



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique

THIRD PACIFIC MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY MEETING (MOAF)

OUTCOME STATEMENT

10 MARCH 2023, NADI, FIJI

THIRD PACIFIC MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY MEETING

Nadi, Fiji
10 March 2023

OUTCOME STATEMENT



1. The Third Pacific Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry (PMAF) meeting convened in Nadi, Fiji on 10 March 2023 at the Sofitel Resort Conference Centre. The Ministers adopted an Outcomes Statement, attached as Annex 1.
2. The meeting was attended by the Vice President of Wallis and Futuna, and Ministers from Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu, and Heads of Delegation from American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Guam, Nauru, Tokelau and the United States of America.
3. Representatives from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), Australia National University (ANU), Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet), Crop Trust, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), European Union (EU), Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research, NZ Institute for Plant and Food Research Ltd, Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access Plus (PHAMA Plus), Pacific Island Farmers Organisation Network (PIFON), Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POETCom), Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa (SROS), University of Technology Sydney (UTS), University of the South Pacific (USP), World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO), Pacific Island Association of Non-Government Organisations (PIANGO), Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), and International Trade Centre (ITC) attended as Observers. The Participants List is attached as Annex 2.

4. The PMAF meeting was the culmination of the 3rd Pacific Week of Agriculture on the theme 'Growing Together – Transforming Pacific Agriculture and Forestry'. This included three days of Side Events, an exhibition of Pacific trade products and services, and the 8th Pacific Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services (PHOAFS) meeting. The meetings and activities were hosted by the Government of Fiji, and co-organised by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Pacific Community (SPC).

OFFICIAL OPENING

5. The PMAF meeting opened with a prayer by Rev. Manoa Iranacola, followed by a traditional welcoming ceremony. As Guest of Honour on behalf of Pacific Ministers, the Vice-President of Wallis and Futuna thanked the hosts for the traditional Fijian welcome.

6. In the opening address, Hon. Kalaveti Ravu, Minister of Fisheries and Forestry, Fiji, said global food systems are failing to deliver sufficient and nutritious food to all while putting immense pressure on resources and the environment. Agriculture and forestry are essential to solving these challenges. The Pacific has the highest rate of non-communicable diseases in the world and NCDs are a leading cause of death in Fiji. In addition, COVID-19 and its quarantine measures highlighted the weaknesses across the food system, with tremendous pressure on employment, food security, and nutrition, particularly for the most vulnerable. Transforming the agriculture and forestry sectors must ensure that food security and the diversity of agri-food systems are reflected in all activities. Any actions must add to building resilience and be sustainable. The Pacific region should explore how innovations help to achieve Sustainable Development Goals and engage women, youth and vulnerable groups. Agriculture plays a pivotal role in the region in ensuring food and nutrition security.

7. The FAO Deputy Director-General, Mr Laurent Thomas, said under the leadership of Dr Qu Dongyu, FAO Director General, FAO has been implementing its Strategic Framework 2022-2031. This is built on a transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life, leaving no one behind. FAO's new Multi-Country Programming Framework for the Pacific Islands (Pacific CPF) 2023-2027, defines this vision for the region.

8. FAO is mobilising its expertise in areas such as agrifood systems transformation, food security, nutrition, blue economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation, or disaster risk reduction and resilience to support UN action in Pacific SIDS. The transformation of agrifood systems holds the key to maximising opportunities and addressing the challenges that the region is facing. Pacific Agrifood systems have the potential to become more resilient and deliver lower cost nutritious foods and affordable healthy diets for all.

9. The SPC Director General, Dr Stuart Minchin, said transforming agriculture and forestry through science and technology, including traditional knowledge, is vitally important to foster innovative solutions. Support for development of a circular green economy will help respond to ever-increasing challenges in the region resulting from climate change, disasters, and unsustainable use of natural resources. The Food Systems Flagship links to other cutting-edge initiatives across SPC, including the Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science (PCCOS), the

Pacific Data Hub, and Pacific Centre for Crops and Trees (CePaCT). All these are key regional public goods and centres of expertise.

10. The convergence of crises – the COVID pandemic and recovery efforts, climate change and natural disasters, non-communicable diseases, and high cost of food – continued to confront the region. However, the deliberations and partnerships during the week provided a renewed position to reflect on where to make the biggest difference and, most importantly, to mobilise calls for action to address the complexities of food systems.

Handover of Chair

11. The Outgoing Chair of the PMAF, Hon. Laauli Leauatea Polataivao Fosi, Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, Samoa, thanked members for their support during his tenure, and thanked the host, Fiji, for their excellent arrangements for the 3rd PMAF meeting. The Incoming Chair, Hon. Vatimi Rayalu, Minister for Agriculture, Fiji, thanked Samoa for their role as Chair and for progressing the agenda since the last meeting. Fiji said it would be using different approach, involving two Ministers acting as co-Chair. The meeting was called to order.

12. On a motion by New Zealand, seconded by Samoa, the meeting adopted the Agenda. A Drafting Committee was established comprising Samoa, Australia, Marshall Islands and New Zealand, supported by FAO and SPC.

OFFICIAL SESSIONS

Chair: Hon. Kalaveti Ravu, Minister for Fisheries and Forestry

Climate Information for Pacific food systems planning

13. Fiji presented the concept of developing a climate adaptation tool to support agriculture and forestry decision-making, planning and investment in Pacific countries under future climate scenarios. The concept was facilitated by SPC with technical support from Australia. The tool is to be co-developed with SPC, FAO and SPREP and, as endorsed by the PHOAFS, it will be housed in the Pacific Data Hub, and managed by SPC. Ministers emphasised the importance of the development of the tool recognising nations' data sovereignty, and conveyed their expectation that this would be a key consideration in establishing the tool. Ministers asked for the inclusion of country level data and support for data compilation in countries where data is not available.

14. The Ministers agreed to:

- a) **endorse** the concept note for developing a climate adaption tool to support Pacific food systems planning.
- b) **request** SPC, SPREP, FAO and the RIFA team continue to co-develop the dashboard or interactive visualisation tool with a small group of countries as proof of concept.
- c) **request** development partners to support the development of the tools proof of concept.
- d) **request** SPC, SPREP, FAO and RIFA team to engage a participatory development approach with member countries to build the evidence base for impacts of climate change and the potential climate change adaption options.

15. Samoa wanted to see a stronger link with member countries, while New Zealand raised the issue of data sovereignty and whether information from a country is retained in-country, and where the data will reside. Guam asked how a country which might be data-poor could join. The presenter clarified that the idea is to develop a formal process to gain information from websites and countries, and that the process will respect data sovereignty. Data will be housed in the Pacific Data Hub, not as primary information, but as information modified to suit agriculture risk and farmer assistance. The plan is not to host or create a dashboard to mirror data, but to seek permission from sites to use the data. As data is variable in countries, it will be necessary to develop a formal participatory process to get expert opinion for quantitative and qualitative data.

Informing and catalysing national food systems transformation in Pacific Island Countries

Tilafono David Hunter, CEO MAFF Samoa, presented on behalf of FAO

16. This session considered evidence-based considerations and recommendations that Pacific Ministers can consider for contributing to informing and catalysing Pacific Island Countries and Territories' (PICTs) efforts to develop and implement national food systems transformation Pathways.

17. Ministers agreed to **endorse**:

- a) Creation of a regional technical coordination committee or hub to inform and catalyse the food systems transformation agendas in PICTs. Ministers were encouraged to name and empower a technical agency to explore questions and report back to Ministers within half a year. FAO and or SPC would be ideal.
- b) If agreed, TOR for the committee/hub will need to be developed.
- c) PICTs would need to recommend to prioritise the work of the committee/hub with long-term commitments to ensure its relevance.

18. Cooks Islands said it is working with FAO to develop a food systems transformation pathway, while Palau noted how this initiative will benefit the region. Samoa would like to see avenues for countries to join the committee, rather than the committee developing ideas on their own. FAO said these points will be considered when Terms of Reference are drawn up, as well as through consultations with partners and intended beneficiaries.

Strengthening coordination of agriculture and forestry in the Pacific – proposal for revising the architecture for coordination

Dr. Vinesh Kumar, Permanent Secretary - Ministry of Agriculture, Fiji

19. The Pacific Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services (PHOAFS) and Pacific Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry Meeting (PMAF) have called for greater coordination of the work programmes of FAO and SPC and of the meetings of the PHOAFS and PMAF. The revised architecture provides pathways for feeding agriculture and forestry priorities through to the governing bodies of the region and the various partners.

20. Ministers agreed to:

- a) **endorse** the proposed architecture, and

- b) that effectiveness of the meeting arrangements is reviewed and reported to the next PMAF meeting.

21. Samoa and Palau noted the need for coordination to avoid duplication of effort by technical agencies in, for example, forest restoration. It was clarified that this work is based on the outcome of a previous meeting where a working group was set up to review and report back. Palau said when SPC and FAO prepare Terms of Reference, they should consider it in the context of this architecture.

Report from the Regional Meeting of the Pacific Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Meeting
Dr. Vinesh Kumar, Permanent Secretary - Ministry of Agriculture, Fiji

22. Ministers agreed to **note** and support the report of the PHOAFS.

COUNTRY STATEMENTS

Chair: Hon. Vatimi Rayalu, Minister for Agriculture, Fiji

Ministers and Heads of Delegation presented Country Statements. A summary is attached as Annex 3, with full versions available from SPC and FAO.

VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING

23. The meeting welcomed the invitation from the Government of Tonga to host the 4th Pacific Week of Agriculture and Pacific Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry in 2025. Tonga noted that the 4th PWA would also be an opportunity to share lessons learned in rebuilding and resilience, following recent natural disasters including a volcano eruption and tsunami.

CLOSE

24. The meeting thanked the Government of Fiji, as host, for the traditional welcome, the hospitality extended to all participants, and the excellent meeting arrangements. In closing, the Chair thanked Ministers and Heads of Delegation for their contributions in helping to make the meeting a success.

THIRD PACIFIC MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY MEETING

Nadi, Fiji

10 March 2023

Outcome Statement

1. The Third Pacific Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry Meeting convened in Nadi, Fiji at the Sofitel Resort Conference Centre on 10 March 2023. The Ministerial meeting was the culmination of the Pacific Week of Agriculture and Forestry. The theme of the Pacific Week of Agriculture and Forestry (PWAF) was 'Growing Together – Transforming Pacific Agriculture and Forestry'.
2. The meeting was attended by the Vice President of Wallis and Futuna, and Ministers from Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu, and Heads of Delegation from American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Guam, Nauru, Tokelau and the United States of America.
3. Representatives from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), Australia National University (ANU), Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet), Crop Trust, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), European Union (EU), Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research, NZ Institute for Plant and Food Research Ltd, Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access Plus (PHAMA Plus), Pacific Island Farmers Organisation Network (PIFON), Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POETCom), Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa (SROS), University of Technology Sydney (UTS), University of the South Pacific (USP), World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO), Pacific Island Association of Non-Government Organisations (PIANGO), Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), and International Trade Centre (ITC) attended as Observers. [The meeting was hosted by the Government of Fiji, and co-organised by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Pacific Community (SPC).
4. In his opening address, Hon. Kalaveti Ravu, Minister of Fisheries and Forestry, Fiji, said global food systems are failing to deliver sufficient and nutritious food to all, and are putting pressure on resources and the environment. Agriculture and forestry are essential to solving these challenges. Transforming the agriculture and forestry sectors must ensure that food security and the diversity of agri-food systems are reflected in all activities. Any actions must add to building resilience and be sustainable. Innovations, technologies and digitalisation will help to achieve Sustainable Development Goals and engage women, youth and vulnerable groups.
5. The SPC Director General, Dr Stuart Minchin, and FAO Deputy Director-General, Laurent Thomas, delivered opening remarks.

6. FAO said under the leadership of Dr. Qu Dongyu, FAO Director General, FAO has been implementing its Strategic Framework 2022-2031 which is built on a transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life, leaving no one behind. FAO's new Multi-Country Programming Framework for the Pacific Islands (Pacific CPF) 2023-2027, defines this vision for the region.

7. SPC said transforming agriculture and forestry through science and technology, including traditional knowledge, is vitally important to foster innovative solutions. Support for development of a circular green economy will help respond to ever-increasing challenges in the region resulting from climate change, disasters, and unsustainable use of natural resources. The Food Systems Flagship links to other initiatives including the Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science (PCCOS), the Pacific Data Hub, and Pacific Centre for Crops and Trees (CePaCT). All these are key regional public goods and centres of expertise.

8. The meeting was co-Chaired by Fiji's Minister for Agriculture, Hon. Vatimi Rayalu, and Hon. Kalaveti Ravu, Minister for Fisheries and Forestry. The Outgoing Chair, Hon. Laaulialemalietoa Leuatea Polataivao Fosi Schmidt, Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, Samoa, thanked members and partners for the excellent support extended during his term.

9. The meeting adopted the agenda. The Ministers established a drafting committee comprising Australia, Marshall Islands, New Zealand and Samoa, supported by FAO and SPC.

Climate Information for Pacific Food Systems planning - Fiji

10. Fiji presented the concept of developing a climate adaptation tool to support agriculture and forestry decision-making, planning and investment in Pacific countries under future climate scenarios. The co-development of the concept was facilitated by SPC with technical support from Australia. The tool is to be co-developed with SPC, FAO and SPREP and as endorsed by the PHOAFS, it will be housed in the Pacific Data Hub, and managed by SPC.

11. Ministers emphasised the importance of the development of the tool recognising nations' data sovereignty, and conveyed their expectation that this would be a key consideration in establishing the tool. Ministers asked for the inclusion of country level data and support for data compilation in countries where data is not available.

12. The Ministers agreed to:

- a) **endorse** the concept note for developing a climate adaption tool to support Pacific food systems planning.
- b) **request** SPC, SPREP, FAO and the RIFA team continue to co-develop the dashboard or interactive visualisation tool with a small group of countries as proof of concept.
- c) **request** development partners to support the development of the tools proof of concept.
- d) **request** SPC, SPREP, FAO and RIFA team to engage a participatory development approach with member countries to build the evidence base for impacts of climate change and the potential climate change adaption options.

Informing and catalysing national Food Systems transformation in Pacific Island Countries - FAO

13. FAO presented evidence-based recommendations that Pacific Ministers can consider for contributing to informing and catalysing Pacific Island Countries and Territories' (PICTs) efforts to develop and implement national food systems transformation Pathways.

14. Ministers agreed to **endorse**:

- a) Creation of a regional technical coordination committee or hub to inform and catalyse the food systems transformation agendas in PICTs. Ministers were encouraged to name and empower a technical agency to explore questions and report back to Ministers within half a year. FAO and or SPC would be ideal.
- b) If agreed, TOR for the committee/hub will need to be developed.
- c) PICTs would need to recommend to prioritise the work of the committee/hub with long-term commitments to ensure its relevance.

Strengthening coordination of agriculture and forestry in the Pacific – proposal for revising the architecture for coordination - Fiji

15. Fiji presented a proposal to revise the architecture for coordination of the work programmes for agriculture and forestry in the region. The architecture provides pathways for feeding agriculture and forestry priorities through to the governing bodies of the region and the various partners.

16. Ministers agreed to:

- a) **endorse** the proposed architecture, and
- b) that effectiveness of the meeting arrangements is reviewed and reported to the next PMAF meeting.

Report from the Pacific Heads of Agriculture and Forestry (PHOAFS) Meeting

17. Ministers considered the report from the Pacific Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Meeting (PHOAFS) meeting.

18. Ministers agreed to **note** and support the report of the Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services (HOAFS).

Country Statements

19. Ministers and Heads of Delegation presented Country Statements, which are attached to the record of the meeting.

Next Meeting

20. The meeting warmly welcomed the offer from Tonga to host the next meeting of the Pacific Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry in 2025, in association with a Pacific Week of Agriculture.

Acknowledgements

21. Delegates expressed their deep gratitude to the Government and people of Fiji for the traditional welcome and excellent meeting arrangements in hosting the 2023 Pacific Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry meeting and for the kind hospitality extended to them in Nadi.

Annex 2 - Participant List

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS AND OBSERVERS

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Annex 3 – Country Statements Summary

AMERICAN SAMOA

The territory seeks to assist local farmers to diversify food production. The priority areas include sustainable food security and safety through improved extension advisory services, new production methods, distribution of seeds and plant varieties, promotion of organic farming and control measures against pests and diseases. Value-added agricultural products and prevention of exotic animal/plant pests and diseases are among other steps to improve the sector.

AUSTRALIA

Australia is committed to working with the Pacific to achieve shared aspirations and address shared challenges. Australia will continue to work with Pacific Governments, NGOs, communities and farmers to strengthen the Pacific food system to improve livelihoods, food and nutrition security and income earning opportunities. It is important that SPC-LRD is given the resources needed to support the agenda discussed this week on issues such as soils, plant protection, animal health and organic agriculture.

COOK ISLANDS

Global developments are a reminder that reliance on food imports carries risks, and there is a need to reduce food imports. Food security transformation is also about improved health, better livelihoods and cleaner environment. Food and good nutrition are vital to survival and there is a need to promote healthy diets and increased local food production. Part of this will come from a proposed food innovation centre on Rarotonga. Cook Islands looks to FAO, SPC and other partners to help deliver on priorities.

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

The FSM Strategic Plan for Agriculture and Forestry is to provide food security, cash incomes and healthy livelihoods, and opportunities for domestic and export markets. Support is needed to engage with community and state organisations. Sustained funding and technical support will help to address the interconnected nature of food systems. Change will take time, and communities will want to see long term support and innovations.

FIJI

Advances in science and technology are being used to help develop the blue and green economies, with diversity a feature of agri-business trade. Forestry restoration is among the priorities for the sector, along with the integration of services. There is a need to modernise operations as well as r laws and regulations, along with the political will to back this up. Partnerships are a valuable means to enhance the work programmes, and Fiji looks forward to ongoing collaboration and new ventures.

FRENCH POLYNESIA

Food systems, agricultural economies, and production systems must be organised differently so that local food markets are better protected. More investment and innovation is needed in agro-food industries which should be geared towards the use of local resources. Agricultural research and development should provide solutions for better use of local

products. French Polynesia adopted an agricultural master plan for 2021 - 2030, and plans to adopt a ten-year food transition plan in 2023.

GUAM

Indigenous farms help to increase food security and to grow more food locally as food imports make up more than 90% of supply. The atoll environment makes reef restoration a key focus. There are efforts to plant more of the urban and under-developed areas in the atolls, to help improve food security. These are based on planting the right tree, in the right place. There are also related activities to rehabilitate degraded areas and restore habitats, including from ridge to reef.

KIRIBATI

The ocean is the backbone of the economy and in an atoll nation, agriculture is challenging. Ensuring that a whole of island approach delivers on a transformation agenda, financing and technical support is key. As a small island nation with limited capacity and resources Kiribati continued to call on those with resources, expertise, research advantage and technologies to assist every community and island. These priorities need to be implemented in collaboration with the communities, to be effective.

MARSHALL ISLANDS

The aim is for a resilient and prosperous economy, with improved agriculture and forestry resources, while conserving the culture and maintaining regional and national commitments. There is a need to build human capital and create opportunities for people. Geographic isolation makes trade and other links very costly, and lowlying atolls are at risk from climate change and sea level rise. There is limited scope to substitute food imports. More research and technical assistance will help the agriculture and forestry sectors.

NAURU

Apart from some family gardens, Nauru produces almost no food domestically and people live a few weeks away from crisis caused by any supply disruptions, global food shortage or price spike. Nauru also has almost no available land, due to phosphate mining. The government has launched a Higher Ground initiative to develop a new master land use plan, to house more people, grow more food and restore much of the native vegetation, and diversify the economy. The plan will be accompanied by a strategy for domestic food production.

NEW CALEDONIA

Agriculture for Pacific island countries is not only a primary food source but also an income source. Innovative projects in agro-forestry or nature-based systems offer alternatives to conventional production methods that impoverish the soil and accelerate erosion. Agriculture, forestry and the oceans are central to Pacific food systems. Preservation of resources and biodiversity contribute to a healthy environment for our populations.

NEW ZEALAND

Combatting climate change and supporting the Pacific to build its resilience is at the heart of NZ's development programme. NZ announced a biosecurity border review, initially with Fiji followed by others, and funding of three students to become veterinarians to help build veterinary capacity in the region, including through para-vet training. NZ will work closely with

the Pacific Heads of Veterinary and Production Services, SPC, Australia and others to ensure this work meets Pacific needs.

NIUE

Agriculture and forestry is mainly for subsistence with some surplus sold. Export values has risen for products such as taro although food imports are ten times higher in value. Priority needs include biosecurity. Niue is seeking a two-way heat treatment facility, and measures to enhance biosecurity documentation. The lack of vets to provide animal health services is an ongoing priority. Other needs include new animal bloodlines for pigs etc., and more coconut planting for drinking. Simpler processes are needed to get help in timely fashion.

PALAU

Palau is transforming agriculture and agroforestry to increase food security and economic benefits, using modern and traditional methods. This includes solar technologies to add value to cultural crops, and social media to share community knowledge about best farming practices. Palau needs to triple agricultural production by 2030 to reduce vulnerabilities to climate change, supply chain bottlenecks, and price shocks. This goal will be achieved with help from partners, in a way that balances cultural needs and food security.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Agriculture accounts for 26% of total GDP and supports about 85% of the population, who mainly live in rural areas and rely on agriculture as a source of food, nutrition and cash incomes. There is an established export industry of cash crop commodities, and an established food sub-sector, which caters mainly for domestic consumption and market. A wide range of food crops and livestock are locally produced, including fruits and vegetables, root and tuber crops, cereal crops, livestock and poultry, honey and fish.

SAMOA

A five-year national development plan - Pathway for the Development of Samoa 2022-2026 - highlights the importance of a vibrant and sustainable agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture sector, to create employment, improve food and nutrition security, and reduce reliance on food imports. It also promotes the sustainable and innovative use of natural resources for development, including sustainable forest management.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Agriculture and forestry are key sectors in the economy, as well as providing livelihoods and incomes in the community. They also add to national sustainable development and environment goals. There is a need to ensure agriculture is productive and sustainable. Modern techniques add to the traditional knowledge that support the population, especially in rural areas. A range of strategies and programmes support the sectors, with assistance from development partners and technical agencies.

TOKELAU

Domestic production of fruits and vegetables is limited to subsistence gardens for households. To achieve “thriving communities with equal opportunities for all” Tokelau has developed a concept note seeking support from development partners for creating food

gardens on Tokelau's three atolls for food security. The proposed Tokelau Integrated Food Garden Project will have all agricultural produce processed in Tokelau for consumption.

TONGA

Whenever Tonga has faced crises including cyclones, droughts and volcano eruptions, etc., help has always come from FAO, SPC and other partners. Tonga welcomes the FAO effort to transform SIDS food systems for better health, better nutrition and more resilience. Tonga and other Pacific island countries face multiple challenges including high levels of non-communicable diseases, run-down agricultural resources, an economy relying on foreign aid and remittances, as well as the impacts of climate change. Tonga will seek to improve rural livelihoods, increase biodiversity, and enhance food security and resilience.

TUVALU

Priorities include the National Food System pathway; Coconut Rehabilitation for replanting with EU support; a Fruit Flies Eradication programme which regional organisations are welcome to support; and improved collecting of agricultural data and timely analysis, including plans for an agricultural census, which will be the first such census since the 1990s. Collection of data will also help monitor to food costs and risks to food security.

UNITED STATES

The US helped fund the First Pacific Ecological Security Conference (PESC) in Palau last October focused on invasive species and strategic action plans to address the coconut rhinoceros beetle, invasive ants, and biocontrol options targeting priority invasive species. The US Forest Service is supporting Pacific island countries in areas such as mangrove and forest restoration and management, developing protocols to assess carbon stocks and greenhouse gas emissions, and disaster management.

WALLIS AND FUTUNA

Wallis and Futuna noted the significant progress made by the region in scientific research, and improvement of agricultural and forestry production, product development and local, regional or international marketing. The territory will continue efforts in scientific research, particularly related to climate change, to promote processing and adding value to primary production, and to develop healthy food. Innovation was required to take into account the modest size of available land and the small population.