



DATE: 7 May 2018, 13:30 – 17:30

8 May 2018, 08:30 – 17:30

VENUE: Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva, Fiji

Background

This workshop is part of the Regional Forum: “Developing Pacific Local Food Crops and Fisheries Value Chains: Key Innovations and Critical Success Factors” (7 – 10 May 2018, Suva, Fiji). The high dependence on imported foods, declining consumption of local nutrient dense foods and low incomes from agriculture are some of the underlying factors in the growing prevalence of non-communicable diseases in Pacific Island countries (PICs). Pockets of hunger and the double burden of malnutrition co-exist. National sectoral policies and programmes on agriculture, nutrition, health, economy and trade are disconnected and often under-resourced. Women are particularly disadvantaged. Successful community-based agriculture and nutrition programmes operate under the radar. To effectively address the challenges, there is need to re-strategize: *What are the trade-offs for increasing access to affordable local nutrient dense foods and at the same time assure greater profits for farmers and other value chain actors? How can communities be better integrated in solving the food and nutrition challenge? Can the Pacific region capitalise on the nutritive value and bioactive principles of their rich biodiversity? What are the priority commodities for attracting public and private investments and what incentives are needed and at which leverage points?*

Aim

Reflect on successful community initiatives, opportunities to leverage the health potential and nutritional value of Pacific foods, and priority nutrition sensitive value chains, identified by Pacific farmers and build synergy for joint action to address the agriculture-nutrition-income challenge through public-private-producer partnerships. Agriculture and nutrition experts, community leaders, farmers and other agri-entrepreneurs, will identify key innovations and critical success factors that address policy and other institutional constraints and develop a regional roadmap/ action plan for developing/upgrading selected culturally sensitive priority local food and fisheries value chains which are socially inclusive and have the demonstrated potential for improving food, nutrition and incomes especially of rural communities.



Catalyst Speaker

Lavinia Kaumaitotoya,
Project Manager, Pacific
Island Farmers
Organisation Network
(PIFON), Fiji

Programme 7 – 8 May 2018

Day 1 pm session 14:30 – 17:30

14:30 – 14:45 **Workshop Objectives** - Judith Ann Francis, Senior Programme Coordinator, Science & Technology Policy, CTA, The Netherlands

14:45 – 15:15 **Catalyst Speech**
Priority nutrition sensitive VCs for investment: the Perspective of Pacific Farmers – **Lavinia Kaumaitotoya, Project Manager, Pacific Island Farmers Organisation Network (PIFON), Fiji**

Q&A

15:15 – 15:45 Harnessing the nutrient value and health potential of Bioactive compounds of Pacific crops and marine resources for value chain (VC) development, improved nutrition and income: Lessons from the Innov4Ag multi-country study – **Sunil Singh, Senior Lecturer, University of the South Pacific (USP), Fiji**

Q&A

15:45 - 16:15 Coffee break

16:15 – 17:00 **Key Innovations**

Understanding Community Food Production in Island Communities: Impacts on Health and Wellbeing - **Florian Kroll, Researcher, School of Geography, Archaeology and Environmental Studies (GAES), University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa**

Changing farmers attitudes towards growing, consuming and marketing more nutritious foods at the local level - **Pitakia Tikai, Coordinator, Kastom Gaden Association, Solomon Islands**

Adding Value to traditional culture and foods: Opportunities for community and agribusiness development

- *Indigenous Fijian Foods and their nutritional and medicinal Uses* - **Vulori Sarai, USP, Fiji**
- *Agribusiness development opportunities using Traditional Samoan Foods* - **Sonny Lameta, Lecturer, USP, Samoa**
- *Valuing Solomon Islands Culture and Traditional Foods* - **Gilbert Tabihau, Ministry of Education, Solomon Islands**
- *Value addition of Traditional Tongan Foods* - **Metuisela Falesiva, Ministry of Agriculture, Kingdom of Tonga**

Q&A

17:00 – 17:30 Short self-introduction by participants
Group discussion, validation of the main findings and recommendations and Feedback – Priority nutrition sensitive value chains and Key innovations

Day 2 am session 08:30 – 13:00

Chair: Dr. Jimaima Lako, Food and Nutrition Scientist, Fiji National University, Fiji

08:30 – 08:50 Reflections day 1 - **Judith Ann Francis, Senior Programme Coordinator, Science & Technology Policy, CTA, The Netherlands**

Critical Success Factors

- Policy drivers and VC trade-offs: Lessons from the Innov4Ag Project – **Judith Ann Francis, Senior Programme Coordinator, Science & Technology Policy, CTA, The Netherlands**
- Generating data on consumption, dietary intake and nutrition trends - **Viliamu Iese, Research Fellow, The University of the South Pacific & Team Member, Community Food Production and Health (CFaH) Project, Fiji**
- A model for increasing community engagement - **Soane Patolo, General Manager and IFAD Project leader, MORDI Tonga Trust, Kingdom of Tonga**

Q&A

9:50 - 10:30 Group discussion & Feedback - Critical success factors

10:30 – 11:00 **Coffee break**

11:00 – 12:00 **Panel discussion: Critical prerequisites for developing culturally sensitive & nutritious priority local food crops and fisheries value chains**

- Cherie Morris, Executive Board Member, The Women in Fisheries Network, Fiji
- Dickson Gray, Program Operations Manager, Nasituan Community Organization, Vanuatu
- Iva Reimers-Roberto, Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce, Government of the Marshall Islands
- Eretii Timeon, Director of Public Health Services, Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Kiribati
- Mele Amanaki, Food Technologist and Chair, National Food Council, Kingdom of Tonga

Q&A

12:00 – 13:00 **Think-Tank / Group Discussion** – Key regional actions for developing/upgrading priority nutrition sensitive VC for improved nutrition and incomes

13:00 – 14:30 **Lunch break**

Day 2 pm session 14:30 – 17:30

14:30 – 15:45 **Continuation of Think Tank – Group Discussions / Action Plan**

Development of regional action plan/ road map for priority nutrition sensitive food crops and fisheries VC /agribusiness development including at community level Building on priority VCs, Key Innovations and critical success factors identified / discussed e.g.: Policy, Regulatory, and Legislative Framework; Community engagement and development; Women's economic empowerment; Financing/ investments

15:45 – 16:15 **Coffee break**

16:15 – 17:00 Action plan finalisation

17:00 – 17:30 Wrap-up

Context

Local food production and fishing used to be the traditional way Pacific Islanders sustained their livelihoods and assured access to quality nutritious diversified diets. Increasing urbanization (e.g. Marshall Islands 73%, Fiji 55%), poverty and high youth unemployment (app. 25%) as well as a breakdown in social and cultural norms, are threatening food and nutrition security (FNS), health and incomes; especially from agriculture. Approximately 75% of all deaths in PICs are linked to non-communicable diseases; obesity and under-nutrition including stunting and micro-nutrient deficiency coexist along with pockets of hunger. The evidence reflects a decline in crop production (e.g. in Tonga 50% of land left fallow), increased dependence on imported foods (e.g. 90% of national supply in Marshall Islands and 56% of total household food expenditure in Samoa) and a shift in consumption to a 'globalised industrial diet' high in energy dense foods (e.g. Vanuatu 52% of calories come from non-staples and dietary energy provided by vegetable oils increased from 2% to 26% between 1996 and 2011 in Samoa). High preference for sugary drinks and low intake of fruits and vegetables (e.g. in Solomon Islands only 6.4% population consume the daily recommended amounts) have also been recorded.

Climate change, over- and illegal fishing, volatility in international commodity prices, limited access to finance and credit and failure to implement existing policies and enforce regulations hinder value chain (VC) and agri-business development; further comprising the sustainability of Pacific nutritious food systems. Some governments have identified priority crops e.g. Fiji has selected taro, ginger, rice and yagona for industrial development and Vanuatu has selected beef. Sea cucumber has emerged as an important commodity for VC development and the Innov4AgPacific study on the nutrient value and Bioactive components confirm that research is needed for PICs to capitalise on this potential. Community and traditional leaders have expressed concern with the declining interest in local nutrient dense foods and preserving traditional knowledge.

The Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States calls for actions that create the enabling environment to transform food systems, improve their nutrition-sensitivity and empower people and communities to lead healthy and productive lives. The Innov4AgPacific project has compiled a comprehensive list of national policies and programmes for Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Marshall Islands and Vanuatu as well as regional and international frameworks related to the agricultural-nutrition-income nexus. Non-implementation and lack of coordinated action, limit the full potential and undermine the resilience of Pacific communities. In addition, the population is expected to double by 2050, placing an additional strain on Pacific food and nutritious system.

Successful community-based projects have been identified in the seven Pacific Island States which focus on developing short food chains, which have the potential for addressing the local food and nutrition challenges. The Pacific Islands Farmers' Organisation (PIFON) has identified four priority nutrition sensitive value chains; green coconut water; chips made from cassava, breadfruit and other starchy foods; fresh fruit (pineapples) and tropical fruit juice and drinks aimed at the domestic market including schools. Promoting bioactive compounds and the high nutritional value of Pacific crops and marine resources also holds promise for VC actors.

For smallholder farmers and rural households, diversification of farming systems through targeted interventions for identified markets (schools, hospitality/ tourism and retail outlets) can contribute to enhancing nutrition outcomes and economic resilience, especially for women. Furthermore, building on the indigenous knowledge of communities, integrating scientific and technical knowledge, promoting innovation, entrepreneurship and business development, and facilitating individual and organizational capacity development and policy and institutional reform is a win-win strategy. Developing and sustaining access to competitive markets; domestic and export, is also part of the win-win strategy. The public and private stakeholders as well as producers need to work closer together across sectors to develop and implement strategies and programmes and mobilise financing and support services that enable subsistence and semi-subsistence farmers and small and medium enterprises to improve efficiencies, upgrade local food crops and fisheries VCs. The Regional action plan to be developed through this workshop will consider all these elements and also inform national strategies.