

Report of the Fourth

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

Port Vila, Vanuatu, 23-24 July 2001

FAO Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific Islands

Heads of Delegations and the Director-General of FAO at the Fourth Meeting of the South West Pacific Ministers for Agriculture



Back row (left to right): Hon. Tuisugaletau S Aveau (Samoa), Mr. Samisoni Ulitu (Fiji), Hon. Matt Robson (New Zealand), HE Perry Head (Australia), Hon. Willie Posen (Vanuatu), Hon. John Silk (Marshall Islands), Hon. Moon Pin Kwan (Solomon Islands), Hon. Emile Schutz (Kiribati)

Front row (left to right): Hon. Young Vivian (Niue Deputy Prime Minister), Rt. Hon. Edward Natapei (Vanuatu Prime Minister), Hon. Donald Kalpokas (Vanuatu Acting President), Jacques Diouf (Director-General of FAO), HRH Prince ‘Ulukalala Lavaka Ata (Tonga Prime Minister)

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**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
SUB-REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
Apia, Samoa, 2001**

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1. OFFICIAL OPENING

1. The Fourth Meeting of South West Pacific Ministers for Agriculture was convened at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Port Vila, Vanuatu from 23 to 24 July 2001. Ministers from the following countries attended: Kiribati, New Zealand, Niue, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, together with Representatives from Australia and Fiji. Observers from a number of regional organisations also attended the meeting. A list of participants is attached as Annex A.

2. Ministers and Representatives were received in customary fashion at the opening ceremony. Each Minister accepted a drink of Kava outside the venue and was then introduced to the Meeting. The Meeting began with the Director-General of FAO, Dr. Jacques Diouf, delivering the keynote address (attached as Annex B).

3. Dr Diouf recalled that he was present at the first Meeting of South West Pacific Ministers of Agriculture, held in Apia in 1996 at which Ministers honoured the establishment of the FAO Sub-regional Office for Pacific Island countries. FAO's activities in the region, Dr Diouf said, has since expanded in scope and depth and FAO membership from the Pacific region risen from nine to thirteen.

4. The Director-General referred to the increasing number and magnitude of 'crises' faced by the world including the impact of natural disasters on food security and the impact of new agricultural techniques resulting from rapid advances in biotechnology. He drew attention to the more recent issues facing governments including the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy crisis, the presence of dioxins in the food chain and the marketing of products containing genetically modified organisms. These 'crises', the Director-General said, create concern for the authorities and populations of developing nations that do not have enough analytical capacity.

5. Food quality and safety remain crucial issues in Pacific Island countries. The lack of standards and regulations opens the door to unfair competition between imported and locally produced products. National Codex Alimentarius Committees should guide governments and the national food industries on related matters. Dr Diouf underscored the thinking that underlie FAO's Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) in Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries, now implemented in 60 countries, including Papua New Guinea. He expressed belief that the SPFS is of particular relevance to most countries in the region.

6. Dr Diouf recommended that Pacific Island countries give special attention to the opportunities for growth and development offered by the rapid liberalisation of trade and finance. He highlighted factors inhibiting Pacific Island countries from benefiting more fully from international trade, including supply-side constraints in the countries themselves and the persistent and high levels of support and protection provided to agriculture by many of the richer countries. Pacific Island countries, he said, urgently need more equitable market access for their agricultural products and financial assistance for overcoming domestic supply constraints.

7. The Director-General briefly touched on the preparations for the World Food Summit: five years later to be held from 5 to 9 November 2001, and underlined the importance of representation of countries at the highest political level. He emphasised the place of rural development in the war against hunger and underscored the need for fostering of political will and mobilising resources for universal food security.

8. The Acting President of the Republic of Vanuatu, Honourable Donald Kalpokas then gave the opening address (attached as Annex C) and declared the Meeting open.

2. WORLD FOOD SUMMIT: FIVE YEARS LATER

9. The Director-General of FAO gave a 40-minute presentation on the preparation for the World Food Summit: *five years later*, to be held in Rome from 5 to 9 November 2001. He informed the Meeting that the Summit would take stock of gains made towards ending hunger and identify ways to accelerate the process. The agreements reached at the 1996 Summit and adopted in the Rome Declaration and Plan of Action will not be reopened for discussion. Instead, the world leaders will be expected to reaffirm their commitments and to consider specific measures to ensure achievement of the goals.

10. Dr Diouf informed Ministers and Representatives of his recent attendance at the G-8 Summit in Genoa, Italy. At that Summit, he expressed appreciation for the initiative to bring to the forefront of the international agenda, the problem of poverty. He emphasised that the eradication of poverty should start with the fight against hunger. Seventy per cent of the poor live in the rural areas and they derive employment and income from agriculture and rural activities. Yet from 1990 to 1999, overseas development assistance to agriculture declined by 15 percent and the portfolio of the World Bank and regional development banks in this sector declined by 40 percent.

11. Dr Diouf stressed that it is therefore not surprising that despite initiating pilot projects in diverse areas of rural development, progress in reducing hunger is too slow and the objective of the World Food Summit of cutting by half the number of hungry people by 2015 will be achieved only in 2030 if immediate and bold actions are not taken. He stressed that national and regional food security strategies aimed at creating enabling environment for investment and programmes of technology transfer in particular through South-South co-operation, will not be successful if the declining trend of bilateral and multilateral resources allocated to agriculture and rural development is not reversed.

12. FAO, Dr Diouf emphasised, will not be in a position to play its catalytic role because since the 1996 World Food Summit its budget has been cut by 14 percent in real terms and its field development programme, by 19 percent. He informed Ministers and Representatives of the appeal he made to the G-8 Summit for members' intervention for more grants and loans to rural projects, to increase investment and for adequate contributions to FAO's Voluntary Trust fund to allow the organisation to play more effectively its role in the global quest for food security and food safety.

13. The Director-General expressed FAO's desire that the World Food Summit: *five years later*, be attended at the Heads of State or Government level because of their unique ability to influence policy at the highest level. He stated that FAO has prepared documents examining challenges to the achievement of the World Food Summit goals as well as gains made and obstacles encountered. These analyses, he said, will be reviewed at several high-level meetings prior to the Summit, including FAO's Committee on World Food Security, which tracks progress in ending hunger.

14. Ministers and Representatives expressed their appreciation for the personal attendance at this Meeting by the Director-General of FAO and for the clarity of the message he delivered regarding the WFS: *fyf*. Ministers and Representatives reaffirmed their countries' commitment to the WFS Rome Declaration and Plan of Action. They (Fiji, Niue, Samoa and Tonga) expressed strong desire that their countries be represented in the Summit at the highest level. New Zealand expressed appreciation at FAO's effort at maintaining poverty alleviation and food security at the forefront of the International

Agenda. Ministers and Representatives (Fiji, Niue and Samoa) expressed strong support for the call for mobilising adequate resources to serve as a catalyst for enhancing food production and improving access to food.

15. As the South West Pacific representative to FAO Council, Australia distributed a draft *WFS:fyl* resolution text seeking comments from regional members to ensure that South West Pacific interests were reflected in the final resolution. Australia had previously participated in a working group held concurrently with the June Council to develop the draft *WFS:fyl* resolution text. HE Mr. Head requested that countries forward their comments to Australia (e-mail to ken.gordon@affa.gov.au) by the end of October 2001.

16. The Director-General of FAO thanked the Ministers and Representatives for the strong support articulated. He expressed belief that representation of Pacific Island countries at the highest level would demonstrate the importance attached by the countries to the WFS Rome Declarations and Plan of Action. Furthermore, he expressed his hope that representation of developed countries at the WFS: *fyl*, will likewise be at the highest level.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

17. HRH Prince Lavaka Ata ‘Ulukalala, Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Tonga nominated the Prime Minister of Vanuatu, Honourable Edward N. Natapei as the Chairperson of the Fourth South West Pacific Ministerial Meeting in Vanuatu. The proposal, seconded by Honourable John Silk, Minister for Agriculture of Marshall Islands, was unanimously accepted by the Meeting.

18. The SRR gave a PowerPoint presentation on the tentative Agenda of the meeting and proposed minor changes. Ministers and Representatives adopted the revised Agenda (attached as Annex E of this report) as proposed by the Secretariat, FAO Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific Islands (SAPA). The Hon Prime Minister of Vanuatu then took the Chair.

4. FAO ACTIVITIES IN THE PACIFIC

19. The SRR gave an overview of FAO activities undertaken since the Third Meeting of the South West Pacific Ministers of Agriculture. The SRR focused his presentation on activities in those areas covered by the 1999 Communiqué. These activities cover the following areas: Agriculture Policy, Plant Protection, Food and Nutrition, Fisheries, Forestry, Farming Systems Development and Marketing and Trade Facilitation. A detailed list of projects and activities is attached as Annex F of this report.

20. On Agriculture Policy, the SRR reaffirmed the Sub-Regional Office’s support for developing national policies that are well defined, coherent and achievable. He elaborated on the assistance given to countries in the form of: direct assistance through the Sub-Regional Office’s and other FAO technical staff and where necessary, external consultants; and through the Technical Co-operation Programme. The SRR emphasised that the Sub-Regional Office, in recognition of Forum Secretariat’s leading role in regional policy co-ordination, ensures that its interventions in the policy area are in line with the Regional Strategy for Agriculture Development and Food Security for Forum Island countries. In the area of Sustainable Agriculture, the SRR touched on Sub-Regional Office’s initiatives to promote the development of Future Farmers, farming systems development, improved extension and market information and the SPFS. In particular, the SRR emphasised: the difficult but essential task of attracting the youth of Pacific Island countries to farming; the need for policy makers to assign more value to the

role of the extension service in agricultural and rural development; and the potential gains countries may have through supporting the regional approach to the Special Programme for Food Security.

21. On Food and Nutrition, the SRR demonstrated the impact made by the SAPA Food and Nutrition activities by pointing out how quickly the region has learnt of Codex Alimentarius and its relevance in developing proper food control in Pacific Island countries. Assistance has been given to countries in: the area of inspection and certification of organic produce; preparation of proposal for strengthening food analytical capabilities in the region (in collaboration with USP), conducting surveys on status of food industry; and in the development of national food and nutrition policies. In the area of Fisheries, the SRR informed of SAPA's assistance through: technical advice on the Multilateral High Level Conference on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Central and Western Pacific (MHLC) and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries; assistance in drafting fisheries legislations and in improving fishery statistics; and in training on HACCP. On Information dissemination and data analysis, the SRR referred to assistance to Fiji on strengthening of the MAFFA information system and on preparation and execution of agriculture censuses in Samoa, Cook Islands and in the near future, Tonga.

22. On Trade Facilitation, the SRR referred to the: recently completed workshop undertaken in collaboration with the European Commission on the provisions of the UR and WTO Agreements; national workshops and sub-regional programme on Codex Alimentarius (now under consideration); Regional workshops undertaken in the areas of Quarantine, Marketing, HACCP and Post Harvesting; and in the review of legislations. The SRR emphasised the usefulness to Pacific Island countries of the four FAO/NZODA/CFTC funded annual Roundtable meetings that began in 1998, on the provisions of the UR and WTO Agreements. The SRR underlined the important contribution of Telefood projects to food security. Forty-six Telefood projects had been approved for member countries in the Pacific during the last biennium.

23. The SRR underlined SAPA's close working relationship with regional organisations, donors and NGOs; the Partnership Programme of FAO including Technical Co-operation Among Developing Countries (TCDC) and Co-operation with Academic and Research Institutions. He also mentioned the Trust Funds with EC, Japan, Australia, France and Finland etc., co-operation with UNDP, WHO and other UN Agencies, Forum Secretariat and other Regional agencies as well as collaborative work with NZODA and CFTC. The SRR informed the Meeting that FAO has signed Memorandums of Understanding with SPREP and there is intention to conclude in the near future, an MOU with SPC.

24. Concerning FAO membership in the region, the SRR explained that since the Third Meeting, four countries have become FAO members. Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue and Palau became Members during the 1999 FAO Conference. He explained that Nauru has forwarded its application for membership and the Federated States of Micronesia is likely to lodge its application before the 2001 FAO Conference. The SRR informed that he is planning to visit Tuvalu soon to discuss possibility of its becoming a member.

25. Ministers and Representatives acknowledged the activities and commended the SRR and his staff for the work in the region. New Zealand lauded SAPA's valuable assistance to the Pacific Island countries and welcomed the increased co-ordination of its work with the other Regional agencies as well as the proposed shift to a strategic regional approach. New Zealand shared the SRR's concern for the lack of involvement of youth in agriculture. In this regard, New Zealand indicated that youth are an increasingly important focus group for NZODA in the Pacific.

26. Samoa urged FAO SAPA to continue providing support in the area of Food and Nutrition and in particular the use of Codex Alimentarius. Samoa expressed desire that the annual Roundtable meeting on the UR Agreement provisions, as well as, the Pacific SoilNet continue. On Fisheries, Samoa expressed appreciation for the focus given to conservation, which is important to countries that have small EEZ areas. Samoa also expressed appreciation for the work on fishery statistics and for the development work done on seaweed. On Forestry, Samoa wishes more resources devoted to investigative work on the non-timber uses of forests and trees. Niue expressed appreciation for the attention and assistance given by SAPA to new members.

27. Niue, in sharing the concern expressed about the apparent unattractiveness of farming to youth, underlined the need for FAO to increase its assistance towards resolving that issue. Noting that recurring natural disasters discourage farmers as well as youth, Niue suggested that further diversification and alternative production methodologies should be developed and promoted. In this regard, Niue suggested that appropriate techniques for production from kitchen gardens in backyards should be developed. Suitable programmes to involve village youth and women in such activities should be actively promoted. Niue underscored the need to educate people on healthy diets and encourage their return to locally produced foods.

5. FOOD SECURITY IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

28. The SRR introduced the six information papers, prepared by the multidisciplinary team of the FAO Sub-regional office. He explained that the papers were not meant to illustrate activities already implemented but to present relevant issues related to Food Security in the South Pacific. Summaries of the papers are presented in Annex C.

I. AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY POLICY IN THE PACIFIC: FIVE YEARS AFTER WFS

29. Mr 'Aleki Sisifa, FAO Consultant, Policy Assistance, presented a paper on this subject. The paper dealt with three policy issues that are central to agricultural development and food security and made pertinent by recent events and developments in the region. These issues included: security of access to land; poverty and food insecurity alleviation; and globalisation of trade. On security of access to land, Mr Sisifa outlined the predominant tenure systems in the region and the underlying causes and consequences of insecure tenure in terms of inhibited agricultural production, increased food insecurity as well as political tension and unrest. On poverty and food insecurity alleviation, Mr. Sisifa highlighted: the weakening of the traditional clan and extended family ties that accompany increasing urbanisation; rising incidences of non-communicable diseases; employment problems in the agricultural sector exacerbated by increasing migration; weak co-ordinating bodies and linkages between relevant sectors; lack of inclination, mechanisms or resources to institute systems for surveillance and monitoring; land access problems; and increasing law and order problems in some countries. On the ongoing globalisation of trade, Mr Sisifa underscored the need for WTO member and non-member countries alike to: be familiar with the UR agreements; continuously adjust to the changing environment of trade; and monitor and mitigate possible adverse effects on food security. He outlined the problems faced by Pacific Island countries undergoing accession and by those that are members.

30. Mr Sisifa concluded by emphasising the following potential action areas. There are three elements critical to successful land policy changes viz. strong political will, certainty of the law and reforms and support from landowners and users. Important actions in Pacific Island countries' efforts to

alleviate poverty and food insecurity include: the creation of an enabling environment for agricultural development and trade accompanied by strategic improvements to agricultural research and extension; the need to persist with rural socio-economic development; and the need to identify appropriate indicators and institute information gathering and monitoring systems. Mr Sisifa ended his presentation by suggesting that there is need to review member-country experience in adapting border and domestic policies to the provisions of the Agreement on Agriculture, national commitments and the effects on trade flows and on food security.

31. Ministers and Representatives commended FAO for its boldness in articulating the sensitive and complex issues involved in land policy reform and poverty alleviation. They underscored the important link that exists between lack of access to land and food insecurity. New Zealand pointed out that land issues have often been put aside too long. These problems cannot be sidelined forever. New Zealand suggested it is possible to develop land policies and tenure systems that recognise and value customary ownership and use while encouraging economic development. Solutions would be unique for each country in recognition of the diversity and different histories of the Island countries. New Zealand urged governments to invest time and effort in working together with communities to develop sustainable policy options that are appropriate to customary land ownership and use. New Zealand has gained practical experience in land dispute settlement, the principles of which may be of interest to Pacific partners.

32. Ministers and Representatives recognised that food security issues need a holistic approach across agriculture, land, health, fisheries and forestry and co-operation with the private sector, churches, NGOs, customary groups and other partners. Youth as a stakeholder in such efforts was emphasised. New Zealand stressed that all of society benefits from properly planned and executed poverty alleviation efforts that ensure equitable distribution of benefits. Ministers and Representatives noted the efforts within the region to cope with the complex issues linked with trade liberalisation and trade promotion and welcomed the improvement in understanding of the implications of the WTO agreements. Ministers and Representatives endorsed the importance of adapting national policies to align with the evolving trade environment. Ministers and Representatives welcomed New Zealand's offer to continue supporting national capacity building in this area and assist member countries that may wish to evaluate the costs and benefits of joining the WTO.

33. Copies of a recently published study by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE) entitled "The Impact of Agricultural Trade Liberalisation on Developing Countries" were distributed by Australia. The study showed, *inter alia*, that the effects of world agricultural trade reform on developing countries would lead to an increase in agricultural production and exports and their incomes would rise because they would be able to realize their comparative advantage in agriculture to a greater extent.

34. New Zealand welcomed all the conclusions made in the paper but noted that the suggested actions to identify indicators and institutionalise information-gathering systems should be geared towards management of programmes rather than solely towards monitoring. The SRR thanked the Ministers and Representatives for the support given for the initiatives suggested in these areas and for their useful comments. He thanked New Zealand for continuing assistance in capacity building related to WTO and assured Ministers and Representatives FAO will only support information-gathering activities that are clearly linked to managing initiatives and to programme activities.

II. RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES AND FOOD SECURITY

35. Mr. Masanami Izumi, Fishery Officer, presented the paper titled Responsible Fisheries and Food Security. Mr Izumi discussed the Regional arrangements for the conservation and management of fisheries resources. These Regional arrangements include the FFA Convention, US Multi-lateral Treaty, Wellington Convention, Niue Treaty, MHLC and PreCon of the WCPT Convention. Sub-Regional arrangements in the form of the Nauru Agreement, FSM and Palau Arrangements were also discussed. Mr Izumi outlined the International instruments of fisheries management including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), UN Implementing Agreement (UNIA), FAO Compliance Agreement, FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, FAO International Plans of Action (seabirds, sharks, fishing capacity and illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing). Under Safety of Fish and Fishery Products, Mr Izumi highlighted the problems of lack of: established Food Control Competent Authorities, seafood inspection programmes in place, and of facilities to support seafood inspection programmes. He also highlighted the need to further improve the effectiveness of HACCP-based seafood quality assurance systems.

36. Mr. Izumi stressed the importance of collection and analysis of statistical data necessary for the proper management of fisheries. He referred to the new regional project (2001-2006) to support improvement of statistics on coastal and subsistence fisheries and aquaculture. Mr Izumi also referred to the recently completed Pacific Islands Regional Workshop on Fishery Statistics, Noumea, 16-18 July 2001 and emphasised the problems of: increasing gaps between national and regional / international agencies; limited national capacity to establish fishery statistical units; weakness in national systems for fishery statistical co-ordination; lack of sufficiently trained staff; lack of data for the subsistence fisheries sector; and insufficient data on non-targeted specie.

37. The Fishery Officer concluded his presentation by emphasising: the importance of conforming to the provisions of the WCPT Convention and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries; taking advantage of the globalisation of trade on the fishery industries through focusing on seafood quality and safety; and the fundamental need to improve collection and analysis of statistical data on coastal and subsistence fisheries.

38. Responding to a query by Samoa regarding FAO's view on tuna resource management and conservation, Mr. Izumi stated that FAO would continue to co-operate with regional organisations like Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and Secretariat for Pacific Countries (SPC) in the area through the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries as well as the International Plans of Action. The FAO Fisheries Department has been undertaking the global assessment on tuna resources while FAO/SAPA has a limited capacity for its resource assessment work. With regard to Niue's question on seafood inspection programme, Mr. Izumi further explained that according to the study carried out by FAO, there was no appropriate inspection programme in place in the countries. The inspection is for quality of fish and fishery product. Australia congratulated FAO on the commencement of the new Regional project on fishery statistics, but questioned how the new Regional project would co-operate with the SPC Oceanic Fisheries Programme in terms of the tuna statistical database. Mr. Izumi clarified that the new project would focus on the statistics of coastal and subsistence fisheries as well as aquaculture.

III. FOOD AND NUTRITION CHALLENGES

39. Ms Annamaria Bruno, Food and Nutrition Officer, presented her paper. Ms Bruno graphically highlighted the high rate of population growth in Pacific Island countries compared to that of Oceania and other developing countries. She outlined changes in lifestyle and dietary changes in Pacific Island countries that are causally linked with an increased incidence of overweight and obesity in the region. A substantial quantity (30-90%) of the food consumed in Pacific Island countries is now imported (highly processed foods, fast foods, snacks and fried foods) and this unfavourable trend has been accompanied by a decreasing intake of greens and vegetables and increasing intake of animal fat and other high calorie food (alcohol, soft drinks and confectionery).

40. Ms Bruno emphasised that food quality and safety remains a crucial issue in Pacific Island countries. Although National food laws are at different levels of development in the countries, food standards and regulations are generally non-existent. The lack of standards and regulations opens the door to unfair competition between imported products and some local products and to the risk of dumping of substandard foods. She underlined the following problems: insufficient co-ordination among government food control agencies, industry and consumers; insufficiently equipped and staffed food inspectorates; and inadequate laboratory facilities.

41. Ms Bruno briefly outlined the results of a survey undertaken in 2000 and 2001 by FAO to collect basic information on the food industries in Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu. The food industry was found to be an important: source of employment; substitution for imports; way to add value to agriculture and fishery products; and market for local produce. It was also found that processed products may serve the demands for local products by growing tourism industries and may help to bypass quarantine barriers otherwise faced by fresh-produce exports. Countries however face the constraints of: unskilled manpower; lack of food standards; poor food control system (inspection and certification); inconsistent supply of products from agriculture; and poor market information systems.

42. In concluding, the Food and Nutrition Officer said that food security is an extremely pressing and social issue for the region. She underlined the: increasing dependence of Pacific Island countries on imported food; need to provide markets with consistent supply of local products; high priority, of trade in agriculture and fishery products; and the weak food control systems that currently exist. Ms Bruno highlighted some food and nutrition related areas that require more attention which include: food processing and product development; application of good agricultural practices, good hygienic practices and HACCP; food regulations and standards; and food control system i.e. inspection and certification.

43. Ministers and Representatives thanked the Food and Nutrition Officer for a well prepared paper and an effective presentation. Ministers and Representatives noted the rising prevalence of obesity in Pacific Island countries, the changing for the worse of people's diets and the increasing dependence on imported foods. Tonga pointed out that active nutrition-education programmes should be useful in improving dietary habits and that the media can play an important role in this regard.

44. Ministers and Representatives noted that often the high cost of local foods has encouraged increased consumption of imported substitutes and that in some cases, only a small proportion of the population has access to, or can afford, safe and healthy food. Marshall Islands pointed out that the ongoing globalisation of trade may be creating an enabling environment for the dumping of low quality food in some Pacific Island countries.

45. Ministers and Representatives noted the establishment in some countries like Tonga, Samoa and Cook Islands, of National Codex Alimentarius Committees and acknowledged the role of these

committees and of Codex Alimentarius in guiding governments and national food industries in the formulation of food standards and regulations. Samoa reiterated the importance of ensuring adequate co-ordination between the various ministries and agencies with responsibilities on food safety and quality.

IV. PLANT PROTECTION AND BIO-SECURITY IN FOOD SECURITY

46. Dr Matairangi Porea presented his paper. He outlined the three fundamental aims of food security that relate to plant protection and bio-security as: ensuring adequate production of food; maximising stability in food supplies; and providing access to food for everyone. Plant protection contributes to these fundamental aims through: maximising crop protection and quarantine packages; using preventative methodology and crop scheduling; using integrated pest management (IPM); using ecologically based pest management (EBPM); and proper pesticide management.

47. Dr Porea stressed that strengthening Quarantine in the Pacific region is extremely important to sustaining the quality and quantity of food supplies. A strong Quarantine status can be maintained by ensuring that the border Quarantine inspection systems and Quarantine risk management programmes are effective and that in-country Quarantine awareness is maintained. Dr Porea underlined the importance of ensuring that economically important exotic pests are kept out of the region. In this regard, he singled out Fruit Flies, Taro Beetles, Taro Leaf Blight and Black Sigatoka of Bananas as the most dangerous pests. Dr Porea stressed that it is crucial to keep out four fruit flies viz. Asia Papaya Fruit Fly, Banana Fruit Fly, Oriental Fruit Fly and Melon Fruit Fly. He graphically illustrated the pathways of these four pests. Two of the fruit flies, Papaya Fruit Fly and Banana Fruit, are currently present in Papua New Guinea. Both of these fruit flies got established in North Queensland, Australia, although the Papaya Fruit Fly has since been eradicated. The Taro Beetles have spread from Papua New Guinea to five countries in the region and has recently spread to new areas in Fiji. Dr Porea emphasised the importance of establishing Quarantine measures to ensure that these pests do not spread to other parts of the Pacific.

48. Dr Porea pointed out that more herbicides are being used in Pacific Island countries when compared to the use of other pesticides. He stressed that member countries should be cautious in the use of synthetic pesticides and should concentrate more on the use of organic pesticides. Pacific Island countries are showing increasing interest in developing organic production because of people's increasing health awareness, desire for natural safe foods and awareness of the risks involved in applying inorganic pesticides. Dr Porea described the Pacific PestNet e-mail system that is increasingly used by farmers, students and extension officers in the region. The service is free for all users and operation costs are low because four volunteers moderate the exchanges. He demonstrated the nature of the information-exchange that allows farmers and other customers to obtain quick advice or service from experts on pest and pesticide problems.

49. Dr Porea concluded by recommending that FAO SAPA Plant Protection continues to support member countries in: strengthening quarantine; encouraging responsible use of pesticides including the adoption of organic production; and continuing to provide access to technical information on quarantine, pests and diseases via the Pacific PestNet e-mail system.

50. Ministers and Representatives commended Dr Porea for an excellent presentation on a regionally critical regulatory function, proper maintenance of which is considered vital for the food security of Pacific Island countries. Ministers and Representatives endorsed the recommendations made. Samoa expressed gratitude for New Zealand's assistance in strengthening its Quarantine service and emphasised the need for development of pest lists, work that requires a high level of technical inputs that

Samoa cannot provide. Samoa called for assistance from FAO and other bilateral partners in preparing pest lists and for capacity building in this area. Samoa and Marshall Islands expressed their desire to see Giant African Snail included in the list of dangerous pests. Samoa pointed out that the majority of small farmers cannot access the Internet and thus the Pacific PestNet e-mail system and queried why FAO's role in Plant Protection was not covered in the presentation. Dr Porea responded that extension officers are important customers of the Pacific PestNet; through their extension activities, the advice get to those farmers who cannot access the system.

51. Australia expressed its support for the FAO to continue to assist SIDS develop improved plant health and quarantine procedures and pest control measures for agricultural products. Australia also indicated that it was important that Pacific Island Countries are in a position to conform to new export protocols under the WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement (including revised quarantine procedures) for this provides the basic infrastructure to seize export opportunities and enhance food security. Moreover, Australia indicated that a regional approach to plant health, which recognizes that there is improved security for all in containing trans-border movement of pests, and improving pest management in infested countries is in the interests of all South West Pacific members. Australia announced it will continue to finance the TaroGen Project for three years to identify Taro Leaf Blight resistant varieties and will continue to work closely with the European Union and New Zealand in support of the SPC Plant Protection Project.

52. Ministers and Representatives emphasised the need to give increased attention to developing organic industries. Samoa observed that establishing organic industries demands large production scales to justify establishing certification systems. Furthermore, prices need to be high to compensate for the expected reduction in yields and to cover the additional costs involved in use of organic inputs. New Zealand expressed interest in other countries views on organics and in particular on whether there is need for regional approach to organic industry development. Ministers and Representatives expressed their desire that FAO assist countries in developing their organic industries and in capacity building in organic production. New Zealand noted that it has been financially supporting SPC in convening meetings and workshops aimed at improving quarantine work and encouraged further collaborative work between SPC and FAO.

V. SMALL-FARMERS' CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY

53. Mr. Heiko Bammann, Farming Systems Development and Marketing Officer, presented his paper on the above subject. Small farmers producing in traditional farming systems produce a significant portion of the total food consumed in many Pacific Island countries. Small-farmers contribute significantly to GDP, absorb a high proportion of the labour force, facilitate household food security and demonstrate great resilience in the face of unpredictable market forces and disasters. Mr. Bammann suggested that any programme, which focuses on improving the livelihood and food-security of the small-farmers in the Pacific Island countries, should factor in the rapidly developing market economy. Planning of such programmes should encompass dimensions that extend beyond the development and dissemination of improved technologies to address the farmers' ability to: access markets; access services; internalise 'value-added' activities; increase market power; and appraise alternative opportunities including off-farm employment. Government and non-government agencies – responsible for agriculture development – and farmers in Pacific Island countries have had substantial exposure to the participatory approaches to research & development. This is considered as the most appropriate approach to take into the future.

54. Mr. Bammann articulated the Farmer-Centred Development (FCD) approach planned specifically for the Pacific Island countries as one that focuses on improving farmer / community planning and decision making and on helping communities undertake self-help actions to improve their productivity, income and food security. The six main action areas involved include: community action planning; improved human capital; support to group and community initiatives that directly contribute to improving farm income and resource management; strengthening farmer and community support systems; evaluation of the process; and facilitation of replication of the process in other communities and countries.

55. Mr. Bammann elaborated on the anticipated outputs of the approach as: collection of baseline information at each site; establishment of participatory monitoring and evaluation system at each site; enhancement of farmer / community skills in planning and priority setting of self-help action programmes; establishment at each site of strong horizontal linkages with developmental specialists, local authorities etc.; and establishment of strong vertical linkages with local, national and regional networks. He identified the beneficiaries of an FCD programme as: direct beneficiaries including farmers and their communities through improved incomes and employment; indirect beneficiaries in trainers, researchers, policy makers, development specialists, service providers as well as the public and private sectors.

56. Ministers and Representatives expressed appreciation for the information that articulates an alternative methodology for agricultural development and food security for the more vulnerable sectors of society. New Zealand welcomed the initiative, which can have positive impact on the involvement of youth and women in agricultural and rural development.

VI. ENHANCING FOOD SECURITY THROUGH FORESTRY

57. Mr. Aru Mathias, Forestry Resources Management Officer, presented his paper on the above subject. He defined the current development trends in forestry management that demonstrates the importance of forestry in sustaining rural livelihoods. For large Island countries e.g. Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, forestry is a significant foreign exchange earner through log and timber exports. In high Island countries – Samoa, Cook Islands, Tonga, Niue, FSM, Palau and atoll Islands like Kiribati and Tuvalu, use of agro-forestry as source of firewood, local building material, food etc. is promoted. Mr. Mathias summarised some of the Regional initiatives and collaborative efforts involving Pacific Island countries. He mentioned the Regional Forestry Programme (PIF-TSP), the Regional Code of Logging Practice and the Regional Action Programmes and initiatives. Regarding the latter programme, he elaborated on the training attachments provided under FRA 2000, the Forest and Tree Genetic Use, Management and Conservation Project and the SPRIG (South Pacific Regional Initiative on Forest Genetics) Project.

58. Mr. Mathias summarised the problems and issues affecting forestry development in the region as: lack of appropriate policies and legislation governing sustainable use of forest resources; deforestation and forest degradation; increasing demands caused by competing uses; and the smallness of high Islands which are vulnerable to natural and manmade disasters. He reminded the Meeting that because the non-timber-related contributions of forests and trees are difficult to quantify, their contribution to food security is sometimes inconspicuous to policy makers. Mr. Mathias listed forestry and tree products that contribute to sustaining rural livelihood and food security as: edible plant products, staples and supplements; edible animals, and animal products (birds, honey, fish etc.); medicine; fuel-wood; and implements and tools. Mr. Mathias underlined the very significant role of forests in watershed

management and the important need in many Pacific Island countries to establish and implement policies and legislation to manage watershed areas.

59. In concluding, Mr. Mathias pointed out some opportunities for action in the following areas: aligning the objectives of forest management to the food security needs of communities; encouraging forest regeneration and tree planting in different tree systems; providing support to small-scale forest based enterprises. Mr. Mathias suggested countries need to set new policy framework that encompass the identified opportunities. Furthermore, he recommended that studies should be undertaken to investigate the nutritional values of forest foods.

60. Ministers and Representatives commended FAO for highlighting the importance of forestry in food security at this Meeting. Ministers and Representatives underscored the importance of developing forests in a sustainable manner and of conserving forests for the benefit of present and future generations. For this to happen, Ministers and Representatives underlined the need for strong political commitment to developing legislation, policies and management plans. Australia expressed pleasure at seeing improvements to Vanuatu's forest management programme especially by the adoption of RIL (Reduced Impact Logging), which greatly reduced the environmental damage to forests during harvesting. The Chairperson underlined the importance of strong political will in nurturing sustainable forest development as the effort at times flies against the desire of landowners and the intentions of international and multinational companies. In this regard, the Chairperson said, Vanuatu has largely succeeded and is employing small and mainly national companies to sustainably exploit the forests.

61. New Zealand strongly supported the need for sustainable forestry management plans and stressed the risk of seeking short sighted gains over long term national interests. New Zealand called on leaders to have the political will to take national and international responsibility for protecting forests. Ministers and Representatives emphasised the need for FAO to work closely with other organisations as part of the UNFF (United Nations Forum on Forests) process in assisting countries to implement the IPF / IFF (Intergovernmental Panel on Forests / Intergovernmental Forum on Forests) proposals for action. Australia announced that it was proposing to co-sponsor a regional workshop to help address the issue of developing and implementing appropriate forest policies and legislation. Tonga noted that linkages between government departments and agencies with responsibilities in forest and watershed management can be weak as in Tonga where responsible officers may regularly interact with overseas colleagues but not with their local counterparts.

62. Samoa, Niue, Marshall Islands and Kiribati emphasised their need for assistance in acquiring mobile coconut sawmills and the technical capacity to mill logs on a sustainable basis. They referred also to the recurring abundance of fallen trees following cyclones. Kiribati expressed desire for technical assistance in the preparation of plans to plant forests on its outer-islands and for participation in studies proposed to investigate nutritional value of forest foods.

6. INFORMATION ON BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE)

63. Ms Annamaria Bruno presented a brief on the above subject, jointly prepared by the Food and Nutrition Division (ESN) and Animal Health Division (AGA) of FAO. BSE is a transmissible, neuro-degenerative, fatal brain disease of cattle. It is characterised by a long incubation period of four to five years. The disease first appeared in Europe (United Kingdom) in the 1970s. Epidemiological studies suggest that the source was cattle, which had been fed with feed prepared from carcasses of ruminants. BSE is associated with a transmissible agent that affects the brain and spinal cord of cattle. However, the

nature of the agent is not known as it is suspected to be either a ‘prion’ (modified protein able to self-replicating) or a virus-like agent. The disease is transmitted through feed, however vertical and horizontal transmission is not excluded. Meat and bone meal (MBM) are regarded as the most important means of spread of the disease.

64. Approximately 180,000 cases of BSE were confirmed in UK between 1986 and 2000 and approximately 1,300 cases have been reported in other European countries since 1989. Recently, the disease has appeared for the first time in a number of European countries (e.g. Spain and Italy) that were supposedly free of the disease. Free trade in the EU has facilitated the spread of BSE at a time, when the disease had not even been recognised.

65. BSE is associated with the appearance of a newly recognised form of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), called variant CJD, which first appeared in the UK in 1996. It is ‘strongly linked’ to exposure probably through consumption of infective material of bovine origin, to BSE. Since then, 87 cases have been reported in UK, three in France and one in Ireland.

66. Countries at risk of BSE are those that have: imported live cattle originating from affected countries; or imported meat meal containing infective tissue; and recycled ruminant by-products in ruminants. Data from FAO Statistics show that the Oceania region imports of live cattle and MBM from UK and Western Europe have been negligible / minimal in the last 15 years (since 1988).

67. To prevent / reduce the risk of BSE, FAO recommends countries to take the following actions:

- National Risk Analysis to determine own risk status;
- Surveillance for BSE in cattle at risk of having been exposed to infective material;
- Restriction of MBM in ruminant feed;
- Banning of Specified Risk Materials and fallen stock from MBM; and,
- Stricter Feed and Meat industry regulation and enforcement thereof.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

68. The Representative of the Forum Secretariat gave a presentation on the Forum Secretariat’s activities in the Pacific.

69. Ministers and Representatives decided that the name of this Meeting, “Meeting of the South West Pacific Ministers for Agriculture” be changed to “Meeting of the South Pacific Ministers for Agriculture” to better reflect the geographic distribution of Member countries. Ministers and Representatives agreed that the next Meeting would be held in Fiji during 2003.

8. ADOPTION OF COMMUNIQUÉ

70. The Meeting adopted the Communiqué, which is attached as Annex G.

9. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

71. The SRR expressed sincere appreciation to the Government of Vanuatu for: hosting the Meeting; the excellent organisation and tremendous support provided before and during the Meeting; and the invitation and hospitality extended to the Director-General of FAO. He reassured the Ministers and Representatives that FAO SAPA would continue striving to maintain or improve the quality of their biennial Meetings.

72. The Chairperson thanked the Honourable Ministers and Representatives for their deliberations. He commended the staff of FAO SAPA for the clear and precise presentations of lengthy background documents. He invited all delegations to forward the report of the Meeting as well as the communiqué to their leaders. In closing the Meeting, the Chairperson expressed the hope Ministers can use their influence in their countries to ensure more emphasis is given to agricultural development and the facilitation of food security.

ANNEX A

List of Participants

GOVERNMENTS

AUSTRALIA

HE Mr Perry Head
High Commissioner to Vanuatu

Mr Ken Gordon
Senior International Policy Analyst
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry
– Australia.

FIJI

Mr Samisoni Ulitu
Deputy Permanent Secretary for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forests

KIRIBATI

Hon Emile Schutz
Minister for Natural Resource Development

MARSHALL ISLANDS

Hon John Silk
Minister for Resources and Development

NEW ZEALAND

Hon Matt Robson,
Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs and
Trade (ODA); Minister for Disarmament and
Arms Control.

Mr Neil Fraser
MAF Policy Division
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

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Mr Robert Taylor
NZ High Commissioner to Vanuatu

Ms Elizabeth Wilson, Deputy NZ High
Commissioner to Vanuatu

NIUE

Hon Young Vivian, MP
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for
Education

Mr Sauni Tongatule
Director of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

SAMOA

Hon Tuisugaletau A S Aveau, MP
Minister for Agriculture, Forests, Fisheries and
Meteorology

Mr Asuao Malaki Iakopo
Director of Agriculture, Forests, Fisheries and
Meteorology

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Hon Moon Pin Kwan, MP
Minister for Agriculture and Primary Industries

Mr Martin Mata
Permanent Secretary for Agriculture and
Primary Industries

TONGA

HRH Prince ‘Ulukalala Lavaka Ata
Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture,
Forestry and Fisheries

Mr Haniteli ‘O Fa’anunu
Director of Agriculture and Forestry

VANUATU

Rt Hon Edward N. Natapei, MP
Prime Minister and Minister for Public Service
and Women Affairs

Hon Willie Posen
Hon Minister for Agriculture, Quarantine,
Forests and Fisheries

Mr Abel H Nako
Director - General

Ministry for Agriculture, Quarantine, Forests
and Fisheries

Mr Jean Sese
Director-General, Prime Minister's Department

Mr Jopin Jari
First Political Adviser
Prime Minister's Office

Ms Dorosday Keneth
Director of Agriculture

OBSERVERS

FORUM SECRETARIAT - FORSEC

Mr John Low
Resources Adviser

**SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC
COMMUNITY - SPC**

Dr Mick Lloyd
Head, SPC Plant Protection Service

FAO ROME

Dr Jacques Diouf
Director-General of FAO

SECRETARIAT

**FAO SUB REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE
PACIFIC**

Dr Vili A Fuavao
FAO Sub-Regional Representative

Mr Heiko Bammann
Farming System Development & Marketing
Officer

Ms Annamaria Bruno
Food and Nutrition Officer

Mr Masanami Izumi
Fishery Officer

Dr Matairangi Porea
Plant Protection Officer

Mr Aru Mathias
Forestry Resources Management Officer

Mr 'Aleki F Sisifa
Consultant for FAO, Policy Assistance

ANNEX B

Keynote Address

by

Dr Jacques Diouf

Director-General of FAO

HE the Acting Head of State of Vanuatu,
HE the Prime Minister of Vanuatu,
HE the Prime Minister of Tonga,
HE the Deputy Prime Minister of Niue,
HEs Ministers of Agriculture from the Pacific region,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour and privilege for me to be here today at the opening ceremony of the *4th Meeting of South West Pacific Ministers of Agriculture*, and I wish to express my sincere thanks to HE the Prime Minister of Vanuatu for providing me the opportunity to share with you FAO's views and main concerns with regard to agriculture and food security in the Pacific region.

I should like to recall that I was present at the first meeting of South West Pacific Ministers of Agriculture, held in Apia in 1996. At that occasion, the agriculture ministers from the region honoured the establishment of the FAO Sub-regional Office for Pacific Island countries with their presence in Samoa and expression of support for FAO's decentralisation policy. FAO activities in the region have since expanded in scope and depth, and FAO membership from the Pacific region rose from nine to thirteen. A further expansion is expected soon with the consideration by FAO's governing bodies of applications for membership made by the Republic of Nauru and possibly others in the near future.

Less than one year ago – when we met during the 25th FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific in Yokohama, Japan – I reviewed the state of food and agriculture in the world and in the Asia-Pacific region, and, in particular, the impact of natural disasters on food security in the region. In the mean time, the world is increasingly faced with other 'crises'. They relate to the quality and especially the safety of food products, and to the impact of new agricultural techniques resulting from rapid advances in biotechnology. Recent issues facing governments have included the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy crisis – more widely known as mad cow disease; the presence of dioxins in the food chain; and the marketing of products containing genetically modified organisms. These are areas where FAO was called upon to play a greater role as public opinion wants objective information on possible risks and requires effective measures of protection. While such 'crises' have occurred in developed countries, they create concern for the authorities and populations of developing countries and small-island developing countries that do not have sufficient analytical capacity. FAO has responded to these challenges and demands, and I note from the agenda for your meeting that a presentation on BSE is included.

Food quality and safety remain crucial issues in Pacific Island countries. Although national food laws are at various levels of development in the countries, food standards and regulations are in general non-existent. The lack of standards and regulations opens the door to unfair competition between imported and locally produced products. Food control systems should be strengthened through proper legislation and reinforcement of food inspection. National Codex Alimentarius Committees should guide governments and the national food industries on related matters. It is furthermore my conviction that the food industry should contribute to national food security by reducing dependency on imports, increase food choice and raise the nutritional status of the Pacific populations. The goal of year-round availability of a range of nutritious foods will require further diversification and increased production of agricultural products needed to provide markets with a consistent supply of good quality foods.

In this context, I should like to focus on the thinking that lies at the hearth of FAO's Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) in Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries, which is now being implemented in 60 countries – including in Papua New Guinea. The assumption underlying the SPFS is that increased farm output by small farmers is feasible – often using simple and low cost technologies – and can, under most circumstances, achieve the combined objectives of improving rural livelihoods, increasing food supplies within rural communities, having a multiplier effect on economic growth, and reducing foreign exchange expenditures on food imports.

I strongly feel that the special programme is of particular relevance to most countries in the region, and I have asked the FAO Sub-Regional Office for Pacific Islands to further promote and facilitate the implementation of a regional SPFS in those Pacific countries with an explicit interest in the goals and objectives of the special programme.

Excellencies,

Although globalisation offers opportunities for growth and development in all parts of the world, the hopes and promises attached to rapid liberalisation of trade and finance have not so far been fulfilled in many Pacific Island countries. This is another area which I recommend for special attention by Pacific leaders. Many factors inhibit Pacific Island countries from benefiting more fully from trade. Among them, supply-side constraints in the countries themselves, and the persistent and high levels of support and protection provided to agriculture by many of the richer countries in the world, are of particular importance. Pacific Island countries urgently need more equitable market access for their agricultural products, particularly for higher-value processed products, and substantial infusions of technical and financial assistance in overcoming domestic supply constraints. I am strongly convinced that greater openness and integration of agricultural markets within Asia and the Pacific could alleviate many of the problems that hinder development of the sector and thus help ensure rapid, sustainable agricultural growth.

Excellencies,

With only a few months left before world leaders travel to FAO headquarters in Rome for the 5 to 9 November *World Food Summit: five years later*, I come to your meeting stressing the urgency to

fighting hunger and malnutrition more vigorously. Five years into what should be a two decade-long journey toward the goal of halving hunger, the road has become much longer because not enough has been done to achieve the commitments made by nations at the landmark November 1996 World Food Summit. According to FAO estimates, at present rates of progress, the WFS target will not be met by the year 2015.

Even as the world is preoccupied with the war against poverty, FAO is campaigning to remind nations that they must first win the battle against hunger. The fight against poverty cannot be won without eliminating hunger and malnutrition: it is the most critical manifestation of poverty. Unfortunately, most poverty reduction programmes fail to target hunger specifically. As hunger is both a cause and effect of poverty, hunger needs to be addressed directly. This is the subject of the *WFS: fyl*. I call upon the leaders of the Pacific to move beyond broad commitments and focus on action with immediate and direct impact on hunger. The personal attendance by national leaders from the Pacific at the forthcoming November summit will be a further manifestation of the resolve of the region to tackle hunger and malnutrition. It is, I believe, incumbent on us to face up to the difficult questions, to agree on practical solutions, and to implement them with resolve. In the area of food security this is a moral imperative, recognised internationally in the concept of access to adequate food as a human right.

I look forward to the outcome of your deliberations on food security in the Pacific Islands. Allow me to emphasise that governments which adopt policies which reduce malnutrition are likely to attain more sustainable growth than those which go for growth with little concern for equity and adequate food consumption. Given that the majority of the Pacific population is still rural, vigorous approaches to rural development must play a central role in fighting this tragedy. Urbanisation – although relatively low in most Pacific Island countries – has aggravated malnutrition in urban areas, often resulting in increased under-nutrition and poverty.

In this connection, FAO welcomes your timely deliberations on fostering the political will and mobilising financial resources for universal food security. Additional financial resources, to be financed from voluntary contributions, would serve as a catalyst for enhancing food production and improving access to food in Small Island Developing States, and also for the prevention, control and eradication of trans-boundary pests and diseases of animals and plants. Your support for the mobilisation of such resources will address the long-term structural needs of the poor.

Excellencies,

We are privileged to see the beauty and richness of the Pacific environment – its sea, reefs, beaches, hills and valleys. Hand in hand with our concern for the people, the splendour of the fauna reminds us of the need to husband these precious resources in a sustainable manner. They should be cared for and protected, allowing the sustainable exploitation by and co-habitation with the wonderful people from the Pacific.

I am convinced, Excellencies, that all delegates will continue to enjoy the generous hospitality and friendliness from Vanuatu and its people, and I look forward meeting with all of you over the next two days.

Thank you.

ANNEX C

The President
Le President

Port Vila
Vanuatu

**ADDRESS BY ACTING PRESIDENT HIS EXCELLENCY DONAL DALPOKAS
MASIKIVANUA ON THE OCCASION OF THE FOURTH MEETING
OF THE AGRICULTURAL FOOD ORGANISATION (AFO)**

23rd July 2001, Crowne Plaza – Port Vila

His Excellency, The Director General of FAO, Mr Jacques DOUF
Hon. Prime Minister of Republic of Vanuatu, Mr Edward NATAPEI
Hon. Leader of Opposition, Mr Barak Tame SOPE
Hon. Prime Minister of Tonga, and Deputy Prime Minister of Niue
Hon. Ministers of Agriculture of the South Pacific Region
Invited guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Republic of Vanuatu, let me extend to you all, especially our visiting overseas guests, a very sincere and a very warm welcome to this country. The Vanuatu Government is most grateful and honoured to host the Fourth Meeting of South Pacific Ministers for Agriculture.

It gives me great pleasure to witness such a gathering of Ministers' meeting to discuss issues affecting Agricultural Development in the region. It demonstrates, as I see it, true regionalism and solidarity in pursuing our common goals in the area of Food Security, and its implications in Agricultural Development as a whole in the region.

Although we have a lot in common, we are still diverse in many ways. Our two brothers, Australia and New Zealand are industrially advanced, some of us are developing countries, and others still hold a least developed status. These three broad categories present this region with diversity and uniqueness. Because of these varying levels, individual countries have adopted different measures to address this vital issue of food security.

Food Security, to my simple understanding, means the ability to grow and purchase food as needed. However, the total concept is complex, depending on where we come from. If we

consider our respective political, economic, social and environmental status, each of these factors directly has a bearing on our ability to grow and sell our own food.

Some of us have much wealth, and tend to over produce and over eat. In the other extreme some of us have too little and can not grow or purchase enough to eat or sell. However, let me remind us all that responsible governments do not starve their population. Responsible governments care for the good health and social security of their population. Responsible governments care for the environment on which we depend for sustainable growth. Responsible governments ensure political stability, in that they provide a safe and secure environment for economic development, as a fundamental basis for food security. Responsible governments care and show respect for the Private Sector whether it be foreign or local and protect it as eggs in a basket ready to hatch out wealth and health.

Distinguished guests, the Pacific has become less peaceful and civil unrest is beginning to take hold in what used to be known as a peaceful region. This trend is sending worrying signals for all our respective Governments. I challenge all leaders present here today; to endeavour at all costs to restore confidence in their governance as this has a very direct impact on food security.

While we sit here, things are changing around us. The rules of trade have changed. International market forces such as the WTO have impacted on us. This leaves us little choice but to adapt accordingly. The changes brought about by the WTO will of course have direct impacts on our food security systems, and will affect each of us differently. Some of us will benefit and some will suffer. Nevertheless, let us be positive in our participation, since it appears that the WTO is here to stay. May be we should develop a more positive attitude and get actively involved now, rather than later. The need to learn the rules and get out there, in the field, and start playing the game. On this note we can sincerely hope that Vanuatu will become a member, on one of these glorious days.

Let me reiterate we need to maintain our strong solidarity and regionalism in dealing with the WTO. In calling for differential treatment, we need to let WTO know how volatile we are and the unique status of our economies. We are predominantly rural with specific issues of food security to address. We need to protect our uniqueness in all respects, even to the extent of protecting rights that are inherent, such as the intellectual property rights, to our cultural and biological inheritance.

While we strive to comply with these international market forces, it is imperative that we balance our internal economic, and population growth. It is also imperative that we balance out, the rural and urban growth, so that our populations are distributed fairly and securely, employment wise.

We need to protect our population from harmful diseases, in particular the lethal HIV/AIDS as well as ensure preventative diseases are minimized particularly as they relate to nutrition, and diet. They all have a direct bearing on food security. Besides health risks, we need to protect our population from harmful plant and animal pests and diseases, and strengthen our quarantine control systems. Working collaboration is our key, when it comes to quarantine issues across our borders.

Our region is known for the great Pacific Ocean that supports our very livelihood, and we need to protect it at all costs and provide a basis for sustainable living for generations to come. We need to protect the ocean just as much as the air that is around us and the forests that contribute in making healthy air for us to breathe.

We need not to be greedy and deprive our future generations of a clean ocean. the rich marine resources that it supports and the clean air around it. We need strong solidarity and regionalism in protecting our natural environment, land and marine resources.

Distinguished guests, the issue of poverty in the region is an interesting one. Although poverty is minimal in our region, it shows signs in our respective countries in different ways, and we must not at all take for granted that it does not exist. I challenge each and every country to review their levels of social indicators, using the parameters of the concept of poverty and food security. May be when we start making projections into the future, the real meaning of poverty might start to unfold.

Having access to land and Agricultural development by the private sector is paramount to economic growth. Countries that are serious about economic growth make it their prime concern. This is in particular if we want to seriously pursue commercial Agriculture. In this way may some of us come out from our subsistence mode, and develop responsibility in helping the private sector in acquiring and utilizing land for development. I challenge individual countries to build up their public and private sector partnerships deriving from land security for economic development.

Distinguished guests, the concept of food security and economic development in general compliment each other and this relationship is a complex one. Because of this complexity we need well thought out and clear economic road maps. To facilitate good economic road maps and food security strategies, we need concrete and clear internal policy frameworks. We all need solid policy frameworks in order to sell to the international and donor communities. We need solid policy framework to guide our internal business population. I challenge each of us to treat internal agricultural economic policy development as a priority.

Distinguished guests, let me conclude by proudly announcing that Vanuatu as part of its food security campaign, has for this year declared “The Year 2001 as Year of Island Kakaë” meaning the Year of eating local food and local food products. The campaign up to this point has proved very successful. Our population is expected to double in 12 years and food imports now constitute more than 25% of the domestic food supply and reached vt 1.6 million vatu in 1999.

At the same time, we are very much aware of the nutritional deficiencies we are faced with due to the imbalance of trade. This has direct implications for the health of our population. Our change of eating habits have resulted in low birth weights and a rate of 23% of under weight children under 5 years old. The incidence of malnourished children in the urban and semi-urban areas indicates real poverty at the household level and food insecurity.

The Vanuatu cases do present some challenges for us all and this meeting provides an excellent forum for discussing experiences, as well as reflecting on and developing strategies as to how to tackle food security issues in our respective countries and how we can build a strong food security base in the region.

Distinguished guests, I thank you for your kind attention and it gives me great pleasure to declare open now, the discussion of the Fourth meeting of South West Pacific Ministers of Agriculture.

ANNEX D

Agenda

1. Official Opening
2. World Food Summit: five years later
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. FAO activities in the Pacific
5. Food Security in the South Pacific:
 - i Agriculture and Food Security Policy in the Pacific: Five years after WFS
 - ii Responsible Fisheries and Food Security
 - iii Food and Nutrition Challenges
 - iv Plant Protection and Biosecurity in Food Security
 - v Small-farmers' contribution to National Food Security
 - vi Enhancing Food Security through Forestry
6. Information on Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)
7. Other business
8. Adoption of the Communiqué
9. Closing of the Meeting

ANNEX E

Summaries of Information Papers on Food Security in the South Pacific

Agriculture and Food Security Policy in the Pacific: five years after WFS

The paper discusses three policy issues in the agricultural and food-security areas that are presently in the forefront of attention in the FAO Pacific sub-region. These policy issues are in the areas of: security of access to land; poverty and food-insecurity alleviation; and the globalisation of trade.

In the bigger Pacific Island Countries (PICs), under modern uses - such as commercial production of major agricultural commodities, timber concessions, establishment of plantation and conservation areas and mining - disputes over land ownership and boundaries have significantly increased. Also, in these states and in some of the smaller Island countries, existing customary tenure and communal ownership systems have curtailed the security of access by farmers to agricultural-land thus negatively affecting agricultural development and food security. The paper outlines major concerns relating to land policy in countries of the region and suggests broad elements of government action that can lead to good land policy.

Most PICs that are members of FAO (excluding new members) have reported anecdotal evidence of poverty and food insecurity among certain sectors of society particularly in urban areas. Malnutrition has been growing along with increasing incidences of non-communicable diseases. Employment in the rural sector has been declining exacerbated by growing migration and in the case of larger PICs, mounting law-and-order problems. PICs need to: strengthen or establish food security co-ordinating bodies; clearly identify the nature of food insecurity problems and their causes; prioritise solutions; allocate resources; make necessary institutional arrangements; establish clear objectives, targets and evaluation mechanisms; and set specific time frames for implementation. Current efforts made in some countries to create positive policy environment for increased sustainable agricultural production and trade and to improve the provision of agricultural research and extension services, are commendable. Countries need to persist with socio-economic development in the rural areas, focusing on increasing employment opportunities, improving social services and expanding strategic infrastructure.

Whether a country is a member of WTO or not, its export trade (and food security) will be influenced by the ongoing globalisation of trade. PICs therefore need to either be involved in the related negotiations or keep up with the changes made to the Uruguay Round and WTO agreements: Agreement on Agriculture (AoA), Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS); Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), Trade related aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). There is, in WTO member and non-member countries in the region, a general lack of clarity on the benefits and disadvantages associated with being a WTO member. Given that experience has been gained in WTO membership and in accession related activities, it would be useful to undertake case studies of relevant PICs to review country experience, both positive and negative, in adapting border and domestic policies to the AoA provisions and the effects so far on trade. Article 20 of the AoA calls upon WTO members to review the experience with implementing commitments and their effects on world agricultural trade and to take this experience into account in the new negotiations. The studies proposed would contribute to that process and should also help identify particular areas where technical assistance would be useful, as regards both analysis and policy formulation, as PICs seek to adapt policy to the new trading rules.

Food and Nutrition Challenges

Pacific Island countries have significantly changed their dietary habits and there is a growing demand for and consumption of imported highly processed food of poor nutritional quality. Moreover, the accrued dependency on imported foods has resulted in an increased vulnerability of traditional food systems. The agriculture 'balance' is negative and the value and quantity of imported foods are higher than exports.

Most of the food consumed in urban centers is now imported, as only small quantities of locally produced foods are available. Limited land area, the paucity of soils suitable for agriculture, crop diseases and contamination, the expansion of tourism, increasing urbanization, and availability of convenience foods at a comparatively low-cost have adversely affected the production of traditional food and led to increases in food imports.

Food quality and safety remain a crucial issue in Pacific Island countries. Although national food laws are at different level of development in the Pacific Island countries, food standards and regulations are in general non-existent. The lack of standards/regulations opens the door to unfair competition from imported products with some local products and the potential risk of dumping of substandard foods.

The food industry is working toward the attainment of recognized international standards thus allowing local products to access overseas markets. Diversification and increased production of agriculture produces is needed to provide markets with a consistent supply of good quality foods. The food industry in the Pacific could contribute to national food security by reducing the dependence on imports, increased food choices and raising nutritional status.

Assessment of food and nutrition-related indigenous knowledge and the promotion of traditional nutrient-rich local foods are essential to improve year-round availability of a diversity of foods as well as sustainable livelihoods for small farmers.

Food control systems should be strengthened through the establishment of proper legislation and the reinforcement of food inspection. National Codex Committees could advise Governments on matters related to food standardization and food safety and also provide assistance and information to the food industry on food standards requirements.

The food industry in the Pacific could contribute to national food security by reducing the dependence on imports, increase food choice and raise nutritional status. Pacific island governments should adopt policies to encourage agro- and food processing development to satisfy local market demand for local products and increase the competitive advantage of 'local-made' products.

Responsible Fisheries and Food Security

The world communities recognized the fundamental importance of the fisheries sector for the Small Island Developing States (SIDS). It is further recognized that international assistance and cooperation would be needed to develop, manage and conserve fishery resources to increase food security and the standard of living of SIDS. Fish and fishery products will continue to play a fundamental social and economic role in the Pacific Island countries (PICs). Subsistence fisheries provide an important source of protein to the Pacific Island communities. Tuna species are extremely important for the PICs. As a renewable natural resource, fish can be harvested year after year if the countries have wise policies in place and if responsible fishing and utilization practices are followed. The PICs recognize that aquaculture, including re-stocking and stock enhancement programme, provides one of long-term

sustainable ways of deriving benefit from inshore fisheries resources. A contribution of fishery production to GDP varies from 0.5 percent (Nauru) to 50 percent (Republic of Kiribati). Nine countries, out of 12 countries, indicate that their GDP contributions are less than 10 percent.

As far as tuna fisheries management is concerned in the region, the WCPT Convention is the most important treaty now. FAO will maintain close cooperation with the PrepCon of the WCPT Convention as participated in a series of MHLC sessions as observer. The Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries is a framework and provides guidelines to the countries as to how manage their fisheries resources. A number of technical guidelines have been published by FAO to support the implementation of the Code.

In order to strengthen sustainable management of fisheries resources in the region, an early implementation of the Code is highly considered in cooperation of regional organizations. FAO is fully committed to assisting the PICs in the efficient implementation of the Code at national and regional level. The PICs need technical assistance in developing and implementing their National Plans of Action for reducing incidental catch of seabirds in longline fisheries, for the conservation and management of sharks, for the conservation and management of fishing capacity and for combating IUU fishing.

In order to identify appropriate policies and measures in the globalization and its effect on the fishery industries, there is a need to study the impact on the fishery sector in the PICs. To further strengthen national capacity for protecting local fish exporting industry and for opening up new trade opportunities, the PICs need continued technical assistance in training on seafood quality and safety. Through the new regional project on fishery statistics, FAO continues to support the countries for improving fishery statistics.

Plant Protection and Biosecurity in Food Security

Strengthening quarantine bio-security in the region is fundamental in sustaining quality and adequate food supplies for everyone. Border quarantine inspection and quarantine awareness through training/broadcasting is most important, to ensure the bio-security of the region from exotic species such as Fruit Flies, including staple food crop pests, (such as Taro Leaf Blight, Taro Beetle, and Banana Black Sigatoka) which have devastating effects on Food Security in the Region. Awareness of risk countries, like those of Southeast Asia and those member countries with specific pests within the region. For example, Solomon, Vanuatu, Fiji, etc with the Taro Beetle. Restriction on the movement of Taro host plants would be an important Food Security quarantine issue for Taro growing countries like Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands and Tahiti. Awareness on non-recorded pocket locations like those of the Line and Phoenix Groups of the eastern region of Kiribati, which required surveillance to confirm presence and absence of exotic Fruit Flies.

Responsible use of pesticides is the application of recommended pesticides for the protection of agricultural products from harmful pests. However, the presence of pests (on a crop) does not automatically require control measures (using pesticides) as damages may be insignificant. When Plant Protection measures are considered necessary a system of non-chemical pest methodologies should be considered before pesticides are used.

There is an increasing trend on the use of Pesticides in some of the Pacific Island nations especially those of the larger islands of Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Samoa. This has been attributed to increase food demands and increase techniques of farming that causes many farmers to rely heavily on pesticides,

therefore exposing agricultural food products to pesticide residues. Herbicide is the main pesticide group imported in large volumes as compared to other groups. Alternatives to increase use of Pesticides are management tools such as IPM packages, Biological Control, the use of Bio-pesticides, Crop Rotation and Organic farming.

Organic growing is on the increase in some Pacific Islands due to health awareness and the thought of purity of organically grown foods. There is great demand on the overseas markets for organically grown food products from the Pacific Islands. From past records, organic growing in some of the Pacific Islands is a tradition like on the Atoll islands of Pukapuka in the Cook Islands and rural areas of Vanuatu, Solomon, Tonga, Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea and Samoa where traditional staple food are organically produced for household Food Security.

Plant Protection Communication in support of Food Security. Rural farmers often have difficulties in accessing information on pest and diseases in the Pacific region. Information communication is a key factor in sharing and transferring of technology to the farmers in the region. Pacific PestNet e-mail system is one of the best, also simple, free to anyone and shared by many other scientists in the field of quarantine, pest and diseases of crops. One of the advantages is that pest and diseases can be identified quickly and control measures determined and forwarded to the farmer concerned.

SAPA Plant Protection collaborates with PestNet in the promotion of Food Security in the Pacific region.

Small-farmers' Contribution to Food Security

The paper discusses the contribution of the small farmer sub-sector to ensure national food security in Pacific Island countries (PIC's) and outlines an innovative approach in support of small farmer livelihoods and national food security. The linkages between individual (household-) food security and national food security is described and an explanation of the way small farmers decision making is affected by national policies and development programmes and strategies, is given.

In the Pacific ACP countries, an average of 30% of the GDP is contributed by agriculture. Agriculture therefore, not surprisingly, accounts for 50% of the export revenues and over 60% of employment. The majority of farmers are small-scale, currently operating mixed farming systems (crops, livestock, trees, fishing and increasingly some off-farm employment). These farmers use little in the way of external inputs and market relatively little of the products they produce.

However, individual small farmers living and producing in traditional farming systems produce the bulk of the food in many of the PIC's. Their contribution to national economies and national food security is often underestimated. They have shown great resilience in the face of unstable market forces and a series of natural and manmade disasters.

With increasing commercialization of the agriculture sector and the growing pressure for generating foreign exchange through the export of agriculture products, new avenues and approaches in support of small farmers need to be explored. The improvement of traditional mixed farming systems operated by small farmers remains an important issue in many of the Pacific Island Countries. Future agriculture development programmes have also to include steps to address farmers' ability to access markets, access advisory services, increase their market power and appraise new opportunities, related risks and overall farm performance.

A Farmer-Centered Development approach is introduced which has been specifically developed for the Pacific Sub-region and reflects the socio-economic setting in the PICs. The approach focuses on improving farmer/community planning and decision making and helping communities to undertake self-help actions to improve farmer productivity, incomes and food security. It supports the shift to more intensified, diversified and market oriented agriculture in the Pacific Islands based on initiatives identified by farm communities and implemented through small grant schemes.

An important principle of the programme, which could be implemented at both national and regional level, is that special attention be given to working within the existing institutional structure and framework rather than creating an alternative and thus potentially unsustainable system. More work is required to elaborate on the details of such a programme and should only be undertaken jointly with national and regional stakeholders as well as possible donor agencies. However, based on experience, which reflects the importance of ownership and responsibility in creating a basis for sustainability, the programme would be led and co-ordinated by a host institution in each country, such as the Ministry of Agriculture.

Ensuring Food Security through Forestry

Forests and trees play an important role in the lives of the peoples of the region and have provided products such as timber, posts, thatch, food, fuel-wood, traditional and cultural medicines and other useful services such as erosion control and regulation of ground water. All these are crucial to the sustainable livelihoods of Pacific Island Communities. In all, the total value of forest and trees including biodiversity is immense.

With increasing population, the pressure for forest products and other forest and tree uses have also increased. These increases in demand often coupled with unsustainable forest and tree use and harvesting practices, have lead to serious depletion and degradation of forests and tree resources in the region. Forestry development in the region can be looked at in three categories: in large island countries such as PNG, Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, the forestry sector contributes significantly to the national economy; in the high island countries such as Cook Islands, Tonga, FSM, Niue, Nauru and Palau, role of forests in terms of employment opportunities and export earnings is not significant; and in atoll islands, the terrestrial ecosystems are relatively simple and fragile – there is limited forest resources.

Though the countries have progressed in forestry and tree planting, there are remaining challenges and issues that need to be addressed. A continuing issue is the need to develop and establish appropriate forest policies and legislation. This is needed to govern the use of the forests and trees on a sustainable basis. A trend, which is evident in most countries, is the increase in population and its effect on the natural resources. Because of the many competing uses for the services forests and trees provide, and considering the respective status of forests and trees in each country, there needs to be a closer look on what forests and trees can actually provide and what actions must be taken to maximize these benefits.

Often too much emphasis is placed on managing forests and trees for economic gains and less for other values. One such area which is often forgotten and not adequately considered in the Pacific region is strengthening the linkages between forestry and food security. With increasing population, evidence of malnutrition, and emerging signs of poverty in several of the PICs, re-visiting and strengthening this important role of forests and trees - to enhance food security – must be given top priority.

Forests are especially important in protecting the natural resource base upon which sustainable agriculture depends. The role of forests in protecting watersheds is perhaps more crucial than any other of its functions. In island countries water resources and their management is important for food and food production. Clearly forests and trees cannot replace agriculture as a food production system to any significant extent. However, the part played by forestry in food security must be kept in perspective, properly acknowledged and practiced. The fact is forest and trees have an important role in supporting food security. Governments, non-government organizations and communities must take appropriate actions to promote and support forest and tree activities which contributes to food security.

ANNEX F

List of SAPA Projects

TCP & Telefood

The Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific is responsible for co-ordinating many activities to be implemented for its member countries. To assist the member countries with the daily processing of such activities, two key personnel are responsible for the daily liaison, review, appraisal and processing of all proposals, through to the implementation stage.

Together with the responsible technical officer they would monitor and report on the overall implementation and effectiveness of the operation of the programmes and projects, including inter-regional or regional projects.

SAPA has processed a number of proposals for Telefood and TCP Projects for member countries in the period 2000-2001, and a total of 28 Telefood projects and 3 TCP projects were approved within the same period, and some are awaiting approval from FAO headquarters. Some projects have been put on hold due to member country personnel being absent or political unrest.

Below is a list of projects initiated/ongoing for 2000-2001

TCP PROJECTS

Fisheries

- TCP/TON/8923 (USD 135,000) - Assistance in Fisheries Legislation
- GCP/INT/575/DEN (USD 4.9 million) - Training in Fish Stock Assessment and Fishery Research Planning

Forestry

- TCP/VAN/8921 (USD 179,000) Assistance in Forestry Legislation
- GCP/RAS/134/AsDB (USD 4 million) Forestry Research Support Programme for Asia and the Pacific (Phase II)

Plant Protection and Quarantine

- TCP/FIJ/0065 (USD 45,000) - Survey of Honeybee Pests and Diseases
- TCP/FIJ/8921 (USD 120,000) - Integrated Control of the African Tulip Tree
- RAS/97/331 (USD 1.7 million) - FAO/SPC/AusAID/UNDP Regional Management of Fruit Flies in the Pacific

Agriculture

- TCP/CKI/0066 (USD 151,000) - Agriculture Census and Statistics
- TCP/CKI/8921 (USD 76,000) - Assistance in the Agriculture Strategic Plan Formulation in Support of Food Security
- TCP/SAM/8921 (USD 244,000) - Agricultural Census and Statistics
- SAM/98/002 (USD 703,000) - Fruit Tree Development
- SPFP/PNG/4501 (USD 744,730) - Special Programme on Food Production in Support of Food Security in Papua New Guinea
- TCP/PNG/8821 (USD 279,000) - Small Scale Irrigation Development

Emergency

- TCP/FIJ/8922 (USD 267,000) - Urgent Provision Agricultural Basic Inputs to Drought Affected Farmers
- OSRO/FIJ/901/FIN (USD45,000) - Strengthening of National Capacity for Emergency Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation in Agriculture
- TCP/TON/8922 (USD 89,000) - Urgent Provision of Agricultural Inputs to Small Scale Farmers Affected by Tropical Cyclone Cora

Farming System and Marketing

- TCP/SOI/8921 (USD 270,000) - Capacity Building for Farming Systems Development in Support of the Special Programme for Food Security
- TCP/VAN/6711 (USD 224,000) - Agricultural Marketing Improvement
- TCP/SOI/6711 (USD 167,000) - Assistance to prepare a food production and nutrition policy
- TCP/RAS/4452 (USD 288,000) - Farming Systems training for Sustainable Development in the South Pacific

Livestock

- TCP/CKI/9065 (USD 93,000) - Goat Industry Development Programme
- TCP/TON/8821 (USD 228,00) - Small Holder Forage based Dairy Production
- TCP/TON/6714 (USD 96,000) - Assistance in Dairy Processing (Phase II)
- GCP/SAM/007/FRA (USD 270,000) - Establishment of a Regional Reference Centre for Milk Processing and Marketing (Tonga/Samoa)

TELEFOOD PROJECTS

Cook Islands

- TFD-97/CKI/001 (USD 7,250) Establishment of Community Banana Block for Supply of Planting Materials for Women's Groups
- TFD-97/CKI/002 (USD 9,950) Establishment of a Meat and Daily Goat Parent Stock.
- TFD-97/CKI/005 (USD 6,400) Establishment of Rootcrop Nursery on an Atoll to Generate Propagation Planting Materials
- TFD-97/CKI/004 (USD 6,640) Beekeeping Demonstration and Food Substitution
- TFD-98/CKI/004 (1,666) - Fish Aggregating Device
- TFD-98/CKI/003(6,560) - Establishment of a Cassava processing Plant for the Vainetini of Puaikura to enhance Food Security and Household Income
- TFD-99/CKI/001 (USD 8,741) - Strengthening Manihiki's Food Security through the Establishment of a Community Nursery and Enhancement of the Atoll's Home Gardening Programme.

- TFD-99/CKI/002 (USD 6,370) - Establishment of a Food Crop Community Market for the Au Vaine (Women's Group) of Nikao Panama Village
- TFD-99/CKI/003 (USD 5,095) - Establishment of a Small Cassava/Starch Processing Plant for the Te Ivi o Kau Women's Group, Aitutaki
- TFD-99/CKI/004 (USD 5,095) - Establishment of Home Vegetable Gardens for the Vainetini Women Groups of the Island of Mangaia to Improve Nutrition, Pursuit of Food Security

Fiji

- TFD-97/FIJ/003 (USD 9,900) Vuo Village Women's Project Small Scale Commercial Piggery Farm
- TFD-99/FIJ/001 (USD10,000) Koroivonu Rural Water Utilisation Project
- TFD-99/FIJ/002 (USD 7,166) Mataqali Veiniumiu sheep project
- TFD-99/FIJ/003 (USD 7,224) Diriniu Horticultural project

KIRIBATI

- TFD-99/KIR/001 (USD 9,800) Establishment of root crop nurseries to generate planting materials to assist household food production on selected atoll islands.

Niue

- TFD-99/NIU/002 (USD 9,750) - Icing of Fishing products
- TFD-99/NIU/003 (USD 9,370) - The establishment of Taro Cleaning Centres

Papua New Guinea

- TFD-00/PNG/003 (USD 1820) - Commercial Poultry farming at Nainumu, Central Province
- TFD-99/PNG/002 (USD 1925) - Pilot Commercial farming
- TFD-99/PNG/003 (USD 1910) - Pilot Commercial Poultry farming
- TFD-99/PNG/004 (USD 3,765) - Women involvement in Nurseries and village livestock
- TFD-99/PNG/005 (USD 8,610) - Fruit tree seedling production and distribution at Eight-mile Port Moresby

Samoa

- TFD-97/SAM/001 (USD 8,900) - Small Scale Commercial Beekeeping
- TFD-97/SAM/004 (USD 9,105) - Lagoon Giant Clam Nursery Development in Fusi Safata Village
- TFD-97/SAM/003 (USD 6,250) - Fruit and Vegetable Gardening Aualuma a Sagone
- TFD-97/SAM/005 (USD 5,925) - Lagoon Giant Clam Nursery Development in Satoalepai Village
- TFD-98/SAM/001 (USD 8,900) - Small Scale Commercial Piggery for Faleasiu-uta Village.
- TFD-98/SAM/004 (USD 3,526) - Taro Fili Plantation Project for Tapueleele Village on Savaii
- TFD-99/SAM/001 (USD 10,000) - Pig Livestock Project for YMCA in Samoa
- TFD-99/SAM/002 (USD 7,015) - Chicken Livestock Project for YMCA in Samoa
- TFD-99/SAM/004 (USD 5,170) - Banana Development for Savaia Village
- TFD-99/SAM/005 (USD 9,300) - Small scale commercial piggery project for Vaitoomuli village.
- TFD-00/SAM/001 (USD 4,355) - Chicken Livestock project for Neiafu society
- TFD-00/SAM/002 (USD 4,802) - Mixed cropping development project for Fagalii-uta farmers
- TFD-00/SAM/003 (USD 3,800) - Multiplication of Taro project for Magiagi farmers group
- TFD-00/SAM/004 (USD 6,474) - Small scale commercial piggery for Saanapu village
- TFD-00/SAM/005 (USD 5,900) - Small scale commercial piggery for Samatau farmers group
- TFD-00/SAM/006 (USD 3,943) - Taro Fili project for Aleisa womens group

Solomon Islands

- TFD-97/SOI/005 (USD 5,300) - Kia Village Fishing Project-Santa Isabel

Tonga

- TFD-97/TON/015 (USD 7,500) - Improved Drying of Fish Facility
- TFD-97/TON/004 (USD 8,000) - Vegetable fruit for Holongo Village Women's Group
- TFD-97/TON/012 (USD 8,000) - Fruit and Vegetables Seedling Nursery Establishment - Pangau Communities
- TFD-97TON/013 (USD 7,490) - Fruit and Vegetable Gardening Tongatapu and Eua.
- TFD-99/TON/001 (USD 8,900) - Vai Ko Mokasia Ho'hata village small scale piggery
- TFD-99/TON/002 (USD 7,600) - Alonga group poultry project
- TFD-00/TON/001 (USD 9,500) - Small scale commercial piggery

Vanuatu

- TFD-97/VAN/001 (USD 9,500) - Yam and Banana Production for the Port Vila Markets
- TFD-99/VAN/001 (USD 9,500) - Onesua horticultural project

ANNEX G

Communiqué

Ministers from the South West Pacific region (Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu) and Representatives from Australia and Fiji met at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Port Vila, Vanuatu, from 23 - 24 July 2001. The purpose of the meeting was to examine and discuss a range of issues relating to food security in the Pacific region and give guidance on the further elaboration of a programme of work on issues identified at the Third Meeting in Tonga on 26-27 April 1999.

The meeting was opened by His Excellency, the Acting President of the Republic of Vanuatu, Honourable Donald Kalpokas. The Prime Minister of the Republic of Vanuatu, Right Honourable Edward N. Natapei was unanimously elected as Chairperson.

Ministers welcomed the information provided by the Director-General of FAO, Dr Jacques Diouf, on the preparation for the World Food Summit: *five years later* (WFS:*fyl*), to be held in Rome from 5 to 9 November 2001. They reaffirmed the commitments made at the WFS and highlighted the importance of Pacific leaders personally attending the WFS:*fyl*. Ministers supported the Director-General's call for mobilising adequate resources, which may include voluntary contributions to serve as a catalyst for enhancing food production and improving access to food.

Ministers welcomed the opportunity to provide comments on the draft text for the WFS:*fyl* resolution which was distributed and is being coordinated for the South West Pacific sub-region by Australia in its role as the South West Pacific representative to the FAO Council. Ministers agreed to forward comments to Australia by the end of October 2001.

Ministers reviewed activities related to the 1999 Communiqué and noted progress achieved in several areas by the FAO Sub-regional Office for the Pacific Islands. They recognised the importance of efforts made by FAO to increase regional cooperation for the benefit of member countries and to work with CROP agencies (Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific) and other organisations to minimise duplication and optimise the sustainable use of countries' limited resources.

Ministers noted that the priorities and activities under discussion would be instrumental for and consistent with the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action and acknowledged the role of women in pursuing these objectives. Ministers identified opportunities where increased cooperation was likely to produce mutual benefits. These included:

Agriculture Policy Five Years after WFS

Ministers reaffirmed the importance of a well-defined, coherent and achievable agriculture policy contributing to the long-term prosperity and growth of the Pacific Island economies.

Ministers, while recognising the complexity of land tenure issues in the region, agreed to consider the development of policies that advance the establishment of well defined and secure property rights, which recognise customary ownership and use. They further agreed that approaches to resolving land issues should be tailored to suit each country in recognition of the diversity and different histories of PICs

(Pacific Island Countries). Ministers considered it essential that governments invest time and effort in working together with communities to develop sustainable land policy options that are appropriate to customary land ownership and use.

Ministers recognised that food security issues need a holistic approach across sectors such as agriculture, land, health, education, fisheries and forestry, and cooperation with the private sector, churches, NGOs, customary groups and other partners.

Ministers noted the efforts within the region to deal with the complex issues linked with trade liberalisation and trade promotion and welcomed the enhanced understanding of the implications of the WTO agreements. Ministers:

- Endorsed the importance of adapting national policies to align with the evolving trade environment and the need to further develop national capacity building in this area.
- Noted that some members are considering their goal of WTO membership and called for further assistance to member countries to evaluate the costs and benefits of joining the WTO.

Responsible Fisheries and Food Security

Ministers recognised the importance of sound management and sustainable use of fisheries resources and the need for concerted attention to conservation of fisheries resources. Ministers:

- Stressed the need to strengthen international collaboration in the Preparatory Conference of the Convention of the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific (WCPT Convention).
- Agreed that members should continue to implement the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and for this purpose called on FAO for assistance.
- Welcomed the commencement of the 5-year regional project on fisheries statistics. They urged FAO to continue to coordinate its efforts with that of the Fisheries Programme of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and other agencies, which supports PICs in their efforts to strengthen national capacity of statistics on coastal and subsistence fishery and aquaculture.
- Agreed that members need technical assistance in the setting up of appropriate authorising bodies and quality assurance, inspection and certification systems to facilitate trade on fishery products.
- Supported further development of aquaculture of economically important species.
- Noted the suggestion to carry out a study on the effects of globalisation on fisheries in the region.

Food and Nutrition Challenges

Ministers recognised the importance of ensuring access by all people at all times to adequate quantity of safe and nutritious foods and expressed their concerns for the growing rates of consumption of highly processed foods. While acknowledging that diseases of over nutrition such as diabetes are a growing problem in the Pacific, Ministers also acknowledged the importance of addressing the small pockets of protein/energy under-nutrition in the Pacific.

Ministers agreed that food control systems should be strengthened through the development of appropriate legislation and the reinforcement of food inspection systems to ensure that all foods (imported, exported and locally produced) meet internationally accepted standards.

Ministers recognised that the food industry in the Pacific could contribute to national food security by developing efficient food production systems, increasing food choice and improving nutritional status. They acknowledged the contribution of the food industry to people's livelihoods and the economy.

Ministers recognised the value of applying good hygienic and good manufacturing practices and introducing the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) approach to improve food safety and quality. Ministers emphasised the need to train personnel to assist countries in meeting international safety and quality requirements. More specifically, Ministers:

- Acknowledged the role of Codex Alimentarius and the National Codex Committees.
- Emphasised the need to strengthen coordination of various ministries, the private sector and consumers in ensuring food safety and quality.
- Stressed the importance of consistent availability of affordable local food.

Small-Farmers' Contributions to National Food Security

Ministers recognised the important contribution of the small farmer sub-sector to national economies, employment in rural areas and national food security in PICs. More specifically, Ministers:

- Recognised the importance of continued support to small farmers in the form of a Farmer-Centred Development approach, based on the modification of traditional farming systems.
- Appreciated the potential positive impact of such an approach on attracting youth to the agriculture sector, the role of women in agricultural development, prevention of urban drift by income and employment generation in rural areas.
- Recognised the need for fair distribution of resources amongst rural communities leading to poverty alleviation.
- Recognised that addressing needs of communities in rural areas can contribute to social cohesiveness and stability.
- Encouraged FAO to actively collaborate with other organisations and stakeholders in further refinement of a Farmer-Centred Development approach and to seek donor assistance for its implementation in the Pacific region.

Plant Protection and Food Security

Ministers endorsed the value of establishing and maintaining sound quarantine and bio-security systems in order to protect domestic food production and facilitate trade. Ministers agreed that FAO and other organisations should continue to strengthen their coordinated approach to plant protection in the Pacific.

Recognising that PICs do not have the capacity to meet all their technical needs, Ministers endorsed the value of coordinated regional information services such as Pacific PestNet.

In the desire to minimise the negative effects of agricultural chemicals and their residues on human health and the environment, Ministers:

- Noted with concern the high rate of increase in herbicide use.
- Suggested that PICs should consider introducing systems to monitor pesticide and in particular herbicide use and its impact on food safety, water quality and soil quality.
- Endorsed the use of alternatives to chemicals such as Integrated Pest Management.
- Expressed interest in exploring options for developing organic industry as niche opportunity for PICs while recognising the need to consider the establishment of appropriate institutional systems.
- Emphasised the need for ongoing research into viable plant protection measures in PICs.

Enhancing Food Security Through Forestry

Ministers highlighted the need for conservation and sustainable development of forests and hence the need for strong political commitment to the development of legislation, policies and national forestry management plans. They emphasised the need for FAO to work closely with other organisations as part of the UNFF (United Nations Forum on Forests) process in assisting countries to implement the Intergovernmental Panel on Forest and Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IPF / IFF) proposals for action.

Ministers recognised the potential of coconut wood as a valuable resource and encouraged FAO to continue investigating opportunities for use of coconut timber.

More specifically, Ministers agreed that PICs should:

- Include food security needs in forest management plans and objectives, particularly for those communities that rely largely on forest and tree products to supplement their diet.
- Encourage agro-forestry systems in order to help protect the environment and provide income.
- Support small-scale forest based enterprises by encouraging adequate financing facilities, the sustainable supply of input materials and the development and use of appropriate technology.
- Set new policy frameworks to promote tree planting, forest regeneration and sustainable management of forest resources.

Ministers decided that the name of this meeting be revised to better reflect the geographic distribution of Member countries.

Ministers agreed that the Fourth Meeting has been constructive and useful. Ministers agreed that the next meeting would be convened and held in Fiji during 2003.

Honourable Edward N. Natapei (Vanuatu)

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HRH Prince ‘Ulukalala Lavaka Ata (Tonga)

Honourable Young Vivian (Niue)

Honourable Emile Schutz (Kiribati)

Honourable John Silk (Marshall Islands)

Honourable Tuisugaletaua Sofara Aveau (Samoa)

Honourable Moon Pin Kwan (Solomon Islands)

Honourable Matt Robson (New Zealand)

His Excellency Perry Head (Australia)

Mr. Samisoni Ulitu (Fiji)

[Original signed in Port Vila, Vanuatu on 24 July 2001]

ANNEX H

List of Documents

Information Papers

Agriculture and Food Security Policy in the Pacific: five years after the WFS, A. Sisifa, Consultant to FAO, Policy Assistance, FAO SAPA, Apia, Samoa

Responsible Fisheries and Food Security, M. Izumi, Fishery Officer, FAO SAPA, Apia, Samoa

Food and Nutrition Challenges, A. Bruno, Food and Nutrition Officer, FAO SAPA, Apia, Samoa

Plant Protection and Biosecurity in Food Security, Dr Matairangi Porea, Plant Protection Officer, FAO SAPA, Apia, Samoa

Small-farmers' Contributions to Food Security, H. Bammann, Farming Systems Development and Marketing Officer, FAO SAPA, Apia, Samoa

Enhancing Food Security through Forestry, A. Mathias, Forestry Officer, FAO SAPA, Apia, Samoa

Land Tenure, Land Utilisation and Agricultural Issues in the Pacific, Boydell, S. (2001), FAO

Other Documents

Guide to International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) FAO

Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade FAO

The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2000 (FAO).

The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 1998 (FAO).

Fisheries and Aquaculture in the South Pacific: Situation and Outlook in 1996 (FAO).

Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries – English version (FAO).

Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries – French version (FAO).

FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries – 1. Fishing Operations.

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