

Implementation Report

This document reports on the implementation of the 2017 General Assembly (GA) motions, as approved by the GA 2017 in Wallis and Futuna

POETCom General Assembly 2017 Summary

Motions Title	Motion	Result
POETCom General Assembly	POETCom General Assembly to be held every two years and to go back-to-back with PWA	Approved
<p><i>Secretariat Response: POETCom has incorporated this directive into the POETCom Strategic Plan 2021-2025. It has proven difficult to find funding for face-to-face GA meetings, however, one of the opportunities resulting from the COVID pandemic is that we are becoming more productive with on-line virtual and hybrid meetings using Zoom and other technologies. This November 2021 hybrid GA is planned to be the first of two, with the second tentatively planned for second quarter 2022. The two meetings will put the Secretariat back on track with this directive.</i></p>		
Motions from Secretariat		
Membership Policy	1-Focal points to remain. There will be one country, one vote system at the GA.	Approved
	2-National GAs (General Assemblies) to be held in each focal point country six months before the POETCom 2019 GA. Reports and participants lists of national GAs to be submitted to the Secretariat before the POETCom GA.	Approved
	3-Members are allowed to participate at the POETCom GA	Approved
	4-Subscription fee for focal points/members deferred until study is undertaken under EDF 11 (Protégé). Fee and cost structure for POETCom scoping work is already budgeted under EDF 11.	Approved

<p><i>Secretariat Response:</i> 1-Focal Point system will remain in place for the 2021 GA. This position will be discussed as part of the EDF 11 Protégé funded POETCom Governance Review. This policy may be re-addressed at the 2022 GA. 2-For the 2021 GA a National Policy Questionnaire was sent to Focal Points with results consolidated by the Secretariat. National GAs will be planned in preparation for the 2022 GA, however, it will be difficult to complete them six months in advance of the GA. 3-All POETCom Members and Supporters have been invited and encouraged to participate in this GA although per POETCom Statutes, only Focal Points will vote. 4- This position will be discussed as part of the EDF 11 Protégé funded POETCom Governance Review. Membership Fee and Cost structure revision may be proposed for the 2022 GA.</p>		
Changes to Statutes	Name change from Advisory Board to just Board. The name change will expand the functions of the board from merely an advisory role. This is also in anticipation of becoming an independent organization.	Approved
No Secretariat Response necessary		
POETCom Registering as Separate Entity from SPC	POETCom to register as a separate entity from the Pacific Community and to inform SPC that it will make such a move based on the results of a 2016 survey and a legal opinion to be registered in Fiji. POETCom to have a two-year transition period in which to emancipate from SPC	Approved
<p><i>Secretariat Response: This will be addressed on Day 2 of the GA as part of the POETCom Governance Review and Proposed Revisions. Discussion from this GA will guide the EDF 11 Protégé Consultants' recommendation to be acted upon at the 2022 GA.</i></p>		
Proxy Voting	Proxy voting allowed for General Assembly but only with special conditions such as unforeseen circumstances that prevents a representative of NFP's physical presence at the GA	Approved
<p><i>Secretariat Response: Since the 2021 GA is a virtual event, proxy voting will be unnecessary. For future in-person GAs, provisions for proxy voting under Board approved special circumstances will be provided.</i></p>		
Board Size	POETCom Board will have seven board members, with two ex-officio or honorary member status or more as required by the board. The two ex officio or honorary members will be accountants and legal officer. This helps with the setup of	Approved

	accountability processes of POETCom.	
<i>Secretariat Response: The POETCom Board will be expanded to seven members at the 2021 GA.</i>		
Changes to Statutes Regarding Role of Board	Rewording of Board role: Board cannot make strategic decisions, and only has the authority to EXECUTE the decisions of the POETCom General Assembly while the Secretariat is the Administrator of the Board's executive decisions. The Board will also have working groups.	Approved
<i>Secretariat Response: The POETCom Board and Secretariat have been operating under this understanding and will continue to do so.</i>		
Coordinator	The Board appoint a coordinator and install an office which executes the decision and plans of POETCom organ/structure under guidance by the Board	Approved
<i>Secretariat Response: The POETCom Coordinator Position is funded 50% SPC Core funding and 50% from the DFAT project. The position was advertised November 2018, filled in May 2019 with the current POETCom Coordinator Starting 17 June 2019.</i>		
Finances	Finances Motion – about financial reporting – approved. Financial reports now also go to the Board.	Approved
<i>Secretariat Response: Although reports to the Board include financial information, this is an area for improvement going forward.</i>		
Motions from Focal Points		
Study	Bio Caledonia proposed the study about the management and governance of POS and POETCom/SPC structure with all stakeholders involved with support of EDF 11OCT.	Approved
<p><i>Secretariat Response: The EDF 11 project titled Protégé was launched in 2018 and will run through 2022. Objectives for the Project include to "Remove barriers to organic agriculture and structure the sector in a sustainable manner".</i></p> <p><i>Outcomes include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Review and Proposed Revisions to the POETCom Governance System including Statutes and the Pacific Organic Guarantee System. 		

<p><i>-Review of the Pacific Organic Standard [POS] through stakeholder consultations and the creation of a POS Guidebook.</i></p> <p><i>Day two of the GA will be focused on preliminary presentations and discussion of proposals from the Consultants.</i></p>		
Youth	<p>Youth Chapter of POETCom and a Youth Representative on the POETCom Board. To ensure youths interests in organic farming are well represented and actioned. This is in response to declining youth participation in farming.</p>	Approved
<p><i>Secretariat Response: Youth engagement is an ongoing priority of the Secretariat's Project Planning and Delivery.</i></p> <p><i>-Presented at 1st Young Organics Global Network 1st global youth summit 20-22 Oct. 2021</i></p> <p><i>-Sponsored Reperi Navukitu from Loving Islands to the FAO, UN Indigenous Peoples Summit, Rome 2020</i></p> <p><i>-POETCom Secretariat includes 4 of 9 Staff as Youth according to the UN definition (<36 years)</i></p> <p><i>The POETCom Secretariat is in the early phases of establishing a Youth Chapter as included in the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan.</i></p>		
Compensation for Technical Committees (Standards and Certification, PGS)	<p>POETCom Board will draft the terms of the compensation to be awarded to members of the Standard and Certification Committee that provide professional opinion on certification and or production issues. It will circulate the draft within 12 months. In the meantime, POETCom will ask for certifiers understanding and continued support with professional advice during this period.</p>	Approved
<p><i>Secretariat Response: No action has been taken on this initiative pending recommendations from the EDF 11 Protégé Report, which will be discussed on Day 2 of the 2021 GA in order to guide final recommendations to be voted on at the 2022 GA.</i></p>		
Payment for Organic Pasifika Mark	<p>Commencing 2018, all PGS certified under POS to pay for the use of the Organic Pasifika Mark. Discussions agreed on deferring to allowing proper consultation, surveys, studies on cost structures for use of the mark to be carried out under the EDF 11 funding stream.</p>	<i>Motion deferred by GA to come up again at the 2019 GA</i>
<p><i>Secretariat Response: No action has been taken on this initiative pending recommendations from the EDF 11 Protégé Report, which will be discussed on Day 2 of the 2021 GA in order to guide final recommendations to be voted on at the 2022 GA.</i></p>		
Organic Experience Criteria for Board Membership	<p>Members of the board to have organic experience in different technical areas and are representing a country who have PGS or 3rd</p>	Approved

	party certification	
<i>Secretariat Response: The current and proposed Boards meet these requirements.</i>		
Technical Exchanges between Young Organic Farmers	To initiate and continue to hold technical exchanges between young Organic farmers and old Organic farmers. This motion is put forward by NIOFA for the following reasons: - Older farmers have much experience and need to pass on the knowledge so Organic practices can be passed onto future generations and continue to grow the Organic Movement -Technical exchanges encourage farmers to help farmers' find solutions and innovations for their own practices. -Need to foster and encourage more youth into organic farming through mentor programmes.	Approved
<p><i>Secretariat Response: As responded to in the Youth section above; Youth engagement is an ongoing priority of the Secretariat's Project Planning and Delivery.</i></p> <p><i>Progress includes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Networking Members for knowledge sharing including Success Stories, Mentoring, Workshops and Farmer-to Farmer exchanges. -The DFAT funded BPWP Building Prosperity for Women Producers, through Organic Value Chains, and the AFT funded Kiwa Organic Learning Farms projects deliberately include Youth and Young Organic Farmers as target stakeholders for inclusion and Technical Exchanges. -POETCom project planning and development always includes Youth as part of GESI: Gender Equity and Social Inclusion referring to "Women and other underserved stakeholders". 		
South-to-South Cooperation and knowledge exchange for value adding organic resources to stimulate entrepreneurship	To initiate knowledge-based South to South Cooperation for value adding organic resources for stimulating entrepreneurship.	Approved

Secretariat Response: Knowledge Exchange is an ongoing activity for the Secretariat and is included in the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan.

Progress includes:

- Knowledge Product curation and development.
- The Resources section of the revised Website will consolidate these materials
- The AFT funded Kiwa Organic Learning Farms project Component 4: Monitoring, Knowledge Management Learning and visibility
- POETCom and Board Member Nambo Moses linked to FAO Seeds: Small Island Development States Solutions Platform Forum in Samoa in 2021. A follow up Summit will be held in 2022 with the backing of the Australia and New Zealand Governments.
- Secretariat participation in the South-South and Triangular Cooperation IFAD sustainable farming best practices
- POETCom Organic Systems Extension Officer Stephen Hazelman has been elected to the Inter-Continental Organization of Organic Farming Movements [INOFO], the farmer wing of IFOAM, where organic and sustainable best practices are shared globally.

<p>Women in Organic Chapter</p>	<p>The motion for POETCom to have a woman in organics arm was moved by the Secretariat. A women’s chapter it proposed would engage women more powerfully, as meal deciders and the nutritional guardians of families. It would align well with development partners’ agendas for funding focuses. An opposing view held that women are already involved in organic work so no need to create a separate chapter. It added that there is a hang up on emphasising the gender movement imposed on Pacific islanders by a different culture with its own distinct set of values. Fiji for example had female chiefs, women in charge of landowning units and so forth. Wallis and Futuna and Niue similarly noted there was no need for women empowerment in their countries as women were already empowered.</p>	<p>Approved</p>
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Secretariat Response: The POETCom Secretariat has made significant advances on this mandate. GESI mainstreaming accomplishments include:

- Ongoing implementation of The Building Prosperity for Women Producers, Processors and Women Owned Businesses through Organic Value Chain (BPWP) project in 4 countries (RMI, Palau, FSM and Kiribati)
- Through the project and with full-time engagement of a Gender and Value Chain Advisor, POETCom has now taken a systematic and integrated approach to mainstreaming GESI throughout its areas of work. The Gender Advisor is responsible for the development and the implementation of the organizational and project-level gender strategy, as well as value-chain-specific gender strategies
- In 2020, POETCom launched its 2021-2025 Strategic Plan. The POETCom 2021-2025 Strategic Plan placed emphasis on Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI), implying a ground-breaking gender inclusive people-centred approach. The plan marks a new important

milestone in terms of gender mainstreaming into the organic agriculture sector in the Pacific. The Strategic Plan includes a specific annex on guiding recommendations towards gender equality outcomes – highlighting the POETCom commitment to gender for future work and projects

- *Continued advocacy on GESI and incorporating of GESI principles in the organic sector through participation in regional platforms (e.g. Pacific Women WEE RoundTable) and events, and the development of POETCom statement 'Organic Stands for Gender Equality', and the submission, successfully passed, of the motion for 'Adding Gender Equality and Social Inclusion to the Organic Agriculture Principle of Fairness' to the IFOAM General Assembly (September 2021)*
- *A needs and gap analysis for gender and social Inclusion within POETCom's strategy, governance, tools and processes was completed. The report ensures that the structures for POETCom are reviewed to integrate well GESI and to be more relevant to the diverse representation (e.g. by gender) of POETCom members, and primary actors of our interventions.*
- *POETCom co-hosted a Side Event titled Women of the Land and the Sea – economically empowering women across agriculture and fisheries value chains at the 14th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women held in April 2021. POETCom members shared stories of women's empowerment addressing the key principles of Pacific Organic Agriculture. Those stories highlight the need for and importance of applying an integrated and cross sectoral approach by bringing agricultural-related issues into the gender space while acknowledging the organic sector as a key area for women's empowerment.*
- *POETCom is in the progress of finalizing a gender and organic value chain assessment toolkit. The toolkit is designed to support various organic agricultural stakeholders to integrate gender into their work – in particular programme managers and practitioners working on organic agriculture, as well as extension officers, farmer organisation managers and participatory guarantee group members. The toolkit provides common tools tailored to the organic and Pacific context to actively address gender-related gaps, challenges and opportunities for supporting women's participation in viable value chains.*
- *Conducted a preliminary Gender assessment for specific agricultural value chains in Palau and the Republic of Marshall Islands to identify opportunities for Gender Equality and Women's Economic Empowerment.*
- *Developed Information paper on The Pandanus Value Chain in RMI Laura Area including gender related findings and recommendations.*
- *Capacity development of 55 individuals (including 34 women) through supporting their participation in Protecting Your Business Against Corruption: Developing an Anti-corruption Toolkit for Women-owned Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in Palau Workshop in Palau and Business Plan Development Workshop in RMI.*
- *Applied an integrated and crosscutting approach to the situational analysis on organic agriculture conducted in the Solomon Islands and Palau which enable to capture gender issues, and inform the development of a draft gender-responsive National Organic Policy*
- *Climate and gender-sensitive assessments were done for the Pandanus fruit in RMI, and freshwater oysters in Fiji value chains using the climate change and gender framework. A synthesis report was developed, summarising lessons learned and recommendations for gender and climate change programming in the agricultural value chains*
- *Under Improving small ruminant production and supply in Fiji and Samoa Project, funded by ACIAR, POETCom built partnerships with University of New England and Sydney (Australia) for undertaking a gender assessment of Small Ruminant sector (goat and sheep) in Samoa and Fiji.*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As part of a joint effort by the Pacific Island Farmers Organisation Network (PIFON, in partnership with the Pacific Community's (SPC) Ridge to Reef (R2R) project and Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POETCom), preliminary analysed Coconut Syrup Value Chain in Rabi from a gender perspective to inform project interventions □R2R and PARDI - Integrated gender in Comms and MEL framework and tools. Comms campaign/ social media posts highlighting women's contribution to organic has been developed (also to mark International Women's Day/ International Rural Women Day and other relevant events) - Contributed to increase awareness and understanding among POETCom on good practices related to gender and social inclusion; by using an integrated approach ranging from formal capacity building activities and one-on-one mentorship session to knowledge sharing and informal discussion - Shared POETCom learnings and good practices in GESI mainstreaming in organic across SPC to increase understanding, awareness and inspiring actions towards gender equality <p>The POETCom Secretariat initiated the POETCom Woman's Chapter in August 2021.</p>		
Rights and Duties of Focal Points	Inactive focal points (not doing enough to promote organics) to be excluded from GA. Board reserves the right if needed to disqualify a focal point status if they are not doing enough to promote organics. A two year wait for the GA to make a decision on the focal point is too long.	Approved
<p><i>Secretariat Response: To date the Board has not found it necessary to disqualify any Focal Point. The purpose, role and responsibilities of Focal Points is on the agenda of the 2021 GA, recommendations from the EDF 11 Protégé Report, which will be discussed on Day 2 of the 2021 GA in order to guide final recommendations to be voted on at the 2022 GA.</i></p>		
Bilingual Organisation	Alerted to meeting by translators. POETCom is a bilingual organisation.	Approved
<p><i>Secretariat Response: The Secretariat is aware of this dynamic and continues to make every effort to supply translations whenever time and resources allow. Additional vendors have been approved, especially for small jobs with tight timelines such as email and newsletter communications.</i></p>		
Non-elected members to be part of committees	The motion was moved by the Secretariat for nominees not elected to lead or be part of committees to be formed on youth, women and so forth and that would work with the Board.	Approved
<p>Secretariat Response: The Secretariat has engaged POETCom Members and others onto the following Committees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Technical Standards Committee -PGS Committee -Scientific Think Tank -Women's Chapter -Youth Chapter (pending) 		

Next GA to be held in Samoa	Alberta moved that Samoa would also be hosting the Pacific Week of Agriculture and as the GA has already approved the assembly meet back-to-back with PWA, Samoa was ready to receive the 2019 GA.	Approved
<i>Secretariat Response: Despite considerable efforts to procure funding for a POETCom GA to be held in conjunction with the Samoa PWA, the Secretariat was unable to finalize resources. As we then shifted focus to a GA to be held in 2020 the COVID Pandemic precluded all plans.</i>		

