



PIFON

PACIFIC ISLAND FARMERS ORGANISATION NETWORK

2016 ANNUAL REPORT





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Note from the Manager

2016 was an exciting year for our network, with many challenges and many 'firsts'. 2016 saw PIFON accept our first members from Timor Leste and New Caledonia, taking our total country reach to nine (9). 2016 also saw PIFON host its first and second major regional events outside of Fiji - a big thank you to our members in the Solomon Islands and Tonga for this achievement. In 2016 PIFON moved its office from Nature's Way Cooperative (where we lived rent free for almost 5 years) to a cosy two bedroom flat near the Agriculture Research Station in Nadi. In November 2016, PIFON Chairman signed a 'Declaration of Commitment' with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) which marked the first of such an agreement between IFAD and any farmer organisation around the world.



Under our two major projects MTCP II and PAPP, 2016 was a year for action as the foundation had been well laid and processes well established allowing for smooth delivery of activities. The Mid Term Review of MTCP II highlighted the Pacific Region as a top achiever amongst the two other sub regions of South Asia and South East Asia, this achievement was mostly due to the cohesiveness of the network which allowed us to quickly adapt to the structures of this major project. The SPC-PIFON Impact Workshop held in November, 2016 highlighted that in only two short years of Partnership, PIFON has undertaken a total of 28 activities with its farmer organisation members at the national and regional level.

As highlighted in our recent 'PIFON Strategic Review' conducted by Dr. Lex Thomson, PIFON has made enormous progress towards meeting the objectives of its Strategic Plan (2014-2016) and has helped to significantly raise the profile of its farmer organisation members within the region. The review also highlighted the need for PIFON to strengthen the secretariat, expand its service delivery and engage more closely with national governments and regional organisations.

We are excited for what lies ahead for 2017 and beyond as our network grows to involve more farmer organisations and more farmers and as new partnerships are being formed with organisations such as WRF, FAO, SPC and ACIAR. We are confident that together with our national farmer organisation members we can make a significant contribution to agricultural development in our region.

From the PIFON Board of Directors



PIFON's Board of Directors are Chairman - Afamasaga Toleufoa (President, Samoa Farmers Association, Samoa); Vice Chairman – Minoru Nishi (MD& CEO, Nishi Trading, Tonga); Clement Hadosaia (Manager, Kastom Gaden Association, Solomon Islands) and Serenia Madigibuli (Coordinator, Tutu Rural Training Centre, Fiji).

2016 was Mrs. Madigibuli's first term as a Board member and is also the first female member of the Board after being voted in at the 2015 Annual General Meeting along with Clement Hadosaia who was re-elected. The Board members of PIFON are nominated and voted on at the Annual General Meetings and serve a term of three years, the Board members then elect the Chairman and Vice Chairman. The PIFON Board members represent a cross section of the PIFON network members and are community leaders in their own right.

The Board met three times during the 2016 year on 02 June in Nadi, Fiji, on 6th September in Nuku'a'lofa Tonga, and on 25th November in Pacific Harbour, Fiji. However for very urgent matters pertaining to Board approval and Governance, these matters were dealt with through Special papers via email.

The PIFON Board made a number of important decisions in 2016 that have impacted the future of PIFON including:

- (i) Directing and approving an Internal Audit of its PIFON Secretariat at its 02 June meeting where the results were filed at its 6th September meeting. The Board was very grateful for the healthy checkoff that the Internal Auditors gave the Secretariat including the additional comments on the Secretariats adherence to the Finance and Procurement Procedures of PIFON.
- (ii) Endorsing the recommendation from the PIFON Strategic Review to increase the staff for the Secretariat,
- (iii) Endorsing and facilitating the recommendation for relocation of PIFON office
- (iv) Endorsing the increase in membership of the network to include North Pacific member states and the French speaking Pacific territories.

Two board members represented PIFON at the IFAD Farmers Forum that was held in Rome in February and the Chairman also represented PIFON at the Pacific Agribusiness Forum that was hosted in Apia, Samoa.

About PIFON

Background

Farmer Organisations (FOs) are now starting to emerge in the Pacific islands to play a lead role in providing relevant information for farmers to effectively participate in supply chains. It is now widely accepted that FOs in the Pacific will need to play a critical role in empowering rural people to take advantage of economic livelihood opportunities.

FOs in the Pacific currently depend on a high level of donor support. Such support is inevitable and necessary during the initial development phase. However, this support has often been sporadic and fragmented, disrupting the flow of activities. In many cases, the FOs themselves have not been able to clearly articulate their needs and therefore funds are not secured and when they are secured, they are misdirected or underutilized. In this situation, there are two interrelated challenges facing FOs in the Pacific:

- How to develop business activities that provide sufficient income for the sustainability of the organisation and yet don't detract from core values and objectives.
- How to use donor/government funding wisely to facilitate longer term sustainability.

The Pacific Island Farmers Organisation Network (PIFON) is intended to serve as an umbrella organisation for national FOs, to coordinate capacity building, share success stories and the lessons learnt, support regional exchanges of expertise between FOs and their associated private sector and donor agency partners.

Who we are...

PIFON is a young organisation having formalised itself in the year 2013 after its Foundation Conference, but it began informally from 2008 to where it is today. The Network began with 13 Farmer Organisation members from 6 Pacific Island Countries [Cook Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, Solomons, Samoa and Fiji] with a collective membership of 18,812 farmers, today it stands at 19 Farmer Organisation members from 9 Pacific Countries with a membership of 79, 046 members.

PIFON secured under a competitive tender process the IFAD/SDC Medium Term Cooperation Program Phase II (MTCP II) funding where it developed under the program 5 of its FO's into National Implementing Agents (NIA's) for funding for Farmer Organisations in-country. Under the NIA's, funds are distributed through to the NIA FO for in-country national activities and interventions with other member FO's.

Additionally, PIFON formalised its partnership with the Pacific Community (SPC) under its PAPP program for funding support of \$400,000 for its FO membership. This partnership funding helps PIFON to carry out regional activities with its member FO's including its very successful Farmer to Farmer (F2F) Exchange Learning Program.

How we operate...

The PIFON Network is largely directed by its members, it holds a Learning & Planning Meeting and Annual General Meeting each year where its members attend to exchange learnings and ideas, plan for the next year and endorse the work plans and direction that its membership takes which the Secretariat is then tasked to carry out.

PIFON has its Secretariat hosted and based in Legalega Fiji with three staff under the guidance of Kyle Stice as Manager. The Secretariat supports and carries out the work of its PIFON Network members, liaising closely with its Board of Directors on its work activities for its members.

The Network derives its direction from the PIFON Strategic Plan 2013-2016 which was endorsed by its membership at its Foundation Conference.

The PIFON Secretariat then carries out its tasks of using the Workplans that are endorsed to write up Annual Work Plan and Budgets for its member countries who enter into a MoU for fund disbursements. Each NIA is responsible for implementing and monitoring the funds from the MTCP II program in-county and during the year liaises with the Secretariat on its activities, capacity building of its members, funding proposals and regional activities that the Secretariat organises.



PIFON Board Directors meeting with SPC at its SPC/IFAD/PIFON Board meeting



Tongan PIFON FO members during the Regional Breadfruit Roundtable in Nuku'alofa, Tonga.

PIFON Projects/Partnerships in 2016

IFAD/ SDC Funded MTCP II Project

Under a competitive tender process PIFON was selected as the Sub-regional Implementing Agency (SRIA) for the IFAD/ SDC Medium Term Cooperation Program Phase II (MTCP II). This five (5) year project supports farmer organisations across Asia and the Pacific. Under MTCP II, six PIFON member farmer organisations have been selected as National Implementing Agencies (NIA's) to receive funds and facilitate activities at the national and local level.

In addition to a wide range of national activities PIFON has operationalised its Pacific Breadfruit and Seeds Program (PBSP) at the regional level including the hosting of two Regional Roundtables: Pacific Breadfruit Roundtable and the Pacific Open Pollinated Seeds Roundtable.

EU funded PIFON-PAPP Partnership

PIFON in collaboration with the European Union (EU) funded, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) implemented, Pacific Agriculture Policy Programme (PAPP) established a two year partnership arrangement on October 24, 2014 aimed at strengthening the livelihoods of smallholder farmers through stronger market linkages, stronger information sharing and a supportive policy environment.

In the two years of its PAPP Partnership, PIFON has undertaken a total of 28 activities with its farmer organisation members at the national and regional level. In November 2016, PIFON organised an 'Impact Workshop' to highlight the achievements under this partnership. Funding under the partnership concluded in December 2016, however PIFON and SPC are discussing new opportunities for extending the partnership.

Partnership with World Rural Forum

A Farmer Organisation consultation on Family Farming was organised by PIFON in partnership with the World Rural Forum on 25th November 2016 at the Lagoon Resort, Pacific Harbour, Fiji. This consultation was part of a partnership agreement between PIFON and the World Rural Forum (WRF).

The aim of the consultation was to provide a regional platform for Pacific farmer organisation representatives to share, improve their knowledge, and understand the concept of family farming and its relativity at a regional level. The consultation also aimed to identify priority policy issues affecting smallholder farmers in the region and means for addressing these issues with farmer organisations as a driving force.

Under this partnership, PIFON will host Farmers Forums in Fiji with farmer organisations and within its network countries to highlight and advocate for policy issues affecting smallholder farmers.

Partnership with IFAD Indigenous Peoples Forum

PIFON in its capacity as a service provider and as part of its business model organised the Pacific Consultation workshop in collaboration with The International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to prepare for the Third Global meeting of Indigenous Peoples Forum.

The Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD is a concrete way for IFAD to institutionalize consultation and dialogue with indigenous peoples' representatives.

Key Milestones for 2016

Membership Expansion

MORDI and FCLC who joined PIFON as observers in 2015 were approved by the Board and attained full membership status in 2016.

New Caledonia's Chambre d'Agriculture Nouvelle Calédonie (CANC) and Timor Leste's ANAPROFIKO joined PIFON in 2016 as 'observers' effectively increasing PIFON's country member states to nine countries.

Timor Leste is the newest member to the Pacific Community in 2016. Following a scoping study conducted by PIFON and Board approval, ANAPROFIKO, the National Association of Commercial Seed Producers officially became the National Implementing Agency (NIA) for Timor Leste under the International Fund for Agricultural Development and Swiss Development Corporation funded MTCP II program on 23rd August, 2016. ANAPROFIKO is the national umbrella association of seed producer groups in Timor Leste.

The Chambre d'Agriculture Nouvelle Calédonie (CANC) is a corporate public institution led by a Board comprising farmers and run by professional technicians from the agricultural sector in New Caledonia. Following the Boards directive for increased membership, the Chamber was invited to become part of the PIFON Network. The Chamber D'Agriculture of New Caledonia is the first FO from a French speaking territory to join PIFON and is the oldest farmers institution in the Pacific.

Signing of PIFON-IFAD Declaration of Commitment

PIFON declared its commitment to collaborate with the International Fund for Agricultural Development – Pacific Region Office (IFAD) on the development of agriculture with Farmer Organisations in the Pacific Island Region. The declaration was made official at the signing of the Declaration of Commitment (DOC) on 21st November, 2016, by Afamasaga Toleafoa,



Afamasaga Toleafoa, PIFON Chairman and Ronald Hartman, IFAD Pacific Country Director sign the Declaration of Commitment at Lagoon Resort, Pacific Harbour, Fiji on November 21, 2016



PIFON Chairman and Ronald Hartman, IFAD Pacific Country Director and witnessed by approximately 30 participants from around the region. The inaugural event was in conjunction with the first of the two day IFAD Pacific Consultation workshop “The Pacific Regional Consultation Workshop in preparation of the Third Global Meeting of the Indigenous Peoples’ Forum at IFAD” being held at the Lagoon Resort, Pacific Harbour, Fiji.

PIFON and IFAD Pacific agree that Farmer Organisations play an integral role in agricultural development in the region.

PIFON and IFAD Pacific agree that a relationship between the two organisations provides many opportunities to bring the voice of farmers in the region to policy makers and planners and that both parties will continue to explore opportunities to capitalize on this relationship such as the IFAD Farmers Forum.

The DOC represents an agreement between the two organisations on the important role of Farmer Organisations in agricultural development in the region. Specifically, the DOC is intended to:

- Enhance relationships between PIFON and IFAD related activities
- Increase the opportunity for both parties to complement each other’s programs
- Establish better network and linkages between IFAD and PIFON members
- Develop policies, strategies and/or programs that will allow mutual benefits to its members.

Mid-Term Review – MTCP II

The Medium Term Cooperation Program Phase II (MTCP II) review was undertaken

from 21 May to 2 June 2016 in two out of the six targeted Pacific countries: Solomon Islands from May 21 to 24 and Fiji/Taveuni from May 25 to 28. The mission ended in Fiji/Nadi from May 30 to June 2, which included visits to PIFON’s headquarters and PIFON’s relevant key partners – IFAD and SPC.

The programme’s overall assessment of implementation for Pacific is rated moderately satisfactory (4), this was the highest for the different regions participating in the MTCP II program. The scoring reflects the work and impact that the PIFON Network with its FO members has implemented in the Pacific Islands region.

The PIFON Network members are very proud of their achievement of score in the MTCPII’s MTR and members endorsed at its annual Learning and Planning Meeting held at the Lagoon Resort in Pacific Harbour in November 2016 on one of the key recommendations from the MTR report which was to allow each NIA to choose their funding to be either (A) Activity based Funding; or (B) Advance Funding

Strategic Review of PIFON

PIFON is in its final year of its three-year strategic plan (2014-2016) and has implemented 23 activities spread across five objectives.

PIFON has generated funds through consultations, organizing meetings, and membership subscriptions but its overwhelming funding has been provided from two donor projects, viz.

- IFAD’s Medium Term Cooperation Programme with Farmer Organizations in Asia and the Pacific Phase II (MTCP II), and
- EU-SPC Pacific Agricultural Policy Programme (PAPP).

After two years of operations, an independent external review of PIFON was commissioned to evaluate PIFON’s performance in relation to its 2014-16 Strategic Plan, member organization needs and expectations. This review also provided suggestions and recommendations to sustainably deliver improved services to member organizations, on how best to grow the network’s membership and recommendations for the next 2017-19 strategic plan.



The consultant, Dr Lex Thomson, visited and sought the views and inputs from PIFON members in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Tonga during April 2016 and through written correspondence with members in PNG, Samoa and Vanuatu and provided a report – Strategic Review 2016 that has been adopted and endorsed by the PIFON Board, this report has been circulated within the Network and will be formally tabled to its PIFON members at its AGM in early 2017.

Several key recommendations from the Strategic Review have been adopted and actioned by the PIFON Network as it continues to strive ahead for optimum results for its members.

Technical support was provided for the Strategic review of the PIFON Secretariat in preparation for the 2017-2020 Strategic Plan. This activity was considered a necessity to assess the performance of PIFON in terms of meeting objectives of the current Strategic Plan (2014-2016) and if the needs of its members were met with a view to improvement. The performance of PIFON was also assessed in terms of project delivery to its partners (IFAD, SPC and AFA). Key recommendations have been forwarded to the Board and a publication on lessons learnt highlighting key findings have been circulated to the PIFON network. To download a copy of PIFON's Strategic Review Summary visit <http://www.pacificfarmers.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/PIFON-Strategic-Review-18.10.16.pdf>



PIFON Board and key partners from SPC and IFAD stand outside PIFON's new office in Legalega, Nadi.

Relocation of the PIFON Secretariat Office

The relocation and strengthening of the PIFON Secretariat was a milestone achieved in 2016 by the PIFON Network. This involved the increase of its secretariat staff from the original two persons from inception to the current 4 today.



Maria Linibi of PNG WiADF presents on the impacts of her work under the PIFON-SPC Partnership at one of six 'impact stations' which allowed stakeholders to engage directly with the FOs who implemented and benefitted under the partnership



Under its PBSP, PIFON recruited its own Program Manager under a full time position in Lavinia Kaumaitotoya, the return of Ana Tuivanuavou as PIFON's Communication and Office Manager and the initial recruitment of Aneet Kumar as its Finance & Procurement Manager from 2014 completes its Secretariat capacity. The increase in staff meant that the original office space co-housed with Nature's Way Cooperative in Nasoso, Nadi had to be reviewed and thus the relocation of the Secretariat to a new office and location in Legalega, Nadi.

The relocation was a strategic move by PIFON as it was one of the recommendations that came out in its Strategic Review Report that was released and adopted by the Board at its meeting in Tonga in September. The adaptation of the Report will allow PIFON to continue to be the transparent body for its network by sharing the findings to its members, stakeholders to peruse the growth of PIFON since its humble beginnings in 2008, its inception in 2013 to where it is today, a strengthened network with increased membership for its farmer members.

PIFON-SPC Impact Workshop

In its bid to build stronger partnerships to improve farmer livelihoods, PIFON held an Impact workshop on November 23, 2016 to assess impacts of activities under the PIFON-SPC partnership (2014-2016) and also discuss the way forward for building on the foundation laid between SPC and Pacific farmer organisations.

In the two years of its PAPP Partnership, PIFON has undertaken a total of 28 activities with its farmer organisation members at the national and regional level. Funding under the partnership concluded in December 2016, however PIFON and SPC are discussing new opportunities for extending the partnership.

Strengthening of linkages between Pacific Farmer Organisations and key development partners

PIFON has conducted three joint high level meetings between the PIFON board and key development partners, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) since 2015. These meetings have helped to strengthen the coordination between the two projects that are being implemented by PIFON and have increased the level of involvement of Pacific Farmer Organisations in agricultural development programs.

Milestones for PIFON engagement with IFAD and SPC

- IFAD supports PIFON inception meeting (15th April 2013)
- PIFON signs agreement to implement IFAD-SDC funded MTCP II (14th October 2013)
- PIFON signs partnership agreement with SPC to implement activities under the EU funded SPC-PAPP (24th October 2014)
- PIFON hosts IFAD Pacific Regional Workshop on "Indigenous food systems and sustainable livelihoods" (26th-27th November 2014)
- PIFON hosts IFAD Pacific Programme Review (21-23rd October 2015)
- PIFON hosts IFAD Regional Consultation Workshop on Economic empowerment of indigenous peoples, with a focus on women and youth in preparation for the Third Global meeting of Indigenous Peoples Forum scheduled for February 2017 in Rome, Italy. (21-22nd November 2016)
- PIFON signs Declaration of Commitment with IFAD (November 21st, 2016)
- PIFON hosts PIFON-SPC Impact Workshop (November 23rd, 2016)



Operationalising of Pacific Breadfruit & Seeds Program

Its very own program – The Breadfruit and Seeds Program is PIFON members responding to the challenge of climate change and food security in the Pacific Islands was operationalised. This program has been in staged development since 2013 when PIFON members identified these two streams as important focus areas for its growth. Over the last 3 years, significant assessment and planning occurred in preparation for its own PIFON regional program including various in-depth studies and concept papers being written to support the aspirations of its Network farmers. This included the '2014 Scoping Study for improving access to high quality seed for Pacific island farmers', the 'Vegetable Seeds Concept Paper', the 'Pacific Islands Breadfruit Concept Paper: Climate resilient systems for food security, nutrition and enhanced livelihoods'. A Program Manager was hired and the program is operationalised in 4 countries, Solomons, Papua New Guinea, Tonga and Fiji. In line with this program, 2 Roundtables were hosted by PIFON FO members in PIFON member countries of Tonga and the Solomon Islands.



Both the events were successfully hosted by the FO's in Tonga and Solomon Islands, and very well attended. The outcomes of both the roundtables are now being finalised and captured in Proceedings Reports that will be published in 2017. The major output of the roundtables were Country Work Programs that were discussed and presented at the Roundtables which points the way for what work is to be done in the countries and the prioritisation to achieve tangible outcomes for its members.

Highlights from 2016 regional activities

Pacific Breadfruit Roundtable

The Pacific Island Farmers Organisation Network in partnership with Nishi Foundation, GroFed (Growers Federation of Tonga) and MORDI (Mainstreaming of Rural Development Innovation Tonga Trust) co-organized a Pacific Breadfruit Roundtable. This two-day consultative roundtable was held in Nuku'alofa, on the friendly islands of Tonga from September 15th - 16th, 2016. The event was attended by 50 participants from seven Pacific Island countries including farmers, farmer organisation representatives, research organisations, government partners and aid agencies.

This event, a first of its kind for the region, was co-funded by the EU funded SPC PAPP (Pacific Agricultural Partnership Program) and IFAD/SDC funded MTCP II project.

The objective of this roundtable was to bring together PIFON members and other partners who are actively involved in breadfruit research and development in the Pacific to share experiences, get updated and work to synergize regional breadfruit activities. Discussions on the context for breadfruit development in the region as well as PIFON's Pacific Breadfruit and Seed Supply Programme (PBSP) were the focus subjects. The roundtable also included four technical sessions including: Breadfruit Varieties and Propagation, Breadfruit Production Systems, Fresh Exports of Breadfruit and Breadfruit Processing.

A key outcome from the roundtable meeting were detailed national work plans for each of the seven countries represented along with a series of inter-regional technical partnerships being established. PIFON is now seeking additional funding for its PBSP to help support the national activities identified. Proceedings from this roundtable will be released by PIFON in due course.



Pacific Breadfruit Roundtable Banner



The Pacific Breadfruit Roundtable participants at the Nishi Trading Facility in Nuku'alofa, Tonga



A breadfruit peeler prototype called Kiyoshi-Kun, named after the inventor



Solomon participants in discussion at the Pacific Breadfruit Roundtable held at the Nishi Trading Packhouse in Tonga

Pacific Open Pollinated Seed Learning Exchange

A Pacific Open Pollinated Seed Learning Exchange was hosted by Terra Circle Australia in Brisbane from October 25 – 29, 2016 targeting Farmer Organization members who work in the area of open pollinated seed production. A total of 11 farmer organisation representatives participated in this event from 6 countries (Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Solomon Islands, PNG and Timor Leste). This was a co-funded event between PIFON's MTCP II and PAPP programmes.

The Learning Exchange included technical presentations, field visits and hands on training. Specific topics for the Learning Exchange included: variety selection, growing, processing, packaging and storage of Open Pollinated seed. Sites visited include: Green Harvest Seeds, Eden Seeds, UQ Gatton and QDAFF. The Learning Exchange also included visits to suppliers of seed processing and packaging materials.

A report from the Learning Exchange is now available on the PIFON website via <http://www.pacificfarmers.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Trip-Report-for-the-Open-Pollinated-Seed-Learning-Exchange.pdf>



Joeli Nataki of Nature's Way Cooperative tries out the mechanical seed processor at Eden Seeds



Participants of the Pacific Open Pollinated Seed Learning Exchange at Eden Seeds





Participants of the Pacific Open Pollinated Seeds Roundtable observe the different seed packaging materials

Pacific Open Pollinated Seed Roundtable

The first ever Pacific Open Pollinated Seed Roundtable was hosted by Kastom Gaden Association (KGA) and Zai Na Tina Farms in Honiara, Solomon Islands on October 31 – November 01, 2016 bringing together farmers and researchers from around the region to share information and lessons learnt on developing open pollinated vegetable varieties in the Pacific. The event was successful being the first of its kind, attracting at least 60 participants from around the region.

Funding for this event was provided through the IFAD Medium Term Cooperation Project – Phase II (MTCP II) and the EU funded SPC Pacific Agricultural Policy Project (PAPP).

The two day roundtable event brought together PIFON members and other partners who are actively involved in open pollinated seed research and development within the PIFON network to share experiences, get updated and work to synergize seed activities. Discussions on the context for open pollination seed development in the region as well as PIFON's Pacific Breadfruit and Seeds Programme (PBSP) were the focus subjects.

Important case studies from the Solomon Islands, Fiji and Timor Leste were presented to promote the sharing of key lessons learnt amongst farmer organisations in the region. Planning for future activities at the national level to improve access to open pollinated seeds for farmers was a key outcome at the event.

Preparation of policy briefs for farmer organisations

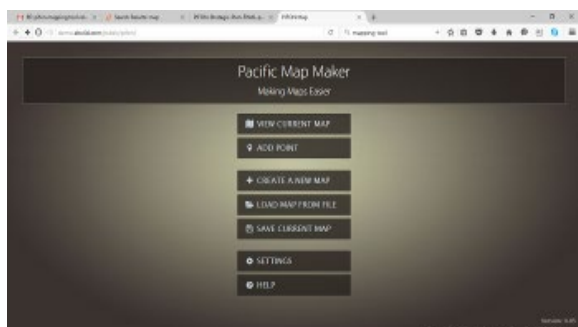
In general, PIFON is working to get more farmer organisations directly involved in agricultural development projects in the region. In order to achieve this, PIFON is working to highlight the good work that farmer organisations are already doing in relation to research and extension in the region. PIFON has released two policy briefs on this subject which are available on the web via <http://www.pacificfarmers.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Agricultural-Research-and-Farmer-Organisations-in-the-Pacific-1.pdf> and FOs and Agriculture Extension Policy via <http://www.pacificfarmers.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/FOs-and-Agricultural-Extension-Policy-Brief.pdf>



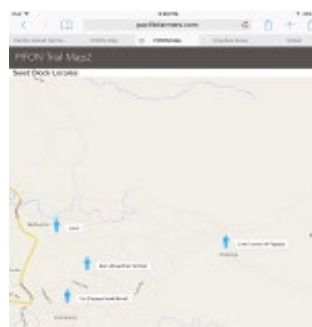
The policy briefs have been completed, printed and disseminated within the region via co-funding between IFAD's MTCP II and SPC PAPP programmes. The briefs entitled "Agricultural Research and Farmer Organisations in the Pacific" and "Agricultural Extension and Farmer Organisations in the Pacific" address the following: agricultural import substitution and the tourism fresh produce supply gap; barriers to Inter-regional agricultural trade in the Pacific and address challenges of climate change with farmer organisations.

These policy briefs were sent out via e-bulletins to the PIFON newsletter subscriber network and handed out in national/ regional and international forums which PIFON members attended for example, the Farmers Forum in Rome and the IFAD Indigenous Peoples Forum Pacific Regional Consultation Workshop in Fiji.

At whatever forums/conferences that PIFON representatives have been invited to, the briefs have formed the basis of the presentations for the role of PIFON.



The Pacific Map Maker on the PIFON website



The Pacific Map Maker on the PIFON website

Training of farmer organisation focused ICT training on technologies like bulk text messaging, simple video production using tablets etc.

The introduction of the PIFON designed map making application for farmer organisations was presented at the PIFON Learning and Planning Meeting held in Nadi from Dec 01 – 04, 2015 and formally launched in January 2016. This application is designed to enable a farmer with a hand-held device to make a map easily just by plotting a series of points of interest (POI) and saving the maps online for printing later. The POIs can be added directly from the map, based on one's current location (device) as reported by GPS, or by entering GPS coordinates. The application can be run both offline and online. FOs like Fiji's Nature's Way Cooperative is now regularly using the tool to organize their members and suppliers.

Farmer Organisation Consultation on Family Farming

A Farmer Organisation Consultation on Family Farming meeting was held on November 25 to identify and address policy constraints impacting smallholder farmers. Also discussed at the meeting was the potential role that farmer organisations (FOs) could play in addressing policy constraints and how to improve their capacity in influencing policy.

PIFON recently signed a partnership contract with the World Rural Forum as a partner and signatory to Family Farming. In 2014, the UN declared it as the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF), a resolution was then adopted that the good work would continue into a decade thus the initiative is now called IYFF+10.

Family farming is a means of organizing agriculture where the production is managed and operated by a father, mother, children of a family unit working together to toil their land and provide for their food security or livelihood.

In the Pacific it is widely practiced but it is often called subsistence farming, farming, smallholder farming, traditional farming, indigenous farming or organic farming.

At the policy levels of the UN, the Family farming initiative pushes to enable the proper enabling environment to ensure a dignified life for smallholder families, indigenous communities, fishers and pastoralists; and to meet consumers' needs more appropriately and more effectively.

At its first session held at the Lagoon Resort in Pacific Harbour on November 25, 2016, PIFON members recognized the important role that their farmer organisations must play in strengthening policy issues. There was agreement that representation at forums nationally and regionally is needed to raise their voices on their issues.

The IYFF+10 initiative promotes the fact that family farms produce 80% of the world's food in terms of value, thus confirming family farming's vital importance for global food security and food sovereignty for present and future generations.



Peter Kaoh of FSA identifying and addressing policy constraints impacting smallholder farmers of Vanuatu

The aim of the consultation was to provide a regional platform for Pacific farmer organisation representatives to share, improve their knowledge, and understand the concept of family farming and its relativity at a regional level. The consultation also aimed to identify priority policy issues affecting smallholder farmers in the region and means for addressing these issues with farmer organisations as a driving force.

The consultation meeting highlighted the global Family Farming movement and the fact that family farming in the Pacific is widely practiced but is not known by this terminology, rather it is called subsistence, traditional, organic, and indigenous or smallholder farming.

Under this partnership, PIFON will host Farmers Forums in Fiji with farmer organisations and within its network countries to highlight and advocate for policy issues affecting smallholder farmers.

Representation at IFAD Farmers Forum in Rome

The PIFON Chairman Mr. Afamasaga Toleafoa and PIFON Board member Mrs. Serenia Madigibuli represented PIFON at the Farmers Forum in Rome from February 15 – 16, 2016.

The Farmers' Forum, established in 2005, is an on-going, bottom-up process of consultation and dialogue between smallholder farmers' and rural producers' organizations from all over the world and IFAD and our Member States. The Forum is rooted in and aims to strengthen effective partnerships and collaborations between IFAD and Farmers Organizations (FOs) in country programmes and investment projects as well as building their capacity and engaging in policy dialogue initiatives.

Representation at MTCP II 2nd Regional Steering Committee Meeting

PIFON was represented by its Manager, the Programme Manager and an FO representative from Samoa at the 2nd Regional Steering Committee (RSC) meeting that was held June 6-8, 2016 at Vientiane province, Lao PDR.



Participants at the 2nd RSC meeting at Vientiane province, Lao PDR



Pacific delegation to the AWiA conference in Canberra, Australia

Pacific Farmer organisation leaders represented at Australian Women in Agriculture (AWiA) conference

Thirteen women represented the Pacific Island Farmers Organisation Network (PIFON) to the 2016 Australian Women in Agriculture (AWiA) conference and AGM hosted in Canberra, Australia from September 09 – 11, 2016. The event was themed “Women shaping our future: Reflections from the Limestone Plains”. The representatives consisted of nine women from farmer organisations in Papua New Guinea, one from Fiji, one from the Solomon Islands and two women from Western Samoa.

PIFON used the opportunity to present its concept paper to host a “2017 Pacific Women in Agriculture Conference” in partnership between AWiA, PNG WiADF and PIFON. The concept was well received and plans are now being forged to co-host this event in October, 2017.

Participation in 2016 Caribbean Week of Agriculture

The SPC Land Resources Division’s Pacific Agriculture Policy Program (PAPP) is a programme funded under the European Union Intra ACP program encompassing the Pacific and the Caribbean region. The ACP-EU Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) under the Intra-ACP Agricultural Policy Programme (Intra-ACP) and in collaboration with the Government of Cayman Islands, the Caribbean community and Common Market (CARICOM) Secretariat, and other partners co-organized the 2016 Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA) from October 24 – 28, 2016 in Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands. PIFON Programme Manager, Mrs Lavinia Kaumaitotoya, was invited to attend the event as a sponsored delegate.

Take away lessons from the event was how to run fun and informative value chain workshops and given the newly established link with Caribbean counterparts, PIFON can now expand knowledge and work on this. Being made aware of the need for financial literacy for farmer organisations in the Pacific, Lavinia as the face of PIFON, managed to establish a relationship with FAST (Finance Alliance for Sustainable Trade which is based in Canada) to create further progress on this front. Lavinia recommends that the Pacific at its first ever Pacific Week of Agriculture (in 2017) to be held in Vanuatu, should adopt how CWA runs parallel sessions.



The Pacific delegation to the 2016 Caribbean Week of Agriculture in Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands





Participants of the IFAD IP Forum Pacific Regional Consultation Workshop held at the Lagoon Resort, Pacific Harbour, Fiji from Nov 21 – 22, 2016

Hosting of IFAD Pacific Regional Consultation Workshop

PIFON in its capacity as a service provider and as part of its business model organised the Pacific Consultation workshop in collaboration with The International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to prepare for the Third Global meeting of Indigenous Peoples Forum.

The Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD is a concrete way for IFAD to institutionalize consultation and dialogue with indigenous peoples' representatives.



Highlights from 2016 national activities | Fiji

Tei Tei Taveuni (TTT) is the nominated National Implementing Agency (NIA) for Fiji with PIFON, and under the MTCP II Program, the NIA for Fiji signs an annual Letter of Agreement (LOA) for funds and activities for Fiji's Farmer Organisations that are members of PIFON.

TTT is located on Fiji's 3rd largest island of Taveuni. The island produces 60-70% of Fiji's taro for export. Smallholders producing dalo and yaqona (kava) together with tourism have replaced the old coconut estates as drivers of the economy on the island. The last 15-20 years has seen farmers move from subsistence towards semi-commercial farming but with it came adverse effects to the environment – having the highest rate of deforestation in Fiji, unsustainable land use, decline in soil fertility, high use of chemical sprays and conventional fertilizers, water catchment problems. The farmer organisation TTT was formed in 2009 in response to these problems that threatened the livelihoods of farmers in Taveuni.

i. Tei Tei Taveuni (TTT) Quick stats | TTT Membership

# of male members	# of female members	# of Youth (15 < 40 yrs)	Total members
329	154		483

National farmer organisation linked to TTT and estimated membership

Farmer organization	# of male members	# of female members	# of Youth (15 < 40 yrs)	Total members
Nature's Way Cooperative (NWC)	194	99	38	293
Tutu Rural Training Centre	44	40		84
Fiji Organic Association	300	50		350
South Sea Orchids Floriculture Group	60	230	5	290
Fiji Crop and Livestock Council	8,237	2,745	4,392	10,982
Total	8,835	3,164		11,999

Total estimated farmers linked to NIA (TTT)

# of male members	# of female members	Total members
961	525	1486

The total number of farming households in Fiji is estimated at around 90,000

ii. Highlights



Mr Don Burness explains how to grow and harvest anthuriums

The main activities completed by Fiji in 2016 included:

i. A series of floriculture training sessions hosted by Tei Tei Taveuni and Tutu Rural Training Centre for their members in May 2016 under the MTCP II programme. The trainings were conducted by Donald and Aileen Burness of the South Sea Orchids Floriculture Group using the CTA funded Fiji Floriculture Handbook.

Floriculture is seen as an important diversification activity for interested farmers who can link up with both the tourist and non-tourist domestic markets.

ii. PIFON member, the Fiji Crop and Livestock Council (FCLC) implemented a Ginger Value Chain training supported by PIFON and with funding through the EU SPC-PAPP project. This training was held on 20th July – 21st July, 2016 at the Coral Coast Christian Camp in Pacific Harbour and included field visits to nearby farms and Kaiming Agro Processing facility. Forty two



Ideal soil conditions for ginger being explained

Ginger farmers from the Naitasiri, Rewa, Tailevu and Serua Provinces were invited to participate in this training from where they gained knowledge of the value chain mapping process and got a clear understanding of the stages and the actors that contributed to the ginger value chain in Fiji. Stakeholders also benefitted from the opportunity to interact directly with each other (farmers, buyers, exporters, MoA etc.)

iii. Fiji was represented at the 2016 Hawaii Global Breadfruit Summit held in Hawaii on 29 – 31 August 2016. The Summit was hosted to create a global breadfruit network that honours and sustains the breadfruit tree with the weaving of traditional wisdom and modern science and technology to raise the common good of man and nature.



Entrance to the IMAX Theatre at the Polynesian Cultural Centre in Laie, that was host to the Global Breadfruit Summit in Hawaii



Kaitu Erasito presenting on the breadfruit research and development work of Nature's Way Cooperative (NWC)

iv. A short term consultancy was awarded to PIFON Associate member, Bula Agro Enterprises owner to play the role of Seed Coordinator to the Fiji component of the PBSP - Open Pollinated Seed Supply programme. This 8 day per month contract commenced in August 2016 and is due to be completed soon.

v. A vanilla scoping visit and Learning Exchange was made by two representatives from TTT to Tonga in September. Visits were made to a leading vanilla farm and the two vanilla producers/exporters in Vava'u, Queen Vanilla and Heilala Vanilla.



Vanilla drying by Queens



Vanilla grown by Heilala

vi. A Farmer to Farmer (F2F) technical exchange on sustainable agriculture was carried out by Ranadi Plantation to Tei Tei Taveuni on November 29 to December 01, 2016. This three day workshop comprised practical lessons on how farmers contribute to carbon sequestering and food security and how to make Bio-vital fertilizer from natural on-farm ingredients. 32 Leader farmers participated in this workshop at Tutu, Taveuni.



Making soil Probiotic and Bio fertilizer



Making compost

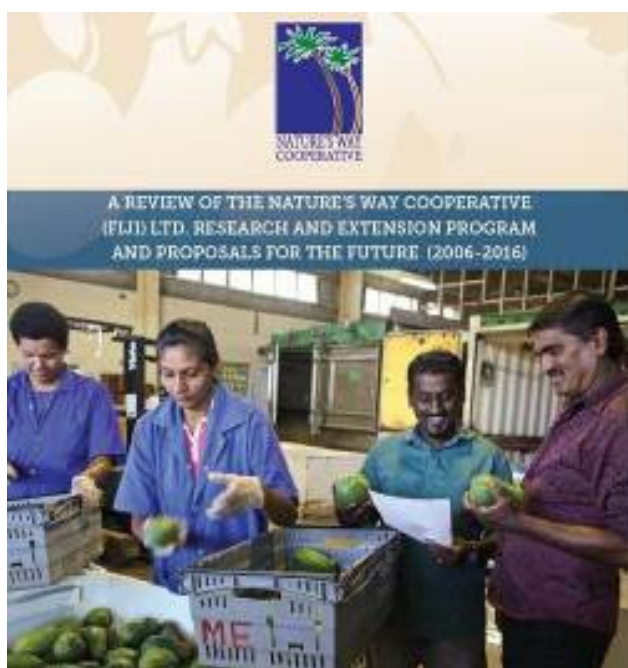


iii. Achievements

a) PIFON supported the preparation of a proposal to Zero-Rate VAT from agricultural inputs bought and sold by Tei Tei Taveuni (TTT) for Taro farming. This proposal and the anticipated outcome demonstrate how farmer organisations can be technically assisted to make a strong argument for policy changes that support small farmers.

TTT has gained experience in developing a sound policy proposal. The proposal was submitted to the Ministry of Finance for consideration under the 2016 Budget. This proposal has now been included in the draft “5-Year Plan for an Economically and Environmentally Sustainable Fiji Taro Industry” which is being finalized by the MoA.

b) PIFON foundation member, Nature’s Way Cooperative (NWC), released a report entitled “Review of the Nature’s Way Cooperative (Fiji) Ltd. Research and Extension Program and proposals for the future (2006 – 2016)” in November 2016. This report covers ten years of research and extension work supporting Fiji’s fresh produce export sector and gives valuable insight into the opportunities and challenges for farmer organisations involved in research and extension. A hundred copies of this review report were published and have been disseminated.



Review of the Nature's Way Cooperative (Fiji) Ltd. Research and Extension Program and proposals for the future (2006 – 2016)

This review was commissioned by the NWC management and board and supported through the EU funded SPC PAPP project. The review is intended as a management tool and for the information of NWC’s 300 members who make up the cooperative. NWC remains a leading example in the Pacific region of the important contribution a farmer organisation can make to agricultural research and extension when it works in an appropriate partnership with government and private sector.

Nature’s Way Cooperative (Fiji) Ltd (NWC) was formed in 1995 to undertake mandatory quarantine treatment on behalf of Fiji’s fruit export industry for four commodities, namely, papaya, eggplant, mango and breadfruit. NWC’s core business is the quarantine treatment of fruit fly host products and also provides an effective field service (NWC Research and Extension) to closely support this.

Tonga

For the Kingdom of Tonga, Growers Federation of Tonga (GroFED) is its NIA under the IFAD/SDC funded MTCP II programme that was completed on 17 February 2016.

The Growers Federation of Tonga Inc. was established in 2008 with a vision for profitable and sustainable growth of the Tongan Agricultural Sector. GroFED works to 'represent the interests of private sector growers, producers, processors and exporters achieving its vision through sector leadership, advocacy, farm extension services, and addressing export pathway and market access issues.' Its core business is to export growers' produce. Other farmer organisations in Tonga that belong to the PIFON membership is Nishi Foundation and MORDI, between these FO's they boost a membership of almost 20,000 famers scattered around Tonga.

(i) Growers Federation of Tonga (GroFED) Quick stats

GroFED Membership

# of male members	# of female members	# of Youth (15 – 40 yrs)	Total members
1,195	5	30	1200

Total estimated farmers linked to PIFON through GroFed

# of male members	# of female members	Total members
1995	5	1200

ii. Mainstreaming of Rural Development Innovation (MORDI) Tonga Trust Quick stats

MORDI Membership

# of male members	# of female members	# of Youth (15 – 40 yrs)	Total members
7,183	6,704		13,887

There are an estimated 2,576 farming households under the MORDI banner alone.

iii. Nishi Trading Quick stats

Nishi Membership

# of male members	# of female members	# of Youth (15 – 40 yrs)	Total Members
3,010	1,170	836	4180

There are an estimated 418 farming households under the Nishi banner alone.

iv. Highlights

Tonga's 2016 Activities included:

i. A Papaya and Breadfruit Farmer to Farmer Technical exchange funded by the MTCP II programme from the 17th to the 21st of May, 2016 to Fiji. The objective of the technical exchange was to expose the seven growers from Tonga to Fiji's current best practices with regards to the papaya and breadfruit export industry. The CTA funded and SPC-PAPP printed Pacific Value Chain Guide was the tool used to articulate all the actors in the chain and all costs involved from suppliers to the point of export and beyond.

ii. GroFED with MTCP II funding contracted the development and printing of a GAP (Good Agriculture Practise) guidelines for growers in Tonga.

iii. Nine representatives from Tongan farmer organisations comprising of 2 women and 7 men, participated in the Breadfruit



A manual breadfruit chip grinder at Bula Agro Enterprises, Votualevu, Nadi, Fiji.



A hot air dryer used to dry breadfruit chips at Bula Agro Enterprises, Votualevu, Nadi, Fiji

Technical Farmer to Farmer Learning Exchange in Fiji from 03rd – 05th August, 2016. The exchange was funded by the MTCP II programme and facilitated by PIFON via the Pacific Breadfruit and Seeds Programme (PBSP). Action plans completed by participants following the exchange stated planting breadfruit orchards and sharing of lessons learnt as the top priorities for when they returned to Tonga.

v.Achievements

a)The publication of GroFED's Good Agricultural Practices handbook was initiated to give all growers in "one go" the most relevant information they need for production. Over the years, there have been loose leaflets about the "whats", "hows", "whys" and "whens" of agricultural production. This is the first time for GAP to be synchronised into a booklet to be distributed to growers – as hardcopies and on soft copies. GAP includes the following:

- Perennial Crops – types, planting and harvesting times, maintenance, pests and recommended chemicals
- Crops that are highly resilient to climate change e.g. droughts
- Getting ready for cyclones
- Safety use of agricultural equipment and implements
- Harvesting and post harvesting
- Traditional Cropping
- Mix Cropping of Export Crops
- Danger of over-cropping
- Cash crops for beginners
- Crops and Best Season for planting
- Environment
- Gross Margin Analysis of Selected Crops
- Food Safety and Quality

Vanuatu

Vanuatu's NIA under the MTCP II programme is the Farm Support Association (FSA)

FSA grew out of an earlier group, the Plantation Support Association (PSA). PSA was set up in 1983 with aid and national development support funds to assist ni-Vanuatu landowners to run plantations returned to them when Independence was



declared. By 1992, circumstances had changed and in response PSA became FSA and its emphasis shifted to providing for the needs of small-scale farmers.

FSA provides for the needs of smallholder farmers through training and technical skills in line with their mission of “Farmers helping farmers”.

FSA activities include:

- Capacity building
- Technical services
- Income generation
- Farm to market
- Internal control service
- Sustainable farming systems

FSA regards all farmers and organisations participating in its programmes, as members. At present, these include some 500 farmers listed in the spice network database and almost 200 with small-scale poultry operations, together with those involved in lesser programmes, total being about 750. But there are also organisations which at present include 11 Rural Training Centres (RTCs) and seven women’s groups in villages.

i. Farm Support Association (FSA) Quick stats

FSA Membership

# of male members	# of female members	# of Youth (15 – 40yrs)	Total members
150	100		250

National farmer organisation linked to FSA and estimated membership

Farmer organization	# of male members	# of female members	# of Youth (15-40) years	Total members
The Vanuatu Spices Network	100	50		150
Syndicate Agricole et Pastoral du Vanuatu	250	50		300
Rural training centers at Napil, Navota, Vainduhu	32	8	40	40
Women’s groups at Nakula, Baha’i, Lawia, Lamak 1, Lamlu, Tevaliout, Tahu, Brenwei, Larvat, Botindir, Pinalum Van 1, Pinalum Van 2, Pinalum SL, Orap	60	240	100	300
Participatory Guarantee System	248 households – Male and female members		248	
Total	442	348	140	790 + 248 households for PGS

Total estimated farmers linked to PIFON through FSA

# of male members	# of female members	# of households	Total members
592	448	248	1,288

To provide some context - there are an estimated 35,000 farming households in Vanuatu.

ii. Highlights

Activities completed by Vanuatu include:

- i. A publication was prepared for PIFON member Farm Support Association (FSA) highlighting a number of key lessons that come from the twenty years of experience with the Vanuatu Spices Network. The publication also explores the role of organic certification in the development of the Vanuatu Spices Network and how this has evolved over a period of twenty years.
- ii. A scoping activity to support improved access to key agricultural inputs through enhancing farm supply enterprises was initiated with Marco Polo implementing this in February 2016. This technical exchange between Fiji and Vanuatu input suppliers was piloted with Syndicate Agricole Du Vanuatu (SAPV) which is an input supply farmer organisation based in Port Vila, Vanuatu.



The Vanuatu Spices Network: Lessons from Twenty Years' Experience

iii. Achievements

- a) The Vanuatu Spices Network publication is a useful resource for other Pacific Islands involved in spice production and marketing as it highlights key success factors for an export spice industry as well as an interesting model linking smallholder farmers in remote locations to agribusiness.
- b) As a result of the scoping study on “improved access to key agricultural inputs through enhancing farm supply enterprises”, SAPV is now sourcing new products from new sources at a reduced cost.

Papua New Guinea

PNG Women in Agriculture Development Foundation is the nominated farmer organisation in Papua New Guinea for PIFON's National Implementing Agency (NIA) with other farmer organisations. Under PNG WiA there are some 120 farmer organisations that belong to their umbrella.

The origins of PNG Women in Agriculture Development Foundation (PNG WiA) go back to year 2000 when the National Agriculture Research Institute of PNG (NARI), a major player in the development of agriculture in the country started an initiative to capture and promote the “Voices of Women in the Food Chain”. The programme sought women's views about the constraints and issues they faced as farmers and as the country's major food producers. NARI also wanted women to learn about the food chain, about the services it provides to smallholder farmers, and to provide an opportunity for women farmers to form networks.

The initiative resulted in the role of women in farming being officially recognized. It also led to the formation of WiA to be a “voice for women to be recognized as equal partners in Agriculture, promoting partnership and encouraging innovation by women for empowerment and development”. The significance of WiADF as a force for development may be seen from the fact that women play a leading role in agriculture in a country where 85% of the rural population depend on agriculture and fisheries for their livelihood.

i. PNG Women in Agriculture Development Foundation Quick stats

PNG WiA Membership

# of male members	# of female members	# of Youth (15 – 40 yrs)	Total members
2,320	8,200	2,460	10,520

There are an estimated 1.5 million farming households in PNG.

ii. Highlights

Activities undertaken by PNG WiA are:

i. A livestock and fish farming training conducted for farmers in the highlands of PNG from May 09th – 12th, 2016. Livestock included poultry and pig. The basic training highlighted many cost effective methods in fish and animal husbandry. The final phase of this training involved basic book keeping and financial literacy.



A report on a livestock and fish farming training conducted for farmers in the highlands of PNG

ii. Support was provided to PNG Women in Agriculture Development Foundation (WiA) to contract a consultant to document and profile 15 farmer organisations both in picture form and short videos.

iii. Support was also provided for the write-up of 3 project proposals and to conduct a proposal writing training for 20 participants.

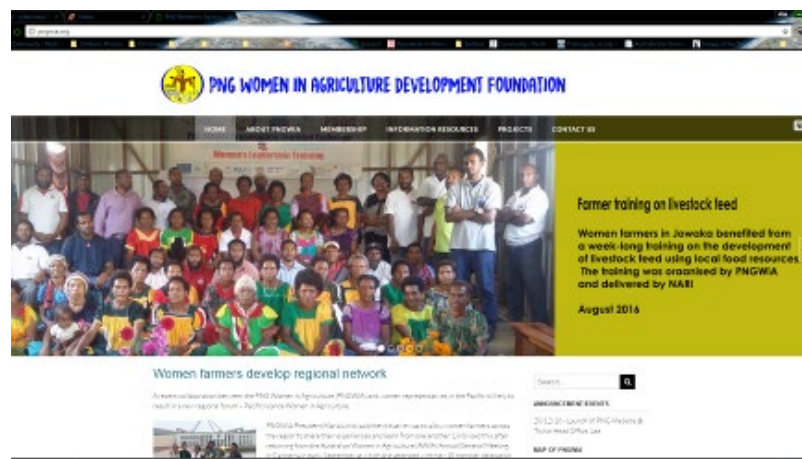
iv. A short term consultancy was also awarded to conduct meetings of farmer groups to carry out awareness, needs assessments and profiling of groups across four regions in PNG. The goal is to strengthen and better integrate smaller FOs in PNG into the WiA platform.

v. PNG Women in Agriculture Development Foundation (WiA) was technically assisted via the PAPP programme in the areas of strategic planning and governance. The support mission was carried out by PIFON Chairman immediately following the Southwest Pacific Ministers of Agriculture meeting. The mission also aimed to collate information about the organisation (structure, membership, governance, activities, future planning etc.) and provide recommendations for areas of PIFON support.

iii. Achievements

a) PAPP funds were utilised by Papua New Guinea Women in Agricultural Development Foundation (PNG WiA) to develop and establish its website with email services. It is now up and running (www.pngwia.org) having been customized and integrated/linked to relevant communication platforms and social networking spaces for greater online presence and interaction. This should raise the profile of the FO and of women in agriculture in PNG generally.

b) Through MTCP II funding 15 farmer organisation profiles have been documented both in picture form and short videos which strengthens and better integrates these smaller FOs in PNG into the WiA platform.



Samoa

Samoa Farmers Association (SFA) is the nominated National Implementing Agency (NIA) for Samoa under the MTCP II programme.

The Samoa Farmers Association (SFA) began life in 2006 as the Samoa Crops Cooperation Association (SCCA) and had its name changed to Samoa Farmers Association, to more correctly reflect the spread of its membership and farming interests. SFA's core business is helping commercially-orientated smallholder farmers to grow their business by providing access to key services, inputs, and technical expertise.

The SFA has an expanding membership of 300, comprising individual farming families and village groups. There are also a small but growing number of agribusiness members. The membership is spread throughout the country (Samoa Upolu, Savaii, and Manono islands) and include both crop and livestock producers.

i. Highlights

Activities completed are:

i. A follow up on the pineapple technical farmer to farmer exchanges conducted in 2014 and 2015 from Fiji to Samoa was undertaken again in 2016 from October 01 – 05, 2016 as an MTCP II funded activity.

ii. An MTCP II funded papaya technical Farmer to Farmer exchange follow-up to the November 2015 training by Fiji to Samoa was done October 10 – 14, 2016.



Culled trees on an SFA's members farm to encourage more hermaphrodite fruit

Yellow leaves and undersized fruit on the demo plot planted in 2015 due to non-availability of the Growth Regulator for off season flower induction





Red solo sunrise trees at Charlie Alikis farm at Aleisa



Yellow leaves and undersized fruit on the demo plot planted in 2015 due to non-availability of the Growth Regulator for off season flower induction

ii. Achievements

a) The initial challenge was to get farmers to plant more systematically and to use a planting plan to break the natural cycle and prepare for off-season production. The impacts of the papaya farmer to farmer technical exchange programme can now already be seen on some pineapple farms in Samoa, including:

- The natural cycle had been broken on a number of farms.
- 65,000 – 70,000 plants had been planted in stages and were ready to produce off-season fruit before the 2016 natural pineapple season in November/December 2016.
- 10 – 12 tonnes of fruit was sold locally through “Farmer Joe’s” shops in Apia during the off season of 2016, this being regarded as a substantial and profitable success.

Solomon Islands

Kastom Gaden Association (KGA) is the nominated NIA for the Solomons. KGA was established as a charitable trust in 2000. It grew out of a five-year programme of an Australian NGO focused on providing services to the subsistence and local market agriculture sector which encompassed the vast majority of the rural population. At the time, this sector was poorly-serviced and poorly-recognised by government, donors, and private sector.

The KGA mission is to ‘Strengthen village-based food security in the Solomon Islands using participatory, practical, grass-roots approaches that enable village people to examine, understand, and develop their own solutions to improving household food security and village- based agriculture economy’. KGAs core business is to provide services to members of the Solomon Islands Planting Material Network.

KGAs Planting Material Network has about 3000 members across the country. Most are individual farmers but the network membership also includes 175 formal and informal farmer and other village-based groups including women’s and youth groups. Members are entitled to access to the KGA seed bank, a newsletter, and to take part in the various extension services for food security and livelihood improvement. Since 2010, KGA has selected ten key partner Farmer Organisations in five of the nine provinces of the Solomon Islands to build their capacity to provide extension services to farmers on the local level and based on local needs. These partners are estimated to reach about 40% of the network members.

i. Kastom Gaden Association (KGA) Quick stats

KGA Membership

# of male members	# of female members	# of Youth (15-40 yrs)	Total members
2200	3050		5250



National farmer organisation linked to KGA and estimated membership

Farmer organization	# of male members	# of female members	# of Youth (15 – 40 yrs)	Total members
Planting Material Network	2200	3050		5250
Baetolau Farmers Association	200	300		500
Nut Growers Association of S.I.	1100	400		1500
Lodurimata Farmers Association	300	250		550
West Are Are Rokotanikeni Asso.		900		900
Star Harbour Farmers Association	150	100		250
Total	3950	5000		8950

Total estimated farmers linked to PIFON through KGA

# of male members	# of female members	Total members
3950	5000	8950

To provide context, there are an estimated 83,000 farming households in the Solomon Islands.

ii. Highlights

KGA carried out the following activities in 2016:

- The Virgin Coconut Oil Producers Association (VCOPA) endorsed by Kastom Gaden Association (KGA) as an observer, working in partnership with PIFON undertook a strategic planning exercise to formulate its 5 year Strategic plan. VCOPA is working to align its Strategic Plan to the Solomon Islands Government agriculture development plans to ensure steady growth of the industry in the years to come. It brings in nuts from the main island of Guadalcanal and other islands into its site to produce virgin coconut oil (VCO).
- Funds were transferred to KGA for the PBSP activities for 2016.

Guide to the Production of Organic Crops for the Pacific

ROTF 2009

An organic farming guide produced by POETCom that is reprinted

iii. Achievements

- Support was provided to KGA for the re-printing of an organic farming guide, produced by POETCom. The new manual/guide on organic farming practices incorporates PGS and Pacific Organic Standard requirements for use by farmers, schools and promoters of organic practices in Solomon Islands.

Timor Leste

ANAPROFIKO became a member of the Pacific Island Farmers Organisation Network in May 2016. Following a series of consultation meetings and a scoping mission by the PIFON Manager, Kyle Stice it was agreed that PIFON would request for Timor Leste to be an expansion country under the IFAD/SDC Medium Term Cooperation Program Phase II (MTCP II), with ANAPROFIKO as the National Implementing Agency (NIA). This proposal was agreed by the MTCP II Regional Steering Committee (RSC) meeting in Laos (June, 2016). The signing of the LOA between ANAPROFIKO-TL and PIFON was completed on

August 1st 2016. A total of FJD\$15,000 (USD\$7,159.50) was transferred from PIFON to Timor Leste on August 30th 2016 based on an agreed workplan and budget to be implemented from September – December 2016.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION COMMERCIAL SEED PRODUCER TIMOR-LESTE (ANAPROFIKO) Quick Stats

ANAPROFIKO Membership

# of male members	# of female members	# of Youth(15 - 40 yrs)	Total members
1550	1210	Around 1750	2760

National farmer organisation linked to ANAPROFIKO and estimated membership

Farmer Organization	# of male members	# of female members	# of Youth (15 - 40 yrs)	Total members
Ass. Naroman	13	3	16	16
Ass. Esperansa Moris Diak	19	6	20	25
Ass. Raibohat	4	10	5	14
Ass. Lakabasi	10	7	4	17
Ass. Lolo Liman	10	9	14	19
Ass. Haburas Fini	16	5	15	21
Total	72	40	74	112

There are an estimated 122 farming households in Timor Leste.

i.Highlights

A number of important activities were conducted over the reporting period, including:

- Training of on proposal writing
- Training on seed quality control
- ANAPROFIKO Visit to member groups for consultation on FAO conservation agriculture
- Participation in seed learning exchange and open pollinated seed roundtable
- Consultation meeting on open pollinated seed learning exchange and open pollinated seed roundtable
- Consultation meeting with MAFF on seed quota and pricing
- Capacity building for ANAPROFIKO secretariat

Training on proposal writing

A training on proposal writing was carried out by Mr. Simão Belo (Advisor from MAFF) with a representative of 43 farmer groups. This training was conducted on 25th November 2016 at EXPERENZ, Delta Elemloi, Dili Timor-Leste.

Following the training 2 farmer groups completed a funding proposal which was submitted to a number of local partners including: TOMAK, CARE International, World Vision and FAO. The farmer groups are still awaiting positive feedback on these proposals.





Training on seed quality control

A training on seed quality control was carried out by Ms. Modesto (Advisor from TOMAK Program). This training was completed together with the training on proposal writing and involved representatives from 43 farmer groups. The training was conducted on 25th November 2016 at EXPERENZ, Delta Elemloi, Dili Timor-Leste.

The training focused on the critical elements on the certified seed system including: seed purity, processing, packaging and labelling. The training also allowed for consultation on the issue of pricing, margins for ANAPROFIKO and other issues.

Following the training, representatives from farmer groups returned to their districts and carried out further training to other group members and developed workplan to implement the program for seed production.

ANAPROFIKO Visit to member groups for consultation on FAO conservation agriculture



The ANAPROFIKO President and Secretary accompanied a representative from FAO to seven districts (Aleu, Manufahi, Bobonaro, Ermera, Ainaro, Covalima and Lequisa) to conduct awareness and consultation on the FAO program on conservation agriculture. This awareness and consultation program occurred from November 18-22, 2016.

Over the course of the consultation over 74 farmers were engaged. Following the awareness and consultation a number of groups expressed that were interested in implementing these activities on their farms.

Participation in seed learning exchange and open pollinated seed roundtable



ANAPROFIKO President attended a 4 day seed learning exchange to Queensland, Australia to learn about a range of topics from seed varieties, seed purity, packaging, germination tests etc. Following this seed learning exchange the president attended an open pollinated seed roundtable meeting in Honiara, Solomon Islands. At this meeting the president and a SoL advisor made presentations about the ANAPROFIKO certified seed scheme.

Upon return from this seed learning exchange the President developed several activities that ANAPROFIKO would explore based on his learnings.



Participation in seed learning exchange and open pollinated seed roundtable

ANAPROFIKO President attended a 4 day seed learning exchange to Queensland, Australia to learn about a range of topics from seed varieties, seed purity, packaging, germination tests etc. Following this seed learning exchange the president attended an open pollinated seed roundtable meeting in Honiara, Solomon Islands. At this meeting the president and a SoL advisor made presentations about the ANAPROFIKO certified seed scheme. Upon return from this seed learning exchange the President developed several activities that ANAPROFIKO would explore based on his learnings.



Consultation meeting with MAFF on seed quota and pricing

ANAPROFIKO on behalf of its members held a consultation meeting with Marcos da Cruz (Vice Minister of Agriculture) and other MAFF staff on January 25th, 2017. Present from ANAPROFIKO was the President, Secretary and Treasurer. This meeting was preceded by a meeting of the National Seed Council. During this meeting ANAPROFIKO was able to negotiate on behalf of its members related to:

- Quantities of seed to be supplied to MAFF
- Price of seed to be paid to seed associations

The meeting also covered the basics components of the seed system that would be implemented over the course of the supplying year.

Capacity building for ANAPROFIKO secretariat

A number of purchases were made over the reporting period to strengthen the capacity of the ANAPROFIKO secretariat including:

- Digital camera
- Printer
- Mobile PA system

These purchases have strengthened the secretariats ability to deliver trainings to its members and properly report on these activities.

ii. Achievements

Over 220 farmers were directly involved in these activities, including 151 males and 71 females.

In 2015/2016 ANAPROFIKO members (commercial seed producers) have produced 470 tons of seeds of MAF released varieties which are ready for distribution for the 2017 cropping season, including:

- Maize (Sele variety) – 135 tonnes (from 43 associations)
- Maize (Noi Mutin variety) – 64 tonnes
- Maize (Nai variety) – 6 tonnes



- Paddy rice (Nakroma variety) – 227 tonnes
- Peanut (Utamua variety) – 16 tonnes

Some challenges experienced over the reporting period include:

- Lack of transportation for visiting of members
- Limited resources to engage all farmer groups

Several opportunities have been identified for the 2017 workplan including:

- Capacity building training on seed quality control
- Training on conservation agriculture
- Hosting of ANAPROFIKO 2nd Congress

PIFON Secretariat 2016 Highlights



PIFON's new office at Legalega, Nadi

Relocation to new PIFON office

During the 2nd quarter, PIFON's Secretariat office took an important step in increasing its capacity and manpower from historically two to three last year and four today. Additionally, the Secretariat moved to a new office after being co-housed with one of its FO members since inception. The Secretariat and PIFON Board is appreciative of NWC's co-housing which enabled PIFON to grow as a young organisation. Today, PIFON now boasts its own Secretariat office equipped adequately to address the needs of its members, located conveniently in Nadi, Fiji next to the Nadi International Airport surrounded by hotels. PIFON is now regionally positioned strategically as Fiji is also the hub centre and airport for the Pacific region, making it plausible to host workshops, conferences and exchanges with ease both locally, regionally and internationally. For PIFON as an organisation, the additional manpower capacity and the move to its new office heralds in an exciting era as it continues to grow into its role as MTCPII's SRIA for the Pacific region.

Membership Expansion

The PIFON board approved and welcomed into the network as new members from New Caledonia, the Chamber of Agriculture. This action was largely in response to PIFON's new membership drive and direction of spreading its reach across the Pacific including into the French territories as was recommended from its Strategic Review document. With the increase in its staffing capacity of its Secretariat, PIFON is now seeking new membership to grow its membership base. New Caledonia is the first French Territory to become a member of PIFON.



The PIFON-AFA team at the PIFON office following a week-long workshop in capacity building

Capacity Building Training for PIFON Secretariat

A capacity building workshop was organized and implemented by AFA for the PIFON Secretariat staff from Sep 27 – 30, 2016. The purpose of the workshop was to re-tool and mentor the staff to ensure that the team was levelled-off and consistent in the interpretation of the MTCP2 log frame plan and budget.

The PIFON team are now in a better position to conduct training on Knowledge Management (KM), Finance and Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E).



Sinai Tuitahi of Growers Federation of Tonga making her country presentation at the 2016 PIFON Learning and Planning Meeting

Hosting of 2016 Learning and planning meeting + Sub-Regional Steering Committee Meeting

PIFON held a three-day Learning and Planning Meeting for its NIAs from November 23 – 25, 2016 at the Lagoon Resort, Pacific Harbour comprising of a PIFON-SPC Impact Workshop, the Sub-Regional Steering Committee (SRSC) meeting and a Farmer Organisation Consultation meeting on Family Farming.

At the Annual SRSC meeting held on November 24, 2016, present were representatives from 7 of the Pacific NIA's whereby each delegate presented their Country Report activities held in 2017 and expectations of 2018 year forward, issues and lessons to learn going forward into 2018.

Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation

Sixteen e-bulletins and three newsletters have been disseminated within this period highlighting PIFON activities including member success stories and lessons learnt. The e-bulletins and newsletters can be retrieved on the web via the website www.pacificfarmers.com.

PIFON's website is being constantly updated and is considered to be an up-to-date repository of key information resources relevant to FOs.









PIFON
PACIFIC ISLAND FARMERS ORGANISATION NETWORK

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

