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## OFFICE OF THE SUB-REGIONAL COORDINATOR FOR THE PACIFIC

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7 September 2021

Dear GAFSP Steering Committee,

**Subject: FAO Statement of Readiness as Supervising Entity**

With reference to the Agriculture and Investment for Markets and Nutrition (AIM-Nutrition) project proposed for GAFSP funding by the Governments of Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, I have the honour to inform you that the proposal has been discussed and reviewed jointly by the FAO and IFAD with both governments. FAO stands ready to serve as Supervising Entity for this project.

**Timelines and funding structure.** Should the AIM-Nutrition proposal be approved by the GAFSP Steering Committee, FAO will collaborate with IFAD to support the formulation and appraisal of the project in 2022, with a view to submitting to the respective Quality Assurance processes by August 2022 -- allowing for quality assurance review and management endorsement in September 2022. The FAO TA interventions could become operational after IFAD's Executive Board decision in December 2022 and first disbursement for implementation will start in synchronization with IFAD's first disbursement in March 2023, project completion in March 2028, followed by project completion report and financial closing in September 2028. In accordance with FAO procedures, the FAO TA interventions will consist of a stand-alone project.

**Ongoing projects.** FAO is currently supporting the following projects in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

- FAO is providing technical support to Solomon Islands and Vanuatu in the inter-regional EU-funded *Food and nutrition security Impact, Resilience, Sustainability, Transformation (FIRST) Programme* (GCP /INT/244/EC). The USD 42.5 million programme looks at strengthening the enabling environment food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture. Implementation is led by FAO in close collaboration with the Ministries of Agriculture, the Pacific Community (SPC), academia institutions and national stakeholders.
- FAO is implementing a Japan-funded multi-country project for *Enhancing Livelihoods and Food Security through Fisheries with Nearshore Fish Aggregating Devices Fisheries in the Pacific Ocean* (GCP /SAP/002/JPN). Vanuatu as one of the recipients in this USD 4.5 million project will benefit from the safe development of nearshore fish aggregation device (FAD) fisheries, and the development of value adding and alternative livelihoods to diversity income sources. Implementation is done in partnership with the Vanuatu Ministry of Fisheries (MALFFB).
- FAO is providing *Technical support for national Food-Based Dietary Guidelines in Fiji, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu* (TCP/SAP/3708) through a USD 338,000 TCP project implemented in partnership with SPC and national Governments.

- FAO is providing technical assistance on the sound management of chemicals in agriculture through two multi-country interrelated projects: the EU-funded *Capacity building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in ACP Countries - Phase III* (ACP MEAs 3) and the TCP-funded *Promoting ecologically based alternatives to hazardous pesticides to enhance food safety and security in the Pacific region*. The USD 9.9 million ACP MEAs 3 global project includes Solomon Islands as Pacific focus country for national activities, with Vanuatu a focus country for regional activities. Solomon Islands and Vanuatu are both target countries for the USD 441,000 TCP multi-country project. The projects are implemented in partnership with the Pacific Community (SPC), the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) as well as national Governments.
- FAO is providing technical assistance on animal health and livestock production through two related multi-country projects including Solomon Islands and Vanuatu: *Strengthening Capacities to Improve Animal Health and Enhance Livestock Production in the Pacific Region* (USD 500,000); and *Enhancing regional animal health capacity to prepare and respond to risks of African Swine Fever introduction and spread in the Pacific* (USD 500,000). The projects are implemented in partnership with national Governments and regional partners.
- FAO is providing technical assistance on improving resilience of coastal communities in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu through a Canada-funded project titled *Climate change adaptation and gender equality in small-scale fisheries* (GCP /SAP/003/CAN). The US 1.4 million project was approved in October 2020. Implementation is done in partnership with the Ministries of Fisheries, Women in Fisheries Network and others.
- FAO is providing technical assistance in response to the impacts of COVID-19 through a Canada-funded multi-country project titled *Reducing COVID-19 related food insecurity in the Pacific Region* (GCP/SAP/004/CAN). The USD 2.8 million project includes Solomon Islands and other Pacific countries will be implemented in partnership with Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Fisheries and other national stakeholders. The Government of Canada approved this project in March 2021.
- FAO is implementing the GEF *Integrated forest management in the Solomon Islands* (GCP /SOI/001/GFF) project. The USD 5.6 million project aims to implement integrated management of protected and productive forest landscapes for sustainable community development and multiple environmental benefits. Other implementing partners include Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment and other national stakeholders.
- FAO is providing technical assistance to Solomon Islands on *Strengthening local food systems (impacted by COVID-19) by promoting climate-resilient and sustainable urban and peri-urban agriculture value chains* through a USD 495,000 TCP project implemented in partnership with the national Government, and city and provincial councils.
- FAO is providing technical support to Vanuatu through the design and implementation of integrated management of productive land and sea scopes for sustainable community development and to achieve multiple environmental benefits. The GEF USD 4.6 million project titled *Integrated sustainable land and coastal management* (GCP /VAN/001/GFF) is implemented in partnership with national counterparts such as Department of Environment, Department of Agriculture, Department of Livestock, Department of Fisheries, Department of Forestry, Department of Tourism, Tafea/Penama/Shefa Provinces, councils of chiefs and others.

FAO has a long-standing working relationship with the governmental sectors in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. In collaboration with the governmental sectors in these two countries, when implementing the above-listed programmes, FAO has outreached community and farmers with inclusivity especially of women and youth at the grassroots level.

We believe the above-listed programmes provide exceptionally relevant complementarities to the proposed project, offering AIM-Nutrition important synergies and benefits. The portfolio also helps establish a useful platform for FAO to engage in policy support to Government and donor coordination that can help maximize results and impacts from AIM-Nutrition.

FAO fully supports the importance given by the Governments of Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to this important programme, and is keen to support this opportunity. We hope it will gain your positive consideration.

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Xiangjun Yao', is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'X' and 'Y'.

Xiangjun Yao  
FAO Representative for Solomon Islands  
Subregional Coordinator for the Pacific Islands