

**8th Regional Meeting of the Pacific Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services**  
**Partner Statement from the European Union**  
**Thursday, 9 March**

- Pacific Heads of Agriculture and Forestry services,
  - FAO Subregional Coordinator for the Pacific Ms Xiangjun Yao
  - SPC Director Land Resource Division, Karen Mapusua
  - Diplomatic corps
  - Representatives from Agriculture and Forestry partners and stakeholders.
- I am very pleased to be present in the regional meeting of Pacific Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services on behalf of the Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific.
- Agriculture represents one of the main sources of employment and livelihood in the Pacific region, especially in rural and more vulnerable areas.
- Pacific Island Countries and Territories live on the frontline of climate change and have described it as “the single greatest existential threat facing the Blue Pacific.
- Increased natural disasters will have significant impacts on Pacific ecosystems, water resources, agriculture and fisheries.
- The Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use sector constitutes 36% of total emissions in the Pacific, primarily from managed soils and deforestation (FAO, 2020)<sup>1</sup>
- Pacific Island countries have prioritized mitigation actions for the agriculture and land-use sectors in policies and strategies, and these sectors were included in the National Determined Contributions.
- The EU is committed to contribute to the global efforts fighting against climate change, and this applies to our internal but also to our external actions. “The European Union Green Deal” aims to have no net emission of greenhouse gases in the EU by 2050.
- The European Green Deal is being implemented in the agriculture sector through the EU “Farm to Fork Strategy” which addresses the challenges of sustainable food systems and recognizes the links between healthy people, healthy society and a healthy planet. It aims to reduce the environmental and climate footprint, ensuring food security, stimulating sustainable food processing, promoting sustainable food consumption and reducing food loss and waste.
- The EU is committed to support Pacific Island Countries in fighting against climate change, the promotion of sustainable food systems and it is done by three different angles:
  - I. Budget Support programmes. The EU support the Governments of Fiji, Vanuatu and in few months Tuvalu to implement their own Agriculture Policies, promoting climate smart agriculture practices and sustainable food systems.
  - II. In partnership with regional and UN agencies we are promoting Pacific agri-trade, strengthening Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures, and conservation of local ecosystems
  - III. Direct support to farmers and farmer organizations, through our programmes with CSOs, which follow an inclusive approach and promote besides the role of women and youth in agriculture, organic agriculture and agroforestry systems.

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<sup>1</sup> FAO - Regional Analysis of the Nationally Determined Contributions of Countries in the Pacific