



©IFAD/Barbara Gravelli

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

For more than four decades, IFAD has been financing initiatives in the Pacific to help rural people improve their livelihoods. IFAD addresses the region's extreme vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters, including threats to food security and nutrition; decades of dependency on imported and processed foods; communities affected by the "triple burden" of malnutrition – undernutrition, overweight and micronutrient deficiencies; and gender inequality and discrimination. These challenges have been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine.

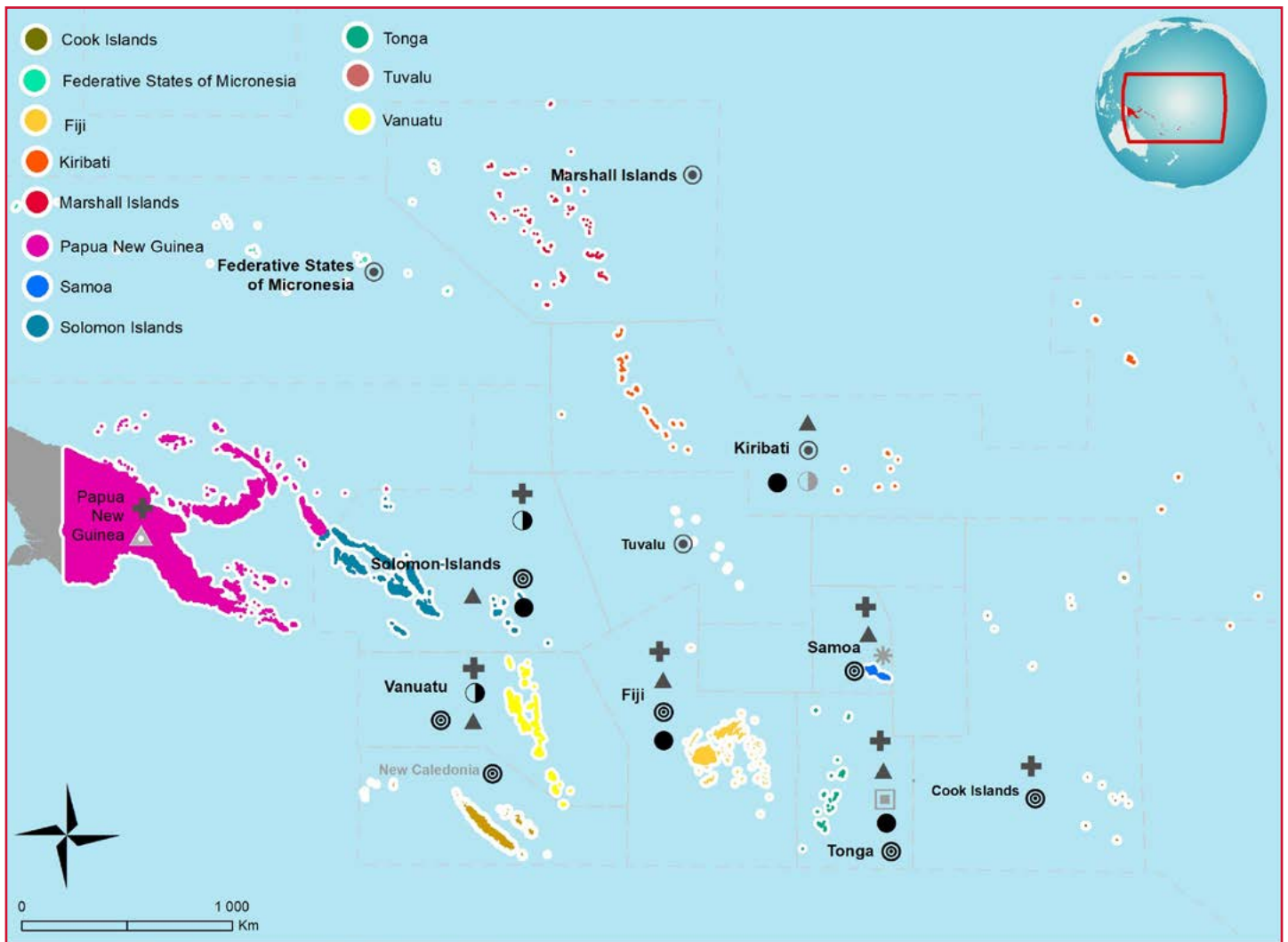
Total investment by IFAD in the Pacific region amounts to US\$420 million, of which US\$130 million is financed through the Fund's programme of loans and grants. For every US\$1 invested by IFAD, more than US\$2 has been leveraged, making IFAD a strong mobilizer of partnership financing. As IFAD membership grows in the region, expanding investments to meet demand has become a high priority.

## **IFAD's approach in the Pacific Islands**

The Pacific Island countries need IFAD's conscious support in developing inclusive, productive, resilient and sustainable food systems. IFAD's engagement in the region is built on proven approaches that foster community-driven development; engage women and youth; and strengthen collaboration with local and regional organizations whose partnerships are crucial to reach development goals.

IFAD's priorities address the unique rural development challenges of small island developing states (SIDS) in the Pacific region, with an emphasis on:

**Climate-smart and nutrition-sensitive agriculture** practices, such as planting drought-resistant crops, fruits and vegetables; establishing community nurseries; and focusing on agroforestry and nutritional crops. Additionally, the engagement of women in home gardens boosts resilience and food security.



### Ongoing projects

- OIFWP – Outer Islands Food and Water Project
- TRIP II – Tonga Rural Innovation Project, Phase II
- \* SAFPROM – Samoa Agriculture and Fisheries Productivity and Marketing Project
- ▲ MVF – Market Village Farmers

### Ongoing grants

- ▲ PIRAS – Pacific Islands Rural and Agriculture Stimulus Facility
- ◎ SIFWAP – Small Islands Food and Water Project
- MERMAID – Melanesia Rural Market Innovation Driven Programme
- ⊕ APFP – Sustainable Rural Development of the Asian Pacific Farmers Programme

### Ongoing grants – non-IFAD

- ◎ FO4ACP – Farmers' Organizations for Africa, Caribbean and Pacific
- JP RWEE – Joint Programme on Rural Women Economic Empowerment

**Facilitating market access and connectivity**, for example through public-private-producer partnerships, value chain development, market linkages, Participatory Guarantee Systems with POETCom/SPC, and Women in Business Development Inc (WIBDI). Under PIRAS, smallholders in the Solomon Islands are connected to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and in Fiji to export markets.

**Building institutional capacities** in central government, ministries of agriculture and partner ministries to help countries achieve rural development goals. For example, in the Solomon Islands, the DELIVER project consolidated the fundamental systems – such as financial, planning, and monitoring and evaluation dashboards – of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. It also contributed to the establishment of Honiara's first resident database and data monitoring system for emergency food distribution during the COVID-19 pandemic.

IFAD also supports SIDS governments through investments that are geared towards the promotion of production, consumption and marketing of local foods in sustainable ways.

IFAD intends to extend its impact by:

- providing more financial resources for joint investments
- attracting new partners and additional financing opportunities for agriculture and rural development
- providing beneficiaries with cross-learning opportunities and greater access to technology and knowledge from partners in other regions.

Read about the *IFAD Strategy for Engagement in Small Island Developing States 2022-2027* here <https://webapps.ifad.org/members/eb/135/docs/EB-2022-135-R-5.pdf>

# Ongoing projects and programmes

Investment projects	Country	IFAD financing	Cofinancing	Period
Outer Islands Food and Water Project	Kiribati	US\$6.6 million	US\$2.76 million	2014-2023
Tonga Rural Innovation Project – Phase II	Tonga	US\$7.5 million	US\$4.33 million	2017-2023
Samoa Agriculture and Fisheries Productivity and Marketing Project	Samoa	US\$3.6 million	US\$27.15 million	2019-2025
Markets for Village Farmers Project – Maket Bilong Vilis Fama	Papua New Guinea	US\$25.50 million	US\$21.28 million	2017-2024

Grant programmes	IFAD financing	Cofinancing	Period
Pacific Islands Rural and Agriculture Stimulus Facility (Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu)	US\$3 million	US\$5.2 million	2021-2024
Melanesia Rural Market and Innovation-Driven Development Programme (Solomon Islands and Vanuatu)	US\$2.50 million	US\$310,000	2020-2023
Small Islands Food and Water Project (Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands and Tuvalu)		US\$21.57 million	2022-2027
Farmers' Organization for Africa, Caribbean and Pacific countries		EUR 4.8 million	2019-2024
Sustainable Rural Development for the Asian Pacific Farmers' Programme	US\$3 million	US\$30.7 million	2021 -2024
UN Joint Programme on Rural Women's Economic Empowerment		US\$5 million	2022-2027

## Investment projects

### Outer Islands Food and Water Project (OIFWP)

The Outer Islands Food and Water Project is implemented by Kiribati's Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agriculture Development across nine outer islands of the southern Gilberts, with the aim of improving household food security, nutrition and clean water access for around 2,880 households. The project empowers households to plan and implement community development projects to build self-reliance and social capital. Through nutrition education and fostering social behavioural changes, it encourages nutrition awareness and healthy eating. Rainwater harvesting aims to secure access to a basic minimum of clean drinking water to reduce the incidence of waterborne diseases.

### Tonga Rural Innovation Project – Phase II (TRIP II)

The second phase of the Tonga Rural Innovation Project aims to improve livelihoods and increase community resilience to the effects of climate change and extreme weather by helping identify where infrastructure development 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 that grow a range of fruits and vegetables and contribute to improving access to a variety of nutrients. TRIP II targets 6,350 rural households in 122 villages across Vava'u, Ha'apai, Tongatapu, 'Eua, Niuafu'ou and Niuatoputapu.

### Samoa Agriculture and Fisheries Productivity and Marketing Project (SAFPROM)

The Samoa Agriculture and Fisheries Productivity and Marketing Project is funded in partnership with the World Bank. It aims to increase the productivity and market access of livestock and crop farmers, fishers and processors, improve the management of productive natural resources and provide an immediate response in crisis and emergency situations. SAFPROM uses climate-resilient solutions designed to improve the production and productivity of nutritious crops, and thus raise smallholder incomes. It also supports farmers' organizations and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in improving their value chains. SAFPROM targets 25,000 farming households, and focuses especially on women and youth.

## **Markets for Village Farmers Project – Maket Bilong Vilis Fama (MVF)**

The Markets for Village Farmers Project 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, securing farmers' access to remunerative market options and buyers' access to a reliable and consistent supply of fresh produce. By the end of the project, approximately 25,000 households are expected to directly benefit from this initiative.

## **Grant programmes**

### **Pacific Islands Rural and Agriculture Stimulus Facility (PIRAS)**

In the Pacific region, the COVID-19 pandemic worsened food security and the impact of climate change. IFAD's Rural Poor Stimulus Facility, alongside Australian AID and the United Nations COVID-19 Multi-Partner Trust Fund, cofinanced the three-year PIRAS facility. PIRAS supports post-pandemic economic recovery and improves income, and food and nutrition security in six Pacific island countries. It also promotes self-reliance and disaster resilience. PIRAS reached around 33,000 beneficiaries in its first year, surpassing the overall three-year target of 20,000. Read more about PIRAS here: <https://www.ifad.org/en/piras>

### **Melanesia Rural Market and Innovation-Driven Development Programme (MERMAID)**

IFAD, in partnership with World Vision New Zealand, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, along with the Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), seeks to promote resilience, improve nutrition, increase income levels and eliminate poverty in rural communities in Malaita Province in the Solomon Islands and Tafea Province in Vanuatu. This is done by building scalable paths for consumption of locally produced, nutritious food. So far, the project has reached more than 4,000 beneficiaries, exceeding the 3,600 initial target at the project design stage.

### **Small Islands Food and Water Project (SIFWaP)**

This recently launched six-year multi-country initiative aims to assist communities in improving food, nutrition and water security sustainably and provide resilience against shocks in the North Pacific. Here, traditional knowledge and resilience practices, indigenous food systems, community structures and climate-adapted technologies will be promoted. Some 50,000 people in 200 rural communities – 17 per cent of the total population – are expected to benefit.

### **Sustainable Rural Development for the Asian Pacific Farmers' Programme (APFP)**

The Asian Pacific Farmers' Programme improves smallholders' productivity, agribusiness opportunities and food security systems, essentially through farmers' organizations at national, sub-regional and regional levels. Farmers gain both technical and financial support, and can actively participate in policy conversations with authorities so that the voices of smallholders, and their concerns, expectations and interests, can be heard.

### **Farmers' Organizations for Africa, Caribbean and Pacific countries (FO4ACP)**

As part of its global initiative, the FO4ACP in the Pacific aims to strengthen farmers' organizations in the region as many smallholders and family farms struggle to have their voice heard. The programme promotes rural communities' policy discussions on food security and livelihood challenges, and was created in consultation with stakeholders. Over 22,000 smallholders (of whom more than 50 per cent women and 36 per cent young participants) have taken part in various development activities.

### **United Nations Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress Towards Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (JP RWEE)**

The JP RWEE seeks to support sustainable livelihood transformation for rural women and girls. Funded by Norway and Sweden, this five-year intervention draws on the complementary knowledge and gender expertise of the four partner United Nations organizations – FAO, WFP, UN Women and IFAD – to support more than 14,000 rural women in Fiji, Kiribati, the Solomon Islands and Tonga. The programme is expected to further enhance the role of gender in agriculture; strengthen data-driven gender programming; and build capacities of rural women's organizations.

IFAD is an international financial institution and a United Nations specialized agency. Based in Rome – the United Nations food and agriculture hub – IFAD invests in rural people, empowering them to reduce poverty, increase food security, improve nutrition and strengthen resilience. Since 1978, we have provided more than US\$24 billion in grants and low-interest loans to fund projects in developing countries.

#### **Contacts:**

Candra Samekto  
Country Director for the Pacific Islands  
[c.samekto@ifad.org](mailto:c.samekto@ifad.org)

Tamara Nicodeme  
Programme Manager  
[t.nicodeme@ifad.org](mailto:t.nicodeme@ifad.org)



Investing in rural people

International Fund for Agricultural Development  
Via Paolo di Dono, 44 - 00142 Rome, Italy  
Tel: +39 06 54591 - Fax: +39 06 5043463  
Email: [ifad@ifad.org](mailto:ifad@ifad.org)  
[www.ifad.org](http://www.ifad.org)

[facebook.com/ifad](https://facebook.com/ifad)  
 [instagram.com/ifadnews](https://instagram.com/ifadnews)  
 [linkedin.com/company/ifad](https://linkedin.com/company/ifad)  
 [twitter.com/ifad](https://twitter.com/ifad)  
 [youtube.com/user/ifadTV](https://youtube.com/user/ifadTV)

March 2023