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September 6, 2021

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

Dear Permanent Secretary,

**Re: Agricultural Investment for Markets and Nutrition Project Proposal for funding under the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP)**

On behalf of World Bank, I would like to acknowledge the joint project proposal of the Governments of Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to the GAFSP 2021 Call for Proposals.

The World Bank's Pacific Agriculture task team had the opportunity to discuss the draft joint proposal with the IFAD and FAO teams who led the design of the proposal. We understand that it is well aligned with Solomon Islands Government's National Development Strategy 2016-2035 and the new Agriculture Sector Growth and Investment Plan 2021-2030. The proposed 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, challenges affecting both countries.

The project presents potential synergy and complementarity with the Solomon Island Agriculture and Rural Transformation Project (SI ART) that the Solomon Islands' Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) is preparing with technical and financial support from the World Bank. The SI ART's objectives are to increase household food production and improve market access in selected value chains in three provinces in Solomon Islands (which are different from those that are covered by this proposal). The two potential projects do share the similarity in approach and measures to achieve the common goals under the leadership and management of MAL.

We are pleased that the proposal will aim to 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 support the Government in its endeavours to seek funding for the Agriculture Investment for Markets and Nutrition Project Proposal under the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) and wish you the best of success with your application.

Sincerely,



Annette Leith  
Country Representative  
Solomon Islands & Vanuatu  
East Asia Pacific Region

CC:

Mr. Mckinnie Dentana, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Treasury (MoFT)

Ms. Susan Sulu, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Planning and Development  
Coordination

Mr. Barnabas Vote, Senior Economic Officer FEDU, MoFT

Mr. Michael Ho'ota, Under Secretary-Technical, MAL