



For the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence campaign, we asked SPC directors and staff to share a few words on the importance of gender equality and the need to eliminate all forms of violence against women. Here is what they said:

***'Violence against women does challenge food security. Therefore, as policy makers, we all need to work together to put in place and implement policies that protect women in the agriculture sector.'***

***Inoke Ratukalou, Director, Land Resources Division, Pacific Community***

*Women are playing a critical role in food security and in agricultural value chains; however, when a woman is subject to domestic violence, it affects her capacity to produce and process food and this affects her whole family. Many farmers also face other forms of violence at the market where they sell their produce.*

*Violence against women does challenge food security. Therefore, as policy makers, we all need to work together to put in place and implement policies that protect women in the agriculture sector. It starts by recognizing that this is a real problem encountered by many farmers, and the women producing our food. We also need to use approaches when we deliver our services that empower women to be successful farmers, to be able to negotiate a fair wage for their work, and to be respected.*

*The 16 days of activism campaign, which runs every year from 25 November – International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women – to 10 December – Human Rights Day – calls for the elimination of violence against women and invites everyone to take action against it.*