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HEAD OF COOPERATION

Suva,

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

Mr Moses Amos
Director General
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Biosecurity
PMB 9039, Port Vila
Vanuatu

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

Dear Permanent Secretary, dear Director General,

We are pleased to note that the new Agricultural Investment and Markets for Nutrition Project Proposal (AIM-Nutrition) is to be submitted to the GAFSP Coordination Unit for funding.

Considering the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis and the increasing vulnerability to climate change induced risks, all negatively affecting the national and local food systems, the project's focus on resilient farming and food systems comes at an opportune time.

The project's development objective seems to be well aligned with the respective Governments' strategic policies (Solomon Islands' National Development Strategy 2016-2035 and its new Agriculture Sector Growth and Investment Plan 2021-2030; Vanuatu's National Sustainable Development Plan 2016-2030 and the Overarching Productive Sector Policy 2020-2030), and contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 2. The project addresses key development challenges in the domains of sustainable and climate resilient agriculture, food and nutrition security, as well as gender equity, youth employment, and strengthens the Government's COVID-19 response plans.

We appreciate that the project builds on lessons learned from other projects, among which the EU-funded Rural Development Programme-Phase II in Solomon Islands, the Vanuatu Value Chain Project, the Food and Nutrition Security Impact, Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation (FIRST) programme. This new project will upscale and further improve successful development models such value chain linkages.

Based on the above and the fact that the project does not duplicate other actions funded by the EU, we hope that GAFSP will be able to consider this AIM-Nutrition Project Proposal jointly submitted by Vanuatu and Solomon Islands.

Yours sincerely,

[e-signed]

Barbara RIKSEN
Acting Head of Cooperation

cc. Michal KREJZA, Alejandro MATOS LOPEZ, Miroslav SKRIECKA, Francesco PONZONI; EUD Fiji.