



INDIGENOUS
PEOPLES'
FORUM
AT IFAD

Report

Pacific Regional Workshop in preparation
for the third global meeting of the
Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD

Report on the Pacific Regional Workshop on Economic Empowerment of Indigenous Peoples with a focus on women and youth

The Pacific Regional meeting in preparation for the Third Global Meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD in February 2017

**21-22 November 2016
Pacific Harbour, Suva - Fiji**



Background

In February 2013, the **First Global Meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Forum** took place at the IFAD headquarters in Rome, in conjunction with the 36th session of the Governing Council.

In attendance at this inaugural meeting were 31 indigenous peoples' representatives from 25 countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Of the 19 Asia-Pacific regional representatives, two were from the Pacific. During the meeting, the Pacific representatives highlighted that the Pacific is a very distinct and diversified region with its cultures, traditions, its significant land and sea area, and its rich biodiversity. This uniqueness and diversity requires a specific regional consultation to make sure the concerns and demands from the Pacific people can better emerge and be taken into consideration.

The Asia and Pacific regional meeting held during the first global meeting of indigenous peoples (IPs) in Rome proposed three action plans, of which the Pacific Regional Workshops held in 2014 in preparation of the Second Global Meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD was a direct result. Since then, the Pacific region has had a Steering Committee member at the IPs Forum and a specific regional consultation where participants nominate their representatives from their region, who will attend the global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD in Rome.

In preparation for the third global meeting of the IPs Forum (February 2017), the Pacific regional consultation was held in Suva, Fiji on 21-22 November 2017.

Introduction

The Pacific Regional Workshop in preparation for the third global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD was held on 21-22 November 2016. The event was co-organized by the International Fund for Agriculture and Development (IFAD), the International Working Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) and the Pacific Island Farmers Organisation Network (PIFON), and was hosted at the Lagoon Resort, Pacific Harbour, Fiji.

As a broad platform of producers organizations in the Pacific, PIFON has facilitated the selection process of the participants from all over the region. The workshop brought together 20 participants from eleven countries in the Pacific (Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu) to discuss about economic empowerment of indigenous peoples in the region with a focus on women and youth. A number of participants were also involved in IFAD projects and programme implementation.

The objectives of the consultation workshop were to:

- Exchange knowledge and experiences on good practices on IP's economic empowerment that value and build on their distinctiveness, traditional knowledge, cultures and natural resources as assets.
- Identify the challenges faced by IPs in pursuing economic empowerment, in terms of their identity, knowledge and aspirations.
- Identify opportunities for strengthening good practices as sustainable solutions for the future, and the corresponding elements for regional strategies to enhance IFAD's support to them.
- Analyse and formulate action-oriented recommendations on the theme of the 2017 IPs Forum.

The Pacific workshop also:

- Assessed the progress of implementation of the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples adopted by IFAD in 2009 in the Pacific region.
- Reviewed the recommendations made at the second global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD (2015) and assessed the progress of the recommendations and regional action plans adopted.
- Prepared the participation of representatives from the Pacific region in the third global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD.

Day One

Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony included short welcome speeches by Mr Ron Hartman, IFAD Country Director for the Pacific region, Mr Afamasaga Toleafoa, Chairman of PIFON and Mr Les Malezer, member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII). A traditional kava ceremony was performed by a group of local young men to welcome the participants.

The workshop began with a keynote presentation providing an overview of IFAD's engagement with indigenous peoples and a video showing the second global meeting held in 2015 in Rome. After a presentation made by IFAD on the Indigenous Peoples Forum's constitution, organization and process, Mr Malezer reported on the situation and specificities of indigenous peoples in the Pacific region and gave an overview on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which will celebrate the ten-year anniversary of its adoption in 2017. In particular, Mr Malezer highlighted indigenous peoples' right to self-identification and self-determination, as acknowledged by the Declaration. He also presented on the mechanisms used by the United Nations in its engagement with indigenous peoples all over the world: the *UNPFII*, a high level advisory body to the Economic and Social Council established in 2000, with the mandate to deal with indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, environment, education, health and human rights; the *Special Rapporteur*, appointed for the first time in 2001 to examine ways and means of overcoming existing obstacles to the full and effective protection of the rights of indigenous peoples and to gather, request, receive and exchange information from all relevant sources on alleged violations of the rights of indigenous peoples; and the *Expert Mechanism* established in 2007 to provide the Human Rights Council with thematic advice, in the forms of studies and research, on the rights of indigenous peoples as directed by the Council. The Expert Mechanism may also suggest proposals to the Council for its consideration and approval.

After this session, participants were invited to briefly present themselves and to share their expectations about the two-day workshop. Following this session, IFAD Sub-regional Coordinator for the Pacific region, Mr Sakiusa Tubuna, gave an overview of IFAD's Pacific portfolio and its achievements in response to the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples and to the action plan agreed upon during the second global meeting of the IPs Forum held in 2015. Mr Sakiusa highlighted the Pacific's unique combination of geographical, ecological, cultural, social and economic characteristics and spoke about IFAD's approach in the Region to value use and management of local/indigenous knowledge, resources, partnerships, and innovations. IFAD's

operations in the Pacific are guided by two strategic objectives: (i) Promoting production, consumption, marketing of and import-substitution with locally grown/indigenous foods in environmentally sustainable ways, and (ii) Increasing farm and non-farm income generating and employment opportunities. To reach these objectives, IFAD's programmes in the Pacific focus on the following areas of engagement: community development, (grass root) institutional building, local governance systems; social and economic empowerment of disadvantaged groups, women and the youth; food and nutrition security and import-substitution of processed foods with locally grown and indigenous food systems and crops; high value niche markets of local products, organic certification and inclusive value chain development; and climate change adaptation, resilience building, and disaster risk prevention and mitigation.

Shared knowledge and experiences from the participants: IFAD projects and indigenous peoples in the Pacific region

After the presentation of IFAD's portfolio in the Pacific, participants gave presentations on IFAD projects' involvement with indigenous peoples in the region. The presentations and experiences shared by the participants and summarized below, showed some challenges and opportunities in terms of: valuing local/traditional knowledge and local/existing social/cultural/institutional systems while enhancing local governance mechanisms; supporting community planning and development processes with participation of disadvantaged groups; promoting sustainable farming practices for greater farmers' access to productive resources; and promoting access to markets, inclusive value chain/agribusiness development and public-private partnerships (including for women and youth).

Mr Osea Rasea, POETCom, Fiji (regional)

POETComs' work with indigenous people

The Pacific Organic & Ethical Trade Community (POETCom) is a regional movement/network of small-scale producers whose establishment has been also facilitated by IFAD through a grant implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). With a membership of 40 organic organizations/stakeholders (the majority of its members are indigenous Pacific islanders) POETCom aims to grow the organic and ethical trade movement and contribute to a productive, resilient, healthy and sustainable Pacific islands region. In his presentation, Osea highlighted that indigenous peoples and cultures are at the heart of POETCom's vision and action. Through a widespread consultation with Pacific peoples, the POETCom network has developed the Pacific Organic Standard (POS), a certification scheme that embraces culture and tradition as a core principle and recognizes the value of contributions from traditional agriculture and Pacific cultures. By early 2014 POETCom had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with three

internationally accredited certifying bodies to provide third party certification to the POS allowing for the first time for Pacific producers to export product under their own organic standards. So far, the POS and the New Zealand Maori Organic Standard are among the few organic standards that use examples of indigenous agricultural knowledge and practice. In 2012 IFAD funded the project *Development and Pilot Implementation of Integrated Pacific Islands Organic/Ethical Trade Initiatives*, which closed in 2014. The project developed a model for Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) for organic certification, which works with traditional governance systems to assist and strengthen the organic guarantee. Cicia Island in Fiji and Abaiang in Kiribati have used this approach with traditional leaders, declaring the islands to be "organic". The approach is supported by a methodology to audit through peer review. Emae Island in Vanuatu recently adopted this approach as well. Since the project's closure, the PGS model has been further adapted for traditional wild-harvest situations (with old and new crops), using traditional land boundaries and sustainability and harvest practices. In Cook Islands, Niue and Marshall Islands, the ongoing *Capacity Building for Resilient Agriculture in the Pacific project – CBRAP (2015-2018)* is working with experienced farmers who use traditional practices as mentors and trainers for youth. In Niue the plan is to use project to maintain traditional varieties through sharing banana planting materials (13 varieties), and there is interest from youth in learning lunar planting, which is still practised by some older growers; this will be explored by the project in 2017. In Cook Islands and Republic of the Marshall Islands, it can be difficult to clearly identify or define traditional practices (often easiest with root crops). The project aims to use and improve them, and to encourage the use of indigenous and traditional systems already adapted by other programmes and projects. These initiatives have built on POETCom's vision, which promotes organics and ethical trade as key contributors to sustain Pacific's cultures and communities and to improve farmers' livelihoods, people's health and the environment.

Mr Tevita Ravumaidama, PCDF-PHVA, Fiji

Partnership in High-Value Agriculture – PHVA

Partners in Community Development Fiji (PCDF) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) which was the recipient of a recently completed IFAD-funded small country grant. With the vision of communities achieving equitable, holistic and sustainable livelihoods, PCDF works in partnership with communities to assist and empower them with informed decision-making for their own future development. The PCDF-IFAD grant was a two-year pilot intervention for -among others- scaling up a community planning approach tested under the IFAD-funded MORDI grant and replicated under the ongoing Tonga Rural Innovation Project (TRIP). PHVA targeted 13 villages and 7 settlements in the highlands of Viti Levu, with the support of the Government of Fiji. The project aims to provide support to the communities in: a) production and market information through profiling and registration, production support/training and identification of potential markets for scaling up; and b) market linkages through value chain analysis and credit facilities.

PCDF focuses its activities on building and enhancing community and farmers' capacity. At community level this is done through community development committees and plans, and by selecting and resourcing community facilitators. As for capacity building of the farmers, the activities entail the establishment of farmers' groups, trainings on production, financial/grant support and the creation of market linkages. To make activities more sustainable PCDF is also investing in linking communities and farmers' groups to development agencies, governments, NGOs and other stakeholders. Tevita mentioned the challenges faced during project's implementation, including the consistency in production (need to ensure that there is a market for what is produced), the efforts to make "farming as a business" (market-driven vs. traditional), climate change (organic, irrigation, land use), and the constraints in terms of financial facilities (savings, loans, grants), especially for the young farmers, who often need resources to start up activities, and contracts (traders with farmers). The project has shown the importance of recognizing and enhancing local expertise, knowledge and skills as well as of using local structures and institutions to support local engagement. Moreover, the encouragement and support of local volunteerism (labour/in-kind) and the involvement of youth and women has proved to be a key resource for the project to have the strongest local impact. One of the major lessons learned from the project is the need for profiling, for both communities and farmers, alongside the provision of needs-based training.

Mr Lottie Vaisekavea, Solomon Islands

Rural Development Programme II

The Rural Development Programme (RDP) is funded by IFAD, the European Union (EU) and the Governments of Australia and the Solomon Islands. The first phase of the programme started in 2008 and concluded its operations in 2015; RDP is now at its second phase (RDP II). The programme is implemented through a community-based participatory platform which covers all of the provinces in Solomon Islands. Lottie explained that thanks to this platform, each village and community targeted by the programme determines its own priorities (e.g. in terms of identification and construction of community infrastructure which is identified, selected and built in a participatory manner). Thus, the role of the programme is not to lead but to facilitate and support the communities to address their priorities by providing capacity building and acting in close partnership with them. So far, the project has been working with 212 communities targeting 382 projects, but the large number of villages in Solomon Islands makes it difficult for the programme to implement all of the priorities/projects emerging from the targeted communities. RDP II is trying to address this weakness. Under component 2 of the programme, which is focused on business partnerships, several partnerships between the private sector and smallholder farmers have been already established. Lottie mentioned that the successes achieved during project implementation have not translated automatically into sustainability and *"there must be something else after this partnership with the communities*

in order to really allow them to own the processes and to learn from it". In terms of policies, there is a need to create a structure to ensure that when resources become available, they can be distributed equitably, avoiding polarization within the community. Partnership and collaboration is one layer of complexity that RDP needs to manage, in which partnership means not only bringing many people together but making sure they are going towards the same direction. Building good partnerships as a means of sustainability requires RDP to work with the whole community including; to this extent the programme has recently requested support from the donor community to design a gender policy that can be adopted and implemented during operations. It is a slow process in which the final goal is to create a partnership between good hardware (e.g. infrastructure, water structures) and software (e.g. community mobilization, social capital).

Ms Lavinia Kaumaitotoya, MTCP II, Fiji

Pacific Island Farmer Organization Network (PIFON)

PIFON is a membership-based network of 25 farmers' organizations active across nine countries in the Pacific (Cook Islands, Fiji, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tonga, Vanuatu) which is currently implementing the "Medium Term Cooperation Programme (MTCP)", an IFAD/SPC-funded large regional grant in support of farmers organizations in Asia and the Pacific. PIFON has linkages with approximately 350 local farmers' organizations with a total membership of 25,000 indigenous, traditional and smallholder farmers. PIFON supports them in their national activities and helps them to: create new linkages for information sharing; access outside resources (technical and financial); improve their capacity; and facilitate farmer-to-farmer exchanges. PIFON promotes traditional farming systems, traditional crops and traditional knowledge of cropping systems. In 2009 PIFON began to work on enhancing domestic food production through farmers' organizations as a key policy response to address the dual challenges of climate change and food security/nutrition; in 2013, it launched an initiative to operationalize this policy response, focusing on breadfruit and seeds. The Pacific Breadfruit and Seed Programme (PBSP) is currently being implemented in four countries (Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga). The programme is supporting national farmers' organization activities, and promoting regional learning exchanges and farmers' teaching. Lavinia explained how breadfruit plays an important but varied role in all of the Pacific Islands and highlighted the presence of economic and social factors determining the different tracks of breadfruit research and development in each country. Taking into account these differences, PBSP has adopted a different approach for each country: in Fiji and Tonga the focus is on developing breadfruit as an orchard crop for fresh export and processing, while in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu and activities are focused on incorporating more breadfruit into food gardens for food security; in Samoa breadfruit is commercially processed and transformed into a range of products like chips, flour and beer.

Once upon a time... a breadfruit story (Fijian legend)

Once upon a time there were two brothers living on an island in Fiji. They were the only inhabitants of the Fiji Islands. These brothers were called the “Ciri / Drifters”. They sailed from island to island looking for food. One day while they were out again on one of their voyages, they saw something like a ball floating on the horizon. A fight broke out as the brothers argued among themselves about who owned the round object. The younger one saw that his elder brother was getting old and would not live long, and decided to abandon his brother on a small rocky ledge of a big island. He had been intending to get rid of him so that he could become the only king of the islands. So after, pushing his elder brother onto the rocky ledge, the round ball was of no use to him, so he threw it at his brother, and it landed on the rocky soil on the ground beside his brother. The older brother, knowing that he was helpless against the strength of his younger brother, cried his heart out to their ancestors. Holding the round object close to his heart, his tears fell on it. Suddenly the object grew into a small tree and he put it gently on the ground. The tree grew quickly and bore fruit. The man then took the fruit and built a fire to roast the fruits. He became strong and planted plenty of trees from the fruits around the island. Since that day, breadfruit is considered the chief food of this island. The Fijian name of the breadfruit is “Uto”, which in English is “Heart”. From the elder brother’s tears and by holding the object close to his heart, the breadfruit came about.

(The story was shared by Serenia Madigibuli)

Discussions following the first round of presentations:

On local food production:

- How can we enhance the competitiveness of local food in markets? How do we promote local food? How do we cope with market-driven vs. indigenous crops? How can indigenous peoples profit from their integration into the market economy? One option suggested by the participants is to invest in niche markets and raise awareness of nutrition and health in order to increase the demand for local food. Changes in the demand for food demand requires providing inputs to policy and education, an area where the role of women is very important. IFAD will try to address this issue with the new value chain project in Papua New Guinea, which aims to empower women economically.
- Regarding value chains, participants highlighted competitiveness as a major challenge, and the discussion focused on how to respond to

competitiveness while adopting a value chain that promotes agriculture, culture and the environment in the Pacific region.

- Economic empowerment can be built on cultural assets of local communities (e.g. artisanal activities).

On social inclusion (women and youth):

- The right to the land is a key issue for youth and women's social and economic empowerment.
- Adopting an integrated development approach (i.e. fully engaging men and others) in gender issues is important. In this regard IFAD will adopt a specific methodology – *the family team approach* – in the newly designed project for Papua New Guinea.
- An intergenerational approach is key to promoting agriculture and the economic empowerment of youth. Building common platforms for discussion and interaction between the elderly and the youngest means not only having the elderly channelling their knowledge to the youngest, but helping each side to be able to understand the concerns, needs and the strengths of the other side and hence overcome barriers for the youngest to participate in the social-political-economic life of the community.
- There is a need to make financial facilities and instruments (e.g. savings, loans, grants) accessible to farmers, especially for youth.
- It is important to recognize local institutions and to use indigenous knowledge to support engagement with local communities.

On knowledge sharing and partnership:

- Some of the participants mentioned documentation and sharing of best practices (e.g. on organic farming, land use/care, climate change adaptation activities) among the main challenges faced in the Pacific and requested IFAD to provide further support on this.
- There is the need to build a platform in the Pacific for NGOs/local organizations and others to build a common voice.

Declaration of Commitment between PIFON and IFAD related to the engagement with farmers' organizations in the region

The workshop included the signing of a historic Declaration of Commitment (DOC) between PIFON and IFAD related to the engagement with farmers' organizations in the region. The declaration was made official during a signing ceremony on 21 November, 2016, by Mr Afamasaga Toleafoa, PIFON Chairman, and Ronald Hartman, IFAD Pacific Country Director. The signing was witnessed by approximately 30 participants from around the region. *"This is the first official declaration of this type between IFAD and farmers' organizations anywhere in the world, and we are very proud to have established this partnership, which will allow for greater impacts of our programmes down to the smallholder farmers of the Pacific,"* said Ronald.

The DOC represents an agreement between the two organizations on the important role of farmers' organizations in agricultural development in the region. Specifically, the DOC is intended to:

- Enhance relationships between PIFON- and IFAD-related activities;
- Increase the opportunity for both parties to complement each other's programmes;
- Establish better network and linkages between IFAD and PIFON members;
- Develop policies, strategies and/or programmes that will allow mutual benefits to its members.

PIFON and IFAD Pacific agree that a relationship between the two organizations provides many opportunities to bring the voice of farmers in the region to policy makers and planners and that both parties will continue to explore opportunities to capitalize on this relationship.

Day Two

Shared knowledge and experiences from the participants: economic empowerment of indigenous peoples with a focus on women and youth

The day began with a recap of day one followed by presentations on the sharing of best practices on IFAD-funded women and youth initiatives in the Pacific, a panel discussion on models and tools to promote economic empowerment of women and youth in IFAD-funded projects, and a roundtable discussion on recommendations to IFAD to improve its work with indigenous peoples' in the Pacific region. Summaries follow of each of the discussions presented by the speakers.

Ms Maria Linibi, Women in Agriculture Waif, Papua New Guinea

Indigenous Vegetables

With a population of eight million people speaking 800 languages, Papua New Guinea is home to many different cultures and traditions. Maria explained how its rugged geography and difficult terrain are among the factors determining some of the challenges which make difficult, especially for women and youth, to undertake different tasks needed to survive. Women in Agriculture is exploring new ways to address these issues by building options for women and youth while, and at the same time preserving traditional seeds. Maria presented the activities undertaken so far, which include promotional activities during shows and field days, traditional seed preservation and documentation and the development of communication tools such as the Traditional Vegetables Website (<http://traditionalvegetables.cdu.edu.au>). Promotional activities were carried out by Women in Agriculture to explain the value of traditional vegetables to the public and the reasons why they

should be promoted and grown. Emphasis was given to the higher nutrition of traditional food and its value in addressing climate change when compared to introduced crops. Traditional vegetables were displayed, sold and prepared with traditional methods, in the local markets and other public events and open days. During the Trukai Field Day, horticultural activities were promoted, and women and youth participated in training on traditional seed preservation, transplanting and drought mitigation.

Mr Andrew Weleilakeba

Youth in Agriculture

Andrew has been volunteering in farming over the past six years. *"I do it for passion, without being paid,"* he said. He comes from a farming family, and while his father and grandfather were dairy farmers, he is more interested in crop farming and in its contribution to food security. Andrew is currently working to design a fully organic agriculture subdivision in the central corridor of Fiji's main island, where the majority of people live. With the idea of having more skilled farmers, Andrew developed a blog to reach out to farmers and support them in daily farming activities. They are using ICT tools and social media as a means to connect with youth and attract them to agriculture. Andrew explained, *"One of the challenges we face as youth in becoming agricultural producers is capacity building and knowledge sharing. During a training on farming certification in Vanuatu, I learned about innovative compost systems that can make a farm self-sufficient. This model is what we are trying to implement now in Fiji with some of my colleagues who are starting to employ this new system. This is the result of networking and sharing."* Another key challenge is the traditional leadership in the community, which sometimes makes it difficult for the youngest generation to have its voice heard. Together with other farmer colleagues, Andrew is looking for a ginger market in Fiji. While discussing access to markets he highlighted the importance of having a labelling system which clearly indicates where food products are produced, grown, made and packed. This will guarantee a fair economic return to the Pacific farmers who produce for big factories exporting to foreign markets. He added, *"Sometimes there is no mention of Fiji on the label."* Since the market they are exploring is highly competitive, Andrew invited IFAD to support young farmers to build on quality products (like ginger) and derived products instead of quantity. Another area to be further developed and where IFAD can facilitate is research in agriculture, e.g. developing a data bank of scientific information that links farmers and researchers, and finding ways to make information on crops, soil quality, etc. easily accessible to farmers.

Ms Serenia Madigibuli - Tutu Rural Training Centre, Fiji

The Tutu Rural Training Centre

Serenia shared the experience of the Tutu Rural Training Centre in Fiji. Effective training in agriculture is the major problem with youth in the

Pacific. In response to this need, the Tutu Centre has been developing, discovering and experimenting with methodologies and activities addressed to young men and women. The Tutu Centre is based on the principle that learning is a process where the agenda comes from the people themselves and not from trainers. The Centre works with youth between 19 and 23 years old. She explained that the reason behind this recruitment criterion is that *“At this age, a Fijian young man/woman in the village will be questioning himself/herself: Who am I? What am I going to do about life?”* Tutu starts to work with them while they are living this critical time, through a learning process and holistic approach that embraces the development of the person. *“When youth appreciate who they are as a Fijian young man or women living in the village with their own resources, skills and talents, then they begin to open up to new knowledge about farming because they have become empowered.”* Recognizing the good results achieved by the Tutu Centre, the Government showed an interest in replicating this model in other places. Serenia explained that most of the time in Fiji, people approach “youth as a problem” and this will defines the responses developed to their needs. *“In Tutu we approach them with positive thinking which looks at their capabilities, resources and gifts. They have time, body, energy and dreams: these are the qualities in the young people, and we build our response to them by recognizing these qualities.”* As soon as the young people arrive at the Centre, the first activity undertaken with them is an orientation programme in which they are asked to draw the expectations and dreams they have for their own life. Serenia explained, *“As trainers, we are there to accompany them, facilitate their own growth so that they can be aware and own their new identity as farmers. We never impose but rather guide them towards their own path”*. When the youth come to the Centre they are given blocks of land where they are expected to grow 1200 kava plants and any amount of taro for compulsory savings. The first step for the youth is to build a house in the village using these savings. She added, *“Some of the youth enrolled in our programme are now building the foundations for the house. By working with them, we know that they can believe you if they can see something that physical is there... if they can the results. This is why the first step for them is to use their compulsory savings to build the house.”* Youth enrolled in the Tutu programme have to spend some weeks each year in the Centre for training and some weeks in their home environment while Tutu’s staff accompany them throughout the course of the programme. Tutu also works with young women, some of whom are single mothers, helping to empower them through orientation programmes and training activities on farming and selling. For income-generating activities, they are currently selling their products (vegetables and handicrafts) at the Tutu Centre as well as in local markets and during public events.

Mr Osea Rasea, POETCom, Fiji (regional)

Engaging Youth in IFAD supported POETCom projects

POETCom's strategic plan recognizes the value of youth for a productive agriculture sector and includes specific activities to identify and support value

chains benefiting women producers and youth. The Capacity Building Project for Resilient Agriculture in the Pacific (2015-2018) being implemented in Cook Islands, Marshall Islands and Niue, focuses on engaging youth in climate-resilient value chains and aims to identify what will “push the buttons” of youth to make them interested and involved in agriculture. Which buttons is POETCom currently testing? First, POETCom is building capacity in social media and storytelling, including content development such as infographs and videos to engage the interest of youth (given the wide availability of smart phones and the major part social media plays in youth culture). These skills will be applied to share knowledge and learning about organic farming, advocate on relevant farming issues (e.g. climate change), market their products and connect them with other youth in organic agriculture. Environment is the second button to push, as the Pacific Youth Framework highlighted it as one of youth’s key concerns in the region and because the youth environment movement is a strong part of the Pacific’s civil society structure. POETCom’s activities with the youth frame organic farming as a means to help the environment and to mitigate climate change. For this reason climate change awareness and the impacts of agriculture have been included as part of the training programme. Third, farming is a science: the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's strategy on youth in agriculture notes that the perception continues that farming is a job for “drop outs”, and many families encourage their youth to move away from agriculture. Using science and experimentation linked to climate resilience is an effort to elevate the perception of agriculture. To this end, POETCom has been working with PhD students as trainers/mentors for the young farmers: farm experiments have been developed to measure the impact of climate-resilient practices and youth are currently involved in setting up and monitoring the activities. As Osea explained, the Pacific Youth Framework also identified livelihoods and jobs as key concerns of youth, and this is the reason why POETCom decided to include markets among its strategic areas. In this respect, POETCom is implementing projects focused on supporting youth in entering value chains, including mentoring with experienced farmers. In this way youth are able to offer value addition and they can play other roles in the value chain (not only production) – for example, through organic certification. Among the lessons learned from POETCom's work with youth and women were:

- Ensuring participation in decision making and governance of projects is often more challenging in traditional settings.
- It is important to promote a “look-listen-learn” approach from the community where the project is being undertaken, as communities have their own ways of managing issues, and often solutions are already present within the communities.
- Early engagement and a clear explanation about the programme’s expectations on gender and youth are essential.
- Women and youth live in the context of family villages and any intervention targeting them cannot be designed without including the others.

Mr Soane Patolo, Tongan Rural Innovations Project (TRIP), Tonga

Soane discussed some of the results and experiences from the IFAD-funded projects TRIP I and TRIP II, focusing his presentation on youth and women. TRIP I is a five-year project closing in June 2017 whose goal is to contribute to the improved and sustainable livelihoods of vulnerable communities in rural areas of Tonga by targeting 60 communities and a total of 16,900 beneficiaries around the country. The project has three components. Soane added, *“The one which really makes a difference at the country level is the community development component, which has two main outputs: community planning and the small projects that help the communities to implement these plans.”* The project started to work on community plans in 2007 when a previous project – MORDI Project – started operations in Tonga, Fiji and Kiribati. Building on the positive results achieved by the project, they decided to scale it up in TRIP I and in the recently designed TRIP II. Soane explained, *“Our methodology starts with setting up groups divided up into women, youth and men so that they can prepare their own group development plan. We merge these plans into community development plans which then converge to make district development plans. Building on these, the next step is to develop island strategic development plans with the idea to arrive at the national level.”* Since 2007, the idea promoted by MORDI Tonga has been to build a sustainable way for the voices of rural areas in Tonga to be heard by the planners and policy makers working at country level. Soane explained, *“The main challenge in this process is to make sure that the Government takes it on board with a long-term perspective.”* Thanks to the extensive work done by MORDI Tonga over the years, the Government of Tonga has recently taken on board the results of the planning activities conducted on the ground, with the Prime Minister receiving the development plans. *“To make these plans work at the end of the day, we need to support communities to implement the projects which are included in the community plans,”* Soane said. These projects – which can relate to water, upgrading and maintenance of wharfs, building sea walls and structures for food markets, capacity building using the farmer field school approach, and nursery operation training – are either financed by the project or additional resources are mobilized by the project, but sometimes the community itself funds the project. All of the projects focus on the participation of women and youth. Soane explained, *“It is not an easy process, especially in Pacific, to get women and youth involved and to make sure their voices are heard at all levels. We developed something that seems to work and we believe it can work as well in other Pacific islands.”* All the work conducted under TRIP I, including linking farming to the private sector, has been possible thanks to the partnership not only with IFAD but also with other UN agencies, donors, universities, etc. Based on the positive results achieved by TRIP I, IFAD decided to scale up the project, funding TRIP II. This second phase will target 122 communities in the next five years (2018-2022) to strengthen their capacity to plan and manage resilient economic infrastructure and livelihood activities by focusing on community development (project component 1) and economic livelihoods and agriculture (project component 2).

Mr Tevita Ravumaidama, PCDF-PHVA, Fiji

Lessons learned to scale up Partnership in High Value Agriculture (PHVA)

Tevita presenting on lessons learned to scale up PHVA to the Fiji Agriculture Partnership Project (FAPP). FAPP is an IFAD-funded project managed by the Government and for which PCDF was asked to be the leading partner implementing agency on the ground. One of the main intervention areas for the project will be working with the local communities to directly link farmers to markets. As Tevita highlighted, *“Partnership is very important and we cannot work alone because we have a lot of work to do and we need everybody to be involved in order to achieve the targets. It’s challenging to engage young people, and to do so everyone needs to work together in equal partnership based on a common vision and goals.”* In its work with local farmers PCDF tries to develop needs-based training resulting from farmer profiling. *“It’s very important for them to understand where they are now and, looking back to the past five years, help them to know where they want to go in the next five years and what they are looking for from farming,”* Tevita said. Another key resource needed for the project to succeed is to have community facilitators – as also by MORDI Tonga and RDP in Solomon Islands – meaning people appointed from the communities who help the implementing organization (in this case PCDF) to work with and within the communities. Enhancement of local structures and institutions is another pillar for successful implementation the project. Tevita explained, *“There are already so many resources in the communities. We do not need to find them externally.”*

Discussions following the second session

On community empowerment:

- For a community development project to succeed, we need to understand how decisions are made within the community and whether women and youth can really have a voice and decide in those contexts where decisions are made by the community leadership. The MORDI approach adopted in TRIP and READ project in Solomon are successful example of strong community empowerment, including empowerment of women and youth. As Lottie said, *“We do not need new things based on new ideas. We need something based on the same principles of our ancestors but which is contextualized so that it can work in this new environment.”*
- Empowering youth, especially in a traditional environment, is still a challenge. Some of the experience presented (e.g. MORDI Tonga) have shown the importance of investing in social and leadership skills of youth in addition to providing them with economic opportunities. Community empowerment through social capital building is a crucial element that needs to go hand in hand with economic empowerment; this is extremely important when working with youth and women.

On access to market:

- As the majority of small farmers use local and traditional markets to sell their products, it is important that they can easily access them through good infrastructures and services. TRIP is trying to link smallholder farmers with the private sector and with people doing marketing. At the same time TRIP is trying to help the private sector to better engage with the communities. As Soane said, *“In this way, we make the project sustainable and we prevent the collapse of farmers’ activities when the project ends.”*

On farming as an attractive carrier:

- Some of the participants highlighted the need to focus not only on producers and markets but also on what is happening in the “in between” space. This suggests that if we want to consider agriculture as a viable and attractive option and career for young people, we need to look at it as a holistic process. Seeing agriculture as career opportunity also means professionalizing it and providing the skills needed to address the challenges linked to such factors as post-harvesting or market requirements in terms of safety and quality. This will help to channel the message that agriculture is a genuine profession, thus preventing youth from escaping from rural areas, where they do not see any opportunities in terms of professional and economic growth.

On effective and proactive partnership:

- It is important to work through producer organizations with a strong membership base in order to enable farmers to overcome economic and policy constraints. As experience shows, by strengthening these organizations, small producers will be able to have greater access to services and markets, achieve economies of scale, and influence policy.
- There is a need for effective and proactive partnership. As Ron Hartman said, *“No one has the resources to do everything. Therefore how we leverage each other and come together is really important. IFAD works entirely through partnerships, and we are very proud of the partnerships built in the Pacific region and the work that has been done so far.”* On partnership building, some participants highlighted the importance to engage proactively with the private sector when resources and budget from the public sector or donor community are not sufficient.
- IFAD highlighted the importance for the Pacific region to have a voice, either at the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD or in other UN processes. The Pacific region has a lot to share, which can benefit other regions and other peoples, but the region also needs support that can be leveraged.

Identification of individual action plans

PIFON facilitated this session, which required every participant to complete an action plan identifying four actions that they were going to implement as a result of the information they had received from the meeting. Some actions highlighted are as follows:

- Formulate activity plans incorporating activities with a focus on needs of women and youth.
- Assess the local market to involve women and youth in marketing local/traditional food.
- Document and profile existing farmers organizations and associations.
- Assist farming friends to formalize entities to access help and technical assistance through bodies like PIFON.
- Promote and encourage the sharing of traditional knowledge.
- Conduct a workshop encouraging youth and women to engage in traditional or organic farming.
- Conduct community consultations based on economic programmes and empowering women and youth by engaging them.

Key recommendations on economic empowerment of indigenous peoples with a focus on women and youth

Agreed Recommendations

All of the recommendations given by the participants were listed, and participants selected the recommendations that they thought were of highest priority. The recommendations were then grouped into recommendations to IFAD, the governments of the Pacific region, and the participants. The participants agreed upon the following lists of recommendations:

Recommendations to IFAD:

1. Continue to use the Indigenous Peoples' Consultation Forum in the Pacific as a platform to voice Pacific peoples' concerns and issues to IFAD and governments;
2. In IFAD policies and operations, adopt an integrated and holistic approach, including men and youth in gender mainstreaming to support the economic empowerment of indigenous women and youth;
3. Support capacity building as well as professional, vocational and technical training for young people to promote indigenous farming systems and science, develop niche markets and promote farming as a viable and attractive economic activity for youth;
4. Document, fund and promote intergenerational knowledge and sharing of best practices, using ICT tools for the economic empowerment of youth;

5. Strengthen agricultural research activities in IFAD's operations (including grants) towards traditional crop systems and herbal medicines, including activities to promote knowledge on and adoption of traditional seeds and plants;
6. Adopt an inclusive and culturally sensitive/gender- and youth-sensitive value chain approach, including traditional crops;
7. Streamline processes for accessing and delivering small grants and endowment funds to independent bodies such as civil society organizations (CSOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and provide assistance and support to interested local NGOs/ CSOs in setting up projects;
8. Respect and promote indigenous knowledge and the development of indigenous science in the Pacific region as being integrated to economic empowerment;
9. Promote and revive traditional activities, skills, employments and off-farm activities such as handicrafts, and facilitate their marketing as a means of economic empowerment of women and youth;
10. IPAF grants to reach out in the Pacific and include a representative from the Pacific in the IPAF Board;
11. IFAD to support the Pacific UN Representative for Indigenous Peoples and work closely with her/him for IFAD's projects in the region.

Recommendations to national governments:

1. Recognize and protect rights of women and youth to land, resources and territories;
2. Consult with CSOs, NGOs and farmers' organizations to include specific funds (including revolving funds and grants) for economic empowerment of women and youth into the government national budget;
3. Consult and involve CSOs, NGOs and farmers' organizations in policy formulations and timely programme implementation.

Recommendations to the Pacific peoples:

1. Use social media and other media platforms to attract and engage youth in agriculture;
2. Adopt and implement policy incentives that are inclusive and gender-sensitive;
3. Network among organizations locally and internationally to support and engage with the existing indigenous peoples' platforms in the Pacific;
4. Lobby with country governments for a representative from the Pacific for the IFAD presidency.

Participants from the Pacific region who will attend the third global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD

As one of the last activities of the workshop, IFAD asked the participants to select two representatives of the group to attend the Indigenous Peoples Forum in Rome from 10-13 February 2017. IFAD asked participants to ensure, to the extent possible, that gender balance, youth participation and geographical, ecosystem and livelihoods balance were taken into consideration in selecting their representatives.

The participants selected include Mr Karness Kusto, RMI Organic Association (from Marshall Islands) and Ms Falefehi Taufu, MORDI Tonga Trust (from Tonga). Mr Ulaiasi Baya will participate in the event in the capacity as member, for the Pacific Region, of the Steering Committee of the IFAD Global Forum.

The workshop ended with participants donating traditional items produced in the various countries of the Pacific region (such as Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Tonga), with which they wished to decorate the Indigenous Peoples Place at IFAD headquarters, to be inaugurated at the third, forthcoming, global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Forum in Rome.

Conclusion

The Pacific regional consultation held in preparation for the third global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD had a strong emphasis on knowledge and information sharing through presentations and group discussions, and provided an opportunity to transfer this information to stakeholders from around the region. The consultation brought together stakeholders from around the region with varying skills and expertise related to the economic empowerment of indigenous peoples in the region, with a focus on women and youth. Similar examples of expertise exist in each of the countries represented at the workshop, and a key outcome of this meeting was the strengthening of these regional networks. A number of participants were also from IFAD projects and programmes in the region, so they were best positioned to share their views and experience on how indigenous peoples' concerns can be taken into consideration and possibly mainstreamed in IFAD operations. From IFAD's side, the Country Director for the Pacific, Ron Harman, intervened at the end of the meeting to underscore the richness of the examples that were presented and the results being achieved so far. IFAD started to re-engage the Pacific about ten years ago and much has evolved and been strengthened in terms of partnerships and body of knowledge. Starting from these results, IFAD is working to further strengthen its work in the Pacific, its engagement with the Member Countries in the region and its capacity to support these partnerships.

Participant List

Name	Country	Organization	Email
1. Mr. Adelino Lorens	Federated States of Micronesia	Island Food Community of Pohnpei	pniagriculture@mail.fm
2. Maria Linibi	PNG	PNG Women In Agriculture Development	maria.linibi@nari.org.pg
3. Mr Lottie Vaisekavea	Solomons	RDP II	lvaisekavea@sirdp.org.sb
4. Mr Osea Rasea	Fiji (Regional)	POETCom	stephenh@spc.int
5. Ms Ruiti Uriano Aretaake	Kiribati	Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific	ruriano@gmail.com
6. Ms Falafehi Taufu	Tonga	Tongal Rural Innovations Project (TRIP)	soanejr@morditonga.to
7. Mr Tony Wale	Solomons	ALCAA	teamleaderwale92@gmail.com
8. Mr Ulaiasi Baya	Fiji	Macuata Province	ulai@tribewanted.com
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10. Ms Asenaca Wotta	Fiji	Ministry of iTaukei Affairs	asenaca.wotta@govnet.gov.fj
11. Mr Sakiusa Saukawa	Fiji	iTaukei Affairs Board	sakiusa.saukawa@govnet.gov.fj
12. Mr Leonard Basillius	Palau	Palau Community Action Group	lbasilus@pcaa.org
13. Mr Afamasaga Toleafoa	Samoa	Samoa Farmers Association	pacific@ipasifika.net
14. Mr Peter Kaoh	Vanuatu	Farm Support Association	sapv@vanuatu.com.vu
15. Mr Karness Kusto	Marshall Islands	RMI Organic Association	kustokarness@gmail.com
16. Mr Andrew Weleilakeba	Fiji	Agronet (Fiji)	equipfiji@gmail.com
17. Ms Serenia Madigibuli	Fiji	Tutu Rural Training Centre	niamadigibuli@gmail.com
18. Mr Robert Malezer	Australia	UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues	lez.malezer@gmail.com
19. Mr Clement Hadosaia	Solomon Is	Kastom Gaden Association	clementh@kastomgaden.org
20. Ms Lavinia	Fiji (Regional)	PIFON	pm@pacificfarmers.com

Kaumaitotoya			
21. Ms Margherita Loddoni	Rome (Regional)	IFAD	m.loddoni@ifad.org
22. Mr Sakiusa Tubuna	Fiji (Sub-regional)	IFAD	s.tubuna@ifad.org
23. Mr Ronald Hartman	Rome (Regional)	IFAD	r.hartman@ifad.org
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26. Ms. Ana Tuivanuavou	Fiji (Regional)	PIFON	info@pacificfarmers.com



The Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD – Pacific Regional Consultation Workshop “Economic empowerment of indigenous peoples, with a focus on women and youth”

Nov 21 – 22, 2016

Lagoon Resort, Pacific Harbour, Fiji Islands

Programme

Day 1: Monday November 21, 2016	
Time	Event/Topic
8.00am	Delegate Registration
8:30am	MC: Ms. Lavinia Kaumaitotoya Opening Ceremony Opening prayer – TBD Official traditional welcome ceremony Welcome remarks – UNPFII Representative Welcome remarks – PIFON Official Opening – IFAD, Ronald Hartman – IFAD Country Director, Asia and Pacific Refreshments and Group Photo
9:30 am	Introduction of participants (Chairperson: Kyle)
10:00 am	Keynote presentation – Margherita Loddoni (IFAD Desk on Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Issues) Overview of IFAD engagement with Indigenous Peoples
10:20 am	Show Video of the second global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD
10:40 am	Keynote presentation – Robert Malezer (member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues) Overview on Indigenous Peoples and the Pacific Region and key outcomes from the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (held in 2014). <i>The presentation will have a focus on the countries where IFAD operates.</i>
11:00 am	Pacific Indigenous Peoples country remarks (Chairperson – Mr. Sakiusa Tubuna) Representative from each country to share an update from last meeting of action items and expectations from this meeting. <i>Participants have 5 mins to present – no PowerPoint necessary</i>
12:00 am	Overview of IFAD Pacific portfolio and its achievements in responding to the IPs Policy and to the action plan agreed upon during the Second Global Forum (held in 2015) Mr. Sakiusa Tubuna (IFAD Sub-Regional Coordinator)
1:00 pm	Lunch
2:00 pm	Session #1: Report by IFAD Projects on their Involvement with Indigenous People (Chairpersons – Ms Serenia Madigibuli and Mr Ronald Hartman) Presentations by POETcom, PHVA, Solomon Is RDP and PIFON MTCP II Discussion Time
3:00	Session #2 – Pacific Indigenous People – Our recommendations to IFAD to improve its work with Indigenous Peoples in the Pacific Region (Chairperson – Sakiusa Tubuna) Open discussion
5:00 pm	End of Day 1
6.30pm	Dinner & Cultural Night

Programme

Day 2: Tuesday November 22, 2016	
Time	Event/Topic
8:00 am	Re-cap from Day 1 (Ms Ana/Lavinia from PIFON)
8:30 am	Presentation of findings of the scoping study on Indigenous Peoples and Private Sector prepared by CADPI for IFAD (Ms. Margherita Loddoni, IPs Desk at IFAD)
8:45 am	<p>Session #3 – Sharing of Best Practices on IFAD Funded Youth and Women initiatives in the Pacific (Chairpersons – Mr. Peter Kaoh and Mr. Ron Hartman)</p> <p>Objective: To share knowledge on good practices of economic empowerment of youth and women in the Pacific Region</p> <p>Presentation by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PNG : Women In Agriculture - Tonga : MORDI - Fiji : Tutu Rural Training Centre - Region : POETCom - Fiji : Andrew Weleilakeba-Involvement of Youths in Development <p>Discussion Time</p>
10:15 am	Morning Tea
10:45 am	<p>Session #4 – Pacific Indigenous People – Panel discussion on models and tools to promote economic empowerment of women and youth in IFAD funded projects (Chairperson – Mr. Adelino Lorens)</p> <p>Open Discussion</p>
12:00 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm	<p>Session #5 - Pacific Indigenous People: Our opportunities (Chairperson – Kyle)</p> <p>Open discussion</p>
3:00 pm	<p>Way forward and wrap up (Chairperson – Ms. Margherita Loddoni)</p> <p>Final summary discussion and agreement on strategies and recommendations to IFAD on economic empowerment of Indigenous Peoples with a focus on women and youth for IFAD's operations.</p> <p>Announcement of the selected Member for the Pacific in the Steering Committee of the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD and 2 delegates participating at the global meeting of the Forum in Feb. 2017 (see selection criteria)</p>
5.00pm	Day 2 will end with a closing ceremony with participants donating items they wish to decorate the Indigenous Peoples' Place at IFAD to be inaugurated during the global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD on 10 February 2017

Additional activities for those leaving days later due flight schedules:

Wednesday November 23rd

Morning

- PIFON – PAPP Impact Workshop Meeting

Afternoon

- Visit to Bens Trading – Largest Indigenous Exporter of Traditional Root Crop (Taro)
- Visit to Kaiming Agro-Processors – Processor and exporter of Ginger

Thursday November 24th

Morning

- PIFON – Learning & Planning Meeting, MTCP II RSC Meeting

Afternoon

- Visit to Ranadi Plantation – Organic Ginger Exporter
- Visit to Grace Road – Korean Indigenous Community Fiji Agriculture initiative