



**Agricultural Investment for Markets and Nutrition
in
Solomon Islands
and the
Republic of Vanuatu**

Submission to 2021 Call for Proposals

List of Acronyms

Term	Explanation (<i>SI: Solomon Islands, V: Vanuatu</i>)
ACIAR	Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research
ART	Agriculture and Rural Transformation
ASGIP	Agriculture Sector Growth and Investment Plan 2021-2030 (SI)
ASP	Agriculture Sector Policy 2015-30 (V)
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women
CF	Community Facilitator
CGIAR	(<i>formerly</i>) Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research
CIAT	International Centre for Tropical Agriculture
COI	Core Outcome Indicator
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CC/DRR	Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
DCGA	Democratic Coalition Government for Advancement (SI)
DFAT	Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australia)
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FIRST	Food and Nutrition Security Impact, Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GAFSP	Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme
IFAD	International Fund for Agriculture Development
MAL	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (SI)
MALFFB	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Forests and Biosecurity (V)
MFAT	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (New Zealand)
MIS	Management Information System
MERMAID	Melanesia Rural Market & Innovation-Driven Development Programme
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NCD	Non-communicable Disease
NDS	National Development Strategy 2016-35 (SI)
NSDP	National Sustainable Development Plan 2016-2030 (V)
NFSFSN	National Food Security, Food Safety and Nutrition Policy 2019-23 (SI)
NSC	National Steering Committee
PAC	Project Advisory Committee
PG	Producer Group
PHAMA	Pacific Horticulture Agriculture Market Access
PIC	Pacific Island Country
PIFON	Pacific Farmer Organisations Network
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PPPP (4P)	Public, Private, Producer Partnership
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RDP-II	Rural Development Project Phase II (SI)
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIDS	Small Island Development States
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
TAF	Technical Assistance Facility
TC	Tropical Cyclone
VADB	Vanuatu Agriculture Development Bank
VaVaC	Vanuatu Value Chains Programme
VRS	Vanuatu Recovery Strategy
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

Section 1: Basic Data

a. Project Name	Agricultural Investment for Markets and Nutrition
b. Submitting Countries	Solomon Islands, Republic of Vanuatu
c. Ministries responsible for implementation	<p>Solomon Islands: Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL)</p> <p>Vanuatu: Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forests, Fisheries and Biosecurity (MALFFB)</p>
d. Primary Country Contacts	<p>Solomon Islands: Ms. Ethel Tebengi Frances, Permanent Secretary; Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) Ethel.Frances@sig.gov.sb</p> <p>Vanuatu: Mr. Moses Amos, Director General of Agriculture; Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries, and Biosecurity (MALFFB) mjamos@vanuatu.gov.vu</p>
e. Total GAFSP Grant Funding Requested (refer to Annex 1 – Project Budget Table)	<p>Amount Requested: US\$ 15,000,000</p> <p>Minimum Amount Needed: US\$ 12,000,000</p>
f. Estimated project start and end date: January 2023 – December 2027	
g. Preferred Supervising Entity	
<p>Supervising Entities for Investments and Technical Assistance International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)</p> <p>Supervising Entities for Technical Assistance only Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)</p> <p>Provide the anticipated cost share between them 81% of the grant will be implemented through IFAD 19% of the grant will be implemented through FAO</p>	
h. Have the countries previously received a GAFSP grant?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

Section 2: Project Description

2.1 Project Development Objective

The objective of the Agriculture Investments for Markets and Nutrition (AIM-Nutrition) project is **improved nutrition and higher farm incomes from resilient farming systems in rural communities of Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.**

2.2. Project Description

For the tenth year in a row, Vanuatu was ranked most at risk among 181 countries assessed under the [World Risk Index](#) 2020, during which time Solomon Islands ranked between fourth and sixth, indicating their (i) high exposures to natural hazards and negative impacts of climate change, and (ii) low capacities for coping and adapting to these risks, and to other processes of change. The coronavirus pandemic poses a significant additional threat to both countries. To cope, both Governments executed a number of protective, non-therapeutic measures: the cessation of commercial flights, strict border controls, and different degrees of curfews, school closures and social distancing.

To date these measures have been successful in protecting citizens from local transmission, though they impose a stark economic corollary. [Vanuatu experienced an economic contraction of 10 percent](#) in 2020, and [Solomons of 4.3 percent](#), against 2019 GDP alone - more if compared to pre-COVID19 projections for 2020. Policy makers continue to apply a strict closure policy in spite of the economic tradeoffs, to mitigate against the limitations in medical services and against poor nutrition and high incidence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) - which drive higher morbidity in COVID-19 patients. Should community transmission eventually occur, more stringent containment measures may be applied. A return to 2018 per capita incomes (already among the lowest among Pacific island states) is [considered unlikely](#) for another decade or so.

To a substantial degree, the high incidence of NCDs is a result of rapid transformation of food systems and a nutrition transition over the past two decades - characterized by an erosion of traditional lifestyles, food systems and diets; reduced dietary diversity; and increasing dependence on processed food imports, often of poor nutritional value. This transformation has contributed to a “triple burden of malnutrition”: the co-existence of undernutrition, including high rates of child stunting and micronutrient deficiencies¹, and a growing prevalence of over-nutrition (overweight and obesity), leading to other NCDs, including diabetes, and cardio-vascular disease (see table 1 below).

Table 1: Pre-COVID Nutrition Situation in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu

Country	Stunting among children under 5 (%)	Wasting among children under 5 (%)	Overweight among children under 5 (%)	Overweight among women 15-49 years (%)	Anemia among women 15-49 years (%)	Anemia among children under 5 (%)	Minimum Dietary Diversity [§] among children 6-23 months (%)
Solomon Islands	31.6 ^{&}	7.9 ^{&}	3.9 ^{&}	60.5 [^]	40.7 ^{&}	39 ^{&}	37 ^{&}
Vanuatu	28.5 ⁺	4.4 ⁺	4.6 ⁺	62.0 [^]	22.5 ⁺	27 ⁺	71 ⁺

[§] Globally, minimum dietary diversity is 5 out of 8 food groups (including breast milk), data for Vanuatu and Solomon Islands predate this change in 2017, and refer to 3+ for breastfed and 4+ for non-breastfed children

Sources: & = Solomons Demographic and Health Surveys 2015, + = Vanuatu Demographic and Health Surveys 2013, ^ = World Health Organization Global Health Observatory Data Repository 2016.

With COVID19 threats compounding already challenging nutrition, climate and economic scenarios, the Governments of Solomon Islands and Vanuatu have determined citizens’ health and inclusive economic growth as their top priorities. The two Governments are presenting a joint **two-country GAFSP proposal** because they share many of the same fragilities and pathways and can benefit from south-south cooperation, a common technical approach (e.g. to nutrition-sensitive value chain development) and shared learning.

In both countries, agriculture, forestry and fisheries contributes a little over a quarter of GDP², though 70 to 80 per cent of the population lives in rural areas and is involved, to different extents, in agriculture and fishing. With

¹ especially anemia, approaching or surpassing the threshold of 40 percent for severe anemia in Solomons

² According to World Bank data. [An ACIAR report](#) estimates higher share of agriculture in GDP for Solomons- and lower for Vanuatu- based on export data, though it also suggests double the land area under agriculture use as compared to Solomons (see page 97).

narrow economic bases, remoteness and smallness, both Governments consider support to the local agriculture sector as crucial for inclusive growth, climate adaptation and COVID recovery. Higher competitiveness in agriculture can protect and expand economic opportunities for rural inhabitants (including generating employment for youth, who make up 35% of the population) and improve national health and nutrition outcomes. Accordingly, both Governments have developed policies to “build back better” in the face of COVID-19 that emphasize the importance of sustainably producing nutritious foods for local consumption. However, governments are facing financial strains due to COVID-19 and currently have low capabilities to rapidly implement these policies. Farmers and agri-businesses lack capital for the investments that will be needed to boost local production and marketing of nutritious foods.

National agricultural strategies highlight the importance of organizing farmers and other private actors to improve farm productivity and upgrade value addition. Without progress in these areas, local supply chains will continue to be inhibited by low volume, and by large transaction and transport costs. Local foods will struggle to compete with high-calorie, low-micronutrient (but relatively cheap) imported foods, which have increasingly displaced traditional produce in local diets; and cause high levels of childhood malnutrition and diet-related diseases amongst adults. Low competitiveness has contributed to the erosion of traditional farming practices, which often feature more sustainable and regenerative practices—in turn contributing to loss of soil fertility and to lower resilience in the face of natural disasters and climate change.

Project Strategy

AIM-Nutrition will support the Governments of Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to implement selected elements of their agriculture sector investment plans and COVID response measures that directly contribute to sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery. The project addresses the three inter-related problems of poor nutrition, low farm incomes, and the vulnerability of local agri-food systems to shocks which include pandemics, natural disasters and climate change.

The project will **develop capacity** of the extension services in both countries to more effectively reach out to small farming communities through teams of locally recruited community facilitators. The extension services will partner with service providers, often NGOs, with proven track record in community mobilisation and in value chain facilitation. Capacity will also be developed for producer groups. A Technical Assistance Facility managed by FAO will ensure technical quality across all project components and in both countries.

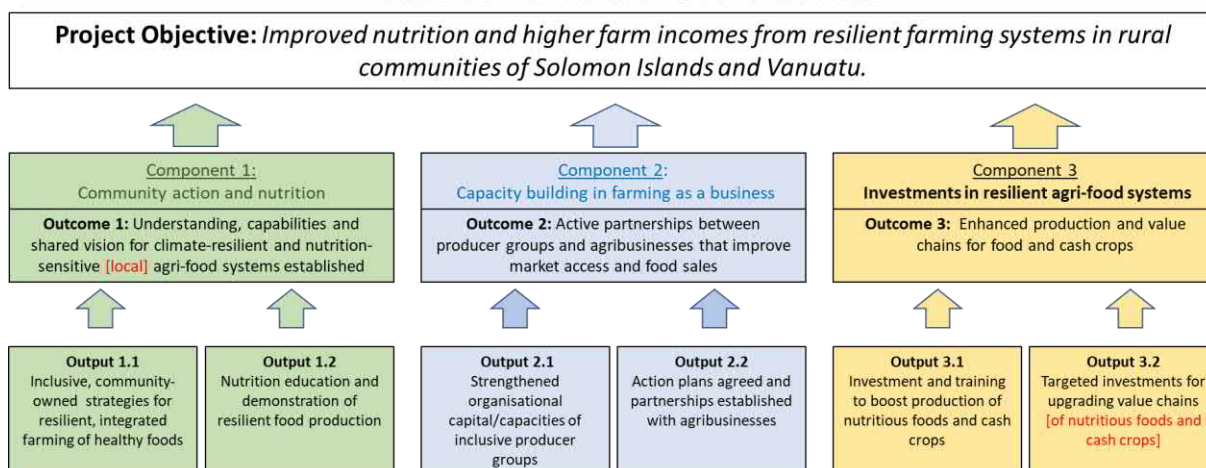
Value chains will be strengthened through partnerships between producer groups and private businesses. Interventions will address institutions (networks, partnership agreements, flow of information including use of digital technology) and hardware (e.g. processing, storage and small-scale transport or market infrastructure). Project-funded investments of the producer groups are expected to create a conducive environment for investment by the private sector partners.

By itself, production of perishable produce for urban markets cannot sustain adequate farm incomes for many island communities. While the project will focus on nutritious food crops and small livestock, the project will also invest in production and marketing of cash crops in order to encourage sustainable practices and enhance self-reliance and resilience of private farmers. An integrated, regenerative and mixed crop farming system that addresses farmer nutrient and cash requirements can increase supply of nutritious foods while enhancing farmer incomes and supporting food purchases.

The project adopts a **community-driven approach** based on experiences across the Pacific demonstrating the importance of alignment with traditional social practices, collective decision-making and shared interests of targeted households. Addressing the social structure of production (including land and labor allocation, which is influenced greatly by community leaders) has proven invaluable for social inclusion, including access and targeting of women and youth as well as poorer or more disadvantaged households.

This strategy will be implemented through three inter-dependent components, focused respectively on **community action, capacity building** and **investments**. The component structure is illustrated in the following diagram.

PROJECT LOGICAL STRUCTURE



Component 1: Community Action and Nutrition

Outcome 1: Understanding, capabilities and shared vision for climate-resilient and nutrition-sensitive local agri-food systems established.

Component 1 is designed to ensure that the three inter-related problems of poor nutrition, low farm incomes and increasingly climate-vulnerable farming systems are addressed through integrated action beginning at community level. Locally specific opportunities and constraints will be identified, inclusion and equitable opportunities for women and youth will be ensured and later project interventions will be founded on dialogue and agreement with community leaders and members. Local knowledge and traditional skills will be revitalized and integrated in the strategy for change.

Output 1.1: Inclusive, community-owned strategies for resilient, integrated farming of healthy foods.

The entry point for community engagement will be a participatory situation analysis that will (1) analyse existing patterns of food availability and consumption, identifying combinations of locally-available foods that can create a healthy food plate during every month of the year and identifying nutritional gaps to guide trainings and agricultural interventions; (2) analyse challenges in farm production and marketing; and (3) outline a community strategy for nutritious food production for consumption and for marketing within integrated, resilient farming systems.

Building on identified opportunities for marketing of food and cash crops, Producer Groups (PGs) will express their interest for project support. PGs may be existing farmer organisations, may be based on other existing structures at community level, or may be newly initiated by the community based on common interests. In any case, support will be conditional on equal opportunities for participation by interested community members, including women, youth and people with disabilities. Based on a model being piloted by the IFAD financed Melanesia Rural Market & Innovation-Driven Development Programme ([MERMAID](#))³, an agreement for Sustainable Family Farming Business and Nutrition, confirming equitable access to land and other resources for participating farmers, will be negotiated and signed following each community's participatory consultation process.

Output 1.2: Nutrition education and demonstration of resilient food production

Output 1.2 will be delivered through a programme of education, training and demonstration tailored to the needs of each community. The emphasis will be on improved knowledge of diet and nutrition, and on enhanced production and consumption of nutritious foods.

³ MERMAID is an ongoing US\$ 3 million IFAD-financed R&D programme with World Vision, Bioversity and CIAT in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, which has the explicit objective of establishing scalable pathways for increased consumption of local and nutritious foods and improved rural incomes.

Production of “island superfoods” will be promoted and demonstrated within resilient farming systems integrating multi-cropping and small livestock production. Demonstration and learning plots will be established around schools, enabling learning and involvement by teachers and pupils. Participants may receive seeds, seedlings, gardening tools, etc. to establish or enhance production in home gardens and farm plots. Farmers will be advised on adoption of crops and farming practices to improve soil health management, based on a programme of soils testing and expert advice.

Nutrition behaviour change strategies may include (i) discussions with health experts on the causes as well as remedies for stunting, wasting and obesity, (ii) disseminating information on the nutritional attributes of indigenous foods (plants/crops, animals, seafood etc.); (iii) providing recipes and cooking demonstrations and training on food processing and preservation (iv) sharing of traditional knowledge by elders to younger generations and documenting this knowledge, and (v) nutrition-related postings on social media. Early childhood nutrition (“first 1,000 days”) will be an important element of the nutrition strategy, which will be refined by drawing on FAO’s Food and Nutrition Security, Impact Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation ([FIRST](#)) outputs; and through discussion with the responsible Government agencies in each country and specialised agencies such as UNICEF.

Component 2: Capacity building in farming as a business

Outcome 2: Active partnerships between producer groups and agribusinesses that improve market access and food sales

Component 2 will assist Producer Groups (PGs) to strengthen their organizational capacity and interact effectively with businesses and markets within a network of value chain relationships. Where appropriate to the needs of the PGs, public-private-producer partnerships will be established based on the “4P” model promoted by IFAD, and PGs will be guided to integrate or develop into more formalized farmer organizations.

Component 2 will leverage digital applications (especially those already existing in the two countries or elsewhere among SIDS solutions) to enhance information access, learning, networking, marketing and trading by the PGs and their value chain partners.

Output 2.1: Strengthened organisational capital/capacities of inclusive producer groups

Based on a needs analysis taking into account the existing capacity of each PG, the project will provide capacity building in farming as a business and organizational development. This will include support to (i) group leadership and governance; (ii) leadership skills; (iii) financial literacy; (iv) record keeping; and (v) business planning, including basic farm gross margins analysis or simple business plans for agro-processing. Gender equity and women’s economic empowerment will be mainstreamed in the design and delivery of group capacity development.

Use of mobile phones for business-related purposes including access to information, technical advice and marketing will be integrated in the training, using general purpose applications and existing applications developed for small farmers in the Pacific.

Output 2.2: Action plans agreed and partnerships established with agribusinesses

Value chain relationships will be facilitated through round-table events with invitees including the PGs, input suppliers, traders, processors and institutional buyers of foods as well as relevant authorities, value chain services (transporters, financial services) and civil society groups. The project will build on studies, action plans, lessons learnt and partnerships established by previous and current projects such as the Rural Development Project ([RDP-II](#)), the Agriculture and Rural Transformation ([ART](#)) and the [Strongim Bisnis](#) in Solomon Islands, the UN Women Markets for Change (M4C) project in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, the EU-supported Vanuatu Value Chains Program (VaVaC) in Vanuatu, and the value chain related activities of Pacific Horticulture Agriculture Market Access Plus ([PHAMA-Plus](#)) and MERMAID, amongst others.⁴

Private sector partners will engage with the PGs to develop joint business plans identifying key investments to remove value chain bottlenecks. Where a clear advantage exists, the partnerships will be formalised through contract farming agreements and similar arrangements based on 4P model.

Businesses entering into partnership agreements will be offered business development support. This support will focus on enhancing the ability of the value chain partners to (i) mobilise investment and working capital

⁴ Brief descriptions of the projects mentioned here are provided in Annex 12.

and (ii) strengthen supply chain management with farmers. Options to engage directly with banks, including Solomon Islands Development Bank and Vanuatu Agriculture Development Bank, for this activity will be explored at project design. If it is found that lack of capital (as opposed to lack of bankable loan applications) is the key constraint, IFAD may consider extending additional funding to finance bank lending to value chain partners (GAFSP funds will not finance loans or grants to private sector partners).

Component 3: Investments in resilient agri-food systems

Outcome 3: Enhanced production and value chains for food and cash crops

Component 3 builds on the community strategies and PG business plans by financing investments in production, post-harvest, processing and/or marketing of nutritious foods and cash crops. The investment finance will be considered as grants to the producer groups but the modality of fund transfers / procurement of assets will be decided in the detailed project design. Investment plans will be endorsed by private sector business partners, but the assets created will be the property of the PGs, or potentially, of more than one PG acting in cooperation.

Eligible investments will demonstrate a contribution to improving the supply of nutritious foods for consumption in rural and/or urban communities. Investments will be subject to checks for feasibility, alignment with project objectives, climate-relevance, environmental and social safeguards and consistency with the PG's business plans. Release of grant funds will also be subject to achievement of appropriate readiness criteria and may be phased, with initial investments focused on start-up of production followed by larger investments in value chain assets.

Output 3.1: Investment and training to boost production of nutritious foods and cash crops

PGs will be eligible for starter investment grants once group governance arrangements are in place and outline business plans are adopted. The use of starter grants will be flexible in accordance with group priorities but the priority will be to establish or enhance production of nutritious foods and cash crops within resilient farming systems. Through implementing the starter grant activities, the groups will gain management and organisational experience as well as the opportunity to further refine their business plans.

Eligible expenditures of the starter grants will include establishment of nurseries to ensure supply of planting materials, technical training and demonstration activities (with private sector partners as the preferred training providers), inputs, small tools and equipment for production and for post-harvest (e.g. cleaning, weighing, packing and simple processing).

Output 3.2: Targeted investments for upgrading value chains

PGs will become eligible for grants to finance value chain assets once appropriate readiness criteria have been achieved. Readiness criteria will be defined at design but will consider institutional capacity, equitable, inclusive governance and established value chain partnerships. Therefore, existing groups may reach this stage early in the project, while newly formed groups may require one to two years to achieve readiness.

Examples of eligible investments include production tools and equipment, post-harvest handling and storage (including solar-powered cold storage), preservation and processing equipment, small-scale transport infrastructure (field paths, bridges, wharves) and collection points. Investments that create business or marketing opportunities for women from the target communities such as agri-businesses, including food processing, or establishment of roadside market stalls, following a model that proved successful under RDP-II, will be prioritized. Financial and in-kind contributions by the PGs, and complementary investments by private partners, will be encouraged.

2.3. Elaborate on the target population(s) and the targeting strategy for the project

Geographic coverage: The project will target areas and communities in provinces, where (i) poverty data (using poverty incidence and the actual number of poor) and nutrition levels are lagging; (ii) agricultural potential exists for increased sustainable and climate resilient production and (iii) communities are able to access rural, peri-urban or urban markets. The project will avoid geographic overlap with other projects supporting community-based agriculture development (for example, ART and VaVaC).

Three provinces will be selected in each country, indicatively as follows (percent rates for poverty are indicated in brackets, for Solomons malnourished children under two is also included). In Solomon Islands: Isabel (18 & 12% respectively), Western (10 & 18%), and Choiseul (10 & 14%). In Vanuatu: Tafea Province

(14%), especially Tanna Island (15%); Malampa Province (8.5%), especially Malekula Island (11%), and Penama Province (7%), especially Maewo (13%) and Pentecost Islands (9%).

Target population. It is proposed to select 130 communities in each country, based on the criteria above and on interest of communities in participating and their agreement to provide women and youth farmers with assured access to land. There will be approximately 32,500 direct beneficiaries who will include (i) PG members (ii) non-PG farmers of the target communities exposed to new technologies, (iii) community members participating in the nutrition awareness activities. These direct beneficiaries will include at least 50% women and 50% youth (defined as being under the age of 35). Rural and urban poor who are net food buyers and who will benefit from increased availability and lower prices of nutritious food will be considered as indirect beneficiaries.

2.4 What supply and market failures will be addressed through the proposed project activities?

A primary market failure addressed by the project is that food markets and food systems do not meet the needs of a balanced diet in rural and urban communities. Trends over the last several decades [indicate that](#) “diets have shifted from being high in locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables, seeds and nuts, lean meat and seafood, to diets high in processed and often imported foods”, showing a deterioration rather than an improvement that is linked to market changes for tradeables as well as labor allocations. The causes for this failure are complex and varied; the project is designed as an integrated approach to those causes that can be addressed through action at community level and in local value chains. Contributing causes directly addressed by the project include:

Limited investment in technologies, productivity and infrastructure:

- Absence or sparsity of financial services for investment in agriculture.
- Limitations in access to inputs (particularly planting materials for improved/resilient varieties) and resources, especially for women and youth.
- Weak technology transfer channels from public or private services.
- Sparse value-chain infrastructure: farm access roads, small wharves, collection points, storage (including cold storage), small abattoirs etc.
- Little value addition through processing and food preservation.

Organisational weaknesses

- Damaged credibility and consequent under-resourcing of agriculture public services in some years (e.g. after “the tensions” eroded MAL and other public facilities in Solomon Islands)
- Weak extension and technical (vet, lab) services;
- Limited organizational capital of farmers, including producer groups and farmer-producer partnerships;
- Small number of active businesses downstream in the chain (processors, traders, transporters);

Another substantial market failure is in terms of financial services. Financial institutions faced limitations in placing loans and investments to agriculture, even before the current pandemic - in large part due to the absence of sufficient quality/volume of investment plans by business investors, and in part to limited investment in service outreach. In spite of adequate liquidity, financial institutions have quite low exposure to agriculture - prioritizing corporate lending (tourism, transportation, fisheries), housing and rapid turnaround loans for trade activities. The additional stress on the banking system due to COVID19 suggests that banks are reluctant to extend new loans despite ample liquidity. Agribusinesses are also undercapitalised with limited working capital and low investment levels, and unable to access equity markets. Even for those considered favourably by banks, borrowing is constrained by availability of sufficient suitable assets as a secured collateral.

Further analysis of the private sector will be undertaken as part of programme design, in particular the challenges Solomon Islands and Vanuatu agribusinesses face in supply chain management, access to technologies and investment finance, and market penetration for growing global markets. This will build on ongoing impact review of agribusinesses that participated in the Rural Development Project II.

2.5 Does the project enable any private sector solutions or opportunities to address identified market failures and/or does it have any intention to promote private investments?

The project provides opportunities for investment and support to smallholder farming systems, channeling investments through grassroots producer organizations while engaging agribusiness actors downstream in the value chain and encouraging further public and private investment. Private sector partnerships, between Producer Groups and agribusinesses, lies at the heart of the project strategy to boost production and market supply of nutritious foods and cash crops. In strengthening existing or establishing new farmer groups, the project will collaborate with national members of the Pacific Islands Farmer Organizations Network (PIFON) (see 2.7) and the ongoing IFAD-administered Farmer Organizations in Africa Caribbean Pacific (FO4ACP) programme - assisting PGs to mature and progress towards more formalized entities, such as cooperatives and associations, at a pace that is suitable to their needs. It will complement capacity building of national farmers' organizations and already underway by FO4ACP, and expand their reach and services to a broader constituency. AIM-Nutrition shall establish or increase the access of producer organizations to commercial markets, investment finance and market infrastructure, and shall assist with introducing more efficient technologies managed by membership-driven, market-oriented organizations.

Direct project investments will be financed through grants to PGs - private sector in their own right. It is anticipated that project investments will stimulate investments by farmers and larger agribusinesses and, where agribusiness' capital is fully subscribed, that AIM-Nutrition's capacity building and investment programme will create opportunities for some businesses to borrow additional funds downstream.

The use of AIM-Nutrition grant financing will be determined through joint planning with agribusiness partners in the value chain. Private businesses entering "4P" agreements with the PGs will receive business mentoring support. A particular focus of the business mentoring support will be to enhance the businesses' ability to access loan capital, including working capital, from development banks. Options for AIM-Nutrition to partner directly with the two development banks will also be explored at detailed design.

2.6 Describe results and how they will be measured at output, outcome, and impact levels.

The project aims to reach approximately 32,500 direct beneficiaries of whom 50% will be female and 60% will be youth (less than 35 years old). GAFSP standard indicators and IFAD Core Outcome Indicators (COI) have been chosen to capture the impact dimensions of nutrition, increase in income and adoption of resilient farming practices; and will be measured through random sample impact study with baseline and end-line surveys which will be conducted by a skilled, external service provider. IFAD is currently undertaking a rigorous impact survey for RDP II, and strengthening experience and local capacities in this regards.

Outcome indicators will be measured through annual surveys by project staff from year 2; and will be confirmed by the impact study. Outcome 1: *Understanding, capabilities and shared vision for climate-resilient and nutrition-sensitive local agri-food systems established* will be demonstrated through 130 communities signing agreements with producer groups for assured land access and equitable inclusion of women and youth, and by improved Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices for nutrition. The capacity development Outcome 2: *Active partnerships between producer groups and agribusinesses that improve market access and food sales* will target at least 90 PGs reporting sales increases of 25% and at least 130 PGs holding regular meetings and managing funds. Outcome 3: *Enhanced production and value chains for food and cash crops* is associated with investments and will be measured through increased productivity of land under integrated farming systems and through approximately 5,200 households with improved access to markets, processing and storage facilities.

Outputs will be measured through simple indicators that will be regularly reported by the Community Facilitators and updated in a simple management information system (MIS). GAFSP standard indicators have been chosen where appropriate. All indicators of numbers of beneficiaries will be disaggregated by gender and age group, and the project will also record numbers of people living with disabilities who benefit. A Proposal Stage Results Matrix is presented in Annex 2.

2.7 What evidence is there that the proposed approach and activities will successfully address the issues identified?

AIM Nutrition is based firmly on established technologies and intervention models, backed by the extensive experience and track record of IFAD and FAO in working with Pacific Islands communities. The project will promote well-established technical solutions to the challenges of developing sustainable agri-food systems, improving nutrition and increasing incomes for small farmers. The project methodology draws on extensive experience of IFAD and FAO in engagement with Pacific Island communities, as well as successful initiatives of the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu with other development partners. Participatory and inclusive community development approaches have succeeded in Tonga (Tonga Rural Innovation Project Phase I and II), Kiribati (Outer Islands Food and Water Project) and elsewhere.

Promotion of nutrition awareness and improved diet by combining training in cultivation of nutritious food with food preparation, nutrition knowledge and behaviour change strategies has been applied in various food and nutrition security projects in the Asia-Pacific region and found to be effective.

The integrated farming systems approach, designed to ensure resilience against natural disasters and increasing climate change impacts and to ensure sustainable soil management, is well proven and documented; and is congruent with the traditional agriculture knowledge and practices of the island communities that were developed and refined over the course of centuries. Modern agroforestry systems offer useful variations to improve resilience to climate change, respond to grower preferences, and to environmental, crop selection, and economic and ecological risk factors.

IFAD has supported producer organizations across the Pacific through long-term regional partnerships with and grant funding to PIFON, an apex regional network of national organizations. This has included the [Medium-Term Cooperation Programme Phase 2](#) (MTCP2 2013-2018); the [Asia Pacific Farmers' Programme](#) (APFP, 2019-); the EU- and IFAD-funded [Farmer Organizations for Africa Caribbean Programme](#) (FO4ACP, 2019-2023); and the Pacific Islands Rural and Agriculture Stimulus Facility amidst COVID19 (PIRAS, 2021-2022). These experiences (i) provide knowledge and human resources for investing in PG capacity building and (ii) demonstrate the benefits from engaging with farmer organizations in identifying priorities, engaging in policy dialogue especially around value chains and market access, and activating farmer-to-farmer learning.

Private sector partnerships have been successfully catalysed through joint action planning with smallholders in island communities in Papua New Guinea, Timor L'Este, Indonesia, Philippines and beyond. In the case of Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, the project will build on successes and lessons from RDP-II and VaVaC, MERMAID and solutions from FAO technical cooperation projects.

AIM-Nutrition actively builds on lessons learnt from other comparable projects being implemented in the two participating countries and the Pacific region. A number of projects⁵ continue to test promising models aiming to enhance market access and entrepreneurship for small-scale agriculture. AIM Nutrition will be able to replicate and scale validated models once it begins delivery in 2023.

2.8 In summary, why should GAFSP provide grant funding to the proposed project?

AIM-Nutrition targets two eligible Small Island Development States (SIDS) that have not received prior GAFSP support and that suffer from the challenges of smallness, remoteness and high climate vulnerability. Both suffer from high vulnerability to climate and natural resources and limited capability to adapt and address challenges without international assistance and investment support. Solomon Islands and Vanuatu are among the poorest and have the highest proportion of youth among all Pacific SIDS. The COVID19 pandemic has caused a slow-onset economic downturn, diminishing economic opportunities for young women and men.

The proposed AIM Nutrition programme harnesses *experiences and capabilities* - towards supporting smallholders at the margin of markets, strengthening communities and value chains, improving nutrition and enhancing climate resilience - developed by the respective Ministries of Agriculture, agribusiness and private sector, producer organisations, NGOs, bilateral and UN organisations and IFIs. The project will reduce poverty, empower farmers and address urgent deficiencies in availability and consumption of nutritious foods,

⁵ E.g. [Strongim Bisnis](#) in Solomon Islands, supported by Australia DFAT, USAID's [Strengthening Competitiveness, Agriculture, the Livelihoods and Environment Project](#) in Malaita province of Solomons, the EU-funded Vanuatu Value Chains Program in Vanuatu, the IFAD-funded MERMAID programme in both countries, and others.

contributing to the achievement of SDG 1 (no poverty) and SDG 2 (zero hunger). Through an integrated, community focused approach, the project will address all three GAFSP cross-cutting concerns: empowerment of women and girls; climate resilience and improved health and nutritional outcomes with FAO and IFAD technical and investment support. AIM Nutrition presents an unmatched opportunity to bring together international and local actors to address COVID challenges and climate change threats while improving nutrition and resilience, in two of the most threatened and most remote countries globally – in the spirit of leaving no one behind.

In reflection of the need and the opportunity, the Government Cabinet of Solomon Islands approved an Agriculture Sector Growth and Investment Plan in July 2021, that reflected broad consultations across the country. GAFSP, IFAD and FAO assistance would provide a landmark launch to the ASGIP, invest in delivery capacity in MAL and encourage other donors to support the Plan. In the case of Vanuatu, the European Development Fund has provided extensive investment support for commercialization of agriculture. Vanuatu's MALFFB is seeking technical assistance, relevant models and financing to ensure that smallholder farmers and particularly women and youth in more remote or disadvantaged communities are organized to be able to engage with and benefit from the value chain upgrading underway; and that nutrition-sensitive crops are also supported in rural communities. AIM Nutrition also enables MALFFB to ensure continuity in technical and investment support for communities not directly reached by EDF11, especially following EDF11 end in 2022.

Section 3: Context and Policy Environment for the Proposed Project

3.1 Describe the state of the country's agriculture and food system

With over 70% of Solomon Islands' and Vanuatu's populations living in rural areas, the production, consumption and business of food lies at the heart of vulnerability and of entrenched rural poverty. The wet tropical climate is favorable for a wide range of crops (including cash crops such as cocoa and coconut, spice crops such as vanilla, cardamom, chili, ginger and turmeric, and major food crops such as sweet potato, yams, cassava, taro, bananas and a range of fruits and vegetables). However, only around 42% of dietary energy and less than 40% of proteins are consumed from local production. Both countries could be producing a larger proportion of the food being consumed/imported, potentially to the benefit of those small-scale producers able to access these higher value markets- with a direct positive impact on rural incomes and nutrition outcomes. The vast majority of smallholders are currently excluded from markets by low productivity and high inter-island transport costs. Agricultural markets are thus characterized by a small number of traders/operators in the larger population centers at one end; a mass of individual primary producers at the other; and few value adders, processors, traders, input suppliers or other service providers within the commodity chains.

Traditional farming systems that have eroded in past two decades were sustainable; and agro-ecologically appropriate. With strong mutual support systems, the rural economy was sufficiently robust and well-balanced to ensure food security for whole communities and to cope with periodic shocks. These systems are now under stress of (i) increasing population, (ii) a rapid shift to purchased rice and imported processed foodstuffs, (iii) greater need to engage with the cash economy, (iv) a moribund rural economy and (v) exposure to extreme events and depleted natural resources. Fast-growing populations place pressure on land (with reductions in shifting cultivation) and on limited freshwater resources, and the inability to manage this in the context of high dependence on agriculture for livelihoods (notably in Solomon Islands) creates risks for political stability and food security.

A joint assessment by IFAD, FAO, WFP and UNICEF in 2021 elaborates key COVID19 impacts in the Pacific SIDS, corroborating findings from [a study of 133 communities undertaken in Solomon Islands and Fiji between May and August 2020](#):

- Small scale gardening has expanded, with support from Governments and farmer organisations
- The pandemic and climate trends may encourage domestic production of staple foods, replacing reliance exports.
- Agricultural labor supply has mostly increased as people lost tourism and other urban jobs.
- Agricultural inputs are in high demand, with some shortages.
- Pressure on natural resources has increased.
- Market and transport restrictions disrupted local food distribution.
- The ability to reduce post-harvest losses when value chains were disrupted was constrained by insufficient crop storage and preservation, resulting in financial losses.

- Households and businesses are innovating responses to market restrictions, e.g. using online marketing or erecting roadside stalls.
- Farmers who previously supplied the tourism sector are pivoting toward selling in local markets.
- Imports were initially delayed and occasionally limited, but remain largely available.
- Limited and costly airfreight is causing marketing constraints for horticultural and other high value exports
- Longer-term economic impacts related to loss or reduction in livelihoods have translated into diminished household income and purchasing power with adverse implications on consumption and nutrition (including reduced dietary diversity) rather than immediate changes in food environments.
- Reduced incomes and purchasing power, along with the aforementioned impacts along the supply chain have, to varying degrees, affected access, availability, and quality of locally-produced and imported food.

To cope with these changes, the Solomon Islands government along with farmer organizations have enhanced seed distribution and access through a stimulus package offered to larger-scale agricultural and fisheries operators, though the program excludes some of the most vulnerable and poor. The Government of Vanuatu has provided matching grants for agricultural machinery purchases, aiming to enhance productivity and expand production. IFAD is supporting World Vision Vanuatu in rolling out cashless payment services for agricultural inputs and services, using blockchain verifications (originally [developed in Vanuatu for humanitarian assistance](#)).

The COVID19 impacts compound the negative health outcomes caused by climate change. Climate change is affecting changing local weather patterns and will impact food systems in complex ways in the future. Pressure on the countries' food systems from climate change include (i) more extreme weather events; (ii) destruction of infrastructure through cyclones and storm surges (iii) shifts in crop seasonality in terms of planting, fruiting and harvesting; (iv) more pests and diseases of animals, crops and trees; (v) saltwater inundation and intrusion of coastal land and groundwater; and (vi) reduced fisheries productivity; with the consequence of compromised food and nutrition security. Increases in the intensity of both rainy and dry seasons will render local production of nutritious and healthy foods even more difficult, with one study projecting a 50% decline in the yield of sweet potato in the Solomon Islands by 2050, while impact of climate change beyond the region increases the prices of staple food imports.

3.2 How will the proposed project address medium- to long-term COVID-19 response and recovery of the agriculture and food sectors in a changing climate and support the principle of 'building back better'?

The coping strategies adopted by rural communities leverage local systems for cooperation and mutual assistance, and demonstrate the need to build on these traditions to avoid social strains and inequitable access to resources while expanding resilience. The increases in farming effort and of local food production must be accompanied by increased diversity, understanding of nutrition and a return to resilience and sustainability in farming methods. Increased food production will only be sustained if farmers have the opportunity to generate cash income through stronger, better organised market access supported by critical infrastructure and partnerships.

The project is designed to address these elements of a comprehensive strategy for “building back better”. The requirements for a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 crisis are married to the need for resilient food systems that ensure food security and nutrition, provide adequate incomes for farmers and bolster resilience to other natural disasters and to climate change.

With respect to more immediate health risks and protocols in the value chain, AIM Nutrition will help ensure timely access to inputs for those affected, or at threat of being affected, by COVID-19. The project will assist small-scale producers, including women and youth, living in the poorest communities, in accessing and effectively using inputs through the following community-level actions and producer group investments:

- Procurement and provision of inputs at the required time (such as seeds at the beginning of the planting season or vaccines for livestock to avoid disease outbreaks).
- Grants to households for purchasing inputs. In Vanuatu, a cashless blockchain scheme could provide contributions to the participating farmer's card.
- Online networking to connect producers with production services and hired labour, including identifying and re-skilling those who have lost other employment due to COVID-19.
- Access to water for household and food processing hygiene through small-scale water harvesting, provision and purification technologies.

To ensure small-scale producers maintain their benefits from market participation, markets must stay open and be accessible. Producers must also be able to store their produce, and access services that add value at the required time. Interventions that could achieve these goals include:

- Set up of certified transport and logistics systems for movement of inputs and produce in rural areas operating on the basis of COVID-19 safety protocols. This could involve driver screening, vehicle and container sanitation, and tracking systems for produce.
- Support wholesale, retail and wet markets, and processing and packaging centres, to remain open by equipping them with sanitation and COVID-19 safety measures. Also working to guarantee prices and purchase to consolidate and make transport easier.
- Support to farmers and PGs to aggregate their produce and leave them at specified (sanitized and virus-controlled) collection centres.
- Providing storage facilities for crops, potentially by using rehabilitated and sanitised community spaces, and using tracking systems to record delivery quantity and payments.
- Providing Farmers' Organisations with technical and financial resources to support members in aggregating and selling their harvest.
- Organising value chain linkages for purchasing produce/surplus, e.g. by supermarkets or governments, potentially for use in food packages.

The use of digital platforms (including SMS/text, social media or customised apps trialled in Pacific or other SIDS) will be reviewed at project design, and is likely to include leveraging of the following activities in partnership with the IFAD-funded PIRAS programme and its UN partners:

- Providing information on production practices, the location of markets (for inputs and outputs), market prices, and other important livelihood information and skills-building.
- Supporting the development of e-market platforms and apps that can virtually link producers to buyers.
- Delivering remote training through mobile phones with content that is tailored to the practices and challenges faced in a given area.
- Collecting data through surveys on mobile phones to gain a deeper understanding of the livelihood challenges being faced during and after the crisis in order to better-tailor support.

Annex 9 presents additional project interventions in relation to the “building back better” amidst COVID19.

3.3 Beyond COVID-19, provide additional national, regional and/or local context for the proposed project.

The impact of the pandemic was compounded by Tropical Cyclone (TC) Harold which affected four Pacific island countries, including Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, in April 2020. TC Harold passed through the Solomon Islands as a Category 3 cyclone, causing loss of life and widespread damage caused to agricultural crops, food gardens, homes, buildings and roads. The cyclone escalated to a category 5 system when it passed through Vanuatu. This compounded existing pressures from managing other events, including the Tanna volcano ash fall and acid rain, Teouma flooding, drought and the ongoing Ambae volcano recovery. The Government estimated that about 26,000 households (around 43% of the population) were impacted by TC Harold. Sectoral assessments in three hardest hit provinces was estimated at US\$ 17 million of damage on public health facilities; and approximately US\$ 57 million in damage to education facilities. Economic losses to agriculture were estimated at US\$ 163 million. TC Harold caused widespread destruction to private and public property, heaping further stress on the private sector.

COVID-19 made it especially difficult for governments to implement swift and impactful relief and recovery efforts in the two countries. In the wake of these shocks, the Governments of Solomon Islands and Vanuatu have placed special emphasis on strengthening food and nutrition security and increasing the output of the agriculture sector to stimulate economic recovery and support rural livelihoods.

UNICEF's 2018 formative research on nutrition in RMI, Solomon and Kiribati provides some insight on the primary barriers to consuming more diverse and nutritious foods. The main factors contributing to diets low in protein, fruits and vegetables are (1) the affordability and availability of nutrient dense foods relative to fresh local foods, and (2) preferences for processed, store-bought food items, which are often more affordable and convenient than healthier alternatives. In all countries, exclusive breastfeeding is hampered by competing demands, perceived inadequate breast milk, and traditional medicines.⁶

⁶ In Solomon Islands, caregivers consider local fresh foods to be ‘most nutritious’ and processed foods like noodles, canned tuna, and packaged snacks to be the ‘least nutritious’ for young children. Nevertheless, the convenience of buying and preparing

3.4 Is the proposed project aligned with the country’s agriculture and food security strategies, the national COVID-19 Response Plan, or other approved development plans?

The project builds on current COVID-19 response actions in both countries as it supports the realization of medium- to long-term outcomes in the areas of (i) economic growth through increased productivity and functioning of local supply chains (ii) food and nutrition security, (iii) increased use of traditional and nutrient rich food crops, (iv) establishing resilient integrated farming system, and (v) increased opportunities for women and youth development, as expressed in the countries’ policies and strategies.

The project is strongly aligned with agriculture and food security strategies in both countries, as well as with policies favouring strengthening of community-based producer organisations and cooperatives as a basis for market engagement of smallholder farmers, building of climate resilience and empowerment of women and youth. A full description of the policy context in each country is provided for Solomon Islands in Annex 10 and for Vanuatu in Annex 11.

In **Solomon Islands**, the overarching policy framework is the **National Development Strategy 2016-35 (NDS)**. Under the NDS, Solomon Islands recently adopted its **Agriculture Sector Growth and Investment Plan for 2021-2030 (ASGIP)**. ASGIP was developed with IFAD and FAO support and the project is designed to support implementation of key elements of ASGIP’s Programme 2: National Food and Nutrition Security (see box).

Solomon Islands ASGIP Programme 2: National Food and Nutrition Security: Sub-Program Objectives	
2.1	Short and efficient food supply chains ensure the resilient availability of locally produced food, improve local economic development and enhance food and nutrition security.
2.2	Increased availability of diverse exotic and traditional horticultural crops (vegetables, fruits, nuts roots, tubers, etc.) for all improves the resilience and nutritional status of communities and contributes to positive early childhood development.
2.3	Increased availability of locally produced meat contributes to a decrease of malnutrition in rural communities.
2.4	Enhanced food self-sufficiency and income generation through improved rice-farming systems based on sustainable and profitable multi-cropping systems.
2.5	Resilient and diverse farming systems coupled with preparedness for replanting and restocking ensures quick disaster recovery.

Of the five objectives of the sub-programme, the project directly addresses three: strengthening local supply chains, increased availability of diverse horticultural crops, and resilient and diverse farming systems. The project will support increased availability of locally produced meat through small livestock raising within integrated farming systems. The project does not directly support rice-farming systems but supports enhanced food sufficiency and income-generation of the target farmers.

The project also aligns strongly with **Solomon Islands’ National Food Security, Food Safety and Nutrition Policy 2019 – 2023 (NFSFSN)**, developed with assistance from FAO, and Solomon Islands’ “Kaikaim Lokol Kaikai - Framework for Action on Local Food Promotion”. Specifically, Program Area 2 (PA2) of the NFSFSN promotes farmers’ knowledge on environmentally friendly farming systems; home gardening of nutritious crops; school farm development; financial literacy training for farmers and vendors; improved production, post-harvest, marketing and processing; & improved production of small livestock, all within the project scope.

Vanuatu’s development framework is defined by its National Sustainable Development Plan 2016-2030 (**NSDP**). **Agriculture Sector Policy 2015-2030 (ASP)** has the goal that “*the nation’s agricultural resources*

processed foods over local fresh foods, in both rural and urban areas, is an important barrier to improving children’s dietary diversity. In urban areas, the high prices of local fresh foods present an additional barrier to a nutritious and diverse diet for young children. In rural areas, preferences for processed foods over local fresh foods (particularly for rice over traditional staples such as potato and cassava) as well as the unaffordability of protein-rich foods emerged as prominent additional barriers to dietary diversity. Protein-rich foods such as egg, fish, and chicken are the least affordable young child foods in both urban and rural areas. The consumption of deep-sea fish (e.g. tuna, barracuda), which could provide alternative sources of protein, is discouraged by food taboos that link these fish with mouth rash (fish sick) in young children during complementary feeding as well as during pregnancy and lactation.

are managed in an integrated and sustainable manner to provide food and improved incomes as well as contribute to environmental and social services to enhance wellbeing of all people in Vanuatu” which is congruent with the project objective. Alignment of strategies and objectives of the ASP with the project is detailed below, illustrating consistency with all the strategies and directly supporting strategies 7 to 12.

Table 2: Vanuatu Agriculture Sector Policy and Project Alignment

Strategy	Specific Objectives	Project Alignment
1. Institutional Set-Up and Compliance	Orderly agriculture sector	Supporting
2. Extension and Training	Qualified and competent agriculture workforce Widespread coverage of agriculture information	Strengthening extension service
3. Finance	Accessible and affordable agriculture credit	Option for IFAD funding for credit to be studied at design
4. Agriculture Land Use	Vanuatu agriculture land appropriately allocated according to land use policy	Supporting
5. Agriculture Investment	Agriculture sector the leading domestic and foreign direct investment option	Supporting
6. Research and Development	Quality and productive agriculture produce	Supporting
7. Planting Materials, Tools and Agricultural Inputs	Appropriate agricultural seeds, planting materials and inputs readily available and accessible	Finance inputs for communities and PG farmers
8. Environmental Protection and Sustainable Farming	Environmentally Friendly Agriculture Agriculture soils improved and conserved	Promote integrated agriculture and soil management
9. Production and market access	Sufficient and surplus agriculture outputs Stakeholders income and revenue base increased	Support market access through PGs and value chains
10. Food Security	Food and nutrition security needs of Vanuatu adequately met by all stakeholders	Food security and nutrition focus
11. Employment	Agriculture sector the most attractive national employer	Supporting
12. Climate variability, climate change and disaster risk reduction	Disaster and climate resilient agriculture	Resilience is key focus
13. Gender and Vulnerable Groups	Equal Opportunities in Agriculture Development	Project mainstreams women’s empowerment

Vanuatu launched its [Gudfala Kakae](#) (“Good Food”) Policy in 2020 to strengthen food security and nutrition based on local foods (*aelan kakae*). Policy objectives of Gudfala Kakae are listed in the following box.

Vanuatu Gudfala Kakae Policy Objectives
1. Improve access to affordable, nutritious diet through a sustained increase in production of aelan kakae;
2. Promote aelan kakae as a key part of a sustainable and nutritionally balanced diet;
3. Improved access to nutritious, convenient aelan kakae through increased access to appropriate technology, knowledge and skills in food production, preservation, marketing and storage;
4. Facilitate a reduction in consumption of food imports contributing to poor health outcomes
5. Improve the resilience of agricultural production systems through the adoption of sustainable and climate-smart agricultural practices
6. Improved multi-sector co-ordination, implementation and monitoring of action to address food and nutrition security, and food safety.

The project is strongly aligned with these objectives and will implement specific interventions prioritised with the Gudfala Kakae results matrix, notably including health and nutrition campaigns (including school gardens) under Objective 2, empowerment of smallholder producer organisations to improve market linkages under Objective 3, supporting conservation and utilization of traditional crop varieties to enhance climate resilience under Objective 5.

The **Vanuatu Recovery Strategy 2020-23 (VRS)** aims to “work together to recover, rebuild and emerge stronger and more resilient from the compound disaster of TC Harold and COVID-19” and defines Recovery Objective 2 (RO2): Enhance Lives and Livelihoods. RO2 outcomes include “*Improved farming practices, use of technology and traditional knowledge, crop choices including climate and disaster resilience, and strategic import substitution*”; and “*Private sector, including primary producers, industry and service providers in both formal and informal sectors supported in adapting to changing circumstances and seeking out new opportunities, including through improved access to finance, business support services, access to markets and land management and equity measures*” which are directly relevant to the proposed project strategy and outcomes.

Section 4: Cross-cutting Themes

4.1 Does the proposed project address GAFSP priority cross-cutting themes?

- Gender and empowerment of women and girls
- Climate resilience
- Improved nutritional outcomes

4.2 Describe how the project will address the identified thematic focus areas.

4.2.1 Gender and empowerment of women and girls.

Detailed country gender assessments have been commissioned by FAO and the Pacific Community for [Solomon Islands \(2019\)](#) and [Vanuatu \(2020\)](#). This project addresses gaps and challenges identified in these assessments, will support active engagement of women and youth in decision-making - as well as equitable access to the benefits of the project. The NGO scope of work will place particular emphasis on addressing gender and nutrition issues at the community level. The entry point for project engagement with communities will be the participatory situation analysis, where women’s knowledge and insights on local food systems and nutrition will be essential. The activity will be designed to ensure that the knowledge, views and needs of women and girls are fully considered. Women and girls will have the opportunity to identify challenges and opportunities from their perspectives, and to present their collective views/needs in the problem identification and action planning.

The overriding role of women in home gardens and small livestock production (as well as in food preparation and childcare) in Solomons and Vanuatu require that all nutrition related activities are designed and delivered in a manner that is responsive to their needs and circumstances. Early childhood nutrition messaging (the “first 1,000 days”) and maternal health will seek to support expectant mothers and women with young children to maximize health outcomes for themselves and their children.

Women will be targeted as important beneficiaries in the home garden production activities, though the project will emphasize that the resulting workload should not be borne by women and girls only. Emphasis will be placed on raising awareness of community leaders, and of men and boys, on the need to redress inequities in women’s access to resources, burden-sharing, employment opportunities, gender-based violence and threats to physical safety.

Women’s access to land for agriculture will be negotiated with community leaders as a pre-requisite for community selection; and formalized in signed Agreements for Sustainable Family Farming Business and Nutrition, following the model piloted by the MERMAID project. The project will also target 50% female involvement in PG membership and activities, through both women specific producer groups where preferred by women, or else through equal participation in groups open for both women and men. Referral services (community, justice, health) available to women shall be mapped to ensure project staff can manage the risks of violence against women; and where needed AIM-Nutrition will link up with Ministries of Women and UN Women to ensure that referral services exist and are functional.

PG capacity building under Component 2 will include gender awareness for men and women farmers. Women will be encouraged and facilitated to take leadership positions. Criteria for approval of investments (to be detailed at the project design stage) will give priority to investment in PG assets that create business and employment opportunities for community women, for example processing facilities, or that reflect areas of higher involvement of women, for example roadside market stalls. Agribusiness-related capacity building, mentoring and financial literacy will seek to target a higher proportion of women in order to assist in higher employment or self-employment across the value chain.

One of the challenges identified in gender assessments for both Solomons and Vanuatu is the understanding of and attention to gender issues by extension workers. The project's community and PG outreach modality relies on recruitment of Community Facilitators, who will be trained on gender issues with extension workers. The project will seek to select the largest number possible of women as Community Facilitators, as women CFs are likely (i) better able to understand and to redress inequities and unbalanced approaches to the needs and circumstances of rural women and (ii) to more easily adopt a gendered perspective to all extension services and project activities, rather than a selected few priority actions for women. Prioritization of women as CFs may also provide a counter-balance to the lower employment of women in the national extension services.

Monitoring indicators will be disaggregated by gender. Achievement levels will be measured in terms of participation of women and girls in project related community meetings, in the respective investment activities, as well as participation in the project's training activities (see Table E Proposal Stage Results Monitoring Matrix).

Indicative list of activities addressing gender and empowerment of women and girls:
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- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's and girls' perspectives on food and nutrition are central to the participatory situation analysis and community planning; • Women and girls participate in nutrition awareness and nutritious food production activities. • Women farmers' access to land and to PG membership and benefits secured through Sustainable Family Farming Business and Nutrition Agreements • Women and girls participate in leadership and governance of the PGs; • PG capacity building includes gender awareness for men and women. • Women and girls participation at trainings reaches at least 50% women; • Women participate in and benefit equitably from PG investments; • Investment criteria prioritise investments creating business opportunities for community women. • Equal opportunities and positive encouragement for recruitment of women project staff. |
|---|

4.2.2 Climate resilience.

Rural communities in the two countries are highly vulnerable to long-term impacts of climate change as well as to the effects of extreme events, which are projected to occur with increasing frequency. Climate change projections warn of increasing frequency of cyclones, and of intensity of rainy and dry seasons, as well as rising sea levels and associated saline intrusion and coastal erosion. Climate change risks will be mitigated by promoting climate-smart, agriculture production technology. Soils testing and soil health improvement strategies will be integrated into productive investments.

This includes an emphasis on diversification within integrated, multi-crop farming systems, that improve biodiversity and reduce the impact from loss of a single crop or production cycle as well as yielding benefits in soil health, erosion protection and increased shelter and shade for ground crops. Elements of these systems include integrating root crops which are less susceptible to cyclones, agroforestry, silvo-pastures, intercropping, alley cropping, crop-rotations, improved fallows, raised-bed agriculture, use of leguminous crops, soil erosion control, composting, use of poly-houses, water management, integrated pest management, and use of improved and resilient varieties, including traditional varieties, etc.

While synthetic fertilizer, fuel, and chemical inputs are costly and can harm ecosystems, integrated agroforestry holds promise for transitioning to resilient, sustainable and regenerative food production. Accordingly, promoting integrated, agroforestry systems in combination with various innovations has been highlighted in Vanuatu's Agriculture Sector Policy 2015-2030, and in Solomon Islands' Agriculture Sector Growth and Investment Plan 2021-2030.

The project will promote production of "island superfoods" selected for climate resilience. Improved storage and preservation of foods will improve year-round availability and reduce losses during cyclone events. Increased social capital through group formation and diversified incomes through marketing of food and cash crops will increase resilience to shocks at household and community level.

During the detailed project design a stock-take of climate resilient food production practices will be undertaken. This will involve exploration of practices currently recommended by the respective national and international research stations (e.g. ACIAR, CGIAR), the Pacific Community (SPC) and by other development projects active in the countries (see Annex 12 for relevant development projects in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu). Achievement levels will be measured by the number of climate resilient practices adopted by PG members. An indicative list of climate resilient practices is provided below.

Indicative list of climate resilient practices which could be supported:

- Introduction of improved / climate resilient (e.g. drought resistant, saline resistant) varieties, including “island superfoods”;
- Establishment of nurseries to ensure a supply of planting / replanting material. Include measures to protect seedlings during cyclone days, for example used shipping containers or other shelters for temporary protection of trays of seedlings;
- Introduction / restoration of integrated farming systems have a higher resilience towards natural disasters and climate change;
- Integration of root crops in farming systems which can withstand cyclones and serve as emergency food after natural disasters.
- Building up soil organic matter through intercropping, use of legumes, crop rotations, use of compost including the establishment of composting facilities and their equipment.
- Incorporating small livestock, such as poultry, sheep, and goats into the farming system to generate additional income and food security.

4.2.3 Improved nutritional outcomes.

Nutrition improvements will be achieved through increased awareness and increased availability of nutritious foods. The project will benefit from research currently underway by the MERMAID project to identify up to 10 “island superfoods” characterized by high nutritional value, market demand, ease of production and climate resilience. Increased productivity and strengthened value chains will assist farmers to compete on price with imported foods.

Table 2: Nutrition Indicators

Indicator	Solomon Isl.	Vanuatu
Prevalence of stunting in children under five years of age	31.7%	29.0%
Percentage of children under five years of age suffering from wasting	8.5%	4.7%
Prevalence of overweight and obesity among adults	54.0%	57.0%
Prevalence of anaemia in women of reproductive age	39.0%	24.0%

The project strategy of supporting production of nutritious foods within sustainable farming and agri-food systems, is designed to address nutrition by increasing the year-round availability of nutritious food, by encouraging consumption of nutritious foods in rural communities and by reducing the cost of nutritious food in urban markets. One project sub-component will focus on nutrition awareness and on production and preparation of “island superfood” high-nutrition crops. Specific nutrition-related interventions will include those in the preliminary list below. Achievement levels will be measured in terms of the Food Insecurity Experience Scale, the Food Consumption Score and the Minimum Dietary Diversity Score for women and children.

Indicative list of eligible activities to improve nutritional outcomes:

- Participatory analysis of food production and consumption patterns and identifying “island superfoods” that can be introduced or scaled up
- Integration of nutritious food production into farming systems (incl. home gardens) for producing a greater variety in terms of food groups aligned with dietary guidelines all year round.
- Demonstration plots for nutritious foods sited at schools.
- Food processing and preservation for extended home storage and use and potentially for sale to urban markets.
- Training in preparation of nutritious foods as per dietary guidelines.
- Awareness campaigns, road shows, social media posting etc. for improved nutrition.
- Production of short nutrition-related video clips in local languages to be uploaded on mobile phone apps and social media.

4.3 How are the proposed activities informed by and how do they respond to the country’s policies and strategies related to the selected cross-cutting themes?

Technical assistance, experiential learning and economies of scale in services and technology development will be assured through shared implementation by the two countries. The common approach is strongly aligned with the agriculture and development priorities of each country.

4.3.1 Gender and empowerment of women and girls

Solomon Islands is a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and to a number of other international and regional agreements on gender equality and the advancement of women including the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (2012). Solomon Islands NDS highlights aspirations for a modern, united Solomon Islands built on trust and mutual respect and further highlights gender equality priorities espoused in the National Gender Equality and Women's Development Policy 2016–2020. It emphasizes the need for (i) preventing and responding to violence against women and girls; (ii) improving the economic status of women, and (iii) ensuring equal participation of women and men at all levels of decision making, governance and leadership. The policy also calls for more security of land and property ownership rights for women acknowledging that access and control of land for women is generally more difficult than for men who control most of the productive resources.

Solomon Islands' ASGIP strongly emphasizes the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL)'s commitment to actively promote equal opportunities for women and men as a crosscutting issue through all its programs. In addition the ASGIP has a specific component on women development which provides for gender responsive extension service delivery. The National Strategy for the Economic Empowerment of Women and Girls also promotes women's financial inclusion through financial literacy and saving schemes especially targeting the informal sector. The Ministry for Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs conducts such trainings on financial literacy, saving schemes and access to affordable financial services for rural women and girls.

Vanuatu is also a signatory to CEDAW and other international and regional agreements on gender equality and the advancement of women, including the Beijing Platform for Action. Vanuatu's NSDP aspires to an "inclusive society which upholds human dignity and where the rights of all Ni-Vanuatu, including women, youth, the elderly and vulnerable groups are supported, protected and promoted in our legislation and institutions." The pillar on society includes commitments to (i) implement gender-responsive planning and budgeting processes; (ii) prevent and eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women, children and vulnerable groups; and (iii) ensure all people, including people with disabilities, have access to governmental services.

Vanuatu's National Gender Equality Policy 2015–19 prioritizes four strategic areas, namely (i) reduction of domestic and gender-based violence; (ii) enhancement of women's economic empowerment; (iii) promotion of women's leadership and equal political participation; and (iv) building a foundation for gender mainstreaming. Access to and control over land is more difficult for women than men, although legislation related to land in Vanuatu is gender neutral.

Vanuatu's Overarching Productive Sector Policy 2012–2017, the ASP, the National Livestock Policy 2015-2030, and the National Forest Policy 2013-2023, all include political commitments towards gender equity, increased women participation in capacity building measures, and the ASP has an objective to allocate specific funds for agriculture activities undertaken by women, youth and vulnerable groups.

In both countries the project will closely collaborate with the respective institutions responsible for gender and women development during detailed project design and implementation, especially also in terms of participatory planning, inclusive problem identification, visioning and action planning, as well as streamlining of training activities in the areas of financial literacy and access to savings and credit opportunities. The project strategy for empowerment of women and girls described in Section 4.2.1 is strongly in alignment with government policy and strategy.

4.3.2 Climate resilience

Solomon Islands. The Government's National Climate Change Policy (2012-2017) lists agriculture and food security among the sectors most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. It emphasizes that adaptation to climate change needs to be mainstreamed into all development sectors and must be integrated into the work of government agencies, national institutions, civil society and private sector.

Solomon Islands' ASGIP highlights the importance of adopting agricultural practices that mitigate, but also adapt to climate change. Some of the approaches highlighted include mixed and integrated farming systems including agroforestry, livestock under trees, crop rotations and intercropping with legumes, etc., and use of traditional farming and food practices combined with innovations.

Vanuatu. Vanuatu's Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy (2016-2030) enumerates potential impacts of climate change on the productive sector, including (i) reduced availability of fresh water; (ii) shifts

in crop seasonality; (iii) more pests and diseases of animals, crops and trees; (iv) saltwater inundation and intrusion of coastal land and groundwater; (v) reduced fisheries productivity, and (vi) compromised food security. MALFFB established a Risk and Resilience Unit to liaise with the National Advisory Board on Climate Change and strengthen climate change adaptation and risk reduction from line departments through to grassroots level, including coordinating the food security cluster's responsibilities in response to disasters.

Vanuatu's Agriculture Policy foresees that any development partners funding allocated to agriculture development shall also include measures to adapt to climate change and strengthen risk resilience by promoting adequate farming practices and stress-tolerant crop varieties. The policy also mandates development and implementation of programs to strengthen traditional and self-reliant agricultural systems through with components that encourage growing traditional climate-resilient staple crops such as sweet potato, taro, banana, yam, cassava and trees and animals

In both countries the project will closely collaborate with the respective institutions in charge of climate change and disaster risk management during detailed project preparation as well as implementation. The project strategy to build resilient communities and agro-food systems has been described in Section 4.2.2 above and is strongly aligned with policies and strategies in both countries.

4.3.3 Improved nutritional outcomes

Solomon Islands. The Ministry of Health & Medical Services is currently updating the NFSFSNP to a more comprehensive multisector policy with assistance from the FIRST initiative. Solomon Islands' ASGIP has a strong focus on food and nutrition security under its Program 2 which aims at increased accessibility, availability, affordability and diversity of nutritious food for all citizens. Specifically, it promotes short food supply chains, reduction of food waste, increased use of traditional nutrient dense foods and keeping of well adapted and resilient small livestock breeds for boosting protein intakes. The country's Lokol Kaikai Initiative is an additional framework for action on food and nutrition security by MAL in collaboration with other sectors. It outlines actions for improving access to, and affordability of local foods, primarily through programs that promote local agriculture and fisheries production, post-harvest, marketing, processing and retail. It is complemented by the Ministry of Health's Healthy Kaikai Training Kit and dietary guidelines.

Vanuatu. Vanuatu's Non-Communicable Disease Policy & Strategic Plan (2016-2020) highlights poor nutrition as one of four risks contributing to the rapid increase in NCDs. Promoting improved nutrition nationwide is one of the policy's eleven strategic objectives and the action plan outlines a variety of nutrition related activities including training and outreach material. Vanuatu's ASP specifies four policy directives in relation to improved nutrition, namely (i) to increase production of sufficient and nutritionally adequate food at national level; (ii) to improve access to and availability of sufficient, safe and nutritionally adequate food; (iii) to encourage the utilisation of sufficient and nutritionally balanced diets; and (iv) to enhance the sustainability of food supply at national level. Vanuatu's Gudfala Kakae Policy 2017-2030 aims at reversing and/or preventing the trend of ill health through increased local food production and healthy eating. The policy focuses on increasing the resilience of production systems and the consumption of more traditional and healthy cuisine known as *aelan kakae*.

In both countries the project will closely collaborate with the respective ministries of agriculture and health during the detailed project design as well as during implementation in order to fully align the project's nutrition related investments and activities with their approaches, especially also supporting the implementation of their agricultural strategies including the Lokol Kaikai Initiative and the Gudfala Kakae Policy.

4.4 Describe the role and involvement of women and girls in the project.

All activities will be designed to facilitate the full and equal involvement of women and girls. Specific project strategies and design features to empower women and girls and to ensure inclusion and equitable sharing of benefits have been described above, particularly in Section 4.2.1.

Section 5: Project Implementation, Sustainability and Budget

5.1 What are the risks to achieving the proposed project's objectives and what are the potential negative externalities or spillovers that could result from the proposed project activities and targeting?

The rural areas of Solomon Islands and Vanuatu are a challenging environment and pose a number of risks to successful project implementation. Fortunately, the risks, and appropriate risk mitigation strategies, are

familiar from previous projects with comparable target communities, including recent and ongoing projects of IFAD and FAO. Careful assessment of risks and application of lessons learned from previous projects allow overall risks to be reduced to an acceptable level.

A full risk analysis is presented in Annex 3, Table F. Key **design assumptions** are that target communities will have viable opportunities to produce for the market and can assure access to land for market-orientated farmers. The existence of these conditions will be verified at the start of intervention in any community.

Access to land in particular is a key issue. The co-existence of customary law and formal law is the very basis of legal pluralism in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, and this also extends to land ownership. With about 80% of land being under customary landownership in both countries, access to land for farmers and their organisations, especially also for women, has been a concern for many decades. Customary arrangements usually safeguard access to land for the sake of basic food security, but equitable access to land for production for the market is more difficult to achieve. Lack of assured, equitable access to land for project beneficiaries is considered a medium risk with high impact, especially when it comes to integrating long term crops (e.g. high value trees) into farming systems and genuine efforts to build up soil fertility. To mitigate the risk of community tensions about land use, the project will work in collaboration with the respective national and local authorities, taking a participatory approach of facilitating a negotiated longer-term access to land for farmers and their groups within their communities, as a first step to engagement in a community.

Among **implementation risks**, the risk that the project will be affected by limited implementation capacity, particularly at sub-national level, is considered high, with a medium impact on project outcomes. Capacity risk will be mitigated through a multi-level strategy in which the public extension service will be strengthened and linked to communities through Community Facilitators and will work in partnership with service providers (e.g. NGO's) with established capacity and track record. Technical quality will be further assured through the FAO Technical Assistance Facility, offering cost efficiencies through sharing of resources between countries.

In the **social risk** category, two risks, both concerned with the willingness of beneficiaries to adopt new approaches, have been identified as of medium likelihood but potentially high impact. The nutrition education programme depends for success on willingness to adopt changed diets and child feeding practice and may encounter resistance due to traditional beliefs or personal preferences. The market agriculture approach depends on willingness of the beneficiaries to invest in building strong producer groups and value chain relationships and to cooperate in aspects of production and marketing. In both these cases the project will adopt a culturally sensitive, incremental approach based on working with existing practice and building trust as a basis for change. Periodic surveys will inform management on responsiveness (attitudes and practices).

Negative externalities and spillovers of the project are considered to be small due to the nature of the project interventions. The project will not investment in large infrastructure or other activities that could have widespread negative environmental impacts. There is a possibility that non-target communities could face competitive disadvantages due to the production and marketing support provided to target communities, but any such effect is likely to be small and short-lived.

5.2 What are specific design measures that will be incorporated to increase the likelihood of sustainability of the project outcomes?

Sustainability of project outcomes will be achieved through a strategy of sustained engagement with local communities to assist them to identify and implement solutions that meet their needs and are compatible with local social, cultural, economic and environmental conditions.

The key dimensions of sustainability will include (1) sustainability of behavior change – this includes diet and infant feeding as well as agriculture production and marketing approaches; (2) sustainability of social capital created, in the community, in producer groups and in value chain relationships; (3) sustainability of physical capital created through project investments; and (4) environmental sustainability, including climate resilience and improved soils management.

Sustainability in all these dimensions will be achieved through sustained effort, starting from the project inception period, and through an incremental approach relying on local problem-solving, early demonstration of effectiveness, establishment of capacity and scaling up. The project will “work with the grain” of existing knowledge, customs and practices and will partner with community leaders and with institutions already present – these may include local councils, community organisations, farmer organisations and faith groups as well as private sector actors.

The participation of FAO and selection of NGO for community engagement will be critical to ensure sustainability prospects, as will the efficacy of value chain partnerships and access to markets, which all offer strong incentives for participants to maintain and build on project investments. The project will establish and maintain a network of facilitators recruited from within the local community and whose increased skills and knowledge will be valuable to the communities beyond the project period.

All PGs will benefit from facilitator support throughout the project period, although the intensity of support will vary at different stages of the project. The project will also link to training and capacity building support by PIFON and KGA, through the IFAD-funded farmer organization programmes in the region, as well as farmer exchanges and other activities that will support farmers and build confidence and ownership within their PG as mechanisms of self-help and drivers of change that deliver tangible results.

Capacity and organizational structure of the PGs will be built incrementally and organically - not all PGs will proceed at the same pace. It is anticipated that some PGs will be based on pre-existing cooperatives or other formal structures, while others will work towards this status during the project period and some may prefer, due to the nature of their production and marketing systems, to remain as informal associations. Similarly, the project will facilitate formation of value chain relationships, including formal producer – buyer agreements where relevant, but will recognise that needs, capacity and opportunities will differ from case to case.

To the extent that investments are perceived as “handouts” from the point of view of the beneficiaries, there is a risk that investments may be proposed without adequate assurance of viability or long-term commitment. Ownership of investments is thus in-built from the planning phase. Requirements for local contributions of labour and materials will mitigate this risk, but, perhaps more importantly, larger (scaling up) investments will be conditional upon successful completion of demonstrations and achievement of readiness benchmarks in capacity and organizational development.

The PGs will be required to prepare and implement operation and maintenance plans for assets created through project investments. These plans will identify needs for operation and maintenance training, which will be included in the investment cost.

The project will work with local communities to identify risks to environmental sustainability, particularly from climate change and from soil degradation. Through provision of technical inputs including soils testing, local communities will be assisted to develop solutions that integrate climate sustainability and improved soils management in their agriculture production, as well as to increase their understanding of these challenges and response strategies for the future.

5.3 Who has been involved or consulted in the development of the Proposal?

Due to COVID travel restrictions a variety of various stakeholder were consulted through emails and/or zoom-based meetings. Face to face meetings were generally not possible, except by the respective FAO Deputy Country Representatives based in Honiara and Port Vila. In Solomon Islands the design team built on extensive background material collected through FAO/IFAD’s recent work on Solomon Islands’ Agriculture Sector Growth and Investment Plan, which also included records of provincial meetings with farmers, civil society provincial officials, MAL extension staff, traditional authorities, and church representatives amongst others, as well as earlier GAFSP CFP for fragile states. The outcomes of discussions also inspired the problem analysis and strategy underlying this project design.

The design also built on recent project evaluation reports as well as information available through MERMAID project which started operations in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. Additional resource persons, including development partners and farmers organizations, were consulted through online discussions (see Annex 6).

The consultations resulted in shaping the themes of this project proposal, especially in the areas of resilient farming systems, the urgent need to tackle malnutrition and the necessity to raise farm incomes of rural households through increased productivity of cash and food crops.

Civil society organisations, NGOs, and other service providers like the respective Chambers of Commerce, well established farmers organisations, as well as private sector entities and their associations will continue to be valuable partners during project implementation either as service providers for capacity building or partners in processing and marketing.

5.4 Describe the proposed project implementation arrangements

Project Management

Agriculture Investment and Markets for Nutrition (AIM-N) will be implemented as single project with one results framework, technical approach and reporting system for the two countries. The project will be led by a National Steering Committee (NSC) in each country. There will be a joint Project Advisory Committee (PAC) and a Technical Assistance Facility (TAF). Investments in each country will be delivered through a Project Implementation Unit (PIU) hosted by the national implementing agency which will be Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) in Solomon Islands and Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forests, Fisheries and Biosecurity (MALFFB) in Vanuatu. At sub-national level the project will be delivered through local facilitation teams working hand in hand with government extension agents, supported by specialist service providers.

The **PAC** will meet once per year, with meetings held alternately in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu or virtually. The PAC will consist of two representatives selected by the National Steering Committee in each country plus representatives of FAO and the Pacific Islands Farmer Organisations Network (PIFON). The mandate of the PAC will be to: (i) review implementation strategies, implementation plans and progress; (ii) identify opportunities for cross-country learning and knowledge transfer, (iii) facilitate coordination with other regional programmes and projects; and (iv) support mobilisation of additional resources.

The **NSC** will be chaired by a senior official who is best placed to champion the project within the national Government and will comprise representation from MAL (Solomon Islands) or MALFFB (Vanuatu) together with a limited number of relevant Ministries, Provincial administrations and civil society groups representing farmer organisations and agri-business. The NSC will meet two times per year to review the annual progress report and to endorse the Annual Workplan and Budget (AWPB).

The **PIU** will be located in the national implementing agency in each country. The PIU will be overseen by a national Project Director who will be a senior official of the national implementing agency and will consist of a small core of contracted staff including a National Project Manager, Safeguards and Gender Officer, Finance Officer, Procurement Officer and Knowledge Management, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer. Technical roles in project implementation will be assigned to the relevant divisions, supported by resources managed by the PIU. Functions of the PIU will include (1) preparation of the AWPB; (2) recruitment, training, support and oversight of the Provincial coordination teams; (3) management of investment funds for PGs including financial management and reporting and procurement; (4) maintenance of the MIS; (5) monitoring and evaluation activities; and (6) preparation of the annual project report.

The **TAF**, managed by FAO will consist of a single team of long term and short-term technical advisers. One long-term technical adviser will be located in each country: these posts will be the Chief Technical Adviser / Food Systems and Nutrition Specialist and the Deputy Chief Technical Adviser / Monitoring and Evaluation, Gender and Safeguards Specialist. The TAF will contract international and national short-term experts in accordance with a work plan agreed with the PIUs. The TAF will be responsible for overall technical guidance of the project including assistance in the identification of suitable technologies, preparation of technical manuals, training of trainers etc. as well as backstopping of the PIU. The TAF will also have regular interactions with the Provincial Facilitation Teams and the target groups to assess implementation progress and facilitate early detection of opportunities or challenges. The TAF will act as secretariat of the PAC.

At **Provincial** level, the project will work through the **agriculture extension service**. The project will contract a Provincial Coordinator and a team of Community Facilitators (CF), with approximately one CF per five PGs. The role of the CF will be primarily community organisation and facilitation of PG activities across all project components, with technical inputs from service providers. CFs will be recruited from young people within the local communities, with agricultural interest and skills being a key selection criterion, so that it is expected that the CFs will be enabled to take on a limited extension role in relation to production and marketing activities. The project will strongly encourage women candidates for the CF role.

Service providers will be recruited and managed by the PIUs for technical training and support functions under Components 1 and 2. Component 1 activities will be implemented through partnership with a service provider with an established track record, most probably an NGO. Priority will be given to firms and NGOs with an established presence and track record in the local communities. Examples of service provision include community organisation support (Component 1), value chain facilitation Component 2), soils testing and specialist soils management advice (Component 2), and implementation of an impact survey.

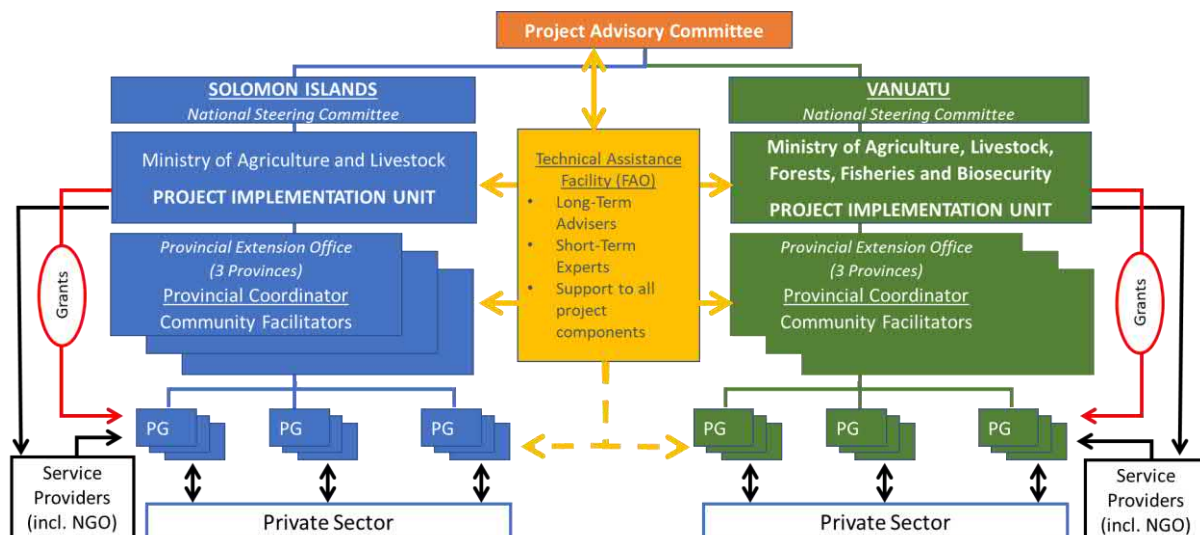
Training and facilitation will be delivered through value chain partners or through qualified public or private service providers. Examples of potential service providers include Rural Training Centers, Food Technology

Centers, Chamber of Commerce, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Church Organizations, Ministry of Women and Family Affairs, National Youth Councils, private businesses partners (such as JEDOM Organic Food Ltd. in Solomon Islands and Neleya Eco Farm in Vanuatu) and NGOs (e.g. Kastom Gaden Association in Solomon Islands, Farm Support Association Vanuatu). These options will be refined and the approach to selection and deployment of training providers will be determined in the detailed project design phase.

Investment funds will be disbursed from IFAD through national governments to the Project Implementing Agencies. **Technical Assistance** funds will be managed by FAO.

Project implementation arrangements are depicted below.

Figure: Implementation Arrangements



5.5 How will the implementation of this activity be coordinated with other partners active in the same sector/geographic area(s) to maximize effectiveness, create synergies, and avoid duplication/overlap of activities

Solomon Islands and Vanuatu have coordination arrangements in place through regular meetings with development partners active in the various sectors. This is organized by the Ministry of National Planning and Development Coordination in Solomon Islands and the Department of Strategic Policy, Planning & Aid Coordination (Aid Coordination and Negotiation Unit) in Vanuatu. It will be the responsibility of the respective PIU managers to regularly attend and report to these meetings. Other, more specific, coordination mechanisms, often organized along commodity value chains, such as Industry Working Groups or Secretariats will also be utilized (e.g. Poultry Working Group, Cocoa and Coconut-Secretariat, etc.) to harmonize interventions and share lessons learnt.

IFAD and FAO are actively involved in sector coordination and dialogue in both countries, and in policy development (including assistance for preparation of the new Agriculture Sector Growth and Investment Plan in Solomon Islands). IFAD and FAO are currently planning an important matchmaking event between the Government of Solomon Islands (and particularly MAL) and development partners to facilitate a coordinated and targeted support for the realization of the ASGIP's development targets.

The project will cooperate with ongoing projects addressing the areas of community-based agriculture development, nutrition and value chain development. In Solomon Islands these include ART, Strongim Bisnis and the USAID funded Strengthening Competitiveness, Agriculture, the Livelihoods and Environment Project. VaVaC supports agriculture value chains in Vanuatu, while MERMAID and PHAMA Plus are active in both countries. More details on these and additional development support is listed in Annex 12.

The project will avoid direct geographic overlap with other projects providing agriculture support through community-based, private-sector linked models. This has been considered in selection of proposed target areas and will be re-verified during detailed design.

Annex 1 – Project Budget Tables

Table A: Summary of Overall Project Funding (US\$)

Funding Source	Amount (\$US)	Has this funding been secured? (Yes/No)
<i>GAFSP grant amount requested</i>	15,000,000	n/a
- Investment	12,200,000	n/a
- Technical Assistance	2,800,000	n/a
Government co-financing	871,000	Yes
<i>Other Funding Sources (SE, ODA, private sector, etc)</i>	12,413,000	No
- IFAD	8,999,000	Yes
- Beneficiary contributions	2,179,000	No
- Private Sector Investments	1,235,000	No
Total Project Funding	28,284,000	

Table B –Detailed Budget for Investment Project (US\$):

Components	Activities	GAFSP Funding Amount Requested (\$US)	Other Funding Sources Amount (\$US)
Component 1: Community Action and Nutrition	1.1 Inclusive, community-owned strategies for resilient, integrated farming of healthy foods	815,000	751,000
	1.2 Nutrition education and demonstration of resilient food production	873,000	805,000
Component 2: Capacity Building in Farming as a Business	2.1 Active partnerships between producer groups and agribusinesses that improve market access and food sales	314,000	290,000
	2.2 Strengthened organisational capital/capacities of inclusive producer groups	314,000	290,000
Component 3: Investments in Resilient Agri-Food Systems	3.1 Investment and training to boost production of nutritious foods and cash crops	1,964,000	2,218,000
	3.2 Targeted investments for upgrading value chains	6,088,000	7,244,000
Project Coordination, Management and M&E	Project Coordination	27,000	25,000
	Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation	1,804,000	1,662,000
TOTAL BUDGET FOR ALL COMPONENTS		12,199,000	13,285,000

B.1 For the investment project, briefly discuss the impact on the proposed project design if full requested amount is not awarded.

A small reduction in the project budget could be addressed by reducing the investment budget (grant funds) per community. However, this might restrict the types of investment that could be undertaken by the Producer Groups. A larger reduction would result in reducing the number of communities. If a large

reduction in number of communities were needed, this would most likely be achieved by reducing the number of Provinces from three to two in each country.

B.2. Clarify the underlying assumptions for the proposed budget.

The budget cost estimates reflect the high travel and logistics costs associated with working in the target communities. Overall, about 60% of the investment project budget will be allocated to grants for investments in productivity and value chain assets by the PGs. About 13% will be allocated to the costs of service providers – likely to be NGOs – with specialist skills in community work, capacity building and value chain facilitation. Project staff costs represent 12% of the total, with the remainder being allocated for project equipment, operations, travel costs and workshop events. A contingency amount of 5% has been applied to each budget item.

Costs for **Activity 1.1** include the costs of identifying 130 target communities and costs of a community participatory planning process facilitated by a specialist service provider. A sum of \$6,000 per community has been budgeted for this process. The budget for Activity 1.1 also includes the costs of community support from the Community Facilitators for the whole period of the project, including allowances, operating expenditures and support costs, budgeted at approximately \$4,500 per community.

Costs for **Activity 1.2** include costs for demonstration and training of resilient agriculture techniques and nutritious food crops, demonstrations, estimated at \$6,000 per community, and costs of delivery of a community nutrition education campaign estimated as \$5,000 per community. A budget of \$500 per community has been provided for soils testing.

Cost for **Activity 2.1** comprise the costs of skilled trainers and event costs for capacity building of producer groups, with a budget provision of \$4,000 per group. Activity 2.2 includes the costs of value chain facilitation activities to support networking and partnership formation of PGs and value chain business, also with a provision of \$4,000 per group.

Under **Activity 3.1**, \$25,000 per PG is provided for investments in boosting productivity of nutritious food and cash crops. Costs include training and demonstration activities and project costs for supporting planning and validating eligibility of investments.

Costs for **Activity 3.2** represent grant costs of approximately \$76,000 per PG for investments in value chain assets, together with project costs for validation of investments and safeguard checks.

Project Coordination represents the costs of meetings of the Project Advisory Committee which will be held annually with participation from both project countries (\$5,000 per meeting) and costs of national steering committee meetings twice annually (\$1,000 per meeting).

Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation costs include for staff and operations costs of the Project Implementation Unit (five contracted staff) and of Provincial Project Managers (three staff) in each country. The sub-component also includes \$50,000 for baseline and end-line surveys in each country.

Budget allocation between countries. The budget has been allocated equally between the two countries.

Table C: Detailed Budget for Technical Assistance Project (if applicable)

Components	Activities	GAFSP Funding Amount Requested (US\$)	Other Funding Sources Amount (US\$)
Component 1: Community Action and Nutrition	A1: Advise PIU and the NGO service provider on a suitable format for the participatory community engagement.	820,000 (29% of total FAO-TA)	na
	A2: Advise the NGO on up-to standard dietary guidelines and healthy diets including use of traditional food crops.		
	A3: Assist the NGO to identify food processing & preservation options for traditional and other foods.		
	A4: Assist the NGO to build on lessons learnt from other nutrition related projects and research in the region (e.g. IFAD-MERMAID).		
	A5: Capacity building in climate smart agricultural practices including integrated pest management, and soil health measures.		
Component 2: Capacity building in farming & agribusiness	A1: Training and support in organisational development of producer organisations.	608,000 (22% of total FAO-TA)	na
	A2: Support in facilitation and backstopping of public-private-producer partnerships (4Ps).		
Component 3: Investment in resilient food systems	A1: Support for drafting practical business plans for farms and small to medium agribusinesses.	644,000 (23% of total FAO-TA)	na
	A2: Support for screening of sub-projects for technical feasibility and safeguards.		
	A3: Conduct regular field visits to producer groups and assess progress against agreed upon milestones.		
Component 4: Project Coordination, Management and M&E	A1: Identification, coordination and delivery of needs based technical advisory services.	728,000 (26% of total FAO-TA)	na
	A2: Assist in setting up and maintaining an M&E and reporting systems; compile yearly reports.		
	A3: Assist in the design of the baseline, mid-term and end-line surveys and in the selection of the consultant.		
	A4: Advise on matters pertaining to the Project Implementation Manual and its practical application.		
	A5: Advise on the use of environmental, social, and climate safeguards and on applying a gender sensitive approach throughout implementation.		
	A6: Advise on the establishment and maintenance of a grievances redress mechanisms		
	A7: Facilitate knowledge management and transfer of knowledge between the two countries		
TOTAL BUDGET FOR ALL COMPONENTS		2,800,000	0

C.1 For a Technical Assistance project, briefly discuss the impact on the proposed project design if the full requested amount is not awarded.

The TA budget has been calculated as a minimum requirement to provide quality technical advice and assistance across project components. Because the TA team will work primarily at national level and through training-of-trainers, plus selective site visits, the TA costs will not scale strongly with target

population or number of target communities. Thus, it is envisaged that reductions in the total budget would likely fall first on the investment component, causing a reduction in cost-efficiency of the TA. In the event that it became necessary to substantially reduce TA costs, this would most likely mean difficult decisions on which components / sub-components could be implemented without expert TA inputs.

C.2. Clarify the underlying assumptions for the proposed budget.

The basis for preliminary calculation of TA costs is presented in the following table. Note that TA costs are distributed across project components in proportion to the intensity of TA inputs for each component.

Cost Item	Budget	Description
Food Systems & Nutrition Expert <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) (FAO staff) – Based in Vanuatu – Full-time for 60 months <i>Works across project components in his/her capacity as the CTA and as Food Systems & Nutrition Expert</i>	1,119,000	<u>Main tasks include:</u> coordinates and supervises FAO-TA delivery in both countries; works closely with the national PIU in both countries; regular travels to Solomon Islands for supervision and knowledge exchange; advises on agricultural and agribusiness matters; prepares and accompanies IFAD/FAO supervision mission; liaises with relevant government partners, other projects and development partners; participates in selection of sub-projects against agreed upon criteria; undertakes field verification visits; identifies suitable consultants as per need; provides training in agriculture, agribusiness, and nutrition related matters (e.g. investment plans for sub-projects); assists in drafting or updating the project implementation manual; writes and submits progress and end reports as well as TA financial reports for both countries.
M&E, Gender & Safeguards Expert <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Deputy CTA (International Consultant) – Based in Solomon Islands – Full-time for 58 months <i>Works across project components in his/her capacity as Deputy CTA and M&E, Gender & Safeguards Expert</i>	548,000	<u>Main tasks include:</u> coordinates and supervises FAO-TA delivery in both countries in any period when the CTA is absent, works closely with the national PIU; liaises with relevant government partners, other projects and development partners; develops, operationalizes and provides training on the project's M&E system in both countries; participates in the selection of the consulting company doing the baseline and end-line surveys; participates in selection of sub-projects against agreed upon criteria; undertakes field verification visits; provides training in gender and safeguards related matters in both countries; identifies suitable consultants as per need; assists in drafting and updating the project implementation manual; drafts progress reports.
International Consultants (600 days @ 300 USD) +5% <i>Work across project components</i>	189,000	<u>Main tasks include:</u> advice and training on soil health; farming systems and CSA technologies; productive partnerships, livestock; organisational development; food processing; value chain studies, and others as per requirement.
National Consultants (480 days @ 220 USD) +5% <i>Work across project components</i>	130,000	<u>Main tasks include:</u> local food processing and preservation; cooperative development; organic farming; healthy diets; savings and credit groups or cooperatives; gender and safeguards.
Travel	515,000	Includes air tickets, daily subsistence allowances, car hire, etc. for all staff and consultants including field trips.
Training & Workshops	0	Costs of training material and venues are included in component budgets managed by the PIU
Procurement	57,000	Expendable and non-expendable procurement (e.g. PC, laptops, printer; emergency phones, etc.)
General Expenses	242,000	Includes FAO operational costs
Total FAO-TA Costs	2,800,000	

Annex 2 – Proposal Stage Results Monitoring Matrix

Table D: GAFSP Tier 1 and Tier 2 Core Indicators

#	Tier 1 impact indicators for all GAFSP projects	Check if Yes
1	Food and nutrition security <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) indicator and optional indicators are Food Consumption Score (FCS), Minimum Dietary Diversity-Woman (MDD-W) and Minimum Dietary Diversity -Children (MDD-C)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Household income	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Crop yield (apply only to those projects with explicit productivity gain goals)	<input type="checkbox"/>
#	Tier 2 indicators for all GAFSP projects, <i>Mandatory Breakdowns†</i> (unit) <input type="checkbox"/> Indicator notes	
1	Number of beneficiaries reached, gender disaggregated, percentage who have been helped to cope with impact of climate change†† <input type="checkbox"/> People receiving benefits from the project. <input type="checkbox"/> Disaggregation for gender and those receiving Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA)-specific support.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Land area receiving improved production support, <i>percentage of these that are climate smart</i> (ha) <input type="checkbox"/> Area that adopted new inputs/practices, new/rehabilitated irrigation services, land registration, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Disaggregation for climate-smart interventions.	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Number of smallholders receiving productivity enhancement support, gender disaggregated, climate-smart agriculture support <input type="checkbox"/> Number of end-users who directly participated in project activities. <input type="checkbox"/> Includes technology/technique adoptees, water users with improved services, those who had land rights clarified, people offered new financing/risk management services. <input type="checkbox"/> Using CSA approaches.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Number of producer-based organizations supported (number) <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant associations established or strengthened by project.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Volume of agriculture loans that are outstanding. <input type="checkbox"/> Volume of outstanding loans for agriculture and agribusiness in a financial institution	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Percentage of beneficiaries with secure rights to land, property, and natural resources (percent of total beneficiaries) †† <input type="checkbox"/> Measured as those with legal documentation or recognized evidence of tenure and those who perceive their rights are recognized and protected.	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Roads constructed or rehabilitated, percentage resilient to climate risks (km) <input type="checkbox"/> All-weather roads built, reopened, rehabilitated, or upgraded by project. <input type="checkbox"/> Percentage that are designed to withstand changes in climate.	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Number of post-harvest facilities constructed and/or rehabilitated (number) <input type="checkbox"/> Includes markets, agro-processing/storage/quality control facilities.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9	Volume of agricultural production processed by post-harvest facilities established with GAFSP support, <i>by food group</i> (tons) <input type="checkbox"/> Tons of total produce processed sorted by 10 major FAO food groups.	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	People benefiting from cash or food-based transfers, <i>gender disaggregated</i> (number of people) <input type="checkbox"/> Number of people who benefited from cash or food transfer interventions.	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	People receiving improved nutrition services and products, <i>gender disaggregated, age disaggregated</i> (number of people) <input type="checkbox"/> Number of people who received nutrition counseling/education, recipients of Ready-to-use-Therapeutic Foods, bio-fortified foods, and Vitamin A and micronutrient supplements. <input type="checkbox"/> Number of people receiving extension support for nutrition-relevant techniques (e.g., homestead gardens, Farmer Field School support, etc.).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12	<i>Direct employment provided; gender disaggregated</i> (full-time equivalent) <input type="checkbox"/> Number of direct employees in a client company. <input type="checkbox"/> Part time jobs aggregated to full-time equivalent.	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Persons receiving capacity development, <i>gender disaggregated, organization type</i> (number of people) <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural and non-agricultural rural training and capacity building support provided. <input type="checkbox"/> Distinguishes between individual producers/household members, civil society organization staff, and government officials.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
14	Number of substantive deliverables on food security processes completed (number) <input type="checkbox"/> Measures “soft support” for institutional development provided through discrete deliverables.	<input type="checkbox"/>

	□□ Deliverables include policy studies, strategies and plans, best practices, and lessons learned, among others.	
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Note: The definitions for the Tier 2 indicators can be found on pgs. 24-27 of the [GAFSP M&E Plan](#).

† Reporting on the indicator requires reporting all mandatory breakdowns for the indicator.

†† Climate-related language is included for indicators 1, 2, 3, and 7. In view of discussion and some concerns expressed by the GAFSP Steering Committee, it is noted that the experience of gathering such data at the SE/project level will be tracked and reviewed to assess the ease/feasibility of application and resulting “meaningfulness” of the data that are gathered. Please also see earlier footnote #6 on the use of the term ‘climate-smart’ in the GAFSP M&E Plan.

‡‡ GAFSP projects have not traditionally supported land-ownership reform, although both the TAC and most SE project preparation processes currently evaluate project readiness against a criterion that includes land access and land user rights, and they typically verify such aspects through their respective “safeguards” and appraisal policies. There was demand from SC members to see a standalone indicator, however, that can capture a focus on land use rights.

Table E: Proposal Stage Results Monitoring Matrix

(All number targets are the sum of both countries, all percentage targets are the same for each country)

Indicators. ⁷	Unit of measurement	Base-line ⁸	End-of-project target	Data sources (Data collection instruments)
Project level indicators				
Project Development Objective: Improved nutrition and higher farm incomes from resilient farming systems in rural communities of Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.				
Improvement on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) (GAFSP 1.1)	index	TBD	TBD	Impact Study ⁹
% of women achieving Minimum Dietary Diversity Score-Woman (GAFSP 1.1; COI 1.2.8)	%	TBD	75%	Impact Study
Food Consumption Score (FCS) (GAFSP Tier1)	index	TBD	TBD	Impact Study
Income of PG member households increased through improved farming and agri-business practices (GAFSP 1.2)	% increase	TBD	20%	Impact Study
% of PG members included climate smart practices ¹⁰ in their farms (IFAD COI 1.2.2)	%	TBD	70%	Impact Study
Number of direct beneficiaries (GAFSP 2.1)	Persons (by gender, youth, disabled)	n/a	32,500 (50% female, 60% youth, TBD% disabled)	MIS ¹¹
Component level indicators¹²				
Outcome 1: Understanding, capabilities and shared vision for climate-resilient and nutrition-sensitive local agri-food systems established.				
1.1 Number of communities signing agreements with producer groups for access to land and inclusion of women and youth	Number	n/a	130	MIS
1.2 % of households with improved nutrition Knowledge Attitudes and Practices (KAP) score (IFAD COI 1.2.9)	%	n/a	75%	Outcome Survey ¹³
Output 1.1: Inclusive, community-owned strategies for resilient, integrated farming of healthy foods.				
1.1.1 Number of communities preparing community strategies	Number	n/a	130	MIS
Output 1.2: Nutrition education and demonstration of resilient food production				
1.2.1 Number of people receiving improved nutrition services and products (GAFSP 2.11)	Persons (by gender, youth, disabled)	n/a	6,500 (50% female, 60% youth, TBD% disabled)	MIS
Outcome 2: Active partnerships between producer groups and agribusinesses that improve market access and food sales				
2.1 Number of PGs reporting sales increased by at least 25% (IFAD COI 2.2.5)	Number	n/a	90	Outcome survey
2.1.2 Number of PGs that hold regular meetings and manage funds with positive balance for at least 1 year	Number	n/a	130	Outcome survey
Output 2.1: Strengthened organisational capital/capacities of inclusive producer groups				
2.1.1: Number of Producer Groups established / strengthened (GAFSP 2.4)	Number	n/a	130	MIS
2.1.2 Number of people receiving capacity development support (GAFSP 2.13)	Number	n/a	130	MIS
Output 2.2: Action plans agreed and partnerships established with agribusinesses				
2.2.1 POs engaged in partnership / agreement / contract (IFAD COI 2.2.3)	Number	n/a	80	MIS
Outcome 3: Enhanced production and value chains for food and cash crops				
3.1 % increase in productivity (output value per area) of PGs' integrated farming systems	% increase	TBD	30%	Outcome Survey
3.2 Number of households with improved access to markets, processing and storage facilities (IFAD COI 2.2.6)	Households	TBD	5,200	Outcome Survey

⁷ If any cross-cutting themes were selected in Section 3.1, this table must include some indicators that correspond to the selected theme(s).

⁸ If this is unknown, write TBD (to be determined).

⁹ Impact Study will be a random sample household survey in the target communities conducted at base-line and end-line.

¹⁰ Climate smart practices will be listed in the detailed project design

¹¹ MIS: Project management information system will be regularly updated with data reported by community facilitators

¹² Please identify indicators that can clearly represent the causal links in the results chain that bridge the gap between the current status and the objectives (desired high-level indicator). Ideally, under each component, there is at least one outcome indicator and correspondent output indicator(s).

¹³ The Outcome Survey will be carried out annually by project staff, based on sampling but using a less rigorous methodology than the Impact survey

<i>Output 3.1: Investment and training to boost production of nutritious foods and cash crops</i>				
3.1.1 Number of community seed nurseries established	Number	n/a	130	MIS
3.1.2 Number of farmers receiving productivity enhancement support / climate-smart agriculture support (GAFSP 2.3)	Persons (by gender, youth, disabled)	n/a	5,200 (50% female, 60% youth, TBD% disabled)	MIS
<i>Output 3.2: Targeted investments for upgrading value chains</i>				
3.2.1 Number of investment proposals meeting eligibility criteria and environmental and social safeguards	Number	n/a	130	MIS
3.2.2 Number of post-harvest facilities constructed / rehabilitated (GAFSP 2.8)	Number	n/a	80	MIS

Annex 3 - Risks and Negative Externalities

F. Describe important potential risks to achieving the project's development objective(s).

Table F: Project Risk Assessment

Risk	Likelihood (L, M, H)	Risk rating (L, M, H)	Risk description	Proposed mitigation measures
Design risks (design assumes conditions that are not in place)	M	M	Target communities lack viable opportunities to market produce	Viable market opportunities verified.
	M	L	Target communities lack (or are unable to assure) access to land for market agriculture production	Willingness of community (including traditional leaders) to assure land access verified
	L	M	Low private sector (processor/agribusiness) capacity	Value chain facilitation including capacity support to private sector partners of PGs
Implementation Risks	L	M	Lack of political support for project, and uneven progress in the two countries	National Steering Committee led by official best placed to champion project within government Policy dialogue
	H	M	Lack of implementation capacity	Technical assistance from Project Implementation Support Unit/FAO Specialist service providers contracted for technical support to PGs
	L	M	Misallocation / mismanagement of project funds	Financial management support to PIU
Social Risks	L	H	Beneficiaries not willing to cooperate for production and marketing	Incremental, demand-driven, culturally sensitive approach to building trust and demonstrating benefits
	L	H	Beneficiaries not willing to adopt dietary changes for improved nutrition	Use proven effective approach to nutrition education delivered by skilled service providers
	M	M	Un-equitable distribution of benefits (elite capture, gender inequity etc)	Ensure strong governance arrangements of PGs as condition of access to project funds
	M	M	Social conflict due to jealousies over project benefits	Culturally sensitive community development approach, working with traditional leadership and structures to avoid conflicts
Climate and Environment Risks	M	H	Climate change makes production technologies non-viable	Use climate-smart approach to ensure resilience of agriculture production
	M	H	Soil degradation makes production technologies non-viable	Soils testing and strategies to improve soil health

For Likelihood: L (low probability), M (moderate probability), or H (high probability).

For Risk rating: L (low risk or impact), M (moderate risk or impact), or H (high risk or impact).

G. Describe important potential negative externalities or spillover effects that could arise from the project implementation, as well as an assessment of likelihood (probability) and risk rating (severity, impact) of the risks and proposed mitigation measures. Add additional rows to the table for additional potential negative externalities if needed.

Table G: Evaluation of Negative Externalities

Potential Negative Externalities	Likelihood (L, M, H)	Risk rating (L,M,H)	Description of potential negative externalities	Proposed mitigation measures
Environmental. ¹⁴	L	L	PG production activities negatively impact on the environment (e.g. contamination of water, soil, air; deforestation; encroachment into protected areas; etc.).	Each investment will be screened for its adherence to environmental and social safeguards requirements before approved for financing as will be prescribed in the Project Implementation Manual
Social. ¹⁵	L	M	Unrest caused by jealousy of PG member by non-members	(1) Open access to PG membership will be a condition of support; (2) The project has many activities addressing the whole community, e.g. nutrition awareness; on-farm demonstrations and field days at lead farmers' plots, etc.
Gender	M	L	Women experience an extra burden due to the need to participate in project related meetings and activities	The project will schedule and organize meetings and training sessions in a way and at a time most convenient for women to participate, even with children.
Access to land	M	M	Land disputes occur due to PGs engaging more in farming or extending their area of production	Land access will be discussed and agreed with the community and local leaders before PG activities begin.

For Likelihood: L (low probability), M (moderate probability), or H (high probability).

For Risk rating: L (low risk or impact), M (moderate risk or impact), or H (high risk or impact).

¹⁴ This could include the potential effects on natural resources such as water sources, forests, and protected areas; potential effects on biodiversity; and where appropriate, potential impacts on the climate arising from unchecked anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and short-lived climate pollution (SLCPs).

¹⁵ This could include the potential effects on human health and safety; the nature, scale and duration of social effects such as the need for land acquisition and/or involuntary resettlement; potential impacts on, equity, and indigenous peoples; and potential impacts on physical cultural resources.



Annex 4 - Prior GAFSP Grant(s)

There are no prior GAFSP grants to either Solomon Islands or Vanuatu in the Public Sector Window

Annex 5 - Proposal Preparation Team

Name	Title	Organization	Email
Supervising Entity - Investment			
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Supervising Entity - Technical			
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Consultants			
Julian Abrams	IFAD consultant		julianabrams@gmail.com

Annex 6 –Stakeholder Consultations

PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS			
	Name	Organisation	Title
01	Wendy Alvarado Nazar	WFP	Deputy Head of Monitoring and Evaluation
02	Amra Lee	WFP	Senior Operations Manager
03	William Pryor	USAID	Technical Advisor, SCALE Project (Country Coordinator Solomon Islands)
04	Jessica Raneri	ACIAR	Senior Advisor (Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture)
05	Tristan Armstrong	Australia DFAT	Senior Advisor (Agricultural Productivity and Food Security)
06	Luke Simons	DFAT	Agriculture Sector Specialist
07	Fiona Lyn	DFAT	Director for Agriculture and Food Security
08	Tony Banks	New Zealand MFAT	Lead Advisor, Agriculture and Food Security, Wellington
09	Than Son Vo	WB	Senior Agriculture Specialist
10	Francesco Ponzoni	EU Delegation for the Pacific	Programme Manager (Natural Resources and Governance)
11	Jasmin Johnson	Delivery Associates	Delivery Advisor (Ministry of Agriculture, Solomon Islands)
12	Tony Ryan	Consultant	Agriculture & Rural Development
13	Derek Brien	Consultant	CTA for IFAD-funded MERMAID Programme in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands (also Advisor in Prime Minister's Office)
14	Karen Mapusa	Secretariat of Pacific Community	Director of Land Resources Division
15	Gibson Susumu	Secretariat of Pacific Community	Program Leader, Sustainable Agriculture
16	Simon Daly	World Vision	Program Coordinator, Resource Management
17	Jimmy Nadapdap	World Vision	National Director
18	Joseph Hika	National Youth Congress	General Secretary at Solomon Islands National Youth Congress
19	Phil Montgomery	Strongim Bisnis	CEO of Strongim Bisnis (Solomon Islands)
20	Andrew Piper	PHAMA Plus	Pacific Horticultural & Agric. Market Access Program Vanuatu & Solomon Islands)
21	Pita Tikai	Manager	Kastom Gaden Association (Farmers Organisation)
22	Alice Pollard	Women Association	Founder of the West 'Are' Are Rokotanikeni Women Association (Solomon Islands)
23	Dr. Shane Tutua	Zai Na Tina Organic Farm	Owner of the organic farm and a soil laboratory SPE Analytic in Honiara (Solomon Islands)
24	Dr. Abdul Kader	University of South Pacific	Senior Lecturer in Soil Science at University of South Pacific (Samoa)
25	Junior Salong	MALFFB Soil Laboratory	Soil Laboratory Technician (Ministry of agriculture, livestock, forests, fisheries and biosecurity)
26	Kyle Stice	Manager	Pacific Islands Farmer Organisations Network
26	Tawfiq El-Zabri	IFAD	Country Programme Manager (Pacific)
27	Sakiusa Tubuna	IFAD	Pacific Regional Coordinator
28	John Preissing	FAO	Deputy Director Investment Center
29	Xiangjun Yao	FAO	Sub-Regional Representative for Pacific
30	Jimi Saelea	FAO	Country Representative
31	Itziar Gonzales	FAO	Policy Officer Food and Nutrition Security
32	Joseph Nyemah	FAO	Food and Nutrition Officer
33	Anton Glaeser	FAO	Investment Center (Senior Rural Organisations Officer)

Annex 7 - Findings of Provincial Consultations

The consultations reported below were conducted by MAL with stakeholders in the proposed AIM-Nutrition target provinces during preparation of the ASGIP in 2019-20. Stakeholders consisted of provincial officials, extension staff, farmers, traditional authorities, and church representatives amongst others. The outcome of these discussions contributed to the problem analysis and strategy underlying the project design.

Choiseul - Provincial Consultation Summary

<p>Constraints & Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unstable markets and fluctuating commodity prices; • Insufficient agricultural advisory services from MAL; • Poor and limited infrastructure (roads, wharfs, etc.) linking productive resources; • Shortage of staff in the MAL Provincial Extension Services; • Poor budget allocation to agricultural development in the Province; • Agricultural pests and diseases. 	<p>Key Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential trading / accessing markets in Bougainville; • Existence of the Provincial Demonstration Farm; • Availability of unused and underdeveloped customary and alienated lands; • Availability of local breeds of pigs and chickens; • Existence of cattle farming; • Undersea cable for improving telecommunication and technology; • Existence of Community Based Organizations, e.g. LLCTC.
<p>Key Strategies</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish farmers support service to fund supply of agriculture tools, equipment, planting materials (cuttings / seedlings), capital, etc. 2. Especially support and youth to engage in agriculture and agribusiness 3. Build infrastructures, e.g. roads linking to market centres, ports, and farmers resources, including AOA. 4. Encourage downstream processing in the province, for kava, noni, ngali nut, coconut oil, copra, chocolate, fibres, buttons, etc. 5. Fully capacitate MAL agricultural advisory services (technically, logistics, funds, equipment, tools, and research). 6. Conduct land use mapping for identifying best agricultural practices (crops & livestock) according to agro-ecological zones 7. Create linkages with ward development committees and private sector. 8. Obtain good breeding stocks, introduce artificial insemination. 9. Post highly qualified veterinarian to the MAL Provincial Office and train more veterinarians 10. Assist and train smallholder farmers to run commercial piggeries, cattle and chicken farms. 11. Build abattoir and secure markets for livestock products. 12. Establish breeding centres in three constituencies, rehabilitate serious existing livestock farmers 	

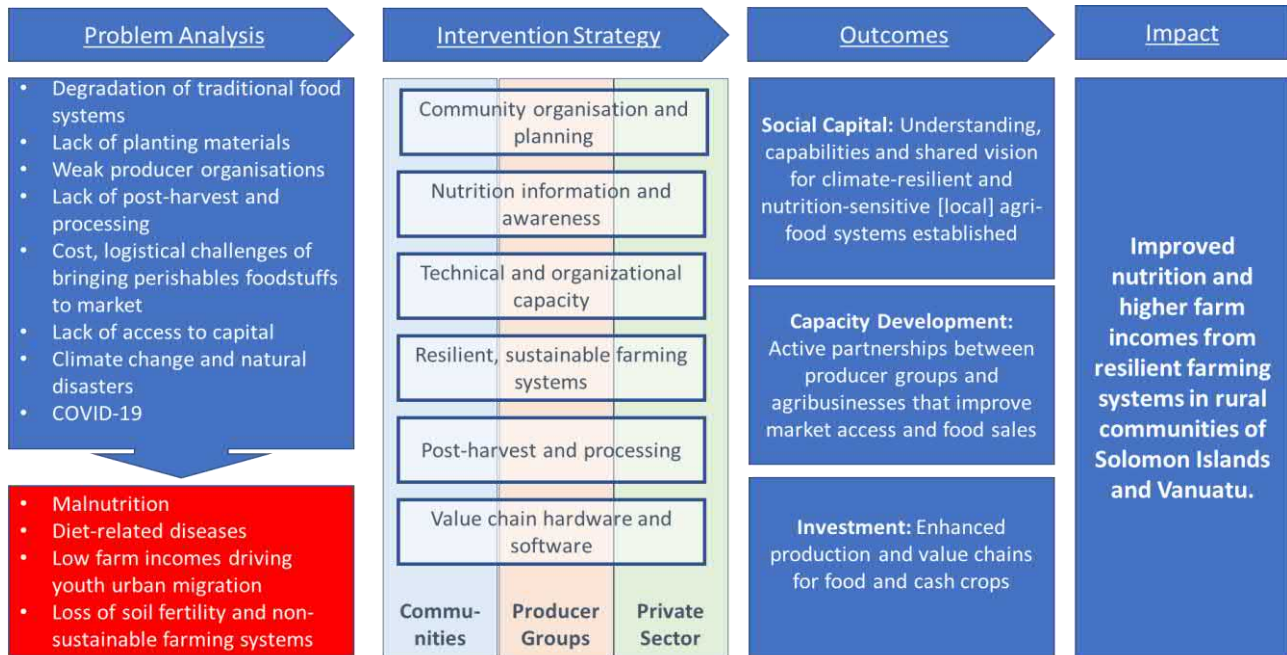
Western - Provincial Consultation Summary

<p>Constraints & Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing problem; • Closure of MAL sub-stations and staff housing problem; • Lack of access to agro-chemicals, especially for veterinary drugs; • Limited technical training for farmers, e.g. paravet training; • Poor budget allocation to agricultural development in the Province; • Poor breeds of animal. 	<p>Key Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existence of international seaport at Noro and airport at Munda for export market; • Agriculture / Tourism in development partnership; • Availability of unused and underdeveloped alienated lands at Mile 6, Tombulu, Merusu, Rendova Harbour, Ringgi, and Jack Harbour (Karekana); • Existence of Soltuna Ltd., and National Fisheries Development; • Existence of cattle farming; • Undersea cable for improving telecommunication and technology.
<p>Key Strategies</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Re-establish MAL agriculture staff posts in strategic locations and increase staff numbers; improve MAL mobility. 2. Encourage commercial agriculture in the Province, including revival of former Land Purchase Cooperatives to semi-commercial entities. 3. Identify AOA's and carryout land suitability assessments (land use planning). 4. Encourage downstream value addition processes for agricultural commodities. 5. Re-establish livestock / cattle farms in Alu, Mile Six, Rendova Harbor. Tombulu, etc., and encourage new ones. 6. Re-stocking of Iloilo Cattle ranch, Mile 6 farm, Rendova, Tombulu. 7. Establish slaughter house and abattoir. 8. Participatory specialized training on animal husbandry for farmers. 9. Establish good marketing, communication, and transport links (including roads, wharfs, jetties, etc.). 	

Isabel - Provincial Consultation Summary

<p>Constraints & Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor marketing facilities; • Inadequate housing to accommodate MAL staff; • Poor access roads to arable lands; • Poor MAL field and office equipment; • Low project support from national government; <p>Inadequate transport means (OBM & Canoe).</p>
<p>Key Strategies</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Activate the MoU signed between MAL and the Isabel Provincial Government for the rent-free use of 373ha of land for agriculture research and development at the Gozoruru plantation. 2. Improve rural cash economy. 3. Develop kava industry followed closely by the noni, ginger and coconut industries.

Annex 8 – Theory of Change



Annex 9 – Building back better

Issues caused by COVID-19 pandemic	Project contribution to recover & build back better
Lockdown in urban areas forced people without employment to return to their villages and engage with agriculture. Some of those have no experience in good farming practices.	The project offers new opportunities for those wanting to start farming and doing agribusiness. Capacity building in good agricultural practices and sustainable farming systems will be provided.
New arrivals from urban areas to their home villages have increased land disputes for cultivating vegetables and root crops.	The project uses a “producer group approach” which lends itself to traditional practices of communal farming and land sharing arrangements facilitated by government, local authorities and churches.
Not enough farming equipment, fishing gear, limited supply of planting materials especially vegetables, fruit trees; no supply of livestock feed and breeding stock.	Cognizant of the precarious financial situation of villagers the project offers grants for investments into equipment, tools, and other farming inputs based on business plans
Increased unsustainable intensive cultivation is a major concern, with the potential to cause long-term soil infertility, thereby reducing agricultural production in the future.	The project will promote sustainable farming systems, including organic farming practices. This will be supported by adequate soil management practices based on soil testing.
The lack of storage and processing facilities has hindered farmers to cope with excess supply of vegetables, root crops and fish that were produced for markets but could not be sold due to COVID-19 movement restrictions.	The projects’ grants for agribusiness can be used to establish storage structures and adequate post-harvest and food processing equipment to prolong “shelf-live”; especially also for root crops. This will be supported by training activities.
Lockdowns have decreased access to markets and disrupted the transportation of produce between rural and urban areas.	The project also supports the construction of roadside market stalls (in collaboration with authorities) which proved very useful during COVID-19 movement restrictions; farmers will also be trained to engage in direct deliveries through digital solutions.
The COVID-19 mitigation measures have negatively affected the arrival of tourists and stopped the demand for higher-end produce such as fruits, livestock, vegetables, spices and virgin coconut oil.	The project will organise matchmaking events with potential buyers for food and cash crops (institutional buyers, exporters, traders, etc.) and will assist in negotiating fair deals.
Government responses	Comment
Governments increased the supply and distribution of seedlings, home garden tools and information to increase cultivation of early maturing root crops, vegetables and fruits; in fact home gardens was one of the most prevalent measures to ensure food security.	Unfortunately, the dietary diversity of households appears to remain low. This is likely because households are only producing three to four different food groups. The production of many key food groups such as pulses/legumes, nuts, livestock products and fish is missing.
Vanuatu: Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) introduced a “COVID-19 Food Security Response Plan” which prioritizes promoting backyard gardening (MALFFB, 2020).	The intervention was geared to enable those returning to their home villages to start producing food in home gardens to secure food security.
Solomon Islands: Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, The Kastom Gaden Association and Solomon Tobacco Company Limited have taken the initiative in the past five months to support the distribution of seeds to urban, peri urban and rural communities in the Solomon Islands.	Same as above
Solomon Islands government funding programme towards SAPE Farm Project (May 2020) has supported the farm in terms of farming machineries and tools to cultivate cassava.	This is part of the government’s drive to increase food and cash crop production on a larger scale.
Solomon Islands: To increase access and supply of fresh food, SBD 1.2 million (around US\$ 144 thousand) was allocated to the Honiara City Council to rehabilitate Kukum Market	This is a more long-term investment to create a more decentralised marketing systems for times of restricted movement.

Annex 10 – Policy Analysis Solomon Islands

Supportive policy environment. SIG has released several key policies which are vital not only for the economic advancement of the agriculture, livestock, and fisheries sub-sectors, but also for cross-cutting areas of concern such as women empowerment, youth advancement, climate change, disaster risk management and land reform. Some of those are listed below.

National Development Strategy 2016-2035 (NDS). The national vision and mission expressed in the NDS is to “improve the social and economic livelihoods of all Solomon Islanders”, and to “create a peaceful, harmonious and progressive Solomon Islands led by ethical, accountable, respected and credible leadership that enhances and protects people’s culture, social, economic and spiritual well-being.

The NDS provides an overall twenty-year strategic framework with high level indicators and performance targets. Based on the NDS the Ministry of National Planning and Development Coordination in collaboration with the line ministries compiles five-year Medium -Term Development Plans (MTDP) which translate the broader development objectives into concrete sectoral development programmes and projects, complete with expected outputs, outcomes, expected impacts as well as performance indicators. This is complemented by a tentative five year budgetary framework per development program or project.

The five overarching NDS Development Objectives are: DO-1 “sustained and inclusive economic growth”; DO-2 “poverty alleviated across the whole of the Solomon Islands, basic needs addressed and food security improved; benefits of development more equitably distributed”; DO-3 “all Solomon Islanders have access to quality health and education”; DO-4 “resilient and environmentally sustainable development with effective disaster risk management, response and recovery”; and DO-5 “unified nation with stable and effective governance and public order.”

Under DO-1 the NDS emphasizes (i) the need for private-sector led economic growth, (ii) the development of economic growth centres and rural growth centres, (iii) the necessity of increasing value addition and export earnings, and (iv) the use of customary land for commercial and agricultural development. DO-2 stresses the importance of achieving food security, creating employment to deal with the increased influx of youth to Honiara and other towns, and improving gender equality. DO-3 aims to improve access to education and to health care, in particular also to address the spread of non-communicable diseases. DO-4 stresses the need to promote resilient and environmentally sustainable development by ensuring effective climate, disaster and environmental disaster risk management and preparedness. DO-5 is concerned with ensuring good governance values and practices as well as increased accountability and transparency at all levels of governance.

DCGA-Policy Statement & Transition Framework 2019 (PTF). While the Democratic Coalition Government for Advancement (DCGA) Policy Statement outlines the broad policy statements, the PTF also provides the intended strategic action, outputs and outcomes in broad terms. The PTF specifically tasks MAL to develop a ten-year Agriculture Sector Growth and Investment Plan (ASGIP) to replace the expired National Agriculture and Livestock Sector Policy 2015-2019.

The key intervention areas are (a) commercial agriculture (ref commercial beef, pork and poultry production, cocoa, copra, honey); (b) agriculture research and development (ref high value crops); (c) agro-forestry development; (d) capacity development (ref MAL reform); (e) rural livelihood development (ref food security and poverty alleviation); (f) agribusiness (ref processing); (g) biosecurity; (h) research and development (ref establishment of National Agricultural Research Institute); (i) rural agriculture development; (j) land use management plan; and (k) MAL resource development (ref staff development).

DCGA-Policy Redirection Plan 2021 (PRP). The PRP was released as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic aiming at increased investments in selected areas to restart and boost the country's economy. The plan is based on the original DCGA-Policy Translation Framework, but prioritizes activities related to (i) strengthening of export crop production (incl. kava, noni, lentils, cocoa, copra, ngali nut, vanilla, ginger etc.); (ii) supporting the development of commercial agriculture; (iii) enhancing food security and the livestock industry to alleviate rural poverty (incl. piggery, poultry, honey, cattle, and establishment of feed mills); (iv) strengthening biosecurity services to protect against exotic pests and diseases and improve the country's capacity to export; (v) the establishment of the Agriculture Research & Development Institute (incl. land use planning and profiling), and (vi) the restructuring and reform of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (incl. reform of agriculture extension services and rights of indigenous people to agriculture farming activities).

Agriculture Sector Growth and Investment Plan 2021-2030 (ASGIP). This comprehensive ten-year plan is based on broad-based consultations between the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) and other ministries as well as with other stakeholders including private sector, non-governmental, and farmers' organisations. The ASGIP is firmly grounded and aligned to Solomon Islands National Development Strategy 2016-2030, the DCGA's Policy Translation Framework (2019), as well as to the recent DCGA Policy Re-Direction Directive (2021) which was announced in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ASGIP outlines the challenges to be addressed in the agriculture sector as (i) insufficient funding levels; (ii) low production and productivity; (iii) dilapidated and insufficient MAL infrastructure in terms of offices, staff houses, research and training facilities, biosecurity facilities, laboratories, mobility; (iv) unmet training needs for subject matter specialists and extension staff; (v) weak cross-sectoral planning and coordination; (vi) weak farmers organisations; (vii) underdeveloped agro-related private sector, (viii) absence of land use planning; (ix) access to finance; and (x) exposure to geological, hydrological and climatic hazards including tropical cyclones, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, floods and droughts.

Based on the analysis above the ASGIP's development goal is "a sustainable, resilient, competitive and profitable agricultural sector enhancing economic growth, food sovereignty and prosperity for all Solomon Islanders". The key expected outcomes are (i) MAL operates as a professional, client-oriented, effective and accountable institution offering equal opportunities to women and men, (ii) enhanced food and nutrition security for all rural as well as urban areas, (iii) sustainably increased production and productivity of a resilient livestock and crops sector for supplying domestic as well as export markets, and (iv) improved efficiency and profitability for all actors along agricultural value chains.

To achieve its objective the ASGIP contains four main programs, each subdivided into several sub-programs. Program-1 (Governance, Management & Innovation) addresses the need to restructure MAL in order to become an efficient and effective service provider to better meet farmers' and industry needs, strengthen its research and advisory services, scaling up its use of ICT solutions, and strengthening its bio-security operations. Program-2 (National Food & Nutrition Security) is dedicated to ensuring food and nutrition security through improving the functioning and resilience of domestic food systems and supply chains, promoting healthy diets including traditional food crops and increasing the supply of locally produced root crops, vegetables, fruits, and meat through small to medium sized producers, all through resilient farming systems. Program-3 (Livestock Production for Import Substitution) aims at professionalizing the semi-commercial and commercial livestock sector to enable a reduction of meat and egg imports. This includes the emphasis on improving the animal health service capabilities coupled with improved private sector collaboration, e.g. through Public

Private Partnerships. Program-4 (Crop Production for Export Earnings) is geared towards increased export earnings through increased production of coconuts and derived products, cocoa, and other high value crops such as noni, coffee, kava, etc.

As cross-cutting issues the ASGIP contains specific actions for (i) improving gender equity and advisory services responding to women's needs, (ii) enhancing the youth focus, (iii) promoting the use of climate resilient farming practices and sustainable mixed farming systems, and (iv) increasing the nutrition focus.

National Food Security, Food Safety and Nutrition Policy 2019 – 2023 (NFSFSN). The NFSFSN was developed with assistance from the FAO and EU funded Food and Nutrition Security, Impact, Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation (FIRST) Programme, and was facilitated by an inter-ministerial collaboration process between four ministries, namely Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, and Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development. The draft policy is currently under review before presentation to the cabinet.

Agriculture Extension Policy 2011. The policy promotes partnerships in extension by involving public, private and civil society institutions. It encourages participatory methods and calls for improved extension methodologies including IT supported solutions. The policy needs to be updated.

National Policy on Organic Agriculture Systems 2010. The policy promotes organic agriculture as a means to decrease cost of production, while increasing productivity and profit for the farmers, to mitigate climate changes and to avoid price fluctuations in food thereby contributing to sustainable food security. It aims at sustaining the health of soils, ecosystems, and people thus contributing towards the strengthening of the food and nutrition security policy.

Additional commodity specific policies, strategies and guidelines include (i) Solomon Islands Coconut Sector Strategy 2010, (ii) Solomon Islands Cocoa Industry Policy and Strategies 2012-2020, (iii) Indigenous Fruit and Nut Industry in Solomon Islands Policies and Strategies 2014, (iv) "Kaikaim Lokol Kaikai" a Framework for Action on Local Food Promotion in Solomon Islands, and (v) the Rice Policy 2019 -2030, which aims at increasing domestic rice production to reduce the huge importation bill of rice.

Solomon Islands National Fisheries Policy 2019–2029. The National Fisheries Policy 2019-2029 has three strategic objectives: (i) to safeguard inshore and inland fisheries and associated ecosystem services for good nutrition and increased socio-economic benefits; (ii) to increase, improve and diversify the benefits received from offshore fisheries resources; and (iii) to develop and establish a well-managed aquaculture sector that supports rural livelihoods and food security.

National Aquaculture Management and Development Plan 2018-2023. In light of the pressure on naturally-caught marine products, the government has decided to take advantage of the potential for developing aquaculture. This is important for ensuring supplies of protein, and increasing export earnings by coastal communities. The Plan emphasises the need to mobilise finance to support aquaculture growth and adopts a strong market orientation to support increased investment and higher incomes for fisher communities, including efforts to identify markets, value-adding, advisory services to establish market linkages, and support for best practices in food safety and environmental standards.

National Climate Change Policy 2012-2017. The Government's National Climate Change Policy (2012-2017) expresses the importance of mainstreaming climate change as an integral part of its national

sustainable development strategy and programs. It lists agriculture and food security among the sectors most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. It emphasizes that adaptation to climate change needs to be mainstreamed into all development sectors and must be integrated into the work of government agencies, national institutions, civil society and private sector.

National gender equality and women’s development policy 2016–2020. The policy’s objectives are (i) gender responsive government programmes and services, (ii) improved economic status of women, (iii) equal participation of women and men at all levels of decision-making, governance and leadership, (iv) preventing and responding to violence against women and girls, (v) increased awareness and acknowledgement of the role of women in peace and security, (vi) increased access to education and providing a supportive school environment, and (vii) improved access for women’s right to sexual and reproductive health.

National strategy for the empowerment of women and girls (2013). The policy focuses on (i) gender mainstreaming in the resources sector with focus on agricultural and fisheries activities especially for rural women;, (ii) financial inclusion, (iii) enterprise development and business training, (iv) creating an enabling environment through legislation and policy changes, (v) applied research and knowledge sharing, and (vi) institutional strengthening of MWYCFA.

National Youth Policy 2017-2030. The policy establishes a framework how youth should be supported in key areas such as (i) educational empowerment (including vocational and technical training), (ii) economic empowerment (linked to employment in formal and informal sectors), (iii) health and wellbeing, (sustainable development, and (iv) leadership, peace building, and social inclusion and citizenship.

Land Reform. Most land in Solomon Islands (around 87 percent) is customary land. Customary rights over land are generally rights held by a group of people as tribes, clans or families, whereas use rights can be allocated to individuals. Customary land can be registered whereby three to five trustees are appointed and registered as trustees to represent the interests of the broader landowning group in land dealings, including land acquisition processes. Unfortunately, the “trustee model” often negatively affects decision-making on customary land: powerful male trustees make most decisions to the exclusion of women, young people and other men from the landowning group.

Solomon Islands - Key policies and strategies

Title	Validity	Comment
Overarching Policies		
National Development Strategy (NDS)	2016-2035	
Medium Term Development Plan (MTDP)	2016-2020	
Policy Translation Framework	2020	
Policy Re-Direction	2021	
National Food Security, Food Safety and Nutrition Policy (NFSFSN)	2019 – 2023	In draft form
National Rural Land Use Policy	2015-2020	
Gender & Youth		
National gender equality and women’s development policy	2016–2020	
National strategy for the economic empowerment of women and girls	2013	
National Policy to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls	2016 -2020	
National Youth Policy	2017-2030	

Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction		
National Disaster Management Plan	2018	
National Climate Change Policy	2012 - 2017	
Environment		
SI National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan	2016-2020	
Biosecurity		
Biosecurity Solomon Islands Strategic Plan (MAL)	2020 -2030	
National Strategy on Aquatic Biosecurity for the Solomon Islands	2018-2023	
Agriculture General		
Agriculture Sector Growth and Investment Plan	2021-2030	
Agriculture Sector Policy	2015-2019	
National Policy on Organic Agriculture Systems	2010	
Agriculture Extension Policy	2018-2022	
Agriculture Crops		
Solomon Islands Coconut Sector Strategy	2010	
Solomon Islands Cocoa Industry Policy and Strategies	2012-2020	
Indigenous Fruit and Nut Industry Policies and Strategies	2014	
“Kaikaim Lokol Kaikai” a Framework for Action on Local Food Promotion		
National Rice Policy	2019 -2023	
Agriculture Livestock		
Solomon Islands National Agriculture and Livestock Sector Policy	2015-2019	
Fisheries		
Solomon Islands National Fisheries Policy	2019–2029	
National Aquaculture Management and Development Plan	2018-2023	
Tilapia Action Plan		
Forestry		
National Forest Policy & Corporate Plan	2020-2022	
Trade & Industry		
Solomon Islands Trade Policy Framework	2015	
Solomon Islands Trade Policy Statement	2015	
Health		
National Health Strategic Plan 2016–2020	2016–2020	

Annex 11 – Policy Analysis Vanuatu

National Sustainable Development Plan 2016-2030 (NSDP). Vanuatu’s overarching policy framework for achieving a stable, sustainable and prosperous Vanuatu is its National Sustainable Development Plan 2016-203, also referred to as “Vanuatu 2030 – The Peoples Plan”, the successor to the expired “Priorities and Action Agenda 2006-2015”. The plan outlines Vanuatu’s five key aspirations as (i) a peaceful, just and inclusive society, (ii) capable state institutions delivering quality public services, (iii) a pristine environment at land and sea that continues to provide food, economic, and ecological needs, (iv) enhanced resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change and disasters, and (v) a stable economy based on equitable growth offering income earning opportunities to all people in rural and urban areas. The NSDP further defines 15 National Sustainable Development Goals (NSDGs) which are grouped into three pillars of “Society”, “Environment” and “Economy”. Each Development Goal is

further broken down in several concrete policy objectives. In the accompanying “NSDP Monitoring & Evaluation Framework” each National Development Goal is also clearly linked and aligned to one of the SDGs enabling harmonized reporting.

The productive sector (agriculture, fisheries, forestry) is included under the NSDP’s “Environment Pillar (ENV)” which consists of 5 NSDGs, namely ENV-1 (Food and Nutrition Security), ENV-2 (Blue-Green Economic Growth), ENV-3 (Climate and Disaster Resilience, ENV-4 (Natural Resource Management) and ENV-5 (Ecosystems and Biodiversity). The Pillar specifically refers to the need of increasing access to nutritious food through sustainable practices in agriculture and fisheries, and emphasises the importance of enhancing traditional agricultural practices and traditions, including the promotion of *alean kaikai* (traditional food), for increased resilience. It also calls for a reduction of food imports through import substitution of food products which can be produced locally. Last not least, the Pillar calls for measures to increase resilience against natural disasters and climate change, sustainable management of land, water and other natural resources, as well as the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystems including marine and freshwater resources. Additional important policy objectives pertaining to the productive sector such as improving extension services, market access, processing facilities, value addition to commodities, niche products, and trade are included in the “Economy Pillar”.

Social inclusion related matters, especially also issues pertaining to gender, youth, children and vulnerable groups are addressed under the NSDP’s “Society Pillar (SOC)” as well as under the “Economy Pillar (ECO)”, specifically under the National Development Goals SOC-4 (Social Inclusion) and ECO-4 (Jobs and Business Opportunities). The policies aim at an inclusive society which upholds human dignity and where the rights of all *Ni-Vanuatu* (Vanuatu people) including women, youth, and the elderly and vulnerable groups are supported, protected and promoted through Vanuatu’s legislation and institutions. The objectives include (i) ending all forms of violence against women and children, (ii) gender responsive planning and budgeting, (iii) supporting people with disabilities, (iv) providing opportunities, support and protection services for youth and children, and (v) increasing the number of decent, productive employment opportunities, particularly for young women and men and people with disabilities.

The NSDP’s implementation is documented in Vanuatu’s Annual Development Report which serves as the monitoring tool to annually assess the NSDP’s implementation progress in reference to its 3 pillars 15 goals, 98 policy objectives, 198 subjective indicators and 205 targets as captured in the NSDP M&E Framework. So far two reports have been published (2017 and 2018) and despite the respective ministries’ challenge to provide comprehensive baseline and progress data under some indicators, there is evidence of progress

The NSDP as a national framework is further broken down into sector-wide policy frameworks such as the “Overarching Productive Sector Policy 2020-2030” which in turn is guiding the development of Sector Policies such as the Agriculture Sector Policy, the Gudfala Kakae Policy (Food & Nutrition Policy), Vanuatu Forest Policy, National Livestock Sector Policy, Vanuatu National Biosecurity Policy 2016-2030, the Vanuatu National Fisheries Policy, and the Vanuatu National Ocean Policy. Some of these policies are being further detailed in various commodity strategies such as for cocoa, coconut, kava, fruits and vegetables.

Overarching Productive Sector Policy 2020-2030 (OPSP). The term “productive sector” is defined as encompassing agricultural production (crops, livestock, forest and fisheries), processing, marketing

and trade, together with regulatory services such as quarantine, plus the enabling environment and support services impacting on those areas.

The OPSP emphasises that Vanuatu is an agriculture based society and that for a large proportion of the population the agriculture sector underwrites their very livelihoods and contributes significantly to incomes, food security and healthy lifestyles. The Policy emphasizes that food production on family farms together with subsistence and artisanal fishing is vital for ensuring resilience in the face of external shocks, either economic (price spikes, global recession) or natural (cyclones, floods, droughts etc.). However, the Policy acknowledges that the increasing trend over recent years of reliance on food imports (largely comprised of rice, flour, frozen meat cuts and tinned fish) to meet the population's dietary needs is a cause for growing concern. The problem is exacerbated by cheap but unhealthy food that is being imported. Revitalisation of the agriculture sector through increasing production and consumption of local food is seen as the best policy and strategic option for Vanuatu to address some of the issues raised above.

While the policy aims at providing clarity and consistency in the government's role in assisting private sector-led agricultural development in Vanuatu, it also aims at transforming agriculture in Vanuatu through pursuing gender equality and the empowerment of women. The policy acknowledges the crucial yet often unrecognized role women play in managing natural resources and food security and highlights the barriers women are facing in areas such decision making, access to financial services and productive resources, as well as to technology transfer and extension services amongst other inequities. Accordingly the policy commits to address these persistent challenges and inequalities.

The eight Development Outcomes (DO) formulated in the Policy directly relate to the three pillars of the NSDP (Society, Environment, and Economy). The Outcomes are (DO1) markets and commodity production; (DO2) Quality assurance and safety (DO3); sustainable food production and food security; (DO4) more onshore processing and value adding of economically viable agricultural products; (DO5) enhanced environmental services and sector resilience to natural disasters and climate change; (DO6) investment in rural infrastructure to increase production, improve market access, reduce costs/improve competitiveness and support rural processing enterprises; (DO7); enhanced capacity of both public and private productive sector stakeholders with a focus on women and youth; (DO8) a priority focused productive sector operating within a stable and coherent policy framework.

Overall the OPSP renews the Government's commitment to improve domestic food production using sustainable ways with a priority focus on national food security, nutritional health through increased food self-sufficiency and promotion of local food (aelan kaikai), and increased disaster risk reduction. This also includes substitution of food products that can be produced domestically and better access to appropriate technology, knowledge and skills in food production, preservation and storage. The OPSP sees improved extension services, strengthening of producer groups (e.g. cooperatives), and fostering linkages between tourism, industry and agriculture as a way forward to improve productivity and production levels. Public private partnerships are seen as a suitable tool to increase the performance of value chains.

Last not least, under Development Outcome 7, the Policy highlights the need to improve the youth's life skills, technical and vocational training and skills needed for engaging in farming as a business. In this respect Young Farmer Development Courses (YFDC) have been established at the Napil Rural Training Centre (RTC) on Tanna and the Vaiduhu RTC on Malo. These courses are based on the non-formal adult education model for self-employment in agriculture that has been pioneered by the Tutu Rural Training Centre on Taveuni in Fiji. In addition, Farm Support Association (FSA) is implementing

Thrive, a 5 year program to support the expansion of sustainable agriculture in Vanuatu to enable women, men and youth smallholder farmers to have more sustainable and diverse livelihoods, increased income and greater resilience to economic, climate and disaster shocks, stresses and uncertainty.

Agriculture Sector Policy 2015-2030 (ASP). The ASP expands upon the directions and guidance provided by the OPSP and further elaborates micro level policy directives and strategies of specific relevance to Agriculture. It also provides guidance to achieve the SDG aspirations for poverty eradication (SDG1), food security (SDG2), gender equality and empowerment (SDG5), sustainable economic growth (SDG8), address climate change impacts (SDG13), sustainably manage terrestrial resources (SDG15), and partnerships for development (SDG17). The policy’s goal is to ensure that “the nation’s agricultural resources are managed in an integrated and sustainable manner to provide food and improved incomes as well as contribute to environmental and social services to enhance wellbeing of all people in Vanuatu”.

The ASP delineates the Government’s overarching position on the development of the agriculture sector by emphasizing that (i) any financial or technical assistance provided by development partners, NGOs, CSOs and other agencies will have to be aligned to the objectives of the ASP, the OPSP, and other relevant productive sector policies, (ii) in all food security projects, there should be equal and balanced consideration for introduced species as well as traditionally farmed species, and (iii) nutrition is a crucial factors in the prevention and control of NCDs and so all activities related to food security should also ensure nutrition security.

The ASP identifies several constraints facing the sector including low coordination between relevant government stakeholders, low level of private sector participation, difficulties to access markets due to inadequate infrastructure and high cost of shipping discourages farmers, low diversification of food and cash crops with a heavy reliance on a narrow range of crop varieties, limited access to finance, very weak coordination among farmers and their organisations, prevalence of poor farming practices, high frequency of land disputes and tenure insecurity resulting in unused good agricultural land and lack of long-term investments, and finally loss of agricultural land due to conversion to other uses. The situation is exacerbated by an increased youth urbanization related to a perception that agriculture is not a desirable occupation.

In order to address the identified constraints the ASP proposes a range of policy directives grouped into the following thirteen Thematic Areas (TAs): (1) “Institutional Setup and Compliance” aims at strengthening capacities of relevant institutions and organisations including research, breeding, farmers organisations, agri-business enterprises and marketing, as well as financial institutions and educational institutes; (2) “Extension and Training” targets the strengthening and modernisation of agricultural advisory services through use of ICT, hands-on farmer field schools and skills training for extension staff; (3) “Finance” aims at making financial services accessible to farmers; (4) “Agriculture Land Use” strives at reviewing and implementing land use policies and plans; (5) “Agriculture Investment” concerns creating a conducive environment for domestic and foreign direct investment into the agriculture sector; (6) “Research and Development” focuses on conserving and improving genetic materials, inclusion of traditional knowledge, and linking research with extension services; (7) “Planting Materials, Tools and Agricultural Inputs” aims at making appropriate agricultural seeds, planting materials and inputs readily available and accessible; (8) “Environmental Protection and Sustainable Farming” promotes sustainable and organic farming practices including agroforestry and

soil improvement techniques; (9) “Production and Market Access” is concerned with increasing productivity, mechanisation, use of value-adding technologies, and establishment of market enterprises; (10) “Food Security” aims at increased local production, distribution and use of fresh and/or well preserved nutritious food, especially also including traditional foods, and promotion of healthy diets; (11) “Employment” includes support to commercial farming, value-adding and marketing enterprises as well as lead farmer exchange programs; (12) “Climate Variability, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction” aims at mainstreaming climate smart technologies and disaster risk reduction by using adaptation and mitigation strategies in all agriculture initiatives and developments; and (13) “Gender and Vulnerable Groups” includes efforts to increase participation and provide equal opportunities for women, youths and vulnerable groups in all agriculture initiatives.

The ASP’s commitment to work towards an equitable and pro-active support to women, youth and vulnerable groups is explicitly expressed under the thematic areas of “Extension & Training” and “Gender and Vulnerable Groups”. The policy directive aims at mainstreaming gender and support to women, youths and vulnerable groups in all agriculture initiatives, ensuring equal opportunities in the agriculture workforce, allocating sufficient funds for agriculture activities undertaken by women, youths and vulnerable groups and increasing training opportunities for women, youths and vulnerable groups.

Opportunities for women, youth and vulnerable groups are also seen in the urban food system supply chains. The bulk of semi-commercial agricultural activities are concentrated near urban centres where high population growth rates, the development of the tourism industry, and high rates of urban unemployment are able to sustain a growing agricultural market for food crops. Recently there has been an expansion of green leafy vegetables in diets complementing the popular open pollinated local island cabbage (*Abelmoschus manihot*), including varieties of hybrid Chinese cabbages (*Brassica rapa L. chinensis*), tomatoes (*Lycopersicon esculentum*), capsicum and eggplant (*Solanum melongena*). Spice and herb cultivation in this subsector is a new but promising industry being led by women farmers.

The ASP emphasises that the state of Vanuatu’s ailing agricultural sector is further exacerbated by the negative effects of climate change and climate vulnerability. With temperatures increasing, seasonal rainfall patterns shifting, and increased occurrence of extreme weather events, an already risk prone agricultural production is put under additional pressure. While agricultural climate adaptation programs are now widespread there is still a severe deficit in climate knowledge, information, technology and implementation for vulnerable farmers. Accordingly the ASP demands that any national, provincial or community project and program envisaged for agriculture and rural development shall have in it components directly related to issues of climate change, risk reduction and resilience, and climate change crop adaptation to extreme/variable climate conditions. The process of project endorsement and approval shall be done collaboratively between DARD and the authorities responsible for climate change.

Agriculture Sub-Sector Policies. In alignment with the ASP several agriculture subsector policies have been developed or are under development. Already published sub-sector policies include the National Livestock Sector Policy 2015-2030, Vanuatu National Coconut Strategy 2016-2025, Vanuatu National Kava Strategy 2016-2025, Vanuatu National Cacao Strategy 2017-2027, Vanuatu Fruits and Vegetables Strategy 2017-2027, Vanuatu National Coffee Strategy (under development) and Vanuatu National Organic Agriculture Policy (also under development). The already drafted Gudfala Kakae Policy 2017-2030 (Gudfala kakae is a Bislamar term which is synonymous to good and nutritious food) still awaits official adoption.

Gudfala Kakae Policy 2017-2030 (GKP). The GKP resulted from an innovative and ambitious effort to create a harmonized multi-stakeholder supported policy for improving Vanuatu's food and nutrition security. It represents the shared commitment of six focus Ministries (Agriculture, Health, Trade, Internal affairs, Education and Land and Natural Resources) and the private sector. Although it is deeply rooted in the NSDP's "Environment Pillar" which includes a goal on achieving food and nutrition security, it has not yet been officially adopted. Nevertheless the draft policy continues to influence the discussion about the importance of producing and making available sufficient and nutritious food, while especially emphasizing the value of traditional food.

The policy vision is stated as *"People of Vanuatu have improved access to safe, affordable and nutritious foods in order to enjoy a healthy, wealthy, food secure Vanuatu"*, and it outlines six key objectives as (1) Improve access to affordable, nutritious diet through a sustained increase in the production of aelan kakae; (2) Promote aelan kakae as a key part of a sustainable and nutritionally balanced diet; (3) Improved access to nutritious, convenient aelan kakae through increased access to appropriate technology, knowledge and skills in food production, preservation and storage; (4) Facilitate a reduction in consumption of food imports contributing to poor health outcomes; (5) Improve the resilience of agricultural production systems through the adoption of sustainable and climate smart agricultural practices; and (6) Improved multi-sector co-ordination, implementation and monitoring of action to address food and nutrition security, and food safety.

Trade Policy Framework Update 2019-2025 (TPFU). The Policy covers a wide range of trade related aspects but specifically also refers to issues around food security, food safety and nutrition. As such the TPFU sees opportunities in discouraging imports of unhealthy food preparations (e.g. imported snacks, biscuits) while favouring healthier local alternatives (e.g. fruits and vegetables). Schools and institutional canteens (hospitals, tertiary institutions, correctional services, etc.) could be the focus of enhanced efforts in this area. Since most food products served by the tourism industry are imported, the Policy also recommends to build stronger linkages between tourism and the national primary industries, including selected fruits and vegetables, fish, and meat products. Other TPFU recommended options include support to the production and consumption of locally grown sources of carbohydrates (e.g. cassava, sweet potatoes, and other root crops), rather than increasing imports of rice. However, to efficiently increase these domestic market opportunities, inter- and intra-island transport must be improved.

For the livestock sector the Government promotes the development of the small livestock sector, including pigs, sheep, and goats as an important initiative to improve food security and rural livelihoods as well as reducing demand on the "custom slaughter" of cattle. This informal market is typically for ceremonies and festivals (known also as "custom kill") and societal pressures to provide cattle for these events places great pressure on the smallholders, affecting their ability to grow their stock numbers and supply official market outlets.

National Fisheries Policy 2016-2031 (NFP). The NFP identifies the main constraints in the fisheries sector as lack of a strong institutional and regulatory setup; a shortage of human and financial resources within the Fisheries Department; the ineffective enforcement of regulations; a lack of Infrastructure to support fishing and marketing (including shore based industrial tuna processing); an inadequately trained workforce; the illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing; land disputes affecting rural fish markets; limited access to finance for fishermen; lack of aquaculture development; under-performing community-based fisheries management; and the high costs of business for fishermen to sell at urban markets due to a lack infrastructure and equipment.

The NFP is structured around eight Strategic Policy Objectives (SPO), each of which is underpinned by more specific strategic actions and policy directives. The objectives are to (1) strengthen the institutional setup including good governance and to increase capacities for technical service delivery, (2) reduce barriers for investments into the fisheries sector and strengthen coastal and nearshore fisheries as well as aquaculture research and development for economic growth, (3) increase availability and food safety of fish for domestic consumption to increase food and nutrition security and contribute to the alleviation of non-communicable diseases, (4) invest in infrastructures that supports fisheries development, including wharves and port facilities, processing facilities, aquaculture facilities, and the Fisheries Department offices, (5) sustainably manage the environment and investigate the adverse impacts caused by climate change and natural disasters on fisheries resources and habitats, focusing on climate resilience and disaster risk reduction, (6) improve information and communication technology and information management, including electronic reporting and electronic monitoring, (7) ensure fisheries compliance and IUU fishing prevention, and (8) strengthen current partnerships, collaborations and networking between the Fisheries Department and other line agencies and industry, and encourage the establishment of new ones to promote the principles of visibility, transparency, participatory and inclusivity.

The policy's SPO-1 (Institutional setup and good governance) also includes strategic actions aiming at providing equal opportunities to all sectors of the community including women, youth and vulnerable groups. Specifically mentioned are training opportunities, employment with the Vanuatu Fisheries Department (VFD), and participation in fisheries (e.g. coastal invertebrate fisheries), aquaculture, value adding processes, and membership to fisheries associations. SPO-5 (Environment management, climate change and disaster risk reduction) includes a variety of strategic actions around the themes of (i) environmental impact assessments and baseline studies, (ii) mitigation and adaptation activities for readiness in disasters, (iii) promotion of community-based management and climate change adaptation measures based on eco-system plans, (iv) establishment of marine conservation areas and ecotourism ventures. Other related activities include the establishment of hatcheries (under SOP- 4) and related aquaculture farms acknowledging the need for diversifying fishing activities and development of alternative livelihood opportunities.

Vanuatu Forest Policy 2013-2023 (VFP). The VFP highlights the main issues and constraints affecting Vanuatu's forests as ongoing land disputes; absent national and regional land use plans delineating production and conservation areas; weak capacity of the customary landownership for sustainable forest management; increased pressure on forest resources due to population growth; incomplete comprehensive forest management plans; an imbalance between forest utilization and reforestation; limited business and technical knowledge of farmers landowners and communities in regards to forestry; institutional weaknesses; industry weakness in the areas of forest utilization, downstream processing and marketing; high utility and transport costs; weak coordination and bureaucratic procedures hamper collaboration between public and private sector. Climate change is perceived as a threat resulting in possible changing growing conditions and a possible increase of pests and diseases, but might also offer opportunities for increased and better forest management to mitigate the impacts.

The VFP's goal is that the nation's forest resources are managed in an integrated and sustainable manner and provide wood and non-wood forest products as well as environmental and social services to contribute profitably to income generation, employment opportunities, and social wellbeing for all people in Vanuatu, and thus to sustainable economic growth. To achieve that the VFP outlines eight Specific Policy Objectives with their accompanying strategic actions as follows:

SPO-1 “Sustainable Forest Management”, includes forest assessments, management of natural and planted forests, watershed and soil management, wetlands, coastal areas and mangrove management, as well as land use planning; SPO-2 “Small- Holder Farmer and Community Based Forestry” aiming at engaging with communities on forestry initiatives including agro-forestry and silvo-pastoral demonstrations for increased food security; SPO-3 “Forest Conservation and Environment”, which includes protected areas management and safeguarding biological and cultural diversity and ecological integrity of forests; SPO-4 “Climate Change”, which deals with forest related climate adaptation and climate change mitigation options; SPO-5 “Forest Industries”, aims at sector modernization, improved production, marketing and trade, as well as promoting investment and greater involvement of local ownership and workforce; SPO-6 “Finance”, deals with fund allocations to forestry development as well as credit and financing opportunities for forestry enterprises, and outlines additional sources of income through royalties, fees, charges and their related regulations; SPO-7 “Institutional Setup”, looks at strengthening the collaboration of the different forest stakeholders, clarifying their roles and responsibilities, promoting equitable benefit sharing and ensuring compliance with the forestry sector legislative framework; SPO-8 “Awareness, Training, Capacity Development, and Research” envisages adequate training for all forestry stakeholders, controlled research including safeguarding property rights and respecting prior and informed consent, and last not least forestry awareness campaigns for all people of Vanuatu

In reference to gender related issues the VFP under its SPO-7 commits to consider gender balance and gender equality in all forest operations and activities. This includes increased involvement of women as staff in the various government departments, in the forest related industries, and especially also in decision making processes concerning village-level forestry discussions and planning. Extension and awareness programs particularly aimed at women are envisaged. Under SPO-6 the policy aims at developing income generating programs for women and vulnerable groups in forest management and utilization and encourages cultivation of priority forest species as village-based means of income generation. Four young people the policy promotes forestry apprenticeship opportunities.

In the area of climate change and disaster risk reduction the VFP’s guiding principle is to facilitate the role of the forest sector in climate change mitigation and adaptation. It commits the forestry sector to embrace climate change mitigation and GHG emission reduction through reducing deforestation and degradation, and increasing afforestation and reforestation. SPO-4 is wholly dedicated to climate change and highlights the importance of including climate change adaptation issues into forestry sector planning and activities. Proposed measures include the use of climate change resilient tree species, enhanced food security through agroforestry systems, ground cover initiatives to prevent soil and coastal erosion, watershed rehabilitation, minimizing wind damage by trialling windbreak species, and documenting existing vegetative biodiversity amongst others. An additional agenda foresees the development of REDD+ initiatives, compliance with the “Voluntary Carbon Standard”, and a reduction of forest degradation and related emissions from natural forests by applying the principles of “Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)”

Vanuatu Recovery Strategy 2020-2023 (VRS). The Strategy highlights the risk that the devastating impacts of TC Harold combined with the COVID-19 pandemic may result in economic shocks which have the potential to drive many more people out of work, especially in the informal sector, with women and people with disabilities most at risk of being marginalised. Consequently, the VRS lays out a framework to support communities impacted by the disasters to recover, rebuild and emerge stronger and more resilient. The guiding principles of the VRS are to (i) ensure that recovery projects are responsive to the complex and dynamic nature of the compound disaster and the changing needs

of the communities, (ii) use flexible and responsive community-led approaches to support them in moving forward, (iii) promote a gender responsive approach including vulnerable people, and (iv) build back better by creating more resilient communities through the inclusion of disaster risk reduction measures to enhance infrastructure, revitalise and strengthen culture, social services, the economy and the environment.

The VRS outlines three Recovery Objectives (ROs) which are linked to three pillars used in the NSDP, namely society, economy and environment. RO-1 (Social Services & Protection) aims at restoring and strengthening essential social services and protection mechanisms including health, water, sanitation, hygiene education facilities as well as improving disaster preparedness, response and recovery mechanisms; RO-2 (Enhanced lives and livelihoods) supports livelihoods through, access to finance, business support services and extension services for enhanced agricultural production through improved climate resilient farming, processing and preservation practices for achieving food self-sufficiency and marketable surpluses; and RO-3 (Restoration of infrastructure and the environment) aims at repairing and upgrading public infrastructure, private housing and infrastructure, and strengthening environmental services and resilience.

National Gender Equality Policy 2015-2019 (NGEP). This National gender Equality Policy is the first of its kind in Vanuatu and it is based on Vanuatu's Constitution Chapter 2, Part 1 which "recognises the rights and freedoms of all individuals without discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, place of origin, religious or traditional beliefs, political opinions or language. It also has provisions for the 'special benefit, welfare, protection or advancement of females, children and young persons, members of under-privileged groups or inhabitants of less developed areas". Vanuatu is a signatory to a number of international and regional agreements on the advancement of women. These include the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and Optional Protocol; the Beijing Platform for Action (BPA); the Revised Pacific Platform for Action on the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality; and the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration amongst others. Vanuatu's NGEP mission is to "to promote equal rights, opportunities and responsibilities among men and women and to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls." However, when the policy was launched in 2015, the Prime Minister pointed out that "nearly two-thirds of women have experienced some form of violence in their lives, there are significantly fewer women employed in the formal sector compared to men, and women are underrepresented in decision making processes, including at the national level where there is no female member of parliament".¹⁶

The NGEP outlines four Strategic Areas (SA), each with a set of key strategies and indicators. SA-1 aims at reducing domestic and gender based violence through public awareness and advocacy, actively engaging men and boys to end violence against women and girls, and to strengthen protective, social and support services including in emergencies. SA-2 seeks to enhance women's economic empowerment by ensuring equal employment opportunities, improving skills and income for women, identifying opportunities for boys and girls to pursue their educational and career pathways, and to support women in business in rural and urban areas. SA-3 promotes women's leadership and political participation through raising community acceptance for women leadership and participation in decision making, encouraging political parties for increased female membership participation, amending legislation to ensure women's political participation at the municipal, provincial and national levels, increased representation on national taskforces and working committees as well as in executive positions. SA-4 looks at building a foundation for gender mainstreaming through enhanced

¹⁶ National Gender Equality Policy 2015-2019. Foreword by Honourable Sato Kilman Livtuvanu, Prime Minister of Vanuatu

financial, technical and staffing capacity of the Department of Women's Affairs, Ministry of Justice and Community Services, and the National Human Right Committee, and advancing gender equality across all government sectors, and last not least initiating research on relevant issues related to women's issues and gender equality.

Vanuatu Youth Development Policy 2012-2022 (YDP). The Policy acknowledges that on a national basis there is no one specific definition of youth and that the definition of youth also depends on the various cultural and traditional norms. However, the YDP defines "youth" as those between the ages of 12 and 30 years old distinguishing between the "child youth", the "core youth" and the "adult youth". The Policy identifies the major problems facing the youth as (i) poverty of opportunities and access to basic services and facilities (ii) hardship relating to financial difficulties and unemployment, (iii) alienation from customary land and traditional safety nets, (iv) traditional stigma and discrimination attached to being young or being a girl, (v) lack of effective mechanisms to demand duty bearers to respect and promote their rights to survival and development, and (vi) lack of personal development linked to promotion of cultural values, education, vocational training and health (including reproductive health, sexually transmitted diseases and alcohol/drug related problems).

The YDP's principles are based on a rights based approach and recognize that youth development initiatives and considerations must be (i) gender equal, (ii) proactive rather than reactive, and (iii) holistic in the sense of cross-sectoral collaboration between Government agencies, civil society organisations (CSOs), NGOs, and communities, and must include capacity building for youth workers. The Policy also outlines the youth's rights and obligations as well as the obligations of Government, parents and guardians. Based on the problem analysis, the Policy's principles, and the identified target groups (rural youth, youth at risk, out-of school and unemployed youth, female adolescent youth, youth with disabilities, and extraordinary talented/gifted youth) the YDP outlines seven Programs and Plan of Actions (PPAs).

PPA-1 (Youth Rights and Empowerment) focuses on education in human rights, leadership, conflict resolution mechanisms, gender sensitivity campaigns and on environmental issues; PPA-2 (Youth Socialisation, Education and Training) includes moral, ethical, technical and vocational education; PPA-3 (Youth Sports, Recreation and Health) is mainly concerned with training programmes and facilities for sports and games; PA-4 (Youth Employment and Social Security) aims at creation of employment opportunities through attachment programs, capacity acquisition programs, micro-credit and entrepreneurship schemes as well as arts/craft development schemes; PPA-5 (Youth Organisations) supports leadership training of various youth organisations, youth cooperative societies (particularly in the areas of agriculture and industry, in order to boost chances for enjoying micro-credit facilities), and international exchange and cooperation programs; PPA-6 (Youth Research and Database) promotes research and publications on various aspects of youth problems and youth development options; and PPA-7 (Youth Development Centres) seeks to establish at least one model Youth Development Centre in each of the six provinces as the institutional framework for implementing many of the other youth programs of this Policy.

Vanuatu Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy 2016-2030 (CCDRRP). The Policy outlines the potential impacts of climate change on Vanuatu's productive sector, tourism, health, transport and infrastructure sector as follows: reduced availability of fresh water; shifts in crop seasonality of harvest, planting and fruiting; more pests and diseases of animals, crops and trees; saltwater inundation and intrusion of coastal land and groundwater; compromised food security; coral reef deterioration; reduced fisheries productivity; increased risk of human disease and health problems, including vector-borne disease transmission and heat related illness; damage to infrastructure; loss of coastal land; and reduced economic growth and revenue generation.

The Policy's goal is that Vanuatu develops the capacities for resilient development and strengthens its capabilities to quickly recover from climate and/or disaster shocks and stresses. The strategic priorities (SPs) are presented as (1) Governance, (2) Finance, and (3) Knowledge & Information" and as "Themes" that are categorised as (4) climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, (5) low carbon development, and (6) response and recovery. Gender and social inclusion are regarded as a cross-cutting theme and the Policy highlights that climate change and disasters greatly impact the lives of women, while at the same time women make an enormous contribution when it comes to disaster preparedness and recovery. Hence the Policy calls for full representation of women, vulnerable groups, and the youth on committees and other decision-making forums.

SP-1 (Governance) deals with (i) "institutional structures", aiming at strengthening the NAB and the linkages between the NAB and all sectors including CSOs, NGOs, faith based organisations, private sector, academia, as well as engagement in international and regional frameworks (ii) "legislation and policies", which promotes integration of CC/DRR into other legislations and policies, together with strategies to address gender and social inclusion issues within the CC/DRR context at all levels via government and stakeholder collaboration (iii) "international obligations" outlines the need to participate in and commit to international treaties and mechanisms related to CC/DRR; (iv) "strategic business planning" mandates that climate change and disaster risk considerations are incorporated into local development planning and budgeting processes; and (v) "M&E" strives to nationally align relevant monitoring, evaluation and learning processes for the wide range of climate change and disaster risk reduction projects and initiatives being implemented through various agencies.

SP-2 (Finance) aims at (i) sufficient "funding allocations" by development partners, donors, national and provincial governments, area councils, CSOs, and industry sectors for CC/DRR; calls for insurance and risk sharing schemes; and promotes timely access to response and recovery if needed; (ii) "implementing entity accreditation" is to be achieved, and (iii) "small grants schemes" are envisaged to provide incentives for communities to develop and implement climate change and disaster risk reduction plans, and allow communities to direct funds to local priorities, thereby improving ownership.

SP-3 (Knowledge & Information) deals with (i) "information management" for making broadly accessible CC/DRR related information; (ii) "traditional knowledge", which should be respected, built upon, and included in planning, (iii) improved "knowledge sharing" through strengthening existing networks and new knowledge sharing mechanisms, (iv) "lessons learnt" to be systematically captured and used for continuous improvement; (v) "data analysis" for making informed decisions; (vi) enhanced "research" of social and economic elements of climate and disaster resilience, including community vulnerability and capacity, and adoption of appropriate adaptation approaches; and (vii) "risk assessment" through multi-hazard risk and social risk mapping exercises to inform planning at local, provincial and national levels.

SP-4 (CC/DRR) presents actions related to (i) "climate and disaster vulnerability and impact assessments", which includes the use of internationally recognised tools (e.g. environmental impact assessment, gender analysis, cost-benefit analysis); development of early warning systems; and the need for cross-sectoral integrated approaches; (ii) "community based adaptation", including participatory approaches, local ownership and contributions; capacity building and development of local risk reduction plans; (iii) "loss and damage", which includes operationalisation of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage and ensuring that the design and construction of public and other major infrastructure and development projects consider current and projected risks in order to minimise loss and damage, especially by developing and adhering to climate-proofed building codes; and (iv) "ecosystem approaches", including actions that incorporate threats and solutions from the 'ridge to the reef' of island communities utilising sound land-use planning approaches, and implementing and enforcing ecosystem-related development policy documents.

SP-5 (Low Carbon Development) covers actions related to (i) “renewable energy and energy efficiency”, which includes the increased use of renewable energy and reduction of fossil fuel (especially heavy diesel fuel combustion engines) and increased fuel efficiency of the transport sector; and (ii) “mitigation and REDD+” aiming at enhanced mitigation efforts through reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation while strengthening sustainable forest management. National mitigation considerations will equally consider forest and terrestrial (green) carbon sinks, as well as oceanic, coral reef, and seagrass (blue) sinks.

SP-6 (Response & Recovery) deals with (i) “planning for rapid response and recovery”, including support for internally displaced people and regulating activities of response stakeholders including international relief agencies (principle of who, what, where); (ii) “preparedness”, especially in the sense of clarifying and documenting the roles and responsibilities of all relevant agencies; development of standard operating procedures; pre-positioning disaster relief supplies, standard relief packages, and emergency finances at national and provincial levels, and provision of evacuation centres; (iii) “community awareness”, including targeted messages in local languages through a variety of media; (iv) “early warning systems”, which will use state of the art technologies as well as traditional mechanisms; (v) “post disaster assessment”, which aims at standardising and integrating methodologies for post-disaster assessment across all sectors and clusters; (vi) “recovery”, based on the cluster system, will ensure that recovery measures are undertaken in consultation with impacted communities, provinces, area councils and municipalities, are inclusive of women and vulnerable groups, build back better, and avoid food and non-food relief items that undermine natural recovery processes, particularly the unnecessary provision of rice.

Vanuatu - Key policies and strategies

Title	Validity	Comment
Overarching Policies		
NSDP National Sustainable Development Plan (“Vanuatu 2030 – The Peoples Plan)	2016-2030	
NSDP Monitoring & Evaluation Framework	2016-2030	
NSDP National Planning Framework (“Vanuatu 2030 – The Peoples Plan)	2018	
Vanuatu Voluntary National Review of the 2030 Agenda	2019	
Vanuatu Overarching Productive Sector Policy 2020-2030	2020-2030	
Vanuatu Recovery Strategy 2020-2023 (TC Harold & COVID-19)	2020-2023	
National Land Use Planning Policy	2013	
Vanuatu Infrastructure Investment Plan 2015-2024	2015-2024	
Vanuatu non-communicable disease policy and strategic plan	2016-2020	
Vanuatu Aid Management Policy 2018	2018	
Gender & Youth		
National Gender Equality Policy 2015-2019	2015-2019	
Pacific youth in agriculture strategy, SPC 2017	2017	
Vanuatu National Child Protection Policy 2016 - 2026	2016-2026	
National Disability Inclusive Development Policy 2018-2025	2018-2025	
Vanuatu Youth Development Policy 2012-2022 and Strategic Plan of Action 2012-2015	2012-2022	
Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction		
Vanuatu Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy	2016-2030	
National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2 nd draft)	2012-2022	

Pacific Island Meteorological Strategy 2017-2026, SPREP	2017-2026	
Environment		
National environment policy & implementation plan	2016-2030	
Biosecurity		
National invasive species strategy and action plan	2014-2020	
National Biosecurity Policy 2016-2030	2016-2030	
Agriculture General		
Agriculture Sector Policy 2015-2030	2015-2030	
MALFFB Corporate Plan	2019-2021	
ICT in Pacific Agriculture, SPC 2017	2017	
MALFFB Rural Extension Strategy 2019 – 2029	2019-2029	
The Pacific Islands Extension Strategy 2017-2027	2017-2027	
National Plan of Action on Food And Nutrition Security	2013-2015	
Gudfala Kakae Policy (Food & Nutrition Policy) 2017-2030	2017-2030	
Agriculture Crops		
Vanuatu National Coconut Strategy 2016-2025.pdf	2016-2025	
Vanuatu National Kava Strategy 2016-2025	2016-2025	
Vanuatu National Cacao Strategy 2017-2027	2017-2027	
Vanuatu Fruits and Vegetables Strategy 2017-2027	2017-2027	
Vanuatu National Coffee Strategy	In progress	
Vanuatu National Organic Agriculture Policy	In progress	
Vanuatu National Seed Policy 2019 – 2029	In progress	
Agriculture Livestock		
National Livestock Sector Policy 2015-2030 and Action Framework	2015-2030	
National Livestock Sector Action Plan & M&E Framework 2015-2030	2015-2030	
Fisheries		
Vanuatu National Fisheries Sector Policy 2016-2031	2016-2031	
Vanuatu Aquaculture Development Plan 2008 – 2013	2008-2013	
National Integrated Coastal Management Framework	2010	
Vanuatu National Ocean Policy	2016	
Coconut crab fisheries management plan		
Sea cucumber management plan		
Tuna fish management plan		
Forestry		
Vanuatu National Forest Policy 2013-2023	2013-2023	
Trade & Industry		
Trade Policy Framework Update	2019-2025	
Vanuatu Agrotourism – Plan of Action	2016	
National Industrial Development Strategy 2018-2020	2018-2020	
Cooperatives Sector Policy		

Annex 12 – Relevant development projects in Solomon Islands & Vanuatu

Project Name	Development Partner	Objectives	Timeframe
Farmers Organisations for ACP Programme (FO4ACP) Pacific Region	IFAD Recipient: Pacific Islands Farmer Organisations Network (PIFON)	<p>Component 1: Supporting economic oriented activities: (1.1) Improved capacity of FOs/FLEs to deliver economic services; (1.2) Improved capacity of FOs to connect their members to markets; and (1.3) Improved access for FOs/FLEs to supplementary financial sources.</p> <p>Component 2: Enabling policy dialogue consists of three activities: (2.1) Increased participation of FOs in shaping a supportive business environment and smallholder competitiveness in the agriculture sector; (2.2) Strengthened inter-professional / consultation platforms; (2.3) Integrated value chains development.</p> <p>Component 3: Building institutional capacities consists of four activities: (3.1) Strengthened members representation in FO's governance bodies; (3.2) Improved financial accountability of Farmers Organisations; (3.3) Development of appropriate Farmers Organisation management tools; and (3.4) Enhanced KM and dissemination among peers for replication and scaling-up.</p> <p>Component 4: Communication and visibility.</p>	2019-2023 (5 years)
Melanesia Rural Market & Innovation-Driven Development Programme (MERMAID) Solomon Islands & Vanuatu	IFAD Recipient: World Vision New Zealand	<p>Component 1: Mapping locally available nutritious foods by season, Developing nutrition behaviour change strategies; Improving farming practices</p> <p>Component 1: Market analysis on agribusiness; Empower women & youth with appropriate agribusiness skills; Financial literacy, savings and leadership training; Agribusiness management and technical skills training; Market linkages & business relationship training; Grants for productive assets</p> <p>Target Area: Malaita Provinces; area around Auki</p>	2021-2023 (3 years)
Agriculture Rural Transformation Project (ART) Solomon Islands	WB Recipient:	The project is focus on building capacities along the selected value chains, improving performance of export crops (cocoa and coconut) as well as on increasing production of small livestock (poultry and pigs; maybe	2022-2027 (5 years)

	Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock	<p>honey), and these align well with the country's new Policy Translation Framework and the newly emerging Agriculture Sector Strategy and Investment Plan 2021-2030 (ASGIP). The activities of the project are clustered around two interlinked technical components: (i) support to development of productive infrastructure, and (ii) support to value chain development.</p> <p>Component 1: Building and strengthening institutions of smallholder farmers through improved agriculture extension and technologies</p> <p>Component 2: Value chain commercialization: linking producer organisations to markets; agribusiness partnerships</p> <p>Target areas: Guadalcanal, Malaita, Makira</p>	
Strengthening Competitiveness, Agriculture, Livelihoods and Environment (SCALE) Solomon Islands	USAID	<p>The project will:</p> <p>(a) SCALE: improve the enabling environment for increased trade and investment; promote the expansion and further development of the agribusiness sector;</p> <p>(c) SCALE NRM: improve natural resources governance including forest protection through community-based</p> <p>(d) SCALE A&E: invest into farm-to-market roads, processing centers, warehouses, water and energy supply, and wharves.</p> <p>Target Area: SLB, Malaita Province; later expansion possible</p>	2020-2025
Vanuatu Value Chain Program (VaVaC) Vanuatu	EU / EDF-11 Budget support	<p>The action entitled Vanuatu Value Chain Programme will specially focus on to strengthening the organisation, production, value addition, safety and quality, and trade in the coconut, beef and fruits and vegetables value chains. Specific support for climate-resilient production, value addition, trade, safety and quality for the target value chains. Other areas of intervention include the establishment of a grant and financing facility for MSMEs in Vanuatu, and enhancing access to finance for cooperatives.</p> <p>Target Area: All six provinces of Vanuatu.</p>	2019 -2023
Pacific Horticulture Agriculture Market Access Plus Program)	DFAT	Development of export-oriented value chains (Cocoa and Kava)	2018-2022 (ext. to 2026)

PHAMA Plus Vanuatu		Thematic Areas include (i) biosecurity and sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) services, (ii) quality systems (notably food safety and organic certification), and (iii) logistics and some support towards local logistics solutions and compliance with sea container cleanliness standards.	
Pacific Horticulture Agriculture Market Access Program) PHAMA Plus Solomon Islands	DFAT	Focuses on two value chains (tree crops such as cocoa, coconut, and others; and sawn timber) Same thematic areas as in Vanuatu	2018-2022 (ext. to 2026)
Strongim Bisnis Solomon Islands	DFAT	<u>Component 1: Horticulture</u> Includes waste management, quality planting materials, post-harvest practices, packaging, cold storage, value added products; improved satellite market operations; <u>Component 2: Coconut</u> Focus on value added products; <u>Component 3: Cocoa</u> Activities along the whole value chain including nurseries, training, value added products and specialty cocoa; Target Area: national, depending on opportunities	Ongoing with possible extension
Strengthening Agriculture Sector Growth in the Solomon Islands Solomon Islands	Canadian Trade and Investment Facility for Development (CTIF)	Activities: survey of the profiles and activities of existing cooperatives, their capabilities to promote climate-resilient agricultural practice, roles of men and women in the cooperatives, as well as recommended interventions, including identification of training needs (implemented through Whitelum Group Consulting). This is more a research project generating data for focused implementation by other partners. Target Area: specific focus on land purchase coops	2021-2022
Pacific Islands Rural and Agriculture Stimulus Facility (PIRAS) Solomon Islands & Vanuatu	IFAD & DFAT	PIRAS is a regional initiative implemented in five Pacific countries, including Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Recognizing that the reach of COVID19 assistance to informal rural livelihoods, especially for rural communities and rural youth and women, remains low, the PIRAS initiative is focused on these groups. Approximately USD700,000 is allocated each to Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to support sustainable food production, improving nutrition of young children, strengthening SME	2021-2023

		<p>supply chains, post-harvest handling, food preservation and access to markets.</p> <p>Target Area: In Vanuatu, PIRAS is focused on Tanna island, while in the Solomon Islands, it is targeting vulnerable rural farming households within Central, Choiseul, and Western Provinces.</p>	
<p>Vanuatu Beef</p> <p>Vanuatu</p>	MFAT	<p>Introduce additional safe and effective biocontrol agents and develop best practice methods to control pasture weeds to improve productivity in the beef industry in Vanuatu (in collaboration with Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research)</p>	2018 - 2024
<p>Pacific Food Security</p> <p>PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa (to be confirmed)</p>	MFAT	<p>Strengthen the resilience and nutritional contribution of Pacific food systems through a focus on climate-smart and nutrition-sensitive agriculture.</p> <p>Potential scope includes climate information, drought and saline resistant varieties, irrigation, pest and disease management, agro-ecological practices, post-harvest handling and nutrition dense foods.</p>	To be confirmed
<p>Pacific Horticulture Agriculture Market Access Program) PHAMA Plus</p> <p>9 PICs including Solomon Islands & Vanuatu</p>	DFAT - MFAT Delegated Cooperation Agreement	<p>Joint Australian and New Zealand government initiative that aims to contribute to economic growth and improved livelihoods in the Pacific through the development of their primary export sectors. It will do this through support for market access and quality and productivity improvements.</p>	<p>First phase: 2018 – 2022</p> <p>Second phase (subject to approval) 2022 – 2025</p>
<p>Enhanced Pacific Biosecurity and Market Access Programmes</p> <p>Vanuatu</p>	NZ Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)	<p>To provide support to the Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu to improve Pacific biosecurity and support improved market access.</p>	<p>Phase 1: 2020 – 2021</p> <p>Phase 2: 2021 - 2024</p>
<p>Pacific Seeds for Life</p> <p>Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu & Vanuatu</p>	MFAT	<p>To improve climate resilience and food security. It will support the enabling national level environment through research, regulations, training, and awareness raising; improve in country seed and planting material production; and identify and promote open pollinated and clonal crop varieties of seed production across the region and at country level (in collaboration with Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research)</p>	<p>Phase 2 Business case being developed (timeframe TBC)</p> <p>2020 – 2024</p>

<p>Pacific Response to Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle</p> <p>Solomon Islands, PNG and Pacific regional</p>	<p>MFAT (SPC)</p>	<p>To support the Pacific region in response to the invasion of a new strain of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle that threatens economic resilience and food security across the Pacific. The activity will fund the scientific development and release of a bio-control to suppress the beetle, as well as regional and national support to introduce biosecurity and pest management plans to limit the spread and population of the beetle.</p>	<p>Phase 1: 2019 – 2021 Phase 2 Business case being developed (timeframe TBC)</p>
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