



Solomon Islands



Pacific Community
Communauté du Pacifique

PACIFIC COMMUNITY, LAND RESOURCES DIVISION IN THE PACIFIC Overview of Current and Future Support



LRD
Land Resources Division

POPULATION (2020)
712,071

POPULATION GROWTH (2020)
+2.24%

GDP PER CAPITA (USD) 2020
2,295

Solomon Islands - LRD Cooperation Summaries



OBJECTIVE 1: Land, agriculture, forestry and genetic resources are sustainably managed/conserved

- The GRIN-Global genebank information system was installed to trial its compatibility with CePaCT's documentation systems. The new system will have a website where users can access information on crops that are available from the CePaCT genebank.
- At end of December 2020, a total of 2,241 accessions of 18 crops were conserved at CePaCT. A total of 67% of the accessions originated from the Pacific, representing diversity from 16 Pacific Island Countries and territories, including Solomon Islands with a total of 137 accessions of 3 crops (Banana, sweet potato, taro).
- In 2020, a total of 94 accessions (2301 plant samples) of banana, breadfruit, cassava, giant swamp taro, sweet potato and taro sourced from CePaCT collections were distributed to four countries, including Solomon Islands, and this led to increasing the use of nutritious and resilient crop varieties.
- Two regional workshops were held by PROTEGE (coconut and forests/agroforestry). These workshops made it possible to develop 2 regional action plans (one for the coconut sector and one for forestry and agroforestry).
- A Pacific Guarantee System (PGS) for SolAgro – Solomon Islands was approved in April 2021.



OBJECTIVE 2: Enhanced ability to meet local and international market requirements for agricultural and forest products

- COVID-19 delayed work on the diversification of livelihoods and value chains. However, the work is expected to be on track as the situation normalises. The gender and value-chain assessment toolkit is being developed.
- The gender and value-chain assessment training module for agricultural products is being developed. A financial training module, the Participatory Guarantee System and the Pacific Organic Standard are being revised.
- The LRD team is currently engaging a video production company to film biosecurity training videos on biosecurity operating procedures for pre-border, border and post-border risk assessments.

- Ongoing technical advice and support is being provided remotely to farmers on request. Organic farming practices were promoted through weekly posts and the POETCom (Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community) Quarter 3 newsletter, as well as through POETCom's website and social media platforms.
- A workshop on the regional International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and is scheduled from 31 August – 3 September 2021.



OBJECTIVE 3: Access to diverse and nutritious agriculture and forestry resources resilient to impact of climate change and disasters

- An assessment of the seed production programme in Sigatoka and Legalega Research Station, Fiji, with targeted support collated to strengthen the seed unit can also benefit the whole region, including Solomon Islands.
- LRD has developed models for crop variety development and seed production, dissemination of seeds and planting material, and Quality Declared Seeds/Quality Declared Planting Materials for sustainable seed systems in the Pacific that benefitted Solomon Islands.
- An economic analysis of growing capsicum and tomato in the off season under a protected cropping system showed higher returns compared with field growing. The results provide an important decision tool for governments and farmers. Economic analysis of protected cropping is being incorporated in a new manual currently being finalised.
- The design of the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) database was finalised. The database is now operational, with Solomon Islands entering data using the KoBo Toolbox. KoBo Toolbox technology was instrumental in obtaining data from the Solomon Islands CRB clean-up campaign two years after the inception of the project.
- CRB lures and fall armyworm traps/lures were distributed to Solomon Islands and ongoing technical support was provided for the Solomon Islands CRB clean-up campaign, along with support for community engagement.
- The coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) training manual was finalised and published to guide regional efforts in combating CRB.
- The Plant Health Team, in partnership with country plant doctors, collated and analysed plant health clinic (PHC) data and results collected via WhatsApp in Solomon Islands.

PHC results are compiled to support mapping of pests and disease trends and distributions in selected localities and data will be incorporated in the pest database.

- A Plant Health Clinic manual was finalised and published in 2020. This manual is used to support extension services in pest and disease surveillance and diagnostics at the farmer field level.
- Technical support for plant health diagnoses was provided to the Solomon Islands by the Plant Health Clinic (PHC). Approximately 166 diagnoses were made for the Solomon Islands from the 8 clinics held since 2019.
- A PHC refresher training was conducted for extension officers in the Solomon Islands in 2020.
- SPC's team of plant health scientists work in partnership with the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), University of Queensland, and Ministry of Agriculture in the Solomon Islands. At plant health clinics held in the Solomon Islands, SPC experts have been able to use laboratory diagnosis of collected samples to provide farmers with information on proper pesticide use and integrated crop management practices.
- A draft protected cropping field manual is being developed in collaboration with Fiji's Ministry of Agriculture. The manual will provide a tool that governments and farmers can use to support scale-up of protected cropping systems.



OBJECTIVE 4: Regional and national policies, programmes and services in agriculture and forestry are gender responsive, socially inclusive, and promote and protect cultural heritage and human rights.

- The Genebank Policy under development will benefit the region, including Solomon Islands, and is expected to be further developed in the fourth quarter of the year.

- The regional seed systems roadmap is currently being reviewed and edited for the implementation by the Pacific Seeds for Life programme. This benefits the region, including Solomon Islands.
- Under the PHAMA plus project, the Animal Health and Production (AHP) framework has been drafted and currently under review and this will benefit the region, including Solomon Islands.



OBJECTIVE 5: Integrated farming systems and services strengthened

- The soil sampling protocol is now being prepared for printing as a field booklet for distribution.
- The USP-SAFT (School of Agriculture Food and Technology) is currently developing soil correlation studies.
- Soil Dr Programme guidelines that will provide an outline of how to address capacity building needs in soil management will be completed in June.
- Building capacity in Pests and Disease description such as diagnoses of insects, fungus, bacteria and unknown substances, as well as management for national Plant Health Clinic champions, is on-going through the Centre of Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI).
- LRD successfully facilitated the level 3 certification of the Plant Health Lab in coordination with the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji and the National Fire Authority of Fiji.
- An online training on pest diagnosis and management was conducted for four project countries that will benefit the region, including Solomon Islands.

LRD Priorities for Partnership with Solomon Islands

SOLOMON ISLANDS AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK SECTOR POLICY PRIORITY OUTCOMES	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL	LRD PRIORITIES
PRIORITY OUTCOME 1: Poverty Alleviation, enhanced food security and rural livelihood		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable management of forests and landscapes to provide for our future • Restoration of our ecosystems to safeguard our children through sustainable practices and systems
PRIORITY OUTCOME 2: Sustainable management of natural resources and the environment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to collaborate on cross cutting regional problems (Climate change, food systems, pests and disease incursions) • Convening power and ability that improves country visibility • Expert technical knowledge built over time in atoll agriculture, genetic resources, forestry and land use management and policies, bio security and value chain work
PRIORITY OUTCOME 3: Farm sector readjustment and restructuring.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access and linkages to international networks that support Pacific development
PRIORITY OUTCOME 4: Investment in agricultural research and development		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellence in agriculture and forestry research and development in the Pacific • Ability to mobile technical resources • Pacific Innovation Hub for agriculture and forestry
PRIORITY OUTCOME 5: Food safety and quality improvement		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of the regional environment and contexts which helps in developing Pacific solutions for Pacific problems
PRIORITY OUTCOME 6: Reduced dependency of food imports and increased agricultural exports		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International biosecurity laboratories for conservation and distribution of genetic resources and insects • Conservation and distribution of genetic resources

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FOR ENQUIRIES

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