

EIGHTH REGIONAL MEETING OF
PACIFIC HEADS OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY SERVICES (PHOAFS)
(Nadi, Fiji, 09 March 2023)

REPORT FROM PREVIOUS PHOAFS

Paper reference	Session 2 Agenda Item 2.1
Title	Report on actions from PHOAFS 2021 (virtual)
Action	For decision/endorsement

Purpose

1. This paper provides an update on actions progressed by SPC and FAO on the key decision papers of 2021 and informs the distinguished members of our collective response.

Background

2. Due the COVID 19 pandemic in 2021 resulting in international borders closures the 7th Heads of Agriculture and Forestry services meeting was convened virtually from 25-26 August 2021, chaired by the Fiji Ministry of Agriculture. In this meeting the previous host Government of Samoa, handed the role of chair to Fiji. The meeting focused on strengthening regional collaboration and enhancing partnerships to build robust and sustainable agriculture and forestry systems.
3. The meeting endorsed six Decision papers:
 - 1) *Elevating the Pacific week of Agriculture and Forestry (PWAF).*
 - 2) *Pacific regional architecture*
 - 3) *Regional Agriculture and Forestry strategy*
 - 4) *Regional Research Agenda*
 - 5) *Pacific Heads of Veterinary and Animal Production Services Regional Priority Framework and the governance structure.*
 - 6) *Pacific Soils Portal*

Actions on decisions

Elevating the Pacific week of Agriculture and Forestry (PWAF).

4. Endorsed the *proposed structure and components of the Pacific week of Agriculture and Forestry (PWAF). Meeting endorsed SPC and FAO to align the current PWAF to the proposed structure and program.*

5. Due to the delays in planning and the deferral of hosting dates by the Host Country, the PWAF Steering Committee was unable to fully align the proposed structure to the agreed timelines. Nevertheless, the week will still have the key elements of the program.
6. The roles and responsibilities of the Host Country, SPC and FAO have been further clarified. This was necessary to (i) address any ambiguities during the planning process and (ii) give some guidance to future host countries of the logistical and the financial arrangements required for hosting the PWAF. Refer to **Annex 5.4.1 PWAF Host Roles and Responsibilities** general guidelines intended to assist the planning process of the Pacific Week of Agriculture and Forestry Host Country.

Pacific Regional Architecture

7. Endorsed the proposed regional architecture for coordination and recommended it for formal adoption at the next Pacific Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry Meeting (PMAFM) and for FAO and SPC to commence aligning preparation for the 2022 PHOAFS and the 2022 PMAFM to the proposed architecture.
8. FAO, SPC and the Host Country have aligned where possible the planning of the 2023 PWAF to the endorsed regional coordination architecture. Following the 2023 PWAF, an evaluation process will be undertaken to identify success factors and points for improvement.

Regional Agriculture and Forestry strategy

9. Endorsed the developed of a Pacific Regional Agriculture and Forestry Strategy. SPC and FAO were requested to design the process utilising strategic foresight methodology for the development of a Pacific Agriculture and Forestry Strategy for presentation and approval in this year's PMAF meeting and mobilise resources for a comprehensive and participatory process to develop the strategy once approved.
10. Strategic fore sighting is used widely in the region but is still a new concept to members hence SPC, and FAO held a webinar on 26th of October 2022 which was attended by some Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Service and their delegates. This webinar was an experiential awareness raising for the members on some of the tools and the methodology used in strategic fore sighting. Refer to **Session 2 Agenda Item 2.2 Pacific Agriculture and Forestry Services strategy Development**

Regional Research Agenda

Endorsed the development of a Regional Research Agenda (RRA) for agriculture and forestry in the Pacific.

11. SPC was requested to coordinate with members to mobilize resources and engage a participatory process to develop the concept of an RRA. With funding from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, SPC worked with members, research institutes, international development partners, universities, farmer organisations and private sector partners to develop a concept of the RRA. Working Paper 2.3 outlining a proposed model for regional research collaboration in agriculture and forestry services research will be presented for discussion and decision in **Session 2 Agenda Item 2.3 – Developing a concept of the Research Agenda.**

Pacific Heads of Veterinary and Animal Production Services Regional Priority Framework and the governance structure.

12. Endorsed the Pacific Heads of Veterinary and Animal Production Services (PHOVAPS) Regional Priority Framework and the PHOVAPS Governance Structure.
13. Following the endorsements of the PHOVAPS charter and Pacific Animal Health Production Framework and the PHOVAPS network in 2022, the Council appointed Samoa as the Chair and Fiji Vice Chair for a period of two years (2022-2024).
14. PHOVAPS met virtually during 2021 and 2022 to discuss country priorities. In July 2022, a meeting of technical organisations and development partners was held to assess the animal health capacity in the region and to identify gaps and formulate a way forward to addressing these gaps. SPC collaborated with key international development partners, PHOVAPS and the members and developed a Pacific animal health and capacity building Plan (PAHCBP) aimed to help improve animal health and production services capabilities in the region. **Refer to Session 4 Agenda Item 4.2 - Pacific Heads of Veterinary and Animal Production Services (PHOVAPS)**

Pacific Soils Portal

15. Endorsed the Pacific Soils Portal Governance Structure and the Guidelines for data sharing.
16. Improving governance and collaboration on soil management, research and capacity building and access to reliable soil and analytic data and information across the region remains a vital priority. SPC and key partners are reviewing arrangements to reinvigorate a coordinated governance structure for soils. **Refer to Session 3 Agenda Item 3.2 Enhancing partnerships on soils to support resilient food systems in the Pacific**

Recommendation:

17. The PHOAFS are invited to note/endorse SPC and FAO's response to the 2021 PHOAFS recommendations.

