

9th REGIONAL MEETING OF
PACIFIC HEADS OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY SERVICES (PHOAFS)
(15 - 17 May 2024) - Virtual

Paper reference	Session 2: Agenda Item 4
Title	Pacific Agriculture and Forestry Strategy
Action	Decision
Author(s)	Strategy Core Group: Temarama Anguna (Cook Islands), Philippe Couraud (French Polynesia), Chelsa Muna (Guam), Kinaai Kairo (Kiribati), Mame Kasalau (Papua New Guinea), Lottie Vaisekavea (Solomon Islands), Dr. Viliami Manu (Tonga)

Summary
The paper presents the Draft Pacific Agriculture and Forestry Strategy for review and finalisation.
<p>Recommendation:</p> <p>The PHOAFS are invited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) review and provide feedback on the Pacific Agriculture and Forestry Strategy 2024-2050.b) Provide direction on the process for finalisation and endorsement.c) Request SPC and FAO to facilitate the development of the first 5-year implementation plan for presentation to the Heads and Ministers in 2025

Background

The 8th Regional Meeting of Pacific Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services (PHOAFS) met on 9 March 2023 in Nadi and requested FAO and SPC to facilitate the development of the region's first Agriculture and Forestry Strategy and to utilise strategic foresight as the methodology for the strategy development. This process was undertaken during 2023 and the first 4 months of 2024.

Purpose of this paper

To present the draft as finalised by the Strategy Core Group , seek review, feedback, and validation by the PHOAFS, and agree on the next steps. The draft Strategy is attached as **Annex 1**.

Recommendations:

The PHOAFS are invited to.

- d) review and provide feedback on the Pacific Agriculture and Forestry Strategy 2024-2050.
- e) Provide direction on the process for finalisation and endorsement.
- f) Request SPC and FAO to facilitate the development of the first 5-year implementation plan for presentation to the Heads and Ministers in 2025

Annex 1:

Growing the Pacific

2050 Strategy for Pacific Agriculture and Forestry: Healthy, Regenerative, Secure

Executive Summary

The Pacific Agriculture and Forestry Strategy for 2024-2050 outlines a bold vision for a future where agriculture and forestry systems in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) are sustainable, resilient, and contribute to the well-being of our people, economies, and environment. It is founded on a participatory, Pacific led, future ready approach that recognises both national contexts and regional intentions. To achieve this vision, the strategy focuses on five strategic pathways: Integrated, Healthy, Regenerative, Secure, and Enabled.

In the Integrated pathway, policies and actions will be harmonized to promote agroecological practices, transparent governance, and inclusive decision-making. The Healthy pathway emphasizes promotion of health and well-being for people, plants, animals and the environment through agriculture and forestry, by supporting agroforestry, traditional medicine, and healthy diets. The Regenerative pathway aims to ensure the long-term climate resilience and viability of agriculture and forestry systems through innovation, knowledge sharing, and sustainable investment. The Secure pathway focuses on ensuring food and economic security for all by diversifying crops and livestock, strengthening value chains, and establishing disaster risk financing mechanisms. Lastly, the Enabled pathway seeks to empower youth, women, and communities in agriculture and forestry through education, entrepreneurship, and equitable access to resources.

Key initiatives include developing policies for agroecological practices, promoting agroforestry and traditional medicine, establishing multi-stakeholder platforms for governance, supporting research and development networks, diversifying crops and livestock while building circular systems and economies, improving plant and animal health, strengthening biosecurity, investing in data platforms,

collection protocols and advanced analytics, empowering youth, women and diverse communities through training and entrepreneurship, expanding market access, and investing in regenerative agriculture and forestry.

Success will be measured by indicators such as adoption rates of regenerative practices, improvements in food security and economic resilience, diversification of value chains, and increased participation of youth and women in the sector. Overall, the strategy aims to create a future where agriculture and forestry are not only sources of sustenance but also pillars of pride, identity, and inspiration for generations to come in the Pacific.

Letter of Introduction from Pacific Leaders

Definitions

Agriculture: Encompasses crop production, livestock production and forestry for food and non-food products.¹

Agroecology: A holistic and integrated approach that simultaneously applies ecological and social concepts and principles to the design and management of sustainable agriculture and food systems. It seeks to optimize the interactions between plants, animals, humans and the environment while also addressing the need for socially equitable food systems within which people can exercise choice over what they eat and how and where it is produced.² The main difference from regenerative agriculture is that agroecology approaches transition first and foremost as a political issue.³

Agroforestry: Any land-use system that includes trees and integrates them with crops and other tended and harvested plant and animal species.⁴

Biocontrol: The deliberate use of natural enemies – predators, parasites, pathogens, and competitors – to suppress and maintain populations of a target pest species (insects, mites, weeds, plant pathogens, and other pest organisms).⁵

Biodiversity: Natural variety and variability of life forms and their environment; it includes genetic diversity (diversity within and among species), species diversity (number and variety of species), and ecosystem diversity (total number of ecosystem types).⁶

Industrial Agriculture: A system of cultivation using large amounts of labour, capital and machinery relative to land area to produce significantly greater crop yields. Large amounts of labour and capital are necessary to the application of fertilizer, insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides to growing crops, and capital is particularly important to the acquisition and maintenance of high-efficiency machinery for planting, cultivating, harvesting, and irrigation.⁷

Organic Agriculture: Organic Agriculture is a production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems, and people. It relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects. Organic Agriculture combines tradition, innovation, and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and good quality of life for all involved.⁸ This is accomplished by using, where possible, agronomic, biological,

¹ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agriculture>

² <https://www.fao.org/agroecology/overview/en/>

³ <https://www.fao.org/family-farming/detail/en/c/1629907/#:~:text=Thus%2C%20while%20the%20agroecology%20movement,the%20social%20dimension%20of%20sustainability.>

⁴ <https://pi-casc.soest.hawaii.edu/research/research-projects/restoration-of-coastal-agroforestry-systems/>

⁵ <https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/programs/biological-control-program>

⁶ https://pacificfarmers.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/LRD_TR_Organic_standard_Eng.pdf

⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intensive_farming

⁸ <https://www.ifoam.bio/why-organic/organic-landmarks/definition-organic>

and mechanical methods, as opposed to using synthetic materials, to fulfil any specific function within the system.⁹ The [Pacific Organic Standard](#) describes the requirements for organic production.¹⁰

Permaculture: An approach to land management and settlement design that adopts arrangements observed in flourishing natural ecosystems. It includes a set of design principles derived using whole-systems thinking.¹¹

Regenerative Agriculture: Any and all forms of agricultural practice that actively restore soil quality, biodiversity, resilience, ecosystem health, and water quality while producing sufficient food of high nutritional quality.¹²

Regenerative Forestry: Any and all forms of forestry practice that store high levels of carbon and actively restore soil quality, biodiversity, resilience, ecosystem health, and water quality while supporting forestry livelihoods.

Traditional agriculture: Indigenous form of ecologically based agriculture.¹³

⁹ <https://www.fao.org/organicag/oa-faq/oa-faq1/en/>

¹⁰ https://pacificfarmers.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/LRD_TR_Organic_standard_Eng.pdf

¹¹ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Permaculture>

¹² Grant, S. (2017). Organizing alternative food futures in the peripheries of the industrial food system. *J. Sustain. Educ.* 14, 1–14. Available online at: http://www.susted.com/wordpress/content/organizing-alternative-food-futures-in-the-peripheries-of-the-industrial-food-system_2017_05/

¹³ https://pacificfarmers.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/LRD_TR_Organic_standard_Eng.pdf

Introduction

Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) stand at a critical juncture for our agriculture and forestry sectors. As we navigate the challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, and economic instability, the need for a transformative strategy that ensures sustainable development has never been more pressing. Agriculture and forestry practices are not merely sectors of our economy; they are the lifeblood of our communities, the guardians of our cultural heritage, and the stewards of our environment.

Growing the Pacific: 2050 Strategy for Pacific Agriculture and Forestry: Healthy, Regenerative, Secure (Growing the Pacific) is the first ever Pacific-led regional agriculture and forestry strategy. It represents an ambitious shared regional agenda for agro-ecological transformation.

Growing the Pacific nests under, and aligns with, the Pacific Islands Forum *2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent*. The *2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent* provides the long-term approach to Pacific regional collaboration based on shared values and action in seven key thematic action areas. In particular, *Growing the Pacific* contributes to the themes of People-Centered Development, Resources And Economic Development and Climate Change And Disasters, while benefiting from developments across all seven themes.

Our countries and territories are diverse, with unique challenges, strengths and comparative advantages. The regional strategy does not override or subsume any national strategy. It requires translation and flexibility in application at each national level. By sending a clear signal of collective ambition to donors and investors, it is intended to assist countries in attracting the resources they need to enact their national strategies.

In spite of our differences, Pacific Islanders navigate by the same rising stars. For our allies and partners, development agencies and investors, we share this strategy in order to prioritize, align and harmonize our collective efforts towards a healthy, regenerative and secure Pacific.

Pacific Agriculture and Forestry Systems

The agriculture and forestry systems in the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) are intricate webs of relationships involving farmers, foresters, policymakers, consumers, and various other stakeholders. Farmers and foresters are the growers, cultivating crops, raising livestock, and managing forests. They rely on extension services provided by government agencies, farmer organisations and NGOs for technical support and knowledge dissemination. Value chains connect growers with processors, retailers and consumers, ensuring the flow of agricultural and forestry products from farm to fork. They operate in markets regulated by government policy and connected to consumers through local and global supply chains.

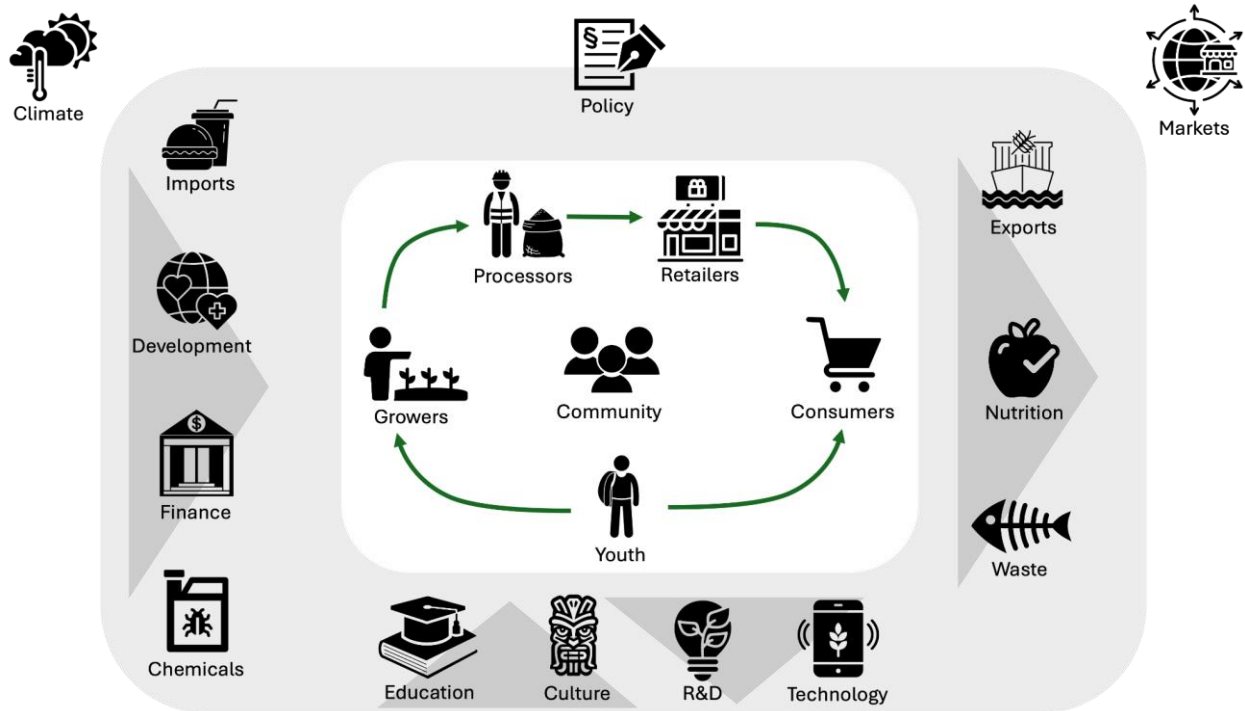


Figure 1. The Pacific Agriculture and Forestry System.

Agriculture has an ancient history in the Pacific, and some of the oldest agricultural sites in the world are found in the region.^[i] Pacific Islanders have a long history of agricultural innovation around the adoption of new technologies and crops across the entire oceanic region. As a classic example, the sweet potato (*Ipomoea batatas*) originally from South America was successfully transferred and grown by groups across the Pacific from Rapa Nui in the East through to the highlands of Papua New Guinea in the West.^[ii] This innovation is important as the Pacific region is characterised by a wide range of ecosystems and environment types from atolls to tropical volcanic islands and even through to alpine grasslands in the Papua New Guinea highlands. As crops were transplanted and grown in different environments a wide variety of agricultural innovation occurred such as the transition to seasonal planting of various root crops such as yams and sweet potato in colder climates such as New Zealand.^[iii]

European contact introduced a range of different technologies and food crops into the region which then impacted agricultural production systems across the Pacific. The result of this new cycle of innovation included increased production yields as well as shifts in the means of production through the introduction of new tools and practices. Not all these shifts associated with industrial agriculture have been positive. As the region has continued to become increasingly integrated into the global economy a key consequence has been that local agricultural production has fallen for certain food crops. Taro production, for example, has fallen across the region as increasingly cheap forms of carbohydrates such as rice and highly processed imported food have become more readily available to local populations at increasingly lower prices.^[iv]

These new patterns of industrial agricultural production and the associated new systems of consumption have unfortunately led to the increased incidence of a broad range of non-communicable

diseases in the region including diabetes and heart disease.^[v] In addition to these regional health impacts, the large-scale importation of core foodstuffs for families in the region, such as rice and flour from wheat for bread, place the Pacific in a precarious position in terms of susceptibility to global supply changes – as the recent COVID-19 pandemic made evident.^[vi]

Combined, the factors outlined here present a compelling argument of the need for governments in the region to proactively rethink the future of the agricultural and forestry sectors in the Pacific. Innovative action is going to be required to undertake these shifts and changes. But, as has been noted above, innovation in the agricultural and forestry sectors is nothing new for Pacific Islanders. The issue at hand is identifying the factors for innovation and putting them into practice. The following sections of this document provide the materials to support this new proposed space of innovation.

What we Heard

Between August and October 2023, we engaged with 285 people from across the Pacific regional agriculture and forestry system in workshops. Using the three horizons framework, each group described the future they desired for 2050 and charted the path to get there. This section summarized what we heard from farmers, foresters, youth, and specialists.

Gathering	Date	Modality	# Participants
Regional Research Agenda Peer Review Group	September 4	In person	16
PAPGREN Meeting (Plant Genetic Resources)	September 18	In person	39
Farmer Organisations	September 28	Virtual	32
Pacific Plant Protection Organisation	September 29	Virtual	10
Youth Open Talanoa	October 5	Virtual	40
Pacific Soils Partnership	October 17	Virtual	13
Forestry Heads	October 19	In person	17
SPREP Climate Outlook Meeting	October 25	In person	77

PHOVAPS Meeting (Animal Health and Production)	October 31	In person	41
Total Participants			285

What We Heard From Farmers

Efforts to strengthen agriculture begin with education and empowerment campaigns to attract a new generation, alongside investments in soil education. Empowering farmers' organizations ensures their voices in policy-making for more effective decisions as well as extending the reach of government and development partners in the areas of agriculture research and extension. Sustainable farming involves regenerative practices, supported by training and resources, including the preservation of plant genetic resources and crop biodiversity. Agroforestry and mixed cropping enhance productivity and ecological balance.

Engaging local communities revitalizes agriculture, through learning farms and preserving traditional knowledge. Empowering Indigenous entrepreneurship supports local economies. Effective policies involve consultations with stakeholders, tax incentives for sustainability, and quotas for women in leadership roles.

Collaboration and innovation, including digitalization, are crucial for progress. Local food production initiatives enhance food security and support small-scale producers. Diversifying agriculture reduces risks and monocropping's negative effects.

Preserving biodiversity and achieving food self-sufficiency are key for long-term sustainability, requiring forest restoration and reducing reliance on imports. This fosters resilience, equity, and environmental sustainability in agricultural systems.

During the Talanoas we encouraged participants to share their ideas in whatever way they wanted. Following the Farmer Talanoa, we received a written submission on behalf of TeiTei Tavenuni, a grassroots-led farmer organisation promoting sustainable agriculture on the island of Taveuni in Fiji. We include their letter here in full:

In 2050 we should grow/produce our own food – we will have real food security and be able to feed the ones coming to our shores as visitors/tourists.

We should have developed a production system that is resilient and productive, our land will be getting better and more productive year by year and the crops in our growing system will complement each other. The mineral density in the food must increase for better health.

To get there we will have to develop systems which rebuild our land's capacity as an opposite to declining productivity/declining soil fertility/declining nutritional value that is the result of our present systems.

To develop such a system we will all have to accept that we are dealing with a living system/ a living soil and we have to work for life/with life for rebuilding this living entity. It is called regenerative agriculture in today's language.

We do not know enough of the data for the Pacific to fully comprehend and implement regenerative practices – a part of the journey will be a reassessment of the learning institutions. We have to put money into research and training. Farmer organisations and universities must collaborate in more participatory research and shared learnings. Facilitated extension, a bottom up approach, with government and policy makers and farmers all working together with nature to develop a system to be able to produce nutrient dense foods for our future generations .

We have to develop local input solutions, local recycling, ecosystem based landcare, local knowledge and modern farming best practices to make it possible. We have to strive for what is called a circular economy.

We will need to work towards using our best lands for the most necessary crops – crops which will improve our food security and national economy.

Regenerative farming is about rebuilding the land's capacity. Due to the decline in soil fertility we are past the point where sustainability (= avoiding a further slide towards the bottom) is an option.

What We Heard From Foresters

In the pursuit of sustainability, managing the rainforest for its myriad products and ecosystem services is paramount, involving practices such as sustainable forest management and ongoing tree planting initiatives aimed at addressing diverse needs like climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation, food security, and timber production.

Preserving traditional agriculture knowledge while embracing constructive lessons learned and best practices forms a foundational aspect of sustainable agriculture. Combining this traditional wisdom with modern technology and evidence-based scientific approaches ensures a holistic and effective approach to agricultural development.

Enhancing farming systems through applied research and leveraging the expertise of community champions and professionals are essential strategies for fostering resilient and productive agricultural systems capable of meeting the challenges of the future.

Continued efforts to raise awareness and educate communities about sustainable practices and their benefits are crucial for fostering widespread adoption and long-term success. Sharing success stories serves to inspire and provide practical examples for emulation and improvement.

Identifying specific community needs and tailoring interventions to address them directly ensures efficient resource allocation and maximum impact. Leveraging existing resources and local assets for learning, preservation, and development further enhances sustainability and resilience.

Encouraging investment from resource owners and fostering partnerships between the public and private sectors are instrumental activities in driving sustainable development initiatives forward, leveraging diverse expertise, resources, and networks for collective progress.

What We Heard From Youth

Improving incentives in agriculture and forestry for youth involves creating career paths, increasing education supports, additional incentives for those already engaged in agriculture, and fostering partnerships between universities and governments in Pacific Islands. Programs and incentives for direct engagement in the field between professional graduates and farmers are needed.

Developing land use policies involves zoning regulations to protect agricultural land and collaboration among young farmers, agriculture ministries, and landowners for equitable resource access.

Addressing food supply challenges through policy changes and awareness campaigns involves farmers, policymakers, schools, and communities to promote agriculture as a viable career and ensure a healthier society.

Implementing school projects to replant coconuts and breadfruit, planting flowers for pollinators and pest reduction, and encouraging tree planting requires collaboration among various stakeholders. Children need to understand why they are planting trees, crops and flowers, learning about their contribution to food security, income generation, and environmental sustainability.

Initiatives to save our soil through organic farming and for banana flour production, promoting agroecological campaigns for climate resilience and food security, requiring collaboration among stakeholders.

Launching tree-growing campaigns aims to restore forests and mitigate climate change, requiring community engagement and government support for sustainability and biodiversity.

Integrating technology into agriculture includes initiatives like technology clusters, drone use for pest management, and training programs to enhance crop quality and involve more young farmers.

What We Heard From Researchers

Aiming for agricultural self-reliance involves prioritizing food security, reducing food imports, and combating non-communicable diseases through healthy, locally sourced food.

Building resilience in agriculture includes climate-smart practices, resilient farming techniques, precision agriculture, and adaptation of nutrition strategies to changing climate conditions.

Sustainability is promoted through responsible soil management, biodiversity conservation, and lessons from diversified forestry industries.

Embracing technology like mechanization and digitalization enhances productivity and professionalizes agriculture, with a focus on digital marketing and e-commerce.

Community engagement encourages valuing locally produced goods for self-sufficiency and community participation in food production.

Investment in research and development focuses on genetic improvement, pest management, and knowledge sharing for stable food production.

Updating policies and legislation, along with political will, supports sustainable economic growth and trade routes for agricultural produce.

Human capital development through education and mechanization is crucial for professionalizing agriculture.

Expanding forestry's role to include biodiversity conservation and addressing invasive species protects agriculture and forestry.

Growing from Strengths

The Pacific Islands possess unique strengths that can be leveraged to create a more regenerative and resilient future. When asked, foresters, farmers, communities and experts said our regional strengths include:

1. Rich diversity of agroecological zones, crops, and livestock.
2. A growing pool of human capital including farmers, researchers, entrepreneurs, and policymakers.
3. Traditional knowledge, cultural values, and community participation at the heart of agricultural and forestry practices.
4. History of and potential for regenerative and resilient agriculture and forestry systems.
5. Potential for agriculture and forestry to contribute to the well-being of people, prosperity of economies, and conservation of the environment.
6. Traditional agriculture and indigenous crops and livestock.
7. Inclusive and participatory governance systems.
8. Youth and women's critical role in the sector's development and sustainability.
9. Biodiversity and ecosystem services that are important for food security, cultural heritage, and environmental sustainability.
10. Regional and national policies and strategies for agriculture and forestry.
11. Multi-stakeholder platforms for dialogue, decision-making, and collaboration.
12. Collective voice and bargaining power of PICs to access regional and global markets, financing, and technical assistance.
13. Access to international, regional and national financing sources for agriculture and forestry initiatives.
14. Access to training and education opportunities in agriculture and forestry.
15. Protected areas and community-based conservation programs.
16. Regional and national policies for climate-smart agriculture and forestry.
17. Certification and labeling schemes to promote quality standards and market access.
18. Existing networks and partnerships for research and development in agriculture and forestry.
19. Potential for ecotourism and nature-based enterprises to enhance biodiversity conservation.
20. The presence of local and national farmer organisations providing important services to farmers as well as an effective regional network that brings these farmer organisations together.

Overcoming Challenges

The Pacific Region faces many significant challenges. We view these challenges as signals that the status quo is unsustainable and transformational change is urgently needed.

Climate change and land use impacts:

- Increasing frequency and magnitude of extreme weather events
- Increasing coastal inundation and salinification

- Changing rainfall patterns and temperatures
- Increasing pests and diseases and decreasing pollinators
- Decreasing food security
- Loss of coastal and marine resources
- Increasing species extinction
- Decreasing availability of arable land due to urbanization, tourism and industry
- Continued conversion of forest land into agriculture
- Increasing soil erosion on mechanized farms

Socioeconomic and health challenges:

- Decreasing sovereign rents and non-tax revenues
- Lack of private sector investment
- Expensive international freight and limited market access
- Increasing imports of cheap, highly processed food
- Increasing prevalence of non-communicable diseases
- Outmigration of Pacific Islanders for seasonal work creates labour shortages
- Continued shortfall in extension workers
- Decreasing youth interest in farming

Our strategy recognizes and addresses these challenges, drawing on regional strengths and international partnerships to transition to the agriculture and forestry system the future requires of us.

A Compelling Future Vision for 2050

In 2050, the Pacific Islands will stand as a beacon of regenerative agriculture, agroecology and biodiversity, fostering prosperous and thriving communities through resilience, cooperation and shared opportunities.

We envision a vibrant and interconnected Pacific where agroecological, regenerative and resilient production systems, championed by farmers, foresters, livestock owners and youth, lead to thriving and educated Island communities, self-sufficiency, and regenerative agriculture, with an emphasis on biodiversity, affordable and healthy food access for all, and the integration of science, technology and traditional skills, while promoting resilience, economic viability, cooperation and shared opportunities.

Stated simply, our vision is a healthy, regenerative and secure Pacific.

“our vision is a healthy, regenerative and secure Pacific”

Pathways to Achieve the Vision

Weaving natural materials to form useful, strong and beautiful tools is part of our Pacific heritage, and an inspiration for us. In this strategy, there are five mutually supporting pathways that will lead us towards our shared vision. We imagine these pathways as interwoven healthy, regenerative and secure practices that guide us towards our desired future of systemic wellbeing, prosperity and resilience. These practices are enveloped by aligned policies and actions that ensure viability, and by enabled women, youth and diverse community, who have the skills, knowledge and resources to assure success.



1. Integrated: Aligning Policies and Actions to Accelerate Transition

- Align with the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and report contributions towards the themes of People-Centered Development, Resources And Economic Development and Climate Change And Disasters.
- Align with international agencies, frameworks and initiatives contributing to sector transition (see Appendix B).
- Develop policies on land use, and ensure agricultural land remains available for production.
- Develop policies to promote agroecological practices to enhance ecosystem services that support clean water, biodiversity and soil health.

- Establish multi-stakeholder platforms that includes farmers and foresters through their organisations, private sector and civil society organisations for dialogue and decision-making to ensure inclusive governance.
- International partnerships to address transboundary forest and agriculture issues.
- Collaborate across ministries (education, health, trade, tourism, finance, environment etc.) both internally and across the region to create holistic approaches to complex problem solving in agriculture and forestry
- Strengthen regulatory frameworks to promote transparency and accountability in agriculture and forestry and combat illegal trade.
- Incentivize transition to agriculture and forestry with regenerative outcomes.
- Incentivize private sector investment and entrepreneurship in market-creating and market-shaping initiatives to grow agro-processing and value added industries.

- Indicator of Success: Increased adoption of integrated, regenerative land use practices, evidenced by reduced deforestation rates, improved soil health, and increased regenerative practices.

2. Healthy: Promoting Health and Well-being Through Agriculture and Forestry

- Adoption of a One Health approach to ensure the health and well-being of humans, animals, plants and ecosystems are interconnected and addressed holistically in agricultural and forestry practices.
- Improve soil quality and fertility to improve plant health.
- Promote regenerative production systems that contribute to ecosystem services and climate resilience, including agroforestry, permaculture and organic farming.
- Establish guidelines for sustainable forest management and forest conservation, addressing the challenge of forest based economies and pathways to economic diversification, biodiversity protection, and ecosystem restoration.
- Reintegrate livestock as a vital component of regenerative agriculture to build topsoil, reduce synthetic fertiliser use and convert human indigestible biomass into protein.
- Utilize biocontrols as more sustainable solutions for pest management.
- Encourage community-based and school-based initiatives for promoting healthy and affordable eating habits and lifestyles.
- Improve the accessibility and availability of healthy local foods through reliable and cost-effective distribution.
- Support improved nutrition outcomes through a food systems approach.
- Increase public awareness of the nutritional content of traditional and locally produced food and food as medicine.
- Support research and development of traditional medicine derived from forest resources for healthcare.
- Promote access and availability to traditional medicinal plants and raw materials for handicrafts.

- Indicator of Success: Increased availability and consumption of locally produced sustainably grown produce, leading to improved public health outcomes and reduced environmental impact.

3. Regenerative: Ensuring Long-Term Health of Agriculture and Forestry Systems

- Accelerate decarbonisation of the agriculture and forestry sector, including scope one, two and three emissions.
- Facilitate data gathering, data analysis, knowledge sharing and capacity building, including for regenerative business practice.
- Contribute to implementation of the *Pacific Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics*.¹⁴
- Develop strategies for monitoring and evaluating forest health and resilience, strengthening forest governance frameworks and trade.
- Promote afforestation and reforestation initiatives, integrating climate-smart practices and biodiversity conservation into forest management plans.
- Create training and capacity-building programs for forest-dependent communities.
- Recognize the role of indigenous communities in forest stewardship, forestry decision making and agricultural practices, ensuring the protection of indigenous rights and traditional knowledge.
- Establish regional research and development networks that put farmers and agribusinesses at the centre to promote innovation and knowledge sharing.
- Develop digital platforms for data sharing and communication to facilitate access to information and best practices.
- Engage with media and social media to enable agricultural extension, ecommerce and market connections.
- Invest in scientific research, technical capacity building, and support systems to develop innovative solutions for regenerative agriculture and forestry practices.
- Foster formal public-private partnerships with mutual accountability for sustainable investment in regenerative agriculture and forestry along the whole value chain.

- Indicator of Success: Increased adoption of regenerative practices and technologies, leading to improved productivity and resilience in agriculture and forestry.

4. Secure: Ensuring Food and Economic Security for All

- Increase market responsiveness through education and mentorship, and strengthen value chains for agriculture and forestry products to increase competitiveness and profitability.
- Support public health initiatives to reduce non-communicable diseases through improved access to healthy local foods.

¹⁴ <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/3be8c71e-a75a-48f5-8f37-7c2f33f08b63>

- Promote diversification of crops and livestock to enhance resilience to climate change and market fluctuations.
- Reduce reliance on imported animal feed
- Promote the roles of livestock and non-wood forest products in food and nutrition security.
- Strengthen value chains for non-timber forest products to create alternative income sources for forest-dependent communities.
- Support local regenerative agribusinesses to adopt innovative practices and access new export markets.
- Establish robust biosecurity systems to prevent the spread of invasive species, diseases, and pests that threaten agricultural and forestry production, through strict quarantine measures, monitoring programs, and public awareness campaigns.
- Conserve Pacific agrobiodiversity through the preservation of traditional crop varieties, establishment of seed banks, livestock genetic resources, and promotion of on-farm conservation practices.
- Mainstream valuation of and revenue streams for forestry and agriculture ecosystem services, including climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- Establish disaster risk financing mechanisms to mitigate the impact of natural disasters on agriculture and forestry.
- Ensure access to reliable, affordable and healthy food imports as a complement to local production and achieve food security.

- Indicator of Success: Diversified, resilient and viable value chains, leading to increased incomes for farmers and improved food security for communities.

5. Enabled: Empowering Youth, Women, and Community Members in All Their Diversities in Agriculture and Forestry

- Establish a Pacific Agriculture and Forestry Youth and Women Network to promote leadership and participation.
- Increase integration of agriculture and forestry education in schools.
- Fill the gaps in education pathways to meet the future talent needs of the agriculture and forestry sector.
- Provide training and education opportunities for youth and women in regenerative agriculture, livestock and forestry practices, and business management for farmers and value-added industries.
- Support community-led initiatives to ensure equitable access to resources for marginalized groups.
- Establish youth and women-led agribusiness incubators and networks to promote entrepreneurship and innovation.

- Indicator of Success: Increased representation of youth and women in decision-making roles, leading to more inclusive and equitable development in agriculture and forestry.

What is at Stake

At stake is the very future of our Pacific way of life. Our agricultural and forestry systems are under threat from a multitude of challenges, including extreme weather events, invasive species, unsustainable practices, youth out-migration, and limited access to finance and markets. If we do not act decisively, we risk losing not only our ability to feed ourselves but also our cultural identity, economic prosperity, and environmental resilience.

Based on engagement with the Pacific Heads of Agriculture and Forestry, farmers, foresters, youth, and subject matter experts, four possible, plausible and diverse future scenarios were developed to understand how events and choices could shape our reality by 2050. These scenarios span from the possibility of collapse to the promise of transition. Summaries of two extremes illustrate the importance and urgency of taking action together today.

The Most Dangerous Scenario: Collapse

In the late 2020s and early 2030s, Pacific Islands embraced cutting-edge technologies and intensive forestry and agriculture methods to enhance production and living standards. Mechanization and AI automated many jobs, yielding high profits and mitigating labor shortages. However, this approach later led to soil infertility, pollution, and invasive species, depleting natural resources and reducing crop yields permanently, impacting both the economy and food security. Forest and agricultural intensification also heightened zoonotic disease incidences, posing pandemic threats. Poor diet and declining mental health worsened health outcomes.

Youth and others fled the region, seeking stability elsewhere, exacerbating local income decline and inequality. Abandoned advanced technologies further strained the economy. Eventually, governments collapsed, and the region includes multiple failed states. Organized crime flourished, with drug crops and hydroponic cannabis production proliferating. Shadow governments attempt control and basic service provision, but security remains elusive.

The Most Desirable Scenario: Transformation

With climate activists leading the charge, global cooperation on emissions reduction is gaining traction. Adoption of the COP loss and damage fund aids nations with limited resources in adapting to ongoing effects. Regenerative agriculture and forestry thrive in the Pacific, bolstered by increased educational opportunities. Government support makes local products affordable, spurring international interest, especially since charismatic celebrity chefs have been broadcasting their love of native ingredients. Agritourism is on the rise across the region, offering experiential learning opportunities. While technology is prevalent, it must align with regional ethical standards. Some tech firms opt out due to restrictions, but new regulations attract global attention from those interested in a sustainable path forward. Despite growth in regenerative tech education, some resistance occurs due to perceived radical changes. Overall, though, the future is bright, people are healthy and the soil is replenished.

A Call to Action

The Pacific Agriculture and Forestry Strategy offers a bold and achievable roadmap for transforming our agricultural and forestry sectors. By aligning policies and actions, promoting health and sustainability, ensuring food and economic security, and empowering our youth, women, and communities, we can build a future where agriculture and forestry are not only sources of sustenance but also sources of pride, identity, and inspiration for generations to come. Together, let us seize this opportunity to shape a more regenerative and resilient future for the Pacific.

Therefore, we call upon:

Farmers and Foresters: Lead the transition to regenerative practices and collaborate with researchers and extension services to implement innovative solutions.

Youth: Choose careers in agriculture and forestry and actively engage in shaping the future of our food systems.

Women: Be visible role models and advocates for gender equality in agriculture and forestry.

Policymakers: Contextualize the strategy emphasizing unique regional strengths and challenges and prioritize regenerative development in policy decisions.

Consumers: Buy local, eat local and support local regenerative producers to create market signals for regenerative agriculture and forestry.

Value Chain Actors: Identify and implement business opportunities that promote regenerative practices and create efficient integration within value chains.

Extension Services: Innovate to improve the performance of agroecological systems and ensure the dissemination of knowledge and best practices.

Governments: Provide the necessary support, including financing, institutional strengthening, and educational pathways to enable the implementation of the strategy.

Funders: Invest in the transition to regenerative agriculture and forestry by harmonizing your contributions with our regional strategy to ensure long-term food security, economic prosperity, and environmental conservation in the Pacific.

Next Steps

The ambitions outlined here will serve as the foundation for development of a 5 year Growing the Pacific implementation plan that will address priority setting, leadership roles and resource allocation. Included in that document will be specific, measurable and achievable targets that can be integrated into practice. The intention is for this path forward to be incorporated into national planning efforts in ways that are appropriate and specific to their contexts.

A representative group will be tasked with clearly defining roles for stakeholders, from funders, governments, the private sector, Farmer Organisations, to NGOs in this holistic plan so that resources are effectively channeled to the bigger purpose.

Overall, we will work together to set time-bound targets for increased investment in agriculture and forestry throughout the region to accelerate the transition to a healthy, regenerative and secure future.

Review of accomplishments should be scheduled on a regular basis and updates to the strategy considered. As an interconnected, learning region, there is the opportunity for the Pacific to share lessons of agroecological transition going forward. This strategy can serve as a platform to enable that transformational growth.

Appendix A: Methodology

This strategy was developed as a foresight informed undertaking in order to best prepare the Pacific Island Agriculture and Forestry sector to build resilience for an uncertain future. The effort was participatory and Pacific led, with the support of SPC and the consultant strategic foresight team providing knowledge of methods to the process.

Step 1: Information Gathering

- A Governance Group of representative Heads of Agriculture and Forestry across the region was assembled to provide oversight to the strategy development process
- To gather information from regional subject matter experts, the consultant team conducted 15 hour long semi-structured interviews with individuals and groups via phone or video call between September and November 2023.
- Nine online and in person workshops were conducted in the same timeframe with a total of 285 participants, leveraging existing technical working groups and directly engaging youth and farmer organizations. The workshops followed a “3 Horizons” framework to identify preferred futures and articulate pathways for achieving those goals. Perspectives gathered at these sessions informed subsequent research and framed stakeholder objectives for the strategy.
- Reviews of all available national Agriculture and Forestry strategies in the region were completed to identify both common and differentiated key areas of concern, current accomplishments and intentions going forward.
- An extensive Horizon Scan was prepared by the consultant group and validated by the Governance Group to identify emerging trends and weak signals of change that are likely to impact Agriculture and Forestry in the region over the next 25 years.
- A workshop in Suva, Fiji in December 2023 convened the Governance Group to describe the current state, long-term trajectory, and desired 2050 future state for the Pacific agriculture and forestry system. The workshop ran for three days and involved a series of participatory foresight activities. Outcomes included identification of critical future uncertainties to be aware of and clarification of intent with respect to both regional alignment and varied national requirements.

Step 2: Information Processing

- Based on findings from the initial information gathering, four Scenarios of possible differentiated futures were created, incorporating trends and critical uncertainties from the previous work session. These narratives encompassed provocative but plausible explorations of what could unfold in the Pacific Islands:
 - Profit driven with Conservative approaches includes thriving agribusiness, managed climate impacts and cultural appreciation
 - Profit driven with reformist approaches results in declining forest health and agricultural intensification with extreme climate impacts

- Planet first with conservative approaches includes a highly regulated region with reduced prosperity overall but deepened community connections and support
 - Planet first with reformist approaches embraces regenerative practices with ethical technology resulting in ecosystem health
-
- A second three day workshop attended by a wider group of Heads of Agriculture and Forestry from the region was convened in Nadi, Fiji, in March 2024
 - An interactive research informed game was developed to provide an immersive experience for participants and explore the impacts of system-wide decision making about Agriculture and Forestry over the course of three decades. In a sequential, marketplace exchange, players took on roles (as Growers, Agribusiness, Consumers, Government, Funders or Youth) and made choices to strategize and adapt to changing environmental, economic and social conditions. Collaborative gameplay, including cooperation and negotiation, were required to attempt to avoid collapse and steer towards a sustainable future. The end state of the game could conclude in one of the four possible futures previously identified depending on choices made. The game provided a powerful platform for discussion of holistic and systemic approaches to addressing change within the sector.
 - Translating insights developed through shared discussion, a series of backcasts of critical change requirements in order to achieve intended outcomes between today and 2050 were identified.

Step 3: Information Translation to Strategy

- In order to provide implementation context, workshop participants drafted a system map of intersecting influencers and stakeholders that will affect or be affected by the strategy.
- Obstacles to success and opportunities for change were identified.
- The Governance Group drafted key messages to guide the development of critical components of the strategy.
- A draft strategy has been prepared and circulated for review by Heads of Agriculture and Forestry

Appendix B: Aligning with Agencies, Frameworks and Initiatives

This section outlines the major actors in the Pacific working at a range of scales across the region. A key issue moving forward is how to maximize the alignment between different agencies involved in the Agriculture and Forestry sectors. The goal of this section is that by understanding the work programmes of different actors in the region then individual PICT governments and agencies using this document are able to more effectively align their work with the work being done by others in the Pacific and in doing so amplify the use of the resources available through donor harmonisation. Increased alignment to regional and international organisations' own programs by PICTs will maximise the comparative advantage for the region in the medium and long term.

There are four levels of alignment (International, Regional, National, and Sub-National) that can occur in the region – but this will not be necessary for all projects and policies – and the main focus in this section is on international and regional organisations.

International these are organizations that have an international remit but cover the Pacific region as part of this work – these include agencies such as the Un and the World Bank.

Regional these are organizations that cover the Pacific region only – this includes the CROP agencies.

National these are the respective national governments covered by this strategy

Sub-National a number of countries in the region have sub-national units such the Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, and Solomon Islands. A number of these sub-national actors have substantial impact on their countries respective Agriculture and Forestry sectors such as the role of the Eastern Highland Province, Western Highland Province, and Simbu in coffee production in Papua New Guinea and Guadalcanal and Western provinces being the source of over 50% of Solomon Islands' logging exports.

We have not included bi-lateral donors and international non-profits in this section. The reason for this is that their funding is very specific, generally, on country-specific programming and is something then that each PICT will be more able to effectively engage with at a local national (or sub-national level).

International Agencies

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

The ADB's focus is on reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific. It does through a range of programs, including directed loans, focused on achieving inclusive and environmentally sustainable economic growth. In the Pacific it's work in the Agriculture and Forestry sectors is focused on two key areas in its funding assistance, these being: Long-Term Food Security and the Future of Agriculture.

United Nations Agencies and Sub-Agencies

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

The FAO is focused on agri-food systems transformation but largely within the context of the SDGs. They are also doing innovative work around production and fertiliser use reporting. The regional contact is the sub-regional office in Apia, Samoa. The FAO are also beginning to apply a new "One Health" approach to accelerate agri-food systems transformation in the Pacific region which is based on the holistic understanding of the fundamental interconnections between the health of people, animals (terrestrial and aquatic), plants and the environment. (Connections to programming with SPC and SPREP at the regional level and WOA, UNEP, and WHO at the international level.)

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

IFAD is a multilateral development organisation which is part of the UN system and which focuses exclusively on rural economies and food security. IFAD's work in the Pacific is focused on: (a) climate-smart and nutrition-sensitive agriculture; (b) facilitating market access and connectivity; and (c) building institutional capacities. In addition it also operates the Pacific

Islands Rural and Agriculture Stimulus (PIRAS) Facility which supports food system and economic recovery following COVID-19.

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

The ILO's work focuses on bringing together governments, employers and workers representatives in order to set labour standards and promote policies and programs that enable decent work for all people. In the Pacific recent work has focused on training initiatives for new generations of agricultural workers.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

The IPCC is the scientific organisation brought together by the UN in order to monitor and assess all global science related to climate change. In addition to their work overall of climate change monitoring the IPCC also supports works on monitoring pests and diseases in the PICTs as well as overall phytosanitary (plant health) in the region.

International Trade Centre (ITC)

The ITC has a dual mandate through UNCTAD and the WTO in the provision of support to policymakers and governments to ensure that strategies and policies work to facilitate trade and, in doing so, support economic growth. Recent Pacific regions focused work has including holding a Pacific Women in Export Leadership Workshop to promote Pacific export to alternative markets.

UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

The UNEP is the organisation tasked with coordinating responses to environmental issues within the United Nations system. In the Pacific region they provide support around environmental and biodiversity reporting – specifically through their 'State of the Environment' reports. Their regional partner for this work in the Pacific is SPREP.

UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP)

The ESCAP Subregional Office for the Pacific is based in Suva, Fiji. The Subregional focus is on: (a) National Planning and Policy Coherence; (b) 2030 Agenda and related Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway; (c) Social Inclusion and Equality; (d) Climate Action and Resources Management; and (e) Data and Statistics.

UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

UNCDF makes public and private finance work for the poor in the world's 46 least developed countries (LDCs). This includes the following countries in the Pacific region: Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. More recent work in the region has focused on the Pacific Insurance and Climate Adaptation Programme (PICAP). This is a multi-year Programme that is jointly implemented by UNCDF, UNDP and the UN University – Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS).

UN Women

UN Women champions gender equality in the international system. They undertake a range of projects to promote women's role in the agriculture and forestry sectors. For example, UN Women have partnered with the FAO in the creation of a programme that instructs women on climate-resilient farming in sub-Saharan Africa but this is not yet available in the Pacific region.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

UNCTAD works to formulate policies relating to various aspects of development, including trade, aid, transport, finance and technology. Work in the Pacific has tended to focus more issues to do with pollution and digital access as well as some recent work on Pacific Island's agricultural sectors access to markets.

United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

The UNDP is focused on supporting countries to eliminate poverty and achieve sustainable economic growth and human development. They run a range of programs in the Pacific focused on: (a) effective governance; (b) inclusive growth; and (c) resilience and climate change.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

UNESCO's focus is on promoting world peace and security through international cooperation through the education, arts, sciences and cultural sectors. Active in the Pacific it has a long term focus on a range of initiatives including Indigenous Knowledge and Intangible Cultural Heritage.

World Food Program (WFP)

WFP focuses largely on emergency food relief. In addition to this though it provides a range of technical and development assistance in terms of managing logistics and supply chains, building capacity around emergency preparedness and response, as well as strengthening resilience against climate change. In the Pacific their work focuses on food security and nutrition, particularly around social protection interventions.

World Health Organization (WHO)

The WHO is the UN agency responsible for international public health. In the Pacific much work is focused on the impacts of climate change and of the high prevalence of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) which include cardiovascular diseases and diabetes which are directly connected to diet. They are also part of the broader group of agencies participating in the One Health reporting.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

The WMO is a specialised agency within the UN which is tasked with promoting international cooperation on atmospheric science, climatology, hydrology and geophysics. In the Pacific their work is focused on weather forecasting and supporting responses to weather patterns such as El Niño / La Niña and droughts as well as catastrophic weather events such as cyclones.

World Bank

The largest global funder of agricultural development assistance the World Bank is increasingly focused on these four strategic areas: Climate-Smart Agriculture; Data-Driven Digital Agriculture; Mobilizing Capital for Development in Agriculture & Food; Public Policy and Expenditure; and Food and Nutrition Security.

World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)

WOAH provides and shares information around animal health and associated veterinary information. They are part of the group participating in the One Health reporting in the region.

World Trade Organisation (WTO)

Concerned to ensure that trade flows as smoothly and predictably as possible across different countries and regions the organization is concerned with establishing and monitoring the rules of trade between countries and regions. On food trade their key partners in the Pacific are WOAH and IPPC with workstreams aligning with the Southwest Pacific Codex Initiative.

International Frameworks

The UN frameworks are implemented and reported by individual countries. Each PICT is a member of the various UN agencies responsible for implementing and reporting on the global frameworks. In addition, there are existing reports that can be drawn from for data collection and reporting to support monitoring.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The 17 individual Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by all UN member nations are based on three high-level goals. These are: (1) economic growth, (2) social inclusion and (3) environmental protection.

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) for the monitoring of the UNFCCC. This monitoring requires a range of different inputs from different UN member countries as part of the global stocktake with these varying depending on National Determined Contributions.

International Initiatives

Southwest Pacific Codex Initiative

This is a capacity building project designed to enhance Codex competencies in the Southwest Pacific in order to promote effective participation by the region's delegations in international food standard setting activities as part of the establishment of national food regulatory requirements in the sub-region.

Regional Agencies

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

The SPC is focused on development in the Pacific region and primarily focuses on the provision of technical and scientific advice as well as acting as a conduit for funding of development projects from donor nations. They are the home of the Pacific Data Hub and are a part of the group participating in the One Health reporting.

Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP)

The mission of the PIDP is to assist Pacific Islands' leaders to advance their collective efforts to achieve and sustain equitable social and economic development. As a think tank they hold a range of Knowledge Development events including program exchanges and conferences.

Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)

The FFA works to facilitate regional co-operation and co-ordination on fisheries policies in the Pacific. With a specific focus on conservation and the optimum utilisation of living marine

resources in the region in a sustainable manner recent work has focused on aquaculture and on the importance of traditional land tenure systems.

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)

PIFS works to enhance cooperation among PICTs. Their work is focused on these seven pillars: (a) Political Leadership and Regionalism; (b) People-Centered Development; (c) Peace and Security; (d) Resources and Economic Development; (e) Climate Change and Disasters; (f) Ocean and Environment; and (g) Technology and Connectivity. They are the lead organisation for the '2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent'.

Pacific Tourism Organisation (PTO)

The PTO works to promote and develop tourism in the Pacific in overseas markets. A small part of their work is focused on agritourism.

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

SPREP focuses on the protection and sustainable development of the Pacific region's natural resources. They have four key work streams, which are: (a) Climate Change Resilience; (b) Environmental Governance; (c) Island and Ocean Ecosystems; and (d) Waste Management and Pollution Control. Other sub-sections include work as a part of the term working on the One Health reporting.

The University of the South Pacific (USP)

USP is a public research university with campus locations across a dozen PICTs in the broader Pacific region. They teach a wide range of courses and do research on a large number of research topics including Agriculture and Forestry – with the key focus for this being on the Apia campus in Samoa.

Appendix B: Methodology

This strategy was developed as a foresight informed undertaking in order to best prepare the Pacific Island Agriculture and Forestry sector to build resilience for an uncertain future. The effort was participatory and Pacific led, with the support of SPC and the consultant strategic foresight team providing knowledge of methods to the process.

Step 1: Information Gathering

- A Governance Group of representative Heads of Agriculture and Forestry across the region was assembled to provide oversight to the strategy development process
- To gather information from regional subject matter experts, the consultant team conducted 15 hour long semi-structured interviews with individuals and groups via phone or video call between September and November 2023.
- Nine online and in person workshops were conducted in the same timeframe with a total of 285 participants, leveraging existing technical working groups and directly engaging youth and farmer organizations. The workshops followed a “3 Horizons” framework to identify preferred futures and articulate pathways for achieving those goals. Perspectives gathered at these sessions informed subsequent research and framed stakeholder objectives for the strategy.
- Reviews of all available national Agriculture and Forestry strategies in the region were completed to identify both common and differentiated key areas of concern, current accomplishments and intentions going forward.
- An extensive Horizon Scan was prepared by the consultant group and validated by the Governance Group to identify emerging trends and weak signals of change that are likely to impact Agriculture and Forestry in the region over the next 25 years.
- A workshop in Suva, Fiji in December 2023 convened the Governance Group to describe the current state, long-term trajectory, and desired 2050 future state for the Pacific agriculture and forestry system. The workshop ran for three days and involved a series of participatory foresight activities. Outcomes included identification of critical future uncertainties to be aware of and clarification of intent with respect to both regional alignment and varied national requirements.

Step 2: Information Processing

- Based on findings from the initial information gathering, four Scenarios of possible differentiated futures were created, incorporating trends and critical uncertainties from the previous work session. These narratives encompassed provocative but plausible explorations of what could unfold in the Pacific Islands:
 - Profit driven with Conservative approaches includes thriving agribusiness, managed climate impacts and cultural appreciation
 - Profit driven with reformist approaches results in declining forest health and agricultural intensification with extreme climate impacts
 - Planet first with conservative approaches includes a highly regulated region with reduced prosperity overall but deepened community connections and support

- Planet first with reformist approaches embraces regenerative practices with ethical technology resulting in ecosystem health

- A second three day workshop attended by a wider group of Heads of Agriculture and Forestry from the region was convened in Nadi, Fiji, in March 2024
- An interactive research informed game was developed to provide an immersive experience for participants and explore the impacts of system-wide decision making about Agriculture and Forestry over the course of three decades. In a sequential, marketplace exchange, players took on roles (as Growers, Agribusiness, Consumers, Government, Funders or Youth) and made choices to strategize and adapt to changing environmental, economic and social conditions. Collaborative gameplay, including cooperation and negotiation, were required to attempt to avoid collapse and steer towards a sustainable future. The end state of the game could conclude in one of the four possible futures previously identified depending on choices made. The game provided a powerful platform for discussion of holistic and systemic approaches to addressing change within the sector.
- Translating insights developed through shared discussion, a series of backcasts of critical change requirements in order to achieve intended outcomes between today and 2050 were identified.

Step 3: Information Translation to Strategy

- In order to provide implementation context, workshop participants drafted a system map of intersecting influencers and stakeholders that will affect or be affected by the strategy.
- Obstacles to success and opportunities for change were identified.
- The Governance Group drafted key messages to guide the development of critical components of the strategy.
- A draft strategy has been prepared and circulated for review by Heads of Agriculture and Forestry