



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique

SEVENTH REGIONAL MEETING OF PACIFIC HEADS OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY SERVICES (PHOAFS)

25 – 27 AUGUST 2021, SUVA, FIJI - VIRTUAL

OUTCOMES STATEMENT



1. The Pacific Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services have called for greater investment in the agriculture and forestry sectors to increase food and nutrition security; build resilience to the impacts of climate change; enhance biosecurity measures; promote value-adding and downstream processing; improve livelihoods and contribute to economic growth in the Pacific islands region.
2. The country presentations showed that common problems include a lack of technical and financial capacity in many areas and the difficulty of attracting people to work in agriculture. Ongoing and increasing threats from plant and animal pests and diseases as well as the need to address human resource capacity for animal health and production services through provision of Paravet training were further common priorities. Challenges in production and development of important crops such as coconut were also highlighted. Others faced additional challenges due to remoteness, geography and poorer soils, such as in the atoll nations.
3. There is strong demand for improved data collection and analysis, and robust data management systems, for more informed decision-making. The meeting highlighted the valuable returns from regional public goods, such as the Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees (CePACT); Pacific Soils Portal; Pacific Data Hub, and Digital Earth Pacific.
4. The meeting welcomed the growing use of innovation to overcome the problems of smallness, distance, affordability and limited capacity. These include the use of online training modules, electronic certificates to replace handwritten forms, virtual veterinarians, satellite mapping, and the virtual conference itself.
5. The meeting noted the progress made since the last meeting in animal health and production, and called for continued strengthening of this area.
6. The meeting called for increased collaboration and learning between Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs), to help overcome common challenges.
7. The meeting welcomed the contributions of civil society to the discussions, noting this was the first meeting where civil society had a formal voice in the proceedings.
8. The meeting approved a range of initiatives, some of which will go before Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry next year for a decision.
9. The Pacific Heads of Agriculture and Forestry recommended a new structure placing greater ownership with the Pacific Island Countries and Territories, to be endorsed by Ministers at their next meeting. The Pacific Heads:



10. Endorsed the proposed structure and components of the Pacific Week of Agriculture and Forestry (PWAFF) as presented in the concept note and referred it to the Ministers for adoption. The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and Pacific Community (SPC) were requested to commence immediately to align preparations for the 2022 PWAFF to the proposed structure and components. The draft procedures are to be adopted and revised following the 2022 PWAFF to incorporate learnings.
11. Endorsed the proposed agriculture and forestry, and regional architecture and recommended it for formal adoption at the next Pacific Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry meeting (PMAF). FAO and SPC were requested to commence work immediately to align preparations for the 2022 PHOAFS and PMAF meetings to the proposed architecture.
12. Endorsed the development of a Pacific Regional Agriculture and Forestry Strategy. SPC and FAO were requested to design the process and foresight methodology for presentation and approval at the PMAF meeting, and mobilise resources for a comprehensive and participatory process to develop the strategy.
13. Endorsed the development of a Regional Research Agenda (RRA) for Agriculture and Forestry in the Pacific. The SPC-Land Resources Division (LRD) is to coordinate with Pacific Island Countries and Territories to mobilise resources and engage in a participatory process to develop the RRA. The PHOAFS and PMAF meetings are to provide strategic oversight and governance of the RRA.
14. Endorsed the Pacific Heads of Veterinary and Animal Production Services (PHOVAPS) Regional Priority Framework, and the PHOVAPS Governance Structure.
15. Noted the report on action items from the PHOAFS and PMAF meetings in 2019, held in Samoa, highlighting some of the key responses to recommendations. The 2019 Pacific Week of Agriculture (PWA) in Samoa focused on enhancing partnerships for effective and sustainable agriculture and forestry systems.
16. Noted the presentations on the Pacific Plant Health System framework; LRD Business Plan 2019-2023; and LRD Annual Reports 2019 and 2020.
17. Noted the progress of the Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees (CePACT) in implementing its Investment Plan (2019-2019) to date and supported the aims of CePACT.
18. Noted progress on the development of the Pacific Soils Portal; the Pacific Soils Portal Governance Structure and the Guidelines for data sharing; and endorsed support for further development and expansion of the system through ongoing data sharing, and resource mobilisation.



19. Noted the Pacific Data Hub as a public good to support regional and national data-driven policy development in the food systems space.
20. Noted the presentation on the Digital Earth Pacific Project and the benefits to members from the use of geospatial technology and Earth Observation.
21. Noted the report from the Pacific Plant Protection Organisation.
22. Noted the information paper tabled by the Pacific Organics and Ethical Trade Community (POETCOM).
23. The meeting welcomed the presentations on national dialogues leading up to the UN Global Food Summit, and the sharing of experiences of best practices in the agriculture and forestry sectors at national level.
24. The meeting finalised the agenda for the next meeting to include a focus on a strategic response to the outcomes of the Food Systems Summit and the impact of Climate Change on agriculture and forestry.

