



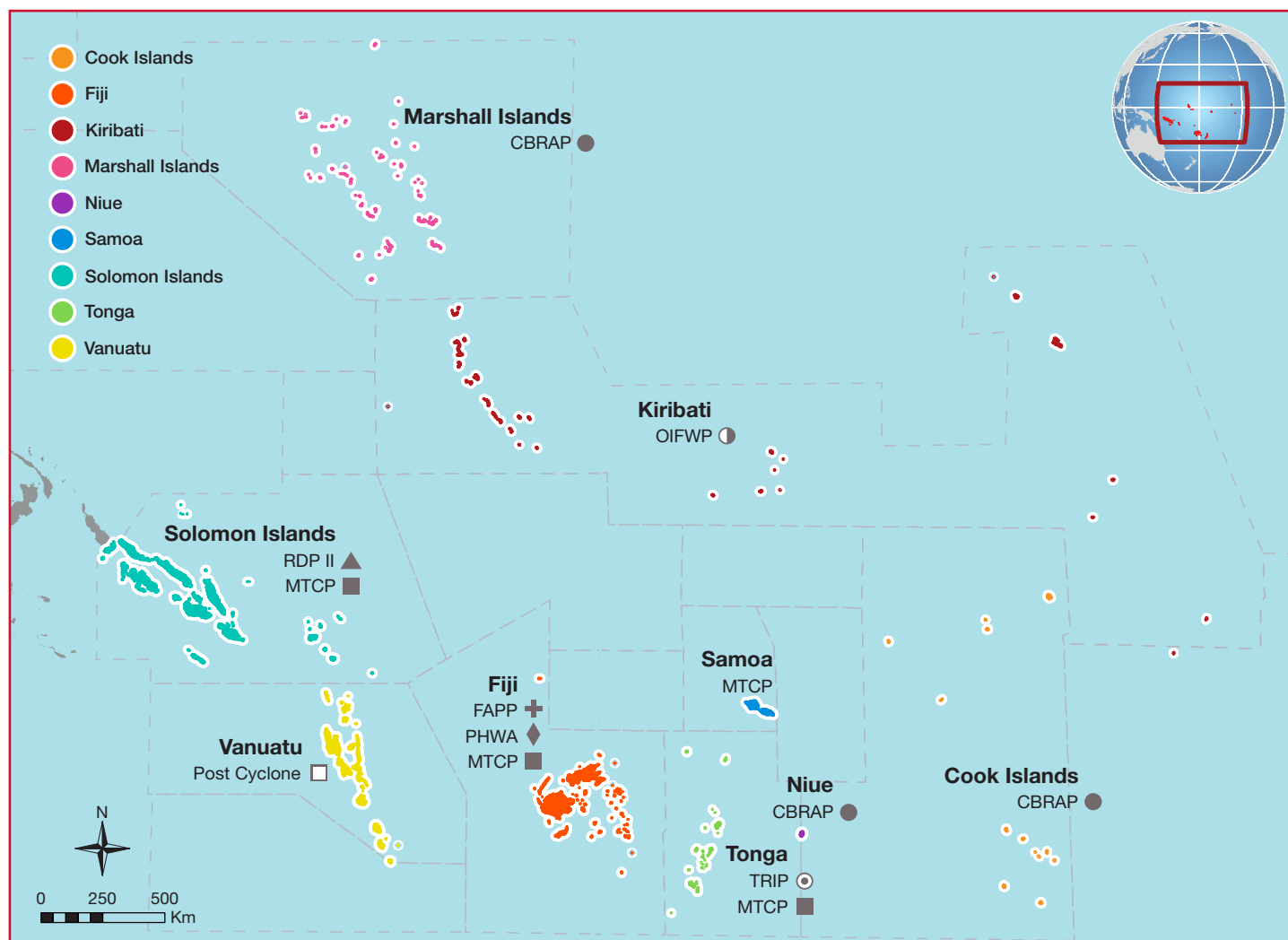
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# Investing in rural people in the Pacific Islands

For more than thirty years, IFAD has been providing financing to help rural people in the Pacific improve their lives. In recent years, resources, outreach and membership have expanded. Since 2013, five new Pacific Island countries have joined IFAD. These Member States now include: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

## Reducing rural poverty in the Pacific Islands

The physical isolation and high vulnerability of people in the Pacific Islands is even more accentuated for rural people who live in remote areas and outer islands. Their access to information, transport, health and education services are low. These factors have led to outmigration, an ageing rural population, and declining productivity of land and labour. When extreme weather events and natural disasters happen in the Pacific, rural people suffer losses to both infrastructure and natural resources. They lose their housing, their food supply and their work. Yet the availability of transport, government staff and financial resources limit the ability of governments to reach people in rural areas, given that populations are spread across numerous islands in any given country.



### Ongoing investments

- ✚ FAPP (Fiji Agricultural Partnerships Project)
- OIFWP (Outer Islands Food and Water Project)
- ▲ RDP II (Rural Development Programme - Phase II)
- ⊙ TRIP (Tonga Rural Innovation Project)
- Post Cyclone (Vanuatu Post Cyclone Rapid Recovery in Agricultural Production)
- CBRAP (Capacity Building for Resilient Agriculture in the Pacific)
- MTCP (Medium Term Cooperation Programme with Farmers' Organisations in Asia and the Pacific - Phase II)
- ◆ PHVA (Partnership in High Value Agriculture)

Food availability and incomes are low due to low agricultural output levels and declining fish catches. Output levels are also low, as a result of weather impacts such as drought and storms, which are being exacerbated by climate change. Other factors inhibiting productivity include pest and disease attacks, limited labour, unavailability of farm machinery and lack of seeds and planting materials. In the face of low food production levels, outer island residents tend to use scarce cash resources to purchase low-cost foodstuffs, which are often poor sources of nutrition. These are leading to poor health and increases in non-communicable diseases.

## IFAD's approach in the Pacific Islands

IFAD's current approach in the Pacific Islands is centred on building partnerships. Since 2013, the amount of IFAD resources provided for projects undertaken with partners for the Pacific has more than doubled, from around US\$7.5 million to over US\$15 million. When considered along with projects now in the approved pipeline, IFAD resources committed to projects under implementation are expected to reach US\$23 million by the end of 2016, effectively tripling the 2013 level. At present, resources committed by IFAD to ongoing projects have attracted substantial financing from partners, reaching a total value of US\$67 million. That means that for every US dollar that IFAD has invested, our partners have invested four.

IFAD intends to further expand its approach by:

- providing more of its own financial resources for joint investment partnerships
- attracting new partners and additional financing to agriculture and rural development
- providing beneficiaries with greater access to technology and knowledge from our partners in other regions
- facilitating dialogue and joint initiatives in the agricultural sector.

IFAD financing will be made available to Member States and other partners to address the most pressing challenges for rural people in production of local food crops, especially indigenous and traditional food crops, that are potential responses for farmers to both climate change adaptation and nutrition issues. In fact, all IFAD resources are intended to increase the resilience of rural people. IFAD resources will also be made available to help raise the incomes of rural people generated from farming and farm-related employment by investing in effective marketing and other steps along the value chain.

IFAD investments especially target women and young people, and are also particularly directed toward outer islands and remote rural areas, where rural people are most disadvantaged. However, IFAD resources will never suffice to reach all rural people. Therefore, IFAD is helping governments and other partners design investments that provide results and evidence which decision makers can use to scale up the most effective programmes. To that end, we are forging partnerships with institutions that can contribute to scaling up positive change processes, such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Forestry and Fisheries in Tonga and the Ministry of Agriculture in Fiji, which are expanding on approaches piloted by IFAD and introducing them nationwide.

## Ongoing programmes and projects

Project	Countries	IFAD Financing (US\$)	Period
Post Cyclone Rapid Recovery in Agricultural Production	Vanuatu	0.5 million	2015-2016
Agricultural Partnerships Project	Fiji	3.5 million	2015-2020
Rural Development Programme – Phase II	Solomon Islands	4.6 million	2015-2020
Outer Island Water and Food Project	Kiribati	3 million	2014-2018
Capacity-Building for Resilient Agriculture in the Pacific	Cook Islands, Marshall Islands, Niue	1 million	2014-2016
Tonga Rural Innovation Project	Tonga	2.6 million	2012-2017
Partnerships in High Value Agriculture	Fiji	0.5 million	2012-2015

### Post Cyclone Rapid Recovery in Agricultural Production

This project finances agricultural inputs and materials for rapid recovery of local food production and income-generating activities from the effects of cyclone Pam. The project benefits about 30,000 people.

### Agricultural Partnerships Project

This project finances the development of partnerships between producers, traders, processors, and wholesale and retail agents for fresh fruits and vegetables produced in the remote highlands of Fiji's Viti Levu during the off season, providing income and employment for farmers. It benefits about 10,000 people in the project area.

### Rural Development Programme – Phase II

This programme is a large-scale effort financed in partnership with the World Bank, Australian Aid and the European Union. It provides funds to foster the establishment of working commercial partnerships between small-scale farmers and other stakeholders, including advisory service providers, processors and exporters. It also finances investments to assist communities with disaster recovery and the expansion of small-scale infrastructure, such as water supply systems. It benefits more than 300,000 people in rural areas in outer islands.

### Outer Island Water and Food Project

This project is financed and implemented in partnership with the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.



It includes investments in the development of community planning and implementation skills in the outer islands of Abemama, Beru, Nonouti and Tab North. Community-level activities focus on women with home gardens, and with young men on tree crops and root crops for household food consumption. It also provides for creation of small-scale rainwater harvesting structures to improve drinking water supplies. It benefits about 10,000 people.

### Capacity-Building for Resilient Agriculture in the Pacific

This project, implemented in partnership with the Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, works with young people in the Cook Islands, the Marshall Islands, and Niue to improve their production skills by analysing and adapting practices to risks posed by climate change. Working in partnership with existing farmer organizations, it brings together young farmers and more experienced, older farmers for knowledge-sharing. The project benefits about 600 people.

### Tonga Rural Innovation Project

This project, implemented in partnership with the Tongan non-governmental organization MORDI Tonga Trust, is fostering an institution-building process at the local level whereby communities throughout the country are planning and implementing community-level investments, with resources that they mobilize from partners in Tonga and abroad. Communities are also partnering with other development assistance agencies, private banks, and most importantly local government institutions to provide inputs to national planning processes. The project currently benefits more than 35,000 people.

### Partnerships in High Value Agriculture

This pilot project is implemented with a Fijian non-governmental organization, the Partnerships in Community Development Foundation. It was used to test the possibility of working with highland farmers and laid the groundwork for the Fiji Agricultural Partnerships Project, which was designed with the Government of Fiji based on the successful experiences of the Partnerships in High Value Agriculture project. It initiated the "farming as a business" approach, which encouraged farmers in a remote area with high potential to engage in commercial agriculture for income generation. The project benefits about 2,000 people.



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## Building a poverty-free world

IFAD invests in rural people, empowering them to reduce poverty, increase food security, improve nutrition and strengthen resilience. Since 1978, we have provided US\$17 billion in grants and low-interest loans to projects that have reached about 453 million people. IFAD is an international financial institution and a specialized United Nations agency based in Rome – the UN's food and agriculture hub.

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For further information on rural poverty in the Pacific, visit the Rural Poverty Portal: <http://www.ruralpovertyportal.org>



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