



**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

**Report of the Tenth**

**MEETING OF FAO SOUTH WEST PACIFIC  
MINISTERS FOR AGRICULTURE**

**Apia, Samoa  
11-13 April 2013**

**FAO Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific Islands  
Apia, Samoa**

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**TENTH MEETING OF THE  
FAO SOUTH WEST PACIFIC MINISTERS FOR AGRICULTURE**  
Apia, Samoa 11-13 April 2013

**MEETING REPORT**

1. The Tenth Meeting of the FAO South West Pacific Ministers for Agriculture was convened in Apia, Samoa on 11-13 April 2013. The meeting was held at the Samoa Conference Centre, Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi Building. The meeting was attended by Ministers from Cook Islands, Marshall Islands, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, Tokelau, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, and Heads of Delegation from Australia, Fiji, Kiribati and New Zealand. Representatives from the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the regional University of the South Pacific (USP) attended as observers. The full list of participants is attached (Annex A).

**OFFICIAL OPENING**

2. A ceremony was held on Thursday 11 April at the Samoa Conference Center, Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi Building to mark the official opening of the Tenth Meeting of the FAO South West Pacific Ministers for Agriculture.

3. The Right Honourable Prime Minister of Samoa, Afioga Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi delivered the opening address. He said Pacific island countries could do more with less, by making better use of new ideas. For many Pacific island countries, an economic growth strategy based on agriculture is the most appropriate one to pursue due to the smallness of island economies and the difficult conditions in which they operate. New ideas, and improvements in technology, could help to strengthen the agriculture and fisheries sectors in the region. A strong agriculture sector could complement other sectors such as tourism, health and education. The Prime Minister acknowledged the strong support from development partners, in helping Pacific island countries to achieve their development goals. The full text is attached (Annex B).

4. The outgoing Chair, Honourable Sangster Saulala, Minister for Agriculture and Food, Forests and Fisheries of Tonga delivered a vote of thanks for the support received during his tenure. The Honourable Le Mamea Ropati Mualia, Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries of Samoa, assumed the Chair of the Tenth Meeting of the FAO South West Pacific Ministers for Agriculture.

5. The Director General of FAO, Afioga *Tagaloaletoaoalemalaetoto* Jose Graziano da Silva, delivered the keynote address. He said while the world is producing enough food, the main barrier to food security is a lack of access. Many people do not have the resources they need to produce food, or have the money they need to buy it. Better ways are needed to improve food security, as three quarters of Pacific adult deaths are now due to nutrition and lifestyle-related diseases. This can be addressed through policies promoting better nutrition, diversifying the range of food, and encouraging the use of local crops. FAO is decentralising more of its operations,

which will result in more staff based in the Pacific region. This is part of wider reforms aimed at strengthening the organization, and ensuring that it is responding effectively to the needs of its members. FAO will submit a programme of work and budget in June 2013, for the 2014-2015 cycle. This includes a proposed budget increase of one (1) per cent overall, to support the new strategic direction. The full text is attached (Annex C). Earlier in the day, the Director General was bestowed the Samoan honorary chiefly title of *Tagaloaletoaolemalaeoletoto* (*translated as the warrior of the battleground of the blood*) at a traditional ceremony in the village of Matautu, Lefaga. The Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Le Mamea Ropati highlighted that the title is most appropriate to the Director General's role as a warrior leading the fight to reduce poverty, securing food security and increasing food resilience.

6. The Chair (Samoa) welcomed the keynote address by the Director General. He said FAO's goal is to achieve food security for all and, in doing so, also reduce poverty and improve food nutrition. The Chair said the region welcomed the decentralization of some of the FAO operations to the Pacific, and noted the remoteness of Pacific island countries. The Chair asked the Secretariat to distribute the speeches to the delegations.

7. The meeting adopted the Agenda and Working Procedures (Annex D).

#### **THEME: 'FARMERS AND FISHERS – OUR FUTURE'**

8. The Meeting adopted the theme for the meeting: 'Farmers and Fishers – Our Future'.

9. The FAO Deputy Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, Mr Vili Fuavao (FAO DRR), made a presentation on the theme for the meeting. The future for Pacific people includes the need for sustainable diets and improved food security, as well as promoting the use of more locally available food. More economic opportunities and improved market access need to be created for farmers and fishers, especially for youth.

10. One of the questions for member countries is to decide what food should be produced locally, or is imported, and how can the country influence the nature of food imports. In the Pacific, traditional diets consisting of fresh root crops, breadfruit, and local fruits and vegetables have been increasingly replaced by imported, often highly processed foods, such as white rice, flour, instant noodles, canned foods, fatty low grade meats, and soft drinks with a high sugar content. As a result, PICs now face a wave of dietary and lifestyle-related health problems. FAO continues to support initiatives such as "Let's Go Local". These provide guidelines for promoting Pacific Island food to increase local production of staple crops, such as breadfruit, and local fruits and vegetables.

11. Agriculture has long been a role for fit, young people. However, the manual labour of farming and fishing is relatively unattractive compared with some other lines of work. The cash income from farming and fishing can be very low and this is a deterrent for young people. This has been accompanied by a trend of more aging farmers. Some Pacific populations are also moving away from subsistence farming

systems. These shifts mean that changes are also needed for the institutions of government as well as the private sector, in order to reach out to these farmers and fishers.

12. Food innovation is a basic part of sustainable diets and of the Go-Local campaigns. It can be found in new ways of presenting traditional foods, and new food preparation habits, to create markets for what farmers could produce. Farmers and fishers play an important role as managers and custodians of the region's natural resources. The future of these natural resources rest in the hands of Pacific farmers and fishers. The region needs to consider alternative approaches to be able to manage the tensions between delivering future economic opportunities for farmers and fishers, ensuring Pacific people have affordable and sustainable diets, and for protecting natural resources to sustain their future needs. While it is important to work globally, some solutions are available locally.

## **Discussion**

13. Vanuatu asked about the initiative regarding the posting of FAO Assistant Representatives in a number of member countries. The FAO DRR said this process is currently being worked through with four countries – Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. The discussions include the arrangements for a hosting agreement between FAO and the member country.

14. Cook Islands expressed its support for FAO's work in the region. Samoa noted the importance of farming and fishing. One aspect of the focus on a western-style education is that, without a qualification, there is a commonly held view that farming is the only place left for you. This has led to a perception that farming is less desirable, and it is affecting the way youth view farming as an option. There is a need to change the mindset and encourage youth to pursue farming and fishing as a career and as an income earner. Samoa noted the need to balance sustainable healthy diets with the careful management and use of available resources.

15. The Chair noted the presence of the representatives of the Alafua Campus of the University of the South Pacific in Samoa. The government has offered scholarships for degrees in agriculture, though few are taken up, partly due to the mindset by youth regarding farming. More incentives are needed for youth to also consider agriculture as a career option. The FAO DRR said modernization and labour trends are seeing a shift from subsistence farming in some areas. The role of the private sector in the agriculture and fisheries sectors is influential. Sustainable farming could be helped through a number of initiatives, such as the Go-Local campaigns, though some decisions are needed on which products could be produced locally, and which ones should be imported. In Samoa, for example, the new national standard for eggs has prompted more investment in local egg production.

16. Tonga said farming is considered unattractive, especially to youth, and the government is taking steps to change this mindset. In the fisheries sector, more fishing boats have entered the industry but are mostly foreign-owned. Measures are being introduced to encourage investors to make more use of local resources, including the use of local people for available jobs. The budget for agriculture is being increased to reflect the importance of the farming and fishing sectors.

17. Papua New Guinea said the country's local economy of around USD40 billion is expected to double in the next five years. Papua New Guinea welcomes plans by FAO for formal representation in the capital Port Moresby, as many other international organizations are represented there. The size of the economy means the government has separate boards for different commodities, as it is not possible to have only one board for all commodities. Papua New Guinea is looking to widen the focus from smallholder farming to more investment by small-to-medium agribusiness. The fisheries sector is a large industry in its own right and therefore is not part of the Department of Agriculture and Livestock. Both the agriculture and the fisheries sectors are looking towards the emerging markets in Asia, such as China and Indonesia. Papua New Guinea noted an aging-farmer trend was apparent in the agriculture sector. The people in rural areas are net buyers and net sellers, with not much of their earnings going towards savings. While other industries such as mining and energy are increasingly important, agriculture remains a key sector for much of the population, and is a major contributor to GDP.

18. Tokelau noted that it has limited resources, with fisheries being the main resource for the population. Kiribati said the government has a strong focus on reducing poverty, and on promoting education and improved food security. These are key areas for Kiribati, which also fit in well with the theme of the meeting. Kiribati has developed a work plan to further promote the agriculture and fisheries sectors, to assist with national development. Kiribati has vast fisheries resources and its people are mainly fishers, unlike other Pacific island countries who have more land and, therefore, more farmers. From a regional perspective, there are opportunities to explore more inter-island trade in products such as fish from the northern region, and food crops from the southern region.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PACIFIC MULTI-COUNTRY PROGRAMMING FRAMEWORK (2009-2012) AND THE PNG COUNTRY PROGRAMMING FRAMEWORK (2010-2014)**

19. The meeting welcomed the report by the FAO Deputy Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, Mr Vili Fuavao (FAO DRR), on the implementation of the Pacific Multi-country Programming Framework (CPF), 2009-2012, formerly known as the National Medium Term Priority Framework (NMTPF) and the Papua New Guinea Country Planning Framework, 2010-2014.

20. The two frameworks had introduced a more strategic and programmatic approach. This aligned with national development priorities, and was coordinated with the work of other development partners. There were six focus areas: policy and planning; food safety, quality and nutrition; aquaculture and fisheries development; agriculture production and productivity, agribusiness, marketing and trade; and sustainable management of terrestrial freshwater and marine resources.

21. Lessons have been learned from the implementation of the first Pacific CPF. They include the need to stick to the plan, search for economies of scale, and ensure that targets set are realistic. The work also highlighted the value of strong partnerships, strong links between programmes, and the sharing of experiences.

## Discussion

22. Cook Islands noted the lessons learned and asked about their impact on government policies, such as those for revitalizing agriculture. The FAO DRR said policy is being influenced by the work on the CPF, and there are also mechanisms within the CPF for review, which will also help to shape the policy development. Monitoring and evaluation of the CPF help to focus the allocation of resources towards areas where they are needed, and assist with planning and implementation. Partnership agreements are taking account of the move towards an integrated development approach. The FAO DRR noted that political stability has an impact on planning and implementation.

23. New Zealand said the lessons learned are reflected in the new Pacific Multi-country Programming Framework, 2013-2017. These include issues such as a more strategic approach, national ownership, partnerships and monitoring.

24. Vanuatu noted the challenges associated with the lack of reliable data. The FAO DRR said data collection is one of the areas where assistance is being provided. Ongoing policy assessment and sector analysis provides a good basis for better data. It is also useful to look at an ongoing activity at national level, such as market surveys. This raw data can be used to make further analysis, to help guide policy development and planning. The monitoring and evaluation component is stronger in the new Pacific Multi-country Programming Framework, 2013-2017, such as the inclusion of more regular reviews.

25. Papua New Guinea noted the difficulties associated with the lack of reliable data. Papua New Guinea is also a development partner now in some countries, such as Fiji and the Solomon Islands. There are opportunities for Papua New Guinea to work in partnership with others on a number of initiatives. The FAO DRR noted the comments by Papua New Guinea. He said local markets could also help to provide some indications about the domestic agriculture and fisheries sectors.

26. Tonga thanked FAO for their assistance with the Pacific CPF and noted the need for political will to support the implementation of the next CPF. Tonga said there is a need to facilitate market access between member countries, as part of a regional approach. Tonga also noted the fumigation treatment required by Fiji and Samoa of Tongan watermelons.

27. The FAO DRR said the regional approach is useful, but it is not always the most effective way forward, due to the small size of some countries, their small populations, and the economies of scale. No single method is best, and that is why a variety of approaches are being applied in the implementation of the CPF. The FAO DRR said there would be more regular briefings on the CPF. Other development partners are also focusing resources on the implementation of the CPF.

28. The Chair said there are opportunities for improved market access, while also noting that Samoa is having some difficulties with its taro exports to New Zealand.

## **THE PACIFIC MULTI-COUNTRY PROGRAMMING FRAMEWORK 2013-2017 AND PNG CPF PROCESS**

29. The meeting welcomed the presentation by the FAO Sub-regional Coordinator (FAO SRC), Mr Gavin Wall, on the Pacific Multi-country Programming Framework (CPF), 2013-2017, and the Papua New Guinea CPF process, 2010-2014.

30. The Pacific CPF, 2013-2017, is a multi-country document that provides a regional and national framework for development priorities and the expected outcomes. The framework recognizes that the assistance to member countries will be demand-driven, and flexible. This is the second Programming Framework prepared for the Pacific Sub-Region. It builds on the lessons from the implementation of the CPF 2009-2012. While the Pacific CPF is now done, FAO will be preparing a discussion paper on Environmental Resilience identifying priorities, activities and partners, with regards to PNG.

31. The FAO SRC said there is a need to get the balance right between country initiatives, and regional initiatives. This includes being clear about what FAO does best, and what others might do better. Value for money will be achieved through efficiencies and economies of scale. The goal of the Pacific CPF is improved food security and income earning opportunities. Overall the framework identifies four priority areas: (i) Evidence-based Policy and Strategic Planning; (ii) Food and Nutrition Security Resilient to the Impacts of Disasters and Climate Change; (iii) Value/Supply Chain Efficiency and Market Access; and (iv) Environmental Management and Resilience.

32. The CPF will shift to a longer-term results-based approach, which will also guide the interventions at national, regional and global levels. This also aims to facilitate the forming of partnerships, organizational synergies and the economies of scale. The implementation of the CPF depends on the availability of resources and has an indicative budget of USD44 million, of which there is a 33% resource gap of about USD14-15 million.

### **Discussion**

33. Papua New Guinea said forestry represents a major portfolio of work for FAO assistance in Papua New Guinea. Papua New Guinea noted the analytical work on food and nutrition security, and the discussion paper on environmental management and resilience.

34. Australia noted the work by FAO on a new strategic framework and asked about the links to the Pacific CPF. The FAO SRC said the CPF and the FAO strategic framework will be closely mapped. For example, Priority 3 in the CPF – on Value/Supply Chain Efficiency and Market Access – is linked to FAO Strategic Objective 4 – [Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems at local, national and global levels]. Some priorities, such as food security, will overlap and therefore be tackled in several dimensions. The work under the CPF complements work by FAO and other development partners. For example, some of the work on fisheries management is done in partnership with the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA).

35. SPC said it works closely with FAO on agriculture policy development. SPC has received funding from the European Union to support an evidence-based agriculture policy project, and most member countries are looking for support in this area. Following talks with stakeholders, SPC noted the need to develop a regional agricultural policy. SPC will work in partnership with FAO to develop this initiative, and looks forward to FAO support. The FAO SRC said a strong foundation for cooperation exists between the two agencies. One of the issues is to maintain a focus on country priorities and to collaborate on the assistance that is being provided to the members.

36. The Chair noted the importance of monitoring and evaluation, as well as the need for baseline indicators for the monitoring work. The indicative budget for the CPF is USD44 million, of which two-thirds is covered, leaving a balance of USD14-15 million or a 33% resource gap. The Chair asked how FAO intended to address this, as not all the PICs have the resources to fill the resource gap.

37. The FAO SRC said the FAO did not expect the resource gap to come directly from the funds of member governments. Instead, the FAO will look at other measures. For example, FAO is able to work with member governments when there are calls in competitive rounds from resource partners, such as those in the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme which is administered by the World Bank. More resource partners are providing long-term assistance through competitive rounds, and FAO is able to assist member governments with the preparation of their submissions and the supporting documents. Another way of addressing the resource gap in the CPF is to work in partnership with other development partners to help implement the priorities in the framework.

38. The Chair noted that some funds by development partners have been earmarked for agriculture and this will contribute to closing the resource gap. An example is the EU-funded policy project referred to earlier by SPC.

39. USP said education helps to provide more graduates to assist with the implementation of programmes, and the regional university has a commitment to supporting agriculture. USP asked about FAO's role in helping to provide more qualified people in areas such as research, as well as supporting institutions involved in education. The FAO SRC said FAO no longer has a technical division to deal with agricultural research, education and technical transfer. As part of a shift over a decade, the division has closed. The other half of the issue with education is the need to create jobs. The FAO SRC said employers sometimes faced difficulty in finding graduates with work experience. FAO can assist in trying to create the opportunities for employment. Other related issues include education for farmers, youth employment and aging farmers. The FAO SRC said while there is a strong need for farmer education, there are limits to how this can be addressed.

40. The CTA said it is working with SPC in a number of areas including agricultural policy. It also works with other development partners to help implement programmes. The CTA mentioned that there are some similarities between the problems faced by the Caribbean and the Pacific. This offers opportunities to facilitate the exchange of information, experiences and best practices between the two regions.

The CTA is building on past experiences as well as exchanges, training and education awareness. The organization confirmed its interest in working with the FAO. The FAO SRC said FAO has a Sub-regional Office for the Caribbean, located in Barbados, and there are opportunities to strengthen the links between the Pacific and the Caribbean.

41. The CTA asked how the role of youth is being reflected in the Pacific CPF. The FAO SRC said FAO recognizes the importance of youth and noted that birth rates in the Pacific show youth-related issues are a concern for the region, as it is for other regions. Youth unemployment, and under-employment, also has social consequences. However, youth is not addressed specifically in the CPF because it is difficult to quantify how a particular initiative will change youth employment. The FAO SRC said jobs are created by the private sector, when they see market opportunities. One of the challenges in agriculture is that when an investor considers where to invest their funds, they first think of opportunities such as cell phones, tourism, hotels, and so on. It may be a long way down the list before the investor thinks of agriculture. There is a need to do something about the overall business environment, and any initiatives for youth must be part of a broader agri-business thrust. The FAO SRC said this is a tough challenge. The Chair noted the challenge and said it is important for the region to persevere with their efforts.

42. SPREP noted the priority areas in the CPF, including Priority (ii) Food and Nutrition Security Resilient to the Impacts of Disasters and Climate Change. SPC also helps to address these priorities, including the preparation of publications for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Similar work has been done in collaboration with other development partners such as SPC. SPREP has a mandate to work on climate change as a cross-cutting issue. One of the initiatives is a USD20 million programme funded by GEF and Australia on coastal management and related areas. Food security is addressed through initiatives such as the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) project. SPREP is working with other partners in addressing the CPF Priority 4: Environmental Management and Resilience.

43. Tonga expressed support for the CPF and said it was ready to sign the framework document. Tonga looked forward to working with member governments and development partners on the CPF. The Chair said the Caribbean Ministers for Agriculture have a meeting later in the year, which is similar to the meeting of FAO South West Pacific Ministers for Agriculture. A discussion paper will be tabled at the Closed Session. The Chair said it would be useful for Pacific and Caribbean Ministers to work more closely, as the two regions faced similar challenges.

44. The meeting adopted the Pacific CPF, 2013-2017, and the Ministers and Heads of Delegation signed the supporting document.

## **PACIFIC MULTI-COUNTRY CPF 2013-2017 IMPLEMENTATION**

45. The meeting welcomed the presentation by FAO Consultant, Mr Stephen Rogers, on the implementation plan for the Pacific CPF, 2013-2017. The plan provides a framework and time scale for coordinated activities, investment decisions and engagement. It is intended to guide FAO in the areas of resource mobilization, program delivery, and monitoring and evaluation.

46. In addition to identifying priority focus areas and key development outcomes, there is a need to consider the sequencing of inputs and the potential for integration of interventions at national, regional and global levels. This should help to improve efficiency in the implementation phase and to facilitate partnerships, organizational synergies and economies of scale. The core of the implementation plan is built on 14 country-level action plans together with an action plan for regional interventions, and 14 monitoring frameworks.

47. Working with limited resources, the CPF focuses on policy and planning. This aims to direct technical assistance to higher-level policy and institutional capacity building activities thus increasing the impact, visibility and the opportunities for leveraging partner funds for implementation. To achieve this, both FAO technical resources and strong partnerships in the region will be critical. At the regional level, partnerships will be forged with agencies active in supporting evidence-based policy and to support mainstreaming of issues such as climate change, environmental sustainability, resilience and disaster risk management, in to policy frameworks.

48. On resource mobilization, the full implementation of the Pacific CPF depends on the availability of both technical and financial resources. The CPF links the budget to the needs of member countries and thus improves the transparency of resource allocations at the country level. On programme delivery, the FAO Sub-regional Office for the Pacific Islands (SAP), in close cooperation with national partners, will shoulder the main responsibility for the design and delivery of the in-country interventions agreed with countries to achieve the outputs identified in the CPF. Support will also be forthcoming from the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP), and from specialist Technical Divisions at the FAO Headquarters in Rome. The outputs leading to the prioritized development outcomes in the CPF will be implemented by FAO with a new programme approach, to enhance program delivery and better utilize team skills and time allocation. Furthermore, any emergency assistance provided to countries will be integrated together with development projects in one program.

49. On monitoring and evaluation, the CPF implementation plan describes target timeframes, expected benefits and measures of success. Effective monitoring and evaluation will require the commitment of human and financial resources, firstly, to ensure that baselines and realistic targets are established at the onset, and then to make sure a workable monitoring process is established and supported throughout the implementation period. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting processes under the CPF will cover efficiency (program management and administration), effectiveness (delivery of outputs and outcomes) and impact (development change over time). An appropriate level of budget for monitoring and evaluation needs to be anticipated in the costs of the CPF.

50. Country action plans will be used to track efficiency through 14 country-level monitoring frameworks. All the projects will include results-frameworks linking to the CPF outputs and outcomes. The reporting schedule includes annual progress reports, a midterm report in 2015, and a final report in 2017.

## Discussion

51. The Chair welcomed the points raised in the presentation. The discussion noted the following issues of importance to agriculture and fisheries in the region: livestock feed, poultry and egg production, aquaponics and organic farming.

52. New Zealand noted the lessons learned from the previous CPF and the work on the revised strategic framework at FAO. Some flexibility is needed in the new CPF as the strategic objectives for FAO will be considered in June this year, and other events will also have an influence. The issue of national ownership is important in terms of sustainability and building capacity. When a project ends it may continue in some form, but it will certainly end if there is no national ownership.

53. New Zealand said that in addition to partnerships with organizations such as funding bodies and regional agencies, other links should be considered. For example, the private sector and community organizations are able to support some of the elements of the CPF. There is also a need to incorporate FAO 'public goods', such as Codex, into the regional and national activities in the CPF. Monitoring and evaluation is another key area and should be aided by suitable indicators. However, this is where some weaknesses will appear due to the lack of reliable data. This issue goes back many years and more work is needed to improve the capacity of member countries to support the evaluation of the CPF. New Zealand said an evaluation of the CPF could form part of the next Ministerial meeting. New Zealand noted that the Round Table Meeting in Wellington is another venue for discussing and building capacity on region-wide issues.

54. Cook Islands noted that an aquaponics project is underway in Rarotonga and requested FAO assistance to help assess the initial project and further improve the aquaponics concept prior to introducing it to other areas of the Cook Islands.

55. IFAD said it established an office in Fiji in 2011 and is currently working on a Pacific strategy. A multi-million dollar Pacific programme will be implemented over eight years. Some of the IFAD activities include working on organics projects with SPC and POETCom, and seeking to establish a Pacific farmer's network. IFAD noted the lack of capacity in national ministries, which will have an impact on activities such as monitoring and evaluation. Capacity building is an area that needs strengthening. IFAD also asked for an indication of the number of people required to help implement the CPF.

56. The FAO SRC said there is much to learn about results-based management and one of the difficulties with indicators is that the agriculture sector is complex. For example, with food security, it is difficult to find a number that can be used as an indicator for something that an agency does, so proxies are used, which are always imperfect. Some have suggested that one measure for child food insecurity is child stunting, where physical development is used as the measure.

57. The Chair said strong support from development partners was very important for the CPF, 2009-2012. The Chair urged the meeting to commend the next CPF, 2013-2017, to the attention of development partners for their continued support and

interest. The Chair noted the resource gap of USD14-15 million in the budget of the CPF, but this gap could be filled by working together.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

58. The Chair said the final Communiqué of the Meeting of FAO South West Pacific Ministers for Agriculture is currently circulated only in the Pacific region. The Chair asked the meeting to consider having the Communiqué circulated at the next FAO Asia Pacific Regional Conference (APRC), due to be held in Mongolia in 2014. The Chair said the APRC is a major forum with mainly Asian representation. The Cook Islands welcomed the proposal. New Zealand said it welcomed efforts to raise the profile of the Pacific at the APRC. However, the Meeting of the FAO South West Pacific Ministers for Agriculture is not a formal part of the APRC structure. One way to address this is to consider sending the Communiqué of the FAO South West Pacific Ministers for Agriculture to the FAO Regional Representative, with a request to circulate it to APRC delegations, or to ask for an item to be included on the APRC agenda.

59. The CTA expressed appreciation for the invitation to attend the meeting. As a joint institution of the EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group, the CTA works to support the member countries to add value and help to identify development priorities. The CTA noted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Conference for Small Islands Developing States to be hosted by Samoa in 2014, and said it is available to help in highlighting development issues.

60. SPC said it is developing a strategic plan for the implementation of programmes under the Land Resources Division (LRD), and is working with member countries to explore areas for support in a new business model. This includes a proposal to send an LRD team to work for longer periods with officials in member countries, on agreed initiatives in their Joint Country Strategy (JCS). The teams might be in the field for several weeks, or longer, and be focused on more than one thematic area. This is aimed at increasing the impact of selected initiatives.

## **VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

61. The meeting accepted the offer by the Government of Papua New Guinea to host the Eleventh Meeting of FAO South West Pacific Ministers for Agriculture in 2015.

## **ADOPTION OF THE COMMUNIQUÉ**

62. Australia asked about the inclusion of some of the outcomes of the Closed Session (Para 14) in the draft Communiqué, particularly the reference to the issue of seeking wider representation on the FAO Council for the Pacific region. The Chair said the inclusion of the text gave it more weight, and might assist in taking the matter further. Papua New Guinea agreed with the view expressed by the Chair. The meeting adopted Para 14 as part of the Communiqué. New Zealand said while the Closed Session was separate to the substance of the meeting, if it was the wish of Ministers to include these points, the wording could be altered. New Zealand noted that the issue of expansion of membership of the FAO Council had been raised unsuccessfully in

the past. The FAO Council had rejected previous requests to revise the representation, and it may be useful to reword the text [and to use the word ‘raising’]. The Chair said the proposed text reflected the wish of the Ministers and Heads of Delegation. The Chair said the issue has been raised by the Pacific and other regions before, but has not yet been taken up. The Chair said he also raised the issue of representation with FAO, in Rome last year, and suggested the matter be revisited. Papua New Guinea agreed with the view expressed by the Chair.

**63.** The meeting adopted and signed the Communiqué (Annex E).

### **Field Trip**

64. The delegations visited the Alafua Campus of the University of the South Pacific and a number of projects during a Field Trip prior to the close of the meeting at the Nu’u Crops Division Headquarters.

### **CLOSING OF THE MEETING**

65. Australia acknowledged the contributions of the Head of Delegation for New Zealand, Mr Neil Fraser, on behalf of the region, including his efforts in helping to represent the Pacific in the various committees at the FAO headquarters in Rome. This was to be his last Meeting of the FAO South West Pacific Ministers for Agriculture before his retirement. Mr Neil Fraser is highly respected in the region and has built strong relationships over the years. The Chair sincerely thanked Mr Neil Fraser for his valuable contributions and recalled his excellent service to the region, including his work on various committees of FAO. The meeting showed its appreciation in the traditional manner.

66. Mr Neil Fraser sincerely thanked the Chair and the delegates for their support and appreciation. He had the privilege of attending the first Meeting of the FAO South West Pacific Ministers for Agriculture, and other meetings since, and had seen the meeting grow over the years.

67. Tuvalu extended its greetings to fellow Ministers and Heads of Delegation, and reaffirmed Tuvalu’s commitment to attend the meeting despite flight delays. Tuvalu acknowledged the assistance from FAO and other development partners. Tuvalu welcomed the theme for the meeting: ‘Farmers and Fishers – Our Future’, and expressed support for the CPF, 2013-2017.

68. The FAO SRC said the meeting was very important for the region and noted the endorsement of the CPF. The real challenge for FAO is to pick up the CPF and drive it forward. The plan is intended to be flexible in order to adapt to changing circumstances. Discussions on the sidelines have also helped to identify partnerships to collaborate on the work ahead. The FAO SRC sincerely thanked Samoa and the organising committee for the excellent meeting arrangements.

69. The Chair thanked the Ministers and Heads of Delegation, delegates, resource people and development partners for their fruitful contributions towards a successful meeting. The Chair thanked FAO and the Director General for accepting Samoa’s invitation to host the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the FAO South West Pacific Ministers of

Agriculture. The Chair also thanked the Chief Executive Officer and staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for their hard work and preparations for the meeting.

70. The Chair declared the meeting closed.

## ANNEX A

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## **ANNEX B**

### **Opening Address, Honourable Prime Minister of Samoa, Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi**

Reverend Utufua Naseri,  
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Officials and Delegates,  
Representatives of the FAO sub-regional offices,  
Representatives of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat,  
Members of the diplomatic corps,  
Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

It is a pleasure for me to be here this morning and to speak at the Opening Ceremony of the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the FAO South-West Pacific Ministers of Agriculture and on behalf of our Government I extend to you a very warm welcome to Apia. Thank you for agreeing to convene your meeting here in Apia and for the opportunity for the participants who are visiting Samoa for the first time to see our country and our region.

I thank you especially for making time in your busy schedule to travel to our region and to participate in the important discussions on agriculture that will take place over the next two days.

I understand the Director General of the FAO, due to unforeseen circumstances is happily enjoying a scenic ride back to New Zealand – appreciating the vastness of the great Pacific Ocean to be back again this evening – We do it all the time. Otherwise I thank you who are present here.

This meeting of Ministers of Agriculture for the South-West Pacific is an important forum to continue the dialogue, not only between and amongst member countries of the South-West Pacific, but also with development partners and regional organisations that are represented here today, on strategies and innovative ideas to further strengthen the agriculture and fisheries sector. The continued strong partnerships in this sector between Pacific countries and donor community and organisations including FAO reflect a collective and concerted effort to promote sustainable agricultural development, attain food security, poverty alleviation and achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

I understand that at each meeting of Ministers of Agriculture, a different thematic priority area for South-West Pacific Countries is highlighted. Yet with all these different themes, the ultimate goal however remains, which is to promote sustainable food security for our peoples, countries and our region. In line with this practice therefore, the theme for this year's meeting is: "Farmers and Fishers – Our Future".

This theme encapsulates the realities of Small Island Developing States. Globalization, our remoteness and associated high transportation and fuel costs, limited resources, vulnerability to external shocks and natural disasters, the adverse effects of climate change, are some of the challenges we continue to face. Your meeting therefore will provide a good opportunity to share information, best practices and to harness new ideas that would help national and global efforts to achieve overall sustainable development for all our countries.

For some of us, our only forms of natural resources are our lands and our people. As such, an agriculture-led economic growth strategy is the most appropriate and practical one to pursue in order to achieve these goals. Indeed, a strong agriculture sector complements development in other sectors of our economies such as tourism, manufacturing, health, education and others.

Against this backdrop, the agriculture and fisheries sector remains at the forefront of Samoa's economic growth and is key to ensuring food security, income generation and enhancing export capacity. This is reflected in the vision for Samoa's Agriculture Sector Plan 2011-2016 which is 'agriculture for food and income security' and is guided by the theme of *'farming and fishing first'*.

The theme of your meeting also coincides well with our Government's selected theme for the United Nations International Conference on Small Island Developing States, which some of you may be aware that Samoa is privileged to host next year. The conference site is not far from where we are at the moment. We have selected as theme of that conference "*Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States through genuine and durable partnerships*" based on our belief on the importance of SIDS working together with their development partners to achieve their sustainable development goals and objectives.

It is important to acknowledge also the significant role of new technology in improving food security through enhanced farm productivity not only in livestock but also in cash crops. Through adequate investment and using applicable and cost-efficient technology, the agriculture sector's contribution to GDP increases as we are able to do and achieve more while maintaining the level of resources used.

Globalization and its resultant challenges and opportunities, impact and cut across all areas of our economies including the agriculture sector. Regional and bilateral access arrangements for agricultural exports for instance that may have worked in the past may no longer be adequate to address new and more stringent rules for market access and prices. Recent extreme weather patterns associated with global warming and climate change require new ways to cultivate the land and advanced research in to crop varieties and livestock breeds that are able to withstand these climatic conditions.

It is therefore incumbent upon us as leaders to continuously strive for new ideas and fresh perspectives in order to strengthen or adapt our national policies and institutions to make them relevant to these realities. Working together as a region has its benefits

by sharing and pooling resources especially in the area of Research and Development in order to arrive at best possible solutions for sustainable agricultural development. Marketing of agricultural commodities is also one area where we can cooperate given we export almost the same kinds of goods to the same markets in New Zealand and Australia.

I note from the agenda that you will discuss and adopt the Pacific Multi-country Programming Framework 2013-2017 in your meeting. This is an important tool in the revitalization of the agriculture sector at the national level and for the achievement of MDGs. FAO and other development partners play a central role in the implementation of this Framework and the required follow up work in close partnership with member countries to ensure its success.

I wish you well in your deliberations over the next two days. I hope you will find time to enjoy what our country offers and wish you a safe return trip home.

It is now with great pleasure that I declare the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the FAO South-West Pacific Ministers of Agriculture open.

Thank you.

Soifua.

## ANNEX C

### **Keynote Address, Director General of FAO, *Tagaloaletoalemalaeoletoto* Jose Graziano da Silva**

Honorable Ministers,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is an honor to be here today.

In the beginning of 2011, during my campaign for Director-General of FAO I travelled to Australia, Fiji and New Zealand. During these trips I had the opportunity to meet representatives of over 15 countries of the region. I am pleased to be back to the South Pacific Islands, now as Director-General of FAO. And the first thing that I would like to do is thank you for the support the region gave to my election.

This is also an opportunity for me to share with you the main points of the transformational change I have implemented in FAO. These changes were made in response to concerns that you voiced. They are related to food security, blue economy, the sustainable management of fishery resources and other matters. FAO recognizes there can be no truly green economy without a 'blue economy', one that makes the sustainable development of oceans and fishery resources a priority. The importance of capture fisheries and aquaculture cannot be neglected.

They provide over 3 billion people with about 15 percent of their average per capita intake of animal protein. And these two activities contribute over 200 million jobs globally. For this region, fisheries and aquaculture is even more important. For SIDS – small islands development states – oceans and marine resources represent the same as the land and the forests do for continental states. They are central to their food security, to their sovereignty, to their livelihoods and to their lives.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This morning I had the honor of taking part in the traditional Samoan 'Ava' welcoming ceremony. It reminded me of the incredible diversity of cultures and territories that you have in the South West Pacific.

You live in a vast area that covers roughly 15 percent of the globe, and includes more than two thousand islands and atolls. You have great differences, but also many similarities. You are rich in biodiversity, but also vulnerable to natural and man-made threats.

As a region with so many small, low-lying, and isolated areas, you have suffered the brunt of the effects of climate change, and face special challenges to food security and nutrition including:

- Destructive storms and floods,
- Water scarcity,
- Vulnerable fishery and forestry resources,
- And the impact of globalization on national economies and food systems.

Many of you have worked hard to remind the world of the delicate link between sustainability and food security. Your concerns have not always been heard. But the world has changed. The climate has changed. The global economy has changed. More than ever, countries in all regions of the world are facing similar challenges to sustainability and food security.

In addition, we are learning that no one country or region alone can fully control food systems, natural resource degradation or market activities. National governments have their priorities and responsibilities, but there are many challenges that require regional and global cooperation. This is certainly true of climate change. At FAO, one of our top priorities is to address the impact of climate change on Small Island Developing States.

This is a question of survival – just like hunger. Let me say that we have made some progress in the fight against hunger since 1990. Worldwide, the proportion of undernourishment has fallen over 35 percent in developing countries, a trend followed by the small island developing states. The data shows that we still can reach the Millennium Development Goal target of halving hunger by 2015. We have less than 1000 days to do so.

However, with 870 million people still suffering from chronic undernourishment, the challenge is far from over. But it's not the same challenge as 67 years ago, when FAO was created. After World War Two, food insecurity was caused mainly by insufficient production. But, today, we produce enough food in the world for everyone. Today, the main barrier to food security is access. Millions of people do not have the resources they need to produce food or have the money they need to buy it. If we want a lasting end to hunger, we must find sustainable ways to address the root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition.

And when we speak of winning the war against hunger and malnutrition, let's not forget that obesity is part of this. The world has over 500 million obese people. They are more likely to suffer from cardio-vascular diseases and diabetes. This situation is reflected in the Pacific, where three-quarters of all adult deaths are now due to nutrition and lifestyle related diseases. Integrated nutrition strategies can help reverse this situation.

There are many policies that can help us move towards better nutrition. Diversifying what we eat and recovering local crops is one way, and one in which smallholders can give an important contribution. Every region has a variety of non-commodity crops that were used in the past as food.

One example is the Pandanus. It was once highly valued not only for its wood and leaves, but also as a source of food, particularly in atolls of the northern Pacific. Research shows that the Pandanus contains high levels of carotenoids, which protected many generations from Vitamin A deficiency. Many other Pacific Island crops have high nutritional value and have been an integral part of traditional customs and culture, while helping to conserve the environment.

Ladies and gentlemen

Shifting and sharpening the focus of FAO's work has been a major concern since I took up office as Director-General 15 months ago.

Also related to improving FAO's capacity to respond to your needs and requests is the institutional strengthening of the Organization. This is another important area that I have dedicated attention to institutional strengthening includes decentralization. In recent months we already have had a net increase of 44 professional posts in FAO's decentralized network.

At the same time, you can see that the total number of posts in our budget remain the same. So, what is the magic? There is no magic. It's very simple: we converted administrative posts at Headquarters into technical post in the field.

Here in the Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands, we have added a post for a marine resources officer. We have also upgraded the coordinator post to D2 level. This is the same level as the Division Directors in Headquarters. In the Pacific region as a whole, we have four new national staff members. In Fiji, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu. And we will have a new international project officer in Papua New Guinea. You will also see a substantial increase of resources to the region if the budget proposal for the next biennium is approved.

This institutional strengthening will help us implement the set of five crosscutting strategic objectives identified in FAO's transformational change process. They are:

- First, eradicate hunger and malnutrition,
- Second, increase sustainable production;
- Third, reduce rural poverty;
- Fourth, improve food systems and their fairness;
- Fifth, increase resilience to external shocks.

The relevance of the new strategic objectives to FAO's work in the Pacific Islands can be understood in many different ways. But basically it means that we will focus our work at country level around those five strategic objectives.

We also have a sixth objective related to the technical work and services of the organization, including our core normative work. This relates to the region, for example, in the participation of Pacific Island countries in the Codex Alimentarius

process. This involvement has already led to a new standard for cassava. There is also work being done on a standard for Noni juices, among other things.

To turn FAO's new strategic framework into action and concrete results, we have prepared a program of work and budget for 2014-2015. It will be submitted for approval by the FAO Conference in June this year. Let me highlight a few points which I feel are of particular relevance regarding our Program of Work and Budget, the PWB.

First point: I want to highlight the focus on the five crosscutting strategic objectives. For the first time in FAO's history most of the money will be allocated directly to the results we want to achieve and not to activities that we will carry out.

Second point: the program of work and budget identifies key areas that need to be strengthened. They include work in social protection; communication and partnership; and the Technical Cooperation Program, the TCP, which is how FAO directly responds to your requests for support. To strengthen these areas we need 31.5 million dollars, about half of which will be channeled to the TCP. This means more funds to respond directly to your requests.

Third point: we can identify ways to absorb significant part of this increase through efficiency savings and the reallocation of funds from the current budget level.

So, in effect, what we are asking countries for is a real budget increase of only one percent in our new program of work. This represents a total of 10 million dollars for the next biennium to be divided by FAO's over 190 Member States. In fact, it is pocket money.

I know that the world is going through a difficult economic situation. But due to changes in the scale of contributions that define the level of the assessments to be paid, 7 out of our major 10 contributors to FAO's regular program budget will see a net reduction in their financial obligations to the Organization in the next biennium.

So, I believe that the one percent real increase I am asking for is possible. And it would be a strong sign of political commitment to what we are doing in FAO. I count on your support to approve this program of work and budget during our conference and hope that I will be able to see you in Rome, in June.

Ladies and gentlemen,

FAO has been supporting the Pacific Island countries in many ways, including by working to broaden and deepen implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related instruments. We have worked with you on issues like illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; the sustainable management of tuna fishing stocks; and the management of marine areas beyond national jurisdictions.

In the next couple of years, FAO intends to increase its focus on the wide range of challenges that are especially important for Small Island Developing States. One important driver of this work will be meeting your needs for technical assistance.

In this regard, the opportunity to review and discuss the Pacific Multi-Country Programming Framework for 2013-2017 is a welcome one. My colleagues in the Subregional Office for the Pacific and I will appreciate your further guidance on the priorities in this framework, which covers 14 countries.

Also related to this, is FAO's Technical Cooperation Program – TCP resources allocation. If the proposed 1 per cent real increase is approved, the new program of work and budget for 2014/15 will bring a significant increase to the funds for the TCP for this sub-region.

We will focus our support in the regional and subregional priorities identified in the Asia Regional Conference in Vietnam last year. For the Pacific islands, this means increased support for aquaculture and coconuts production.

At the country level, TCP assistance will focus on the priority areas identified with governments in the Country Programming Framework. No new resources will be allocated until we agree with each government on their priorities for FAO's work at country level. This is crucial, because the support we offer you must respond to your development needs and priorities, as laid out in your sustainable development plans. The support we offer must also be aligned with our new five strategic objectives.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In closing, I would like to thank our hosts, the Government of Samoa for their hospitality and for the honor of having received a chiefly title during the Ava ceremony. I also want to thank all of you for your participation and I look forward to our discussions. Thank you very much.

## ANNEX D

### Meeting Programme

DAY 1 (Thursday 11 April 2013)		
SESSION/TIME	TOPICS	SPEAKERS
11:30am-12:30pm	<b>Official opening</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invocation</li> <li>Keynote Address and Official Opening</li> <li>Vote of thanks by outgoing Chairperson and Hand-over of Chair to Samoa</li> <li>Closing Prayer</li> <li>Photo Taking</li> </ul>	<b>MC:</b> Fonoiaava Sealiitu Sesega- CEO Agriculture Rev. Utufua Naseri Hon. Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malilegaoi Hon. Sangster Saulala <b>(Minister of Agriculture – Kingdom of Tonga)</b> Rev. Utufua Naseri
12:30pm-01:30pm	<b>Lunch</b>	
01:30pm-02:30pm	<b>Adoption of the agenda and working procedures</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adoption of the agenda</li> <li>Proposed programme and arrangements</li> </ul>	
02:30pm-03:00pm	<b>Theme presentation</b> <i>‘Farmers and Fishers – our Future’</i>	Vili Fuavao, Deputy Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, FAO
03:00pm-03:30pm	<b>Afternoon Tea/Coffee</b>	
03:30pm-05:00pm	<b>Implementation of the Pacific Multi-country CPF (2009-2012) and the PNG CPF (2010-2014)</b>	Vili Fuavao, Deputy Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, FAO
07:00pm-09:00pm	<b>RECEPTION – Hosted by the Honorable Prime Minister of Samoa</b>	

DAY 2 (Friday 12 April 2013)		
SESSION/TIME	TOPICS	SPEAKERS
08:00am-10:30am <i>(Delegates Depart for Lefaga at 6:40am)</i>	<b>Welcome Ceremony</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traditional ‘Ava’ Ceremony</li> <li>Bestowal of Chiefly Title for the FAO Director General</li> </ul>	

<b>10:30am-11:30am</b>	<b>Heads of Delegation Meeting with the FAO Director General</b>	
11:30pm-12:00pm	<b>Address by FAO Director General</b>	Mr. Jose Graziano da Silva
12:00pm-1:00pm	<b>Lunch</b>	
01:00pm-02:00pm	<b>The Pacific Multi-country CPF 2013-2017 and Papua New Guinea CPF process</b>	Gavin Wall, Sub-Regional Coordinator for the Pacific Islands, FAO
02:00pm-02:30pm	<b>Adoption of the Pacific Multi-country CPF 2013-2017</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion of the Pacific Multi-country Programming Framework 2013-2017</li> <li>• Adoption and signing of the Pacific Multi-country Programming Framework 2013-2017</li> </ul>	
02:30pm-03:30pm	<b>Pacific Multi-Country CPF 2013 – 2017 implementation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resource Mobilization</li> <li>• Delivery</li> <li>• Monitoring and Evaluation Framework</li> </ul>	Stephen Rogers, FAO Consultant
<b>03:30pm-04:00pm</b>	<b>Afternoon Tea/Coffee</b>	
04:00pm-04:30pm	<b>Other business</b>	
04:30pm-05:00pm	<b>Venue for the next meeting</b>	
05:00pm-7:00pm	<b>Closed session (FAO Members)</b>	
<b>08:00pm-10:00pm</b>	<b>DINNER- Hosted by the Honorable Minister Le Mamea Ropati Mualia</b>	

<b>DAY 3 (Saturday 13 April 2013)</b>		
<b>SESSION/TIME</b>	<b>TOPICS</b>	<b>SPEAKERS</b>
08:30am-10:00am	<b>Adoption of the Communiqué</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption of the Communiqué</li> <li>• Signing of the Communiqué</li> </ul>	
10:00am-10:15am	<b>Morning Tea/Coffee</b>	
10:15am-11:45pm	<b>Field trip</b>	

11:45pm-12:15pm	<b>Closing of the meeting at Nuu CROPS Division Headquarters</b>	
12:15pm-02:15pm	<b>Lunch/BBQ hosted by the Honourable Minister Le Mamea Ropati Mualia at CROPS Division Headquarters, Nuu</b>	

## **ANNEX E**

### **TENTH MEETING OF THE FAO SOUTH WEST PACIFIC MINISTERS FOR AGRICULTURE** Apia, Samoa 11-13 April 2013

#### **COMMUNIQUÉ**

1. The Tenth Meeting of the FAO South West Pacific Ministers for Agriculture was convened in Apia, Samoa on 11-13 April 2013. The meeting was held at the Samoa Conference Centre, Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi Building. The meeting was attended by Ministers from Cook Islands, Marshall Islands, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, Tokelau, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, and Heads of Delegation from Australia, Fiji, Kiribati and New Zealand. Representatives from the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the regional University of the South Pacific (USP) attended as observers.
2. The meeting was opened by the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Samoa, Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi. He said Pacific island countries could do more with less, by making better use of new ideas. For some island countries, an economic growth strategy based on agriculture is the most appropriate one to pursue due to the smallness of island economies and the difficult conditions in which they operate. New ideas, and improvements in technology, could help to strengthen the agriculture and fisheries sectors in the region. The Prime Minister acknowledged the strong support from development partners in helping Pacific island countries to achieve their development goals.
3. The Director General of FAO, Afioga Tagaloaletoamalaioletoto José Graziano da Silva delivered the keynote address. He said while the world is producing enough food, the main barrier to food security is a lack of access. Many people do not have the resources they need to produce food, or have the money they need to buy it. Better ways are needed to improve food security, as three quarters of Pacific adult deaths are now due to nutrition and lifestyle-related diseases. This can be addressed through policies promoting better nutrition, diversifying the range of food, and encouraging the use of local crops. FAO is decentralising more of its operations, which will result in more staff based in the Pacific region. This is part of wider reforms aimed at strengthening the organization, and ensuring that it is responding effectively to the needs of its members.
4. The outgoing Chair, Honourable Sangster Saulala, Minister for Agriculture and Food, Forests and Fisheries of Tonga delivered a vote of thanks for the support received during his tenure. The Honourable Le Mamea Ropati Mualia, Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries of Samoa, assumed the Chair of the Tenth Meeting of the FAO South West Pacific Ministers for Agriculture.
5. The Meeting adopted the theme 'Farmers and Fishers – Our Future'.

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PACIFIC AND PNG FRAMEWORKS**

6. The Meeting welcomed the report on the implementation of the Pacific Multi-country Programming Framework (CPF) 2009-2012, and the update on the Papua New Guinea Country Programming Framework 2010-2014.

7. The meeting noted the achievements in the six focus areas (i) policy and planning, (ii) food safety, quality and nutrition, (iii) aquaculture and fisheries development, (iv) agriculture production and productivity, (v) agribusiness, marketing and trade, (vi) sustainable management of terrestrial, freshwater and marine resources.

8. Valuable lessons had been learned from the implementation of the Pacific CPF. These included the need to stick to the plan, search for economies of scale, and ensure that targets set are realistic. The work also highlighted the value of strong partnerships, strong links between programmes, and the sharing of experiences.

## **THE PACIFIC MULTI-COUNTRY PROGRAMMING FRAMEWORK 2013-2017 AND PNG CPF PROCESS**

9. The Meeting adopted the Pacific CPF 2013-2017, and Papua New Guinea CPF process. The meeting also welcomed the information provided on the implementation of the frameworks.

10. The overall goal of FAO assistance to the Pacific island countries is improved food security and income earning opportunities in the 13 countries and one territory covered by the CPF. These are Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

11. The meeting endorsed the four focus areas identified in the CPF, which are (i) evidence-based policy and strategic planning, (ii) food and nutrition security resilient to the impacts of disasters and climate change, (iii) value/supply chain efficiency and market linkages, and (iv) environmental management and resilience.

12. The meeting noted that strong support from development partners has been very important for the implementation of the previous CPF. The meeting also commended the CPF 2013-2017 to the attention of development partners for their continued support, assistance and collaboration.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

13. The meeting agreed to raise the profile of Pacific issues at the Asia Pacific Regional Conference (APRC). As a first step, ministers requested that the communiqué be sent to the FAO Regional Representative, recommending that it be shared among members prior to the next APRC - 2014 in Mongolia.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

14. Ministers and Heads of Delegation met on issues of governance and strategic direction. They endorsed the proposal to seek an increase in the FAO Council

Representation for the Pacific Islands region. They agreed to promote closer inter-regional collaboration between the Pacific and the Caribbean through selected activities, such as the annual Caribbean Week of Agriculture. They also endorsed the proposal for FAO to be involved in the rehabilitation of the coconut industry in the Pacific.

#### **VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

15. Ministers accepted the offer by the Government of Papua New Guinea to host the Eleventh Meeting of FAO South West Pacific Ministers for Agriculture in 2015.