



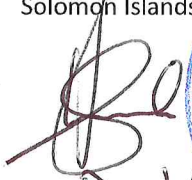
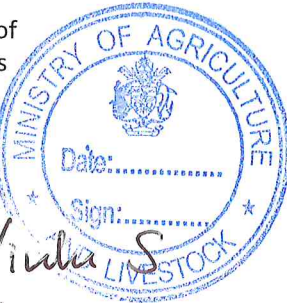
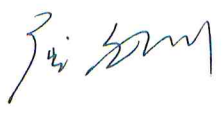
**Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations**

### PROJECT DOCUMENT

Upon request from the Government of Solomon Islands, represented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) will provide technical assistance for the following Project:

<b>Project Title:</b>	Technical Assistance to the Agriculture Investment for Markets and Nutrition project (AIM-N TA)
<b>Project Symbol:</b>	GCP/SAP/013/GAF

Upon signature of this project document by duly authorized representatives of both parties, the project will be implemented in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement between the Government of Solomon Islands and FAO for the establishment of a FAO Representation for Solomon Islands signed between the Government of Solomon Islands and FAO on 11 May 2015, *and* the United Nations Pacific Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework signed between the Government of Solomon Islands and the United Nations in 2022, as well as the project description and management arrangements described herein.

On behalf of:	On behalf of:
The Government of Solomon Islands	The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
 	
Name: Dr. Vinula S	Name: Guangzhou Qu
Title: PS MAL	Title: FAO Subregional Coordinator for the Pacific
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock	
Date: 29/4/25	Date: 17 April 2025

<b>Project Title:</b>	Technical Assistance to the Agriculture Investment for Markets and Nutrition project (AIM-N TA)
<b>Project symbol:</b>	GCP/SAP/013/GAF
<b>Recipient Country:</b>	Solomon Islands and Vanuatu
<b>Government(s)/other counterpart(s):</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (Solomon Islands) and Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biodiversity (Vanuatu)
<b>Expected EOD (Starting Date):</b>	5 May 2025
<b>Expected NTE (End Date):</b>	5 May 2029
<b>Contribution to FAO's Strategic Framework:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FAO Medium Term Plan 2022-2025  <b>Better Life 1:</b> Gender equality and rural women's empowerment  <b>Better Life 2:</b> Inclusive rural transformation  <b>Better Production 4:</b> Small-Scale Producers' Equitable Access to Resources;  FAO's Regional Priority</li> <li>• <b>Outcome 1:</b> By 2027, people, communities and institutions are more empowered and resilient to face diverse shocks and disasters, especially related to climate change, and ecosystems and biodiversity are better protected, managed and restored.</li> <li>• <b>Outcome 2:</b> By 2027, more people, particularly those at risk of being left behind, benefit from more equitable access to resilient, and gender-responsive, quality basic services, food security/nutrition and social protection systems.</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental and Social Risk Classification</b>	low risk <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moderate risk high risk
<b>Gender Marker</b>	G0 G1 G2a <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> G2b
<b>Total Budget:</b>	USD 2 800 000
<b>Executive Summary</b> <p>The overall aim of this project is to provide Technical Assistance (TA) to strengthen the capacity of implementing agencies in Solomon Island and Vanuatu to successfully implement the Agriculture Investments for Markets and Nutrition (AIM-N) project reach its expected results.</p> <p>AIM-N is funded by a Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP) grant of USD 15 million, which includes an investment of USD 12.2 million and a TA of USD 2.8 million supervised by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) respectively. The project objective is to improve</p>	

food security, diet quality and higher household incomes from resilient farming systems in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu rural communities. AIM-N will benefit 130 rural communities (65 in each country), where the majority of households engage in subsistence or semi-subsistence households farming, with limited linkages with the market and some non-farm income from seasonal youth migration. In these 130 rural communities, the project will target 32 000 beneficiaries (an average of 245 per community), or 16 250 beneficiaries in each country, of which 50 percent is women and 30 percent is youth. Target communities will be selected based on existing nutrition and food security data in each country.

TA and capacity building will be provided under the project Component 1 – ‘Action for Nutrition’ (increased production, consumption of nutritious locally-produced foods from resilient systems) with special targeting to women; and Component 2 – ‘Inclusive Partnerships for Market Access’ (market access improved and sales increased through Public-Private-Producer Partnerships). The TA will target specific areas that will benefit the governments and implementing partners, focusing on: a) background studies and assessments and guidelines development; b) training of trainers’ activities and follow-up coaching; and c) assisting the management and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of the project.

Under Component 1 the project will support a situation analysis, stakeholder mapping and baseline study in the target communities; an assessment and/or upgrading of capacity building materials for community education on diet and nutrition and delivery of Training of Trainers (ToT); a review and improvement of extension materials relevant to kitchen garden production of *Island Super Foods*; a mapping of the existing school food environment and backstop the implementation of sustainable school feeding plans. Under Component 2, TA will be provided for value chain studies; preparation/adaptation of extension materials and ToT to meet the capacity needs of extension services and service providers, identified by the value chain studies; technical (including feasibility) studies in areas identified by the process of developing the 4P<sup>1</sup> business plans; preparation of guidelines for partnership agreements and support to school feeding procurement contracts.

The TA input is foreseen to have a duration of four years, with a total direct outreach of 32 000 people trained or otherwise directly supported, of which at least 50 percent female and 30 percent youth. The TA will be delivered through support from one International Agribusiness Expert (Project Team Leader) engaged as the Project Team Lead based in Solomon Islands supported by a team of experts in Gender, M&E, Nutrition and Value Chain. An International Project Coordinator/Economist based in Vanuatu will provide coordination and project management support. The FAO-TA experts and team members will share an office with the respective IFAD and government funded project offices: Provincial Implementation Unit (PIU) and Project Management Unit (PMU).

The technical assistance will contribute to the ongoing efforts by the government of Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to build back better their economies following the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2020 Tropical Cyclone (TC) Harold. The project is aligned with the Solomon Islands’ National Development Strategy 2016-2035 and Agriculture Sector Growth Strategy and Investment Plan (2021-2030); and Vanuatu’s National Sustainable Development Plan 2016-2030, Agriculture Sector Policy 2014-2024, and Roadmap for Food Systems Transformation by 2030. The project will directly contribute to FAO’s Regional Priority on building sustainable and resilient agrifood systems in the Pacific Small Island Developing States.

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<sup>1</sup> 4P stands for Public Private Producer Partnership



## CONTENTS

<b>ACRONYMS .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>SECTION 1 – RELEVANCE .....</b>	<b>8</b>
1.1Alignment and Strategic Fit .....	8
1.1.1 Alignment to FAO’s Strategic Framework .....	8
1.1.2 Alignment to Regional and Country Programming Frameworks (CPF) .....	8
1.1.2.1 Contribution to Country Outcome .....	8
1.1.2.2 Contribution to CPF Output(s).....	9
1.1.3 Expected Results.....	10
1.1.3.1 Impact.....	10
1.1.3.2 Outcome .....	10
1.1.3.3 Outputs.....	10
1.1Comparative Advantages .....	15
1.1.2 Mandate to Act.....	15
1.1.3 Capacity to Act.....	15
1.1.4 Position to Act .....	15
1.2Context Analysis .....	16
1.2.2 Stakeholder Engagement .....	16
1.2.2.1 Stakeholder Engagement .....	16
1.2.2.2 Grievance Mechanism .....	17
1.2.2.3 Disclosure .....	17
1.2.3 Problems to be addressed.....	17
1.2.4 Partnerships.....	17
1.2.5 Knowledge Management and Communication.....	18
1.2.5.1 Knowledge Sharing .....	18
1.2.5.2 Lessons Learned .....	18
1.2.5.3 Communication .....	18
<b>SECTION 2 – FEASIBILITY .....</b>	<b>19</b>
2.1Implementation Arrangements.....	19
2.1.1 Institutional Framework and Coordination .....	19
2.1.2 Government Inputs.....	20
2.1.3 Resource Partner Inputs .....	20
2.1.4 Strategy/Methodology .....	20
2.1.5 Technical Oversight and Support Arrangements.....	21
2.1.6 Management and Operational Support Arrangements .....	21



2.2Operational Modalities.....	21
2.3Statistics.....	22
2.4Information Technology .....	22
2.5Risk Management.....	22
2.5.1 Potential risks to the project .....	22
2.5.2 Environmental and social risks from the project.....	23
2.6Monitoring, Performance Assessment and Reporting .....	23
2.6.1 Monitoring Arrangements .....	23
2.6.2 Performance Assessment .....	23
2.6.3 Reporting .....	24
2.7Evaluation Provisions.....	24
<b>SECTION 3 – SUSTAINABILITY253.1</b>	
<b>Capacity</b>	
<b>Development</b>	
.....	<b>24</b>
3.2Decent Rural Employment.....	24
3.3Environmental Sustainability.....	24
3.4Gender Equality .....	25
3.5Indigenous Peoples.....	25
Annex I: Logical Framework Matrix .....	27
Annex II: Stakeholder Engagement Matrix.....	33
Annex III: Workplan .....	40
Annex IV: Budget .....	44
Annex V: Risk Management.....	45

## ACRONYMS

AWPB	Annual WorkPlan and Budget
BCC	Behavioural Change Communication
CPF	Country Programming Framework
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (Vanuatu)
DBSI	Development Bank of Solomon Islands
ESCMP	Environment, Social and Climate Risk Management Plan
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAO-TA	FAO Technical Assistance
FFS	Farmer Field and Business School
FG	Farmer group
FM	Financial Management
FMA	Financial Management Assessment
FO	Farmers' Organizations
FPIC	Free Prior and Informed Consent
GAFSP	Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme
GDP	Gross Development Product
GESI	Gender Equity and Social Inclusion
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
KM	Knowledge Management
LF	Lead Farmer
LOC	Line of Credit
LTO	Lead Technical Officer
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAL	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (Solomon Islands)
MALFFB	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biodiversity (Vanuatu)
MIS	Management Information System
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoTF	Ministry of Treasury and Finance
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSC	National Steering Committee
PA	Project Account
PD	Project Director
PIM	Project Implementation Manual
PIU	Provincial Implementation Unit
PMU	Project Management Unit
PSC	Project Steering Committee
PY	Project Year
RAP	Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
RDP	Rural Development Programme

SAP	FAO Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific
SECAP	Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS:	Small Islands Developing States
SMAE	Small and Medium Enterprises
SOE	Statements of Expenditure
TA	Technical Assistance
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
TAF	Technical Assistance Facility
TCP	Technical Cooperation Programme
ToR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of Trainers
VHW	Village Health Worker
WG	Women's Groups



## SECTION 1 – RELEVANCE

### 1.1 Alignment and Strategic Fit

#### 1.1.1 Alignment to FAO's Strategic Framework

The project will mainly contribute to the Programme Priority Area Better Life Inclusive rural transformation (BL2). In addition, the project will contribute to Better Production: Small-Scale Producers' Equitable Access to Resources (BP4) as well as to Better Life: Gender equality and rural women's empowerment (BL1) and Scaling up investment (BL7).

The project will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

1. No poverty, especially 1.4 - equal rights to economic resources and basic services.
2. Zero hunger, especially 2.3 - agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers.
5. Gender equality: 5.a women equal rights to economic resources.

#### 1.1.2 Alignment to Regional and Country Programming Frameworks (CPF)

The project aligns with FAO's Multi-Country Programming Framework for the Pacific Islands (Pacific CPF) 2023-2027, which is derived from the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for the Pacific Islands (Pacific UNSDCF) 2023-2027 and represents FAO's contributions to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and SDGs in the Pacific Islands: Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, **Solomon Islands**, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and **Vanuatu**. The UNSDCF aspires to contribute to a Pacific region where "all people, leaving no place behind, are equal and free to exercise their fundamental rights, enjoying gender equality and peace, resilient to the existential threats and living in harmony with the blue continent".

The project also aligns with FAO's Regional Priority on building sustainable and resilient agrifood systems in the Pacific Small Island Developing States, particularly Outcomes 1 and 2:

- Outcome 1: By 2027, people, communities and institutions are more empowered and resilient to face diverse shocks and disasters, especially related to climate change, and ecosystems and biodiversity are better protected, managed and restored.
- Outcome 2: By 2027, more people, particularly those at risk of being left behind, benefit from more equitable access to resilient, and gender-responsive, quality basic services, food security/nutrition and social protection systems.

FAO's Regional Priority outcomes act as a programmatic umbrella supporting the implementation of the country programmes.

##### 1.1.2.1 Contribution to Country Outcomes

For both target countries, the project will align mainly with CPF Outcomes 2 (Component 1) and 3 (Component 2). Some activities from both components will also contribute to Outcome 1.

- Outcome 2: By 2027, more people, particularly those at risk of being left behind, benefit from more equitable access to resilient, and gender-responsive, quality basic services, food security/nutrition and social protection systems – linking to FAO Better Nutrition; Regional Priority 4 on Building sustainable and resilient agrifood systems in the Pacific SIDS.

- Outcome 3: By 2027, more people, especially those at risk of being left behind, contribute to and benefit from sustainable, resilient, diversified, inclusive and human-centred socio-economic systems with decent work and equal livelihoods' opportunities, reducing inequalities and ensuring shared prosperity – linked to FAO Better Production, Better Nutrition, Better Environment, Better Life; Regional Priority 4 on Building sustainable and resilient agrifood systems in the Pacific SIDS.
- Outcome 1: By 2027, people, communities and institutions are more empowered and resilient to face diverse shocks and disasters, especially related to climate change, and ecosystems and biodiversity are better protected, managed and restored linked to FAO Better Production, Better Nutrition, Better Environment, Better Life; Regional Priority 4 on Building sustainable and resilient agrifood systems in the Pacific SIDS.

These outcomes are aligned with:

- In the Solomon Islands: National development priority: National Development Strategy 2016-2035; Agriculture Sector Growth Strategy and Investment Plan (2021-2030)
- In Vanuatu: National Sustainable Development Plan 2016-2030; Vanuatu Agriculture Sector Policy 2014-2024; Roadmap for Food Systems Transformation by 2030.

#### 1.1.2.2 Contribution to CPF Outputs

Through its support to strengthening implementing agencies' capacities in participatory market-led extension approaches and the provision of demand-driven services to farmers and their organizations, the AIM-N-TA Project will mainly contribute to **CPF Output 1.2: Equitable access to productive resources, efficient services, and markets for resilient food systems.**

- **Outcome 1, Output PL 2.1** - Adaptive capacities enhanced, specifically in the areas under Sub-output PL 2.1.3 for increased resilience of communities (including men, women and youth) and ecosystems to climate change impacts.
- **Outcome 2, Output PE 1.2** - Capacities strengthened to promote healthy food consumption, particularly sub-output PE 1.2.1 for a strengthened enabling environment to foster healthy eating habits and lifestyles. Under this Outcome, the project will also contribute to **Output PE 1.1** for strengthened capacities for food safety education and regulations.
- **Outcome 3, Output PR 1.1** - Capacities strengthened for sustainable, diversified and resilient agrifood systems, including **Sub-output PR 1.1.1** Strengthened enabling environment to enhance sustainable and gender-sensitive agrifood system, including nutrition and organic food production systems; **Sub-output PR 1.1.2** Strengthened sustainable, climate-smart and gender- and youth-sensitive agrifood production systems; and **Sub-output PR 1.1.3** Strengthened gender- and youth-sensitive value chains for the economic empowerment of rural communities towards systemic resilience.

In addition, the project is expected to have strong synergies with a number of important ongoing and pipeline projects, most importantly:

- In the Solomon Islands: The ongoing European Union (EU)-funded project on *Sustainable improvement of domestic food production and productivity in Fiji, Samoa and Solomon Islands* (GCP /SAP/011/EC).
- In Vanuatu: The FAO Hand in Hand Initiative which is in early stages of implementation.

### **1.1.3 Expected Results**

#### **1.1.3.1 Impact**

The AIM-N project impact, to which the FAO-TA will contribute, is expressed in the overall project development objective “Improved food security, nutrition and household income from resilient farming systems in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu rural communities.”<sup>2</sup>

#### **1.1.3.2 Outcome**

The specific outcome that the FAO TA will work to achieve is:

“The capacity of implementing agencies has been strengthened to successfully implement the Agriculture Investment for Markets and Nutrition (AIM-N) and reach its expected results in both countries”.

Technical assistance and capacity building will target specific areas that will benefit project implementation partners, focusing on: a) background studies and assessments and guidelines development; b) training of trainers’ activities and follow-up coaching; and c) assisting the management and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of the project. The FAO- TA input is foreseen to cover the first four years (out of 6) of the life of the AIM-N project.

This outcome will be achieved through the following expected outputs:

#### **1.1.3.3 Outputs**

**Output 1: Improved capacity for nutrition sensitive agriculture.** This cover various capacity development (CD) activities related to nutrition with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) in the Solomon Islands, and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) in Vanuatu, and other engaged actors to implement AIM-N Component 1 (Action for Nutrition). Support and backstopping will be provided to enable nutrition behaviour change in the target areas and to link it to the diversification of agriculture production, food processing, commercialization and cooking, leading to a healthy diet with high local food content.

#### **FAO-TA Activity 1.1: Building capacity for Nutrition Behaviour Change**

##### **1.1.1. Prepare a participatory situation analysis.**

The project will support the preparation of a situation analysis, stakeholder mapping and baseline study to identify: (a) local nutrition and food environment challenges that adversely impact diet quality, and existing resources that promote nutrition; (b) local stakeholders including existing women’s groups, farmer organisations, healthcare practitioners, leading farmers etc; and (c) collect baseline data at household level on food security, dietary diversity and knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) relating to nutrition, food choice and purchasing behaviour. Food availability will be assessed within the local food system and specifically, the food environment, taking seasonal factors and different sources of food into consideration. Data on dietary habits will be combined with existing knowledge to identify food crops that are under-consumed and have high potential to improve nutrition in each project area. The analysis would also seek to understand how men, women and youth receive information, in order to inform the nutrition Behaviour Change Communication as well as activities under the Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture Extension (Sub-Component 1.2). The project will support the selected service providers with the study methodology, KAP survey design and analysis of results.

##### **1.1.2. Improve Behaviour Change Communication Materials**

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<sup>2</sup> IFAD 2023. Agriculture Investment for Markets and Nutrition (AIM-N), Draft Design Report, 2 July 2023.



The project will support the assessment and upgrading of capacity building materials for community education on diet and nutrition, in collaboration with the responsible Ministry in each country - Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) in Solomon Islands and Ministry of Health (MoH) in Vanuatu - and through a nutrition sensitive agriculture approach. All materials will be subject to approval from the responsible Ministry. Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) materials informed by existing national food based dietary guidelines (FBDGs) will have strong visual content and simple verbal messaging in local languages (i.e. Solomon Islands Pidgin and Bislama and relevant local languages). In addition to printed materials, digital options for producing audio-visual content for display on mobile devices and other media such as radio will be considered.

#### **1.1.3. Build Capacity for Behaviour Change Communication (BCC)**

The project will carry out ToT for: (a) national and provincial nutritionists, and (b) nutrition field officers (Solomon Islands), and health staff and Village Health Workers (VHW) in Vanuatu, using newly developed BCC materials for nutrition sensitive agriculture and healthy diets. The work will be carried out in collaboration with health ministry staff. The objective of the TOT will be to strengthen: (a) health facility staff's provision of nutrition advice to expectant women and mothers of infants and children under five years old; and (b) nutrition field officers' capacities to promote kitchen garden production of healthy foods, in close partnership with the Lead Farmers, supported under Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture Extension (Sub-Component 1.2). The TA will be provided through workshops and TOT (Year 1 and 2) and through technical backstopping of Nutrition Officers and Provincial Nutritionist (Year 2 and 3).

### **FAO-TA Activity 1.2: Building capacity for Diversified Community-based food production**

#### **1.2.1 Improve extension materials for Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture**

The project will support the review and improvement of existing material relevant to kitchen garden production of nutritious foods to ensure availability year-round. Extension materials will be simple and visual and designed to support a hands-on, learning-by-doing approach. Specific materials will be developed for crops targeted by the training - which will be those identified as under-consumed (including forest / wild harvested foods) and having the greatest potential to contribute to improved diet quality, as identified by the baseline survey. Training will emphasise good agriculture practice, seed saving, and climate smart agriculture techniques. This activity would be carried out combined with activity 1.1.2 (Improve Behaviour Change Communication Materials), with a consultant who has nutrition-sensitive agriculture expertise.

#### **1.2.2 Deliver Training of Trainers (ToT) on Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture**

The project will support the delivery of Training of Trainers (ToT) - based on the improved training materials (Activity 1.2.1) for extension agents, including staff of the public extension services, or staff of private service providers and Lead Farmers. Workshops and TOT will be carried out in Years 1 and 2, and technical backstopping of extension agents and service providers will be provided in Years 2 and 3.

### **FAO-TA Activity 1.3: Building capacity for Improved School Food Environments**

#### **1.3.1: Map the School Food System in Selected Schools**

The project will support the mapping of the existing school food system and food environment of one school in each target province. The activity will involve developing a methodology, guiding the mapping

process (Year 1), conducting TOT workshops, and providing relevant backstopping (Year 2-3), while adapting FAO's home-grown school feeding approach to the context of Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. The mapping will be carried out by the provincial nutritionists, agriculture extension staff, school committees and management, with participation of students – facilitated by FAO. The mapping will identify: (1) available food budget and food procurement system (including any foods produced on school grounds); (2) school food needs for healthy student diets; (3) food storage and preparation facilities; (4) school food environment including students' access to food from snack vendors and other sources; and (5) students' nutrition education and nutrition knowledge. Based on the mapping exercise, the school will develop and implement a sustainable school feeding plan. In the Solomon Islands, TA will also be provided to the Ministry of Education to finalise their draft National School Nutrition Policy (Year 1).

#### **1.3.2: Improve Food Production and Preparation in Schools**

In the selected schools, the project will support the implementation of sustainable school feeding plans, including: (i) planning for investments in basic infrastructure, equipment and tools, (ii) practical skills-training in food production, storage and preparation and (iii) menu planning and procurement. TA will be provided for backstopping (Year 2-3) to the Provincial Nutritionist and Nutrition Officers who will be coordinating engagements with schools on how to implement the school feeding/school food programme. (Year 2-3).

#### **1.3.3: Improve Nutrition Education in Schools**

The project will support the preparation of improved curriculum materials for nutrition education of students, based on consultation with students on how they want to learn. The materials will make practical links between nutrition knowledge, food production and preparation. TA will be provided through TOT for teachers and school cooks and through backstopping to the Provincial Nutritionists and Nutrition Officers who will be the focal points for engagements with schools on how to implement the school feeding/school food programme. This activity could be combined with 1.3.1 (Map the School Food System in Selected Schools), and 1.3.2. (Improve Food Production and Preparation in Schools) through engaging the same International Expert.

#### **1.3.4: Support school food policies to access nutritious foods**

In consultation with the relevant government authorities, the project will support schools to work with food vendors (where relevant) who sell food on or near school grounds, to improve the nutritional quality of their products. This may include discouraging sale of the least healthy foods, improving recipes of some foods and introducing new and more nutritious products. This activity can be linked to the training of women groups in food processing under 1.1.5. The development of a healthy school food policy and school gardens may be included in these activities, depending on the location and context. TA will be provided through backstopping the work of Provincial Nutritionists and Nutrition Officers who will be the focal points for engagements with schools on how to implement the school feeding/school food programme.

All the tasks under FAO-TA Activity 1.3 (Building capacity for Improved School Food Environments) will be under the responsibility of the same International Expert.

**Output 2: Improved capacity for inclusive partnerships for market access.** Support and backstopping will be provided to organize and connect smallholders, including women and youth, with profitable markets to gain stable income from resilient farming.

#### **FAO-TA Activity 2.1: Building capacity for 4P Partnerships**



### **2.1.1. Prepare one study per selected value chain.**

The project will support the identification of specific value chains for the studies, develop the study methodology and the TOR for the specific studies, and support the field-level value chains mapping. The studies will include participatory events with farmers, Small and Medium Agri-Enterprises (SMAEs) and other value chain actors. Key information from the value chain studies will include: (1) confirming the potential for value chain strengthening to sustainably benefit smallholder farmers; (2) identify relevant target areas; (3) in particular, identify opportunities for communities participating in Component 1 activities to benefit from the value chains; (4) identify key value chain actors; (5) identify priority interventions required to strengthen the value chains; (6) evaluate long-term potential of the value chains taking into account macroeconomic, environmental and climate change risks; (7) identify opportunities to improve nutritional value of food product across the value chain. The studies will collect information on prices, margins, costs, recommended technologies and possible functional upgrading options, as well as capacity gaps at extension and service provider level to support value chain development. In Vanuatu, studies will focus particularly on achievement of premium quality, high value, certified value chains.

### **2.1.2. Develop a common approach and guidance for 4P partnership agreements**

The project will support the development of a diagnostic approach to assess critical elements of 4P partnerships between farmer groups and their linked buyers or agro-enterprises, including any public infrastructure, e.g. land, post-harvest facilities and equipment. Based on this approach, the project will prepare a standardized guide for a partnership agreement, covering all aspects relevant to negotiating, establishing agreements, and developing or implementing joint business plans, including: registration of partnership members, facilities ownership and maintenance roles and cost sharing, communications, product quantity, quality, traceability system, supply schedule, packing and transport, transaction point, price setting, payment schedule, support services (advisory, pre-financing, etc.), triggers for re-negotiation or termination. TA will support the review, preparation, or adaptation of the materials; pilot test them with service providers, farmer groups and individual farmers; and follow-up and adjust the methodology as needed.

### **2.1.3. Provide support to school feeding procurement contracts.**

Guided by the standardized approach developed for partnership agreements under Activity 2.1.2 (Develop a common approach and guidance for mi partnership agreements) TA will support further adaptation of the methodology as needed to fit the requirements of contracts between schools and farmers.

## **FAO-TA Activity 2.2: Strengthen Public and Private Agricultural Extension Capacity**

### **2.2.1. Prepare or adapt extension materials and conduct ToT**

The project will support the preparation or adaptation of extension materials and conduct related ToT to meet the capacity needs of extension services and service providers, identified by the value chain studies. Follow-up support will also be provided to staff in the Provincial Agricultural Divisions, of Solomon Islands and Vanuatu at sub-national level using the adapted materials. Where needed (notably in Solomon Islands), the training materials will also target farmer groups. Topics would include financial literacy, farm business planning, improved processing, storage and packaging, climate-smart resilient agricultural practices, marketing, and any other areas identified during implementation, relevant to emerging crops, new production and digital technologies and post-harvest value addition, to meet high value market requirements. Extension materials will include ICT for communication and for marketing, expanding on technologies and applications that are already available. FAO TA will also



provide training and ongoing support to the Provisional Agricultural Divisions, to build their implementation capacities, including planning, budgeting, management, coordination, and monitoring of project activities at the provincial and community levels.

### **2.2.2. Prepare additional technical (including feasibility) studies**

The project will support the preparation of additional technical studies in areas identified by the process of developing the 4P business plans, as well as in areas prioritized for research by the relevant ministries in the two countries. These could include: potential for development of value-added products, feasibility of food science technologies and related certification, increased use of digital technology, soil laboratories, and assessments of transport and market logistics underpinning the value chains, with recommendations for policymakers.

### **Output 3. Improved capacity for effective project implementation, coordination and knowledge management**

The International Project Coordinator/ Economist will assist the PMU in starting the project, coordinating the development of project methodologies, building capacities, and ensuring learning throughout the project across teams and project stakeholders. The FAO-TA will provide support to overall project management and coordination of AIM-N, with strong attention to quality M&E, knowledge management and to facilitate the scaling of successful approaches and innovations within other programmes and policies in the two countries and the sub-region.

#### **FAO-TA Activity 3.1: Building Capacity for M&E and Knowledge Management**

In the project inception phase (Year 1), the FAO TA will deploy a short-term international M&E, who – together with the FAO Coordinator – will help kick-start the project, ensure that project management systems are fully established, and provide guidance and backstopping to the PMUs<sup>3</sup>. Support will be provided for the design of the overall project M&E system, especially in areas of data collection and analysis, as well as in participatory monitoring and learning methodologies. The system will be designed to also record and share challenges, best practices, lessons learned. FAO-TA will train those responsible for AIM-N project M&E at national and provincial levels on results-based M&E and Knowledge Management. It will also train the AIM-N M&E team in the PMUs of both countries in data collection, data analysis and reporting.

Assistance will be provided for the development of a Management Information System (MIS) for the FAO-TA and its integration with the overall Aim-N MIS to facilitate the flow of data and real-time monitoring of ongoing interventions. The MIS will track financial and technical data on project outputs and outcomes. The FAO-TA will assist in the data collection from the supported farmer groups, women's groups and P4 partnerships to be integrated in the overall AIM-N MIS.

For knowledge sharing, the identification of good practices and lessons learning, the FAO-TA will proactively and continuously identify synergies and possible partnerships with other projects or programmes and assist the AIM-N Technical Advisory Committee in building synergies around convergent interests and harmonized interventions at national and sub-regional levels.

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<sup>3</sup> Note that this will not cover fiduciary issues, for which technical assistance will be provided by a Project Expeditor and IFAD staff.

### **FAO-TA Activity 3.2: Providing strategic policy research and advice**

FAO-TA will be available to support the PMU, the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and other relevant governmental bodies to address relevant high-level issues identified as being a constraint to project success. Where appropriate, FAO-TA would fund special studies required on relevant emerging issues that the PSC wishes to address, in the form of strategic policy research and advisory services.

#### **1.1 Comparative Advantages**

##### ***1.1.2 Mandate to Act***

FAO has a global mandate to improve food security, nutrition, agricultural productivity and reduce rural poverty. FAO is expected to serve as an advisor and technical expert, especially for developing and transition countries. The project will contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators that are under the custodianship of FAO, as referenced in section 1.1.1.

Since the GAFSP inception in 2010, FAO has been one of the main stakeholders of the programme as one of the two Supervising Entity (SE) for Technical Assistance (TA). In their proposal to the September 2021 GAFSP call for proposals, the governments of the Solomon Islands and the Republic of Vanuatu requested FAO to be the SE for TA of the AIM-N project in complement to asking IFAD to be the investment SE of the project. This request was endorsed by the GAFSP steering committee when the proposal was approved in December 2021, giving FAO the mandate to play this role and develop this project document in accordance with FAO's procedures.

##### ***1.1.3 Capacity to Act***

FAO has a comparative advantage and a capacity to act in delivering technical assistance to this project as it has successfully done over the past decades in supporting agrifood systems investments, production and resilience in these two countries and the Pacific SIDS in general. As a SE for TA, FAO has been putting in place the procedures, capacities, and system to implement GAFSP-financed TA projects with shared responsibilities between the country / SAP offices, the regional office as well as the Investment Center (CFI) that plays the role of focal point to GAFSP in line with GAFSP requirements. FAO will also be able to build synergies with a number of ongoing and pipeline projects, such as the EU-funded project on Sustainable improvement of domestic food production and productivity in Fiji, Samoa and Solomon Islands (GCP/SAP/011/EC), which is expected to commence implementation in the same period as AIM-N; the ongoing TCP on Strengthening local food systems in the Solomon Islands, by promoting climate-resilient and sustainable urban and peri-urban agriculture value chains (TCP/SOI/3801); and the FAO's Hand in Hand Initiative in Vanuatu which is in early stages of implementation.

##### ***1.1.4 Position to Act***

FAO is recognized by GAFSP as one of the international organizations qualified to function as a supervising entity for work undertaken with its resources. GAFSP has awarded financing for this project on the strength of the proposal that was jointly prepared and submitted by the governments of the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, IFAD and FAO.

FAO has strong experience and internationally recognized technical expertise in responsible investment in agriculture and food systems, including value chains and capacity development. FAO was closely involved in the development of the Solomon Islands Agriculture Sector Growth and Investment Plan for 2021-2030 (ASGIP) which outlines an ambitious path to modernize and commercialize the agricultural sector to ensure food and nutrition security and contribute to economic growth. FAO has a comparative advantage in drawing on its specialized staff and its methodologies,



approaches and training materials in other countries. As a result, FAO is able to combine its wide-ranging global knowledge on the two technical components of AIM-N with its in-depth knowledge of both countries and adapt those materials to the needs of the AIM-N implementing agencies and the context in the project target areas.

## **1.2 Context Analysis**

### **1.2.2 Stakeholder Engagement**

#### **1.2.2.1 Stakeholder Engagement**

##### **Stakeholder identification**

The direct beneficiaries of this TA Project are the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) in Solomon Islands, and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biodiversity (MALFFB) in Vanuatu. Nutrition is the primary responsibility of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) in Solomon Islands and the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Vanuatu but also involves the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development (MEHRD) in Solomon Islands/Ministry of Education (MoE) in Vanuatu for what regards school feeding. Rural based health staff have strong presence in communities but are often under resourced, especially for preventing health care and nutrition, although it is recognised as a priority. There is limited collaboration with education services and the area of student nutrition in the network of boarding schools is recognised as a problem. Gender equality is promoted by the Ministry of Women, Children and Family Affairs (MoWCFA) in Solomon Islands/Department of Women (DoW) in Vanuatu and can be engaged in social norms assessment and capacity building. These government institutions constitute the core group of public institutions that will participate in AIM-N implementation.

In addition, a number of stakeholders comprising mostly of civil society organisations were identified at the design stage of this project, who are involved in relevant initiatives that already have local traction: household-based approach (Live and Learn and Kastom Garden Association-KGA in Solomon Islands, PHAMA+ and Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Vanuatu); Nutrition Champion Couples and community agreements (World Vision/MERMAID); school feeding models (Vanuatu Skills Partnership and Healthy Kaikai in Vanuatu); Health Promoting Schools (MoH in Vanuatu); Guide to Healthy Eating (MoH and FAO in both countries); health youth theatre and participatory cooking classes (Won Smol Bag, Vanuatu); kitchen garden demonstrations (KGA and Farmer Association Services); partnerships (RDP II).

##### **Stakeholder consultation**

The design mission was conducted along a participatory and inclusive process, which included, for each country, a kick-off workshop with main project stakeholders, two mini workshops focusing specifically on Components 1, and Components 2 and 3 respectively, and a wrap-up workshop. Participants in the workshops included representatives from key ministries, private sector, civil society and farmer organizations and development partners. Consultations during project design showed good potential for partnering with a series of development partners' interventions in the field of agriculture and infrastructure. EU-financed Vanuatu Value Chain (VaVaC) Budget Support programme funds the Industry Development Fund and Cooperative Development Fund that provide capital assistance under the form of grants to local industries, including agribusiness, through an annual call for proposals. The Vanuatu Skills Project, financed by the government of Australia, supports the development of certified skills in the agriculture sector and for training providers. It also finances Strongim Bisnis in Solomon Islands, which provides technical and grant-based financial assistance to SMEs in the agribusiness sector, including for accessing markets and technologies and for building the supply chain. A new phase will start in 2024 that could benefit SMEs involved in AIM-N partnerships. Potential linkages with these

projects should be further explored during AIM-N first year of implementation and partnership modalities should be developed where relevant.

#### **1.2.2.2 *Grievance Mechanism***

The project will adhere to the FAO policy on grievance mechanisms according to the FAO Operational Guidelines for stakeholder engagement (2017) and the FAO Guidelines on Compliance Reviews Following Complaints (2015). Should concerns or complaints arise during the project phases, grievance redress and feedback mechanisms will be put in place. Information sharing on the grievance mechanism and effective communication among stakeholders will be ensured throughout, in order to make sure that possible concerns will be promptly addressed.

If concerns arise that the existing processes have gaps, additional grievance provisions will be included, which should describe the process to be followed by affected communities.

Most ministries and projects in both countries have institution and/or project-level grievance redress mechanisms (GRM), often also replicated at lower levels. IFAD requires that all borrowers adopt an easily accessible grievance mechanism at the project-level.

#### **1.2.2.3 *Disclosure***

The management of the project will involve farmers, governments, implementing agencies, FAO and IFAD. FAO will therefore work with all of the stakeholders, particularly with guidance from the governments over the cultural and legal local contexts for the disclosure of pertinent information. The governments' guidance will be the framework for information disclosure.

### **1.2.3 *Problems to be addressed***

The main problem that the AIM-N -TA project will contribute to addressing is food and nutrition insecurity of vulnerable households. Traditional farming systems in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu are under stress because of declining fallow periods and loss of soil fertility, increased pests and diseases, and vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters, which in turn result in poor yields and loss of diversity. The pressure on food production, combined with a lack of nutrition knowledge and a preference for imported, nutrient-poor food products, are key drivers of rural households' malnutrition and diet-related diseases. Low productivity also affects farming households' income, which is further driven by the lack of market linkages, a limited access to support services, weak farmers' organizations, lack of access to capital, and lack of post-harvesting capacity and productive infrastructure.

Against this background, the AIM-N TA will specifically address capacity needs for improved nutrition and food security and poverty reduction in rural areas, building on the Indigenous Peoples' traditional farming systems, and adopting a nutrition-sensitive approach that will link nutrition behaviour change with agricultural production for home consumption as well as for the market.

#### **1.2.4 *Partnerships***

The main partnerships that the project will pursue are with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) in the Solomon Islands, and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biodiversity (MALFFB) in Vanuatu. Linked to those, the AIM-N TA will partner closely with the national-level PMUs, and the provincial-level PIUs in each country (see implementation arrangements section).

Furthermore, the FAO-TA team will build partnerships with the selected service providers who were identified at the design stage and who are involved in relevant initiatives in the project target areas (see stakeholder engagement section). The project will also promote partnerships with relevant



private sector organizations and rural finance organizations to strengthen sustainability prospects further.

In terms of supervising entities, the project will build upon the long-standing partnership between IFAD and the FAO, in particular its Investment Centre. This will enable a smooth coordination of supervision, monitoring and implementation support functions of the project, in line with a recent note that FAO has prepared to enhance coordination between investment SEs and TA SEs in the context of GAFSP-financed projects.

Locally, in Solomon Islands, synergies will be developed with the Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress towards Rural Women Economic Empowerment (JP RWEE), sponsored by the three Rome-based agencies and UN Women. Harmonization is also ensured with the household-based approach developed and piloted by the Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research (ACIAR) in both countries and adapted by the Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which will be further adapted to suit the needs of AIM-N and implemented under both Components 1 and 2.

### ***1.2.5 Knowledge Management and Communication***

#### ***1.2.5.1 Knowledge Sharing***

The project will organize workshops and produce various studies. The workshops, studies progress reports will be available to the public and will constitute the major mechanisms for knowledge sharing.

Mechanisms will also be put in place to share experiences between the two countries undertaking similar activities. As the FAO custodian of the GAFSP, the Investment Centre will also play a role in knowledge sharing between this project and similar ones financed by the GAFSP in other countries and which are still under implementation such as in Ethiopia, Myanmar and Bangladesh.

#### ***1.2.5.2 Lessons Learned***

In close collaboration with the communication unit, the project M&E specialist will capture and document the project challenges, successes, and how the project team would have addressed them. The documentation will inform the project progress reports upon which FAO will draw for future interventions not only these countries, but others with similar development contexts.

The project will also build on lessons learned from other GAFSP-financed FAO TA projects that have been implemented by FAO in the past years and in particular lessons learned from coordinating TA and investment activities financed by the GAFSP and which have been captured in a lessons learned note produced by the Investment Centre and shared with the GAFSP on 30 October 2023. In summary the main lessons consist of: (i) ensuring clarity in the roles and responsibilities of the two SEs during implementation; (ii) a good mutual understanding of the respective procedures; (iii) the fact that the implementation modalities and institutional set up (see next section) have jointly been worked out, which is the case; (iv) that the role of the TA projects has been agreed upon by all parties (Governments and IFAD), and; (vi) keeping optimum flexibility to address emerging needs and requests through implementation.

#### ***1.2.5.3 Communication***

The FAO SAP Office based in Samoa has a full-time communications specialist who supports all the organization's projects across the Pacific. The communications specialist will therefore support this project by working closely with the M&E Specialist and the entire project team and IFAD to facilitate the flow of information between all of the concerned stakeholders. The communications specialist will particularly produce press releases and brochures and organize special events in the margins of major Pacific conferences and fora to promote the project results. Also, as a two-way process,

the communication specialist will produce stories of beneficiaries and gather information from the project beneficiaries for sharing with other stakeholders for feedback.

Communication activities will be undertaken in close connection with the CFI team as well as the GAFSP communication colleagues. The GAFSP encourages communication on project features and achievements as well as human stories relating to direct and indirect beneficiaries that are derived from project implementation.

## **SECTION 2 – FEASIBILITY**

### **2.1 Implementation Arrangements**

#### ***2.1.1 Institutional Framework and Coordination***

This TA project is in support of and will be embedded into the broader AIM-N project co-financed by the GAFSP and IFAD, which is implemented by the Government and supervised by IFAD. The overall AIM-N will be implemented as two distinct projects, with a common approach. A joint Project Advisory Committee will meet once a year and review project achievements and good practices in each country. The project implementing agencies will be MAL in Solomon Islands and the MALFFB/DARD in Vanuatu. They will be responsible for overall accountability, oversight and coordination of the project. They will engage and cooperate with other government entities as necessary, notably the ministries responsible for health, education, commerce and cooperatives, as well as with provincial governments, wards (Solomon Islands) and area councils (Vanuatu). A National Steering Committee (NSC) will be established in each country to provide guidance and oversight, support coordination, and offer a venue for sharing AIM-N good practices and for channelling policy issues to the appropriate policy making bodies. It will also approve Annual WorkPlans and Budgets (AWPBs) and annual progress and financial reports. Provincial Multi-stakeholder Platforms will be established to support implementation and coordination in each province. A PMU will be established in the capital of each country and will be embedded in MAL in Solomon Islands and DARD in Vanuatu. The PMUs will be responsible for AIM-N implementation and accountable for project performance and use of funds. Under the authority of the PMUs, a PIU will be established in the capital of each of the target provinces to implement Component 2, and to ensure M&E.

In this context, the FAO-TA is aimed at supporting the overall AIM-N in both Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. The key functions of the FAO-TA will be to: (i) coordinate and contribute to the development of methodologies and capacity building required to implement AIM-N activities under Components 1 and 2; (ii) support the recruitment, deployment and management of short-term TA experts; and (iii) provide backstopping to the PMUs of both countries, in the monitoring and evaluation of activities.

The FAO-TA project will follow FAO procedures related to procurement of goods and services required for the TA team as well as the recruitment and management of human resources under this project. This means that all expertise will consist of FAO employees reporting to the FAO Representative (the SAP Sub-coordinator) as the budget holder of the TA project. While administratively autonomous, the FAO team will work in close coordination with the Government PMU/PIU as well as IFAD through a number of institutional mechanisms such as: (i) the project steering committee, which will comprise the head of the Government PMU and an IFAD representative; (ii) in turn, FAO should be part of the steering committee of the parent AIM-N project. The AIM-N Project Steering Committee will review the annual workplan, including the TA workplan; (iii) joint annual planning of activities; (iv) regular interactions and coordination meetings between the FAO and the Government teams; (v) coordinated 6-monthly reporting to the GAFSP; (vi) coordinated supervision missions and mid-term review between IFAD and FAO.



### **2.1.2 Government Inputs**

The Government is not expected to directly contribute to the cost of this TA project. As this FAO-TA project will be limited to technical assistance aimed to strengthen capacities, the government will fund (from the GAFSP grant and own contribution) all the costs for implementing the follow-up activities of the AIM-N project as per the AIM-N workplan and budget, including the activities that will aim to apply the new capacities strengthened by the TA project.

### **2.1.3 Resource Partner Inputs**

The FAO-TA will be financed by the GAFSP, with a total contribution of USD 2 800 000. FAO will use the main part of these funds to recruit the technical assistance team (long term expertise) and short-term consultants. Listed below is a tentative list of expertise.

- International Agribusiness Expert (Project Team Leader) based in Solomon Islands
- International Project Coordinator/ Economist based in Vanuatu
- International Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist based in Solomon Islands
- M&E Specialist home-based with travel to Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.
- International Nutrition and Behaviour Change Specialist based in Solomon Islands
- International School Garden and Feeding Expert in Vanuatu.
- International Value Chain/Agro-economist Expert based in Vanuatu.
- National Extension Expert for Nutrition and Agribusiness (1 in Solomon Islands & 1 in Vanuatu).

A small part of the resources will be used to procure minor equipment and supplies required by the TA team such as office supplies.

### **2.1.4 Strategy/Methodology**

The theory of change is that empowered households, women's groups and farmers' groups will be able to achieve improved food security, nutrition and family income (Development objective) from increased production and consumption of nutritious, locally-produced Islands Super foods (Output 1) and increased market access and sales through public-private-producer partnerships (Output 2).

The impact pathways for improving food security and nutrition are based on technical assistance designed to: (i) promote nutrition behaviour change communication and promoting the production of local variety of nutritious and climate resilient foods for self-consumption; (ii) supporting women empowerment and gender equality in relation to nutrition, communication, and food production; and (iii) using income for purchasing diverse and nutritious foods in local markets.

The impact pathways for increasing family income are based on technical assistance designed for: (i) the promotion of fair partnerships between farmers and buyers giving farmers' access to stable and remunerative markets; (ii) supporting women and men farmers, especially young ones, to form groups, develop market-driven, climate-resilient production, and engage into farming as a business; and (iii) building the capacities of public and private service providers to deliver quality services for improving the organization of farmers and their technical, financial and marketing.



### **2.1.5 Technical Oversight and Support Arrangements**

FAO backstopping support in the technical areas of project implementation will be provided by FAO experts in the FAO Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific (SAP), the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP) and Headquarters. The project Lead Technical Officer (LTO), based in SAP, will coordinate the technical inputs into the project, including the review of ToRs, progress reports, annual workplans and project training materials and will be responsible for technical clearances.

The FAO Investment Centre will perform oversight and supervision functions and assist with complying with GAFSP M&E and reporting requirements. GAFSP is also expected to continue to provide guidance on their M&E framework and to organize knowledge sharing among its portfolio of projects.

In addition, IFAD as the supervising entity for the investment components of the AIM-N project will organize supervision missions and the project mid-term evaluation, in which FAO will also participate to cover the TA components with CFI support.

### **2.1.6 Management and Operational Support Arrangements**

The FAO Representative (FAO SAP sub-regional coordinator) will be the project budget holder. All consultants of FAO will be remunerated as per established payment scales and will be recruited following FAO established Human Resources (HR) rules and procedures. Since this is a technical assistance project, operationally the project is quite simple. The AIM-N PMU will handle most of the operational management for field activities. The FAO technical team will be based in the AIM-N PMU office of each country to facilitate the implementation and coordination of activities and provide ongoing support and coaching to PMU counterparts.

Project operational costs include the handling of recruitment and contracting procedures, travel, procurement of equipment, IT support, security provisions and financial reporting. Therefore, the FAO-TA project will use FAO administration and finance officers based in FAO-SAP office, and the budget includes the part-time use of the FAO-SAP pool of HR, procurement, and IT officers, in accordance with FAO budgeting rules. This includes all required direct support costs in line with FAO procedures but will exclude the usual seven percent indirect support cost (ISC), which will be recovered from the GAFSP fee in line with the 2023 agreement between GAFSP and FAO.

The accounts of all FAO projects - are subject exclusively to internal and external audit in accordance with the UN Agency's Financial Regulations and Rule. The External Auditors of the UN Agencies are appointed by and report to the UN Agency's Governing Bodies, of which the governments of the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu are members.

In FAO, The Office of the Inspector General has responsibility for monitoring and evaluating the adequacy and effectiveness of the Organization's system of internal control, financial management and use of assets. The Office provides the Director-General and the functions and programmes audited with independent, objective assurance and consulting services designed to add value and improve the Organization's operations. It helps the Organization accomplish its objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control, and internal governance processes.

## **2.2 Operational Modalities**

This project will be implemented through the direct implementation modality, because, as a technical assistance project, it will make ample use of FAO consultants and limited use (if any) of contracted services from non-profit organizations under Manual Section 507 (Letters of Agreement). The most important use of funds will be for recruitment of long term and short term international and national expertise.

The FAO-TA will support International Agribusiness Expert (Project Team Leader) based in Solomon Islands supported by an International Project Coordinator/ Economist based in Vanuatu. These two

full-time staff will be technical experts in agriculture and nutrition, with strong management skills and preferably experience in Pacific Island States. They will be deployed once their respective national Project Managers (heading the PMUs) are appointed by the respective governments. Their workplan will be aligned with the overall AWP and follow the phased implementation of the project: recruitments, setting up management systems (including M&E, MoUs, gender strategy), value chain mapping and assessments, and capacity development in Year 1; and a gradual phase-in of community-level work in Years 2 to 3.

In the project inception phase (Year 1), the FAO-TA will outsource support from the CFI M&E Specialist to help kick-start the project, ensure that the overall AIM-N project management systems are fully established, and provide guidance and backstopping to the overall PMUs<sup>4</sup>. Support will be provided for the design of the project M&E system, especially in areas of data collection and analysis, as well as in participatory monitoring and learning methodologies.

Given the strong gender transformative approach adopted by the AIM-N project, the TA project will also provide for an International Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist based in Solomon Islands for 12 months to backstop the full-time PIU national Gender and Social Inclusion Specialists once s/he has been appointed.

Short-term TA will be deployed by FAO based on TORs and workplans agreed with PIU (Solomon Islands) and PMU (Vanuatu). Considering the small population size of the target countries and the low availability of national consultants, most of the consultants hired by the TA project will be international. In addition, given the demand-driven nature of the project, there will be flexibility in managing such TA, responding to needs that will emerge during implementation.

Wherever possible, short term TA resources will be shared by both countries for greater efficiency. The FAO TA will also facilitate and support knowledge sharing between the two countries. To the extent possible, international staff and consultants deployed under this facility will support both countries, thus ensuring sharing of knowledge and experience as well as efficient use of resources.

### **2.3 Statistics**

The project data collection will involve mainly data for the M&E system, including baseline information; and data on training and outreach events, such as participant lists. These data will be disaggregated by gender. See paragraph 2.6 for details on the M&E system. In addition, quantitative and qualitative data will be collected for the various studies, such as value chain studies, and institutional assessments. No capacity building on statistical methods and standards is foreseen.

### **2.4 Information Technology**

Through other projects, FAO is investing in the use of digitalization to catalyze agrifood systems across the Pacific, and Solomon Islands and Vanuatu are included. For example, under TCP project that will be implemented during 2024 and 2025, FAO will support Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to develop and implement national strategies for the digitalization of agrifood systems. This project will therefore benefit from these efforts through complementarity.

### **2.5 Risk Management**

#### **2.5.1 Potential risks to the project**

The climate risk category for AIM-N is rated as “substantial” by IFAD, and FAO is in agreement. This is largely because for example, in these countries, the population experiences at least one deadly cyclone, earthquake or a volcanic eruption every six months. Any of these episodes unfortunately

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<sup>4</sup> Note that this will not cover fiduciary issues, for which technical assistance will be provided by a Project Expeditor and IFAD staff.



could drastically impact the project negatively as it is with all other projects that FAO and other development partners have in the countries. The only reliable mitigating measure that is available is to work closely with the governments, local population and the UN supported humanitarian clusters for coordinated preparedness and response mechanisms. Coincidentally, and as an advantage, FAO co-leads the Regional Pacific Food Security Cluster along with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP). The cluster platform will be leveraged to address climate risks.

### ***2.5.2 Environmental and social risks from the project***

The proposed environmental and social category for AIM-N is low (category B), based on the IFAD Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures (SECAP) screening tool. The project will have zero forest encroachment and deforestation strategy, and it will not impact on any sensitive areas or result in loss of natural habitat and biodiversity. The climate risk category for AIM-N is rated as “substantial” by IFAD with a climate risk screening score of 5.8, indicating that a targeted adaptation assessment is required in order to adequately identify measures to reduce risks.

## **2.6 Monitoring, Performance Assessment and Reporting**

### ***2.6.1 Monitoring Arrangements***

The TA team’s M&E experts will, in addition to providing training and technical backstopping to the AIM-N M&E team, also be responsible for the M&E of the FAO-TA component.

At the start of the project, they will develop the FAO-TA M&E system. In the course of the project, the national M&E expert will monitor progress against the log-frame indicator targets and to this end will organize data collection, analysis and reporting. The M&E expert will assist the team leader with the preparation of the six-monthly progress report to the GAFSP through the dedicated GAFSP portal.

In addition, all team members will contribute to the six-monthly progress reports by providing inputs on their own activities and related results during the reporting period.

The risk log will be reviewed annually and updated if needed.

FAO will also join IFAD support missions (mostly virtually), during which progress and quality of FAO-TA activities will be also reviewed and discussed, and recommendations made for their improvement. As FAO-TA activities are closely linked to the general progress of the AIM-N project, any change in workplan or change in activities of the AIM-N project will be reviewed, and the FAO-TA work planning, will be adapted accordingly. The mid-term review will be especially important, during which also the result framework indicator targets will be reviewed and adapted if needed.

### ***2.6.2 Performance Assessment***

For accountability purposes, the FAO-TA project will track physical and financial progress against the annual workplan and budget. It will monitor its results by tracking the indicators identified in the result framework, including mandatory and selected optional GAFSP indicators. As explained, the M&E experts will have a dual role of providing training and technical backstopping to the AIM-N M&E team as well as for the monitoring and performance assessment of the FAO-TA Facility.

It will be the joint responsibility of the Project Coordinator and the Budget Holder to coordinate the preparation of 6-monthly progress reports, mid-term assessments and terminal reports for submission to GAFSP. This will be done with the assistance of the Investment Centre, which will organize regular supervision mission (both virtual and physical ones) in close coordination with IFAD. It is the responsibility of the LTO to ensure technical validity of the reports as well as to ensure inputs from other Technical Officers from within the Project Task Force (PTF) and from other partners as needed. After approximately two years of implementation, a mid-term review mission will be organized for the AIM-N project, which will also cover the FAO-TA and in which FAO will participate.



### **2.6.3 Reporting**

The project will provide the six-monthly progress reports through the GAFSP portal, in line with the donor requirements and in close coordination of the Investment Centre dedicated person and the GAFSP focal person. Reports to be submitted to GAFSP will be technically cleared by the LTO and reviewed by the Investment Centre before final submission to GAFSP. Such reports will also be archived in the FAO Field Programme Management Information System (FPMIS). In addition, the FAO-TA team will report on their activities to the AIM-N PMU, for incorporation into the PMU's bi-/annual progress reports.

Technical reports that may be of interest to a wider audience and do not contain confidential (financial, private or commercial) information will be posted on the AIM-N project website and possibly on the FAO-SAP webpages.

At the end of the project, and within 6 months thereof, a terminal report will be prepared in accordance with FAO standards.

Annual financial reports will be submitted according to the formats and deadlines stipulated in the GAFSP Transfer Agreement

### **2.7 Evaluation Provisions**

The FAO-TA is subject to standard FAO evaluation procedures, and to this end, adequate provisions are included in the budget. In compliance with FAO policy on evaluation and considering the budget size, no separate project evaluation is anticipated. However, the project will contribute to the Evaluation Trust Fund being managed by the FAO Office of Evaluation (OED) and might be potentially evaluated through a cluster approach, along with other projects that share one or more of the following characteristics: theme and/or approach, geographical area of intervention, resource partner.

In line with GAFSP requirements for TA projects, an impact assessment will be undertaken towards the completion of the project with the support of the Investment Centre. Its results will feed into the terminal report to be produced along FAO procedures.

## **SECTION 3 - SUSTAINABILITY**

### **3.1 Capacity Development**

The project will primarily aim to develop both institutional and individual capacities. In terms of institutional capacity enhancement, the project will provide learning opportunities for government agencies to participate in designing and implementing livelihood improvement initiatives that they can draw on for future interventions. In terms of individual capacity enhancements, the project will for example, work with families and individuals to design and implement various strategies that will contribute to personal nutrition improvement; something that they can continue to practice.

The project will use the existing material and tools available at FAO including for capacity needs assessment as well as various capacity development tools such as formal training, coaching, on the job training, etc.

### **3.2 Decent Rural Employment**

Because the project will be implemented in rural communities, it will directly contribute to the creation of decent rural employment opportunities, for example, the promotion of food production will directly result to job creation for families and individuals.

### **3.3 Environmental Sustainability**

All of the project activities will contribute to the improvement of environmental sustainability, for example, the food production initiatives will draw on climate smart agriculture techniques. Crop rotation as a technique will be promoted due to its contribution to the regeneration of soil nutrients,

which is highly needed in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, where topsoil erosion is a constant threat to agriculture as a result of cyclones.

### 3.4 Gender Equality

While women play a prominent role in household feeding and agricultural production in both countries, they face social, cultural, time and logistical barriers in accessing support services such as technology transfer, extension and technical services, information and training, inputs and financial services. They also have limited control over productive resources, environmental management, and low participation in decision-making. High rates of violence against women, including domestic violence have a negative impact on agricultural productivity and food security. While agriculture policy frameworks include commitment towards gender equality, there are limited resources and capacity for gender mainstreaming in MAL and DARD.

Recognizing these challenges, the AIM-N has been designed as “gender transformational”, according to IFAD’s classification, with ambitious gender equality and women’s empowerment targets. The implementation of a household-based approach will enable gender transformative engagement of women, and particularly of young girls and mothers, into improved nutrition and production along with their families. The approach will help households connect the various project impact pathways into one coherent and shared family vision, using the full range of available resources for improved health and income.

**In this context, the AIM-N-TA gender approach will focus on** actively seeking to address the barriers faced by women related to income opportunities and nutritious diets. The activities under Component 1 will specifically target women to increase their access to nutritious diets. Building on successful experiences in each country, the AIM-N TA will support the selected service providers in each country to carry out the household-based capacity building activities, promoting behaviour change equitably, engaging the whole family and empowering women in relation to nutrition, family planning and budgeting, improved production and financial and business literacy. The training of Women Groups (WGs) will also be supported in the areas of group organizational and leadership skills, as well as food conservation, cooking and processing. Under Component 2, the AIM-N TA will provide capacity building for gender-sensitive public (extension) and private service provision for the establishment of small-scale rural business under 4P partnerships. The capacity to engage in farming as a business will pay special attention to enabling women to increase their income earning capacity, through for example entrepreneurship skills, farm processing and post-harvest techniques.

In all other activities, gender sensitisation and training (targeting both men and women), will be mainstreamed and care will be taken to also select women as community-based facilitators and trainers and to adjust training locations and times to ensure women are able to participate. To monitor the targeting of women, gender-disaggregated indicators have been established.

The FAO-TA will assist the AIM-N project M&E unit to create (during the selection of the beneficiary) a baseline profile of the project beneficiaries dis-aggregated by sex of the household head, age (youth), indigenous status, income strata, farm size classification, geographical location, and basic information about their agriculture and non-agricultural enterprise. This will enable gender-disaggregated data collection for monitoring throughout the project implementation as well as for the mid-term and endline evaluations. The FAO-TA will also support a short-term international Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist to provide training and backstopping to the Gender Experts in the two PMUs.

### 3.5 Indigenous Peoples

The majority of the population of Solomon Islands and Vanuatu are Indigenous Melanesian: 95 percent in Solomon Islands and 99 percent in Vanuatu. In the rural population in the target provinces virtually all residents are members of diverse indigenous ethnic and linguistic minority groups. There is no



dominant majority group. Project activities will build on indigenous and traditional knowledge and will empower Indigenous Peoples, who constitute most of the population in both countries.

As per IFAD's SECAP, the project will not negatively affect Indigenous Peoples' rights, lands, natural resources, territories, livelihoods, knowledge, social fabric, traditions, governance systems, and culture or heritage (tangible and intangible) either directly or indirectly. The project team will follow a Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) implementation plan, which was developed at the design of the project. The FPIC process will be documented on a step by step basis. For the FAO TA, the project implementation will be fully aligned with FAO's Indigenous People's Policy and relevant safeguards to ensure that the project will not adversely affect Indigenous People's rights, lands, natural resources, territories, livelihoods, knowledge, social fabric, traditions, governance systems, and culture or heritage (physical and non-physical or intangible) inside and/or outside the project area.

### **3.6 Exit Strategy**

The exit strategy aims to ensure the sustainability and continued impact of the AIM-N TA project in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. The strategy focuses on capacity building, institutional strengthening, resource mobilization, and fostering local ownership.

The project will focus on capacity building and institutional building as outlined in 3.1 and 3.2. This will be complemented by resource Mobilization. The project will identify potential funding sources, including local, regional, and international donors, to sustain project activities. It will also support local stakeholders in developing proposals and grant applications to secure necessary resources. To achieve local ownership, the project will engage local communities in the decision-making process to foster a sense of ownership and responsibility and transfer knowledge and project management skills to local stakeholders to enable them to lead and sustain project initiatives. The project will work with local and national governments to integrate successful project components into policy and regulatory frameworks and advocate for policy changes that support sustainable agrifood systems and nutrition improvements to ensure continuity and sustainability. At the end of the project, follow-up support and technical assistance will be provided as needed during the transition period and communication channels will be established for ongoing guidance and troubleshooting. Additionally, the operational components of the project, for example, procurement, site selection, etc, are 100 percent managed by the governments, while FAO is only providing technical guidance as Supervising Entity for the Technical Assistance component. This arrangement is the most important ingredient for sustainability and lasting results.



## Annex I: Logical Framework Matrix<sup>5</sup>

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification	Assumptions
<b>Overall project impact</b>					
	To contribute to improved food security, nutrition and household income from resilient farming systems in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu rural communities <sup>6</sup>				
	Number of households with improved food security as measured by the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) (GAFSP Tier 1 Impact Indicator 1)	0	15,108 <sup>7</sup>	Baseline, mid-line, and end-line surveys conducted by IFAD	The TA project would only partially contribute to these higher-level impact indicators.
	Increase in household income from farming and agri-business (GAFSP Tier 1 Impact Indicator 2)	0	20%, 10% <sup>8</sup>	Baseline, mid-line, and end-line surveys conducted by IFAD	The TA project would only partially contribute to these higher-level impact indicators.

<sup>5</sup> To support strategic planning, the results matrix and the workplan and budget describe the entire chain of inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes and strategic goals. It provides an effective and transparent linkage between means and ends.

<sup>6</sup> FAO only partially contributes to overall project impact indicators. The main activities determining the results of these indicators will be implemented by the investment portion of the project. As these results are not wholly attributable to FAO's work, the TA portion will not monitor or report on the impact indicators, however, relevant FAO activities should be taken into account in the mid-line and end-line assessment surveys.

<sup>7</sup> This is a combined total number of households (8,400 Solomon Islands and 6 709 Vanuatu).

<sup>8</sup> 20 percent increase in Solomon Islands and 10 percent increase in Vanuatu.

	% of women achieving Minimum Dietary Diversity Score (MDD-W) (GAFSP Tier 1 Impact Indicator 4)	20%	60%	Baseline, mid-line, and end-line surveys conducted by IFAD	The TA project would only partially contribute to these higher-level impact indicators.
<b>FAO-TA Outcome<sup>9</sup></b>	The capacity of implementing agencies has been strengthened to successfully implement the Agriculture Investment for Markets and Nutrition (AIM-N) and reach its expected results in both countries.				
	Number of supported organizations with increased capacity	0	6	Six-monthly progress reports and final rapid impact assessment of TA component through assessment capacity index including human resources, service delivery systems, programme planning, use and management of technical knowledge and skills	Ministries and other agencies involved in the implementation of the AIM-N project engage with training regimes. These include: the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL), the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS), and the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development (MEHRD) in Solomon Islands, and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biodiversity (MALFFB), the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Vanuatu, and the Ministry of Education (MoE) in Vanuatu.
	Percentage of implementing agency staff who received capacity development demonstrating increased	0	60% (60% female)	KAP pre and post training assessments	AIM-N implementing partners have the human resources to absorb all training and TA activities will be sufficient to build the necessary knowledge and skills of the implementing partners to perform their functions related to the project.

<sup>9</sup> FAO outcome and output indicators in this document comprise results for both Solomon Islands and Vanuatu combined.

	knowledge as a result of TA training Disaggregation: Of which, number of females				
	Policy products drafted for adoption with project's support related to food system resilience (GAFSP Tier 2.1 Outcome Indicator)	0	16	Six-monthly progress report	Service providers performing the studies are receptive of TA's study methodology, KAP survey design and analysis of results. Policy products (including studies contributing to policy formulation) expected include Nutrition Behaviour Change situation analyses (3), Improved School Food Environments mapping (6), draft National School Nutrition Policy (Solomon Islands) (1), healthy school food policy (6), value-chain studies (TBD).
Output 1: Relevant agencies with improved capacity for nutrition sensitive agriculture					
	Number of knowledge products completed with project support related to food/nutrition security	0	13	Six-monthly progress reports	Government ministries are receptive of knowledge product drafts. Knowledge products will be monitored in all three TA outputs and include: Component 1: Situational analysis, stakeholder mapping, baseline study in target communities ( <b>130 communities?</b> ) Capacity building materials for Nutrition Behaviour Change (TBD), Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture (TBD), sustainable school feeding plans (6), improved curriculum materials for nutrition education of students (6)



					Mapping of the existing school food environment Component 2: Standardized guide for a partnership agreement (1), materials for extension services and service providers (TBD),
	Persons receiving capacity development support (person) Disaggregation: Of which, number of females (GAFSP Tier 2.2 Output Indicator 10)	0	650 (325 female)	Training logs	Government ministries are receptive of ToT. Beneficiaries will be monitored in all three TA outputs and include: 1. (for Nutrition Behaviour Change) national and provincial nutritionists, nutrition field officers (Solomon Islands), health staff and Village Health Workers (VHW) in Vanuatu, 2. (for Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture), extension agents, including staff of the public extension services, or staff of private service providers and Lead Farmers, 3. (for Improved School Food Environments) provincial nutritionists, agriculture extension staff, school committees and management, with participation of students, and teachers and school cooks, 4. (for Extension Capacity) capacity needs of extension services and service providers, and 5. (for Project Management) ME&L training.
	People receiving improved nutrition services and products (person) Disaggregation: Of which, number of females (GAFSP Tier 2.2 Output Indicator 12)	0	2,900 (1,450 female)	Training logs targeting Lead farmers, teachers, cooks, and students in nutrition-based learning	Lead farmers and other targeted beneficiaries are keen to engage in training.

Output 2: Improved capacity for inclusive partnerships for market access					
	<p>Farmer's that are supported in accessing improved marketing opportunities (farmer)</p> <p>Disaggregation: Of which, number of females (GAFSP Tier 2.2 Output Indicator 6)</p>	0	100 (30 female)	Number of 4P partnership agreements signed	Farmer's are keen to adopt more formal processes
	<p>[Climate resilient indicator] Number of farmer's receiving inputs or service on climate resilient or sustainable agriculture practices (farmer)</p> <p>Disaggregation: Of which, number of females</p> <p>Disaggregation: Of which, number of farmer's adopting technologies or practices received (GAFSP Tier 2.2 Output Indicator 13)</p>	0	3,500 (1,400 female) (40%)	<p>Training logs from farmer training benefitting from project ongoing support and trainings employing extension materials improved from project support. Adoption levels will be assessed by Rapid Impact Assessment</p>	Farmer's are receptive to new methodologies
Output 3: Improved capacity for effective project implementation, coordination and knowledge management					
	Number of six-monthly progress reports supported with inputs of project M&E system	0	8	Six-monthly progress reports	Project management uses M&E monitoring data

Total project outreach				
	Number of people receiving direct benefits (person) Disaggregation: Of which, number of females (GAFSP Tier 2.2 Output Indicator 1)	0	6 500 (2 900 female) (20% youth)	Training logs



## Annex II: Stakeholder Engagement Matrix

### 1) Stakeholder Consultation

The stakeholder consultation plan for ongoing formal consultations for the duration of the project:

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder profile	Consultation Methodology	Timing
<b>Solomon Islands Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock</b>	Government	Responsible for the production of crops and livestock	Physical via group discussions in community engagement workshops and meetings based on objective and need	Throughout the project
<b>Solomon Islands Ministry of Health</b>	Government	Responsible for health, nutrition and food safety	Physical via group discussions in community engagement workshops and meetings based on objective and need	Throughout the project
<b>Solomon Islands Ministry of Education</b>	Government	Responsible for education, but with a huge stake in nutrition education in schools	Physical via group discussions in community engagement workshops and meetings based on objective and need	Throughout the project
<b>Vanuatu Ministry of Agriculture Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biodiversity</b>	Government	Responsible for crops, livestock, fisheries, forestry and biodiversity	Physical via group discussions in community engagement workshops and meetings based on objective and need	Throughout the project
<b>Vanuatu Ministry of Health</b>	Government	Responsible for health, nutrition and food safety	Physical via group discussions in community engagement workshops and meetings based on objective and need	Throughout the project
<b>Vanuatu Ministry of Education</b>	Government	Responsible for education, but with a huge stake in nutrition education in schools	Physical via group discussions in community engagement workshops and meetings based on objective and need	Throughout the project

<b>Farmers associations in both countries</b>	Producer organizations	Have a huge stake in deciding the development of the agricultural sector	Physical via group discussions in community engagement workshops and meetings based on objective and need	Throughout the project
<b>Food handlers in both countries</b>	Producer organizations	Have a huge stake value chain development, nutrition and food safety	Physical via group discussions in community engagement workshops and meetings based on objective and need	Throughout the project
<b>Private actors involved in digitalization in both countries</b>	Private sector	Have a huge stake in the modernization of agrifood systems from the perspective of digitalization	Physical via group discussions in community engagement workshops and meetings based on objective and need	Throughout the project
<b>Religious groups in both countries</b>	Civil society	Have a huge stake in nutrition education	Physical via group discussions in community engagement workshops and meetings based on objective and need	Throughout the project
<b>Non-governmental organizations in both countries</b>	Civil society	Have a huge stake in community outreach for various development agendas	Physical via group discussions in community engagement workshops and meetings based on objective and need	Throughout the project

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**Stakeholder consultations to date**  
**Solomon Islands**

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder profile	Consultation Methodology	Consultation Findings
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) and different department	Partner & Direct beneficiary	National Government Institution body	Consultation workshops with national public and private stakeholders across all relevant sectors: (i) a kick-off workshop, (ii) two focused mini-workshops on Components 1,2 and 3, and (iii) wrap-up workshop.	Improving food security, diet quality and higher household incomes in difficult-to-reach communities are high priorities. TA is needed to strengthen from resilient farming systems. TA is needed to strengthen climate-resilient value chains, to increase the production, marketing, and consumption of nutritious locally produced foods.
Ministries of Health and Medical Services, Commerce, Industry, Labour and Immigration, Education and Human Resource Development, Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs	Partner	National Government Institution body	Focused meetings and Consultation workshops during the mission.	TA is also needed to support the capacities of those government institutions that have strong local presence and deliver integrated community-level services in the social sectors, including in primary healthcare, schooling and women's empowerment. Some lessons were identified in the field of nutrition and nutrition-sensitive agriculture, for AIM-N to leverage off initiatives that already have local traction.
IFAD	Partner	International Government Institution/body	Continuous exchange during joint design mission,	FAO's Technical Assistance (TA) and capacity building will focus on (i) increased production, purchasing, and consumption of nutritious locally produced foods from resilient systems (Component 1); and (ii) improved market access and increased sales through Public-Private-Producer Partnerships (Component 2).



				Mission visits at provincial and community level	Given their role in delivering AIM-N project results in the communities, provincial agricultural staff need to strengthen their implementation capacities, including planning, budgeting, management, coordination, and monitoring of project activities.
Provincial Government, Agriculture Department in Western Province	Partner	Local Government Institution/body			
Smallholders and community groups in Isabel, Western, and Choiseul Provinces.	Direct Beneficiaries	Local community	Consultation workshops		Some capacity needs identified: financial literacy, farm business planning, improved processing, storage and packaging, climate-smart resilient agricultural practices, and marketing; especially for emerging crops, new production and digital technologies and post-harvest value addition, to meet high value market requirements. Extension materials need to include ICT for communication and for marketing, expanding on technologies and applications that are already available.
Exporters and/or entrepreneurs in target value chains	Partners	Non-Governmental Organization	Mission visits at the provincial level,		Good potential was identified among several private value chain actors to help promote fair partnerships between farmers and buyers, giving farmers' access to stable and remunerative markets, and increasing family incomes.
Live and Learn; Kastom Garden Association; Strongim Bisnis; World Vision/MERMAID	Partner	Non-Governmental Organizations	Focused meetings and discussions during mission,		Given these CSO's involvement in relevant initiatives that already have local traction, potential partnership modalities can be explored during the AIM-N project's first year of implementation, for example in areas of facilitating access to markets and technologies; building the supply chain; kitchen garden demonstrations; and nutrition education.

Vanuatu

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder profile	Consultation Methodology	Consultation Findings
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biodiversity (MALFFB)	Partner & Direct beneficiary	National Government Institution body	Consultation workshops: (i) a kick-off workshop, (ii) two focused mini-workshops on components 1,2 and 3, and (iii) wrap-up workshop.	Improving food security, diet quality and higher household incomes in difficult-to-reach communities are high priorities. TA is needed to strengthen resilient farming systems. TA is needed to strengthen climate-resilient value chains, to increase the production, marketing, and consumption of nutritious locally produced foods.
Ministries of: Health; Education and Training; and Commerce. Departments of: Women's Affairs; Cooperatives.	Partners	National Government Institution body	Focused meetings and Consultation workshops during the mission.	TA is also needed to support the capacities of those government institutions that have strong local presence and deliver integrated community-level services in the social sectors, including in primary healthcare, schooling and women's empowerment. Some lessons were identified in the field of nutrition and nutrition-sensitive agriculture, for ALIM-N to leverage off initiatives that already have local traction.
IFAD	Partner	International Government Institution/body	Continuous exchange during joint design mission.	FAO's Technical Assistance and capacity building will focus on (i) increased production, purchasing, and consumption of nutritious locally produced foods from resilient systems (Component 1); and (ii) improved market access and increased sales through Public-Private-Producer Partnerships (Component 2).
Vanuatu Private Producers Authority (VPPA)	Partner	National Government Institution body	Focused meetings and Consultation workshops during the mission.	Good potential was identified among several private value chain actors to help promote fair partnerships between farmers and buyers, giving farmers' access to stable and remunerative markets, and increasing family incomes.

Provincial Government, Agriculture Department in Tafea Province, and Malapoa College in Shefa Province.	Partner & Direct beneficiary	Local Government Institution/body	Consultation workshop with stakeholders in Tafea Province; and mission visits at community level	Given their role in delivering AIM-N project results in the communities, provincial agricultural staff need to strengthen their implementation capacities, including planning, budgeting, management, coordination, and monitoring of project activities.
Smallholders and community groups (including Village Disaster Climate Risk Committees) in Tanna, Tafea Province.	Direct Beneficiaries	Local community	Mission visits at provincial and community level	Some capacity needs identified: financial literacy, farm business planning, improved processing, storage and packaging, climate-smart resilient agricultural practices, community-based disaster preparedness, response, and recovery and marketing; especially for emerging crops, new production and digital technologies and post-harvest value addition, to meet high value market requirements. Extension materials need to include ICT for communication and marketing, expanding on technologies and applications that are already available.
PHAMA+, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Farm Support Association, Vanuatu Skills Partnership, Vanuatu Primary Food Association, Indigenous Ni-Vanuatu Agro-Industry Council (INAC), Healthy Kaikai in Vanuatu, Won Smol Bag, Care, World Vision/MERMAID	Partner	Non-Governmental Organization	Focused meetings and Consultation workshop during the mission: central and provincial levels.	Given these CSO's involvement in relevant initiatives that already have local traction, potential partnership modalities can be explored during the AIM-N project's first year of implementation, for example in areas of facilitating access to markets and technologies; building the supply chain; kitchen garden demonstrations; and nutrition education.

## 2) Grievance Mechanism

The project will adhere to the FAO policy on grievance mechanisms according to the FAO Operational Guidelines for stakeholder engagement (2017) and the FAO Guidelines on Compliance Reviews Following Complaints (2015). Should concerns or complaints arise during the project phases, grievance redress and



feedback mechanisms will be put in place. Information sharing on the grievance mechanism and effective communication among stakeholders will be ensured throughout, in order to make sure that possible concerns will be promptly addressed.

If concerns arise that the existing processes have gaps, additional grievance provisions will be included, which should describe the process to be followed by affected communities.

Most ministries and projects in both countries have institution and/or project-level grievance redress mechanisms (GRM), often also replicated at lower levels. IFAD requires that all borrowers adopt an easily accessible grievance mechanism at the project-level. In addition to the project-level GRM, affected people may also access IFAD's Complaints Procedure which ensures that appropriate mechanisms are in place to allow individuals and communities to contact IFAD directly and file a complaint if they believe they are or might be adversely affected by an IFAD-funded project/programme not complying with IFAD's Social and Environmental Policies.

Focal Point Information	Xiangjun Yao, FAO Subregional Coordinator for the Pacific	
Contact Details	Xiangjun.Yao@fao.org / +685 22127/20710	
Explain how the grievance mechanism has been communicated to stakeholders	Grievance mechanism will be explained to stakeholders during the in-country consultative meetings and project inception workshops.	

### 3) Disclosure (For moderate an high risk projects only)

Disclosure Means	N/A	
Disclosure information/document shared		
Disclosure dates	From: Click here to enter a date.	To: Click here to enter a date.
Location		
Language(s)		
Other Info		

### Annex III: Workplan

FAO-TA activities will be implemented in coordination with the overall AIM-N schedule of activities. A workplan is provided in the following table.

	Project year 1				Project year 2				Project year 3				Project year 4			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>Output 1: Improved capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) in the Solomon Islands, and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) in Vanuatu, and other engaged actors to implement AIM-N Component 1 (Action for Nutrition).</b>																
HR: International Agribusiness Expert (Project Team Leader) based in Solomon I		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
International Project Coordinator/ Economist based in Vanuatu																
Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) implementation plan		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Activity 1.1: Building capacity for Nutrition Behaviour Change</b>																
HR: International Nutrition and Behavior Change Specialist based in Solomon Islands		X	X	X	X	X				X			X			
1. Participatory situation analysis conducted		X	X	X	X											
2. Behaviour Change Communication Materials improved		X	X	X	X											
3. TOT and workshops on Behaviour Change Communication organised				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
<b>Activity 1.2: Building capacity for Diversified Community-based food production</b>																
HR: International Nutrition and Behavior Change Specialist based in Solomon Islands		X	X	X			X			X		X	X			
1. Improved extension materials for Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture developed/adapted		X	X	X												
2. Training of Trainers (ToT) on Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture delivered				X	X	X	X									
<b>Activity 1.3: Building capacity for Improved School Food Environments</b>																

	Project year 1				Project year 2				Project year 3				Project year 4			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
HR: International School Garden and Feeding Expert based in Vanuatu		x	x	x			x	x				x		x		
1. Mapping of the School Food System and TOT in Selected Schools carried out		x	x	x												
2. Improvements in Food Production and Preparation in Schools				x	x	x			x	x			x			
3. Improvements in Nutrition Education in Schools (TOT and materials)				x	x	x			x	x			x			
4. School food policies to access nutritious foods developed				x			x				x					
<b>Output 2: Improved capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) in the Solomon Islands, and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) in Vanuatu, and other engaged actors to implement AIM-N Component 2 (Inclusive partnerships for market access).</b>																
<b>Activity 2.1: Building capacity for 4P Partnerships</b>																
HR: International Value Chain/Agro-economist Expert based in Vanuatu		x	x	x	x			x		x		x				
1. Value chain studies of selected crops (including participatory events with farmers, SMAEs and other actors)		x	x	x												
2. Methodology and Guidance for 4P partnership agreements developed and used		x	x	x												
3. Guidance for 4P Partnerships pilot tested with service providers, farmer groups and individual farmers, and rolled out			x	x												
4. Number of 4P Partnerships supported					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
5. School feeding procurement contracts agreed/signed				x	x	x										
<b>Activity 2.2: Strengthen Public and Private Agricultural Extension Capacity</b>																



	Project year 1				Project year 2				Project year 3				Project year 4			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
HR: International Agribusiness Expert (Project Team Leader) based in Solomon Islands		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
HR: National Extension Expert for Nutrition and Agribusiness (1 in Solomon Islands & 1 in Vanuatu).		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
1. Extension training manuals developed/ adapted for extension services and service providers		x	x	x												
2. Number of extension / service provider staff and farmer groups trained and coached				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
3. Additional technical (including feasibility) studies prepared as needs arise					x				x				x			
<b>Output 3. Improved capacity of AIM-N Project Management Units (PMUs) and Provincial Implementation Units for effective project implementation, coordination and knowledge management</b>																
<b>Activity 3.1: Building Capacity for M&amp;E and Knowledge Management</b>																
HR: M&E Specialist, home-based with travel Vanuatu and Solomon Islands		x	x	x										x		
HR : International Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist		x	x	x	x											
1. Gender and age disaggregated indicators developed for M&E system (based on AIM-N project)		x	x													
2. Number of data collectors trained (disaggregated by gender and age)		x	x	x				x				x				
3. Number of M&E staff trained in data management and analysis disaggregated by gender and age)		x	x	x				x				x				

	Project year 1				Project year 2				Project year 3				Project year 4			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
4. Lessons learned are documented and shared with project partners and beyond				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
<b>Activity 3.2: Providing strategic policy research and advice</b>																
HR: International Agribusiness Expert (Project Team Leader) based in Solomon I																
International Project Coordinator/ Economist <u>based in Vanuatu</u>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
1.									x							
2. Number of major issues raised by Project Steering Committee (PSC) and addressed					x				x				X			

# Annex IV: Budget

## Results-Based Budget

### A. Budget by Components

Outputs	Total	In %
Outcome 1: Strengthened capacity of implementing agencies to successfully implement the Agriculture Investment for Markets and Nutrition (AIM-N) and reach its expected results in both countries, including	2 051 090	73.2%
Output 1- Support to Component 1	865 878	30.91
Output 2- Support to Component 2	566 556	20.2%
Output 3- Support to Component 3	618 656	22.1%
Project Management	748 910	26.8%
Grand-Total: Project Budget	2 800 000	100.0%

### B. Budget by Category

Budget Code	Budget line description	Base Costs (USD)					Total
		PY1	PY2	PY3	PY4		
5013	Consultants	309 220	578 072	582 322	582 022		2 051 636
5014	Contracts	20 100			20 000		40 100
5021	Travel	56 338	51 338	51 338	61 338		220 352
5023	Training	26 396	65 968	55 924	28 396		176 684
5024	Expendable Procurement	164	16 240	240	240		16 884
5025	Non Expendable Procurement	13 544	-	-	-		13 544
5027	Technical Support Services	42 914	20 514	20 514	27 064		111 006
5028	General Operating Expenses	16 018	26 819	27 053	26 863		96 753
5050	GOE Common Services	33 948	13 031	13 031	13 031		73 041
	Total	518 642	771 982	750 422	758 954		2 800 000



## Annex V: Risk Management

### Section A: Risks to the project

Risk description	Worst case consequence for the project	Risk Score		Mitigating action	Action owner
		Impact	Likelihood		
Climate change induced natural disaster	Cyclones are the most likely and they could cause the destruction of agricultural assets, population displacement, reversal of the project results and a pause in the project implementation.	High	Likely	FAO is used to addressing this risk for all of its projects in the Pacific for decades. The approach is carefully attended to weather forecasts and works closely with governments, communities and the food security cluster.	FAO via the food security cluster
Availability of suitably qualified and experienced consultants	Slow progress for implementation	High	Medium	FAO will advertise consultancies ahead of time.	LTO and BH

