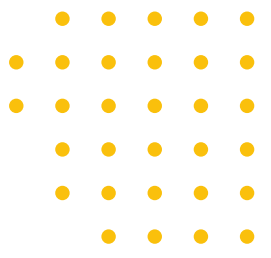
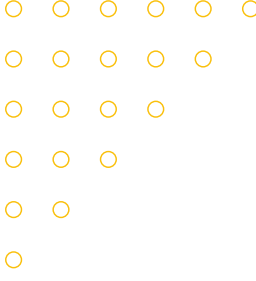
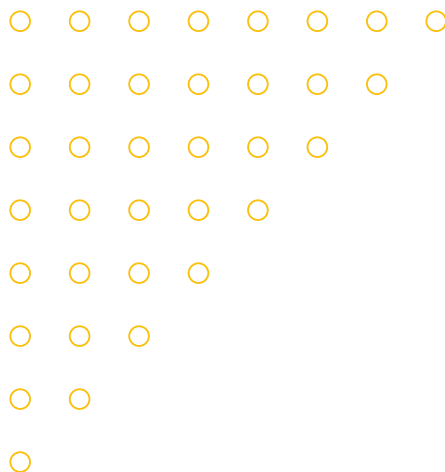




2019 ANNUAL REPORT



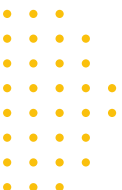
2019 ANNUAL REPORT





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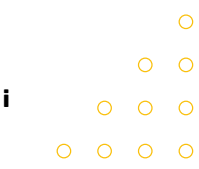
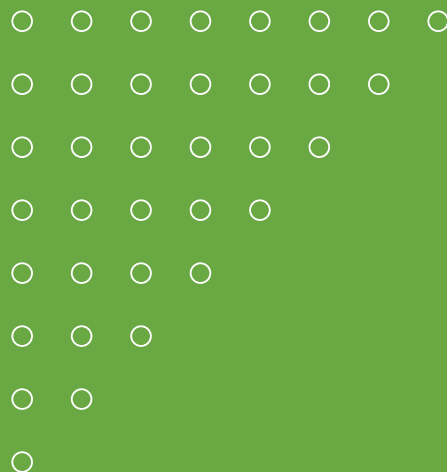


ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Pacific Organic & Ethical Trade Community



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ABBREVIATIONS & DEFINITIONS

ACIAR	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
BPWP	Building Prosperity for Women Producers, Processors and Women Owned Businesses through Organic Value Chains
CTA	Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAPP	Fiji Agriculture Partnerships Project
FiBL	Research Institute of Organic Agriculture
FRIEND	Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises & Development
HOAFS	Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFOAM	International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements
LRD	Land Resources Division
MEL	Monitoring, evaluation and learning
MIOFA	Marshall Islands Organic Farmers Association
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
PCDF	Partners in Community Development Fiji
PGS	Participatory Guarantee System (organic certification system based on a peer review model)
PIANGO	Pacific Islands Association of Non-Government Organisations
PICTs	Pacific Island countries and territories
PIFON	Pacific Islands Farmers Organisation Network
PIPSO	Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation
POETCom	Pacific Organic & Ethical Trade Community
POGA	Palau Organic Growers Association
POS	Pacific Organic Standard
MOAFS	Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry Services
NGOs	non-governmental organisations
SAMOA Pathway	Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway
SBDC	Small business development centre
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SPC	Pacific Community
UNDP Pacific	United Nations Development Programme Pacific Office
VCO	Virgin coconut oil
WEE	Women's Economic Empowerment
WIBDI	Women in Business Development Inc.
WUTMI	Women United Together Marshall Islands
WWF	Worldwide Fund for Nature

WHO WE ARE

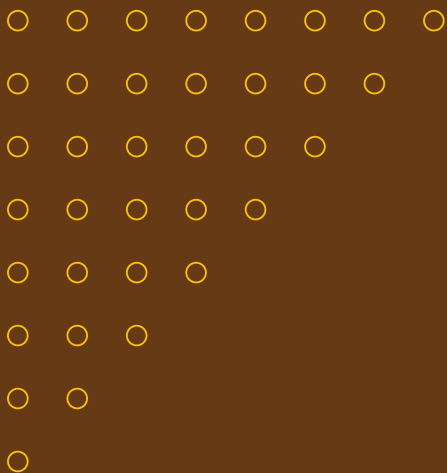
We work with people and nature, leading the development of organic agriculture in the Pacific Islands region. As a tool for sustainable development, organic agriculture touches on key areas of the Sustainable Development Goals – SDG 1: No Poverty, SDG 2: Zero Hunger, SDG 5: Gender Equality, SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG 13: Climate Action, and SDG 15: Life on Land.

The Pacific Organic & Ethical Trade Community (POETCom) is a not-for-profit membership organisation housed within the Pacific Community (SPC).

POETCom's membership extends across Pacific Island countries and territories; these include farmer support organisations, non-governmental organisations, the private sector and research institutions.

Through partnerships and spirited engagement, we share information, coordinate and support networking, and build capacity to strengthen the organic movement within the Pacific.

POETCom has established a regional certification scheme to support growth of the organic and ethical trade movement, and contribute to a productive, resilient, sustainable and healthy Pacific Islands region.



OUR VISION

Organics and ethical trade are key contributors to sustaining our culture and communities and improving farmers' livelihoods, people's health and the environment in the Pacific Islands region.

OUR VALUES

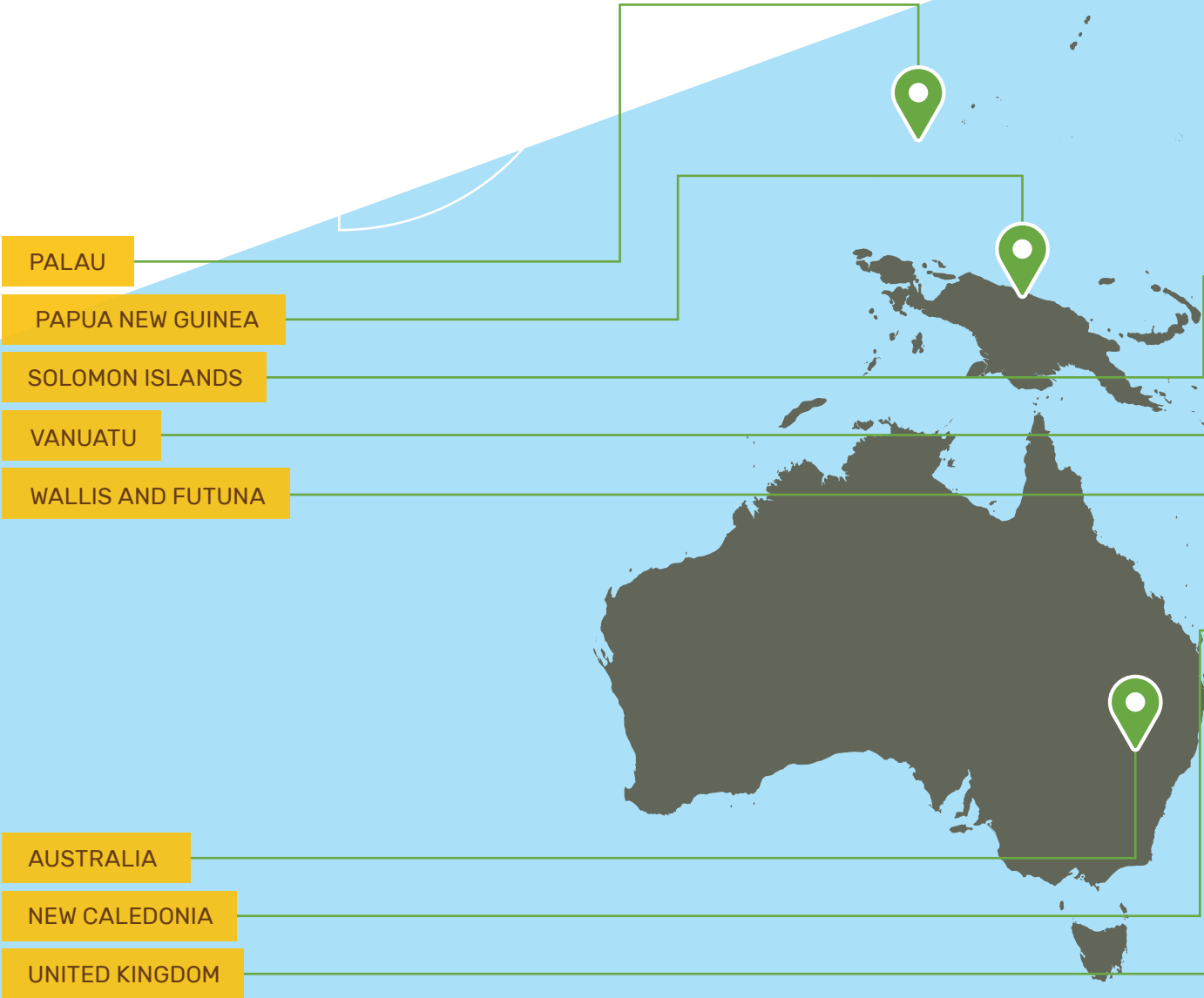
We are guided by these values in all our interactions with our stakeholders, colleagues and the broader community:

We seek to be guided by spiritual principles.

- We are committed to preparing our populations for the challenges of climate change; and ensuring food and nutritional security and enhancing adapted biodiversity.
- We are guided by an understanding of Pacific approaches to decision-making and take into account Pacific values, traditions and cultures.
- We seek to ensure equality of access, e.g. by people of different genders and ages and from different countries and subregions – as well as the principles of fairness, justice and partnership.
- We recognise the value of youth for a productive agriculture sector.
- We recognise the need to support and enhance the quality of people's lives with an emphasis on those who work on the land and future generations, as well as respect for the land and broader environment.
- We are committed to networking/positive engagement and communication, and the development of increasing self-reliance.
- We are committed to the principles of organic agriculture and the holistic approaches it encompasses.
- We are committed to building a more inclusive Pacific community – working together, supported by past traditions and connections with the land – to achieve our vision.

OUR REACH

POETCom has members in 15 Pacific Island countries and territories. POETCom implemented activities in Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and Fiji in 2019 through two projects, with the focus on investing in the development of organic agriculture, empowerment of youths and women, and product development for income.

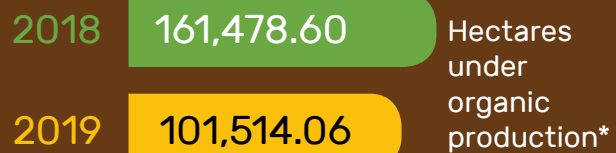
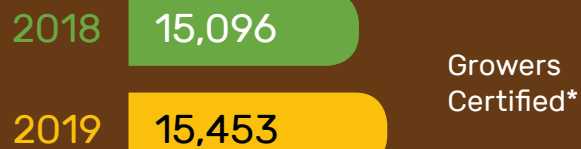




2019 HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE

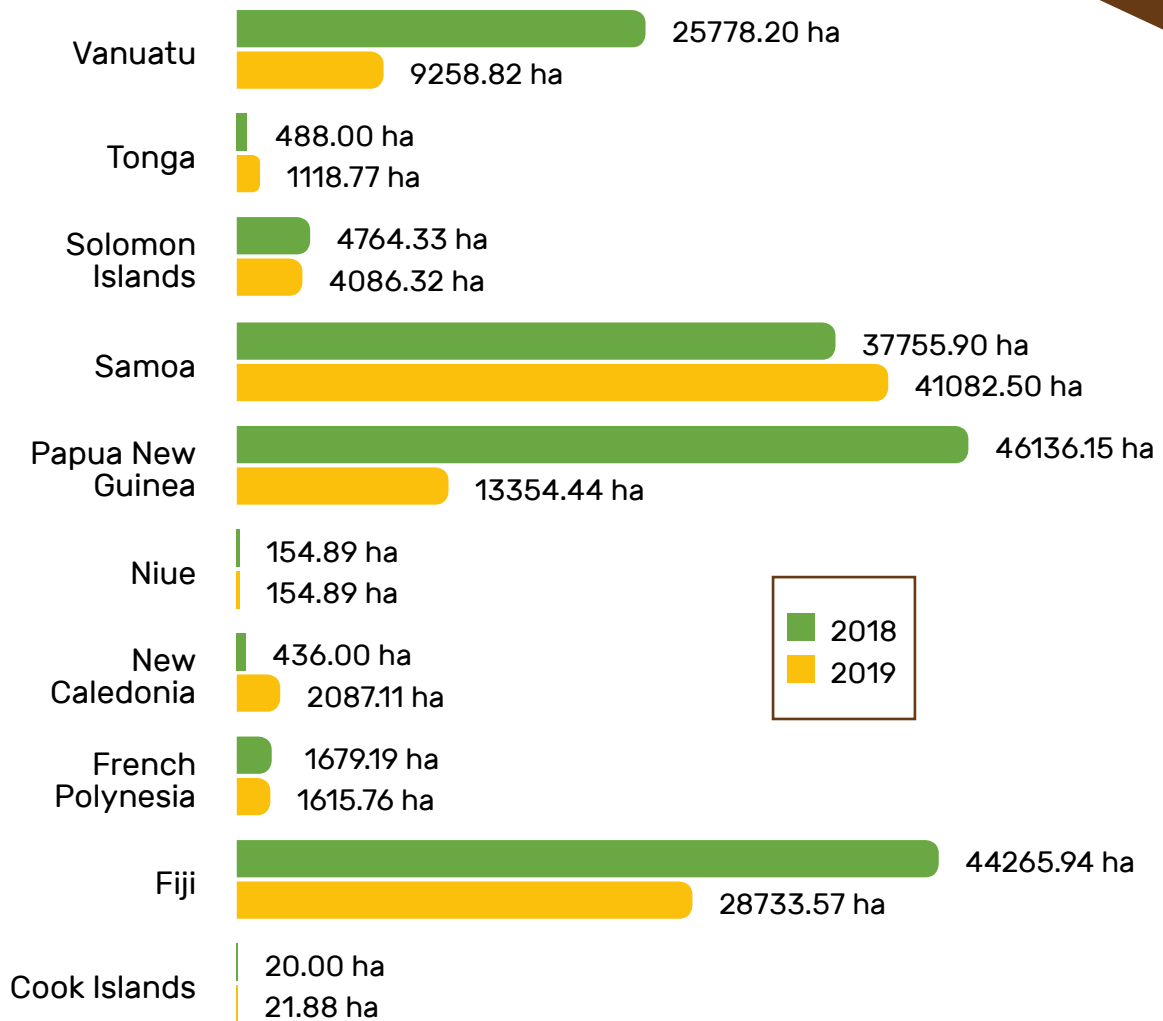
- 101,514.06 ha of Organic Certified land in 10 Pacific Island countries.
- 93,111.24 ha third-party certified ; 8402.82 ha PGS guaranteed
- 10 PGS groups operational in 6 Pacific Island countries (Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Samoa, Vanuatu); 3 PGS groups under development (Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Palau)
- 89 third-party licensees in nine Pacific Island countries (Fiji, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu)
- 2102 producers Guaranteed under the PGS
- 13,351 growers certified under third-party
- 594 people (including representatives from government, farmer organisations and community members) trained on Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) for organic production.

PACIFIC ORGANICS 2018 vs 2019 in Numbers



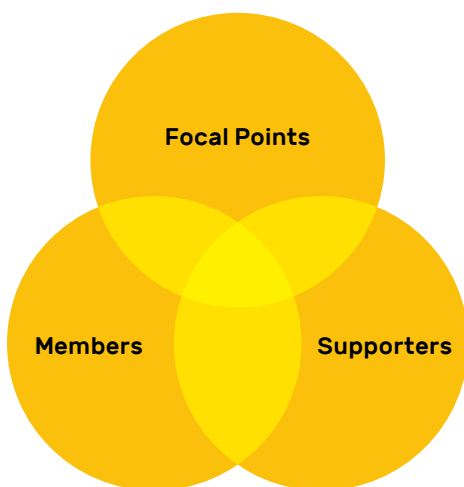
Data provided by accredited certifying bodies and POETCom's PGS reports

** Growth appears to have slowed from 2018 to 2019. This is potentially due to clarification of dual reporting, and farmers suspending certification due to natural disasters.*



Data provided by accredited certifying bodies and POETCom’s PGS reports

POETCom Affiliates – 46 memberships in 15 Pacific Island countries and territories



- 11 Focal Points from 9 countries or territories (French Polynesia, Wallis and Futuna, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Republic of Marshall Islands, Niue, Cook Islands, Tonga, Samoa).
- 5 Supporters from 4 countries or territories (Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, Australia, Vanuatu).
- 30 Members from 11 countries or territories (Australia, Fiji, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Tonga, United Kingdom, Vanuatu).

Our partnerships

Development partners

The support of donor agencies including DFAT, IFAD, CTA, ACIAR, UNDP Pacific

Organic Policies

Organic policies were developed by the Governments of Fiji and Vanuatu.

FROM THE PACIFIC HIGH LEVEL ORGANIC GROUP



The year 2019 saw significant progress made for sustainable and organic agriculture in the Pacific, and particularly in my country of Samoa as we partnered with the Pacific Communities' Land Resources Division to host the second Pacific Week of Agriculture (PWA). This was an opportunity for the Heads and Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry (the HOAFS and MOAFS) to report on and advance the priorities of the 2017 PWA held in Vanuatu, and to plan projects for the 2020 International Year of Plant Health as well as the SAMOA Pathway, the Paris Agreement and the Blue Pacific narrative endorsed by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders in 2017.

The event and side events provided an excellent working, learning and networking environment for the HOAFS, the MOAFS, for donors, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, NGOs and farmer organisations, thanks to the superior organisational and logistical planning by SPC and LRD, including the POETCom team.

As host, I was honoured to showcase our capital city of Apia, our agriculture and forestry management, and especially our culture including music, dance and food.

In addition to planning programmes to address agricultural issues such as phytosanitary challenges, invasive species, seed and planting stock improvements and gender equity in agricultural market value chains, the forum provided a much-needed platform to discuss the health related challenges that can be addressed by sustainable and organic agricultural practices: malnutrition, non-communicable diseases and immunity deficiencies – persistent problems that unfortunately continue to be a growing problem in the Pacific.

We again thank POETCom, WIBDI and SPC for the important work that they are doing, and look forward to the planning and participation of the Third Pacific Week of Agriculture, and the Third Joint Meeting of Pacific Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry to be hosted in Fiji in 2021.

Organic agriculture has been part of Pacific people's everyday lives and will continue to remain as an important facet of our collective national and regional efforts to combat non-communicable diseases. The future for organic agricultural products appears promising, so too with the need to continue to strengthen partnerships for organic farming.

Best wishes and more successes in 2020!

Honourable Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi
Prime Minister of Samoa/Chairman of the Organic Farming Committee

FROM THE POETCom BOARD



Ni Sa Bula to the members, partners, supporters and especially to the hard-working organic farmers of the Pacific Organic & Ethical Trade Community. As the governing body of this fine secretariat for three years now, we are honoured and privileged to address the staff and stakeholders of this aspirational and necessary member organisation.

We are proud to present this Annual Report. With the launch of the DFAT-funded Women's Economic Empowerment Through Organic Value Chains project, 2019 was a year of growth and learning as we expanded staff numbers from two to seven, and in the first phase of the project we began scoping the needs and challenges for gender equality and organic expansion in order to define the Theory of Change and to start down the path of the desired outcomes. It is clear that in 2019 the POETCom Community advanced to the next level and is poised to do great work throughout the Pacific in the coming years. Please read and enjoy this report, noting that this is not the pinnacle but only a vista on the journey up the mountain.

Acknowledgements for these achievements begin with Karen and Stephen for their unwavering

commitment and dedication to the POETCom vision, and for tirelessly shepherding the BPWP project, which has allowed for the addition of staff, across the finish line.

Thank you also to the SPC Land Resources Division, directed by Mr Jan Helsen, for its ongoing support and belief in POETCom as a change agent and an important component of land resources development. With success, of course, comes challenges. The increase of funding, project activities and opportunities mean that the POETCom Board has found it necessary to become more active with governance, membership and technical involvement according to our skill sets.

Lastly and most importantly, thank you POETCom members and supporters throughout the Pacific. We are, of course, a membership organisation, so crave and appreciate the inputs and feedbacks that you all provide. Your hard work and dedicated passion to promote the organic movement not only for its economic benefits but for the great environmental sustainability is admirable and appreciated. We cannot do this without you. It takes a *community*.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE LAND RESOURCES DIVISION



As I commence my fourth year as the Director of the Land Resources Division (LRD) it is satisfying to reflect on how passionate we are in the work of sustainable agriculture and forestry management. Even as we continue to evolve, grow, and adjust our priorities in the face of emerging crisis throughout the Pacific, the passion of its fine people to develop sustainable livelihoods through agriculture and forestry remains steadfast.

LRD is organised into four “pillars”: plant genetic resources, sustainable forests and landscapes, sustainable agriculture, and markets for livelihoods – which houses POETCom. The reality is that the success of all these specialised groups overlaps, and nowhere is this crosscutting better illustrated than with organic agriculture, which touches every pillar and project. POETCom has become an increasingly integral part of our involvement and success. It is with pleasure therefore that we welcome the successful expansion of the POETCom Team, especially as they commit themselves to their well-chosen theme: *Building Capacity, Reaching Out*. It has been good to see the new staff acclimate and assimilate and then find their stride as individuals and as a team. With its increased capacity, the POETCom Team is reaching out and touching other programmes, adding technical expertise regarding sustainable practices, gender inclusion, programme management oversight and monitoring/reporting.

2019 saw a continuation of the global trend towards increased organic agriculture, with the Pacific reporting impressive gains. According to the most recent statistics report on the World of Organic Agriculture (2017) by FiBL and IFOAM, Samoa leads

the Pacific in organically produced crops and is second worldwide in having the highest organic share of total agricultural land at 34.5%, followed by Vanuatu with 13.7%, and Fiji with 9.7%. To put this in context, consider that globally about 1.5% of farmland is organic.

Over 71.5 million ha of farmland worldwide are organic; and more than half of this lies in the Pacific, with Australia leading with 35.7 million ha followed by Samoa (97,000 ha), New Zealand (89,000 ha), Papua New Guinea and Fiji (50,000 and 41,000 ha respectively).

This steady sustainable growth of organic agriculture in the Pacific is particularly heartening when considered through the broader lens of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). There are 17 SDGs, all of which shape the work of SPC. The work that POETCom does in expanding and promoting the organic movement in the Pacific directly contributes to eight of these goals: *SDG 1: No Poverty, SDG 2: Zero Hunger, SDG 5: Gender Equality, SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG 13: Climate Action, and SDG 15: Life on Land*.

As with so many of our colleagues in LRD, every time I engage with POETCom staff I learn something new, not only about producing healthy and nutritious food but also about the requisite institutional platform that binds us all together.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jan Helsen', with a large, stylized flourish underneath.

Jan Helsen
Director, Land Resources Division, SPC



FROM THE POETCom COORDINATOR

*"Sustainability is no longer about doing less harm. It's about doing more good."
- Jochen Zeitz -*



but the rich diversity of culture, life experiences and personalities that we cumulatively represent.

It has been a pleasure for me to get to know our stakeholders; the members, donors, partners and PGS groups that are the heart, eyes and ears in our network of countries and territories and in the field. The sustainability of the relationships in this membership organisation are a constant priority. Please continue to foster it with us by sending us news, ideas, priorities, suggestions and criticism.

Welcome to each and every one of you reading this Report. With change comes opportunity – 2019 brought an abundance of both for me, the POETCom staff, the Pacific Community and Organics in the Pacific. It is a pleasure and an honour to present to you, our stakeholders, this summary of our activities. Late in the year the POETCom team sat together for a Reflections and Learning Retreat. The brainstorming workshop yielded many accomplishments, not all of them huge, historically earth-changing, or even all of them positive. What was clear, however, was that we are growing, influencing, building networks, seizing opportunities, and on a trajectory to “do more good”.

At the conclusion of the Reflections workshop we brainstormed the “Way Forward”, where we created an extensive, if not exhaustive, list of aspirational, ambitious, worthy, life-influencing, meaningful potential work. Look for those stories in our various communications channels including newsletters, emails, Twitter and Facebook. The biggest challenge POETCom faces is not ability or ambition but choosing which projects to throw our energy behind where it will do the most good for the most people. To all of us involved with the governance and execution of the work of advancing the Organic movement in the Pacific, realise that we are truly blessed to be hired to do meaningful work that will make a difference in people’s lives. As stakeholders in POETCom you are included in this blessing. Together we will improve the lives and land of the Pacific.

Local and world news increasingly points out the importance of sustainable agricultural practices in addressing climate change, health issues, environmental degradation and social justice disparities. In the Pacific we find ourselves at ground zero of the effects of these maladies, as well as on the cutting edge of the solutions. We cannot stop eating, but we MUST stop destroying our land and health with broken food systems. Change will take all of us: together we can and will make a difference.

Jim Pierce
POETCom Coordinator

By the time you read this, many of you know this at first hand, but it is a pleasure to officially state for the record: the POETCom team has expanded from two to seven. The team we have assembled is truly an impressive group of diverse, forward-thinking, talented people. For most of us the journey began mid-June 2019 and has been a pleasant surprise of discovering not only each other’s diversity of skills





POETCom BOARD

The current POETCom Board was elected in the last General Assembly in Wallis and Futuna in October 2017. This board will steer POETCom until the next General Assembly.



Chair, Dr Jone Hawea
Medical surgeon fighting to combat the high rate of amputation due to diabetes by increasing the production and consumption of organic food.



Gilles Parzy, Board member
Consultant in agro-ecology and POETCom founding member.



Francois Japiot, Board member
Agronomist and project manager of the project, "Regional Technical Cooperation for the development of a network of Chambers of Agriculture in the Pacific", based at New Caledonia's Chamber of Agriculture.



Alberta Vitale, Board member
Associate director, Women in Business Development Inc., Samoa.



Dr Shane Tutua, Board member
Soil scientist and owner of Zai Na Tina Organic Demonstration and Research Farm in East Honiara, Solomon Islands.



Drew Havea, Board member
Social development campaigner and President, Tonga National Youth Congress.



Nambo Moses, Board member
Animal health livestock specialist, paravet trainer and serologist.

POETCom acknowledges the efforts of the board for continuing to lead the work of organic production in the Pacific Islands.



AREA OF IMPACT



Our priority is the promotion of organic agriculture. To support this priority, we invest in building capability in the following four areas.



MINDSET

For organic agriculture to be mainstreamed, widely recognised and adopted as a solution to many of the region's challenges.

The mainstreaming, recognition and adoption of organic agriculture can be a solution to many of the region's challenges. We raise awareness through outreach events, communication strategies and products, and conversations at regional, national and community levels, showing the benefits of organic agriculture as a solution for regional challenges and issues related to youth employment, gender equality, climate change, food and nutritional security, and sustainable management of natural resources.



PRODUCTION AND ENVIRONMENT

For organic production to meet market demand and ensure food and nutritional security for Pacific people.

Organic production can meet market demand and ensure food and nutritional security for Pacific people. We promote organic food production as a source of nourishment free of harmful chemicals. The food that is produced must meet market demand and standards and satisfy the food and nutritional security needs of Pacific people. To facilitate organic food production, we provide training to farmers and technical support for the implementation of the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) for organic certification as an alternative to third-party certification. With partners, we build knowledge banks of information that any farmer can use.

MARKETS \$\$



FARM

VALUE CHAINS

To develop and strengthen domestic and export organic value chains to expand livelihood opportunities for Pacific Island producers.

Development and strengthening of domestic and export organic value chains will provide livelihood opportunities for Pacific people. We assist communities to develop PGS organic certification based on the Pacific Organic Standard (POS) to ensure production is in accordance with desired social and environmental welfare standards. After achieving certification, producers are able to use the Organic Pasifika mark, which guarantees their product is organic. The certification has inspired product development for markets, based on a trusted value-chain system that promotes the flow of monetary benefits back to communities.



SUSTAINABILITY

To secure the partnerships, and human, financial and institutional resources needed to achieve POETCom's mission and goals.

Securing of partnerships and the human, financial and institutional resources needed to achieve our mission and goals is vital. Our activities are implemented in accordance with POETCom's Strategic Plan 2013–2017. We work closely with donors and under the guidance of the POETCom Board. We collaborate with partners and stakeholders to implement organic activities and maximise their impacts. We are building strategic alliances to secure sustainable funding streams for the secretariat.

<p>MINDSET</p>	<p>Organic Pasifika social media platforms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For increase in visibility, infographics and videos were posted on the Organic Pasifika Facebook page and the POETCom Twitter account. Social media is an optimal way of reaching wider audiences, since a growing number of Pacific Islanders are engaging with these platforms. Within 2019, over 700 posts were made on Facebook, including those shared from other pages on organic techniques, certification, products and research; pictorials of POETCom workshop and field activities; and infographics promoting specific issues such as the organic food campaign. POETCom gained 1500 new followers on Facebook and 60 on Twitter in the year 2019. • Infographics were posted on social media for International Women’s Day, World Food Day and World Soil Day. • One issue of the Cultivating newsletter was released in 2019, reaching approximately 8000 readers on email and social media platforms.
<p>PRODUCTION & ENVIRONMENT</p>	<p>Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • POETCom participated at the Women’s Economic Empowerment Learning event organised by the Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development in May. POETCom presented on organics and delivered the keynote address through Women in Business Development (Inc), a founding member of POETCom. • POETCom was part of the World Oceans Day celebration, hosted by the Geoscience, Energy and Maritime Division of the SPC held in June at the Suva foreshore. The celebration included a march for awareness on the importance of oceans to the Pacific people and the world. This platform was also used to increase visibility on organics. • POETCom collaborated with FRIEND and the Fiji Ministry of Agriculture and advocated for and launched a Clean (organic) Food Campaign. Information sheets on organic practices and projects and programme brochures were also displayed. • At the Pacific Week of Agriculture held in Samoa in September, POETCom hosted a morning tea of local and organic produce in collaboration with Women in Business Development (Inc). The morning was to generate discussions on and advocate for organic produce and organic agriculture. <p>PGS training (peer review training)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 594 people (including representatives from government, farmer organisations and community members) in the Cook Islands, Palau (Koror), Fiji (and Rabi), Republic of the Marshall Islands (Majuro), and Wallis and Futuna were trained. These trainings also involved sharing knowledge of organic food production. With the exception of Wallis and Futuna, PGS groups were set up to provide certification. Wallis and Futuna is in the process of deciding certification options between PGS and third party. Support for the PGS training and establishment of groups was provided through the BPWP project, the Coconut Industry Development for the Pacific (CIDP) project, the SPC Ridge to Reef project, and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Cook Islands through the Cook Islands Ridge to Reef project. With POETCom’s support, members are now involved in expanding the reach of PGS by holding trainings of their own.
<p>VALUE CHAINS</p>	<p>Gender and Value Chain Assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender and value chains preliminary assessments were conducted in Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The analysis aimed at identifying barriers and opportunities for women’s economic empowerment. This will then lead to the design of activities facilitating women’s participation in the identified value chains.
<p>SUSTAINABILITY</p>	<p>Partnerships</p> <p>Women’s Economic Empowerment (WEE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third Quarter 2019 WEE round-table meeting was held in Fiji in August. POETCom shared progress and updates on the BPWP project with stakeholders, with information and documents on gender issues within the Palauan context. Project and programme brochures were distributed at this event.

MAJOR EVENTS 2019



EVENTS

Pacific WEE Learning Event

A four-day Pacific Women Regional Learning Forum on Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) was organised by Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development (*Pacific Women*) from 27–30 May at the University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji. This was attended by the POETCom team. Karen Mapusua from SPC, who is also the Vice President of IFOAM – Organics International, presented on gender and value chains in the Pacific, focusing on organic agriculture.

POETCom Team Expansion

The month of June 2019 witnessed the recruitment of six additional staff into the POETCom programme, which includes the BPWP project. This staff addition is a boost to POETCom's capacity and delivery. The staff are Jim Pierce, POETCom Coordinator; Neema Nand (BPWP Project Manager); Flavia Ciribello, Gender and Value Chains Adviser; Nilesdni Devi, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer; Epeli Dranikamate, Organic Systems Production Officer; Lore Croker, Communications Assistant; and Snehal Jariwala, Administrative Assistant. POETCom then had a team of eight staff with various capacities working together towards organics in the Pacific. Please refer to Annex I for the staff bios. Unfortunately, POETCom also lost Epeli and Snehal later on in the year.



IFOAM – Organics International elects new Vice President from the Pacific

In September 2019 Karen Mapusua was unanimously appointed as the new Vice President for IFOAM – Organics International. Karen has contributed to the development of both the Pacific Organic Standard, the world's first organic standard containing requirements for climate change and mitigation, and the Pacific Organic & Ethical Trade Community. In her new capacity, Karen will support the ongoing work of the 2017–2021 World Board to grow the global organic marketplace, communicate the health benefits of organics, train organic leaders, and facilitate capacity-building across the globe.



Clean Food Campaign

In line with the World Food Day theme *Our actions are our future: Healthy Diets for a #ZeroHunger World* and as part of the International Honest Food Campaign coordinated by IFOAM Organics International, POETCom launched a Clean Food campaign in collaboration with Fiji's World Food Day celebration held at the Albert Park Hall in Suva, Fiji. The aim of this campaign is to inspire citizens to make better food choices by highlighting the benefits of organic, local, seasonal and fair food for people and the planet. The clean food campaign, comprising primarily social media visibility efforts, consisted of memes and videos that were strategically developed to provide evidential support that organic farming and agriculture directly addresses more than half of the SDGs. Moreover, the videos consisted of agriculture and farming experts, local "stars" such as a parliamentarian and a social media influencer promoting organic agriculture. The clean food campaign actively ran from October to December with weekly postings of memes and videos promoting organic farming on the Organic Pasifika Facebook and Twitter accounts.



Pacific Week of Agriculture

The Pacific Week of Agriculture (PWA) 2019 was hosted by the Government of Samoa from 30 September to 4 October. The PWA is a biennial event that acts as a knowledge-sharing platform, where partners share good practices, lessons learnt, challenges, and strategies to address these. The theme for the 2019 PWA was *Enhanced Partnerships for Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry Systems in the Pacific*. This was truly reflected through the week-long event, which included side-events, workshops and presentations by numerous Pacific development partners. The POETCom Team, represented by the POETCom Coordinator, the Organic Extension Systems Officer, and the BPWP Project Manager, attended this event. One of the key highlights of the week was the morning tea hosted by POETCom Member Women In Business Development Inc. (WIBDI) featuring traditional Samoan dishes made with organic produce.





Insights from the Pacific Week of Agriculture

The Land Resources Division of the SPC, which houses POETCom, hosted the 2nd Pacific Week of Agriculture in Samoa from 30 September to 4 October. With the theme *Enhanced Partnerships for Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry Systems in the Pacific*, PWA is a biennial event bringing together Agricultural Ministers and their representatives from 26 Pacific Island countries and territories to discuss agricultural and forestry challenges facing the region.



This is an important event for POETCom and the wider Land Resources Division of the SPC, as it is the platform where we can hear directly from agriculture ministries in the Pacific regarding their respective priorities, issues and challenges. This was also an opportunity to network and exchange learnings with non-governmental and private sector actors on the shift in agriculture along with its game-changing innovative approaches.

The Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services (HoAFS) session enabled a detailed discussion of the unique agricultural challenges faced by the Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs), as well as the opportunities it presented. Consequently, priorities were identified which will drive SPC's future agriculture and forestry projects.



On the last day of the PWA event, the Land Resources Division co-hosted the Joint Ministerial Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry Services (MoAFS) with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The outcome of this forum called for a high-level symposium on nutrition and food systems in the Pacific region. In support of the symposium, the ministers tasked the FAO to consult with its partners on priority areas of focus for this conference. The ministers also noted the progress made in developing the Pacific Food and Nutrition Framework and acknowledged the Nutrition Sensitive Pacific Food Systems Forum, organised by FAO. While the Pacific Food and Nutrition Framework was supported as the mechanism to develop nutrition-sensitive food systems in the Pacific Islands, it was further agreed that a subset of the Pacific Food and Nutrition Framework capturing FAO and SPC's cooperative work become the foundation of a Strategic Partnership Plan for collaboration between the FAO and SPC. Of particular interest to POETCom was a proposal to establish a Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) to engage with the HoAFS in order to ensure farmers' voices are heard by the consortium of the Pacific Islands Association of Non Governmental Organisations (PIANGO), the Pacific Islands Farmers Organisation Network (PIFON), Pacific Organic & Ethical Trade Community (POETCom) and the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO).



The proposal was endorsed by the HOAFS to include the civil society representation to provide comments on the strategic intent of the HOAFS and on its impact on small-farm families and producers. The Pacific Week of Agriculture also serves as a knowledge-sharing platform through side events, where member countries, development partners and networks meet to share good practices, successes and challenges. This cooperative environment provides fuel for new ideas and approaches for improved agriculture and forestry-related outcomes and, ultimately, the national Sustainable Development Goals through “Enhanced Partnerships”. POETCom staff attended many of these side events and had the privilege to participate on the panel of the IFAD CTA sponsored event: *Enhancing Public-Private-Producer Partnerships in the Pacific: Experiences and Opportunities*, with a brief presentation on *Overcoming Challenges Through Sustainable Production and Certification*.

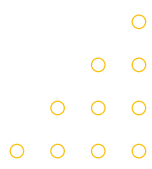
The PWA was a success for all stakeholders and especially for the LRD and POETCom staff who capitalised on the opportunity for deep immersion into agricultural and forestry issues throughout the Pacific, as well as networking with colleagues, donors and ministries.



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PROJECTS



FIJI AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIPS COMPONENT 3 PROJECT

DONOR: Partnership for Community Development Fiji – PCDF

VALUE: FJ\$96,000

TARGET COUNTRIES: Fiji

PROJECT TIMEFRAME: October 2018–June 2019

STATUS: Completed

The IFAD-funded Fiji Agricultural Partnerships Project (FAPP) was implemented through the Fijian Government’s Ministry of Agriculture. The objectives of FAPP were to support the Government of Fiji in promoting the concept of “farming as a business”; effective policies to strengthen the private agribusiness sector, and agricultural value chains and marketing in rural areas. Three components are involved: (1) public sector capacity to support agribusiness; (2) assistance to SMEs working with smallholders; and (3) farming as a business for highland communities. Component 3 was designed to deliver the outcome: *Reorientation of highland farmers from subsistence to production for profit*, of which the Partnership for Community Development Fiji (PCDF) was the lead implementing partner. POETCom acted as the service provider for PCDF in leading the organic certification section under this component; successfully carrying out introductory organic farming trainings through the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) by training in three districts on Viti Levu (Nabobuco district in the province of Naitasiri, and Nadrau and Naikoro districts in the province of Navosa).

Key Activities

Training of Trainers

POETCom conducted PGS trainings focused on the Pacific Organic Standard (POS) for a total of 25 participants (14 men and 11 women); ranging from officers within the Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Industry Trade and Tourism; PCDF; Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF); Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises and Development (FRIEND); Executive Committee of the newly formed Organic Federation of Fiji; and private organisations with interest in commercial organic agriculture. These trainees are now able to assist in the implementation of PGS in communities.



Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) Training

Through PGS trainings, a total of three organic introductory trainings were held for the three districts – Nabubuco in the province of Naitasiri, and Nadrau and Naikoro districts in the province of Navosa. These districts boasted a total of 18 villages. The trainings were conducted according to the Pacific Organic Standards where farmers were introduced to the organic farming concept, registered and entered into a pledge to farm organically. The trainings were conducted within the months of February to April 2019.

A total 524 people (114 women and 410 men) participated, and from this, 312 people (49 female, 261 male and 1 unknown) showed keen interest in organics and have pledged their commitment to organics and to the Project. All 312 pledges were signed between 28 January 2019 and 1 May 2019. The three main commodities the farmers aim to plant are ginger, turmeric and bananas. A significant number of youths expressed interest in organics, especially for planting kava on a new piece of land.

A PGS Manual for the highlands and a database of all pledging organic farmers across the three districts were developed. Value chain maps for three targeted commodities – banana, ginger and wild harvest turmeric – were developed.

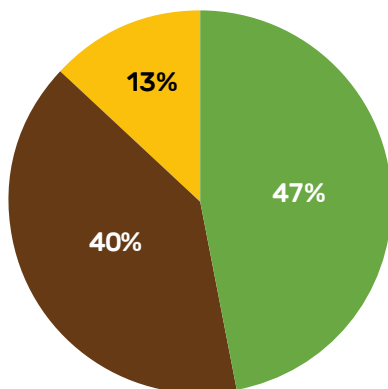
Land-use Survey

POETCom also conducted a land-use survey that identified targeted areas suitable for planting organic crops. In addition, two model farms were identified for the propagation of organic planting stock including ginger and banana.

One village was observed to be practising agroforestry – the incorporation of tree species with agricultural crops on the same piece of land. Poultry was also present, with the feed sourced on farm from food wastes and greens. However, also found was the significant presence of chemical weedicides and synthetic fertilisers in certain targeted areas within these districts, and these areas have been carefully monitored, with buffer zones established as part of the internal control system.

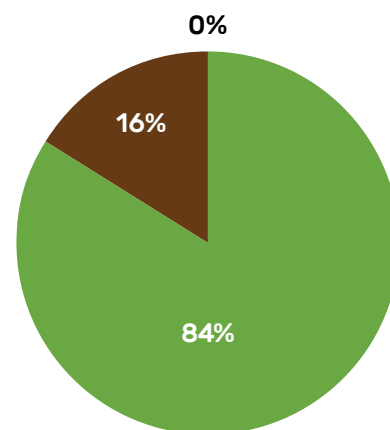
Graphical representation of farmers pledged as part of this project:

Total numbers of farmers pledged



■ Nabubuco
■ Noikoro
■ Nadrau

Sex breakdown of farmers pledged



■ Male
■ Female
■ Unreported

Partnership and coordination

POETCom closely collaborated with the PCDF cluster district officers and Community Facilitators in executing the PGS organic introductory workshops in the highlands.

Key Challenges

A significant challenge was managing expectations from the community members. The queries that stemmed from the PGS trainings included the identification of the supplier of planting stock for the three identified commodities and related markets; the timeframe for certification and next steps; assistance for purchasing equipment on organic farms; supply of organic fertilisers; and identification of potential markets for dalo and yaqona. POETCom provided relevant and realistic information to the participants.

Another challenge was the tight time frame for the activities undertaken, which was resolved with an official no-cost extension of the project until June 2019 that enabled POETCom to complete the PGS Highlands Manual and a draft value chains analysis.

Lessons Learned

Strong partnerships in the form of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) and/or memorandum of agreement (MOA) are important and provide the much-needed leverage and coverage for the project. POETCom's MOU with PCDF and collaborations with the Ministry of Agriculture have been key in reaching out to the target groups.

Exposure to valuable trainings for all genders, including men, women and youths, has been a useful development instrument and is trusted to be effective in the highlands.

POETCom continues to explore next steps and how best the farmers (and farmer organisations) can be supported so real impact can be realised.





BUILDING PROSPERITY FOR WOMEN PRODUCERS, PROCESSORS AND WOMEN OWNED BUSINESSES THROUGH ORGANIC VALUE CHAINS (BPWP) PROJECT

DONOR: The Government of Australia, through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

VALUE: AU\$3,884,100

TARGET COUNTRIES: Kiribati, Palau, Pohnpei State in the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

PROJECT TIMEFRAME: August 2018–June 2022

STATUS: Ongoing

The project works with individuals, families, producers and vendors, and with organic governance structures to promote gender equality and achieve the overall goal of women having access to improved and sustainable livelihoods through participation in organic value chains.

The project aims to achieve the following desired end of investment outcomes by June 2022.

- Women have increased financial independence and influence in decision-making within the household.
- Women are increasingly participating in organic value chains, including in decision-making processes.
- Women and men benefit from viable organic value chains that meet market needs and increase food security.
- The Pacific organic sector has more gender equitable policies and practices.

Key Activities

Official Launch of the Project

The project was officially launched in March by the SPC Deputy Director-General, Dr Audrey Aumua, at the International Women's Day and the 25th Anniversary of the Pacific Platform for Action and Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights (PPA) in Suva, Fiji. During the launch, Dr Aumua reflected on the role that SPC plays as a technical and scientific organisation in leading the effort to mainstream gender perspectives into divisions such as agriculture, fisheries, climate change, transport, and geoscience. Dr Aumua stated, "We have a moral obligation at the regional level to coordinate our development efforts, and champion gender equality across the Pacific".

The BPWP project, along with two other gender-focused projects launched by SPC at the same event, are part of SPC's overall efforts to advance gender equality and to build up momentum on gender issues.

POETCom Staff Engagement and Orientation

Through the project, POETCom engaged seven roles: the POETCom Coordinator; the BPWP Project Manager; Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Officer; Gender and Value Chain Advisor; Organic Systems Extension Officer; Finance and Administration Officer; and Communications Officer. An orientation workshop was held for these staff to establish common and agreed understanding of the project goals, its strategic importance, the implementation plan, and key areas of focus. The team also had a chance to learn more about gender, organic agriculture, SPC procurement guidelines, and SPC policies and in particular SPC's Child Protection Policy.

The team continues to work on the implementation of the project activities.

First Mission to Palau and RMI

In March a team of POETCom Staff (the interim POETCom Coordinator, the interim Project Manager, and the MEL Officer) made their first visit to Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands after the signing of the project agreement. This mission achieved the following:

Induction and soft launch of the project

The team held meetings with key partners and government officials to create and strengthen partnerships for project implementation. The team has had group presentations and workshops to introduce the project to POETCom members, the Palau Organic Growers Association (POGA), the Marshall Islands Organic Farmers Association (MIOFA), and key ministries such as the Bureau of Agriculture in Palau, and Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. There was also a soft launch of the project in the two countries. The launch was an opportunity to share the project goals and outcomes with stakeholders and partners.

Second Mission to Palau and RMI



The project team (Project Manager, Gender and Value Chain Advisor, and the Organic Systems Extension Officer) made the second mission to Palau in September, and to the Republic of the Marshall Islands in October 2019. The mission achieved the following:

Establishment of the National Project Coordination Committees (NPCC)

Palau National Project Coordination Committee

After consultations with stakeholders, and during the first meeting, the decision was endorsed that the Bureau of Agriculture be the chair of the committee, while the project and POGA take on the role of the Secretariat. Other members of the committee represented the Division of Gender, Palau Livestock Association, Pacific Community College – Cooperative Research and Extension (PCC/CRE), and Palau Small Business Development Centre (Palau SBDC).

Marshall Islands National Project Coordination Committee

The Marshall Islands committee consisted of representations from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce, MIOFA, WUTMI, and Majuro Atoll Local Government. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce holds the chair of the Committee, with the project and MIOFA as the Secretariats.

PGS and certification training in Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands

The project also conducted PGS and certification trainings in the two countries during this mission. The trainings aimed to strengthen participants' understanding of the components of organic agriculture as well the implementation of PGS certification.



Twenty-six individuals were trained in the two locations. This consisted of 12 participants (6 female and 6 male) in Palau representing the Bureau of Agriculture, POGA, PCC/CRE, Palau Livestock Association and Palau SBDC; and 14 participants (8 female and 6 male) in RMI, representing the Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce, MIOFA, WUTMI, Ebon Atoll Local Government, and Majuro Atoll Local Government.



Gender and Value Chain Assessments

During the first mission, an assessment was done to identify potential resources that could be of value to the project; and a detailed analysis of the potential value chains for WEE including previous projects and research, analysis of value chain options against the BPWP project objectives, and analysis of constraints and opportunities. With the Gender and Value Chain Advisor on board, the second mission to Palau and RMI has focused on acquiring deeper understanding of the value chains from a gender perspective in the two countries.

Annual Reflection, Planning and Learning Workshop

In December, the team participated in its first annual project Reflection, Learning and Planning workshop (11–13 December). The main purpose of this workshop was to reflect on key achievements, challenges and lessons for the project and POETCom in general, and to socialise around MEL, gender, and communications tools and concepts, with the final day being dedicated to planning for 2020.



ACHIEVING THE SDGs



PARTICIPATORY GUARANTEE SYSTEM - CONNECTING LOCAL ORGANIC FARMERS TO INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

SDG target 2.3

Sustained results for farmers and agricultural industries.

The SPC-supported Pacific Organic & Ethical Trade Community (POETCom) initiated the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) – a locally managed and low-cost organic certification system based on peer auditing. The PGS has been used for organic certification of a variety of agricultural products, and Fiji farmers are now seeing steady growth in sales of organic products.

Context

Organic food is a high-value niche market with export potential. In addition, with their traditional farming systems and low use of chemicals, Pacific farmers are well placed to achieve success in this market. But there are also notable challenges to Pacific farmers seeking to access this market. These include the cost and complexity of achieving organic certification, lack of capacity to navigate the intricacies of regulations for organic exports, and poorly developed local market awareness of organic food. However, with POETCom, the regional organic network supported by SPC has been helping smallholder farmers to access the organic market and in 2012 initiated an alternative, locally managed, low-cost certification system based on peer auditing, called the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS).

Change process

In Fiji, the first PGS pilot was set up on the island of Cicia, where the traditional land holders had already banned the use of agrochemicals. Working with the Ministry of Agriculture and the newly established Cicia Organic Monitoring Agency, POETCom built the capacity of farmers and worked with them to develop the PGS system. In 2015, Cicia became the first fully organically certified island in the Pacific.

With support from POETCom, several other PGSs have since been established in Fiji:

- FRIEND (Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises and Development), whose producers supply organic products to supermarkets around Fiji,
- Batiki, which exports virgin coconut oil (VCO) to the United Kingdom and also participates in a carbon banking scheme based on sequestering soil carbon using organic management practices,
- communities on Matuku Island, which sell a variety of products and handicrafts online and through a storefront in Suva under the Loving Islands brand,
- Fiji Queen Organic Association, whose products include honey, fruits and vegetables.

Results and impact

It has taken time to build the organic market in Fiji, but results are now evident.

The project in Cicia focused on VCO. Initial sales were inconsistent while markets were identified and value-chain issues addressed, but over the last few years there has been steady growth in local sales: 900 L in 2017, 1400 L in 2018, and 2000 L in 2019.



In November 2019, Cicia made its first harvest of six tonnes of PGS-certified organic ginger. The crop was successfully marketed nationally, providing over FJ\$7300 for the farmers of Cicia. Honey production on Cicia is being converted to an organic system and an organic-based ecotourism development began in 2019.

Similarly, Matuku Island’s Loving Islands brand had impressive sales worth over FJ\$13,200 in 2019.

Lessons learned

Market interventions can take several years to yield results. While certification is key in the organic food market, other value-chain elements must also be addressed for success.

The intensive and participatory nature of PGS development contributes to strong ownership and sustainability. Since the SPC project ended in 2015, Cicia farmers have worked to maintain their PGS certification.

Certification raises awareness of issues connected to organic foods and related consumer demand and can open up further opportunities. For example, communities in Fiji are now benefiting from soil carbon trading and “organic tourism”.

Finally, a successful pilot trial can leverage funding. Since 2016, over US\$5 million has been leveraged off the success of this Fiji pilot to expand PGS to other PICTs.



FINANCIALS

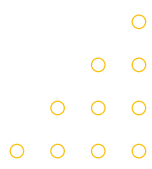


POETCom	EURO TOTAL
INCOME Opening balance	473,402.26
Donor contributions	140,339.26
Programmes contracted with member organisations	-
Government and non-governmental agencies grants	-
Other incomes, sales and recoveries	-
INTEREST INCOME	-
TOTAL INCOME	613,741.52

EXPENDITURE	
Programme activities	375,403.00
Support services	121,747.36
SPC contribution	28,179.03
TOTAL EXPENSE	525,329.39



ANNEXES



MEET YOUR POETCOM TEAM

Jim Pierce - POETCom Coordinator



Jim joined the Pacific Community's POETCom programme of the Land Resources Division in June 2019, stepping into the POETCom Coordinator position. As coordinator, he will be guided by the Advisory Board in providing leadership to the staff in order to oversee the development and efficiency of POETCom projects.

Born and raised in the USA Jim has been involved with the organic sector for thirty years. His experiences include working for Organic Valley (the nation's largest organic cooperative) in product development, quality assurance, organic certification and compliance, farmer relations and organics as well as animal welfare standards development. Jim also worked for the US organic certification agency, Oregon Tilth Certified Organic as their Global Program Manager responsible for accreditation to Canada and EU standards and assisting clients with navigating organic importing and exporting requirements around the world.

The last three years have been the most satisfying to Jim, working as an Independent Organic Inspector for several US certifiers, learning from and helping hundreds of organic growers and processors improve their organic compliance systems. Jim has an education background in microbiology majoring in zoology and minor with emphasis in aquaculture; limnology and ichthyology with keen interest in organics.

Jim is based at SPC's Narere campus (where POETCom is housed) and can be contacted on jimp@spc.int or via phone (679) 3370733 Ext 35360 or mobile phone (679) 914 4826

Neema Nand: BPWP Project Manager

Neema Nand joined the Pacific Community's POETCom programme of the Land Resources Division as the Project Manager for Building Prosperity for Women Producers, Processors and Women Owned Businesses through organic value chains (BPWP) project in June 2019.

Her key responsibilities include providing strategic vision, management and direction for the BPWP; and providing an oversight on implementation of all aspects of the project including coordination of the numerous partners involved at national (producers, government, and institutions) and regional levels, and internally within SPC. Neema has over 10 years of experience in donor-funded project management, organisational learning and development, and monitoring and evaluation.



Neema's recent roles have been with the Fiji Women's Fund (an initiative of the Australian Government's Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development (*Pacific Women*) Program); and the Australian Government funded Fiji Community Development Program (FCDP). Neema has also worked with International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Oceania, Department of Environment Fiji, and the Ministry of Fisheries Fiji.

Neema has an educational background in development, and marine resource management; with keen interest in civil society and donor agency engagement. Neema is from the Fiji Islands. Neema is based at SPC's Narere campus (where POETCom is housed) and can be contacted on neeman@spc.int or via phone (679) 3370733 Ext 35520

Flavia Ciribello - Gender & Value Chains Adviser



Flavia joined the POETCom team on June 2019 as Gender and Value Chains Advisor. She will provide technical advice and training on gender and women's empowerment issues to staff and field officers as well as in-country partners, and will conduct initial and ongoing analysis of the inclusion of women in existing value chains. She will be responsible for the development of the project-level gender strategy, value-chain-specific gender strategies, training on the integration of gender considerations and implementation of integrated value chain gender strategies.

Flavia has similar working experience in Africa (Kenya) and Asia (Cambodia) where she contributed to gender analysis in the mango and in the rice value chain, respectively.

In her previous assignments, Flavia has been working in UN agencies and international organisations where she led, coordinated and supported regional and national studies and initiatives, including high-impact advocacy events, with the aim of mainstreaming gender into policies, programmes and projects, especially in relation to resilience, the environment and the agricultural and rural sector. Flavia has an educational background in Political Science. The title of her Master's Thesis in Development Economics and Policy was "Women and the Environment. The positive impact of women's empowerment on environmental sustainability". Flavia has Italian nationality.

Flavia is based at SPC's Narere campus (where POETCom is housed) and can be contacted on flaviac@spc.com or via phone (679) 337 0733 Ext: 35506

Stephen Hazelman - Organic Systems Extension Officer

Stephen joined the Pacific Community's POETCom programme of the Land Resources Division in 2013 as an Organic Systems Extension Officer. One of Stephen's prime responsibilities is the extension, rolling out and consolidating of the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) with POETCom in which he now has seven years of extensive experience.

Stephen has been with the organic movement in the Pacific since its inception and is not new to SPC having worked in the organisation in various capacities since 1999. His first stint at SPC was with the Community Education & Development Centre as the Instructor in Agriculture & Community Development, then as the Participatory Extension Officer for the SPC LRD Plant Protection Service for the Land Resources Division before becoming the Coordinator of the LRD Information, Communications & Extension Thematic team.



Stephen briefly left SPC LRD in 2011 to manage production for the Samoan NGO Women In Business Development Inc before returning to SPC in 2013. Stephen was the Acting POETCom Coordinator from 2016 to June 2018. Stephen has a Bachelor and Postgraduate Diploma in Agriculture. Stephen also has an Advance Certificate in Teaching Agriculture and a Diploma in Tropical Agriculture all from the USP School of Agriculture in Alafua Campus, Samoa.

Stephen is from Samoa but for the POETCom programme Stephen will be based at SPC's Narere campus (where POETCom is housed) and can be contacted on Stephenh@spc.com or via phone (679) 337 0733 Ext: 35452 or mobile phone (679) (679) 747 9805

Nileshni Devi - MEL Officer



Nileshni Devi joined the Pacific Community's POETCom programme of the Land Resources Division in January 2019 as a Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Officer. She is responsible for providing overall support, advice and oversight on programme level monitoring, evaluation and learning to POETCom, and in particular to the newly DFAT funded "Building Prosperity to Women Producers, Processors and Women Owned Businesses" (BPWP) project.

Nileshni brings over 10 years of experience working with national, regional and international NGOs in the areas of research, project/ program management and monitoring and evaluation. Nileshni's most recent roles have been with Oxfam in the Pacific as a Program Quality MEL Coordinator (2 ½ years) and with Medical Services Pacific as a Program Manager (2 years).

For those of you who might remember, Nileshni was also with the Joint Secretariat programme at SPC in the previous years. Nileshni has an educational background in Public Health and Research and is currently completing her thesis for a Master of Public Health. She is a Fiji national and originates from the Macuata province of the Fiji Islands.

Nileshni is based at SPC's Narere campus (where POETCom is housed) and can be reached on nileshnid@spc.int or via phone (679) 3370733 Ext 35262

Epeli Dranikamate - Organic Systems Production Officer

Epeli Dranikamate joined the Pacific Community's POETCom programme of the Land Resources Division in November 2018, as an Organic Systems Production Officer for the Internal Control Systems for Organic Certification in the Highlands project.

Epeli is responsible for the implementation of the Partners in Community Development Fiji (PCDF) initiative by the Ministry of Agriculture and funded by International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to certify 400 farmers for 41 villages within the highlands of Fiji.

The project covers three provinces the Naitasiri, Navosa and Ba provinces.



Epeli is not new to SPC, having collaborated with the organisation whilst working in the Plant Protection Section under Entomology & Plant Pathology Labs of the Ministry of Agriculture carrying out trials and research for certain commodities and its integrated pest management in the lab and out on the field.

Epeli has an educational background in agroforestry, planning and mapping and has over 5 years' experience in plant protection services. Epeli is a Fiji national.

Epeli is based at SPC's Narere campus (where POETCom is housed) and can be contacted on epelid@spc.com or via phone (679) 337 0733 Ext: 35508 or mobile phone (679) 898 2772

Lore Croker - Communications Assistant



Lore joined the Pacific Community's POETCom programme of the Land Resources Division as a Communications Assistant in June 2019. Her key responsibilities are to provide effective and efficient facilitation of information and knowledge products and services for POETCom bringing visibility to the programme and the projects it implements.

This role includes the contribution to POETCom's development as a learning organisation through coordinating and facilitating the implementation of the POETCom communications strategy and developing information and communication tools for the organic movement including organic farmers and fair trade producers.

Lore has over 10 years' experience in the development of information and knowledge products having served in the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) and at the Pacific Community from 2015 to date. Lore has an educational background in Marine Science and Environmental Geoscience with keen interest in science communication. Lore is from the Fiji Islands.

Lore is based at SPC's Narere campus (where POETCom is housed) and can be reached on lore@spc.int or via phone (679) 3370733 Ext 35255.

Snehal Jariwala- Finance & Admin Assistant

Snehal Jariwala joined Pacific Community's POETCom programme of the Land Resources Division in May 2019 as the Finance and Administrative Assistant.

She is responsible for the provision of efficient support to the programme to ensure all financial and administrative requirements are addressed in a timely manner. Also ensuring all programme financial and procurement activities are carried out proficiently, in particular with the new DFAT funded project "Building Prosperity to Women Producers, Processors and Women Owned Businesses" (BPWP).

Snehal brings with her 5 years of work experience in finance. Prior to this, she was working as a consultant with UNDP as a Finance Associate in the Fiji Ridge to Reef Project for (1 ½ years) providing the project with all finance necessities.

Previous to this, Snehal worked as an Accounts Officer in a media organisation, Communications Fiji Limited (for 3 years) and was significantly involved in the operations of the Accounts Payable Operations. Snehal also worked as the Credit Officer in Total Fiji Limited (1 year) as a Credit Officer. Snehal has an educational background in Accounting, Finance and Procurement.

Snehal is based at SPC's Narere campus and can be contacted on snehalj@spc.int or via phone: 3349500 Ext: 35484



