



FAAILOA



"...enhancing partnerships to develop and sustain agriculture and fisheries...."



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



Pacific Community
Communauté
du Pacifique



PACIFIC WEEK OF AGRICULTURE SAMOA 2019

*"Enhanced Partnerships for Sustainable
Agriculture and Forestry Systems in the Pacific"*



PACIFIC WEEK OF AGRICULTURE 2019

AGRICULTURE SHOW

SEPTEMBER 30 - 4 OCTOBER



OCTOBER
2019

FAAILOA NEWSLETTER

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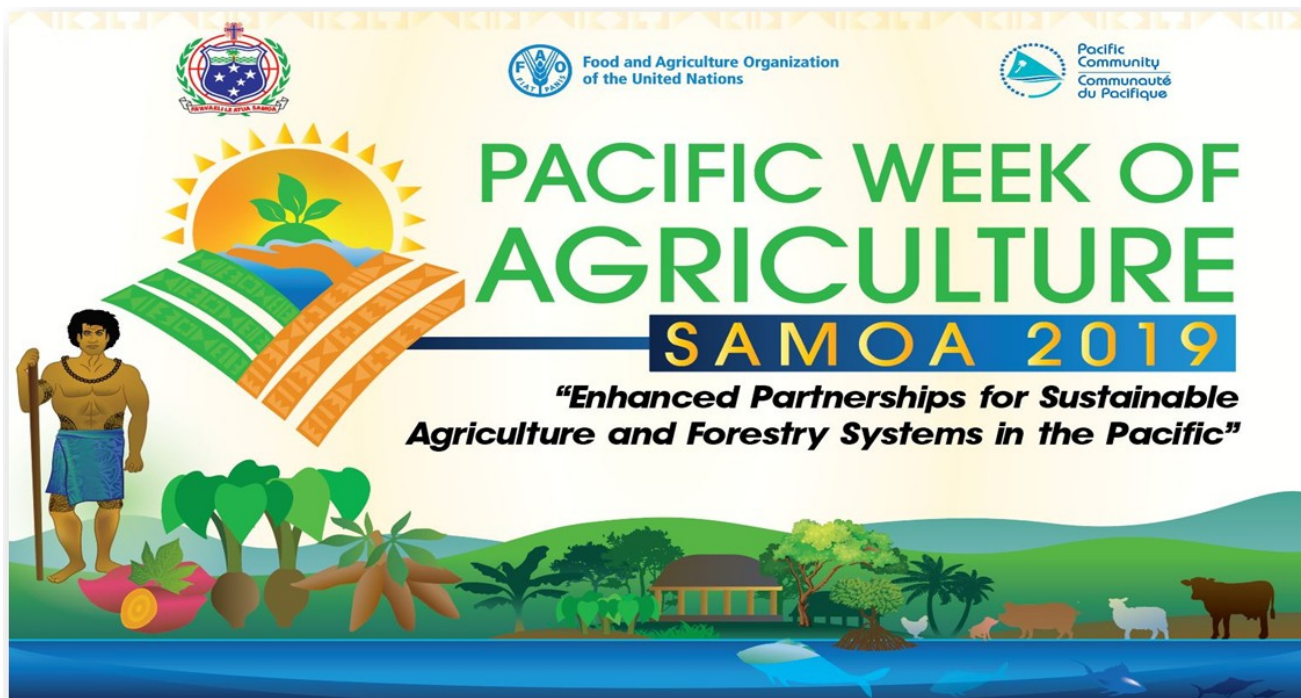
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MAF - Enhancing Partnership to develop and sustain Agriculture and Fisheries.



The Government of Samoa through the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) is excited to announce the Second Biennial Pacific Week of Agriculture (PWA) in Apia on the theme “Enhanced partnerships for Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry Systems in the Pacific.” Samoa will be working in partnership with the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to facilitate the PWA from the 30 September - 4 October 2019 at the Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi (TATTE) Conference Centre, Apia.

PWA will include the second Special Session of the Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services (HoAFS) Meeting from 1 – 2 October, followed by the second Joint Ministerial Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry Services (MoAFS) on 4 October 2019.

The week will provide knowledge sharing platforms through side events hosted around Apia by Regional organizations such as Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), International Coconut Community (ICC), Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Solomon Island, University of the South Pacific (USP), Pacific Islands Farmers Organisation Network (PIFON), Pacific Soil Partnership (PSP), Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), International fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO), Development Bank of Samoa (DBS).

These side events will include some of the following thematic areas: – Coconuts for Life-Partnerships for coconut Rescue and Development, Exploring research partnerships for agriculture resilience, Food and Nutritional security in Pacific Island Countries (PICS), Pacific Soil Partnership - growing sustainable agriculture in the Pacific, Building Resilience in Pacific Agri-Food/ Nutrition Systems towards Regional Alliances for Action, Innovative Financing Mechanisms for Pacific Agribusiness and Value Chain Development, Enhancing Public –Private Producer Partnerships in the Pacific.

The MAF’s annual Agriculture and Fisheries Show will be hosted as a side event open to the general public from the 2– 4 October 2019 at Malaefatu Park, Sogi.

All events and activities will contribute to the sharing of good practices and successes in overcoming challenges in order to improve agriculture and forestry for Samoa and the other Pacific islands.



SAMOA AGRICULTURE SHOW 2019

**ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY SYSTEMS IN THE
PACIFIC**

DATES: 2nd to 4th October 2019
Malaefatu Park, SOGI

Every year the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries hosts an annual event for interested farmers and fishers from around the country. This event serves as a platform where the farmers and fishers showcase their produce and harvests for the public. Prior to the showcasing is an inspection of all the registered farms including crops, fish reserves and livestock; a competition, for the most successful and well maintained farm in Samoa. Other activities include village competition for Rhino Beetle sanitation program. Recognition was also given to some of the school garden projects that were supported by the Ministry's Crops Division.

Awards were presented to the successful farmers and fishers and also communities that competed through various programs.

World Food Day 2019 Video Message

by FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

This year, World Food Day focusses on healthy diets.

Eradicating hunger is FAO's top priority, but we also need to address all forms of malnutrition.

The latest data shows that malnutrition is increasing across all regions and income groups.

World Food Day 2019 call for action to make healthy and sustainable diets accessible and affordable to everyone. For this, partnerships are fundamental. Farmers, governments, researchers, the private sector and consumers, all have a role to play.

Farmers need better incentives to increase and diversity the production of high quality food.

Governments need to adopt policies, food standards and regulations that prioritize the availability and affordability of safe and nutritious foods.

Research institutions need to provide the best scientific advice and push the boundaries and knowledge and technology.

The private sector and positively influence the food environment by adapting its products to modern nutritional recommendations.

Individuals also need to think about their food choices and eating patterns thorough awareness and learning.

FAO supports its member countries in their efforts to make sustainable healthy diets a reality for all.

As a knowledge organization, FAO strengthens the capacity of countries to evaluate and monitor the nutrition situation, supports knowledge transfer and provides food standards.

We also want to increase the production and consumption of high quality food through investors in agriculture, regulatory frameworks, technologies and innovations.

Food system transformation requires strong political commitment for collective synergy and a holistic design of agriculture and food chains.

This is among the main objectives of the Hand-in-Hand initiatives we are about to launch for match-making partnership among public and private sectors along with NGOs.

For FAO, nutrition indicates health, productivity and overall well-being of people and prosperity of societies.

Let us commit to a better nutrition for a happier, healthier and better life.

Dear Friends, This World Food Day also marks FAO's birthday. As this is the first time for me to celebrate this occasion as Director-General of FAO, I would like to stress my commitment to build a dynamic FAO for a better world.

Thank you very much

PARTNERSHIPS FOR COCONUT RESCUE AND DEVELOPMENT

COCONUTS FOR LIFE

The Second Golden Age of Coconuts

Coconut conservation and usage;
production threats and mitigation

Learning Exchange on
Coconut Value Chain

Coconuts and Health –
Risk or Benefit?

Interventions to Sustainability
and Revitalization – policies,
techniques/methods, and
new Initiatives

**30
SEPT
2019**

SIDE EVENT IS FROM
9AM - 1PM

RSVP to roneelp@spc.int

Join us @
**TAUMEASINA
ISLAND
RESORT,
APIA, SAMOA**

**INTERNATIONAL
AND NATIONAL
SPEAKERS**



AUSTRALIA AND PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY



Sustainable agriculture production is the backbone of Pacific Island Countries as well as many other countries in the world. It ensures food security for the Samoan people but also continues to build Samoa's export earnings through the supply of high quality clean and green produce to the rest of the world.

At Tanoa Tusitala Hotel this afternoon the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Hon. Lopao'o Natanielu Mu'a delivered the keynote address on the importance of 'Sustainable Agriculture and Biosecurity' to the Pacific Region.



Hon. Minister Mu'a stated that sustainable agriculture is impossible without a strong biosecurity system to protect the Pacific from potentially devastating pests and diseases. He further stated that whilst Samoa's biosecurity systems and staff are strong, Samoa cannot do it alone.

"A regional partnership approach is essential to ensure threatening pests and diseases are detected early, potential threats identified and communicated between countries within the region and responses to incursions are well resourced and regionally coordinated," said Mu'a.

The Minister reiterated that it is through these partnerships that the Pacific will be able to recognize its full potential as an agricultural producer and exporter of nutritious, clean and green produce for its people and to the rest of the world and in turn will grow our economies and increase the prosperity of the Pacific.

The session also included a presentation about the public private partnerships fostered through the PHAMA and PHAMA Plus program. This program is a long standing Australia and New Zealand Government initiative to grow export pathways within the region in collaboration with Pacific Island Governments, farmers and exporters.



PACIFIC WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE FLOWERS FOOD & ART



The Women in Agriculture and Nutrition Program run by the Pacific Island Farmers Organization Network (PIFON) is a platform which emphasizes female participation and contribution to agriculture and livelihoods in our Region.

The Samoan saying ‘E au le ina i lau a tamaitai’ refers to the contribution of women to complete any mission they set out to do. This specific saying compliments the efforts of PIFON in enhancing partnerships with several women’s farmers’ organizations that benefit not only Pacific women farmers, but their communities and villages.

The program focus is to emphasize women as a key component of agricultural development, looking at opportunities to bring women farmers together, reflect on the different experiences, as well as network and strengthen practical relations to advance their produce and products.

PIFON encourages learning exchanges that recognizes and contributes to the vital role of women in agriculture by connecting with the Papua New Guinea Women in Agriculture Development Foundation (PNG WiADF) and Australian Women in Agriculture (AWiA). This partnership seeks to develop and support initiatives that recognize, appreciate and motivate women to advance their work for the betterment of their families and communities from the humble grassroots level.

The program also highlights the significance of good nutrition and the linkage to the seeds program for open pollinated seeds. Pacific women are leaders in their own homes, and communities, and through this program they are encouraged to grow local foods to improve and sustain the livelihoods of their families, communities and island nations.



PACIFIC WOMEN FARMING OUR WAY

The Pacific Community (SPC) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) opened up the dialogue for Pacific women on Tuesday 1st October, 2019 at the TATTE Conference Centre during #pwasamoa2019 side event at 5.15pm.

The forum goes heard from influential leaders – all of whom were female. This included the Acting Prime Minister of Samoa, Honourable Fiamē Naomi Mataafa who gave the keynoe address. Deputy Director General of the SPC Audry Aumua, Eriko Hibi, FAO Sub-Regional Coordinator for the Pacific, Ethel Frances, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock in the Solomon Islands, and Leaupepe Lasa Tuaifaiva Aiono, a farmer and business women all gave interesting insights to agriculture from a women's perspective.

The stimulating message from the Solomon Islands is that in their studies of women in agriculture, the male counterparts have been seen as either a challenge or as champions. Solomon Islands have one of the highest rates of domestic violence, which they are constantly working to address. However, such abuses against women have notably affected their mind sets, which affects productivity in their work in agriculture, which in turn hinders their ability to contribute to their family's income and livelihood. On the other hand, some men have been found to be extremely supportive of their spouses to work in agriculture, especially in value added and increasingly in cash crop production. This has proven that there are male champions and examples of encouragement to ensure women are acknowledged for the work they do in this field.

#pwasamoa2019 celebrates women in Agriculture in other side events run by the Pacific Island Farmers Organisation Network which has a week long event at Orator Hotel, and Thursday and Friday the two day event entitled Pacific Women in Agriculture and Nutrition.





Improving the mobility of significant financial and resourceful support for farmers and farmer organizations, was one of the main focuses in the consultations this morning. There was a high –level panel discussion on ‘Resilient Investment Platforms for Transforming Pacific Agri-Food and Nutrition Systems’, presenting on three major themes; Farmers’ Entrepreneurs, Innovators and Agents of Change, Private Sector Alliances – How can Pacific Agro-SMEs flourish in a changing Environment?, and Community Engagement – From Farm to Table.

The intense consultation included matters on market access and vulnerability to climate change as some of the inherent challenges that are hindering the speedy advancement and development of our Pacific Island States in Agriculture. With these obstacles, there is an immediate need to identify and create potential initiatives for effective joint practices, thoroughly validated through constant consultations and reflections amongst the public and private sectors with the complete involvement of village communities both rural and urban as well as the active participation of women and youth.

Moreover, this Side Event focuses on encouraging the national stakeholders including the local communities, farmers’ organizations, governments, banks, private sector; to take ownership of the national agendas as well as shaping the regional agendas for improvement in agriculture, value chain and advancement of agro-enterprise for generating income, improved health and nutrition outcomes.

‘ENHANCING PUBLIC-PRIVATE-PRODUCER PARTNERSHIPS IN THE PACIFIC:



The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) together with the Technical Centre FOR Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), hosted the ‘Enhancing Public-Private-Producer Partnerships in the Pacific: Experiences and Opportunities’, on Thursday 3rd October 2019, at the Sheraton Hotel Conference Room, as one of the side events for the Pacific Week of Agriculture at 9:00am to 12:00pm.

There were two sessions for this side event. The first session was chaired by Dr. Seuseu Tauati (CEO of Scientific Research of Samoa); mainly focusing on fostering public-private producer partnerships challenges and opportunities to further enhance and support the agri-business development and market growth; domestic and export. One of the panelists for this session was Tagaloa Eddie Wilson (Managing Director of Wilex Samoa), a Samoan manufacturer and exporter of cocoa and cocoa products and founder of Koko Loa; shared his story about the impact agriculture has on himself and his family.

“I have degrees in economics and management, and now all I think about is agriculture”, he said. He also emphasized on the challenges of the common mentality that office work is preferred over agriculture and farming because it is to do with dirt and it is dirty.

The second session was chaired by Karen Mapusua (Operations Manager for Pacific Community, Land Resource Division). In further enhancing the lives of Pacific Island States, the dialogue emphasized on the strategies to increase the capacity of good practices for a sustainable increase on youth employment, farmer incomes and rural livelihoods and also to improve nutrition.

Dr. Ramona Sulifoa (Agriculture Sector Coordinator) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for Samoa under *Samoa* Agriculture and Fisheries Productivity and Marketing Project (*SAFPROM*), was one of the panelists for this discussion. She highlighted the importance of the active involvement of the community members especially the youth in our plans and activities, considering farming as an employment opportunity to earn a living for their families and communities.

NUTRITION SENSITIVE PACIFIC FOOD SYSTEMS FORUM

The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) organised and facilitated the Nutrition Sensitive Pacific Food Systems Forum held at the TATTE Conference Centre on Wednesday 2 October, 2019. The forum was opened by FAO Sub-Regional Coordinator for the Pacific, Eriko Hibi, and chaired by the Honourable Lopao'o Natanielu Mu'a, the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries of Samoa.

This half-day event provided a strategic opportunity for relevant partners and stakeholders of the agriculture and health sectors to deeply consider cross-cutting issues with agriculture and nutrition.

The forum aimed to specifically draw the attention of those attending, who were representatives from various Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS), to reflect on how nutrition is an integral aspect in building policies in regards to agricultural developments.

The enthusiasm of the participants to contribute during the interactive dialogue session created the impetus to identify gaps, in order to improve the connection between nutrition, food security, and agriculture and food systems.

All stakeholders across the two sectors have different roles in ensuring the improvement of nutrition. The issue is to establish transparent and appropriate channels and linkages with relevant stakeholders to achieve healthier lifestyles by affordable healthy foods, which benefit our families and communities, and particularly our farmers' livelihoods.

The reflections gathered from this forum will be accumulated to gather guidance to countries as focus areas for the High Level Symposium on Nutrition and Food Systems in 2020.



CTA and DBS—Innovative Financing Mechanisms for Pacific Agribusiness and Value Chain Development

Pacific agri-entrepreneurs, stakeholders and interested parties gathered at the Sheraton Hotel on Wednesday 2nd October, 2019 for the CTA and DBS Side Event “*Innovative Financing Mechanisms for Pacific Agribusiness and Value Chain Development*”.

A panel of experts provided their overviews and insights into the increasing access to finance for farmers and agricultural developments – discussing blended finance, value chain financing and inclusivity from the Development Bank of Samoa (DBS) perspective was the Chief Executive officer, Susana Laulu. Laulu also touched on the financing pilot underway at DBS for agriculture value chain.

Tawfiq El Zabri, Country Programme Manager for the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) highlighted the role of development partners. El Zabri noted that “its hard to speak about financing without speaking about the challenges in agriculture”. Therefore development partners like IFAD look at the needs and challenges which farmers, countries, and regions face in order to prioritise financing and investment.

The Role of Central Banks was highlighted by Samoa’s Central Bank (CBS) Governor, Maiava AtalinaA-inu’uEnari. The CBS extended its lending facility to DBS to assist with the stimulation of the economy after the 2008 recession. Enari noted the importance of financial literacy programs which are facilitated by CBS, as well as the steps the CBS is taking to establish a credit bureau with its development partners – all to ensure there are facilities for financing development in Samoa. The interest for the CBS is also to look into the potential for insurance services to be part of the financial services to small-medium enterprises.

From a Fijian perspective, Jiu Daunivalu, Chief Executive Officer of the Fiji Crop and Livestock Council (FCLC) spoke about the Fijian experience and their 3 key pillars of service. The FCLC was established to raise the profile of farmers of crops and livestock and advocate for key services which are designed to respond to the specific needs of the Fijian farmers.

The Samoa Farmers’ Organisation’s Alice Papalii Seuseu provided a “loud message” in a soft voice that farmers need less paper work and more proactive but simplified methods to obtaining assistance to finance.

JOINT FAO AND SPC PACIFIC MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY MEETING

4th October 2019

Honourable Prime Minister

Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi, Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry,

Honourable Lopaoa Natanielu Mua, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries for Samoa,

Cabinet Ministers of the Government of Samoa,

Ministers and representatives of our Pacific Island Countries and Territories,

FAO Assistant Director General Ms Kundhavi Kadiresan

and our international development partners, CROP partners, research institutions and representatives from CSOs and NGO

As we gather here in Samoa during this Pacific Week of Agriculture, its good to take a moment and think about all the elements that must come together for the food we put on our tables every day.

From the farmers and the fisherman, from transport to the small sellers and larger grocery stores. The seed banks, harvesting equipment, energy infrastructure, maritime and ports infrastructure. The critical role of education systems, and the vital contribution of government regulatory policy and support. The food on our plate represents a coordinated effort of many individuals, organizations and communities.

I hope you have all had a chance to visit the many displays and booths set up across the street, which really celebrate the incredible variety and diversity of the Pacific's agriculture. A walk through these many displays shows us how interconnected agriculture is, and brings home the importance of partnerships in this field. Cooperation across and between organizations in support of Pacific agriculture is not just a nice thing to do- it is essential. There have been many side events featuring women and this is very welcome.

The members of the Pacific Community have had a long standing commitment to agriculture, which has remained a priority for our organization from its very foundation. SPC is doing critical - and fascinating- work to support our members agricultural priorities. For example,

LRD's Pacific Seeds for Life program is helping to improve distribution of plant accessions and helping counties develop their national seed systems.

The LRD and FAME Biosecurity and Safe Trade integrated program, is helping to ensure biosecurity laws are revised in line with international regulatory standards, and that exports and imports can occur more readily.

And our 'One Health' strategy is focused on regenerative agricultural and forestry systems for healthy catchments and soils, which contribute to healthy livestock and cropping practices, leading to improved nutrition.

I could list many more efforts, and I to read about our work that we have undertaken in the past couple of years.

But we are not just focused on internal cooperation. In recent years SPC has been engaged in what I like to think of as a new era of collaboration with our development partners, regionally and internationally. Key amount these partnerships is our relationship with FAO. In fact I think it is safe to say that FAO is one of our most important international partners in this area, and so I am very pleased to be able to be here on this stage with them.

SPC's emphasis on food systems means that we are better able to complement the work of FAO. Many of you were present I think for Wednesday's FAO forum on "Nutrition Sensitive Pacific Food Systems", which represents a great example of how well aligned we are in this approach.

Today is an opportunity to have a wide ranging discussion, but I want to emphasis in particular the paper on the 2020 International Year of Plant Health. Our region is under increasing threat from the Coconut Rhino Beetle, Taro Leaf Blight, Coffee Berry borers, Cassava Brown Streak Disease, Fall Army worm, and Banana TR4. We have the opportunity to use the International Year of Plant Health to strengthen current platforms for enhancing awareness, build on networks of plant health, biosecurity, and quarantine, and improving warning systems, preparation, and response capacities and capabilities in our countries.

Ministers, partners and collaborators, SPC welcomes the opportunity to partner and work closely with you to ensure the International Year of Plant Health has a lasting legacy in this region. We will continue to provide our integrated programmes and expertise in support of our membership, and we will look to strengthen the partnerships we have in place to maximize the impact of our work.

Working together, I am confident that dinner tables across the Pacific can continue to provide healthy, sustainable meals for generations to come.

On behalf of the Pacific Community and our Director General can I thank the Government of Samoa and acknowledge the leadership of Minister Mua in preparing for the Pacific Week of Agriculture. I wish you well in your meeting deliberations and look forward to your guidance on how the Pacific Community and its partners can support your vision.



Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries

"Enhancing Partnership to
develop and sustain Agriculture
& Fisheries"



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