Fiji National Roundtable Workshop
June 2017: Outcomes Report
An Enabling Environment for Strengthening the Agriculture Nutrition Nexus

Promoting Nutritious Food Systems
in the Pacific Islands
About CTA

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Leveraging the Development of Local Food Crops and Fisheries Value Chains for Improved Nutrition and Sustainable Food Systems in the Pacific Islands with a focus on Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu

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### Acronyms

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<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil society organisation</td>
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<td>CTA</td>
<td>Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation</td>
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<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</td>
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<td>IFAD</td>
<td>International Fund for Agricultural Development</td>
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<td>NCD</td>
<td>Non-communicable diseases</td>
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<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-governmental organisation</td>
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<td>PIPSO</td>
<td>Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation</td>
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<td>SDG</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goal</td>
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<td>SME</td>
<td>Small and medium-sized enterprises</td>
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<td>USP</td>
<td>University of the South Pacific</td>
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<td>VC</td>
<td>Value chain</td>
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01 Introduction
The CTA/IFAD/PIPSO Promoting Nutritious Food Systems in the Pacific Islands – Fiji National Roundtable Workshop took place on 28 and 29 June 2017 at the Tanoa Plaza Hotel in Suva, Fiji. Sixty-three participants representing government ministries, private sector, civil society, academia and regional/development organisations attended the two-day workshop. The agenda and list of participants are attached (Annex 1 and 2).

KEY MESSAGES FROM THE WORKSHOP ARE:

- Double burden of malnutrition, lack of infrastructure, low economic purchasing power and high availability of cheap imported convenience products negatively affect the health of Fijians.
- Insufficient production capacity (inconsistency, low quality and quantity) makes local nutritious food (fish, fruits and vegetables) unaffordable and uncompetitive.
- Inconsistent agricultural supply (quality and quantity) hinders growth in domestic (agribusiness and tourism) and exports markets.
- The agriculture, nutrition and demographic transitions put additional pressure on the agri-food system.
- Women are custodians of fisheries and agricultural knowledge, but they do not have enough decision-making power and face many barriers to business opportunities.
- Fiji farmers, fisher folk and agribusinesses/SMEs are not well networked and are not engaged in cooperative enterprises.
- Training for farmers, fisher folk and agribusinesses/SMEs (with an emphasis on women and youth) on value chain development, financial literacy and management, food safety, post-harvest handling, farming techniques, nutritional analysis etc. is required for value chain development.
- Multiple policies and frameworks that are not coherent with national development goals inhibit social and economic development.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS ARE:

1. Set a high-level inter-connected socio-economic policy agenda using a multi-sectoral-coordinated approach (partnerships and shared responsibilities) for addressing agriculture, nutrition and agribusiness and for tackling non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in Fiji.
2. Establish stronger public-sector collaboration and relationship with academia and private sector for evidence-based policy and strategic planning.
3. Organise networks/collectives of farmers, fishers, SME (agribusiness) to leverage support and address value chain challenges and consider clustering as a means to collaborate.
4. Develop cohesive programmes and joint public-private financing platforms to increase availability of training and financing services for value chain development (farmers, fishers, SME agribusiness with a focus on women and youth).
The workshop was officially opened by Christoph Wagner, Head of Cooperation, European Delegation (EU) for the Pacific. In his opening address, he reflected on the challenges the Pacific is facing in producing a sufficient quantity of high-quality agricultural produce for national and international markets, due to the small scale of production, inconsistent supply, high transport costs, capacity constraints and regulatory hurdles. However, more and more actors are willing to tackle these challenges and make use of the existing opportunities. The EU is proud to promote nutritious food systems in the Pacific, which will have positive economic, social and health effects for the people in the region. Therefore, the EU will continue to collaborate with the private sector and other key stakeholders to upgrade local food crops and fisheries value chains. The EU values the work the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) is doing.

The Regional Coordinator for the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Sakiusa Tubuna, noted that the agricultural sector can play a critical role in stemming the increasing rate of NCDs in Fiji. Even though agriculture has contributed to increased food production and supply, and economic development, little improvement in nutrition outcomes has been observed. Further, IFAD views that the CTA/IFAD/PIPSO project is an opportunity to mainstream nutrition outcomes into the agricultural sector by developing innovative approaches and strategies that can increase people’s access to nutritious and healthy foods. This is to be done through working with smallholder farmers to take advantage of nutrition-related market opportunities and in collaboration with the agribusiness sector to facilitate access to these new markets.

Howard Politini, Chair of PIPSO, reflected on the business agenda in agriculture and tourism acknowledging that while there are sectoral challenges, some are quite fundamental and associated to the cost and ease of doing business generally. He provided some context to PIPSO’s engagement in agribusiness since 2015: Recognising the massive potential that can be derived from a well-managed and cohesive and multi-disciplinary approach to addressing sectoral challenges; advocating access to finance for farmers and others in the agribusiness sector; acknowledging climate change and food security are issues that will continue to confront Pacific growers and agribusinesses; and NCD crisis facing the entire Pacific region.
Building the evidence base
The CTA/IFAD/PIPSO Project ‘Promoting Nutritious Food Systems in the Pacific’

Judith Ann Francis, CTA’s Senior Programme Coordinator Science & Technology Policy, provided a brief overview of the project, which is co-funded by CTA and IFAD and implemented in partnership with PIPSO. The goal of the project is to strengthen the capacity of Pacific Island governments, farmer and private sector organisations, and sub-regional institutions to develop strategies and programmes, and mobilise financing, that can effectively enable poor rural people to increase their access to nutritious and healthy food. Whilst the project is focusing on seven countries – Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu – there is tremendous opportunity for shared learning to other South Pacific Island States. The project is using the three-pronged approach Analyse-Act-Advocate. In the first ‘analyse’ phase, research is being commissioned in the target countries to build the evidence base for planned interventions; the second ‘act’ phase is implementing activities that are agents for change (e.g. the innovation platforms, grand credit facility and seed funding), and the third phase will ‘advocate’ for policy and development impact.

Research presentation: Agriculture nexus in Fiji

Under the project, Dr. Lako, a CTA consultant, was assigned to undertake a rapid scan on the agriculture-nutrition nexus in Fiji as a means to building the evidence base and setting the scene for the broader work and interventions under the project, for Fiji.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM HER PRESENTED FINDINGS ARE:

• High incidence and prevalence of NCDs in Fiji, which continue to rise and the increasing evidence of micronutrient deficiencies especially iron deficiency anaemia – despite multiple policies and programmes on NCDs and food and nutrition.

• Sixteen national policies and frameworks are in place across various line ministries (agriculture, fisheries, health, education etc.) but these are not specific enough on addressing nutritional challenges. Policies cite and reference food security and healthy foods, but greater consideration about concrete implementation and collaboration indicates a gap. There is no reference in key national documents about nutrition or mainstreaming nutrition, and ministries are seen to be working in isolation. Further, there is absence of intervention efforts in agriculture and nutrition.

• Contradictions in policies in both implementation and roll out.

• Numerous programmes/projects are being implemented by agencies and local authorities/entities, but need to be more complementary.

• Increasingly poor eating habits of adolescents with increased consumption of ready-to-eat convenience foods, sugary drinks, and foods high in fats and salt.

• Increasing imports and dependence on imported foods (calorie intake from imported foods: fat (71%), carbohydrates (68%) and protein (60%)) which shows that Fiji has a weak agricultural system.

• Need for more research (including on the relationship between agri-nutrition outcomes by academia) to support the ministries in their work, as well as private sector/businesses. Need for building evidence base at the ground; and monitor the communications and outreach work that is being done (by the Ministry of Health) – are there differences in attitude?
MAJOR GAPS IN AGRICULTURE-NUTRITION NEXUS IDENTIFIED BY DR. LAKO:

- Weak or absence of nutrition link in the National Development Plan and policies in use by the various line ministries
- Lack of commitment and poor coordination of the Fiji Plan of Action for Nutrition (FPAN) with multi-stakeholders and partners
- Lack of gender-sensitive agriculture and gender-disaggregated data
- Limited awareness and availability of nutrient dense local foods
- Conflicting messages in promoting use of local foods

Discussions and commentaries following Dr. Lako’s presentation included questioning: How to engage the Ministry of Education to work with farmers/communities and support school canteens to serve more local nutritious foods – for example fresh bu (water or juice of a young coconut); what considerations are there around post-disaster and recovery time to ensure nutritious food supply; and how to promote local nutritious cuisines and traditional recipes. There is a need to strengthen coordination to consolidate programmes, support and resources and to identify ways to engage with national focal points and line ministries. Better understanding about available choices and having healthier options – at the end of the day, it is also about households and their economic circumstances and what they can afford. There is need for more television shows promoting local chefs and/or food enthusiasts showcasing use of local produce and traditional recipes. There is also a need to determine why people are turning to eating more processed foods recognising that cost issues are a big factor.
Panel sessions
Importance of agricultural development to address food security, nutrition, and business development

This panel brought together representatives of government ministries, the private sector and a development partner to share about policy development and implementation of work they are engaged in, in Fiji. One of the questions that sparked discussions was “How can we collaborate and leverage each other's work and expertise?” Session moderator was Mereia Volavola, CEO of PIPSO.

Ministry of Agriculture, Vatimi Rayalu, Acting Chief Economist. Fiji Agriculture Sector Policy agenda: Modernising agriculture to address nutrition, NCDs and food security

The Fiji Agriculture Sector Policy was developed in recognition of the key sectoral challenges: (i) inconsistency of supply to meet domestic and export market demands; (ii) low/poor quality of products especially to meet export markets; (iii) low volume/insufficient supply; (iv) lack of infrastructure for market access e.g. main roads, farm roads, power/utility and storage facilities; (v) high production costs which farmers are finding increasingly challenging due to high input costs e.g. fertiliser, fuel for machines, maintenance etc.; (vi) lack of confidence of financial institutions in the sector due to high risk; and other challenges around climate change and food and nutrition security.

Ministry of Health, Dr Isimeli Tukana, Director Wellness and National Advisor NCD. Combating NCDs in the prevention stage and a more holistic approach

Dr. Tukana highlighted how agriculture has been core to Fiji’s identity. Fiji is undergoing a nutrition transition. The big shift in recent times has been moving away from agriculture, which has spiked the high incidence of NCDs – instead of eating fruits, there is an increasing trend in consuming high sugar products; root crops have been replaced by rice etc.; and fresh fish replaced by tinned tuna and meats. This shift in eating patterns has made heart attacks and strokes by far the greatest causes of death in Fiji, with salt as the culprit. Infant diets have changed with formula replacing breast milk and because the former is expensive, the shift is to purchase packaged liquid milk. The Public Health Act 1930 is archaic and does not capture the latest health trends and issues and misses to advocate more for agriculture. The health landscape needs to change to advocate for agricultural development and protect consumers and more specifically to change regulations on marketing of unhealthy foods and alcoholic beverages and breast milk supplements.
FAO, Joann Young, Assistant Representative to Fiji. Food & Nutrition Security Impact, Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation (FIRST) Project

The triple burden of malnutrition (undernourishment, obesity, and micronutrient deficiency) is weighing upon national development in the Pacific, due to reduced consumption of locally grown products and increased consumption of sugary, salty and fatty foods. Investments are high in convenience foods and these are becoming cheaper – for example to consume rice instead of dalo several times each week. Because of differences in investment (technology change) and marketing (trade) policy decisions, few nutritious foods are becoming cheaper. When family incomes rise, the share of food in total expenditure falls and simultaneously the share of expenditure on animal source foods and fruit and vegetable increases. National strategies to improve nutrition often aim at achieving “behavioural change” through “demand side”, yet these strategies often miss the critical “supply side” actions required to foster demand for a healthier diet (interventions focusing on improving relative price, access and convenience of nutritious foods). The aim of the FIRST project is to facilitate an increase in investment in supply side interventions, improving affordability of nutritious diet. FAO is assisting Pacific Island countries to develop strategies and design programmes that address the multi-dimensionality of food and nutrition insecurity.

Strategic Planning & National Development Department, Anare Leweniqila, Principal Economic Planning Officer. Coordination of multi-sectoral and multidisciplinary approaches for a healthier Fiji

The country is undergoing a changing demography towards a higher percentage of youth (60% up to 35 years). Further, it is expected that by 2030 Fiji will be highly urbanised and this puts tremendous pressure on the food supply and service industry (and moving away from agriculture). A multi-sectoral and multi-dimensional approach is therefore ever more important. Food security needs to be considered within a broader framework and public and private sector should collaborate and support each other e.g. trade ministry, itaukei affairs, rural development etc. There is a need to engage the fisheries sector more (especially aquaculture) for food security as marine protected areas are being set up, and illegal fishing is reported. There are many meaningful ways to forge ahead – legislation to be updated; cross-country learning; outcomes from this workshop; noting commitments Fiji has signed up to (SDGs etc.); and the need for coordinated efforts and information sharing.

Joe’s Farm, Save Waqainabete, Business Development Analyst. How agribusinesses can play a vital role

Business is not just about trading, but it is now having a more inclusive community engagement role, and many see corporate social responsibility policies as a way to engage/reach out to communities. Further, as economies work towards addressing national challenges, it is increasingly recognised that governments alone cannot do it, and that the private sector has a key role to play in sustainable economic development. Agricultural productivity issues have driven business development, but now a dimension to incorporate agri-nutrition
is needed. Agribusinesses need to address input and technical issues – and reduce costs so that fresh locally grown produce and value-added products become affordable. Subsistence farming is the main activity and there needs to be a shift to semi-commercial – this is one way to address supply issues. Imports are high because needs are not being met locally, and businesses need to update data and information on commodities (what is being imported) to assist decision-making (for import substitution). Engaging women and youth in the sector needs to be promoted more especially in engagement with schools – for dietary support but also in getting children/young people involved in agriculture. Collectively and with the support of the government, promotion and support of broader agricultural development reconsideration of trade environment, and how to create jobs and opportunities locally are needed.

Agricultural development is hindered by inconsistency, low quality and insufficient quantity of produce, due to lack of infrastructure, high production cost and high risks (e.g. climate change). Fiji is undergoing a nutrition and demographic transition as well as urbanisation; policies must better address these trends and issues. The panel identified the need to strengthen coordination and determine ways to increase engagement: At the sectoral level, communities/enterprises that need planting materials/aids, technical expertise, information, and awareness (including on pricing, diversifying etc.) should be supported.
Food crops value chains – Addressing bottlenecks, market and business opportunities

This panel brought together representatives of various private sector representatives – from SMEs to the large corporations, from farmer organisations to industry representatives – all with the intention to share knowledge and experiences about their role and engagement in the local food and crop value chain. Moreover, what have been fundamental challenges, how they have overcome these and more importantly, where they see opportunities for business growth and for greater collaboration, particularly in addressing agri-nutrition in Fiji. Session moderator was Sakiusa Tubuna, Regional Coordinator of IFAD.

Pacific Islands Farmers Network Organisation (PIFON), Kyle Stice, Manager. Demystifying value chain analysis – the farmer organisation experience

In his presentation, Kyle Stice referred to the value chain (VC) trainings and methodology for analysing the VC that PIFON has developed, so that their members are empowered to undertake the exercises themselves and understand the elements and stakeholders in the VC. Capacity building is useful, non-complicated and can assist farmers to understand better the issues, risks, and costs along the chain. The methodology has six steps for VC analysis and uses examples from the Pacific; it focuses on multiple actors along the value chain and analyses each one’s role. The lessons learned are to be documented and shared via a short film currently being produced. There are many opportunities for VC analysis in Fiji and across the Pacific. In doing so, these opportunities can determine how to contribute to a broader development such as agri-nutrition – where VCs play a role in, for example, supply of nutritious and domestic crops to schools, and how farmers can take advantage of such programmes (e.g. bu for schools).

Fiji Rice Limited, Ashrit Pratap, Mill Manager. Rice strategy for sustainable food security

Currently Fiji imports 40 million FJD (nearly US$ 20 million) worth of rice per annum from Australia, Thailand and Vietnam. Ashrit Pratap specifically mentioned the rice revitalisation project, which aims at reducing imports. The government also aims at promoting increased activity, given that production had decreased from 2009 but between 2015 and 2016 there have been increases, due to greater investments, and through subsidies. There is need for more farm mechanisation and land for upscaling of rice farming; free water supply for irrigation; and supplying local organic rice, plans for which are under discussion. A new mill is being installed and staff are being trained; new electric dryers that are quicker and more efficient (3 tonnes/hour) and farmers are getting a fair price for their rice (currently $ 750 (US$ 375) per tonne). Current local supply is to supermarkets and Fiji Rice Limited is working toward HACCP (hazard analysis and critical control points) certification, and is now part of the Fijian Made campaign.
Vee’s Organic Farm, Amran Yusuf, Marketing Manager. Niche and organic agriproducts

Amran Yusuf shared the farm’s journey as a means for empowering other farming hobbyists and women farmers. Vee’s Organic Farm is owned by Vitila Vuniwaqa who has always had a firm belief in the role of women in development, especially agri-nutrition. Vee’s Farming products include honey, cassava, watermelon, beans, papaya, and seasonal fruits, as well as other value-added products. The whole farmland is not being fully utilised, but this is work in progress and the farm is expected to be certified organic in one year out. The local markets and community are the main clientele, but there is opportunity to be engaged in other agro-processing as well as agri-tourism activities.

Participatory Guarantee System Project, David Hickes, Coordinator. Sharing case study and project roll out in Fiji’s Coral Coast

David Hickes shared the project roll out and developments to date. The project operates in three villages in the Sigatoka valley, assisting smallholder farmers to transition from subsistence farming to semi-commercial, by providing technical support. This has included training in seedling handling, post-harvest handling, quality control, and financial management. A key complementary aspect has been to support the women in the villages/communities to consider their roles in agriculture and in transitioning to semi-commercial. Income has been steady with 2015 gross sales reported at $150,000 (US$ 75,000), and in 2016 it increased to $175,000 (US$ 87,500), but these communities faced hardships during cyclone Winston. A new initiative was recently launched by women in early 2017, on chicken incubators, and this is being closely monitored. The project is also considering ways to engage village youth to get into agriculture and agribusiness.

Fiji Hotel and Tourism Association, Fantasha Lockington, CEO. Supplying local hotels – what can and should be done better

The Fiji Hotel and Tourism Association has about 300 members representing various tourism entities in marine, dive, hotels, restaurants etc. Its board comprises representatives from these groups. Collectively, they advocate/lobby for issues affecting its members. Three key points were highlighted. Firstly, understanding the demands in low and high seasons, and fluctuating seasons in between. Chefs want the freshest produce – and based on budget, but a fundamental challenge has been consistent supply and quality of supply. Secondly, despite the negative reporting, Fiji hotels do want to cater local food and use local fruits and vegetables. Lastly, it is about acknowledging and respecting that guests want to have options and being empowered to make choices (about what to eat). Whilst the trends have seen guests preferring healthier meal/dining options, customers still want to have other, less-healthier, options available to them.

SUMMARY PANEL 2

Value chain trainings can be an effective and efficient way to build capacity and address the agri-nutrition nexus. Presented business and project cases show opportunities to increase Fiji’s agricultural potential for schools, (agri-)tourism, agro-processing (including local supply of nutritious foods), and women empowerment in agribusiness.
Fisheries value chains – Addressing bottlenecks, markets and business opportunities

Marine resources play an important role in agri-nutrition, as they are a vital source for both livelihoods and nutritional diets. This panel brought together representatives and practitioners in the fisheries sector to address the regulatory and technical aspects, the fisheries development agenda, the business challenges and opportunities, the role of academia and civil society and community networks in supporting industry research. Session moderator was Dr. Milika Sobey, Chairwoman of the Fiji Women in Fisheries Network.

Ministry of Fisheries & Forests, Aisake Batibasaga, Director for Fisheries. Fisheries Sector Policy agenda addressing sectoral challenges in communities and with private sector

Aisake Batibasaga set the scene for the panel in terms of outlining policy interventions and potential for partnerships and growth. Opportunities in aquaculture remain largely untapped and are not aptly resourced in Fiji and the Pacific. This is an area to address agri-nutrition and agribusiness, and one that the fisheries policies support. The development of the National Fisheries Policy started in October 2015 and is expected to be endorsed later in 2017, having gone through extensive stakeholder consultations with line agencies, offshore industry, coastal fishers, aquaculture practitioners, and NGO/CSOs. The Fisheries Policy is firmly aligned to the National Ocean Policy Framework and its implementation, as well as the global goals. Main strategies are to increase food security and employment including for women and youth, through training in seafood processing, value adding, improving product quality, food safety, small boat sea safety, financial management etc.; promotion of new technologies; increase of private sector technical support services, including regional agencies; and support responsible fisheries supply chains linking communities to markets. Private sector and community enterprises should be reflected on strategies to promote and create an enabling environment for private sector growth, rather than direct participation by the government in commercial activities.

Fisheries Consultant, Aliti Vunisea. Women fishers and supplies to markets

Aliti Vunisea highlighted that women walk the fine line between traditional barter and exchange and the modern market economy. There is engagement in the informal sector, but lack of data makes it difficult to determine how many women exactly, where, and what types of activities they are engaged in. Cultural and social barriers and the customary nuances remain. Key challenges are around lack of infrastructure and support systems; and expertise/knowledge in setting prices, identifying/considering costs and general financial literacy and management, and that these are areas that needed to be strengthened to assist rural women. Furthermore, better data collection and profiling is needed to enable stakeholders and partners to make informed decisions on how to best support women. Additionally, leveraging existing networks, and/or formalising networks to negotiate and advocate for needs and support is needed. In order to facilitate a shift from semi-subsistence to business enhancements, training in finance (recording sales, expenditures, cash flows, etc.) and food handling is needed. The greatest opportunities are in more targeted and enhanced participation –
in fisheries value chains – and engaging in processing for domestic and export industry, and non-traditional outlets; coming together in a cluster or to strengthen positions and voice. Further, needs are community resource management and planning to ensure resource supplies/long term sustenance.

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Dr. Tim Pickering, Aquaculture Adviser. Technical support to aquaculture and coastal fishers

Dr. Pickering shared SPC’s work about aquaculture and coastal fisheries and specifically about small fish and their potential to contribute to food security and nutrition. Nowhere else do as many countries rely so heavily on subsistence fishing as the main source of protein needed by the population for good nutrition. Where does aquaculture come in? Especially with the expected population increases, and other challenges to impact fisheries resources – small fish fisheries (dominated by women) aim at species that grow, mature and reproduce at small size, or juveniles of big-fish species (e.g. Milkfish fingerlings (yawa), Rabbitfish fingerlings (Vula nuqa levu) should be considered. Small fish are rich in animal protein and micronutrients: essential fatty acids, vitamins and minerals, and this is a common part of diet in marginalised communities. Small-fish fisheries and aquaculture are often overlooked but the potential exists particularly in combating nutrient deficiency. Additional research on nutrient value, alternative fisheries management and further science related aspects e.g. fisheries induced evolution is needed.

Pacific Ocean Culture (POC), Cathy Joyce, Owner. POC journey and the pond-to-table initiative

POC is an integrated aquaculture company operating in Navua, Fiji focusing on food security through sustainable seafood production for the domestic market including communities, upscale restaurants and resorts, catering operations and the export market. Marine resources need to be protected from overfishing and other negative impacts and in that way communities can have continued access to healthy food and fish/protein sources for their diet. Core to its operations is to engage communities in aquaculture and periphery activities. The pond-to-plate journey is based on having a quality meal from a menu of options, and in doing so is largely influenced by having key ingredients (e.g. pristine environment, diversity of species, and proven technologies) that have come through a traceable process under the strictest of benchmarks and protocols (e.g. feed systems and internal managements).

SUMMARY PANEL 3

National Fisheries Policy aims to address the major issues in the fisheries sector, e.g. food security and employment including women and youth. Opportunities in aquaculture remain largely untapped despite their potential to contribute to economic development, food security and nutrition (e.g. in the case of small-fish fisheries dominated by women). Discussions following the panel were around supporting women in marketing their fish. The main suggestion coming from this panel is to consider detailed research on Fiji women fishers (and across the Pacific), analyse their status, and see what needs to be done to support women fishers and their enterprises; and also consider fisheries for the domestic markets (not just exports).
Women’s empowerment in agriculture, nutrition and agribusiness: The policy environment & learning from good practice

This panel brought together representatives and practitioners from various agencies who are implementing programmes and/or providing support services to women’s economic empowerment and are rolling out initiatives in sectors that could be considered and/or replicated in women in agribusiness. Session moderator was Judith Francis of CTA.

Women Entrepreneurs Business Council, Eseta Nadakuitavuki, Chairperson. Networking and business counselling for women business owners

Eseta Nadakuitavuki took the opportunity to encourage women entrepreneurs to reach out and expand their networks. Networking and partnership are important for business development to enable women to connect to other like-minded women and facilitate informal marketing as peers become aware of each other’s business and products/services. More than 60% of women are in the informal sector and by increasing access to information to make that shift to formalise them can be overwhelming – this is where networking and mentoring helps. Business counselling and mentoring, and networking are powerful tools to encourage women entrepreneurs.

Fiji Women in Fisheries Network (WIFN), Cherie Morris, Executive Board Member. Fisherwomen supporting local markets and the potential for agritourism ventures

WIFN works with partners to provide support for women in the fisheries sector – in financial literacy, conservation awareness, community management planning, gender and fisheries, and research. Throughout the Pacific, women have a wealth of fisheries knowledge, which needs to be documented and referenced; and women use their traditional and social networks to sell their products and distribute products. Broader business challenges include: finding new markets for products especially in tourism; understanding and calculating cost and price, taking into account resources/time used; processing, selling – and value adding; adverse weather conditions and how this affects/interrupts supply and ability to harvest; lack of full time expertise to support these women and to help with post handling/quality; compliance with food safety; limited support to women and access to services.

UNWOMEN, Preeya Ieli, Regional Programme Specialist for women’s economic empowerment. Markets for Change (M4C) Project

Preeya Ieli presented the M4C project and noted the parallels and linkages to the CTA/IFAD/PIPSO project. The M4C project operates in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Fiji, where it is working with 12 municipal markets (except Nasinu and Lami). Fundamentally, the project is on (i) strengthening women market vendors and their roles as leaders. While most vendors are women, men head many associations; (ii) improving socio-economic security of women – financial education support, promoting saving schemes instead of credit schemes and
improving agricultural productivity. Value adding support is needed, e.g. food safety aspects. Need to work with municipal councils – to train them and give necessary support, including through gender responsive budget for councils; and (iii) physical infrastructure of the markets. 80-90% are women vendors, but public amenities are disproportionate – e.g. only two sets of toilets (which is the same for men, comprising 10% vendors). Challenges which can be opportunities through agribusiness and agri-nutrition – seeing how seasonal fruits and vegetables can be preserved, value added, processed instead of facing wastage; and increasing farming activity for income but ensuring a buffer of food is also available for consumption – there needs to be greater awareness to be done at markets on this – nutrition education of market vendors is important.

Femlink Pacific Media Initiatives for Women, Sian Rolls, Programme Associate. Utilising media and ICTs for collective advocacy to support women’s business development

Sian Rolls presented the importance of advocacy tools in decision-making and how they affect women in agriculture, business and access to nutritious food for households. Femlink uses its three community radio stations to share and discuss emerging issues – e.g. climate change and natural disasters, NCDs and food security and advocates the need for information and awareness to be taken to communities and for women to have a comfortable space to amplify their voices and concerns. The importance of data and disaggregated data to support decision-making to influence policy, and especially in natural resource management, where women and communities are involved was emphasised. Some recent trends which should be considered: (i) the term ‘middlemen’ is not confined to only men anymore as women take on new roles; (ii) eating healthy is becoming an expensive exercise. Partly due to a shift from rural to urban areas and shifts in diets that go with it; (iii) cultural issues on land ownership and disparity especially for women, engaging in land-based activities; (iv) policies not being implemented. A key recommendation is to ensure that there continues to be spaces and resources for women to amplify their voices.

**SUMMARY PANEL 4**

Women have a wealth of agricultural and fisheries knowledge, which needs to be documented and referenced. Women use their traditional and social networks to sell their products and distribute products. In order to accelerate women’s business development, networking and partnership building for agriculture, agribusiness and nutrition, collective advocacy using mass media and ICTs, and strengthening women market vendors and their roles as leaders, are necessary.
Supporting food value chains – The role of private sector, academia and civil society

This panel brought together representatives and practitioners from various agencies who are implementing programmes and/or providing supporting services to strengthen value chains and business development. Session moderator was Stephen Hazelman, Communication and Extension Coordinator, Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprise Development (FRIEND), Dr Jone Hawea, Associate Director. Cassava flour and agro-processed products from local produce

Dr. Jone Hawea reasoned why FRIEND, a local entity that supports agribusiness and agri-nutrition in a twofold way – (i) fosters and supports rural communities in livelihood initiatives using the land and resources available to them; and (ii) promotes local produce as healthier options – is creating a multiplier effect locally. With the growing number of people becoming conscious of their health and what they eat, farmers need to think of organic and nutritious foods (including agro-processing e.g. cassava into cassava flour) as a business. FRIEND has recently published a guide — Organics Simplified — which would help farmers to implement organic methods of controlling pests and farming. Major constraints to the development of organic agriculture are the associated costs and complexity of obtaining an organic certification. A participatory guarantee system focuses on engaging with rural and small farmers who could not afford third party certification. Most of FRIEND products can be found in Fiji supermarkets, and a small number for export. Demand is envisaged to increase especially as it attempts to respond to the higher demands for organics abroad. However, there are many opportunities to enter other local markets – like tourism and hospitality.

University of the South Pacific (USP), Viliamu Iese, Research Fellow, Pacific Centre for Environment & Sustainable Development. Food security best practices guide

Viliamu Iese addressed the role of academia in food security research, and identified the opportunity for collaboration between the private sector and academia. Academia/USP has been engaged in food security research and over the last 10 years, research in various Pacific Islands has been taking place. The research topics have included food availability/production; food accessibility/cost; food utilisation; nutrition and health; food stability especially concerning disasters; and food security concepts. The university has developed a food security and climate change postgraduate course and embarked on a ‘Community Food Production and Health’ (CFaH) project with partners from overseas. Partnerships with FRIEND Fiji and other academic institutes from around the world are being strengthened. USP also offers demand driven and targeted capacity building (formal, informal, technical and vocational education and training), as well as courses targeted to be taught in the university, and for communities and businesses. There is also demand driven applied research and technical innovations and consultancy – knowledge-skills-technology production, communication and training. Some questions posed: How to link the CTA/IFAD/PIPSO project to USP/PACE-SD and other regional priorities? There is need to formalise partnerships so that agencies collaborate and at the same time have defined roles to avoid confusion and duplication.
Agricultural Marketing Authority (AMA), Mere Salusalu, Technical Manager. Role of AMA in Fiji’s agribusiness space and where to link with businesses

Mere Salusalu explained that AMA’s role is to assist rural farmers in the remote areas of Fiji to market their produce. The agency was formed by the AMA act, and mandated by the government to access islands for agriculture and support. AMA collects and/or facilitates collection and buys various varieties of dalo, yams, sweet potato and cassava and processes them for exports – fresh or frozen. Other products include fish, virgin coconut oil, as well as honey. All products are available in the local market where the products are distributed to supermarkets or sold to individuals by AMA. Challenges include high transportation costs and limited access to rural produces. Freight costs to transport the produce from the remote rural islands makes the product cost uncompetitive. AMA exports containers of Fiji produce but plans to increase the export sales. A key issue is to work towards modernising the market system of Fiji for better return to farmers. Farmers are getting more income than they normally would from coconuts. Virgin coconut oil is a key product but quality issues need to be considered and testing for accredited lab is required. In Fiji, this is only available at USP. AMA is considering cassava flour for export.

Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO), Alisi Tuqa, Communications & Reporting Officer. Promoting cluster development for business competitiveness and collaboration

Alisi Tuqa shared PIPSO’s work on institutional strengthening, lobbying/advocating for private sector issues, and enhancing incomes and competitiveness of Pacific businesses through cluster development. Emphasis was placed on PIPSO’s work with farmers and other agribusiness. Clustering can work for agri-nutrition – it can foster cooperation among farmers and other businesses in sharing resources, information, technical expertise and knowledge to reduce transaction cost and facilitate growth. It offers a window of opportunity to stakeholders, for example, women to take advantage of collective approaches for shared learning (e.g. proper record keeping, business counselling), collective purchases of materials and/or services (e.g. transport), value adding to products, shared pooling to access markets. There are many clusters in the Oceania and South East Asia region, which Fiji can learn from and with particular focus on similar products – e.g. coconuts, fisheries, aquaculture, mango cluster, seaweed/milkfish cluster, and banana.

Fiji Locally Managed Marine Protected Area Network, Alifereti Tawake, Fiji Coordinator. Conservation and environmental protection for sustainable economic development

Alifereti Tawake emphasised the importance of conservation and environmental protection of marine areas for sustainable economic development. Conservation interventions are not new, but have been part and parcel of traditional management systems (mana) practiced by communities. However, with greater economic activities and impacts, there needs to be education and awareness and adoption to safeguard future resources. In 2015 in Fiji, 79% of the inshore fishing area is actively under local management so far; 11% of the inshore area is under permanent or periodically opened no-take reserves; 71% of coastal villages (466) are involved in conservation means. Locally managed marine areas...
vary and include conditional closures, permanent closures (e.g. tabu’s, marine protected areas), rotational closure, and other managed areas which could cover gear restrictions, by season, and/or depending on species/catches. In considering agribusiness/agri-nutrition further, it is important to recognise the vast partnership opportunity with CSOs in environmental conservation to provide technical/scientific information and resources for community-based adaptive management and trainings, monitoring, and data management and analysis. Improving local fishery resources (communities) for protecting coral reef biodiversity is and should be a shared motivation and economic development and growth cannot be sustainable without these considerations.

**SUMMARY PANEL 5**

The panel presented examples of successful cases in value chain development within civil society, private sector and academia that assist rural farmers in the remote areas of Fiji to market their produce; help farms to achieve organic certification; provide research in food security; enhance Pacific business competitiveness through cluster development. The panel also emphasised that there is a need to formalise partnerships so that agencies collaborate and at the same time have defined roles to avoid confusion, and duplication. It was highlighted that sustainable economic development can only be reached through environmental protection, e.g. sustainable local fisheries or community-based adaptive management.
Enabling mechanisms to support value chain development, women’s agribusinesses, and supporting nutritional development

This panel brought together representatives from agencies who are implementing programmes and/or providing support services for economic empowerment and are rolling out initiatives in sectors that could also benefit women in agribusiness. Session moderator was Dr. Jimaima Lako.

**HFC Bank, Amitesh Karan, Business Relationship Manager. HFC trade finance portfolio to support Fiji’s agribusinesses and SMEs**

HFC Bank’s Amitesh Karan presented the scope of HFC’s assistance to SMEs and specifically highlighted the 2017 trade financing agreement signed with the Asian Development Bank (ADB). This agreement with ADB supports up to $4 million – almost US$2 million – of trade annually in Fiji. It includes a credit guarantee facility and a revolving credit facility. The partnership provides HFC Bank a solid platform in the international banking arena, while paving the way for customers to venture into new global markets by using safe and reliable financial products such as letters of credit to obtain financing at competitive and attractive rates. The program provides guarantees and loans to over 200 partner banks to support trade, enabling more companies throughout Asia to engage in import and export activities. With dedicated trade finance specialists, the program has established itself as a key partner in the international trade community, providing fast, reliable, and responsive support to fill gaps in the region’s most challenging markets. In terms of broader HFC suite of products for SMEs, credit criteria are still per bank requirements and clients still have to meet these. Timeline and credit approvals vary according to assessments. Turnaround for SMEs is $500,000 (US$250,000) – if less than this they can qualify for an SME loan.

**The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), Judith Ann Francis, Senior Programme Coordinator. Seed funding and the innovation grant credit facility through the CTA/IFAD/PIPSO project**

Judith Francis of CTA presented the two funding platforms that become available under the project: (i) Innovation Grant Credit Facility (IGCF) and (ii) Seed Funding. The former will be a platform targeting SME agro-enterprises who are interested in scaling up and a maximum US$20,000 will be available for accessing technical expertise, training, research and development, ICTs, etc. The latter will be targeting more community-based groups to strengthen agriculture-nutrition-income/livelihood opportunities and again, the maximum would be US$20,000, under a negotiated/direct grant. The IGCF will be duly circulated through PIPSO’s and other partners’ networks. In addition, the project is exploring an index-based insurance, noting that part of the financing challenges for agriculture and agribusiness are around insurance and specifically weather risk insurance. Index-based insurance is suitable for developing countries where many smallholder farmers operate. Insurance is rarely feasible as a stand-alone product for farmers and is often bundled with credit, inputs, weather information, mobile and other services, etc. There is a strong link between insurance and credits and cases suggest that the availability of insurance increases both the supply and demand for financial services.
Fiji Development Bank (FDB), Tevita Madigibuli, General Manager Relationships & Sales. Banks agribusiness portfolio and what have been fundamental challenges and how to support businesses

Tevita Madigibuli provided an overview of the development in the bank’s agribusiness portfolio. FDB provides development financing in line with government policies, and this includes contributing and supporting the natural resource sector – land and marine – SMEs, new business creation, and the rural and agricultural sector. Not limited to these but also included are services for tourism, disaster rehabilitation (to existing customers), sustainable energy, and climate adaptation and mitigation. Agriculture is very risky, but there have been moves to provide greater support – in 2014, the total contribution to the sector by all commercial banks was 38% (around $ 45m – US$ 22.5m), then in 2015 was 44% ($60m – US$ 30m) and 2016 was 48% ($ 78m – US$ 39m). FDBs agriculture portfolio is $ 85m (US$ 42.5m), about 20% of all lending is towards horticulture, livestock, dairy and poultry, land development, land purchase, machinery, and includes fishing and forestry. A new strategic plan has been developed and envisaged areas to support and further include organic farming, and women in agriculture and develop incentives around these – e.g. lower interest rates, extended terms, and other incentives to be considered. FDB will be signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Youth and Sports to support youth entrepreneurship. The bank’s products are also linked to the attainment of the SDGs.

National Centre for Small & Micro Enterprise Development (NCSMED), Ravi Chand, CEO. Sharing NCSMED’s work in Fiji and lessons learned

Ravi Chand shared insights on the agency’s work on promoting SMEs and lessons learned. NCSMED recognises the importance of SMEs in job creation and development of the economy. SMEs have unique problems – limited financial capacity, preparedness for negotiation, skills for banking proposals, and they are not in a position to always ‘get a fair deal.’ Clustering is a way to get SMEs to work together to address some of the challenges. Legislation is outdated and hinders SME development, which is a continuous challenge to their growth. Training programs are being delivered and two incubators (in Suva and Rakiraki) are up and running. Business mentoring is an area that needs greater mobilisation to help SMEs in their journey, and business advice and guidance. Whilst financing is always a challenge – what SMEs do not utilise often or practice – is reaching out to other businesses to garner support or leverage support and partnership arrangements. As SMEs grow, they immediately start thinking about banks as a means to access finance to grow their business. However, they need to think of alternatives and reach out and work with partners. SME support is strongly linked to agri-nutrition, as improved livelihoods give options for better nutrition, and many Fiji SMEs are in the agri-food space.

Sealink Exports, Tina Tawake, Food safety and standards at the heart of agribusiness and its growing importance

Tina Tawake highlighted the importance of food safety certificates for agribusiness development. In considering industry to market practices, food safety considerations include the origins of food, the practices relating to food labelling, food hygiene, food additives and pesticide residues, as well as policies and food and

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Tina Tawake highlighted the importance of food safety certificates for agribusiness development. In considering industry to market practices, food safety considerations include the origins of food, the practices relating to food labelling, food hygiene, food additives and pesticide residues, as well as policies and food and
guidelines for the management of import and export, and certification systems for foods. Globally, food safety continues to be a growing concern and more so for businesses and communities, especially concerning the changing regulatory regimes and global business environment. If not addressed appropriately and in a timely manner, non-adherence to food safety principles can have devastating impacts on businesses and communities. Many Fijian businesses do not document processes of their produce/products and traceability is poor, but businesses are recognising the growing importance, as consumers are becoming more food safety conscious and wanting to know where their food is coming from. Whilst the manufacturing industry has been the more protocol-conscious (because of trade and exports), there need to be greater efforts to work with farmers, particularly to raise awareness and provide trainings.

The panel presented enabling mechanisms for value chain and cluster development, e.g. specified loans to SMEs; Innovation Grant Credit Facility and Seed Funding; supporting the natural resource sector; designing incentives for women in agriculture, e.g. lower interest rates and extended terms. The importance of having food safety certificates and/or adhering to food safety protocols for agribusiness development was also highlighted. The panel further discussed challenges and opportunities to detect and roll out cohesive and joint programmes and improve particularly financing platforms to support SME’s and women’s businesses development (financing, clustering and trainings on finance; food safety; value adding).

**SUMMARY PANEL 6**

The panel presented enabling mechanisms for value chain and cluster development, e.g. specified loans to SMEs; Innovation Grant Credit Facility and Seed Funding; supporting the natural resource sector; designing incentives for women in agriculture, e.g. lower interest rates and extended terms. The importance of having food safety certificates and/or adhering to food safety protocols for agribusiness development was also highlighted. The panel further discussed challenges and opportunities to detect and roll out cohesive and joint programmes and improve particularly financing platforms to support SME’s and women’s businesses development (financing, clustering and trainings on finance; food safety; value adding).
04 Roundtable exercises
Over the two days, two group roundtables were organised and the discussions in groups presented to the workshop. These have been collated below for information and the broader scope of ideas and deliberations are part of the workshop recommendations and forward agenda. Tabulated below is a summary of the group presentations:

**ROUNDTABLE EXERCISE 1:**
In allocated groups, each group considered the tasks/questions (see below) and discussed how to address them. Findings and key considerations were presented in plenary.

**Tasks & questions:**

**Policy**
1) Identify three ways in how we can improve multi-stakeholder consultation/coordination to development appropriate policy and laws.
2) Identify resources that will be required by government ministries, private sector (including farmers/fisher folk) and CSOs to support implementation at the local level.

**Value chains**
3) What are your three priority value chains that promote nutritious food systems and address NCDs and food security?
4) How can we encourage/promote the use and consumption of locally grown produce and/or locally produced products?

**GROUP 1**
1. Form a neutral secretariat which is knowledgeable about businesses (suggest PIPSO); alignment of ministries through their functional roles and avoid duplication; and create a national database for stakeholders (sign MoU between stakeholders).
2. Market resources: market access and product/production that is market-driven.
4. Utilise the media more and have a strong communications and outreach agenda – use TV talks, shows; radio/use media; cooking shows; and through educational programmes (and curriculum).

**GROUP 2**
1. Database of stakeholders to bring people together; have inclusive consultations, develop action plan; timelines and monitoring and evaluation to track progress.
2. Resources: equipment, and have people with right skill sets.
3. VC: fresh produce, fish, and coconuts. These VC’s chosen for food security and addressing nutrition and diversification/value adding opportunities/preservation.
4. Marketing and promoting and media (incl. social media); promote backyard farming; move toward prevention aspects/outreach; revitalise education system, to include in curriculum and learning.

**GROUP 3**
1. Engage communities (farmers, etc.) in the consultation process; record keeping and evidence-based work; geographical clustering; private-led facilitation
2. Resources: HR, financial, VC, funding/matching grants, technical assistance.
3. VC: tubua, sweet potato, mandarin.
4. Embed into primary school curriculum; media campaign, work with resorts, promote backyard competition (competitions, incentives), more research on produce.

**GROUP 4**
1. Policy; ‘intentional’, consultative, inclusive, and extensive.
2. Prioritise resources to market and market accessibility. Transport, storage facilities, coordinated collection/collection centres, equipment.
3. VC: breadfruit, vegetables, coconut (esp. for drinking) and fish.
4. Education, not just having in curriculum but where/how to apply and demonstrate to kids. Evidence-based research, especially on local products etc. on nutrition. Food safety.

**GROUP 5**
1. Encourage ongoing consultation to air concerns to government, private sector, etc., as needed.
2. Capacity building (including training of trainers), succession planning, and empowering local people/communities.
3. VC: kai, vanilla, and reef fish. Choose those commodities that can improve health – would be fresh vegetables and kai for example. For those choosing seasonal fruits, can consider post-harvest preservation, which is also important.
4. Use local heroes as ‘local food champions’; plan for and around various/different risks. Government has a policy for certain commodities which are mainly for exports but less focus on vegetables (cash groups) and nurseries are a way forward.
ROUND TABLE EXERCISE 2:

In allocated groups, each group considered the tasks/questions (see below) and discussed how to address these. Each group presented their findings and key considerations to the workshop.

Tasks & questions:

**Women’s economic empowerment and roles to support, and enhance agribusiness and promote nutrition**

How to ensure women are empowered to engage in agribusiness/community enterprise and consider nutritional needs working with the broader community.

Policy and regulatory frameworks and resource support needed.

Consideration in local context, communal, national and even regional.

**Enabling mechanisms and conducive environments**

Ideally, what would a conducive environment look like with what appropriate mechanisms?

Who are the key actors/agencies to facilitate and drive this?

Can national/regional environment or mechanisms facilitate positive change derive results?

GROUP RESPONSES

- Farmer-to-farmer sharing and learning.
- Targeting households in community awareness and outreach.
- Incentives for women farmers/agribusiness entrepreneurs.
- Communal/cluster trainings so there is peer learning and support.
- Support to access markets and periphery support in marketing, quality assurance, value adding, etc.
- Access to materials/resources, including farming implements.
- Traditional knowledge for campaigns and outreach, and use for TV shows, into contemporary cuisine, etc.
- Inclusive policy and mainstreaming of gender.
- Collaboration and real partnerships with and among government ministries, business community, academia, communities, and development partners (especially as they come to consider agri-nutrition initiatives/interventions)
The forward agenda
The workshop identified the following strategies and interventions for consideration to addressing agri-nutrition and agribusiness challenges.

(i) Creating an enabling environment for agriculture nutrition nexus

Setting a high-level political agenda and urgent multi-sectoral approach for addressing agri-nutrition and tackling NCDs in Fiji. This could for example start with including this in the National Sustainable Development Plan, and developing a policy and regulatory framework across ministries (especially fisheries, health, agriculture, trade and education) that is consistent and supportive across the board. In line with the regulatory framework, to have a supporting platform for resources and technical expertise to support implementation and roll out.

(ii) Evidence-based policy and strategic planning

Establishing a stronger collaboration and relationship with academia and private sector to conduct research and gather evidence-based information to generate evidence to make the business case on the challenges and opportunities in agri-nutrition and agribusiness. For example, to document/take a stocktake of women fishers in Fiji, or industry-led research with academia.

(iii) Leveraging on partnerships and shared responsibilities for increased food and nutrition security

There are great projects and initiatives being implemented within government ministries, communities, private sector and academia, but in some instances, these are standalone and there is not much linkage or collaboration within the wider stakeholder community. There is so much opportunity and need to showcase benefits and share responsibilities and engagement through these projects and activities – and could include joint interventions such as media campaigns, agribusiness/farming communities initiatives with schools, promoting local produce and local cuisine (e.g. local cooking shows, food festival), to name a few.

(iv) Organising into networks, collectives

Recognising the smallness of our markets, businesses and capabilities, that businesses and farmers come together collectively as needed to leverage off each other whether in forming clusters or addressing value chain challenges. Insecurities of collaborating with competitors should be cast aside and recognise that collectively Fiji farmers, fisher folk and agribusinesses can contribute to working to address Fiji’s agri-nutrition challenges and the opportunities that lie therein is largely untapped.

(v) Resourcing – financing and capacity building efforts

Financing, and technical and capacity efforts with farmers, community enterprises and fisher folk is a constant challenge. Training needs are many and diverse, ranging from financial literacy and management to food safety and post-harvest handling, farming techniques, nutritional analysis, etc. As agencies are implementing programmes of assistance via grants, technical assistance and training, that there needs to be a more cohesive and coordinated effort so that there is less duplication and more benefits amassed.

ADDENDUM:

Addendum: PIPSO in consultation with and on behalf of the project partners submitted policy statements to Fiji’s Ministry of Economy following the workshop to be considered for the Fiji National Development Plan, which is being drafted (Annex 3).
### Annex 1. Agenda Fiji National Roundtable Workshop

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>DAY 1: WEDNESDAY, 28 JUNE 2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 – 9:00</td>
<td>Registration. Welcome coffee/tea available.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 – 9:10</td>
<td>Welcome – Howard Polimini, Chairperson, PIPSO.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:10 – 9:20</td>
<td>Opening Remarks – Sakiusa Tubuna, Regional Coordinator, IFAD.</td>
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<td>9:20 – 9:30</td>
<td>Opening of the workshop – Christoph Wagner, Head of Cooperation, European Delegation for the Pacific.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 – 9:45</td>
<td>CTA/IFAD/PIPSO Project Presentation “Leveraging the Development of Local Food Crops and Fisheries Value Chains for Improved Nutrition and Sustainable Food Systems in the Pacific Islands” – Judith Ann Francis, Senior Programme Coordinator, Science and Technology Policy &amp; Pacific Regional Coordinator, CTA.</td>
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<td>10:15 – 10:30</td>
<td>Followed by Q&amp;A, discussion.</td>
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<td><strong>10:30 – 11:00</strong></td>
<td>MORNING TEA BREAK</td>
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| 11:00 - 12:05| **Panel 1: Importance of Agricultural Development to address food security, nutrition, and business development.**  
   **Moderator:** Mereia Volavola, CEO, PIPSO  
   *10 minutes presentation/talk and 15 minutes Q&A and discussions*  
   **Ministry of Agriculture**, Vatimi Rayalu, Acting Chief Economist. Fiji Agriculture Sector Policy Agenda: Modernising Agriculture to address nutrition, NCDs and food security.  
   **Ministry of Health**, Dr Isimeli Tukana, Director Wellness and National Advisor NCD. Combating NCDs in the prevention stage and a more holistic approach.  
   **Strategic Planning & National Development Department**, Anare Leweniqila, Principal Economic Planning Officer. Coordination of multisectoral and multidisciplinary approaches for a healthier Fiji.  
   **Joe's Farm**, Save Waqainabete, Business Development Analyst. How agribusinesses can play a vital role. |
| 12:05 – 13:05| **Panel 2: Food Crops Value Chains – Addressing bottlenecks, market and business opportunities.**  
   **Moderator:** Sakiusa Tubuna, Regional Coordinator, IFAD  
   *10 minutes presentation/talk and 10 minutes Q&A and discussions*  
   **Pacific Islands Farmers Network Organisation (PIFON)**, Kyle Stice, Manager. Demystifying Value Chain Analysis – the farmer organisation experience.  
   **Fiji Rice Limited**, Ashrit Pratap, Mill Manager. Rice strategy for sustainable food security.  
   **Participatory Guarantee System Project**, David Hickes, Local Coordinator. Sharing case study and project roll out in Fiji’s Coral Coast.  
   **Fiji Hotel and Tourism Association**, Fantasha Lockington, CEO. Supplying local hotels – what can and should be done better. |
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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>13:05 – 14:00</td>
<td><strong>LUNCH BREAK (55 MINUTES)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Lunch will be served in the main restaurant, Ground Floor</td>
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| 14:00 – 15:00| **Panel 3: Fisheries Value Chains – Addressing bottlenecks, markets and business opportunities.**

Moderator: Dr Milika Sobey, Project Inception Adviser/Consultant, SPC; and Chairperson – Women in Fisheries Network Fiji

10 minutes presentation/talk and 20 minutes Q&A and discussions


**Fisheries Consultant**, Aliti Vunisea. *Women fishers and supplies to markets.*

**Secretariat of the Pacific Community** Dr Tim Pickering, Aquaculture Adviser. *Technical support to aquaculture and coastal fishers.*

**Pacific Ocean Culture (POC)** Cathy Joyce, Owner. *POC Journey and the pond-to-table initiative.*

| 15:00 – 15:40 | **Roundtable exercise:** In allocated groups, each group to consider the two questions and discuss in your groups how to address these challenges, given the presentations you have heard earlier today. Following afternoon tea each group to do a brief presentation of their group discussions and key considerations.

1. **Improving the Policy, Regulatory, and Legislative Framework:**
   - How to improve the relevant policy, regulatory, and legislative frameworks
   - How to promote collaboration
   - Consider budget/funding and other resources to support policy implementation

2. **Priority Value Chains – Food Crops and Fisheries**
   - How to strengthen value chains
   - What efforts/assistance needed for farmers/fishers, communities, private sector, et al
   - Roles of others actors, women, youth in value chains &/or clusters

| 15:40 – 16:00 | **AFTERNOON TEA**

16:00 – 16:45 Presentations back to plenary. Q&A and discussions

16:45 – 17:00 Summary of the day.

Workshop – Day 1 wraps up

*5.30pm – 7pm A reception will be held and all participants invited.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>DAY 2: THURSDAY, 29 JUNE 2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 – 9:15</td>
<td>Recap of Day 1</td>
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</table>
**Moderator:** Judith Francis, Senior Programme Coordinator, Science and Technology Policy & Pacific Regional Coordinator, CTA  
10 minutes presentation/talk and 20 minutes Q&A and discussions  
Fiji Women in Fisheries Network, Cherie Morris, Executive Committee Member. Fishermen supporting local markets and the potential for agritourism ventures.  
Femlink Pacific Media Initiatives for Women, Sian Rolls, Programme Associate. Utilising media and ICTs for collective advocacy to support women’s business development.  
UNWOMEN, Preeya Ieli, Regional Programme Specialist for Women’s Economic Empowerment. Markets For Change Project |
| 10:15 – 11:15| **Panel 5: Supporting Food Value Chains – the role of private sector, academia and civil society.**  
**Moderator:** Stephen Hazelman, Acting POETCOM Coordinator, SPC  
10 minutes presentation/talk and 20 minutes Q&A and discussions  
Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprise Development (FRIEND), Dr Jone Hawea, Associate Director. Cassava flour and agroprocessed products from local produce.  
Agricultural Marketing Authority, Mere Salusalu, Technical Services Manager. Role of AMA in Fiji’s agribusiness space and where to link with businesses  
Fiji Locally Managed Marine Protected Area Network, Alifereti Tawake, Fiji Coordinator. Conservation and environmental protection for sustainable economic development |
| 11:15 – 11:30| MORNING TEA BREAK                                                                            |
| 11:30 – 12:30| **Panel 6: Enabling mechanisms to support value chain development, women’s agribusinesses, and supporting nutritional development.**  
**Moderator:** Dr Jimaima Lako, AgriNutrition Consultant  
10 minutes presentation/talk and 10 minutes Q&A and discussions  
HFC Bank, Amitesh Karan, Business Relationship Manager. HFC trade finance portfolio to support Fiji’s agribusinesses and SMEs.  
The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation, Judith Francis, Senior Programme Coordinator. Seed funding and the innovation credit facility through the CTA/IFAD/PIPSO project.  
Fiji Development Bank, Tevita Madigibuli, General Manager Relationships & Sales. Banks agribusiness portfolio and what have been fundamental challenges and how to support businesses.  
Sealink Exports, Tina Tawake, Food safety and standards at the heart of agribusiness and its growing importance.  
National Centre for Small and Micro Enterprise Development, Ravi Chand, CEO. Sharing NCSMED’s work in Fiji and lessons learnt. |

Fiji National Roundtable Workshop June 2017: Outcomes Report
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 – 13:00</td>
<td><strong>Roundtable exercise:</strong> In allocated groups, each group to consider the two questions and discuss in your groups how to address these challenges, given the presentations you have heard earlier today. Following lunch, each group to do a brief presentation of their group discussions and key considerations.</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>1. Women’s economic empowerment and roles to support, and enhance agribusiness and promote nutrition:</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td>- How to ensure women are empowered to engage in agribusiness/community enterprise and consider nutritional needs working with the broader community</td>
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<td>- Policy and regulatory frameworks and resource support needed</td>
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<td>- Consideration in local context, communal, national and even regional</td>
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<td><strong>2. Enabling mechanisms and conducive environments</strong></td>
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<td>- Ideally, what would a conducive environment look like with what appropriate mechanisms</td>
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<td>- Who are the key actors/agencies to facilitate and drive this</td>
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<td>- Can national v regional environment or mechanisms facilitate positive change derive results</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:00 – 13:45</td>
<td><strong>LUNCH</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Lunch will be served in the main restaurant, Ground Floor</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>13:45 – 14:15</td>
<td>Presentations back to plenary&lt;br&gt;Q&amp;A and discussions</td>
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<td>14:15 – 14:45</td>
<td><strong>Consensus Building and Joint Action Plan (Road Map) for Future Interventions: Development and Upgrade of Priority Local Value Chains</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Reflecting on (i) presentations (ii) group work presentations (iii) Q&amp;A feedback and discussions, what are some concrete actions that can be formulated for implementation with a focus on influencing key policy and regulatory frameworks, and mechanisms for supporting private sector agribusiness development, and addressing nutrition and NCDs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:45 – 15:00</td>
<td>Summary of Day 2 proceedings, and of 2-day workshop&lt;br&gt;The Forward Agenda&lt;br&gt;Workshop closing</td>
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<td>15:00</td>
<td>Workshop closes</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Annex 2. List of participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIRST NAME</th>
<th>SURNAME</th>
<th>POSITION/ORGANISATION/COUNTRY</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Avneel</td>
<td>Abhishay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Media/Reporter, Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms.</td>
<td>Sema</td>
<td>Bainivalu</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Administration Officer, Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO), Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Aisake</td>
<td>Batibasaga</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Director Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries &amp; Forests, Fiji</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Ravi</td>
<td>Chand</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CEO, National Centre for Small and Micro Enterprise Development, Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Moseesa</td>
<td>Coriakula</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Founding Director, Loving Islands, Fiji</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>John</td>
<td>Deo</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Acting CEO, Copra Mills Fiji Limited, Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms.</td>
<td>Wati</td>
<td>Fong Chew</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CEO, Geminy Research &amp; Economic Development in Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms.</td>
<td>Judith</td>
<td>Francis</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Senior Programme Coordinator Science and Technology Policy and Leader, Pacific Project, The Technical Centre for Agricultural &amp; Rural Cooperation, The Netherlands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr.</td>
<td>Keith</td>
<td>Galgal</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Consultant, Fiji</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr.</td>
<td>Jone</td>
<td>Hawea</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Associate Director, The Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises &amp; Development (FRIEND), Fiji</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Stephen</td>
<td>Hazelman</td>
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<td></td>
<td>POETCOM Coordinator, The Pacific Community (SPC), Fiji</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>David</td>
<td>Hickes</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Project Coordinator, Participatory Guarantee System &amp; Clustering Project, Sigatoka, Fiji</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms.</td>
<td>Preeya</td>
<td>Ieli</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Regional Programme Specialist for Women’s Economic Empowerment, UN Women Fiji Multi-Country Office, Fiji</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Viliamu</td>
<td>Iese</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Research Fellow (Climate Change, Food Security, Disaster Risk Management), Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development (PaCE-SD), University of the South Pacific (USP), Fiji</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Emil</td>
<td>Jejov</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Operations Management, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, The Technical Centre for Agricultural &amp; Rural Cooperation, The Netherlands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms.</td>
<td>Cathy</td>
<td>Joyce</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Co-owner, Pacific Ocean Culture, Fiji</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms.</td>
<td>Laisani</td>
<td>Kabakoro</td>
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<td>Vision Green Nurseries, Fiji</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Benjamin</td>
<td>Kado</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Director, Geminy Research &amp; Economic Development in Fiji, Fiji</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms.</td>
<td>Ateca</td>
<td>Kama</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Manager, National Food and Nutrition Centre, Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Fiji</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms.</td>
<td>Litia</td>
<td>Kirwin</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Founding Director, Loving Islands, Fiji</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms.</td>
<td>Api</td>
<td>Kurasiga</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Consultant, Lapita Marketing Enterprise, Fiji</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr.</td>
<td>Jimaima</td>
<td>Lako</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Consultant, Private Consultant, Fiji</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Anare</td>
<td>Lzweniqila</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Principal Economic Planning Officer, Strategic Planning &amp; National Planning Department, Fiji</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms.</td>
<td>Kristyn</td>
<td>Lobendahn</td>
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<td>Communications &amp; Reporting Officer, The Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation, Fiji</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms.</td>
<td>Fantasha</td>
<td>Lockington</td>
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<td></td>
<td>CEO, Fiji Hotel and Tourism Association, Fiji</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Tevita</td>
<td>Madigibuli</td>
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<td>General Manager Relationships &amp; Sales, Fiji Development Bank (FDB), Fiji</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms.</td>
<td>Cherie</td>
<td>Morris</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fiji Women in Fisheries Network, Fiji</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms.</td>
<td>Eseta</td>
<td>Nadakuitavuki</td>
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<td>President, Women Entrepreneurs Business Council (WEBC), Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Title/Position</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Mr. Primal   | Narayan
Finance Project Officer, Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO), Fiji |
| Ms. Marica   | Naulu
Farmer, Fiji                                                                   |
| Dr. Tim      | Pickering
Aquaculture Adviser, The Pacific Community (SPC), Fiji                        |
| Mr. Howard   | Politini
Chairperson, Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO), Fiji       |
| Mr. Ashrhit  | Pratap
Mill Manager, Fiji Rice Limited                                              |
| Mr. Vatimi   | Rayalu
Acting Chief Economist, Ministry of Agriculture, Fiji                         |
| Ms. Maca     | Rokomalagi
Acting National Advisor Dietetics & Nutrition, Ministry of Health & Medical Services, Fiji |
| Ms. Patricia | Kokoura
Project Coordinator- Gender Just Social & Economic Empowerment and Livelihood, Oxfam, Fiji |
| Ms. Sian     | Rolls
Associate Programmer, Femlink Pacific, Fiji                                   |
| Ms. Mere     | Salusalu
Manager Technical Services, Agricultural Marketing Authority (AMA), Fiji      |
| Dr. Millika  | Sobey
Chairperson, Women in Fisheries Network, Fiji                                 |
| Mr. Kyle     | Stice
Manager, Pacific Islands Farmers Network Organisation (PIFON), Fiji             |
| Mr. David    | Sutherland
Business Specialist, Pacific Islands Private Sector Organization, Fiji         |
| Ms. Kotoyawa | Tamani
South Pacific Tourism Organisation, Fiji                                       |
| Ms. Tina     | Tawake
Managing Director, Sealink Exports, Fiji                                       |
| Mr. Alifereti| Tawake
Council Chair & Technical Advisor, LMMA Network International, Fiji           |
| Ms. Cheryl   | Thomas
Research & Policy Officer - PAPP Project, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Fiji |
| Mr. Sakiusa  | Tubuna
Country Manager, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Fiji |
| Ms. Una      | Tutubou
Farmer, Fiji                                                                    |
| Dr. Isimeli  | Tukana
National Advisor NCD & Head of National Wellness Centre, Ministry of Health & Medical Services, Fiji |
| Ms. Alisi    | Tuqa
Communications & Reporting Officer, Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO), Fiji |
| Ms. Mereia   | Volavola
CEO, Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO), Fiji                  |
| Ms. Aliti    | Vunisea
Consultant, Independent Consultant, Fiji                                        |
| Ms. Emele    | Vunisei
Rusiate Charcoal Supplies, Fiji                                               |
| Ms. Vitika   | Vuniwaqa
Owner, Vee’s Organic Farm, Fiji                                                |
| Mr. Christoph| Wagner
Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation for the Pacific, Fiji                      |
| Mr. Save     | Waqainabete
Business Development Analyst, Joe’s Farm, Fiji                                |
| Ms. Joann    | Young
Assistant FAO Representative Fiji, Food & Agricultural Organisation (FAO), Fiji |
| Mr. Thompson | Yuen
Program Manager | Private Sector Development and Economic Growth, Australian High Commission, Suva, Fiji |
| Ms. Amram    | Yusuf
Marketing Manager, Vee’s Organic Farm, Fiji                                    |
Annex 3. Addendum

The Agriculture Nutrition Nexus in Fiji: Rapid Country Scan formed the basis of the interactive discussions over the two day workshop, along with the 6 panel discussions, and 2 key roundtable group exercises.

Some key highlights from the research included: the increasing importation of processed foods and access to these cheaper products affecting Fijians; contradicting policies with implementation and roll out; Ministries, especially Health, needing more evidence sourced from the ground/communities and to monitor the communications outreach work being done to see what (if any) differences in attitude; consider the role of academia in health research and community research; working closely with Fiji businesses/private sector in agribusiness and fisheries to consider broader food security and access to local affordable nutritious foods; and embedding agrinutrition into the school curriculum.

Over the two days, six panel sessions and 2 roundtable exercises were convened and great discussions and deliberations ensued. PIPSO and partners are collating feedback for a broader set of practical recommendations and strategies for a national project roadmap.

Three strategies that the workshop identified as key to national development consideration are:

(i) Creating an Enabling Environment for Agriculture Nutrition Nexus

Setting a high level political agenda and urgent multisectoral approach to addressing agrinutrition and tackling NCDs in Fiji. This could for example, start with including this in the National Sustainable Development Plan, and developing a policy and regulatory framework across Ministries (especially Fisheries, Health, Agriculture, Trade and Education) that is consistent and supportive across the board. In line with the regulatory framework, to have a supporting platform for resources and technical expertise to support implementation and roll out.

(ii) Evidence Based Policy and Strategic Planning

Establishing stronger collaboration and relationship with academia and private sector to conduct research and gather evidence-based information to generate evidence to make the business case on the challenges and opportunities in agrinutrition and agribusiness.

(iii) Leveraging on Partnerships & Shared Responsibilities for Increased Food and Nutrition Security

There are great projects and initiatives being implemented within Government Ministries, communities, private sector and academia but in some instances these are standalone and not much linkage or collaboration within the wider stakeholder community. There is so much opportunity and need to showcase benefits and share responsibilities and engagement through these projects and activities – and could include joint interventions such as media campaigns, agribusiness/farming communities initiatives with schools, promoting local produce and local cuisine (e.g local cooking shows, food festival etc), to name a few.
About the Project

The project “Leveraging the Development of Local Food Crops and Fisheries Value Chains for Improved Nutrition and Sustainable Food Systems in the Pacific Islands with a focus on Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu” is co-funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) and is implemented in partnership with the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO). The goal is to strengthen the capacity of the Pacific Island governments, farmer and private sector organisations, and sub-regional institutions to develop strategies and programs – as well as mobilise financing – that can increase poor rural people’s access to nutritious and healthy food. CTA has overall responsibility for the implementation of the project.

About the Partners

IFAD

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a specialised agency of the United Nations, was established as an international financial institution in 1977 as one of the major outcomes of the 1974 World Food Conference.

PIPSO

The Pacific Islands Private Sector Organization (PIPSO) is the premier private sector representative body in the Pacific Islands region. It was set-up through the mandate of the Forum Economic Ministers in 2005, and legally established in 2007, to be the representative body of the Pacific region’s private sector. In doing so, it focuses its work on 4 key areas: Supporting National Private Sector Organizations (NPSOs) to be strong and responsive organisations; Assisting Pacific businesses to enhance their business competitiveness and growth; Championing the interests of private sector in the appropriate fora; and Ensuring the sustainability of PIPSO’s resource and enhancing its capabilities.

CTA

The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) is a joint international institution of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States and the European Union (EU). CTA operates under the framework of the Cotonou Agreement and is funded by the EU. For more information on CTA, visit www.cta.int

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