologies.

Conclusion

The platform has been set in the Pacific to support farmer organisations and their members with a set of activities that have been developed by the farmer organisations themselves.

With further support we can expand these activities to support more farmers in our region.