



The Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POETCom) is a not for profit membership organisation with active members (farmers associations, farmer support organisations, NGOs, private sector, research institutions and working with governments across the Pacific Island region.

The Secretariat hosted by the Land Resources Division (LRD) of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) in Suva, Fiji.



Understanding of organic agriculture as more than traditional practice is also an emerging theme. Pacific farmers are dealing with a range of new climate associated risks and issues, managing introduced non-traditional crops, and needing to feed higher populations off less and sometimes degraded lands. In many scenarios traditional practice needs to be enhanced in terms of agro-biodiversity and improved organic technologies which marry best traditional practice and knowledge with modern techniques and learning.

Organic agriculture contributes to:

- improved local and regional food and nutritional security;
- improved farmer livelihoods by enabling farmers to trade, with access to both domestic and export markets, and by reducing dependence on imported production inputs;
- improved human health, by providing better access to high-quality, clean, safe and nutritious food;
- promotes diversified, productive and sustainable farming systems resilient to climate change impacts;
- protects and enhances the environment, by encouraging the use of environmentally friendly management practices; and
- improves the well-being of people and communities, by promoting the adoption of ethical labour and social justice principles.



To join POETCom or find more information visit www.organicpasifika.org or email poetcom@spc.int
 POETCom would like to acknowledge the support of



Pacific Organics and Ethical Trade - the key contributors to sustaining our cultures and communities; improving farmer livelihoods, people's health and our environment.





About POETCom

Organic agriculture is about sustainability- ecosystem integrity, social well-being, economic resilience, and good governance. Organic agriculture has a significant contribution to make towards sustainable development due to its environment and climate friendly production systems, its suitability for small holders and its adaptation to local conditions. It safeguards diversity of food cultures, traditional knowledge and nutritional security and the entire organic system is based on participation and necessary public-private partnerships, integrating smallholders into markets.

OUR VISION

Organics and ethical trade: the key contributor to sustaining our cultures and communities; improving farmer livelihoods, people's health and the environment in the Pacific.

OUR MISSION

Through coordination, information sharing, networking, capacity building and establishing a regional certification scheme; grow the organic and ethical trade movement and contribute to a productive, resilient, sustainable and healthy Pacific Island region.

To achieve our vision and mission we work in 4 main areas of impact

Area of Impact	Goals
Mindset	For organic agriculture to be 'mainstreamed' and widely recognised and adopted as a solution to many of the regions challenges
Production & Environment	For organic production to meet market demands and ensure food and nutritional security for Pacific peoples while protecting and enhancing our island environments
Value chains	For domestic and export organic value chains to be developed and strengthened providing expanded livelihoods opportunities for Pacific producers
Sustainability	For POETCom to secure the partnerships and the human, financial and institutional resources it requires to achieve its mission and goals.

WHY ORGANICS & ETHICAL TRADE?

Pacific organic principles

Organic agriculture, whether in farming, processing, distribution or consumption, is aimed at sustaining and enhancing the health of ecosystems and organisms, from the smallest living entity in the soil to human beings. It is guided by the following principles:

Health – organic agriculture sustains and enhances the health of the soil, which enables the production of healthy plants and animals to enhance the lives of people and their environment, as one and indivisible.

Ecology – organic agriculture is based on living ecological systems and cycles, works with them, emulates them and helps to sustain them.

Fairness – organic agriculture builds on relationships that ensure fairness with regard to the common environment and life opportunities. The key role of farmers and rural communities are recognised and benefits shared equitably with them.

Care – organic agriculture is managed in a precautionary and responsible manner to protect the health and well-being of current and future generations and the environment.

Culture and traditions – Pacific organic agriculture recognises the value of contributions from traditional agriculture and Pacific cultures.

Organic agriculture is not a new concept in the Pacific, it is very much the traditional farming system that Pacific forefathers practiced sustainably for centuries. Today some countries have moved towards more intensive agro chemical focused farming but current farming practices in many communities are still based on 'age-old' systems that are free from the residues of agrichemicals and where environmental integrity remains largely intact. At the same time the motives for organic farming have changed in 2 main ways:

- In the past farming was predominantly for subsistence living, but in the cash driven societies that we live in today, there is now a need from overseas markets to ensure that products being labeled and sold as organic produce meet international standards;
- The recognition of the role of organic agriculture in mitigating impacts of climate change, ensuring food security and protecting our fragile ecosystems is become more widely understood and accepted.