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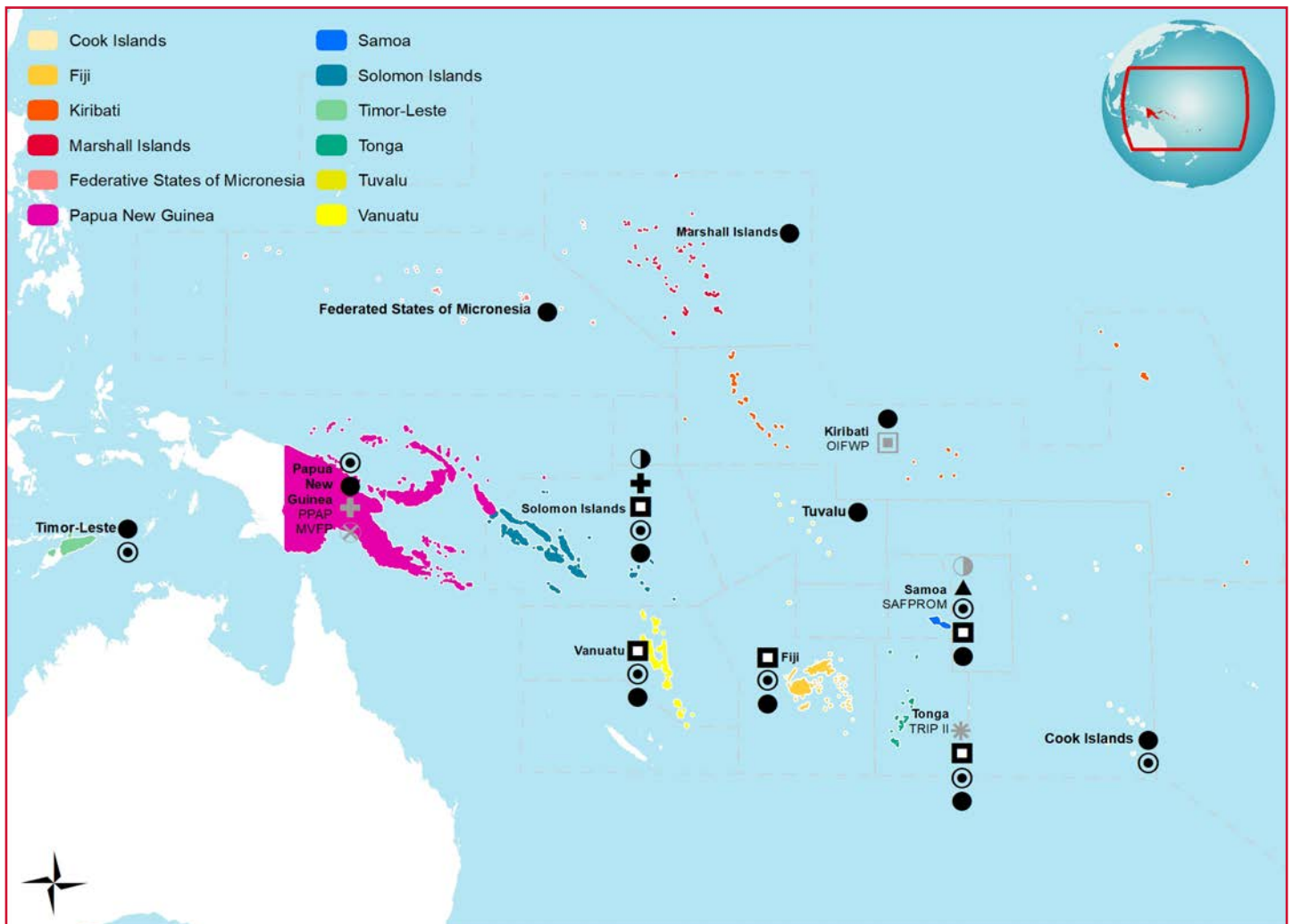
Investing in rural people in the **Pacific Islands**

For almost 40 years, IFAD has been financing initiatives in the Pacific to help rural people improve their lives. In recent years, resources dedicated to the Pacific have grown as IFAD has expanded its outreach and membership in the region. Fourteen Pacific Island countries (PICs) are currently members of IFAD: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Reducing rural poverty in the Pacific Islands

Hardship and poverty, accompanied by scarce economic opportunities and social exclusion, prevail for many Pacific peoples. It is estimated that one in three people live below the average national poverty line. Small-scale traditional agriculture dominates the rural landscape, with households mainly practising subsistence farming. Food production is low as farming techniques are basic and small plots limit opportunities for scaling production. Productivity is further inhibited by pests and diseases, limited labour, unavailability of farm machinery, and lack of seeds and planting materials.

In the face of low productivity, outer-island residents tend to use limited cash resources to purchase low-cost foodstuffs, which are often of little nutritional value. This is leading to poor public health and an increase in non-communicable diseases. Eight PICs are among the 20 countries with the world's highest mortality from type 1 diabetes, and childhood obesity and stunting are also of concern. The region is experiencing a triple burden of malnutrition in the form of obesity, undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies.



Investment projects

- Outer Islands Food and Water Project (OIFWP)
- * Tonga Rural Innovation Project - Phase II (TRIP II)
- Samoa Agriculture and Fisheries Production and Marketing Project (SAFPROM)
- + Productive Partnerships in Agriculture Project (PPAP)
- ⊗ Market for Village Farmers Project - Maket Bilong Vilis Fama

Grant programmes

- + DELIVER (Driving Delivery of Results in the Agriculture Sector in Solomon)
- MERMAID (Melanesia Rural Market & Innovation Driven Programme)
- ▲ Driving delivery of results through establishing delivery units in countries in agriculture and related sectors (Samoa)
- ⊙ APFP (Sustainable Rural Development for the Asian Pacific Farmers' Programme)
- FO4ACP (Farmers' Organizations for the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries)
- 2018 Pacific Islands Food and Nutritional Security Forum, FAO Asia-Pacific Regional Conference, Fiji 2018

Against this backdrop, IFAD has been working with Pacific governments, regional and international partners, and Pacific Island communities to support rural livelihoods, increase household incomes and strengthen community resilience.

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 and programmes undertaken with partners for the Pacific has substantially increased, from around US\$23 million to about US\$84 million in current financing. IFAD's existing portfolio in the Pacific has been successful in leveraging about US\$158 million in additional investment by international and domestic partners. Every US\$1 invested by IFAD has leveraged about US\$2 in additional development partner investment.

IFAD intends to further expand its approach by:

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

IFAD financing will be directed towards supporting Pacific Small Island Developing States in addressing the principal challenges facing rural people in terms of food and nutrition security, and sustainable livelihoods. Investments will target nutrition-sensitive agriculture and value chains, building resilience to climate change, and fostering social inclusion and youth employment. These funds will support Pacific Island governments in their efforts to promote production, consumption and marketing of local foods in sustainable ways, and increase farm and non-farm income sources and employment opportunities.

In supporting its PIC members, IFAD will aim to enhance the access of smallholders and remote, disadvantaged populations to markets and finance, strengthen value chains and promote smallholder business opportunities. The Fund's people-focused approach centres on small-scale farmers and fishers, in particular women and youth.

A key focus of IFAD's partnership strategy for the PICs is to leverage resources to scale up proven practices and techniques at the national level and between countries at the regional level. The Fund has thus been forging alliances with institutions that can scale up positive change, such as the Ministries of Agriculture in the Republic of Fiji, the Republic Kiribati, the Independent State of Papua New Guinea and the Kingdom of Tonga, which are expanding on approaches piloted by IFAD, replicating them nationwide.

Ongoing projects and programmes

Investment projects	Countries	IFAD financing	Period
Outer Islands Food and Water Project	Kiribati	US\$6.60 million	2014-2023
Tonga Rural Innovation Project – Phase II	Tonga	US\$7.50 million	2017-2023
Samoa Agriculture and Fisheries Production and Marketing Project	Samoa	US\$3.60 million	2019-2025
Productive Partnerships in Agriculture Project	Papua New Guinea	US\$35.96 million	2010-2021
Market for Village Farmers Project – Maket Bilong Vilis Fama	Papua New Guinea	US\$25.94 million	2017-2024

Grant programmes	IFAD financing
Melanesia Rural Market & Innovation-Driven Development Programme	US\$2.50 million
Driving Delivery of Results in the Agriculture Sector in Solomon Islands	US\$500,000 (Republic of Korea)
Driving Delivery of Results in the Agriculture Sector in Samoa	US\$584,000
2018 Pacific Islands Food and Nutritional Security Forum	US\$250,000
Farmers' Organizations for the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries	EUR 4.8 million (European Union)
Asia Pacific Farmers' Programme	US\$931,400

Outer Islands Food and Water Project

The Outer Islands Food and Water Project (OIFWP) initially operated in four outer islands of the Gilbert Islands group. Implemented by the Ministry of Land, Environment and Agricultural Development, OIFWP improved household food security, nutrition and access to clean water for 11,275 people.

The project was then scaled up to include a further five islands. Its strategy is to build the self-reliance and social capital of supported communities by providing households with the means to plan and implement community development interventions, particularly in the areas of access to clean water and household food production. Through social and behaviour change communication and nutrition education, the project addresses low awareness of nutrition issues and promotes the consumption of nutritious food. Rainwater harvesting aims at securing access to a basic minimum quantity of clean drinking water to reduce the incidence of waterborne diseases.

Tonga Rural Innovation Project – Phase II

The Tonga Rural Innovation Project – Phase II aims to improve livelihoods and increase community resilience to the effects of climate change and extreme weather by helping identify where infrastructure is needed and supervising its construction. The project provides agricultural training and technical support to improve the quantity, quality and variety of agricultural production. It also promotes the development of homestead gardens growing a range of fruits and vegetables that contribute to improving access to a variety of nutrients.

The project is expected to reach 6,349 poor rural households in 122 rural communities across Tonga's five main island groups.

Samoa Agriculture and Fisheries Productivity and Marketing Project

The Samoa Agriculture and Fisheries Productivity and Marketing Project (SAFPROM) is funded in partnership with the World Bank. It aims to increase productivity and market access, improve

management of targeted productive natural resources and provide an immediate response in crisis or emergency situations. The target group includes livestock and crop farmers, fishers and processors. The project also supports farmers' organizations and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in the farming and fishing subsectors and their value chains.

SAFPROM introduces climate-resilient solutions that combine production of nutritious foods with increased productivity in perennial crops to improve the incomes of smallholders, particularly youth and women. The project is expected to reach 25,000 farming households, with particular emphasis on women and youth.

Productive Partnerships in Agriculture Project (Papua New Guinea)

This project aims to improve the livelihoods of small-scale cocoa and coffee producers by enhancing the performance and sustainability of value chains in cocoa- and coffee-growing areas. These value chains are an important part of farming systems in the project area and play a critical role in helping households meet their cash requirements.

Through public-private partnerships, the project provides small-scale farmers, producers, women and young people with training in more efficient, market-responsive and sustainable production practices, and provides market actors with a more sustainable supply. It covers two distinct target areas: for cocoa, the coastal areas of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and East New Britain; and for coffee, the provinces of Chimbu, Eastern Highlands and Jiwaka.

Market for Village Farmers Project – Maket Bilong Vilis Fama (Papua New Guinea)

The Markets for Village Farmers Project (MVF) aims to improve the livelihoods of farming households by facilitating their transition to market-oriented production and farming as a business. It supports the development of sustainable business partnerships, in which farmers have secure and remunerative market options and buyers obtain a reliable and consistent supply of vegetables and other fresh produce. The MVF targets six provinces of Papua New Guinea: Chimbu, East New Britain, Eastern Highlands, Jiwaka, Morobe and Western Highlands. About 25,000 farming households (approximately 125,000 people) will directly benefit from the project.

Rural Poor Stimulus Facility

IFAD has allocated a total of US\$3.0 million from the Rural Poor Stimulus Facility towards COVID-19 recovery in the Pacific, in addition to US\$3.7 million in cofinancing from Australia. A further US\$1.5 million is to be contributed by the United Nations COVID-19 multi-partner trust fund.

In Papua New Guinea, the COVID-19 response is embedded within the Markets for Village Farmers Project. Funding will be extended through lead partners in the private sector and used primarily to ease the financial burden of contracted farmers. Other activities will include support to the transport sector, a key sector for the marketing of fresh produce, and support to the Fresh Produce Development Agency's market-price monitoring system, which is also supported by the MVF.

The **Pacific Islands Rural and Agriculture Stimulus Facility (PIRAS Facility)** aims to minimize the impact of COVID-19 on rural households by supporting post-pandemic economic recovery, improved income-generation, and food and nutrition security for rural communities in Fiji, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

Funding will be used to support access to inputs, technology and training to improve local food production and farming practices for an estimated 20,000 rural producers, 10,000 of whom will be women. Additionally, the programme aims to support the economic recovery of SMEs, producer organizations and agribusiness by improving employment and business environments in informal sectors, enhancing post-harvest handling and food preservation, and increasing local market access. The programme also promotes data collection and information sharing to enable timely, informed response planning and policy coordination around the production and distribution of nutritious local foods.

IFAD invests in rural people, empowering them to reduce poverty, increase food security, improve nutrition and strengthen resilience. Since 1978, we have provided US\$23.2 billion in grants and low-interest loans to projects that have reached an estimated 518 million people. IFAD is an international financial institution and a United Nations specialized agency based in Rome – the United Nations food and agriculture hub.

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Investing in rural people

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