



GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES

24th – 26th October, 2017
Conference Centre, Mata Utu, Wallis Island

DAY ONE

Tuesday, 24th October, 2017

9am – 4.41pm

▪ Discussion Areas:

- **Introductions, Acceptance of Agenda, POETCom brief history, focal point reports, certifying authorities,**

▪ Attendee Names

- Focal Points- Alberta Vitale (WIBDI Samoa), Teina Heia (Bio Fetia), Thomas Carlen and Helen Moquet (Bio Caledonia), Dr Jone Vuli (Fiji Organic Producers Association), Lauraine Verge & Otilone Tokotuu (CCIMA), Vanessa Lolohea (Tonga National Youth Congress), Karness Kusto (Marshall Islands Organic Farming Association), Maryanne Talagi (Niue Island Organic Farmers Association), Moses Pelomo (Kastom Gaden Association), Olivier Iato (Farm Support Association)
- Board Members- Gilles Parzy, Francois Japiot, Moses Nambo
- POETCom Secretariat- Stephen Hazelman, Lily Wong, Theresa Fox
- Traditional Leaders – Andre Vaito (territorial adviser of Wallis & Futuna Assembly and Chief of Mata Utu
- Government – Minister for Environment of Wallis, Christine Wong (Ministry of Agriculture –French Polynesia), Savelio (Ministry of Agriculture Wallis and Futuna), Simion Alain (Media Officer, Ministry of Agriculture Vanuatu)
- Translators- Valerie Hassan and Christelle Petite
- Other parties- Maxime Pernel (CCIMA), Pauline (agronomist and consultant for the EU Integre Project), Ema (Poultry farmer and member of CCIMA)

▪ Absent & Apologies

- Titikaveka Growers Association
- Palau Organic Growers Association
- Kiribati Organic Growers Association

▪ Minute Taker

- Theresa Fox

MEETING PROPER

Morning Session

- At 9am - Opening Prayer and Welcome by Chair Moses Nambo
- Round of Introductions, moving around the table
- Stephen comments:

Absence of Focal Points

- Kiribati not invited because of non-active status (no growth of movement on ground)
- Titikaveka Growers not invited as well because of discrepancy in funds used for project so have been stripped of their focal point status
- Palau Organic Growers sent their apologies

d. General consensus meeting has quorum

e. Stephen on agenda:

Agenda

- relooking at POETCom structure of focal points + members + rules that were adopted by Karen from IFOAM
- focus as well on strategic plan development as current one ends in 2017, need ideas to start new one in 2018
- meeting to finish on Thursday but can continue on Friday morning after which farm visits

f. Motion to approve agenda moved by Wallis Environment Minister who also asked minutes be ready by Thursday

g. Stephen responded though appreciation and respect is accorded to traditional leadership presence at meeting, only focal points can move a motion and second it in response to question on voting rights by Francois

h. Gilles suggested adding brief history of POETCom to Agenda because of new membership

g. Vanessa seconded motion to accept agenda

h. Stephen on POETCom History + discussions

POETCom History

-POETCom only relevant with farmers on the ground

-POETCom structure has PHLOG –Pacific High Level Organic Group made up of leaders of 22 Pacific Island countries and territories

-It has a 5-member board, one removed because of misdemeanor

- Has three types of membership – focal points, members and supporters (about 4 or five)

-Urged the Assembly to rethink focal point structure because its not working

-POETCom also has standard and certification committee, consisting of experienced certifiers working on voluntary basis but their services cannot continue free

-POETCom began as the Pacific Organic Producers Association in 2003 with some passionate people (Sant and Mohammed from Fiji, Hiva from Niue, Richard Cook from Samoa) and with was voluntarily coordinated by Adi Maimalaga of Women in Business Samoa in 2005

-First funding from IFAD in 2006 to write the Pacific Organic Standard,

-Standard was written in 2008 with support from passionate advocate Gilles and Clement in French Territories, later endorsed by PHLOG at a Forum meeting in Niue the same year. Chair of PHLOG the Prime Minister of Samoa advocated Pacific leadership to support the Standard. It was later endorsed by the meeting of HOAFS (Heads of Agriculture Fisheries Services) and MOAFFS (Ministers of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries Services) the same year.

-in 2012, POETCom officially became an organization to lead development of organics in the Pacific

-In 2016, CRGA (Committee of Representatives of Governments) that oversees the work of the Pacific Community –SPC further endorsed SPC support POETCom

Target Foreign Affairs

-Stephen urged focal points to advocate with foreign affairs officials because they are the ones that attend the CRGA meetings and make decisions.

Pacific Organic Standard

-only standard in the world that recognizes culture and traditions

-created in 2008, now has 10 new guidelines added to it so POS in need of review

-POETCom working with IFOAM and International Organic and Accreditation Services but will need enough organic licenses to be able to pay accreditation like BioGro. There is need for Pacific organic auditors as organics keeps growing, this will help reduce cost of certification

Growing Organics through Certification and National Organic Policy

-Gilles urged focal points to lobby respective authorities in their country to accredit third party certifying bodies recognized by POETCom, NASSA, BioGro and BioAgricert, to certify in these countries. He commended the same for national organic policies.

Regulated Organic Markets

Stephen clarified that the type of certification is dependent on markets (whether regulated or non regulated). This in response to Marshall's query that PGS (Participatory Guarantee System) is not recognized for exports. It is why Fiji is targeting Singapore that is a non-regulated market and can accept PGS certification.

Evolving into a new System

Third party certification costs are expensive according to Gilles because they pay for being accredited in countries with regulated organic markets. To be certified, farmers pay a small fraction of the amount. The solution he suggested was evolving to a new system whereby people that want to export can use PGS. This in response to a comment by Francois that 3rd party certifiers are unnecessarily complaining about their high accreditation costs when in fact its farmers that pay for it when they pay for their third party certification.

Certification Data

Stephen acknowledged the support of third party certifiers that give data to POETCom when requested.

- i. Meeting breaks for morning tea at 10am

Mid-Morning Session

- j. Presentation by Gilles '*Fertility the Power of the Pacific Island Farmer*'

- He presented on the importance of soil fertility in organic farming

- Insisted on the importance of practicing genuine traditional organic agriculture and employing agroforestry for higher farm productivity and diversity plus biodiversity

- Within context of climate change, trees protect surface of soil and environment

- Urged organic farmers to adapt to climate change and not contribute to it

- With just a knife and shovel, hundreds of square meters can be populated with plants as demonstrated by Melanesia, Micronesian and Polynesian ancestors

- Ecosystem connected, land impacts affect sea as well so improving land based practices protects sea resources

- Use natural resources to improve soil health e.g. shellfish (calcium carbonate), charcoal, mulch, seaweed, brown seaweed slurry, fish waste slurry etc

- Soil absolutely important in our work

**Presentation has been made available via flash drives to meeting participants*

- k. Thomas commented on not confusing available minerals and modification of soil PH adding the need to register microorganisms in the Pacific because they are unique

- l. Stephen said there was a need to establish a scientific arm of POETCom to cover such issues

- m. Focal Point Reports

- 1. Wallis and Futuna – CCIMA

Presentation by Otilone Tukutuu

Wallis:

- 78 square kilometers of emerged volcanic coral islands surrounded by a lagoon of 200 sq kilometers

- Divided into districts that is further subdivided into villages, Southern -10, Central – 6, Northern -5 villages

- One kingdom, one King

- Population: 9,000

Futuna:

-Futuna is 46 square kilometers of emerged island, has no lagoon

-Futuna has two kingdoms, Alu and Sinave

-Population: 3,000

Alofi:

-14 sq kilometer island next to Futuna, a lot of crops and fertile, preserved

Climate

Tropical with high humidity. Lots of rain averaging 3890mm. Observed it rains more now with increasingly no distinction between the dry and wet season probably because of climate change.

Primary Sector Businesses

47 deal with fisheries, 18 percent on vegetable, 23 percent other activity, 11 on pig farming

Farming in Wallis and Futuna

There is no chemical used in farming. Everybody farms. Families have farms and produce their own food even if you are working as a civil servant or in other employment. They farm the way their elders and ancestors did. There is no local food market. In total there are over 22, 116 pigs owned by over 2,000 households. Farming in Wallis links both agri and animal husbandry.

There is great effort to respect the environment with a focus on rotating paddocks because there is not many machine driven resources available.

There is an existing partnership between farmers and breeders for a system of dry litter. Farmers bring in shredded materials, which is used in pigpens. It keeps the pen clean and dry, removing the need for water for cleaning and reduces their water bill. Wallisians use drinking water to clean pigpens because they do not have water tanks to collect rainwater. Wastewater from cleaning pigpens also seep into the ground affecting water lenses.

Only one farmer grows vegetable i.e. Oti who currently farms part of it hydroponically but is transitioning to organics. The rest don't. To reduce vegetable imports, more farmers need to grow vegetables.

Fishing

Sometimes they catch a lot and sell; sometimes there is no fish to be caught.

Vision for Food Security

To keep their local foods and create policies for promoting health using local food

Soil Fertility

Soil is still fertile with good biomass. Need to protect it.

Viewpoints on Organics

Everyone taking organics seriously. There is good support from traditional leaders.

PGS

Keeness in setting up PGS groupings or other type for local certification and looking to get support in this from French Polynesia or New Caledonia

Comments on Presentation

Stephen: Let's learn from each other as we go through the presentations

Dr Jone: Wallis is a good model in terms of organic, they still have it right unlike in Fiji that has moved fast in terms of development and now face the negative consequences to environment, health and soil

Karness: Wallis is more opportune in terms of farming development because still largely organic unlike in Marshalls where farmers are trying to move away from chemical fertilizers and do organics and land is scarce

2. Fiji Organic Producers Association

Presentation by Dr Jone

FOPA was recently started and still trying to set up its governance systems. It consists of organic producers, some in commercial enterprise or NGO while some do both. FOPA will be for profit organization in order to run sustainably. A previous Fiji Organic Association floundered because it relied a lot on voluntary time. Farmers are also incentivized by income or money because they need to cope with costs of living. Dr Jone is also a director of FRIEND, a POETCom member. FRIEND is a mixture of an NGO and a not for profit company, that opened a restaurant only catering traditional food. FOPA is setting up in an opportune time with strong interest from the Fijian government in organic expressed by both the Minister for Tourism and Minister for Agriculture, with hopes for a national organic policy to be in place by December.

Comments on Presentation

Stephen: FOPA's first major job will be on the organic policy with consultations to begin in November.

Organics and Health

Moses Pelomo questioned the connections between organics and health. Dr. Jone responded saying the benefits of organic agriculture in combatting non-communicable diseases, as diabetes by addressing its root causes (poor imported diets) is underutilized. Dr. Jone said it is time to use organics more as an advocacy tool in addressing NCD's afflicting Pacific Islanders.

Lauraine: Example of FOPA being structured as a business and economic entity to help farmers is useful for Wallis and Futuna where 95% of farmers are practicing subsistence farming and can move into commercial farming.

3. Farm Support Association (Vanuatu)

Presentation by Olivier Iato

FSA has been involved in the coordination of third party certification over the last two –three years. There is a plan to group them so they share costs. PGS certification has been coordinated largely through the Farm to Table Project where 1184 coffee, manioc, peanut and vegetable farmers have been certified organic and products now carry the Organic Pasifika mark guaranteed by Sundicat Agricole.

Comments on Presentation

Stephen: Vanuatu is developing its National Organic Policy. The next step will be to lobby government to grant 500,000 of a 44 million dollar funding from the European Union to implement the policy. This will avoid the policy becoming another policy gathering dust

Chair: Vanuatu is also testing out the Pacific Organic Tourism and Hospitality Standards

4. Marshall Islands Organic Farmers Association (MIOFA)

Presentation by Karness Kusto, President of MIOFA

MIOFA works with Rong Rong High School to grow organic gardens for inclusion of vegetables in their diet. Also currently carrying out workshops in Arno on organic farming and planting pandanus. A challenging issue is to get youths into farming.

MIOFA has also created a strategic plan to be launched this month. It also plans to start an organic basket programme on December 5 and market it through emails.

Distribution of copra cake is critical because it is used in compost production. Compost critical for use in growing crops in sandy soils like Marshall Islands.

5. Bio Caledonia

Presentation by Thomas Carlen

Organic agriculture established in New Caledonia in 2009 with certifications through PGS. The main aim is for farmers to grow enough to feed their families and sell any surplus. About 20% of organic farmers are selling their produce. The bigger ones export.

One hundred organic farmers are certified using the Pacific Organic Standard, 411 hectares and 138 tonnes of organic produce. There are 11 local groups in New Caledonia. Bio Caledonia has a director and paid employees and supports farmers in improving the quality of their production. Beekeeping is a focus for organic development.

Government Protection

Commencing 2017 New Caledonia government officialised some quality standards to raise the bar for producers. Government protects the Bio Pasifika label. This allows Bio Caledonia to monitor the authenticity of organic products, like people who use a label, and sell it as organic but its not. Also limits them in raising awareness in schools and with farmers to develop organic agriculture.

Chicken and Rice

Lots of chicken and rice consumed in Noumea so need more produce from rural areas

POETCom Communications

Documents to be translated into French

6. Tonga National Youth Congress (TNYC)

Presentation by Vanessa Lolohea

Trying to certify 136 small islands with third party certification. Waste management remains an issue.

Kings Mandate

Tonga to be fully certified organic by 2030. Ministry of Agriculture tasked to see this happen. TNYC collaborating with MAF to draft the national organic policy to be incorporated into the MAF Sector Plan. This allows TNYC to receive a budget from government and MAF will pay for certification. A draft policy to be ready by December or February 2018, to go into MAF sector plan.

Product Development

Labour and Commerce ministry to allot a budget for product development and HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points) Certification to increase exports especially to the US and Korean markets.

PGS Setup

Considered for Hapai and Vavau islands. This is because costs of third party certification is too high.

Organic Vanilla

Bought for the first time this year from farmers for exports to the United States. The vanilla groups from four islands are certified organic and they put the price of vanilla up for the buyer. Other vanilla buyers are Tahiti, Heilala and Queens. It is the lowest vanilla production levels though with farmers focusing more on kava that they harvest earlier. Only 524 kilos were produced though the expectation from the market is much higher at seven tonnes.

Youth

Big challenging working with young people especially around planting vanilla. TNYC teaches the young farmers to conduct some kind of business from around their plantation so that they will be able to sell their products.

Coconuts

Working with Ministry of Agriculture on coconut replanting scheme and having proper maintenance of coconut trees to increase production so TNYC can meet international demands for virgin coconut oil

Seaweed

Working with two seaweed companies wanting to be certified organic to export to Japan.

Afternoon Session

7. Kastom Gaden Association – Solomon Islands

Presentation by Moses Pelomo

Registered as an NGO in 1995 and has about 560 paying members. Works with communities in promoting traditional methods of gardening for healthy soils, healthy food, healthy people, and healthy nation.

Certification

Third party has existed for many years now especially with virgin coconut oil production while PGS only entered the scene recently. Both systems are encouraged. PGS is being used to certify ngalinuts for exports as well as its potential for virgin coconut oil production and other coconut products. KGA is the nominated main administrator for certification.

KGA waiting on approving certification of a ngalinut export company packaging facility in Honiara using PGS.

A hotel is also interested in organic certification through PGS relative to an increasing demand from guests for organic food.

Food

KGA encouraging people to eat organic food rather than sell it to combat increasing reliance on processed foods like noodles. The priority for organic production is the health of Solomon Islanders.

Organic Policy

Government already has one that only needs to be reviewed and this may determine the type of organization KGA will be as a national organic body.

Operational Model

KGA will observe existing models from around the Pacific including those of other focal points.

Partnership

With Women in Business Development Inc Samoa for the certification of Simbo Islands in the Western Province

Boutique Markets

Like for cocoa beans is three times more than cocoa so encouraging people to into this

Funding Issue

KGA funding from Australian Government finished last year and so it had to downsize and restart.

Perceptions of Organic Movement

For good nutrition, income opportunity and to support producers and retailers to move into organic certification

Comments on Presentation

Sustainability of Organizations

Stephen: Donor communities are changing so organizations need to make money such as be a service provider.

Moses: KGA now planning to earn money for the services they provide and are studying what Vanuatu farmers have done and will see the FOPA model as well.

Francois: Public funding is also an option. Governments have a responsibility for the wellbeing of the natural environment. It can impose or increase taxes on imported sugar, rice or flour and dedicate tax income to developing local organic agriculture. Source funding locally and this will mean more awareness at the local level.

Gilles: Dedicated tax must be considered on a contextual basis, different experiences amongst countries and can be a sensitive political issue although its justified. Import taxes should be devoted to promoting local production. There are solutions that can be found and developed together.

8. Bio Fetia- French Polynesia

Presentation by Teina Heia, President

Has 37 members since the first Bio Fetia PGS was created in 2011, bringing together producers and users. The first crop certified was in 2014 – vegetables. Thirteen farmers certified on Tahiti and at Raitea. Several farmers producing organic taro on Roorotu. With funding support from the French Polynesia government, travel to outer islands has been possible.

Pacific Organic Standard

They are also struggling to understand it. For example when there is a new input or method available, POETCom is not very responsive with its advice and this is hindrance. They want the list of allowable inputs to be made available to them.

9. Women in Business Development Inc Samoa

Presentation by Alberta Vitale, Deputy Director

There are 678 organically certified farms in Samoa, through WIBDI 138.42 acres of land. Great interest from high chiefs wanting organic farming.

Exports

Dehydrated bananas, dilo, tamanu, VCO to UK, USA, NZ and Australia. A recently opened processing facility is expected to boost production.

Organic Advice Steering Committee

Meets monthly and chaired by PM Samoa to discuss WIBDI products, market growth and organics in Samoa

Organic Warriors Academy

Organized to attract youths back into farming.

Organic Night Markets

Adopted idea from the Caribbean, held every Wednesday to encourage organic farmers to produce and sell and creates awareness for organics.

10. Niue Island Organic Farmers Association

Presented by Maryanne Talagi, President

NIOFA supported by Ministry of Agriculture. NIOFA looking at activating organic vanilla association for exports, Individual certification is for honey and nonu.

n. POETCom Secretariat Report

Presented by Stephen Hazelman, Acting Coordinator

Organic Certification

POETCOM managed the Pacific Organic Guarantee System. Collaborating with certification bodies started training local auditors in 2015, 25 in all. The International Organic Accreditation Service (IOAS) picked five to continue training.

Coordinator

Position to be advertised in January.

Funding

Current IFAD project extended to December 2018. Considering extension of UNDP project as well. A new project coming up for the northern Pacific. With growth of organics, the intention is to reach out to all countries in the Pacific.

New Project

In December, design of new \$3m project starts 'Women's Empowerment through Organic Value Chains for the North Pacific' and that will provide POETCom with funding until 2020. It will fund the coordinator position and also GA. GA is also factored into the design of OCT project with EU Integre.

EDF 11

Hiring of certification manager factored into EDF 11 project negotiations. A French communicator is also being considered, POETCom's restructuring and cost structure as well.

POETCom Future

To stay with SPC or move out. To be considered over the next days.

Strategic Plan

Need to develop the POETCom Strategic Plan for the next five years. It must be innovative, practical.

Appreciation

Thanked donors and Karen Mapusua for all the work in securing funding.

Annual Report

Contributions to the design and content of this year's Annual Report are welcome.

Comments on Presentation

Legal Status of POETCom

Francois: New Caledonia government ready to give POETCom funding but whom does it give it to because POETCom is not a legal entity

Stephen: As long as POETCom is not registered, it remains a programme of SPC

Alberta: A way to earn some money for POETCom would be subscription payments from members and focal points

Annual Report

Francois: Have comments to be incorporated into and for their activities and workshop summaries to be included.

POETCom Bi-lingual organization

More focus on translating documents to French

o. Proposed Revision to POETCom Statutes

General Assembly

Funding is necessary for holding the GA. A lack of funding resulted in no GA over three years. Existing statute says a GA must be held every two years. Discussions agreed the GA is an important time to meet as Pacific countries, develop strategies to build on POETCom vision of organic agriculture. It is a place to learn from each other. As for learning, having two years between GAs allows enough time for impacts of work carried out to be recorded and shared. Holding the GA must not be dependent on the availability of funds. Focal points and members should pay their way to attend the next GA. The GA must also be held together with the Pacific Week of Agriculture. The Secretariat also confirmed there is funding available for holding the GA in the next two years. There was also a suggestion from Francois that the GA be held back to back with the technical meeting of the 3rd Integre Workshop.

Alberta: Moved motion for GA to be held every two years and to go back to back with PWA

Maryanne: Seconded motion

Motion Upheld: POETCom General Assembly to be held every two years and to go back to back with PWA

Role of Advisory Board

Makes strategic decision on where they want the movement to head, approve membership and have at least one face to face meeting a year. They met this year to prepare motions for the GA and remove board members for inappropriate behavior as well as removing inactive focal points and those that have not acquitted project funds. The Secretariat would send information on all existing board members to focal points to allow them to decide whom they wanted as members of the new board. The members of the board do not make decisions, but only provide motions for the GA to decide on. They are not representative of countries but of the whole region and only work for the promotion of organics in the Pacific Islands.

Action: Governance documents (statutes, mission of board etc.) are to be translated in French and emailed to all to allow everyone to understand the roles and responsibilities of each strata of POETCom

Focal Points

This discussion focused on the rights and duties of focal points in developing and growing the organic movement as in lobbying work that it must do in country with governments etc. Another dimension to the discussion is the makeup of focal points in that it should be made up of a collection of organisations and not a single entity to avoid conflicts of interest and stagnation in the organic movement. The focal point must also have an active background in organic farming. POETCom members in the country must also choose which should serve as a focal point and represent the country's interests at the GA.

Meeting ended at 4.41pm at which point translators had retired for the day.

Motions

POETCom General Assembly to be held every two years and to go back to back with PWA

DAY TWO

Tuesday, 24th October, 2017

9am – 4.41pm

- **Discussion Areas:**
 - **Pacific Organic Standard review, Proposed Working Group, POETCom Registration, Strategic Plan**
- **Attendee Names**
 - Focal Points- Alberta Vitale (WIBDI Samoa), Teina Heia (Bio Fetia), Thomas Carlen and Helen Moquet (Bio Caledonia), Dr Jone Vuli (Fiji Organic Producers Association), Lauraine Verge & Otilone Tokotuu (CCIMA), Vanessa Lolohea (Tonga National Youth Congress), Karness Kusto (Marshall Islands Organic Farming Association), Maryanne Talagi (Niue Island Organic Farmers Association), Moses Pelomo (Kastom Gaden Association), Olivier Iato (Farm Support Association)
 - Board Members- Gilles Parzy, Francois Japiot, Moses Nambo
 - POETCom Secretariat- Stephen Hazelman, Lily Wong, Theresa Fox
 - Traditional Leaders – Andre Vaito (territorial adviser of Wallis & Futuna Assembly and Chief of Mata Utu)
 - Government – Minister for Environment of Wallis, Christine Wong (Ministry of Agriculture –French Polynesia), Savelio (Ministry of Agriculture Wallis and Futuna), Simion Alain (Media Officer, Ministry of Agriculture Vanuatu)
 - Translators- Valerie Hassan and Christelle Petite
 - Other parties- Maxime Pernel (CCIMA), Pauline (agronomist and consultant for the EU Integre Project), Ema (Poultry farmer and member of CCIMA)
- **Absent & Apologies**
 - Titikaveka Growers Association
 - Palau
 - Organic Growers Association
 - Kiribati Organic Growers Association
- **Minute Taker**
 - Theresa Fox

* Main points in discussions is summarized and not presented verbatim.

MEETING PROPER

Morning Session

- d. At 8am – Meeting Opens with Prayer
- e. **Continuation of Proposed Revisions to POETCom Statutes**

Role of Advisory Board

Lead on discussions, Francois Japiot – Adv. Board Member

The role of the advisory board is extremely broad. Board of five. Amongst its roles are voting on issues. Votes decided on simple majority. Other roles include advising Secretariat, deciding on memberships, link and network with authorities like CRGA, Governments, answering questions from membership, prepare for GA, advise on strategic and thematic issues (climate change, COP 21, consumption of local food etc.), work on funding streams, etc. Some areas of improvement – better information dissemination between focal point, advisory board and secretariat & improving communications within POETCom particularly addressing bilingual needs (French & English).

Comments on Presentation

Gilles: First, define the legal structure of POETCom before addressing the structure of the Adv. Board.

Dr.Jone: Contradictory decision-making roles of GA and Adv.Board. Where board decision making starts and ends and where GA starts needs to be specified. But the structures from membership, focal points and GA needs to be sorted first before demarcating decision making powers.

Francois: Lot of review needs to be done for POETCom. There is a need to consult all stakeholders with the support of qualified people to assist in the thinking over of the whole structure and governance.

Thomas: Meaning of words is important as well. Consult in French means to give advice and not make decision yet statutes say Adv. Board makes decisions that relate to POETCom secretariat.

Discussions moved on to focal points

Focal Points

Stephen showed the spreadsheet of focal points versus members and asked the rethinking of the focal point structure (proposed their removal from membership structure as part of proposed changes to statutes) because it is not working(only few focal points facilitating movement of organic in the country) and instead open members' participation at GA because they represent hundreds of farmers. Farmers' voices need to be heard at the GA level.

Comments on Presentation

Alberta: POETCom structure was adapted from IFOAM. We are not IFOAM but the Pacific. Removing focal points and opening up GA to members, is going to open up too much spaces.

Stephen: Limiting growth of the movement GA is not open to members.

Francois: No need to throw focal points into the big if it does not work. Difficult to fund all members' attendance at GA when already funding for just 10 focal points is difficult.

Teina Heia: There can be a proper balance between focal points and members. All can pay a membership fee and focal points to contribute to GA.

Stephen: Results of a monkey survey carried out preferred membership with voting rights because it's a more democratic and inclusive process

Thomas: More members at GA will result in multiplication of agenda and therefore unworkable. Instead, give more training and support to focal points to manage member's issues nationally

Dr. Jone: Focal points must not be removed. However, it must be representative of country members/organisations or majority organic farmers and entry point of POETCom in each country. Focal points representative of single entity is not good governance. Financial members can vote at GA, everyone is free to attend.

Thomas: A national GA in each country before convening the POETCom GA as is happening in New Caledonia

Lauraine: Countries should vote for their focal points

Maryanne: Focal points should remain rep of country

Dr. Jone: Make it one country, one vote. Take away the name of focal points at GA and only make it one country, one vote.

Alberta: Agree with Dr. Jone.

Chair: All decisions tomorrow.

Gilles: The important flag is the POETCom flag, not national flags. Time is of the essence. Need to move quickly. Soil is changing. So is climate. Need to devote money and resources towards adaptation. Teamwork is vital.

Working Group (WG)

With differing views, and even though there is consensus on several areas, generally regarding structural and statutory reviews of matters pertaining to POETCom, setting up a working group to closely scrutinize things was proposed by Wallis and Futuna as a solution.

Comments

Otilone: Working group to consist of reps from each country.

Moses Pelomo: Working committee to focus on three issues – rules, structure, voting rights. Maintain small committee and have people in the countries contributing to discussions through emails. In Solomon Islands, Government must be included otherwise little can be done.

Francois: Group must have specific timeframe to work in and focus on specific objectives. French Polynesia and New Caledonia via the Ministry of Agriculture would be able to fund technical support to the working group. Group must be made up of some of the meeting attendees and other experts. A focus of the WG will be the relationship between SPC and POETCom and POETCom's registration as a legal entity.

POETCom Registration

POETCom intends to move out of SPC and in order to do so will need at least a three-year transition period to fully formalize as an independent organization, with its own operational structures. Law firm Munro Leys carried out a study on several countries to provide a clearer picture on the type of organization POETCom can be registered as in each and the implications of registering in these different contexts. A monkey survey that was also carried out by POETCom resulted in a popular preference for registering in Fiji.

Comments

Thomas: A need to review POETCom foundations, build on them, and know exactly where the organization is moving to or wants to go.

Stephen: SPC does not want to let POETCom go. Though it deducts 15% of POETCom's project funds, it does not give money to POETCom. However, as long as POETCom is not registered it is an SPC programme.

Francois: *(when asked by Chair to elucidate on legal registration study findings)* Survey was done on Samoa, Vanuatu, New Caledonia and Fiji as registration countries. Believes some information is missing and that document was not translated into French. Legal registration must be considered within the context of discussions.

Chair: Consider results of Munro Leys study carefully

Stephen: *(when prompted by Gilles to provide some insights into POETCom situation with SPC)* Problems with being housed under SPC, donors consider POETCom as an SPC programme and not given separate funding, POETCom does not have its own identity because everything is SPC branded. However, new director LRD values organics. Use new funding stream to register, move away and be an organic service provider to SPC. Alternatively, POETCom go out on its own.

Francois: Believes SPC is keeping POETCom because the Organic Pasifika label belongs to all PI countries and should be kept that way

Stephen: POETCom was given mandate by HOAFFS to lead development of organic in the Pacific, not SPC. POETCom has been doing all the organic development work. A study shows in almost 20 countries and territories organic is part of their development plan. POETCom is not treated nicely at SPC.

Strategic Plan

A new five-year strategic plan for POETCom is needed. The plan will be a key tool for leveraging funding. Focal points will give ideas on strategic areas for the plan.

Meeting breaks for morning tea at 10am

Mid-Morning Session

Proposed Working Group

Stephen: WG to be limited to those at the GA, that know certification, know the standards, culture and respect the culture because they will be looking at issues for the Pacific.

Alberta: Seconding proposal.

Pacific Organic Standard (POS)

With ten new guidelines to the POS, it has necessitated the need for a review.

Comments

Thomas: Clarify to whom POS belongs, POETCom or SPC? It belongs to those that created it and must be open to everybody. Want the coordinator responsible for managing standard in New Caledonia to be a member of the committee to revise it.

Stephen: Certification manager to be hired for POETCom will work on the revision of POS. Revised POS will then be sent to IFOAM to give to IOAS. Include those that wrote the standard and are practicing it in the revision committee for they will be the ones that can identify the working/non-working areas of POS. However, always we must ensure, the way we farm in the Pacific is not diluted by the revision of the standard. Remember that POS was written for Pacific Island farming by Pacific Islanders and is extremely easy to relate to.

Alberta: WIBDI uses POS because other standards used by NASSA and BioGro is not applicable to the Pacific Islands farming systems

POETCom Registration

Continuation of discussions held in the morning session. An example that POETCom can perhaps learn from is the experience of the Pacific Youth Council (PYC) that is currently housed under SPC but has been given a three-year term to transition out. Vanessa from TNYC is on the Board of the PYC and shared their experience.

Comments

Dr. Jone: Utilize next lot of POETCom funding to make transition to full independence or divorcing from SPC. However, three years' timeframe to be specific in terms of works that needs to be carried out. Register as a regional or international entity. Registering in one of the member states may create a lot of tension. Be regional. This need to be done as soon as possible to POETCom is able within two years to gauge its independent status. At the same time, think of the business side to the entity i.e. being service providers and build governance systems. A lot of the work will be carried out on a volunteer basis.

Francois: EDF 11 funds regarding OCT will be launched end 2018 or beginning 2019 and allocated for the POS component. Just have WG, within a year review and discuss new structures to be put in place for POETCom.

Stephen: EDF 11 for OCTs will be controlled by SPC and its procedures.

Gilles: POETCom board has deliberated long and hard on POETCom legal entity. A solution is to form an association. However, there is a need for urgency in moving forward in order to be recognized by governments and SPC itself.

Otilone: The WG will allow time to ponder on the future of POETCom.

Thomas: Why rush out of SPC that developed the POS? No need to rush this. The work that is important is how we interpret the POS. This is different from reviewing it.

Dr. Jone: Agrees to the need to have a taskforce or WG to be comprised of people attending GA.

Chair: All in agreement, that working committee (WG) will consist of people at the GA.

Stephen: SPC wants an answer on whether POETCom remains or moves out.

Vanessa: Supports transitional period of three years to allow taskforce or WG to look into issues pertaining to leaving SPC. POETCom to be registered as a regional body.

Chair: Timeframe of moving or completely transitioned is to be by the time of next GA which is in two years

Thomas: Need professionals coming in from outside to assist with WG and will need consultant to put together issues and understanding of various countries

Francois: Need to know what the taskforce will be working on in the first quarter of 2018. It will need a year to do its work.

Dr. Jone: Based on the FRIEND experience, SPC processes are too cumbersome. This will continue to hold POETCom back. Nevertheless, SPC has a credible accounting system. Imperative that the members of the taskforce are identified by the end of GA. No more waiting around otherwise it will kill the momentum of the organic movement. There is also no need for a foreign consultant because they do not contextualize to the Pacific context. 95% of farmers are subsistence Pacific Islanders with cultures and traditions.

Thomas: An external auditor will help POETCom understand a range of issues, like the organizing of governance systems, who the standard belongs to, how policies or strategies will enable all forms of agriculture to prosper, to limit imports and simultaneously allow traditional form of agriculture to flourish.

Gilles: Even to do advocacy work with government, POETCom needs to be legally registered.

Secretariat Terms of Reference

To manage relationship with SPC, report to donors and the GA. Advocacy of organics, alignment to issues like climate change and respond to member/general public queries. Technical questions are referred to the certification committee. Third party related questions are referred to certifiers BioGro, NASSA and Bio Agricert. Liaise with membership on lobbying leaders and governments. Resource mobilization has been a strong forte of Karen with her reputable proposal writing skills.

Managing communications of organics through emails to Pacific islands leadership, guest speaking on organics, social media, organizing meetings and so forth.

Action: New coordinator to be hired next year

Funding

Guaranteed funding to support POETCom work is only until December 2018 through the IFAD project that has been extended. A new project commences design in 3rd week of November but only starts when funding is in the account. There is also the chance that the UNDP Project will be extended.

Comments

Dr. Jone: POETCom can only depend on confirmed funding.

Volunteers

POETCom is missing out on opportunities for research and other capacity that can be given by volunteers because SPC rules doesn't allow it. SPC human resource rules are not allowing volunteers to come do their work at no cost at all to POETCom.

Government Advocacy

Capacity in organic agriculture needs to be built because all agricultural officers are trained in conventional farming. POETCom will not be antagonist with governments but will work with them.

Meeting broke for lunch at 12pm

Afternoon Session

Certifying Partners

Approved certifying partners through a memorandum of understanding (MOU-Pacific Organic Certification Qualification) with SPC are BioGro of New Zealand, NASSA of Australia and Bio Agricert. French certifier Ecocert is interested in joining and certifying using the POS. Part of the discussions focused on allowing a new French speaking certifier in.

Comments

Stephen: Tried to invite ACO to be certifiers but they are not interested. They do send third party data however.

Gilles: Allowing a new certify, is not a decision of the Adv. Board alone but of GA. New certifier must respect Pacific principles.

Francois: The issue is accrediting certifying body to use the POS. Ecocert has worked in the Pacific for a long time. They certified cocoa beans in Vanuatu.

Gilles: Decision needs to come from the GA and not the Adv.Board

Chair: The whole idea is for us to decide who comes in to use POS

Vanessa: POS belongs to SPC. They sign MOU with new certifier to use POS. It will be different when POETCom moves out of SPC.

Gilles: Need to start transiting out of SPC as soon as possible. Much talk over two years about it but nothing materialized. It is up to POETCom to approve a certifying body to use POS as long as its legally registered otherwise it is up to SPC.

Stephen: Note there could be legal ramifications for SPC because certification is a commercial enterprise. Bringing in new certifiers presents competition for the existing three. Anyone that wants to use the POS can write to POETCom that decides.

POETCom a Certifying Body

Five Pacific Islands auditors, have qualified after an initial training with IOAS will be attached to the three existing certifiers, learn and become fully qualified organic certifiers. As they will be stationed in the Pacific islands, this reduces the cost of third party certification. Increased volumes of organic exports can help POETCom become a certifying body. More organic export volumes will help pay for accreditation.

Stephen: POETCom increasingly recognized body in terms of certification particularly with innovative work like the Pacific Organic Tourism and Hospitality Standard being trialed in Vanuatu.

Chair: POETCom can earn income as a certifier

Dr. Jone: Important though to register first.

The Munro Leys Study

Munro Leys was tasked to carry out a study to determine the suitability of POETCom being legally registered and the implications of contexts on its registration on its operations. It carried out the study in Vanuatu, Samoa, New Caledonia and Fiji. A survey carried out on a Mail Chimp platform also reached out to the membership of POETCom asking the question where it preferred POETCom to be registered. The majority voted for Fiji.

Comments

Moses Pelomo: POETCom can be setup like PIFON

Dr. Jone: *(providing insight on registering in Fiji based on the FRIEND experience)* FRIEND setup as an NGO. Acknowledging it needed to make money to be sustainable; it is now a company by limited guarantee. It can do business, make profit and divert the profit back into community programmes. The nature of the company allows them to deal with both the private sector and government.

Francois: Regardless of country POETCom is registered in, it must be an inclusive organization so must be a bilingual because French speakers in English countries are expected to speak English but English speakers in French territories are provided interpreters.

POS Revision and PGS

This issue was brought up again by New Caledonia on behalf of the 150 farmers they represent. They wanted to know if the standard would be revised, to see how the market and systems will react to new products. New Caledonia has no intentions for exports, only selling locally to boost healthy diets for their local population.

Stephen: PGS gives farmers certification power and though a wonderful methodology has some weaknesses in its structures. PGS is designed to give power to people who know organics. The methodology for local people and farmers is good but will need involvement of local experts.

Gilles: To build strong local capacity so farmers are independent, autonomous and stronger in their work, POETCom must be strong as well in terms of resources. It needs to be legally registered to be stronger.

Questions to Standard and Certification Committee

Concerns raised about the length of time the committee responds or makes decisions on queries regarding the POS and certification. The slow turnaround time delays development projects on the ground. The certification committee recently lost the services of two members. Only Gilles, who has 3rd party certification experience is left to deal with all questions. Discussions covered as well the makeup of the new certification committee. Members of the main committee are BioGro, Bio Agricert and NASSA and a POETCom member. They are experts in the technical interpretation of POS and what can be used.

Francois: Need to have independent people in the committee

Gilles: There is no conflict of interest in the committee because the certifying bodies role in the committee is to ensure tat all standards especially POS is complied with. A woman named Sylvia was also a member but because of her nonresponse to emails and queries, she was removed.

Stephen: The current certifiers understand the Pacific context and when POETCom reached out to them in the past, they were supportive and have been for years.

Alberta: NASSA has a close relationship with the Pacific; if they do an audit for the whole Pacific, we can share the costs

Francois: Include of the scientific community at large in committee to make it richer. Bilingualism remains an issue because still some do not understand English.

Gilles: Some need to volunteer or apply if interested to be part of the committee. If POETCom is an independent entity, managing its own funds it will be able to fund the committee.

Francois: Don't nominate committee members overnight. New Caledonia will organize its national GA, inform its members and identify professionals that can join the committee

Thomas: Why not just issue a vacancy and have people apply?

Stephen: Those on committee must have certification experience, are accredited auditors, professional certifiers, not just experienced in technical production.

Meeting Breaks for Afternoon Tea at 3pm

PGS Committee

Stephen opened the session volunteering to be a member of the PGS Certification Committee because of his level of experience with PGS. Gilles was another. New Caledonia although nominated to be on the committee declined stating they names needed to be nominated by their National GA. French Polynesia suggested their nominee would be a technical body and not an individual. They approve PGS certification based on documentation provided by farmers groups, and compliance with PGS procedures.

Comments

Dr. Jone: There is no need to push for country representation on the committee, whoever is on committee is representative of Pacific organics

Francois: The push is not for countries. All members of POETCom should be informed of the opportunity to be part of the committee. It is the democratic thing to do.

Dr. Jone: Quoting the need for democracy is suggesting an absence of it. Current standard and certification committee members are respected because they value and respect the fifth principle of POS which is culture and tradition. This mustn't be compromised. Need to submit names now.

Stephen: Those on committee must understand PGS, POS and the PGS methodology. They must also not hold up on answers, willing to do it for free.

Compensation for Committee Members

Current members of both the PGS and Standards and Certification committee are voluntarily doing the work of responding to queries. Stephen shared that compensation is a form of reward for their time and effort and an incentive to respond earlier.

Board Members Election

Board elections to be held the following day. New nomination from the youth who want a seat on the board. Seven have been nominated to the board, Gilles, Francois, and Drew Havea from Tonga, Litia Kirwin from Fiji, Dr Jone, and Dr Shane Tutua. Six seats up for grabs. The seventh seat is retained by outgoing chair Moses Nambo. Only focal points can vote in board elections.

Strategic Plan Brainstorming

The session helped highlight key areas of the strategic plan for the next five years. POETCom will hire a consultant to put together the strategic plan for circulation. Key areas of the last strategic plan: Certification, Export Markets, Domestic Markets, Situation Analysis. Proposed focus areas;

- Empowering farmers
- Legal registration and full establishment of POETCom organisation
- Health aspect of organic farming
- Regional trade
- Strengthen context of fair trade development – from Samoa
- Youth and Organics
- Women and Organics
- Farmer organizations developing proposals
- Financial literacy and training including savings
- Disaster risk management i.e. food preservation of food especially after natural disasters

- Strengthen training courses in terms of PGS and members and building capacity for members
- Organics and education
- Science and Research
- Integre Project for the Pacific – model for the Pacific
- POETCom within our environment
- Sustainability of POETCom
- Food Safety Regulation of Governments, having more say in this
- Organic and machines –
- Organic Farmers Forum – we are the intermediates, haven't really brought organic farmers to have their say
- Advocacy role of POETCom
- Food and nutritional security
- Business plan and arm of POETCom
- Capacity building for national focal point
- General Assembly
- Technical Exchange
- Creating a pathway to being certifying body
- Value adding organic products
- ICTs and Organics
- Keep and strengthen everything to do with cultural issues in POETCom
- Lobby implementation of Pacific organic policy toolkit
- One single label is that possible do you think
- Intellectual property and patents
- Case study on PGS
- Sustainable tourism
- Ridge to reef
- Biodiversity, conservation and so forth – presenting to Green Climate Fund
- Communication and information management – survey picked up the most important way members are receiving information from the Secretariat is through email. Members need to tell Secretariat the best way they can receive information.
- Lobby with leaders
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Biodiversity conservation in our fields when we self-produce our seeds. Sigatoka Research in Fiji engagements include the certification of a piece of land where organic seeds can be produced.
- Youth chapter
- Funding strategies

Meeting ends at 4.30pm

DAY THREE

Thursday, 26th October, 2017

8am – 4.30pm

- **Discussion Areas:**
 - **Motions, POETCom Board Election**
 - **Attendee Names**
 - Focal Points- Alberta Vitale (WIBDI Samoa), Teina Heia (Bio Fetia), Thomas Carlen and Helen Moquet (Bio Caledonia), Dr Jone Vuli (Fiji Organic Producers Association), Lauraine Verge & Otilone Tokotuu (CCIMA), Vanessa Lolohea (Tonga National Youth Congress), Karness Kusto (Marshall Islands Organic Farming Association), Maryanne Talagi (Niue Island Organic Farmers Association), Moses Pelomo (Kastom Gaden Association), Olivier Iato (Farm Support Association)
 - Board Members- Gilles Parzy, Francois Japiot, Moses Nambo
 - POETCom Secretariat- Stephen Hazelman, Lily Wong, Theresa Fox
 - Traditional Leaders – Andre Vaito (territorial adviser of Wallis & Futuna Assembly and Chief of Mata Utu
 - Government – Minister for Environment of Wallis, Christine Wong (Ministry of Agriculture –French Polynesia), Savelio (Ministry of Agriculture Wallis and Futuna), Simion Alain (Media Officer, Ministry of Agriculture Vanuatu)
 - Translators- Valerie Hassan and Christelle Petite
 - Other parties- Maxime Pernel (CCIMA), Pauline (agronomist and consultant for the EU Integre Project), Ema (Poultry farmer and member of CCIMA)
 - **Absent & Apologies**
 - Titikaveka Growers Association
 - Palau
 - Organic Growers Association
 - Kiribati Organic Growers Association
 - **Minute Taker**
 - Theresa Fox
- * Main points in discussions is summarized and not presented verbatim.

MEETING PROPER

Morning Session

- f. At 8am – Meeting Opens with Prayer
- g. Motions from Secretariat and Focal Points

MOTIONS FROM SECRETARIAT

Presented by Stephen, Acting Coordinator POETCom

- a. All motions despite its formal or informal presentation be accepted

- b. Other motions that cropped up during the GA be accepted
- c. GA to be held every two years

Approved by GA

Membership Policy

- d. Focal points to remain. There will be one country, one vote system at the GA.

Approved by GA

- e. National GAs (general assemblies) to be held in each focal point country six months before the POETCom 2019 GA. Reports and participants lists of national GAs to be submitted to the Secretariat before the POETCom GA.

Approved by GA

- f. Members are allowed to participate at the POETCom GA

Approved by GA

Motion to accept these motions was moved by Dr. Jone and seconded by the French territories.

Discussion/Comments on membership policy under Affiliation Requirements

- Focal Point definition: The proposed organization must be governed and owned and working for farmers

- g. Subscription fee for focal points/members deferred until study is undertaken under EDF 11.
Fee and cost structure for POETCom scoping work is already budgeted under EDF 11.

Approved by GA

Changes to Statutes

- h. Name change from Advisory Board to just Board

The name change will expand the functions of the board from merely an advisory role. This is also in anticipation of becoming an independent organization.

Motion moved by Dr. Jone. Seconded by Vanessa.

Approved by GA

POETCom Registering as Separate Entity from SPC

- i. POETCom to register as a separate entity from the Pacific Community and to inform SPC that it will make such a move based on the results of a survey and a legal opinion to be registered in Fiji.

A lengthy discussion marked deliberations on this topic. Here is the summary. Those contending for a departure from SPC reasoned POETCom under its own identity would secure more funding, advocate better and advance the cause of organic agriculture more freely. Remaining in SPC meant POETCom would be a mere SPC program defeating the spirit of setting up the movement. It would always don the technical identity

of SPC, bound by its rules and without the powerful ability to advocate on issues like health, food and nutritional security, soil health and so forth. The Secretariat reminded the meeting at the recent CRGA, SPC confirmed support for organics, not POETCom as part of its business plan. Those that are doubtful of the move feel POETCom is not mature enough to make it on its own particularly because of little funding to support itself. Moving is a dream. Caution and patience, they proposed was the better part of valour. Get the business plan and the budgets in order before leaving SPC. To which the proponents rebutted that through its own volition, POETCom had won past funding and secured new ones. SPC claims up to 15% of the funding. A new funding stream for example worth about \$3m would mean at least \$450,000 going to SPC as administrative costs. That sum of money could run an independent POETCom. POETCom one participant noted had been trialled, tested, and found worthy and mature enough to depart.

As for the type of organization it could become, there were several suggestions, based on various focal point experiences and the suggestions of a legal study carried out by law firm Munro Leys. POETCom could be registered as a company by limited guarantee based in Fiji, as is one of the preferred options of the Munro Leys study as well as the popular choice of a Mail Chimp survey. Based on the FRIEND Fiji model, POETCom could be a company by limited guarantee as well as a social entrepreneur. POETCom could trade under a different name, company profits would be reverted to POETCom for its work. There was consensus that POETCom is setup as a business model making profits to be sustainable.

Still, the opponents held back on completely disassociating, emancipating or divorcing from SPC, the 'mothership' as one observed. There were benefits in keeping connected. The way to look at the move would be in forming 'new relationships' with SPC, perhaps as a service provider on organics. Discussions on the parameters of the new relationships would occur during the transition period. The meeting eventually agreed, POETCom would register as a new entity. A taskforce to be setup would look at the minute details of the new organization. Cost structure, business and so forth is also to be studied through the EDF 11 funding. The transition period will be two years. To register, three months. Approve at the next GA a total separation from SPC.

Motion moved by Dr. Jone, seconded by Alberta and Karness. Show of hands on vote: 10

Approved by GA

Transition Period

- j. POETCom to have a two-year transition period in which to emancipate from SPC

Approved by GA

Proxy Voting

- k. Proxy voting allowed for General Assembly but only with special conditions such as unforeseen circumstances that prevents a representative of NFP's physical presence at the GA

Approved by GA

Board Size

- I. POETCom board will have seven board members, with two ex-officio or honorary member status or more as required by the board

The two ex officio or honorary members will be accountants and legal officer. This helps with the setup of accountability processes of POETCom.

Approved by GA

Changes to Statutes Regarding Role of Board

- m. Rewording of Board role:

Board cannot make strategic decisions, and only has the authority to **EXECUTE** the decisions of the POETCom General Assembly while the Secretariat is the Administrator of the Board's executive decisions

The Board will also have working groups.

Approved by GA

Coordinator

- n. The Board appoint a coordinator and install an office which executes the decision and plans of POETCom organ/structure under guidance by the Board

Approved by GA

Finances

- m. Finances Motion – about financial reporting – approved. Financial reports now also go to the Board

Approved by GA

Action: Lily to establish with Nitesh what financial year of SPC is.

MOTIONS FROM FOCAL POINTS

Study

Presented by Thomas Carlen, Bio Caledonia

- N. Focal points Bio Caledonia, Bio Fetia and CCIMA will institute a study on behalf of POETCom on the basis that the board has approved the terms of reference of the study. Intellectual property rights of such study belongs to POETCom

Bio Caledonia proposed the study about the management and governance of POS and POETCom/SPC structure with all stakeholders involved with support of EDF 11OCT. The proposed study would be carried out in the first quarter of 2018 in close association with the POETCom taskforce. There were objections to including foreigners as consultants because of their little understanding of the Pacific context. Bio Caledonia contended that skilled and qualified people for the development of organic agriculture must undertake the study. It will complement and lay firm foundation for the new POETCom. There were objections as well to an analytical study being carried out especially if external expertise are hired who already have a prejudiced view of the Pacific, it would negatively affect POETCom. A baseline study was preferred. Bio Caledonia said a descriptive study would allow members to say how they perceive POETCom. The important thing, it added was that a qualified person was hired. Others insisted there were qualified people in the Pacific to carry it out. One thought the study was a waste of time since there was already a lot of organic information, results, information that is existing and can be relied on. The Secretariat proposed perhaps money on the study could be spent securing French translators, communications, training auditors for the Pacific region to cut down the cost of certification, research into applying organics in farming, marketing organic products, waste management and so forth.

Approved by GA

Youth

Presented by Olivier Iato, Farm Support Association

m. Youth Chapter of POETCom and a Youth Representative on the POETCom Board

To ensure youths interests in organic farming are well represented and actioned. This is in response to declining youth participation in farming.

Approved by GA

Reps on Board

Presented by Olivier Iato, Farm Support Association

n.Representatives to the Board be from the subregions Micronesians, Polynesians, Melanesians.

The motion was discussed to be not useful on the basis that representation on the board should be particularly where organics is growing and as long as they are a member of POETCom.

Declined by GA

Compensation for Technical Committees (Standards and Certification, PGS)

Presented by Olivier Iato, Farm Support Association

- o. POETCom Board will draft the terms of the compensation to be awarded to members of the Standard and Certification Committee that provide professional opinion on certification and or production issues. It will circulate the draft within 12 months. In the meantime, POETCom will ask for certifiers understanding and continued support with professional advice during this period.

Approved by GA

Payment for Organic Pasifika Mark

Presented by Olivier Iato, Farm Support Association

- p. Commencing 2018, all PGS certified under POS to pay for the use of the Organic Pasifika Mark

Discussions agreed on deferring to allowing proper consultation, surveys, studies on cost structures for use of the mark to be carried out under the EDF 11 funding stream.

Motion deferred by GA to come up again at the 2019 GA

Organic Experience Criteria for Board Membership

Presented by Olivier Iato, Farm Support Association

- q. Members of the board to have organic experience in different technical areas and are representing a country who have PGS or 3rd party certification

Approved by GA

Technical Exchanges between Young Organic Farmers

Presented by Stephen Hazelman on behalf of NIOFA

- r. To initiate and continue to hold technical exchanges between young Organic farmers and old Organic farmers. This motion is put forward by NIOFA for the following reasons: -Older farmers have much experience and need to pass on the knowledge so Organic practices can be passed onto future generations and continue to grow the Organic Movement -Technical exchanges encourage farmers to help farmers' find solutions and innovations for their own practices. -Need to foster and encourage more youth into organic farming through mentor programmes.

Approved by GA

South-to-South Cooperation and knowledge exchange for value adding organic resources to stimulate entrepreneurship

Presented by Stephen Hazelman on behalf of NIOFA

- s. To initiate knowledge based South to South Cooperation for value adding organic resources for stimulating entrepreneurship. Some organic producing countries have specialist know in value adding organic resources and are successfully marketing them, other organic producing countries can gain from this knowledge. This motion is for regional collaboration to encourage the knowledge these specialists have, to benefit the growth of organic products and exports. This motion is put forward for the following reasons: -demand for organic products is growing, the global market place is strong, farmers need to have knowledge of value adding so that they can tap into market demand and create additional income from their organic produce - while the movement sprouting growth of rouging farming , then farmers are inspired to practices organic farming because they can earn good income from it. Farmers want to see the value in their organic farming also in terms of monetary values as well as environmental values -provides a route to earn income and bypass biosecurity restrictions on raw materials/crops. Farmers need a continued demand for their organic crops to ensure a more sustainable, secure and regular income.

Approved by GA

Child centric organic communications

Presented by Stephen Hazelman on behalf of NIOFA

- t. To direct more focus on creative child-centric organic communications. Intervening with the organic farming message at an earlier age, before they become teenagers when they are already decided on what they want to do or value in life. To ensure the organic movement continues, we need to start to impress the importance of organic farming and its value to our identities and environments on younger minds, minds that are still evolving and open to ideas. This motion is put forward for the following reasons: -younger minds are more impressionable and more open to learning, they can soak up and absorb new ideas like a sponge, this is the time the organic movement must plant the seed of the value and importance of organic practices to who we are as Pacific Islanders and to importance pf preservation of our environments. -to engage young minds, the communications needs to be at the level of the child, to be identifiable and in images and language they understand and can relate to. Furthermore these communications need consultations by young creative Pacific Island youths to ensure the approach is at the level of the child and not what an adult thinks is at the level of the child.

Approved by GA

Women in Organic Chapter

Presented by Stephen Hazelman

- u. The motion for POETCom to have a women in organics arm was moved by the Secretariat. A women's chapter it proposed would engage women more powerfully, as meal deciders and the nutritional guardians of family's. It would align well with development partners' agendas for funding focuses. An opposing view held that women are already involved in organic work so no need to create a separate chapter. It added that there is a hang up on emphasising the gender movement imposed on Pacific islanders by a different culture with its own distinct set of values. Fiji for example had female chiefs, women in charge of landowning units and so forth. Wallis and Futuna and Niue similarly noted there was no need for women empowerment in their countries as women were already empowered.

Motion for a women's organic arm was seconded by Alberta of Samoa.

Approved by GA

Rights and Duties of Focal Points

Presented by Gilles Parzy

- v. Inactive focal points (not doing enough to promote organics) to be excluded from GA. Board reserves the right if needed to disqualify a focal point status if they are not doing enough to promote organics. A two year wait for the GA to make a decision on the focal point is too long.

Objections to the motion noted that only the GA reserves the right to disqualify focal points. The Cook Islands focal point was disqualified for inappropriate handling of funds directed for organic work. To exclude Palau from the GA for instance should have been done with the right procedure for example three board members should have agreed. Another point of view suggested as long POETCom was not registered as a separate entity, the Secretariat makes the decision on SPC accountability procedures.

Approved by GA :The motion was approved as work in progress towards building of POETCom policies when it registers.

Bilingual Organisation

Alerted to meeting by translators

POETCom is a bilingual organisation.

Approved by GA

Elections of POETCom Board

This featured after lunch break.

Dr Jone's nomination

- w. One of the nominees to the board, Dr Jone Vuli's nomination form could not be found. Stephen apologised for this. A motion had to be moved to accept Dr. Jone's nomination. Motion was moved by Karness Kusto from MIOFA and seconded by Alberta. Eight focal points voted in favour of the motion.

Approved by GA

Stephen invited all nominees to share with the GA a bit about themselves and why they should be elected to the Board. Votes were counted by Theresa Fox and Christine Wong.

Election Results:

Name	Votes
Siotame Drew Havea	5
Teariki Patai	5
Gina Tukiuha	3
Gilles Tehau Parzy	8
Alberta Vitale	7
Francois Japiot	9
Litia Kirwin	4
Dr Shane Tutua	10
Dr Jone Hawea	9

Siotame Havea and Teariki Patai had equal number of votes. Only one could be elected. Gilles Parzy said he was resigning from the board to allow Siotame Havea to proceed. However, Marshall Islands moved a motion that Gilles' resignation not be accepted. This was seconded by Samoa.

In a second ballot, Siotame Havea won seven votes over Teariki Patai's three.

New Board Members:

- Siotame Drew Havea
- Gilles Tehau Parzy
- Alberta Vitale
- Francois Japiot
- Dr. Shane Tutua
- Dr. Jone Hawea Vuli

Non-elected members to be part of committees

- x. The motion was moved by the Secretariat for nominees not elected to lead or be part of committees to be formed on youth, women and so forth and that would work with the Board.

Motion seconded by Karness from Marshalls

Approved by GA

Next GA to be held in Samoa

Presented by Alberta at the GA meeting closing dinner held the same day

- y. Alberta moved that Samoa would also be hosting the Pacific Week of Agriculture and as the GA has already approved the assembly meet back to back with PWA, Samoa was ready to receive the 2019 GA.

Approved by GA

Ends...

MINUTE COMMENTS

From Francois Parzy – POETCom Board Member

Pacific, SPC and POET Com are bi/multilingual.

Bilingualism and multilingualism are part of Pacific culture.

Take the example of Vanuatu with 3 official languages (and many others, native ones), Ni-Vanuatu Francophones speak 4 languages (Native, Bislama, French, English), Ni-Vanuatu Anglophone speak only 3 languages (Native, Bislama, English). Speaking an additional language is always a benefit.

My humble experience: the 1st time I arrived in Niger (1987), I learned native language (Hausa), even though the official language is French, then, I went to Guatemala (I learned Spanish), then Brazil and Angola (I learned Portuguese) and in Vanuatu, I learned Bislama. Learning new language is an asset.

My former boss in FAO always told us “everyone speaks in his native language and the others manage to understand”.

It’s a good (the only) way to communicate in multilingual area.

Translation has a cost. As you know, in all regional projects we drafted, we included budget for translation. All projects in the Pacific should do the same.

There is no problem, only solutions.

Have a look to the booklet (enclosed, few pages) we developed with NC University (for our organic farmers and technicians), this is something we need to expand and both Anglophones & Francophones should work on this and share.

From Gilles Parzy – POETCom Board Member

Day 1:

Regulated Organic Markets

Stephen clarified that the type of certification is dependent on markets (whether regulated or non-regulated). This in response to Marshall’s query that PGS (Participatory Guarantee System) is not recognized for exports.

It is why Fiji is targeting Singapore that is a non-regulated market and can accept PGS certification.

Let’s lobby authorities in each countries for including in Organic Policy Regulation : PGS guaranteed organics in INTER-PACIFIC TRADE.

Fertility the Power of the Pacific Island Farmer’ :

Let’s also promote complying techniques that have quick results for farmers, whether for temperate climate or tropical vegetables, and also in atoll environment.

=> No comments for, **Day 2**

=> My reminder in green, **Day 3:**

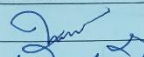
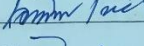
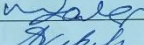
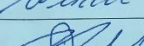






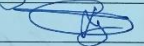
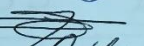



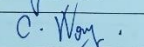
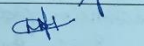
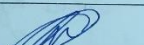
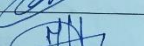
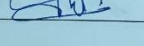
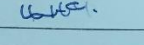

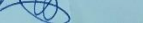
POETCom Registering as Separate Entity from SPC: The transition period will be two years. To register, three months.
Approve at the next GA a total separation from SPC.







ATTENDANCE LISTS

Day One

POETCOM GENERAL ASSEMBLY 23rd-27th October, 2017
Wallis & Futuna

REGISTRATION -23rd 24th

NAME	ORGANIZATION	SIGNATURE
Moses Kalau	POETCOM	
Karness Kusto	MIOFA	
Maryanne Talagi	NIOFA	
Alberta Vitale	WIBDI	
Vanessa Lolohea	Youth Congress	
Dr Jone Hawea	FRIEND	
Teina Heia	INTEGRE	
Thomas Carlen	INTEGRE	
Francois Japiot	INTEGRE	
Gilles Pazry	Eden Parc	
Moses Pelmo	POETCOM	
Oliver Lato	POETCOM	
Valeri Hassan	POETCOM	
Christelle Petite	POETCOM	
Sebastian Rague	POETCOM	
Simion Alain	POETCOM	
Christine Wong	Ministry Of Agriculture	
Helene E Moquet	Biocaledonia	
Lauriane verge	CCIMA	
Otilone Tokotuu	CCIMA	
Stephen Hazelman	POETCOM	
Theresa Fox	POETCOM	
Lily Wong	POETCOM	
MONTARICH Pauline MARINE PERNEZ	Consultat from PP CCIMA	 

Name	Organisation	Signature
TUELISI VAKI (HEU)	Chef de village Vaitupu	
LOGOTE Salomone LULU'IMONUA	Ministre du Roi	
TAPUTAE Pesamino	Ancien élu AS 'Dehaite'	
LIE Tamiano	Vice président du secteur primaire à la CCIMA	
HAFOKA Suliana	Animatrice Agri Bio CCIMA	
TELAI Savello KANINO4 Soave latita	Technicien production végétale Service Agriculture chef de Bureau Service des Affaires Locales	

Day Two

POETCom 3rd General Assembly
25 October 2017
Wallis & Futuna
Registration

The General Assembly 2017 is hosted by CCIMA of Wallis & Futuna and is jointly funded by IFAD, UNDP-SDG FUND & EU SPC INTEGRE PROJECT

NAME	ORGANIZATION	SIGNATURE
Moses Kalau	POETCOM	
Karness Kusto	MIOFA	
Maryanne Talagi	NIOFA	
Alberta Vitale	WIBDI	
Vanessa Lolohea	Youth Congress	
Dr Jone Hawea	FRIEND	
Teina Heia	INTEGRE	


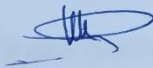

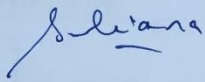
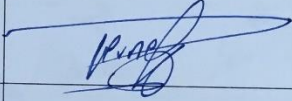
supported by:



Thomas Carlen	INTEGRE	
Francois Japiot	INTEGRE	
Gilles Pazry	Eden Parc	
Moses Pelomo	Kastom GADEN Agsi Kustoms Garden	
Oliver Iato	POETCOM	
Valeri Hassan	POETCOM	
Christelle Petite	POETCOM	
Sebastian Rague	POETCOM	
Simion Alain	POETCOM	
Christine Wong	Ministry Of Agriculture	
Helene E Moquet	Biocaledonia	
Lauriane verge	CCIMA	
Otilone Tokotuu	CCIMA	

supported by:



Stephen Hazelman	POETCOM	
Theresa Fox	POETCOM	
Lily Wong	POETCOM	
LOGOTE Salomone. ULU'I HONUA.	Ministre du Roi Wales	
Aurora MUKIKIHAFAFA MAHE FOTUA'IKA	Ministre Cuniolele Uesele	
HAFOKA Sulione	CCiTA	
Naxime PERNEZ	CCiTA	

supported by:



Day Three



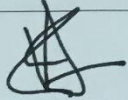
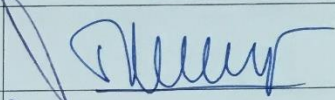
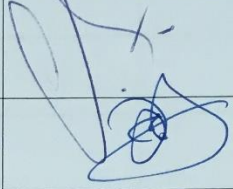


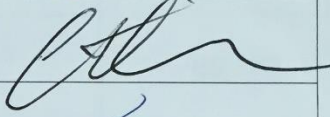

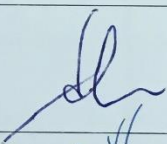

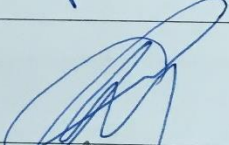
**POETCom 3rd General Assembly
26th
Wallis & Futuna
REGISTRATION**

The General Assembly 2017 is hosted by CCIMA of Wallis & Futuna and is jointly funded by IFAD, UNDP-SDG FUND & EU SPC INTEGRE PROJECT

NAME	ORGANIZATION	SIGNATURE
Moses Kalau	POETCOM	
Karness Kusto	MIOFA	
Maryanne Talagi	NIOFA	
Alberta Vitale	WIBDI	
Vanessa Lolohea	Youth Congress	
Dr Jone Hawea	FRIEND	
Teina Heia	INTEGRE	

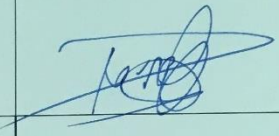

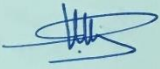
supported by:



Thomas Carlen	INTEGRE	
Francois Japiot	INTEGRE	
Gilles Pazry	Eden Parc	
Moses Pelemo	Kartom Garden Assn Kustoms Garden	
Oliver Iato	POETCOM	
Valeri Hassan	POETCOM	
Christelle Petite	POETCOM	
Sebastian Rague	POETCOM	
Simion Alain	POETCOM	
Christine Wong	Ministry Of Agriculture	
Helene E Moquet	Biocaledonia	
Lauriane verge	CCIMA	
Otilone Tokotuu	CCIMA	

supported by:



Maxime Pernel	CCIMA	
HAFOKA SULIANA	CCIMA	<i>Suliana</i>
Stephen Hazelman	POETCOM	
Theresa Fox	POETCOM	
Lily Wong	POETCOM	<i>Wong</i>
TULLAKI vahai (Heu)	chef de village Vaitupu	
LOGOTE. Salomone. ULUIMONUA	Ministre du Roi	

supported by:

