



SEVENTH GLOBAL MEETING OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' FORUM AT IFAD

Consultation Meeting Report

PACIFIC REGION

November 11-12 2024



Investing in rural people

Indigenous Peoples' Right to Self-determination:
A pathway for food security and sovereignty

**Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD (IPFI):
2024 Regional Consultation Meeting Report**

Region: Asia / Africa / Latin America and the Caribbean / Pacific

Name of responsible organization: Partners in Community Development Fiji

Introduction: Background and Objectives

Regional Consultation Meetings aim to reflect Indigenous diversity within IFAD's work, monitor past agreement progress, and advocate for IFAD's support in recognizing Indigenous rights, valuing their knowledge, strengthening their involvement in project phases, and ensuring the Indigenous Peoples' Consultation Process in IFAD-funded projects.

The regional and sub-regional consultation meetings within the biennial administrative cycle of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD (IPFI), are designed to ensure that the Forum represents the diverse perspectives and recommendations of Indigenous Peoples across the Pacific region. These consultations provide a platform for Pacific Indigenous voices within IFAD's global network, helping to address unique regional needs and track progress on previous agreements and regional action plans that are relevant to Pacific communities to formulate the Pacific region's recommendations to the 7th Global meeting of the IPFI (February 2025).

In alignment with the theme of Global Meeting of the IPFI, "*Indigenous Peoples' Right to Self-Determination: A Pathway for Food Security and Sovereignty*," these consultations highlighted how self-determination enables Pacific Indigenous communities to strengthen food sovereignty and resilience in the face of pressing regional challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and ocean degradation.

The Pacific regional meeting examined successful practices across the Pacific that support self-determination and food sovereignty, while contributing to regional strategies to enhance IFAD's support for Pacific Indigenous Peoples. This includes showcasing examples from Pacific Island nations where traditional knowledge and self-governance have led to sustainable food systems, cultural resilience, and adaptable responses to global pressures. Consistent with IFAD's Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples updated in 2022, these discussions reinforce a commitment to self-determined development, ensuring that Pacific Indigenous leadership and perspectives remain central to IFAD's operations both regionally and globally

Methodology

The meeting was held in person at Nalagi Hotel in Nadi on November 01-02, 2024. It brought together representatives from various Pacific nations, including Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, and Kiribati. Participants were representatives of IFAD-funded projects in the region, local community farming organizations, and IPAF represented by Tebtebba from the Philippines (regional partner for Asia and the Pacific region) and IPAF awardees. The gathering was also attended by representatives from the Indigenous Peoples Team based in IFAD HQ, Rome alongside staff from the IFAD Country Office in Suva, Fiji. This diverse group of participants was critical in ensuring a comprehensive and representative dialogue across the Pacific region's unique challenges and opportunities regarding land tenure, self-determination, and food security.

Over the course of the meeting, participants engaged in seven focused **working group sessions**. These sessions addressed key topics, such as the importance of secure land tenure, the role of traditional knowledge in sustainable practices, and the content of a Pacific Regional Action Plan that was presented by IFAD Country Director for Pacific. Other sessions included experience and knowledge exchanges, discussions on self-

determination and food security, and the economic development linked with cultural values. The final working group session focused on identifying actionable recommendations for strengthening self-determination as a viable pathway to achieving food sovereignty and security within the region. Each session allowed participants to share insights, reflect on collective challenges, and develop region-specific strategies. On the **selection of Indigenous delegates** from the Pacific attending the global meeting in Rome, guidance was provided on criteria to select three individuals as follows: one Steering Committee member (pre-identified), one representative from regional/sub-regional Indigenous networks chosen in consultation with the networks, and one participant from IFAD and/or IPAF-funded projects in the region. A pivotal session was held to select two delegates who would represent the Pacific region at the upcoming IFAD Indigenous Peoples Forum in Rome. Representatives from Tonga and Kiribati were ultimately chosen. This was preceded by a thorough deliberation that ensured the selected delegates were well-aligned with the forum's objectives and capable of articulating regional concerns and aspirations as well as to allow representation from different countries.

Final discussions introduced the concept of appointing indigenous peoples' **country focal points** to facilitate IFAD engagement with Indigenous Peoples at country level aiming to improve governance and streamline operations' impact across regions. These focal points would play a crucial role in ensuring that IFAD's objectives are effectively implemented within each country, promoting independence, and supporting sustainable development in alignment with local customs and priorities. By the meeting's conclusion, participants had not only developed an actionable framework for enhancing food sovereignty but had also set in motion a structure to foster more effective, locally governed projects.

CONSULTATION OBJECTIVES

The consultation objectives are to:

- Provide an overview of the status and challenges faced by Indigenous Peoples in the Pacific regarding self-determination and food security.
- Highlight the importance of secure land tenure and traditional knowledge in maintaining sustainable food systems.
- Identify opportunities for enhancing IFAD's support to Indigenous Peoples in the Pacific.
- Exchange experiences and best practices on the theme of the Forum.
- Identify opportunities to strengthen good practices that promote sustainable solutions to formulate regional strategies, to increase IFAD's support for Indigenous Peoples in this regard.
- Analyse and formulate action-oriented recommendations on the Forum topic and draft regional action plans to guide negotiations between Indigenous Peoples, development partners, and donors (including IFAD staff) before/during the global meeting in Rome.
- Evaluate progress made in implementing IFAD's Policy on Indigenous Peoples, approved in 2009 and updated in 2022.
- Review the recommendations formulated at the sixth global meeting of the IFAD Indigenous Peoples Forum (2023) and assess the progress of the recommendations and the adopted regional action plans.
- Prepare for regional participation in the seventh global meeting of the IFAD Indigenous Peoples Forum to be held in February 2025, and select two participants from the Region for the IFAD global Forum (in addition to the pre-identified SC member)

THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS:

Overview of Pacific Land Systems and Food Security: Pacific Island land tenure systems are fundamentally communal, shaped by unique cultural and environmental contexts. Land is managed collectively by extended family groups, clans, or tribes, with rights to use or transfer land often determined by lineage, marriage, or customary law. For example, in Fiji, over 90% of land is communally owned, ensuring that land remains a shared resource rather than an individual asset. This approach emphasizes community stewardship over land and places responsibility for its use and protection on groups rather than individuals.

Customary laws, overseen by chiefs, elders, or local councils, govern land access, usage, and transfer, prioritising community needs. Land holds deep cultural and spiritual significance as an ancestral inheritance and is integral to identity and heritage across Pacific Island societies. Inheritance systems vary, some communities follow matrilineal systems, as in Papua New Guinea, while others, like Tonga, are patrilineal. Colonial influences introduced statutory land systems in some areas, such as Samoa, blending Western and customary practices to allow leasing while preserving communal rights.

Presently, these communal systems face modern challenges and opportunities. While they support food security and cultural preservation, they can limit land's marketability, impacting economic development. Climate change is a significant concern, with rising sea levels and extreme weather threatening land availability and prompting discussions on relocation. Legal conflicts also arise from the interests of tourism and resource extraction industries, requiring careful mediation between customary rights and national laws. Despite these pressures, Pacific land systems offer valuable models for sustainable, community-based land management.

The discussion also canvassed that sustainable land use and food security in the Pacific are closely linked to traditional practices that emphasise community stewardship and ecological harmony. Further, that the Pacific Islanders through the examples from some country projects present, face unique challenges, including limited arable land, vulnerable ecosystems, and the impact of climate change. Indigenous practices such as agroforestry, polyculture, and rotational farming play a critical role in sustainable land management, preserving soil health, biodiversity, and responsible resource use. These practices, passed down through generations, embody a deep knowledge of the land and a commitment to conservation, ensuring resources are safeguarded for future generations. The declining practice of culture, language and the migration of youth and economically-active individuals, to overseas work schemes, complicates current socio-political conditions on the ground, and poses real threat to the integrity of indigenous communities in the Pacific.

It was highlighted that everything is tied to and is premised on the utility of land. Land is typically managed communally under customary tenure systems, where families, clans, or tribes hold rights to specific parcels. In all Pacific states, customary land is the majority tenure type and is protected through constitutions and customs alike. This system fosters collective responsibility, viewing land as both a resource and a cultural legacy. Communal land management supports sustainable practices, as communities work to protect land while making decisions that benefit all members over the long term. Traditional marine conservation, such as Fiji's tabu (taboo) zones, reflects similar values, protecting fish stocks for future generations. On land, rotational cultivation helps prevent soil depletion, aligning with practices that sustain food security.

However, food security in the Pacific faces growing threats from climate change and economic pressures. Rising sea levels, saltwater intrusion, and extreme weather disrupt

traditional farming and fishing, while globalisation introduces monocultures and cash crops that degrade land and reduce biodiversity. To address these challenges, Pacific nations are adopting climate-resilient agriculture, sustainable fisheries, and food sovereignty initiatives that prioritise local, traditional crops over imports. These efforts aim to strengthen resilience, protect cultural heritage, and reduce dependency on imported, processed foods that threaten local food cultures and health.

Regional Strategy for IFAD in the Pacific: The IFAD Country Office in Fiji shared an overview of its operational structure and planning directions for the 2025/26 period, emphasising the ongoing regional COSOP (Country Strategic Opportunities Programme) and the associated timeline adjustments. They discussed the design of new projects in collaboration with the governments of Tonga, Kiribati, and Fiji, highlighting the startup of four key initiatives and the need to reevaluate delivery returns and cost-benefit distributions to better support host countries. A key focus was the Fiji Green Village Development Project, a joint effort of IFAD with the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs aimed at sustainable management across six districts in Cakaudrove Province. The project emphasises environmentally sound practices as core to both design and execution. Similarly, the IFAD discussed a large-scale market village project in Papua New Guinea, which includes 65 villages, underscoring regional efforts in sustainable development and local empowerment.

Additionally, the SAFPROM project in Kiribati was highlighted as part of IFAD's broader strategy to enhance agricultural productivity and resilience. These projects collectively reflect IFAD's commitment to supporting sustainable and locally beneficial initiatives across the Pacific, prioritising environmental stewardship and community-centred development.

CASE STUDIES on Self-Determination and Food Security

Pacific Indigenous groups at the regional forum emphasise the importance of aligning economic development with Indigenous values and structures to ensure self-determination and food security. A key theme is balancing modernisation with cultural preservation by developing economic opportunities that respect traditional customs. For instance, the **Kastom Gardens initiative in the Solomon Islands** prioritises community-led development to promote self-sufficiency and lessen dependence on external aid. Similarly, the **Women in Business Development Inc. in Samoa** underscores resource management that aligns with Indigenous land stewardship principles, aiming for economic gains that also preserve the environment and success stories of ventures that economize the use of space through mixed crop farming. In **Papua New Guinea, the Mope Development Corporation** highlights the need for education and skill development that integrates Indigenous knowledge and cultural practices.

Identifying best practices and challenges is another core activity among these groups. For example, **MORDI Tonga** presents successful projects that integrate indigenous values, showing how community-based economic initiatives can foster growth while honouring cultural integrity. On the other hand, the Mope Development Corporation of Papua New Guinea has drawn attention to common challenges, such as legal constraints, limited funding, and governmental conflicts, which hinder Indigenous communities from fully achieving economic self-sufficiency. **Kiribati** representatives focused on creating action plans to bridge the gap between economic goals and cultural preservation, promoting practical solutions to ensure sustainable development.

Furthermore, effective partnerships are considered crucial to these efforts. For instance, the **Green Village project in Fiji**, led by IFAD and the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, demonstrates the significance of mapping stakeholders, including local governments, NGOs, and private sectors, to support Indigenous economic projects. These discussions

highlight a holistic approach where Pacific Indigenous communities aim to foster economic resilience, cultural preservation, and environmental sustainability, laying the foundation for pathways to self-determination and food security.

Additional information from case studies is provided in ANNEX 3.

Regional recommendations

Recommendations to IFAD

1. Strengthening Land Tenure Security
 - *Policy Advocacy: Push for policies safeguarding Indigenous land rights.*
 - *Legal Support: Offer legal aid to communities facing land disputes.*
 - *Community Mapping: Fund projects to document Indigenous land boundaries.*
2. Respecting, Preservation and Promotion of Traditional Knowledge
 - *Knowledge Sharing: Create platforms for sharing traditional knowledge.*
 - *Youth and Women Involvement: Involve youth and women in knowledge preservation.*
 - *Cultural Education: Integrate traditional knowledge into educational programs.*
3. Enhancing Food Security and Sovereignty
 - *Sustainable Agriculture: Encourage traditional, eco-friendly farming methods.*
 - *Agroforestry Projects: Support practices that boost food security and ecosystems.*
 - *Local Food Systems: Strengthen local Indigenous food networks and markets.*
4. Supporting Economic Development Aligned with Cultural Values
 - *Community Enterprises: Promote businesses aligned with Indigenous values.*
 - *Market Access: Improve market opportunities for Indigenous products.*
 - *Financial Inclusion: Provide tailored financial services for Indigenous communities.*
 - *Promoting Organic Agriculture as a Pathway to Indigenous Equity*
5. Building Partnerships and Collaboration
 - *Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships: Encourage collaborations across sectors.*
 - *Capacity Building: Assess community capacity training needs and provide targeted trainings for Indigenous leaders and community members.*
 - *Participatory Decision-Making: Ensure Indigenous involvement in all decisions.*
6. Advocacy and Awareness
 - *Public Awareness: Run campaigns on Indigenous rights and contributions.*
 - *Policy Dialogue: Facilitate conversations between Indigenous leaders and policymakers.*
 - *International Advocacy: Support global advocacy efforts for Indigenous voices.*
7. Monitoring and Evaluation
 - *Impact Assessment: Regularly assess programme impacts (including social, economic, environmental impacts) on Indigenous communities.*
 - *Community Feedback: Set up systems for ongoing Indigenous feedback.*
 - *Data Collection: Collect socio-economic data to improve policies.*
8. Action-Oriented Recommendations for the Global Meeting
 - *Implementation Roadmaps: Outline clear steps for executing recommendations.*
 - *Resource Mobilization: Secure funding and resources for implementation.*
 - *Monitoring Committees: Form committees to track progress and report to IFAD.*
9. Address Climate Change
 - *Back Indigenous-led environmental initiatives and ensure climate policies consider Indigenous rights and contributions.*

- *Leveraging of traditional practices to enhance value of ecosystems (Payment of Ecosystem Services)- this helps in conservation.*
- *Disaster Mitigation and Management.*

Recommendations to GOVERNMENTS

1. Support for Indigenous Governance and Land Rights
 - *Recognise, respect, and protect Indigenous land tenure rights, empowering Indigenous communities to make decisions about land use and resource management.*
2. Strengthen Indigenous Food Systems
 - *Fund traditional food systems and sustainable practices programs like seed saving and fishing.*
3. Facilitate Access to Financing and Resources
 - *Improve financial access for Indigenous agricultural initiatives through partnerships.*
 - *Promote regional trade opportunities for Indigenous agricultural products and services through partnerships and market linkages.*
 - *Enhance access to financial services, such as loans and grants, for Indigenous farmers and entrepreneurs.*
4. Foster Participation in Policymaking
 - *Include Indigenous leaders in policymaking for land and food security.*
 - *Ensure government processes respect Indigenous land tenure rights and prioritise community consent and participation in decision-making.*
5. Invest in Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing
 - *Fund programs for resource management, climate adaptation, and knowledge sharing.*
6. Enhance Climate Resilience of Indigenous Communities
 - *Prioritise Indigenous communities in climate strategies using nature-based solutions.*
7. Strengthen Monitoring and Accountability Mechanisms
 - *Set up systems with Indigenous groups for policy transparency and impact reporting.*
8. Safeguard Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge
 - *Protect Indigenous knowledge as cultural heritage, particularly in biodiversity.*
9. Prioritise Health and Nutrition in Indigenous Food Programs
 - *Develop culturally relevant food programs, support Indigenous markets, and ensure dietary needs are respected.*
 - *Support the revitalization of traditional food systems and non- food commodities, like handicrafts (masi/mulberry bark) and Indigenous markets.*
10. Monitoring Committees
 - *Form monitoring committees to track progress and report to IFAD.*
11. Address Climate Change
 - *Support Indigenous-led environmental initiatives and ensure climate policies that consider Indigenous rights and contributions.*
 - *Leveraging of traditional practices to enhance value of ecosystems (Payment of Ecosystem Services)- this helps in conservation.*
 - *Disaster Mitigation and Management.*

Message to INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

1. Strengthen Land Rights

- *Secure Indigenous land tenure through supportive legal frameworks and fair dispute resolution processes.*
- 2. Empower Self-Determination
 - *Enhance Indigenous governance capacity, allowing communities to make independent decisions on cultural and economic matters.*
- 3. Enhance Food Systems, Sovereignty and Security
 - *Support traditional and sustainable food systems with policies that incorporate Indigenous knowledge and practices.*
- 4. Respect and Preserve Culture and Knowledge
 - *Invest in programs for cultural preservation and intergenerational knowledge sharing.*
- 5. Support Indigenous Economies
 - *Facilitate resources for Indigenous-led businesses, including fair revenue-sharing agreements and market access.*
- 6. Improve Health, Education, and Infrastructure
 - *Ensure access to culturally sensitive healthcare, education, and essential infrastructure.*
- 7. Address Climate Change
 - *Support Indigenous-led environmental initiatives and ensure climate policies to consider Indigenous rights and contributions.*
 - *Leveraging of traditional practices to enhance value of ecosystems (Payment of Ecosystem Services)- this helps in conservation.*
 - *Implement Disaster Mitigation and Management measures.*

Synergies with partners

A two-day regional dialogue by the World Bank was tagged to the IFAD regional preparatory meeting that aims to foster mutual trust and a shared understanding of the unique priorities and challenges faced by the diverse Indigenous Peoples of the Pacific. Sharing common elements in its agenda, the dialogue seeks to enhance the World Bank's role as a supportive partner for Indigenous communities by engaging in meaningful policy dialogue and investment projects. Additionally, the dialogue aims to uncover opportunities and build connections that can strengthen the well-being and resilience of Indigenous Peoples across the region.

The consultation emphasises Indigenous peoples' rights, sustainability, and climate resilience, especially for Pacific Island communities. This began with an introduction by World Bank representatives, followed by sessions focused on recognising and protecting customary systems. Presentations and discussions examined Indigenous institutions, traditional knowledge, and their role in sustainable development. The day's agenda includes working groups to reflect on these themes, followed by an in-depth look at the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF), concluding with a plenary to compile key learnings.

Day Two opened with a focus on ocean ecosystems and blue economies, covering challenges and opportunities around coastal and marine resources through presentations and discussions. A session on climate resilience strategies followed, presenting a global study on Indigenous resilience and specific case studies from the region. The day included working group discussions, a Pacific Islander-only session on recommendations to the World Bank and culminated with a plenary summarising the key takeaways and identifying next steps.

Election of Indigenous Peoples delegates attending in person the 7th IPFI global meeting

An overview on composition for election of Indigenous Peoples' delegates was provided by IFAD, as follows:

In the case of the Pacific region, the total number of participants is 3:

- 1 Member of the Steering Committee of the Forum;
- 1 representative from regional/sub-regional indigenous peoples' networks selected by the Members of the Steering Committee in consultation with regional / sub-regional networks;
- 1 participant from IFAD-funded projects in the region.

After discussions the following representatives were selected:

Participant name	Role (e.g. SC members; IPAF/IFAD project participant; IPs network)	Country	Organisation
Ulai R. Baya	<i>Member of the Steering Committee of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD</i>	Fiji	Macuata Farmers Organization
Soane Patolo Jnr	<i>Representative from regional/sub-regional network and representative from IFAD Funded project</i>	Tonga	MORDI Tonga
Ruiti Uriano Aretaake	<i>Representative from regional/sub-regional network and representative from IFAD Funded Project</i>	Kiribati	Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific Kiribati

Annexes

- List of participants (including info on participants' country, organization and email, role)
- Meeting agenda
- Presentations delivered (including Progress on IFAD IPs Policy delivered by IFAD)
- Updated regional action plan (PPT)

Annex 1: List of participants

List of participants

Participant name	Role (e.g. SC members; IPAF/IFAD project participant; IPs network)	Country	Organisation
Tikai Pitakia	<i>IFAD project participant</i>	Solomon Islands	Kastom Gaden
Buddy No'amasahu	<i>Ips network</i>	Solomon Islands	
Fuimaono Rosalia Me	<i>Ips network</i>	Samoa	Women in Business Inc.
Lilomaimava Flo Saaga	<i>Ips network</i>	Samoa	Women in Business Inc.
Soane Patolo Jnr	<i>IFAD project participant</i>	Tonga	MORDI Tonga
Betarim Rimon	<i>IFAD project participant</i>	Kiribati	Foundation of the Peoples of South Pacific Kiribati
Ruiti Uriano Aretaake	<i>IFAD project participant</i>	Kiribati	Foundation of the Peoples of South Pacific Kiribati
Eleanor Dictaan-Bang-oa	<i>IPAF regional partner</i>	Phillipines	Tebtebba
Markus Magep	<i>IPAF project participant</i>	PNG	Mope Development Co-operation Association Inc
Steven Magil	<i>IPAF project participant</i>	PNG	PEOPLEfirst 100 Services
Oliver Lato	<i>IFAD project participant</i>	Vanuatu	Farm Support Association
Sisilia Yalewanirabe	<i>Ips network</i>	Fiji	Tutu Training Centre
Susana Yalikanacea	<i>Ips network</i>	Fiji	Selavo Organic Island
Lavenia Naivalu	<i>Ips network</i>	Fiji	Nacula District Council
Lepani Kaiwalu Sinalevu	<i>Ips network</i>	Fiji	Volahiga Entreprise
Ratu Orisi Kubunadakai	<i>IFAD project participant</i>	Fiji	PCDF Community Facilitator
Jone Neioko	<i>IFAD project participant</i>	Fiji	PCDF Community Facilitator
Mereseini Naola	<i>IFAD project participant</i>	Fiji	PCDF Community Facilitator
Kinisimere Tavailagi	<i>IFAD project participant</i>	Fiji	PCDF Community Facilitator
Waisea Railumu	<i>IFAD project participant</i>	Fiji	PCDF Project Officer
Tevita Ravumaidama	<i>IFAD project participant</i>	Fiji	PCDF
Ilaria Firmian	<i>IFAD</i>	Rome	IFAD
Margherita Loddoni	<i>IFAD</i>	Rome	IFAD
Candra Samekto	<i>IFAD</i>	Fiji	IFAD
Sarah Tawake	<i>IFAD</i>	Fiji	IFAD
Ulai Baya	<i>IP network</i>	Fiji	
Grace Fox	<i>Secretariat</i>	Fiji	PCDF
Sereana Rakai	<i>Secretariat</i>	Fiji	PCDF

Annex 2: Meeting Agenda

Indigenous Peoples' Rights to Self-Determination, A Pathway for Food Sovereignty, and Security **Pacific Regional Consultation in preparation for the 2025 Global Meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD**

November 01 and 02, 2024 | Nalagi Hotel, Nadi,
FIJI

DAY ONE

Opening and Key Discussions

08:30 - 08:45 | Registration and Welcome Coffee

08:45 - 09:15 | Opening Ceremony

- Cultural Welcoming Ceremony
- Welcome Address by Chief Guest

09:15 - 09:45 | Introduction to the Consultation Meeting. (*Facilitator; Tevita PCDF*)

- Objectives and Outcomes (*PCDF*)
- Progress on implementation of the updated Policy (*IFAD Team*)

09:45-10:30 IFAD in the Pacific Region (*IFAD Team*)

- Progress on Pacific Regional Action Plan (*IFAD Country Team*)
- Presentation of draft Regional Strategy for IFAD in the Pacific (*IFAD Team*)
- Experience sharing from Fiji project design

10:30 - 10:45 | Q&A

10:45-11:00 | **Group Photo & Coffee Break**

11:00 - 11:30 | Presentation: Current Status of Indigenous Peoples in the Pacific (*Ulai Baya, SC Member*)

- Challenges and Opportunities in Self-Determination and Food Security
- Questions and Interventions from the Floor

11:30 - 12:30 | *Session 1: Importance of Secure Land Tenure*

- Presentation; Overview of Pacific Land Systems and Food Security- (*Facilitator; Ulai Baya SC Member*)
- Case Studies: Experiences from Indigenous Communities-Project Presentations (*PCDF, Women in Business Development Samoa, Volasiga Enterprise*)

12:30 - 13:30 | **Lunch Break**

13:30 - 14:30 | *Session 2: Traditional Knowledge and Sustainable Practices- Panelist; (Ms Lavenia Naivalu, Salaseini K. Fong, Eleanor D. (TEBTEBBA)*

- Panel Discussion: Role of Traditional Knowledge in Sustainable Agriculture/ Fisheries,

14:30-15:15 | Group Discussion, Youth and Women's Contributions to Knowledge Transmission, *Lead discussant-* (FSPP Kiribati & Selavo Organic Farm)-

15:15 – 15:45 | Afternoon Coffee Break

15:45 – 17:00 | *Session 3: Drafting Regional Action Plan (Facilitator: IFAD Team)*

- Plenary Work: Drafting Regional Action Plans

17:00 - 17:30 | Wrap-Up of Day 1 (Facilitator; *Ulai, S.C Member*)

- Questions
- Summary of Discussions

DAY TWO

Focused Discussions and Action Planning

08:30 - 09:00 | Welcome Coffee

09:00 - 10:30 | *Session 4: Experience and Knowledge Exchange. (Facilitator- Tevita PCDF)*

- Interactive Session: Sharing Good Practices
- Peer-to-Peer Learning Activities from various Country Projects

10:30 - 11:00 | Coffee Break

11:00 - 12:30 | *Session 5: Self Determination and Food Security-Project Presentation (Facilitator; Ulai)*

- Case Studies-*Mope Development Co-op, IPAF (PNG), MORDI (Tonga), Kastom Garden (Solomons), Zain a Tin Organic Farm, (Solomons), Farm Support Association (Vanuatu)*
- Discussion: Enhancing Food Security

12:30 - 13:30 | Lunch Break

13:30 - 14:30 | *Session 6: Economic Development and Cultural Values (Facilitator: Tevita PCDF)*

- Workshop: Aligning Economic Development with Indigenous Structures
- Group Activities and Presentations: Identifying Best Practices and Challenges

14:30 – 16:30 | *Session 7: Identifying recommendations for strengthening Self-Determination as a Pathway for Food Sovereignty, and Security (Facilitator; IFAD Team)*

- Brainstorming Session: Sustainable Solutions to Challenges
- Group Discussions: Pathways to Implementation
- Interactive Session: *Formulating Action-oriented Recommendations for the Global Meeting (to IFAD, Governments and IPs Organisations)*

15:00 | **Coffee** break during Session 7

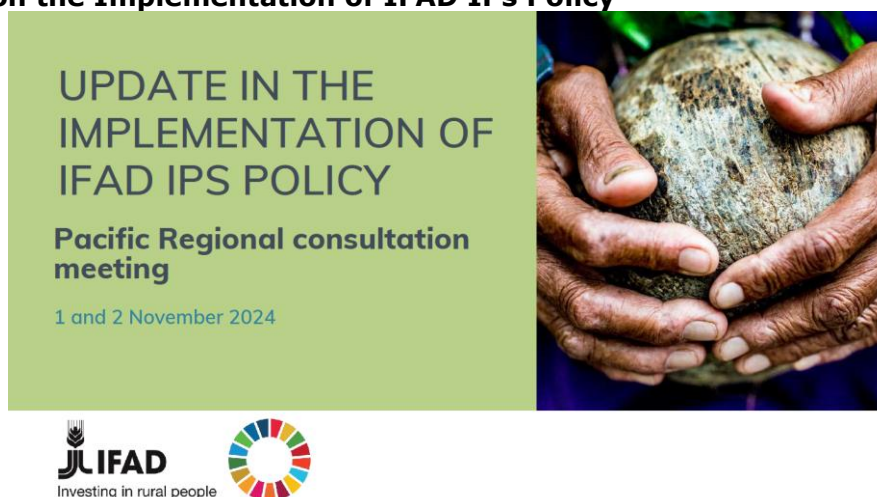
16: 30 – 17:00 | Nomination for two Pacific Delegates (1 from IFAD or IPAF and 1 from IPs organisation) to attend IPFI, Rome 2025. (*IFAD Team & Ulai*)

17.00 | Wrap-Up and Closing (*Tevita PCDF*)

- Summary of Key Outcomes and Next steps
- Closing Remarks by Organizers (*IFAD Team*)

Annex 3: Presentations Delivered

1. Update on the Implementation of IFAD IPs Policy



2. Current Status of Indigenous Peoples in the Pacific -Ulai Baya

CURRENT STATUS of INDIGENOUS PEOPLES in the PACIFIC

Indigenous Peoples' Right to Self-Determination-
A Pathway for FOOD Sovereignty and Security.

Presenter: Ulai Baya, IFAD-Pacific Regional
Preparatory Meeting, 01-02 Nov 2024

3. Land Systems Overview – Ulai Baya

Overview of Land Systems in English-Speaking Pacific Island States

- Importance of Secure Land Tenure
- **Presenter:** Ulai Baya, IFAD-Pacific Regional
Preparatory Meeting, 01-02 Nov 2024

4. Experiences from Indigenous Communities – Case Studies

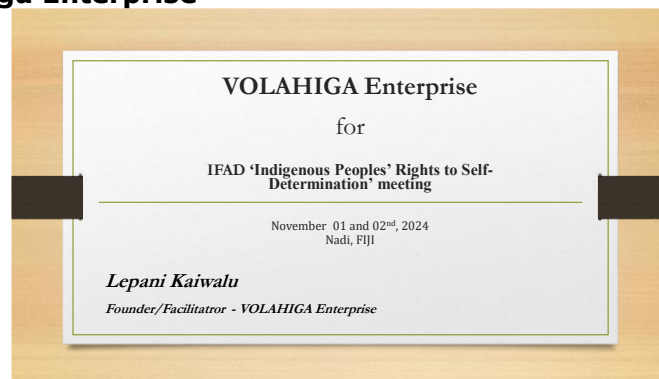
4.1. Farming as a Business for Highland Communities – PCDF



4.2. Women in Business Development Inc. Samoa

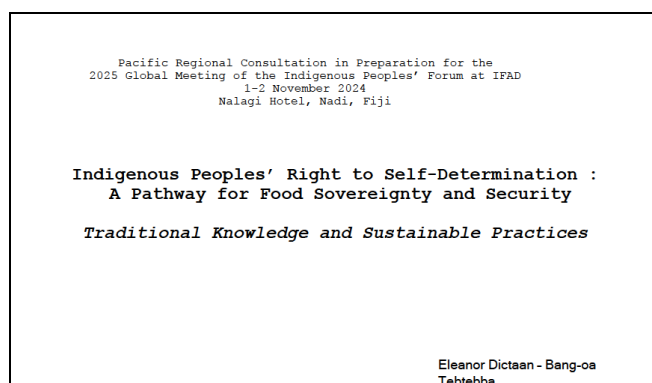


4.3. Volahiga Enterprise



5. Traditional Knowledge and Sustainable Practises

5.1. Traditional Knowledge and Sustainable Practises - Tebtebba



5.2. Traditional Knowledge and Sustainable Practices in Nacula District, Yasawa Islands

The presentation, delivered by Ms. Lavinia Naivalu, highlighted the innovative approaches employed by the Nacula district, to address challenges related to food security, environmental sustainability, and cultural preservation. The district's proactive response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its ongoing efforts to revitalise traditional knowledge and practices have garnered significant attention and recognition.

Innovative Solutions and Impact

The Nacula district, heavily reliant on tourism, faced significant challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. To overcome the challenges posed by the COVID 19 pandemic and ensure long-term sustainability, the district implemented several innovative strategies:

1. **Food Security Initiatives:**

- *Yam Seed Banks:* Reestablished traditional yam cultivation practices, recovered 10 out of 12 yam species known to Nacula, ensuring food security during crises.
- *Banana Seed Banks:* Revitalised banana production, contributing to dietary diversity and local food supplies. *Community Gardens:* Promoted backyard gardening, reducing reliance on external food sources and fostering community engagement.
- *School Farm Initiatives:* Established school farms to enhance food security and provide practical agricultural education.

2. **Environmental Conservation:**

- *Traditional Marine Protected Areas:* Implemented community-based marine conservation measures to protect marine ecosystems and fisheries.
- *Payment for Ecosystem Services:* Established a trust fund to incentivise community participation in environmental conservation and generate sustainable income.

3. **Cultural Preservation:**

- *Cultural Tours:* Organised cultural tours led by local students to showcase traditional knowledge, practices, and arts.
- *Community Engagement:* Encouraged community members to share and pass on traditional knowledge to younger generations.

Key Achievements

- Successfully reintroduced lost yam and banana varieties.
- Established food-secure communities and green villages.
- Revitalised traditional marine conservation practices.
- Generated sustainable income through cultural tourism and ecosystem services.
- Preserved and promoted traditional knowledge and cultural practices.

Challenges

Key challenges included:

- Limited access to technology and network connectivity
- Strict funding requirements hindering community initiatives
- Loss of traditional knowledge due to migration and tourism industry dominance

Lavinia and the district of Nacula intends to continue collaborating with local communities, government agencies, and private sector partners. By building on the successes of the past, Nacula aims to become a model for sustainable development and cultural revitalisation in Fiji.

6. Youth and Women's Contributions to Knowledge Transmission

6.1. Foundation for the People of the South Pacific Kiribati



6.2. Selavo Organic Island – A story from Ms. Susana Yalikanacea

Susana's initiatives are promoting the integration of traditional knowledge and organic practices on Cicia Island and across Fiji. By empowering women to integrate traditional knowledge with organic agriculture, she is driving sustainable development, revitalising cultural heritage, and building resilient communities. Her work promotes self-sufficiency, environmental sustainability, and community resilience, inspiring women across Fiji and the Pacific to preserve tradition and utilise natural resources.

Key Contributions

- **Organic Island Initiative:** With the support of the Pacific Community (SPC), Susana led the transformation of Cicia Island into the first organic island in the Pacific.
- **Reviving Traditional Knowledge:** She focused on reviving traditional practices such as canoeing, foraging, and utilizing natural resources.
- **Sustainable Agriculture:** Promoted organic farming techniques, emphasizing the use of natural fertilizers and pest control methods.
- **Value-Added Products:** Encouraged the production of value-added products like coconut oil and candlenut oil from local resources.
- **Community Empowerment:** Trained women and youth in sustainable living practices, empowering them to become self-sufficient and environmentally conscious.
- **Market-Based Approach:** Advocated for a market-based approach, focusing on the experience and story behind the products rather than just the physical product.

Impact

Susana's efforts have had a profound impact on Cicia Island and other communities around Fiji that she has trained:

- **Environmental Sustainability:** Reduced reliance on chemical fertilizers and pesticides, promoting ecological balance.
- **Economic Empowerment:** Created sustainable livelihoods for the community through organic farming, value-added products, and tourism.
- **Cultural Preservation:** Revitalised traditional knowledge and practices, strengthening cultural identity.
- **Community Resilience:** Enhanced community resilience by promoting self-sufficiency and sustainable resource management.

Challenges

Loss of traditional knowledge, language and culture: The evolving context pose significant threats to local traditional knowledge, culture and language. To address these challenges, Susana is actively promoting initiatives to revive lost practices and preserve cultural heritage.

Local Processing Initiatives: To enhance self-sufficiency and stimulate local economic growth, Susana is advocating for the establishment of local processing units on Cicia Island. By enabling residents to produce, package, and distribute goods locally, rather than relying on distant markets like Suva, she aims to strengthen the island's economy and reduce dependence on external factors.

7. Self Determination and Food Security

7.1. Mope Development



7.2. Kastom Gaden



Kastom Gaden Association



7.3. Farm Support Association – Vanuatu

Self-Determination and Food Security in Vanuatu

The Farm Support Association, a small organization dedicated to supporting small-scale farmers, is working to promote sustainable agriculture and food security in Vanuatu.

Key Initiatives:

- **Promoting Innovative Farming Practices** through Vegetable production, Improved root crop varieties, Off-season pineapple cultivation, Spice production (vanilla, pepper), Small-scale livestock farming and Organic and sustainable agriculture
- **Empowering Women's Groups and youth:** Collaborating with 22 women's groups across four provinces and youths by providing training and support for income-generating activities
- **Addressing Seed Security:** Relying on imported seeds due to the limitations of open-pollinated varieties. Vanuatu Government is collaborating with SPC to establish research facilities. Establishing central nurseries to produce and distribute quality seeds. Central nurseries have- vegetable seeds, fruits trees, native trees and timber trees.
- **Supporting Small-Scale Farmers:**
 - Helping farmers improve household food security and generate income
 - Addressing challenges related to small livestock, water supply, and market access
 - Adapting the successful Tutu model from Tutu Taveuni to the Vanuatu context

Challenges:

- **Balancing competing priorities:** Engaging busy women in new initiatives can be challenging.
- **Infrastructure constraints in many of Vanuatu's islands** can limit access to resources and markets.

Annex 4: Regional Action Plan

Pacific Indigenous Peoples Regional Action Plan 2023 – 2024 – IFAD Fiji Office



