



Building Capacity for Non-State Actors to Lead Sustainable Agriculture Policy Development

OVERVIEW

Organic agriculture is growing rapidly across the region, driven by small farmers, farmer organisations and the private sector. Governments are increasingly seeking to engage in the policy and regulation space – a critical component to the success of the organic movement. As most of the public sector has little knowledge or experience of the organic sector, there is a high risk that policies and regulations developed may not be the most helpful to the small farmers involved and in extreme cases may be detrimental, for example, to their ability to access markets.

The POETCom Organic Policy Toolkit was designed in 2017 to help organic stakeholders engage in and lead positive policy developments that support small-holder organic farmers and develop the sector to improve livelihoods. It also supports the mainstreaming of organics into other related policies to incorporate the benefits of organics to health and the environment. The training package developed through this project will operationalise the toolkit at the national level and will build capacity of national actors to utilise the toolkit effectively.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The **Building Capacity for Non-State Actors to Lead Sustainable Agriculture Policy Development** project will work with POETCom member organisations, organic governance structures and other non-state actors to strengthen partnerships to strengthen their participation in, and to influence, regional policy dialogue, while strengthening linkages and information flows to constituent groups regarding regional policy implementation. The overall objective of the project is for Pacific communities to work in collaboration with their national governments to achieve food and nutritional security, and to enhance livelihoods through the development and implementation of national policies supporting organic, sustainable and environmentally friendly agriculture.

The project is aligned with POETCom's vision that organics and ethical trade are the key contributors to sustaining our cultures and communities, improving farmer livelihoods, communities, people's health and the environment in the Pacific.

The project is implemented in partnership with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat with funding from the European Union through the Technical Cooperation and Capacity Building Facility (TECCBUF). Under key result area 4 (KRA4) of the TECCBUF, the programme supports the strengthening of the participation of non-state actors and civil society organisations to participate more effectively in regional policy making, development and implementation processes.



Duration

The project timeframe will be for 12 months from July 2021



Target countries

The project will focus on activities in four countries: Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Samoa and Solomon Islands. Outputs from the project will be extended throughout the 15 Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) that POETCom works with.



Activities

Through this project, POETCom will work across a spectrum of activities; including consultations with key partners, development of an advocacy training manual and related organic policy briefs, capacity building activities and policy advocacy work at national and regional level, and project implementation using its scientific and technical knowledge and expertise to address the development needs of its members.

OUTPUTS

These activities will lead directly to the following 3 expected outputs:



1. Development of Pacific Organic Policy Toolkit Training materials, and related policy briefs based on POETCom's existing Regional Organic Policy Toolkit.



2. Organisation of national organic training workshops with farmer organisations and other non-state actors in Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Samoa and Solomon Islands.



3. Implementation of a Regional Organic Policy Training Workshop targeting the 15 POETCom country members.

The project will be managed by the Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POETCom), housed within the Land Resources Division of the Pacific Community. POETCom is the peak body for the organic movement in the Pacific, a membership organisation with Focal Point members in 17 PICTs. The membership of POETCom is broad-based and multisectoral with representation from organic farmers, farmer organisations, traders, governments, academic and research institutions, NGOs and private sector businesses.

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