



Pacific  
Community  
Communauté  
du Pacifique



**50  
YEARS**

Empowered lives. Resilient nations.

The Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POETcom) promotes organic agriculture for its potential to address development issues of small island developing states including as a tool for building climate resilient food production systems that draw upon ecological science and traditional farming knowledge.

These systems target nature's abundant ecosystem functions and the genetic traits of plants and animal varieties bred over millennia by organic farmers.

POETCom is housed in the Pacific Community and supported by International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the European Union, Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Sustainable Development Goals Fund (SDGF)



Engaging Youth in Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu in Organic farming – a farm to table approach is a 2 year project 2016 – 2017 implemented with the support of the SDG-F through UNDP, in partnership with IFAD.

The goal is to assist young people, including vulnerable youths who have not completed their formal education and are more likely to be limited in terms of employment to casual and low-pay work to access livelihood opportunities and decent. Through the project Pacific youth provided with a new livelihood opportunity in sustainable agriculture methods and creating jobs and businesses in the farm to table value chain.

The Sustainable Development Goals Fund (SDG-F) is a development cooperation mechanism created in 2014 by UNDP, on behalf of the UN system, with an initial contribution of the Government of Spain to support sustainable development activities through integrated and multidimensional joint programmes. It builds on the experience, knowledge, lessons learned, and best practices of the MDG experience, while expanding its activities towards sustainable development and a higher attention on public-private partnerships. Engaging Youth in Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu in Organic farming – a farm to table approach is the only SDG-F project in the Pacific Islands.

The project focuses on tackling youth unemployment, and the negative impact of this on the social and economic development. The project aims to create employment opportunities for youth in organic agriculture through a value chain approach utilizing public private partnerships within the key economic sectors of agriculture and tourism.



It will also strengthen the institutional capacity of the local organisations to effectively meet the needs of youth seeking information and employment within the organic agricultural sector and shares information and knowledge from across the Pacific region to facilitate synergies that will result in increased employment opportunities for youth within organic agriculture value chains. To achieve the above objectives, the project will focus on:

**a) Unlocking the potential of youth in the Pacific**

Young people should be looked at as key agents of positive change in the Pacific. Despite the challenges they face including cultural norms that hinder access to decision making, lack of economic and other meaningful opportunities, young people in the Pacific have displayed a strong sense of resilience that define them more in positive terms rather than by negative attributes. In order to accentuate their positive attributes, youth need to be recognized from an asset-based perspective adding value by building on their own initiatives.

b) Promotion of linkages in the tourism and agriculture productive sectors seems to offer strong opportunities for inclusive economic growth in several PICs that will help create economic opportunities; build resilience in rural communities; and improve sustainable development in both sectors. Though agriculture remains for most PICs population the main source of livelihood, its contribution to economic value added chain has generally declined over the last decade, whereas the tourism sector has seen significant growth. Reinforcing linkages and developing synergies between tourism and agriculture should help to achieve the objectives of sustained and equitable growth.

c) Organic Agriculture could increase PICs food self-reliance and therefore, contribute to reducing the trend of dependency on food imports, as well as improving nutrition. Worldwide, organic agriculture is growing and the increasing consumer demand for organic commodities provides a viable opportunity for PICs farmers and processors to benefit from this growing international market.

**Goal:**

Promotion of sustainable and resilient livelihoods for vulnerable households, especially in the context of adaptation to climate change.

**Objective:**

Pacific youth provided with a new livelihood opportunity in sustainable agriculture methods and creating jobs and businesses in the farm to table value chain.

**Project outputs include**

- Skills training in organic production, certification and processing creates employment for youth within the organic agriculture Farm-to-Table value chain.
- Strengthened capacity of local organisations to meet and sustain increased market demand for organic produce on a commercially viable basis.
- To meet information and communication needs of youth interested in engaging in organic agriculture

**National Partners**

- Fiji – FRIEND, Government Ministries, Youth organisations
- Samoa – Women in Business Development Inc, Government Ministries, Youth organisations
- Vanuatu – Farm Support Association, Government Ministries, Youth organisations