

PACIFIC COMMUNITY

SIXTH REGIONAL MEETING OF  
HEADS OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY SERVICES (HOAFS)  
(Apia, Samoa, 01-02 October 2019)

**LAND RESOURCES DIVISION'S BUSINESS CASE**

*(Paper prepared by the Secretariat)*

**Purpose**

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide information on the rationale for the Land Resources Division (LRD) Business Plan, the quest for partnerships and a succinct account of the way forward.

**Background**

2. During the first Joint FAO and SPC Pacific Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry Meeting held in Vanuatu in October 2017, Ministers noted that LRD is developing a new business plan and undergoing reforms following an external performance assessment. The HoAFS Meeting agreed to establish a working group to support LRD in finalizing its business plan. This Working Group – as stipulated in the Communiqué of the Joint FAO and SPC Pacific Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry – included the countries of Australia, Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Kiribati, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.
3. The main purpose of the Working Group was to ensure that LRD's business plan would be as interactive as possible and cognizant of the priorities and needs of the Pacific Islands Countries and Territories (PICTs) in order to present a collective way forward in program development and resource mobilization.
4. The revised business plan was presented at the sidelines of the FAO Asia Pacific Regional Conference (APRC) from 09 to 11 April 2018. The aim of that meeting was to agree on the finalization of the business plan.

**Rationale for LRD's new Business Plan**

*Improved focus on Country and Regional priorities*

5. In 2018, SPC embarked on a Country Programming Strategy (CPS) in a few selected countries. A country focus implies the provision of services addressing country specific priorities. A good case in point is LRD's support for a response to CRB(G) in the Solomon Islands and its support pledged to the Cook Islands in NRM and biosecurity. Programmatic regionalism lies in LRD's core capacity to harness and coordinate services of common importance. Two good examples of regionalism: the Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees (CePaCT) that has been able to leverage financial resources for the conservation and use of genetic resources and the Pacific Plant Protection Organization (PPPO) that requested SPC to manage its secretariat, thus building country and regional capacities to deal with pest and disease incursions and facilitating trade.

6. The Division aims to engage in a decentralized mode of operation with dedicated LRD support in the Northern Pacific Countries and Territories (NPC&T) as well as strengthen its partnership with the French Overseas Territories (OCTs). With the Project Management of the EDF-11 supported project: 'Protégé', LRD is mapping opportunities for mutual learning and exchange of services with New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna, French Polynesia and Pitcairn. Services will be in the realm of promoting genetic resources for biodiversity conservation; biosecurity; agroforestry systems and strengthening / promoting systems for organic products.

*Attention to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*

7. LRD aims to strengthen sustainable management of natural resources; improve cost effective pathways to domestic and regional / international markets; improve multi-sectoral approaches to climate change and disasters and advance social development through the promotion of gender equality and opportunities for young people. In doing so, LRD's outcomes directly contribute to the SDG1 (no Poverty); SDG2 (Zero Hunger); SDG13 (Climate Action); SDG15 (Life on Land) and SDG17 (Partnerships for the Goals). LRD is increasingly working with other divisions and Program Managers as well as with Focal Points at Country level to establish effective and economic Impact Pathways toward contributing to the SDGs.

*Pursuing programmatic integration*

8. LRD is developing a set of Integrated Programs (IPs) to address interdisciplinary challenges such as climate change, sustainable livelihoods and food and nutrition security in a holistic way, by drawing on capacities and technical expertise from across thematic pillars and across SPC and other agencies. IPs are LRD's current drivers for resilience, which align to SPC's Organizational and Development objectives. They aim to ensure that LRD's scientific capacity in genetic resources, sustainable forest and land management, climate smart agriculture and markets for livelihoods (as well as that of SPC's divisions: Fisheries, Aquaculture & Marine Ecosystems (FAME), Social Development Program (SDP), Geoscience, Energy and Maritime Division (GEM); Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT) etc.) is leveraged to address development needs and objectives of Member Countries in the region.

*Brokering knowledge, retaining and improving access to information*

9. LRD has recently combined two positions to achieve more streamlined *Information Communication and Knowledge Management (ICKM)* to the region. Work is ongoing to renew the LRD website. It allows easy access to project / program related information. Our web portal also includes an electronic library with access to publications stored in a Pacific Agriculture Information System (PAIS).
10. In 2018, SPC chose to pool some of its resources across several different web portal projects with the aim of developing a shared centralized platform that would not only meet the needs of SPC's divisions but of all Pacific data producers and users. The Pacific Data Hub (PDH) aims to establish a sustainable data infrastructure to catalogue Pacific datasets, improve data management and policy, and encourage informed decision-making using this data. Where data do not belong to an existing online database or portal, hosting on the PDH server would add value.
11. Time is opportune to reinforce and build on the success of PWA Vanuatu 2017 as an exchange of information and knowledge by making the PWA a science-based platform for the sustainable provision of food and nutrition security, in the context of climate change and its effects on agriculture, forestry and fisheries. PWA is an opportunity to share science-based ecological, technical, social and economic information and adaptation pathways. A paper has been prepared for the attention of the Ministers during the Joint FAO-SPC Pacific Ministerial Meeting.

*Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (PMEL)*

12. PMEL enables the division to enhance its development effectiveness and achieve better research and development outcomes. It defines potential impact pathways linked to Member countries' SDGs. An understanding of these impact pathways assists LRD in shaping / aligning its interventions to the overall objectives of the Pacific Community – both at national and regional level. One of the key pursuits is to ascertain the effectiveness of monitoring and evaluation systems in the Pacific and, where required, build capacities of focal points of stakeholders in data collection, analysis and reporting thus contributing the results monitoring frameworks and results reporting. In addition to a PMEL advisor, the Division will be recruiting soon a statistician/ natural resources economist, addressing a request from the 2017 HOAFS meeting. This position will generate new knowledge and reports, support the ambitions of member countries with feasible research designs and support Statistics for Development Division to ensure a strong focus on agriculture and land use data and analysis for the Pacific region.

*Harnessing partnerships*

13. Primary stakeholders are member countries' Ministries of Agriculture and Forestry. LRD is assisting in operationalizing their research for development strategies and in providing an enabling environment for them to carry out their activities through coordinating research investments across multiple countries and strategic provision of regional resources. LRD also seeks to include non-government implementing partners, where these can most efficiently deliver results. Groups include individual farmer associations, and the umbrella organizations PIPSO, PIFON and PIRAS as well as individual communities where we are seeking to pilot new approaches (e.g. Nadroumai community in Fiji or Emae Island in Vanuatu).
14. Since 2017, LRD has stepped up its engagement with trusted development partners in the Pacific Region notably DFAT and MFAT. DFAT has been supporting LRD strategically in developing a business case for making CePaCT a world-renowned Centre of Excellence for the conservation and use of genetic resources. MFAT, through its Crown-owned company – Landcare Research New Zealand Limited, is complementing these investments in taking CePaCT to the communities by building the capacity in quality and health of seed systems. The Seed Systems program will develop the requisite protocols and establish the necessary linkages and partnerships to ensure effective use of quality genetic resources. MFAT is also playing a role in establishing a coordinated response to the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Guam biotype (CRB(G)).
15. LRD has an enduring partnership with ACIAR. The overall aim of this partnership has been to support the maintenance and strengthening of core scientific, technical and management capacities in sustainable agriculture and markets for livelihoods, which is adding value to R4D of Pacific Island Countries. Some results to date include support to the 2017 PWA (notably the seminar "Partnerships for transformation of Pacific Agriculture: Regional Strategies for Research"); taking to scale promising research for development outcomes and the support to improving management and leadership skills for key senior technical staff (mainly women). At the programmatic level, ACIAR has been the scientific conduit to operationalize innovative approaches in plant health; access to markets; safeguarding and deploying coconut genetic resources and improving atoll food and nutrition security through the application of soils science and soils information (Soils Data Portal). This partnership is providing unique opportunities for both organizations to develop and present a common platform for research and development and to harness the outcome of global research experiences for the benefit of the Pacific People.
16. LRD has long-standing and effective working relationships with the European Union (EU), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) and GIZ. With support of the EU, LRD will enhance regionalism and trade through capacities in Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Standards and Biosecurity. With FAO-UN, a GCF project is being prepared to respond to invasive species through Climate Change. IFAD has been supportive in organic agriculture, certification and value chains and in supporting rural extension and advisory services. With GIZ, LRD

has been enhancing readiness for the Reducing Emissions through Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) in some of the Melanesian Countries.

17. LRD will be working with the French Development Agency (AFD) for investments in genetic resources for biodiversity conservation and enhanced use in the wake of Climate Change. LRD is also exploring partnerships with the specialized United Nations Agencies (UNCCD) specialized research agencies of the Consultative Group for International Agriculture Research (CGIAR) and other Intergovernmental Organizations such as the International Coconut Community, INBAR (International Network for Bamboo and Rattan). With Bioversity International, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), International Potato Center (CIP) and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), LRD is concretizing plans for the conservation and use of genetic resources. Under CIAT's umbrella, LRD will be working with the *Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security* (CCAF) Global Research Program to create tools to understand the impact of CC and develop mechanisms to take to scale climate smart solutions. LRD is putting in place operational modalities for the long-term funding of CePaCT through the Crop Trust endowment fund. With the Standards Trade and Development Facility (STDF) and KALANG Consultancy Services, SPC looked at the feasibility of a Sanitary – Phyto-Sanitary Standards Platform for the Pacific.

## **The Way Forward – the LRD Business Plan**

### *Theory of Change*

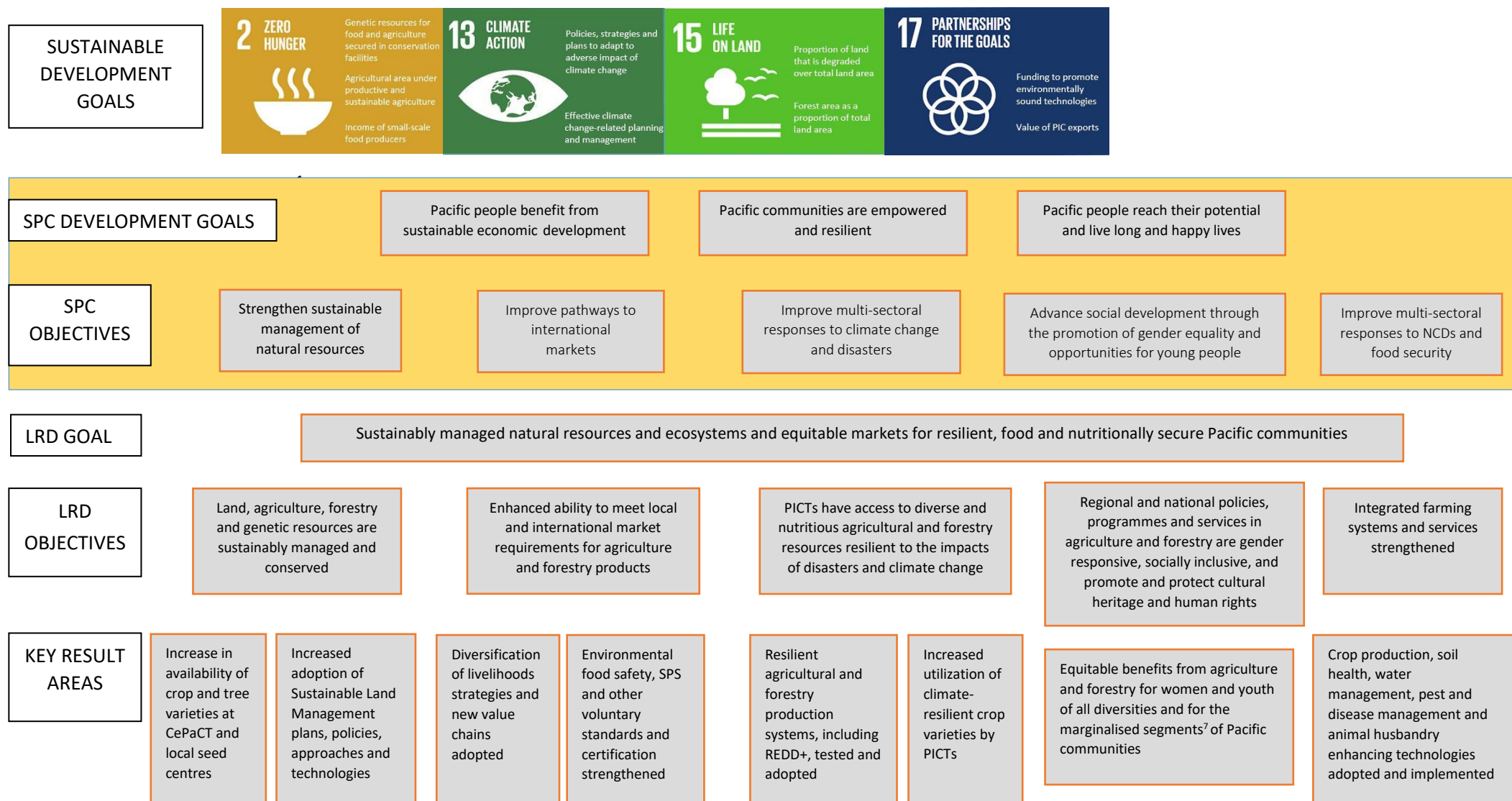
18. The work of CEPACT in germplasm management will be further developed through the integration with the Pacific Seeds for Life and integration of the Tree Seed Centre to improve the process of acquiring testing and sharing acquisitions back to countries, and linking with the best available seed management processes that individual farmers and cooperatives can use.
19. In the Forestry and Sustainable Landuse area, the emphasis on community land use planning and quantitative assessment will assist member countries to engage communities in reforestation and broader forest landscape restoration efforts. Through REDD+ there will continue to be a focus on measuring and monitoring sustainable forest management. The work on agroforestry systems will increase the resilience of food systems and catchments.
20. LRD proposes to renew its efforts in increasing biosecurity awareness and sanitary and phytosanitary management across the Pacific. Other key activities in the Sustainable Agriculture area include the on-going emphasis on soil management and agriculture systems for the atolls.
21. LRD continues to play a key role in the diversification of livelihoods for Pacific smallholder farmers, through its management of organic agriculture in the region, support for farmer-to-farmer training and cooperative formation, the sharing of knowledge and support for the professionalization of agriculture.
22. Participating in so many partnerships and alliances, there are complex administrative arrangements to drive projects effectively, which take time to shape up and that require great attention to detail. We believe that with our member countries commitment, we can drive quickly towards increasing food security and protection of our forested and agricultural landscapes. Our mission is to work for the well-being of Pacific people through the effective and innovative application of science and knowledge, guided by a deep understanding of Pacific Island contexts and cultures. We take that mission very much to heart, and seek your endorsement for the direction of the Division.
23. Annex 1 provides information on LRDs Hubs, Pillars, and advisory services. Annex 2 and Annex 3 provide an overview of LRD's Theory of Change, Divisional Objectives (DOs) and Key Result Areas (KRAs). They lay down measurable pathways to progressing impact on SPC's Organizational and Development Goals and the region's Sustainable Development Goals. The KRAs are in response to Country and Regional priorities. The integrated nature of the KRAs is making a meaningful contribution to LRD's overall objective of food and nutrition security and resilient communities. Annex 4 sheds light

on the current Integrated Programs and Annex 5 is a list of current projects, list of projects in the pipeline, donor contributions and target countries.

LRD Hubs, Pillars and Advisory Services



## ANNEX 2 LRD Theory of Change



<sup>1</sup> Marginalized segments of Pacific communities' varies from country to country and between local contexts. It can include people living in poverty or hardship, people living in outer islands or isolated areas, widows, elders, LGBT, persons with disabilities, landless people, migrants

**LRD's eight Key Result Areas (KRAs)**

**Objective1: Land, agriculture, forestry and genetic resources are sustainably managed / conserved**

KRA1: Increase in availability and utilization of crop and tree varieties at CePaCT and local centers;

KRA2: Increased adoption of SLM plans, policies, approaches and technologies;

**Objective2: Enhanced ability to meet local and international market requirements for agricultural and forest products**

KRA3: Increased diversification of livelihood strategies and new value chains adopted;

KRA4: Environmental food safety, SPS and other voluntary standards/certifications strengthened;

**Objective3: Access to diverse and nutritious agriculture/forestry resources resilient to impact of CC and disasters**

KRA5: Resilient agricultural and forestry production systems, including REDD+ tested / adopted;

KRA6: Increased utilization of climate-resilient crop varieties by PICTS;

**Objective4: Women, youth & members of vulnerable groups participate in agriculture and forestry**

KRA7: Enhanced participation of women and youth in development of land use plans/value chains;

**Objective5: Integrated farming systems and services strengthened.**

KRA8: Crop production, soil health, water management, pest and disease management and animal husbandry enhancing technologies adopted and implemented.



**ANNEX 4**

**LRD's Integrated Programs**

**IP #1: Pacific Seeds for Life (PS4L)**

Facing the threat of Climate Change, food security and the burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), there is a need for an IP that contributes to sustainable resilient food systems. The focus of this IP is seed systems. Currently the Pacific lacks national seed policies to support seed development, there is a heavy reliance on imported seeds that are often not well suited for the Pacific, a narrow genetic resource base that is not resilient to biotic and abiotic factors, limited seed stocks, and poor linkages between all the actors in the seed supply chain. This IP combines the resources of CePaCT and the Sustainable Agriculture team to strengthen the enabling policies for effective seed systems, increase awareness and capacity on seed systems development, and strengthen regional and national seed networks.

*SPC-LRD IP Lead: Logotonu Waqainabete*

**IP #2: Resilient Terrestrial Ecosystems for Biodiversity and Food Security**

More than 90% of the population in the Pacific are semi-subsistence smallholder farmers and the land and forests constitute the natural capital providing an inheritance for their future generations. Currently the Pacific region faces increasing deforestation, forest and land degradation, and ineffective resource management. The focus of this IP is on the interaction between people and natural resources to achieve sustainable land use management. Prevention of biodiversity loss and the adaptation and mitigation to climate change threats face the pressure for economic development and food security. Through this IP, communities lead the development of their own Land Use Plans tailored to specific environments and based on natural resource inventories and communal decision making about their land use priorities. This IP will also build on LRD's existing expertise in Forest Inventory (Design, Implementation and Analysis) and tools and systems for consultative land use planning.

*SPC-LRD IP Lead: Jalesi Mateboto*

**IP #3: Excellence in Atoll Agriculture**

Atoll farming systems work in fragile environments that are highly vulnerable to Climate Change, population increase, and the loss of biodiversity that threaten food and nutrition security. These challenges are compounded by non-climatic factors including: Limited availability of essential soil nutrients, limited water availability, limited arable lands, narrow genetic base (crops and animals), and increasing incidence of crop and livestock pests and disease. This IP will be the focal point to address the multi-faceted challenges facing the atoll communities through joint planning, implementation and scaling of lessons through effective partnership and linkages. Key strategic priorities will involve: Capacity development and institutional strengthening, atoll agriculture research and development, livelihoods support and climate change adaptation.

*SPC-LRD IP Lead: Gibson Susumu*

**IP #4: SPS/Biosecurity**

Increasing mobility and growth of the population, together with anthropogenic climate changes, are enabling pests and pathogens to increasingly cause disease. This human activity is creating invasive

pathways for pests and pathogens and allowing them entry into new environments where their natural predators do not exist. This places pressure on food security, human health, and the normal functioning of ecosystems. This IP follows the context of 'prevention is better than cure' and aims to ensure biosecurity readiness and SPS compliance across the Pacific region, and that biosecurity laws are revised in line with the IPPC, OIE and Codex Alimentarius Standards. LRD is currently the Secretariat for the Pacific Plant Protection Organization (PPPO) and Regional Technical Meetings of Plant Protection (RTMPP); and these are the entry points to building capacity in the PICTs' biosecurity across the Pacific region. This IP will also look at the biosecurity non-compliance issues facing trade in both exports and imports of biosecurity related pathways, the treatment regimens, and assist the development of consistent and relevant SOP's to help rectify these issues.

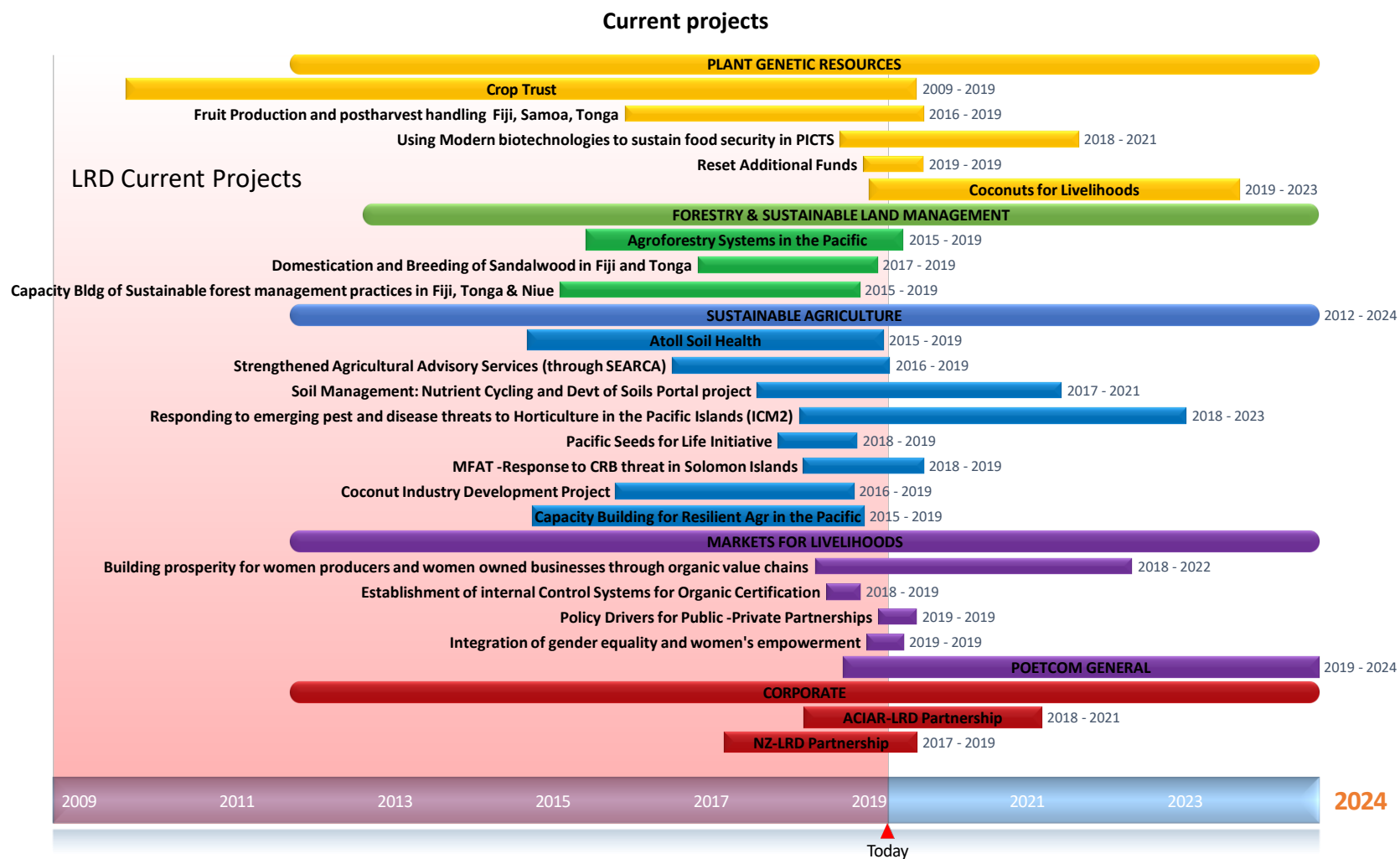
*SPC-LRD IP Lead: Visoni Timote*

#### **IP #5: Sustainable Food Systems for Health and Nutrition (Healthy Food Systems)**

Over-nutrition and under-nutrition are two forms of malnutrition in the Pacific region responsible for increasing numbers of deaths, diseases, and disabilities. Access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food is a challenge for fresh food supply chains in Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs). This IP looks at promoting sustainable diets produced with low impact on the environment. Achieved by strengthening local value chains for urban and peri-urban agriculture, engagement of communities and building their awareness on the links between diet, production and natural resources, and develop a policy environment supporting the improvement of nutrition and food security produced in fragile environments.

*SPC-LRD IP Lead: Karen Mapusua*

## ANNEX 5



Confirmed & Pipeline Projects

LRD New Projects

