



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Tristan Armstrong PhD
Senior Sector Specialist
Agriculture and Food Security

Ms Ethel Tebengi Frances
Permanent Secretary
Solomon Islands Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
PO Box G13, Honiara
Solomon Island

Dear Permanent Secretary,

Re: AIM-Nutrition Project Proposal for funding under the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP)

On behalf of Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, I would like to thank you for sharing with us the joint project proposal of the Governments' of Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to the GAFSP 2021 Call for Proposals.

We had discussed the proposal with your design team and concluded that it is strongly aligned, both with the Solomon Islands Government's National Development Strategy 2016-2035 and its new Agriculture Sector Growth and Investment Plan 2021-2030 on the one side; and with Vanuatu's National Sustainable Development Plan 2016-2030 and Agriculture Sector Policy 2015-2030 on the other side. The project targets critical priorities for the development of the agricultural sector to strengthen food security and nutrition, as well as addressing rural poverty, youth employment, and the empowerment of women and girls.

Importantly the proposal comes at an opportune time amidst the COVID-19 crisis to support the respective Governments' efforts to build back better and ensure continued food and nutrition security while also contributing to the revival of the rural economy by supporting increased productivity, production, processing and marketing. The project supports key development objectives, and reaches areas not yet covered by other development partners.

Last but not least, I am pleased to see that the proposal will also strengthen national efforts aimed at achieving Sustainable Development Goal 1 (end poverty in all its forms everywhere) and SDG 2 (end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture).

We fully support the proposal and wish you the best of success with your application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Tristan Armstrong', written over a large, loopy flourish.

31 August 2021