



# VANUATU

## COUNTRY FACTSHEET



Pacific  
Community  
Communauté  
du Pacifique

### POLITICAL STATUS



Independence : 1980

### LAND AREA



12,281 km<sup>2</sup>,  
83 Main Islands

### CAPITAL



Port Vila

### LANGUAGES



English, French, Bislama  
and about 138 local  
languages

DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS	VALUE	YEAR
Total Population	300,019	2020
Rural Population (% of total population)	77.6%	2023
Average Annual Population Growth	2.38%	2009 - 2020
AGRICULTURE INDICATORS	VALUE	YEAR
Agriculture sector (primary sector) contribution to GDP	20%	2012
Ratio of food imports/agriculture exports	1.15	2011
Ratio of food imports/total imports	0.2	2011
Employment in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	61%	2020
TRADE INDICATORS	VALUE	YEAR
GDP per Capita	3,231.4 USD	2022 (World Bank)
Total Exports	5,451 million Vatu	2019
Kava (% of total exports)	57%	2019

## VANUATU AGRICULTURE SECTOR AGENDA

### Thematic area 2. Extension and Training

- Qualified and competent agriculture workforce.
- Widespread coverage of agriculture information.

### Thematic area 4. Agriculture Land Use

- Vanuatu agriculture land appropriately allocated according to land use policy.

### Thematic area 5. Agriculture Investment

- Agriculture sector the leading domestic and foreign direct investment option.

### Thematic area 6. Research and Development

- Quality and productive agriculture produce.

### Thematic area 7. Planting Materials, Tools, and Agricultural Inputs

- Agricultural seeds, planting materials and inputs readily available and accessible.

### Thematic area 8. Environmental Protection and Sustainable Farming

- Environmentally friendly agriculture.
- Agriculture soils improved and conserved.

### Thematic area 9. Production and Market Access

- Sufficient and surplus agriculture outputs.
- Stakeholders' income and revenue base increased.

### Thematic area 10. Food Security

- Food and nutrition security needs of Vanuatu adequately met by all stakeholders.

### Thematic area 12. Climate Variability, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction

- Disaster and climate resilient agriculture.

### Thematic area 13. Gender and Vulnerable Groups.

- Equal opportunities in agriculture development.

## NATIONAL GOALS (NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2016 - 2030)

1. A vibrant cultural identity underpinning a peaceful, just, and inclusive society.
2. Supported by responsive and capable state institutions delivering quality public services, including health and education, to all citizens.
3. Maintaining a pristine natural environment on land and at sea that serves our food, cultural, economic, and ecological needs.
4. With enhanced resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change and natural disasters.
5. A stable economy based on equitable, sustainable growth that creates jobs and income earning opportunities accessible to all people in rural and urban areas.

## AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY SECTOR CHALLENGES 2024/25

CHALLENGES	EFFECTS
<b>Tropical Cyclones</b> Cyclone Pam (2015) and Cyclone Harold (2020).	<b>Agricultural Losses:</b> Significant reductions in crop production and livestock, leading to economic losses and food insecurity. For instance, Cyclone Pam caused a 15.8% drop in agricultural output and an estimated \$167 million loss from Cyclone Harold.
<b>Volcanic Eruptions</b> Eruptions on Ambae and Ambrym islands.	
<b>Pest Infestations</b> 2019 coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB).	<b>Economic Losses:</b> Natural disasters cause substantial economic damage. For example, Cyclone Pam caused VT 6.1 billion in damage, approximately 10% of GDP.
	<b>Decline in Biodiversity:</b> Damage to coastal marine habitats (coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass beds) reduces biodiversity and the sustainability of marine resources.
	<b>Infrastructure Damage:</b> Fisheries infrastructure, including boats and fishing gear, is often destroyed, affecting both commercial and subsistence fishing activities.

Source: World Bank: *Dealing with Disasters - Analysing Vanuatu's economy and public finances through the lens of disaster resilience. 2021*

## PRIORITIES FOR PARTNERSHIP WITH SPC LAND RESOURCES DIVISION (LRD)

VANUATU PRIORITY AREAS	SPC LAND RESOURCES DIVISION KEY RESULT AREAS	SDGS
<p><b>Disaster Preparedness:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop robust disaster management strategies, including early warning systems and rapid response plans.</li> <li>Develop and promote agricultural practices that enhance resilience to the increasing pest activities exacerbated by climate change.</li> </ul>	<p><b>KRA 2:</b> Increased adoption of Sustainable Land Management plans, policies, approaches and technologies</p> <p><b>KRA 5:</b> Resilient agricultural, land and forestry production systems</p>	
<p><b>Climate-Resilient Agriculture:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement agricultural practices that enhance resilience to climate change, such as drought-resistant crops and sustainable land management.</li> </ul>	<p><b>KRA 2:</b> Increased adoption of Sustainable Land Management plans, policies, approaches and technologies</p>	
<p><b>Water Management:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invest in water storage and irrigation systems to mitigate the impact of water scarcity.</li> </ul>	<p><b>KRA 5:</b> Resilient agricultural, land and forestry production systems</p>	
<p><b>Sustainable Practices:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote sustainable agricultural practices to adapt to changing climatic conditions.</li> </ul>	<p><b>KRA 2:</b> Increased adoption of Sustainable Land Management plans, policies, approaches and technologies</p>	
<p><b>Containment and Control of Pest Infestations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Addressing significant pest threats, such as the coconut rhinoceros beetle.</li> <li>Considering integrated pest management (IPM) approaches that combine biological, cultural, and mechanical control methods to reduce reliance on synthetic pesticides.</li> </ul>	<p><b>KRA 4:</b> Environmental food safety, SPS and other voluntary standards and certifications strengthened</p> <p><b>KRA 8:</b> Enhancing technologies adopted and implemented in Crop production, soil health, water, pest and disease management and animal husbandry</p>	
<p><b>Access to Agrichemicals and Alternatives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Addressing the negative side effects of rising synthetic pesticide use, including contamination of soil, water, and vegetation, and toxicity to non-target organisms.</li> <li>Promoting the use of environmentally friendly and sustainable pest control methods to minimise adverse impacts on the ecosystem.</li> </ul>	<p><b>KRA 4:</b> Environmental food safety, SPS and other voluntary standards and certifications strengthened</p> <p><b>KRA 8:</b> Enhancing technologies adopted and implemented in Crop production, soil health, water, pest and disease management and animal husbandry</p>	



## INTERVENTIONS OFFERED IN VANUATU, 2023

THEME	ACTIVITY
Genetic Resources Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CePaCT distributed one sweet potato accession to Vanuatu.</li> <li>Vanuatu signed a standard material transfer agreement (SMTA) with SPC for access to CePaCT's conserved crop and tree varieties.</li> <li>Seeds of 16 vegetable species from WorldVeg were delivered to Vanuatu for evaluation.</li> </ul>
Fermentation Audits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three fermentation audits held in Matalava, Ambae, and Araki, confirming acceptable cocoa bean quality.</li> </ul>
Development of Budwood Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic sites recommended for establishing budwood gardens to bolster cocoa production and assess resilient cocoa varieties.</li> </ul>
Building Capacity in Value Chains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultations with kava stakeholders under the SAFE Pacific project to address trade barriers and bolster value chains for kava.</li> </ul>
Soil Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provided a Near Infrared Spectroscopy (NIR) machine for soil health assessment and crop productivity enhancement.</li> <li>Support for the application of the fungal biocontrol agent <i>Metarhizium</i> and CRB information system/database development.</li> </ul>
TRAINING AREAS	TRAINING PROGRAMMES
Genetic Resource Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seed processes, tissue culture transfer, and acclimatisation.</li> <li>Quality seed production training.</li> <li>Regional training on mutation breeding, and seed technologies.</li> <li>Save our seeds training.</li> </ul>
Regional Generic ePhyto National System (GeNS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional workshop on implementation of the GeNS project, increasing National Plant Protection Organisations' (NPPOs) resilience and capability in safeguarding against biosecurity risks, and ensuring safe trade.</li> </ul>
Cocoa Market Exploration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VRTC officials trained on cocoa value chain and market connection in Cairns, Australia.</li> <li>Cocoa propagation and nursery management.</li> </ul>
Fostering Forestry Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government officials attended the ANZIF conference which promoted forestry professional associations' role in personnel growth in the region.</li> </ul>
Emergency Preparedness and Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training on Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) and Import Risk Analysis (IRA) training focused on emergency preparedness and response for African Swine Fever (ASF), Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), and other TADs.</li> <li>Training on Early Response Planning and Early Warning Systems desk review and update, and operationalisation of animal health emergency preparedness and response plans.</li> <li>Pest List Database (PLD) training for market access and pesticide registration compliance, as well as training on the enhanced PLD.</li> <li>Refresher training on Kobo Toolbox for CRB surveillance and containment.</li> <li>Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) workshop on strengthening veterinary services and funding acquisition.</li> <li>Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs), Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) compliance, and trade promotion.</li> </ul>
Training ratio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trained 170 participants of which 26 were women.</li> </ul>

## 2024 PLANNED INTERVENTIONS

### 1. Genetic Resources

- Conduct nutritional analysis of selected crops and crop varieties in an accredited laboratory (USP, Fiji)

### 2. Forestry

- Establishment of the National Platform of Forestry Professionals (PNFP)
- Financial Model: Continue developing a business model for engineered wood products (EWPs).

### 3. Soil and Plant Health

- Continue surveillance and management of CRB:
  - Conduct CRB delimiting surveys on outer islands in Vanuatu in partnership with MALFFB across pending islands
  - Distribute *Metarhizium* in Vanuatu
  - Set up targeted management sites for CRB
- Field Experiments: Establish soil field experiments.
- Advisory Services: Provide soil health advice and train soil doctors.
- Conduct community engagement for Coconut/Kava farmers, exporters, processors, MSMEs, financial institutions.

### 4. Organic Farming and Certification

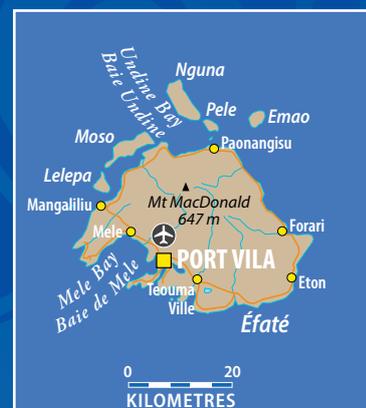
- Organic Learning Farms (OLF): Establish farms, conduct training, and provide advisory services.
- Participatory Guarantee System (PGS): Develop regional certification mechanisms and train auditors.
- Train MSMEs and other stakeholders on EPA, food safety and compliance, support for B2B meeting.

### 5. Biosecurity Training

- Biosecurity Officers (Training of Trainers): Train officials about plant pathology, entomology, and emergency response.
- EU Standards and Marketing: Conduct training on EU standards, marketing requirements, ASYCUDA, and Trade Single Window.



**VANUATU MAP**



## MEMBERSHIP OF SPC REGIONAL PLATFORMS

- Pacific Agriculture Plant Genetic Resources Network (PAPGREN)
- Pacific Plant Protection Organisation (PPPO)
- Regional Research Agenda (RRA) – Pasifika NiuNet, Partners in Research component
- Pacific Soils Partnership (PSP)
- One Health
- Regional Coconut Governance Board
- Pacific Heads of Veterinary and Animal Production Services (PHOVAPS)
- Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POETCom)

## KEY AGRICULTURE SECTOR POLICY DOCUMENTS

- Vanuatu 2030 The People's Plan: National Sustainable Development Plan 2016 to 2030
- Vanuatu Agriculture Sector Policy: 2015–2030
- Vanuatu Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy 2016–2030
- Vanuatu National Coconut Strategy: 2016–2025
- Vanuatu National Fruits and Vegetables Strategy: 2017–2027
- Vanuatu National Environment Policy and Implementation Plan: 2016–2030
- Vanuatu National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NSAP) 2018–2030

## KEY WEBSITES

- Vanuatu Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Forestry and Biosecurity ([www.malffb.gov.vu](http://www.malffb.gov.vu))
- Biosecurity Vanuatu ([www.biosecurity.gov.vu](http://www.biosecurity.gov.vu))
- The Pacific Community (SPC) ([www.spc.int](http://www.spc.int))
- SPC Land Resources Division ([www.spc/lrd.int](http://www.spc/lrd.int))
- Pacific Data Hub (PDH) ([www.spc.int](http://www.spc.int))

## ADDRESS

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## FOR ENQUIRIES

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