

# SPC-ACIAR PARTNERSHIP REPORT

*SPC's Land Resources Division  
and  
Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division*



Australian Centre  
for International  
Agricultural Research



Pacific  
Community  
Communauté  
du Pacifique



# 1. INTRODUCTION

The Strategic Partnership Arrangement between the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) 2018-2021 establishes a shared strategic vision for sustainable agriculture, forestry, and fisheries development in the Pacific Region. All eight Divisions of SPC report every year on progress against the objectives set out in this Arrangement. This report is an additional joint annual publication from LRD and FAME specific to ACIAR's investments in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries that reports against their respective business plans. This report highlights the 2020 achievements of the ACIAR and SPC LRD and FAME collaboration, and this partnership's success at strengthening strategic capability within the region.

The Arrangement provided SPC with \$AUD1.5 million, with 45 percent of funding provided to FAME and 55 percent provided to LRD over a four-year period as core funding to support activities in communications, research and development, biosecurity, and monitoring and evaluation. These core activities are distinct from, but complement, other types of investments and funds for projects and programs.

## 2. ABOUT THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY

Since 1947, the Pacific Community (SPC) has operated as an international development organisation owned and governed by 26 country and territory members servicing the 12.5 million Pacific people as the principal scientific and technical organisation in the Pacific region. SPC covers more than 20 sectors that are Pacific member priorities and include such areas as fisheries, land resources, public health, geoscience, and conservation of plant genetic resources for food security.

Map: Pacific Community (SPC) member countries and territories

### The Pacific Community (SPC) Divisions

- Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability (CCES) Programme
- Educational Quality and Assessment Programme (EQAP)
- Fisheries, Aquaculture & Marine Ecosystems (**FAME**) Division
- Geoscience, Energy and Maritime (GEM) Division
- Human Rights and Social Development (HRSD) Division
- Land Resources Division (**LRD**)
- Public Health Division (PHD)
- Statistics for Development Division (SDD)



### 3. FAME AND LRD

Both the Land Resources Division (LRD) and the Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division (FAME) divisions have strong partnerships with regional, sub-regional and national entities working in the fisheries and land resources sectors. FAME and LRD provide:

- Scientific analyses and management advice to Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) and regional agencies to support the sustainable management of natural resources for economic growth, food security and environmental conservation
- Technical assistance and evidence-based advice to PICTs to support sustainable development to derive greater economic and social benefits

LRD provides scientific advice, capacity building and services for the conservation, development, and utilisation of plant genetic resources, forest and landscape management, resilient agricultural systems, diversification of livelihood strategies, access to markets, ecosystem and nature-based solutions, improved land productivity, and food and nutrition security for resilient Pacific communities. To manage the range of services, the 60 LRD staff based in Fiji report against five Divisional Objectives (**Table 1**). FAME provides scientific and technical expertise to support informed decisions for fisheries and aquatic resources management along with tools to implement these decisions. The goal of the Division is to ensure that fisheries resources of the Pacific region are sustainably managed for economic growth, food security and environmental conservation. FAME's 94 staff are based in New Caledonia, Fiji, Vanuatu, and Federated States of Micronesia. The FAME team reports against seven FAME Divisional objectives (**Table 2**).

#### A New Song for Coastal Fisheries - Background

The 'New Song for Coastal Fisheries — Pathways to Change' was developed by SPC and relevant national and regional stakeholders in response to declines in coastal fisheries resources and related ecosystems. This is a strategy designed to provide direction and encourage coordination, cooperation, and an effective use of regional and other support services in the development of coastal fisheries management. The Arrangement provided core funds for this complex strategy to meet three goals:

- At the national level, advocate for political recognition of the value of coastal fisheries to food security and nutrition supply, rural development and the importance of coastal fisheries management incorporating community-based ecosystem approaches to meet domestic development aspirations.
- Complement and support sub-regional level strategies and measures for coastal fisheries management.
- Bring together disconnected initiatives and stakeholders at the regional level into a strong, coordinated approach with a shared vision of coastal fisheries management.

Table 1: LRD Divisional objectives

Obj	LRD Divisional Objectives
1	Land, agriculture, forestry and genetic resources are sustainably managed & conserved
2	Enhanced ability to meet local and international market requirements for agricultural and forest products
3	Access to diverse and nutritious agriculture/forestry resources resilient to impact of climate change and disasters
4	Regional and national policies, programmes and services in agriculture and forestry are gender responsive, socially inclusive, and promote and protect cultural heritage and human rights
5	Integrated farming systems and services strengthened

Table 2: FAME Divisional objectives

Obj	FAME Divisional Objectives
1	Undertake data collection on the region's fisheries and marine ecosystems
2	Provide fisheries data management services
3	Provide analyses and advice for evidence-based fisheries management
4	Support the sustainable development of aquaculture
5	Identify sustainable alternative livelihood options for near-shore fisheries
6	Provide and facilitate access to fisheries information
7	Support capacity development in fisheries among PICTs

## FAME ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2020

Core funds from the Arrangement enabled FAME to successfully implement New Song support for activities in the following priority areas:

- Established and coordinated informational communications efforts that contribute to enhanced learning and visibility of New Song for Coastal Fisheries.
- Improved and enhanced monitoring and evaluation of the New Song for Coastal Fisheries — Pathways to Change strategy.
- Collaborated to harness and enhance member capacity, skills, and technical knowledge.
- Strengthened integrated multi-stakeholder New Song implementation approaches, in addition to New Song monitoring and evaluation to improve coastal fisheries management.

The following sections summarize the results achieved in 2020 against the objectives as specified in the Arrangement.

### 1. New Song for Coastal Fisheries improved learning and visibility

#### 1.1 Fisheries events

Among the key priorities of the FAME-ACIAR partnership for 2020 was the improvement of communication and visibility of FAME through various fisheries events, which included the Heads of Fisheries (HoF) meeting, Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting (RFMM) and the Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations (CRGA).

Adapting to the new COVID-19 reality, the **12th SPC Heads of Fisheries meeting** was held virtually for the first time with 115 participants from 20 member countries and territories, as well as donor partners, development partners, NGOs, and civil society organisations attending. The virtual HOF meeting received positive ratings in the participant survey administered by FAME, with an average of 81 percent ratings above satisfactory. FAME produced a [video story](#) of Fiji and Tuvalu sharing their event experience. The video attracted over 1,100 views. A [press release](#) was also shared with Pacific media organisations.

As part of the goal to improve coordination and collaboration among New Song partners in relation to communications and awareness raising, FAME adopted a coordinated communications approach with CROP agencies for its **Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting (RFMM)** held virtually in August 2020, releasing a joint [press release](#) with FFA, SPREP and PIFS, in addition to publishing four joint social media posts.

The **50th CRGA**, held virtually in November 2020, also received high visibility. A [video](#) promoting the work of the Fisheries division was released, in addition to an interactive 3D video presentation that allowed participants to virtually visit the Fisheries laboratory. (**Table 3 and Picture 1**).

Table 3: SPC FAME Heads of Fisheries Media

HoF Media	Online Link
HoF Video Stories	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&amp;v=4hNyGNRI7qE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&amp;v=4hNyGNRI7qE</a>
HoF Press Releases	<a href="https://www.spc.int/updates/blog/2020/05/fish-and-fisheries-at-the-heart-of-the-discussion-for-pacific-islands-online">https://www.spc.int/updates/blog/2020/05/fish-and-fisheries-at-the-heart-of-the-discussion-for-pacific-islands-online</a>

## 1.2 Enhancing visibility of the New Song through sharing stories and information materials

A second priority of the FAME-ACIAR partnership for 2020 was to produce communications stories and general materials to showcase FAME's work to members and partners.

With the newly appointed FAME Communications Officer on board since late 2019, in 2020 FAME saw a significant improvement in awareness and visibility of its activities, results, and achievements among its members, partners, and donors. FAME has produced over 12 video stories, including a [community-based fisheries](#) success story in Tonga, an [exchange between the members on transboundary animal disease](#) and the launching of [Reeflex](#), a web application on coastal fisheries and aquaculture legislation. The videos to date have generated over 24,000 views through social media and SPC Pacific Way TV channels in numerous Pacific countries.

## 1.3 Strengthening general communications for the FAME division

FAME's communications strategy was further developed in 2020 to focus on building awareness and visibility around the New Song Strategy, with emphasis on the use of human stories featuring impacts of sustainable fishing and aquaculture operations on communities, as well as coverage of big events and celebrations, including World Fisheries Day.

A new clearance process was adopted, ensuring all external communications activities are in accordance with corporate branding and guidelines. FAME staff capacity in communications was strengthened with 30 Coastal Fisheries FAME staff trained in photo and video making. Media training was also delivered to several individuals before their TV or radio appearances. Senior Leadership Team members agreed on the importance of having a communications action plan and have started allocating a budget for communications for all the thematic areas within FAME.



Picture 1: Fiji Director of Fisheries Mere Lakeba speaking at the 12<sup>th</sup> Pacific Heads of Fisheries meeting



Picture 2: Screenshot of participants from the Animal Disease workshop video.

## 2. Improved and enhanced monitoring and evaluation of regional coastal fisheries strategy – “A New Song for Coastal Fisheries – Pathways to Change”

### 2.1 Coastal Fisheries Report Card

The annual Coastal Fishery Report Card for 2020 monitors the progress of the New Song for Coastal Fisheries programme against a regionally agreed set of indicators approved in 2017 by the SPC Heads of Fisheries and the Forum Fisheries Committee. This report card received positive feedback when presented to the 102nd FFC Officials and Ministerial Meeting. The Coastal Fisheries Report Card 2020 (**Picture 3**) is available at: [http://www.spc.int/DigitalLibrary/Doc/FAME/Brochures/SPC\\_2020\\_Coastal\\_Fishery\\_Report\\_Card.pdf](http://www.spc.int/DigitalLibrary/Doc/FAME/Brochures/SPC_2020_Coastal_Fishery_Report_Card.pdf)



## COASTAL FISHERY REPORT CARD 2020



Aemuna Iani, Kiribati - Pacific Community, SPC

### Introduction

The Coastal Fishery Report Card (the Report Card) provides annual regional reporting on the current status of Pacific coastal fisheries in relation to the goals, indicators and strategies that have been adopted by Pacific leaders from both the *Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries*<sup>1</sup> and *A New Song for Coastal Fisheries Strategy*<sup>2</sup>. The Report Card, which was initiated in 2015 and first produced in 2017, provides a snapshot that will enable fisheries stakeholders and political leaders to monitor progress on the implementing of regional commitments that relate to coastal fisheries.

### Context

There are over 30,000 islands scattered across the Pacific Ocean, which are inhabited by over 10 million people. These islands are divided among 22 Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs), which are characterised by vast areas of ocean much greater than their land area. Coastal fisheries are fundamental to food security and livelihoods across the region, and represent significant economic, social and cultural benefits for communities. The region has extensive coral reefs that consist of 70 coral genera, over 4000 fish/invertebrate species and 30 mangrove species. These coastal resources are under increasing threat and, in many places, they are either fully- or over-exploited.

### Method used to compile card information

The intentional alignment between the *Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries* and *A New Song for Coastal Fisheries Strategy* has enabled one single monitoring mechanism for both commitments. The publication of the 2017 Report Card was the first time that a single reporting mechanism was adopted for coastal fisheries in the region.

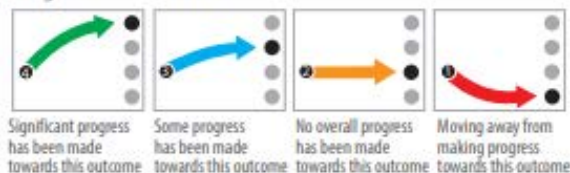
The indicators utilised in the Report Card were identified in consultation with partners, and feedback from the 10<sup>th</sup> SPC Heads of Fisheries and the 102<sup>nd</sup> FFC Officials Meeting.

Given the nature of coastal fisheries, reporting on progress itself remains a key challenge for implementing regional commitments. The limitations in data availability, resource constraints, data variability and validation mean that there is a lack of data for most outcome areas.

Information gaps are noted in the Report Card with a question mark symbol.



For outcomes where progress has been noted, the following ranges have been used:



Abbreviations: CEAFM - community-based ecosystem approach to fisheries management; FFC - Forum Fisheries Committee; HIES - household income and expenditure survey; SPC - Pacific Community.

<sup>1</sup> <http://purl.org/spc/digilib/doc/xmc9f>  
<sup>2</sup> <http://purl.org/spc/digilib/doc/b8hvs>

Picture 3: FAME Coastal Fishery Report Card

Some notable improvements in the 2020 Coastal Fisheries Report Card include:

- All PICTs have appointed focal points for the Coastal Fisheries Report Card, compared to only 15 PICTs in 2019.
- SPC's increased dialogue and enhancing focal point capacity has resulted in an increase in the number of PICTs that responded to the questionnaire compared to 2019, with a 100 percent completion rate.
- Improvements in the quality of analysis and a high degree of collaboration between countries and territories indicate the improved capacity of Coastal Fisheries Report Card focal points. It additionally indicates improved capacity at the national level to monitor and report on progress against goals identified in the New Song for Coastal Fisheries.

## 2.2 Coastal Fisheries Report – National

The 11<sup>th</sup> SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting in 2019 requested national level report cards that would serve national level needs, with the indicators aligned to country specific needs and goals. Following the request, SPC developed a template for an **interactive dashboard** to display each country and territory data on the progress on New Song (Picture 4).



Picture 4: The interactive dashboard for the Coastal Fishery Report Card

## Improved and enhanced Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) of the New Song for Coastal Fisheries

SPC continued contributing to the development and implementation of data collection, analysis, and visualisation tools in 2020, including:

- **FAME Results Explorer**, an online platform to communicate FAME results to broader members and partners. The FAME Results Explorer, performance stories flipbook and training dashboard are now available on <https://fameresults.org> (Picture 5). This online platform was launched in 2020 and presented in a beta version to the Heads of Fisheries (HoF). The final version will be presented for endorsement to the HoFs in June 2021.
- Budget tracking tool





Picture 5: The FAME Results Dashboard

MEL achievements included:

- Preparation of the **division's contributions to corporate reports** for CRGA, donor relations, divisional learning, and member learning and accountability. Designed and implemented practical, robust and sustainable MEL systems and collected data on key results and indicators.
- Facilitation of **reflection processes and results and learning workshops** within and between divisions to ensure that lessons learnt are shared with the FAME management team and form part of strategic discussions and planning. Preparation of FAME's mid-year and annual results reporting, including a working paper on progress against the FAME business plan for the HOF.
- Contributions to the development of **standardised MEL systems and tools** within FAME, enabling MEL integration across various FAME projects. This included the design and implementation of centralised and automated FAME training data entry forms, practical training evaluation forms, field trip reporting templates and a dedicated web portal for FAME results dissemination, with improved capacity to generate **gender-disaggregated data**.
- Provision of sound and timely support to FAME management and staff on project/programme design and business case development related to MEL, ensuring all projects have strong MEL components and MEL budgets that meet donor and SPC requirements.
- Assistance with the development of **results-focused MEL frameworks** for flagship projects such as the Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP), the Pacific Fisheries Leadership Programme (PFLP) and Pacific Community Centre of Ocean Science (PCCOS).
- Contributions to division-wide learning and strategic direction by generating evidence through several **internal and external projects and FAME wide reviews and evaluations** - including two MFAT project mid-term reviews, Management, Strategy and Evaluation (MSE) and FAME Capacity Development.
- Strengthening of **MEL relating to capacity development activities** with feedback surveys completed by almost 60% (382) of all participants of FAME's coastal fisheries\_capacity development workshops, an increase compared to 2019 that improved coverage of participant feedback and follow up across all capacity development activities.



### 3. Collaboration to harness and enhance member capacity, skills, and technical knowledge

#### 3.1 Collaboration with FAO to improve regional reporting on SDG 14

SPC-FAME has been working with FAO since 2019 to improve regional reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals (Goal 14 - Life below water), including a methodology for an SDG14 Accelerator and process for reporting on specific indicators (**Picture 6**). In 2020, FAME further enhanced collaboration with FAO to support fisheries statistics reporting in the Pacific. Specific areas of collaboration included:

- Regional mapping on coastal fisheries data collection
- Review of information relevant for life history parameters for key coastal fish stocks
- Developing a reference list of key species in the region or at the national level
- Developing approaches to improve fisheries statistics and related reporting on SDG 14.4.1 and SDG 14.7.1



### Status of SDG indicators under FAO custodianship

As of July 2020

14 Tier I indicators

<b>GOAL 2:</b> Food security, Nutrition, Sustainable agriculture	2.1.1	2.1.2	2.3.1	2.3.2	2.4.1	2.5.1	2.5.2	2.a.1	2.c.1
<b>GOAL 5:</b> Gender equality	5.a.1	5.a.2							
<b>GOAL 6:</b> Use of water	6.4.1	6.4.2							
<b>GOAL 12:</b> Sustainable consumption and production	12.3.1								
<b>GOAL 14:</b> Oceans	14.4.1	14.6.1	14.7.1	14.b.1					
<b>GOAL 15:</b> Life on land	15.1.1	15.2.1	15.4.2						

**Level of Development**

**TIER I** – Established methodology exists and data already widely available

**TIER II** – Methodology established but insufficient coverage (>50% country coverage)

**TIER III** – Internationally agreed methodology not yet developed

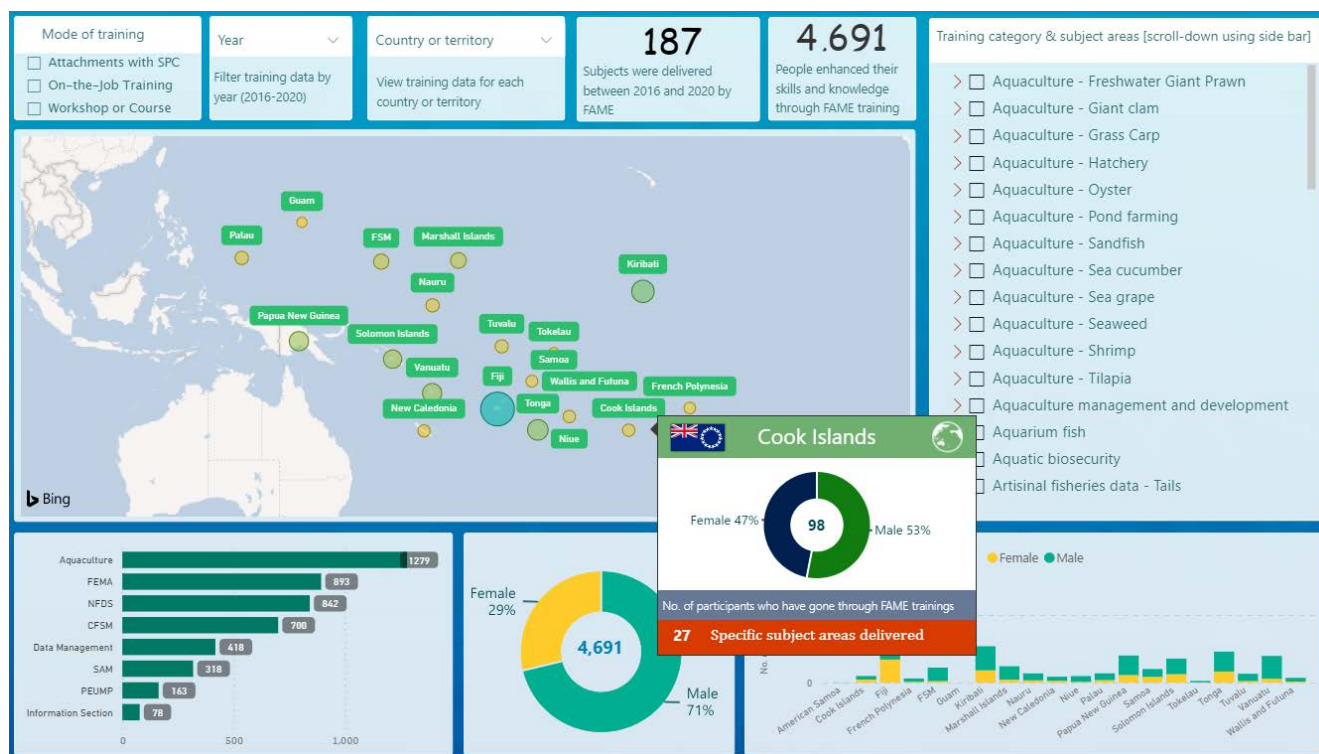
Picture 6: FAME and FAO SDG Indicators Regional Reporting





### 3.2 SPC-FAME capacity building efforts in coastal fisheries at the regional level

In 2020, FAME facilitated, mentored and enhanced the skills and knowledge of 637 **coastal** fisheries officials, partners and other stakeholders in the region (**328 men and 309 women**), with a 77 percent increase in women’s participation compared to 2019. This significant increase in women’s participation in trainings was due to the virtual format that allowed more women to participate remotely (**Picture 7**). Followed-up evaluations showed that 94 percent of participants in post training evaluations noted a change in knowledge as a result of FAME trainings and 96 percent of participants indicated they plan to incorporate what they have learned into their work. These ratings improved compared to 2019. In addition, 90 percent of participants highly rated FAME’s approach and method of delivering trainings, including relevance to their job, clarity of objectives, content structure, topics covered, opportunity for participants to engage and ask questions, increase knowledge, and use of skills or knowledge in their work.



Picture 7: FAME Capacity Development Dashboard (<https://frameresults.org>)



## LRD ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2020

ACIAR's core funding supports ongoing improvement in capability of LRD to conduct and manage research. In 2020, the Arrangement supported the Research for Development (R&D) Advisor to focus on project management and workflow processes to improve efficiency and effectiveness of LRD's service delivery. Core funded activities in 2020 included the creation of an LRD Project Database and Project Workplan Dashboard that provide managers with up-to-date information on their project status and support project leaders with automated alerts on tasks and deadlines.

As well as supporting R&D project management activities, the progress of other core funded activities against the expectations in the Arrangement are summarised below and divided into Strategic Level (details in **Appendix 1**) and Programmatic Level (details in **Appendix 2**).

### 1. Strategic Level

#### 1.1 *Integrated programme development and mobilisation of resources*

Integrated Programmes (IPs) are the drivers for the design and delivery of efficient and effective integrated services based on country priorities in regard to regional and shared concerns. The LRD IPs provide a 'tool-box' of research and development options with improved coordination and efficiencies in implementation that contribute significantly to the Sustainable Development Goals for the Pacific region.

In 2020, the two IPs under development were Coconuts, and Pacific Seeds for Life (PS4L). In early 2021, the design and business case for both the Coconut initiative and PS4L IPs were finalised, and staff were allocated to manage their implementation and resource mobilisation. The target for 2021 is to complete designs and business cases for three more IPs (Biosecurity, Food Systems, Healthy Ecosystems), and one in 2022 (Excellence in Atoll Agriculture).

#### 1.2 *Joint processes in coordinated planning, monitoring, and evaluation*

The ACIAR Arrangement supports the biennial meeting of the Pacific Ministers and Heads of Agriculture and Forestry (MoAFs and HoAFs). This critical high-level meeting assesses the progress of LRD against its business plan and discusses regional agriculture and forestry challenges, in addition to the next stage of LRD implementation activities. Due to COVID travel restrictions, the 2021 MoAFs and HoAFs will be a virtual meeting in August. ACIAR is an invited and valued participant at this meeting.

The other major regional event that normally coincides with the MoAFs and HoAFs is the Pacific Week of Agriculture and Forestry. Due to COVID travel restrictions, this event is now scheduled to be held in Fiji in late 2022. The core fund Arrangement allows LRD to act in the role of joint Secretariat for the event with ACIAR a member of the organisation committee. This event provides a forum for agriculture and forestry researchers to present their studies to their peers and a general audience.

#### 1.3 *Jointly coordinated Information Communication and Knowledge Management Platforms*

In 2020, LRD featured in the ACIAR Partners Magazine (Issue 2). Support for communications also led to a number of feature stories and social media posts on LRD and SPC platforms. The successes of the Nadroumai Women's Agroforestry project in Fiji is a featured story in the 2019 LRD annual report (to be released in 2021) and was also featured on the LRD and SPC websites in 2020. A number of related communications products were produced in early 2021 to mark the end of the project.

Additional communications products and awareness was produced for the POETCom project *Building prosperity for women producers, processors, and women-owned businesses through organic value chains*, including a report, flyer and feature, along with attendant social media, released in early 2021.

A new Information, Communications and Knowledge Management (ICKM) Advisor joined the LRD staff in June 2020. This appointment provides an opportunity to increase the level and effectiveness of joint ACIAR-LRD Communications. Also, two Communications Officers were appointed to projects in 2020. These three appointments will strengthen LRD's outward facing communications and information services.







## 2. Programmatic Level

Details on how ACIAR's programmatic funding expectations link to their high-level sustainable development objectives are tabulated in **Appendix 1**.

### 2.1 *Enhanced genetic resources in the Pacific Region through improved conservation*

The LRD Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees (CePaCT) is the only regional gene bank for the Pacific. It is currently holding 1165 taro accessions, the largest globally, and is recognised as the World Taro Centre. Established in 1998, CePaCT's key role is to assist Pacific Island Countries and Territories sustainably conserve and utilize their plant genetic resources, add value, and source improved crop diversity from outside the region to address food and nutritional security and improved resilience to climate change and pest and disease incursions.

Lack of sustainable funding remains a major threat to CePaCT and its operations. In 2020, the R&D Advisor supported CePaCT staff in the development of work plans and a common dashboard that provided an easier analysis of project activities and the gaps in overall CePaCT development. ACIAR also continued its support of CePaCT through four specific projects targeting development gaps, listed below.

### 2.2 *Improved natural resource management*

With ACIAR support, CePaCT focus in 2020 was on the development of digital platforms to collect, store, analyse, and access information to support soil health and management in the Pacific. This public information and knowledge on Pacific soils, health, and uses, will be moved into SPC's Pacific Data Hub: <https://pacificdata.org/>

### 2.3 *Research and development programming on Climate Smart Agriculture, integrated cropping, and livestock production*

The region's food insecurity is a major impact resulting from Pacific islands climate change vulnerability. Extreme droughts and storms result in crop and livestock losses and the spread of disease. In partnership with ACIAR, LRD is participating in projects to develop geospatial digital platforms to collect and display GIS maps related to climate-smart landscapes for sustainable agricultural systems. LRD is also a team member of the ACIAR funded Conservation Agriculture and Sustainable Intensification (CASI) project that is investigating climate adaptation pathways for smallholder farmers.

### 2.4 *Enhanced value chains (biosecurity, sanitary and phytosanitary)*

The Pacific is composed of biodiverse yet fragile islands that are vulnerable to incursions of exotic pests and diseases. Ensuring a robust regional biosecurity system is essential to manage these sanitary and phytosanitary risks. ACIAR projects support policies, in addition to local, national, and regional activities, to help manage risks from transboundary pests and diseases. The Arrangement has provided core funds to support LRD's role as the Secretariat of the Pacific Plant Protection Organisation (PPPO), a regional organisation that provides advice on phytosanitary measures to facilitate safe trade.





## 2.5 Building the capacity of 'Women in Research'

All SPC projects and programmes adhere to its *Social and Environmental Responsibility* policy that reflects ACIAR's policy and commitment to gender equity. LRD led the way in regard to this policy in 2020 in part through the appointment of its first female Director, Karen Mapusua. In early 2021, LRD also appointed an ex-ACIAR employee, Florence Rahiri, as Operations Manager, who also acts as the Deputy Director. SPC as an organisation also celebrates both the annual International Day of Women and Girls in Science and International Women's Day, and profiles women working in scientific and technical fields across SPC.

### LRD and FAME learnings from the Partnership Arrangement 2018-2021

The success of the current arrangement is due to both ACIAR and SPC being:

1. Stable and trusted with political and social acceptance in the Pacific.
2. Committed to development that is gender inclusive and aligns to the needs of the priorities of the PICTs.
3. Strongly committed as partners, reflected in both organisations' high-level executive representation.
4. Recognised in their added value to the partnership.
5. Jointly cooperative, with ACIAR playing a supporting role that allows SPC to take ownership of implementation with their country members.

The Arrangement and its resulting work is reflected upon and under constant improvement. The following are suggested improvements that will help further advance this expanding partnership.

1. Develop clear agreements and be flexible. Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries operate in a dynamic environment in the Pacific and face many challenges. Flexibility built into the Arrangement and mutual trust allows the reallocation of resources within the strategic and core funding arrangement to areas of need within SPC. This requires M&E plans for realistic performance indicators that are clearly defined but also embrace flexibility.
2. Both SPC and ACIAR had large staff turn-overs during the period of this current partnership Arrangement. As staff appointments have settled, the ACIAR and SPC partnership will strengthen through further building stable relationships rather than developing a 'formula' for success.
3. Joint processes of coordination and planning have proved valuable and hugely beneficial as a mutual learning experience. These meetings have largely focussed on achievements and plans rather than learning from activities that have not worked well. As relationships strengthen and trust develops, these issues will be more freely addressed.
4. Resources, knowledge, capabilities, ideas, and networks are shared within the partnership. The recent appointment in 2020 of an LRD ICKM Advisor and two Communications Officers attached to projects will strengthen information sharing and dissemination of LRD's work and achievements.

### Priorities for 2021

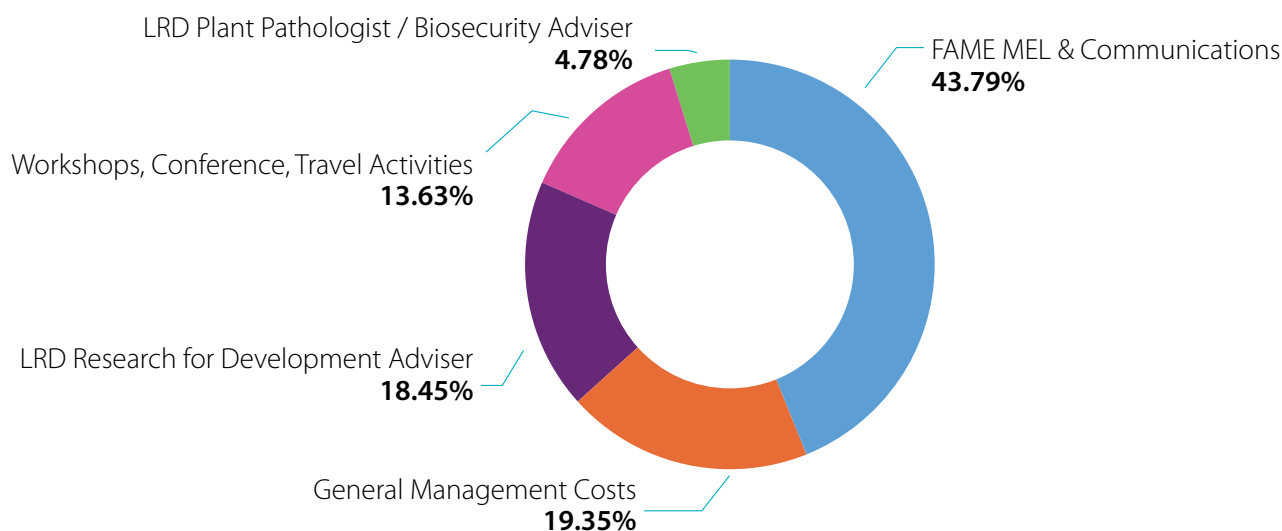
FAME and LRD will continue to scale up work of improving visibility, disseminating results, improving monitoring, evaluation, and learning, improving research and development, and capacity building to PICT members in partnership with ACIAR. FAME will focus attention on communications around some key events such as the Heads of Fisheries Meeting, Pacific Islands Foreign Ministers Meeting, and CRGA. LRD similarly will focus communication efforts on Heads and Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry meeting (HoAFs and MoAFs). The success of the FAME Coastal Fisheries Report Card has encouraged the ongoing investment into national level templates and capacity building of national focal points. Both LRD and FAME will continue to focus on improvement of processes for monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) data collection, analysis, and reporting.

## Priorities and objectives for 2021

FAME	LRD
Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL)	HoAFs and MoAFs
Communications	Food Systems Summit
Capacity development	Internal systems (Project Management & MEL)
Coastal Fisheries Report Card	Integrated Programs

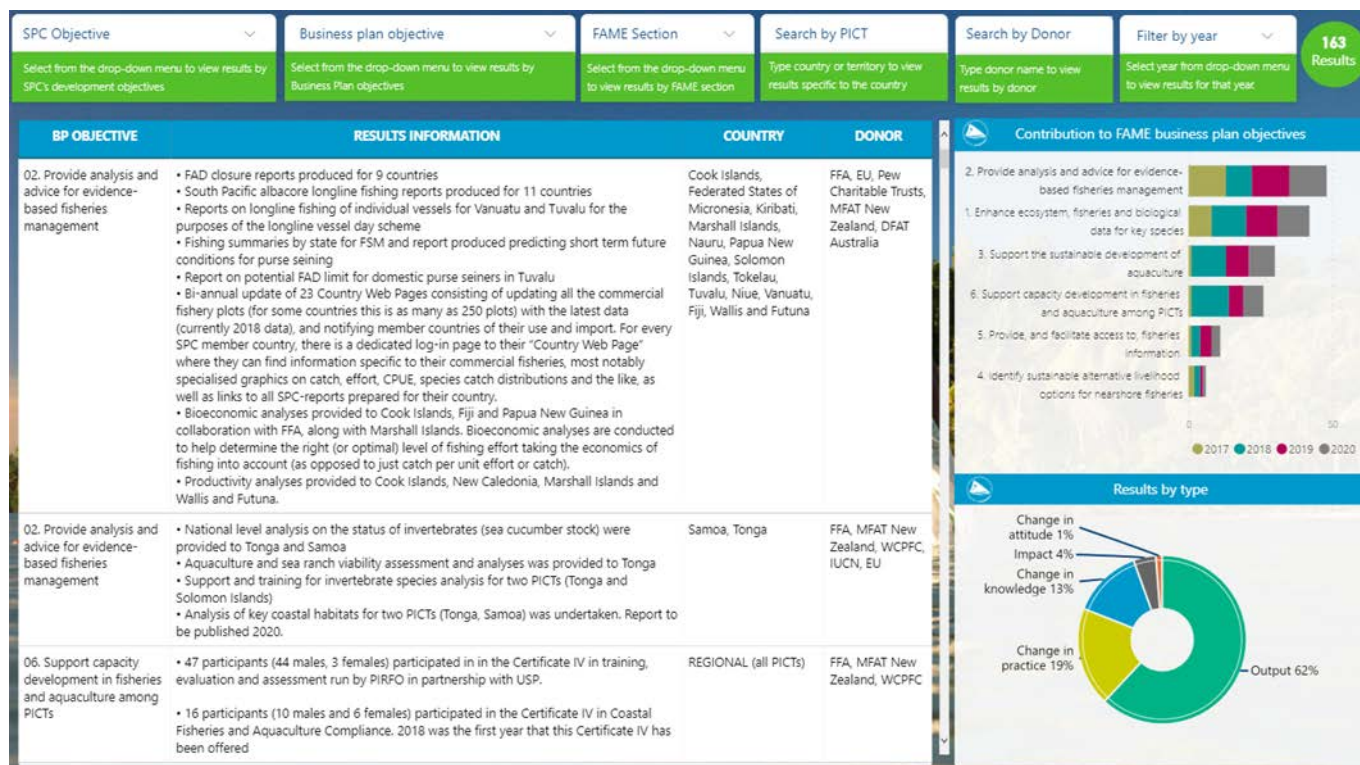
### 2018-2021 budget allocation and expenditure combined for FAME and LRD

Total allocation \$AUD1.5 million



### SPC Results Explorer

LRD and FAME contribute to the Pacific Community Results Explorer, an interactive tool that highlights the results achieved by SPC with our 26 member countries and territories and our development partners. The Explorer allows users to filter results by SDGs, country, and territory and SPC Strategic Plan objectives. The Explorer is now available



Picture 8: Screenshot from the Pacific Community Results Explorer site

## APPENDIX 1:

### ACIAR's Strategic Level LRD Expectations aligned to the ACIAR High-Level Objectives

ACIAR Expectations from the Partnership Arrangement		Indicator	2020 Progress	Progress & Target
LRD Strategic Level Expectations from ACIAR funding				
1	Integration of programmatic work across thematic areas resulting in processes of scale and cost effectiveness	Development of Integrated Programs (IPs)	2020 – Two IPs under development (Coconuts, PS4L)	<p>2021 – Two IPs implemented (Coconuts, PS4L) in early 2021. Three IPs (Biosecurity, Food Systems, Healthy Ecosystems) by end of calendar year</p> <p>2022 target – One IP (Excellence in atoll agriculture)</p>
2	Joint processes of coordinated planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning and the establishment of robust impact pathways across its programs and service delivery	Regional Meetings involving ACIAR and LRD. Sharing of LRD Annual Report	2020 - None (COVID impacted on regional travel preventing ACIAR travel into Pacific and limiting LRD staff movement)	<p>2021 – HOAFs and MOAFs biennial meeting scheduled as an online meeting for August 2021. LRD Annual Report 2020 for release in June 2021</p> <p>2022 target - Pacific Week of Agriculture &amp; Forestry in Fiji</p>
3	Jointly coordinated Information Communication and Knowledge Management Platforms contributing to enhanced learning and visibility in the region	Joint ACIAR-LRD media	<p>2020 –ACIAR Partners Magazine, Issue 2, 2020</p> <p>The LRD ICKM Advisor was appointed mid 2020</p>	2021 target – LRD's new ICKM Advisor will strengthen ties with ACIAR Communications for joint coordinated project media releases
4	LRD mobilising resources focussed on integrated priority programmes	Staff appointed to lead integrated programmes	2020 -LRD Management team developed Integrated Program resource plans, Theory of Change, Fact Sheets.	2021 – Two current staff have their job descriptions rearranged to include management of the Coconut IP and the Biosecurity IP



## ACIAR Six High-Level Sustainable Development Objectives

Obj 1: Improving food security and reducing poverty among smallholder farmers and rural communities	Obj 2: Managing natural resources and producing food more sustainably, adapting to climate variability and mitigating climate change	Obj 3: Enhancing human nutrition and reducing risks to human health	Obj 4: Improving gender equity and empowerment of women and girls	Obj 5: Fostering more inclusive agrifood and forestry value chains, engaging the private sector where possible	Obj 6: Building scientific and policy capability within our partner countries

## APPENDIX 2:

### ACIAR's Programmatic LRD Expectations aligned to the ACIAR High-Level Objectives

ACIAR Expectations from the Partnership Arrangement		Indicator	2020 Progress	Progress & Target	
LRD Programmatic Level expectations from ACIAR funding		Indicator	Progress	Target	Obj 1: Improving food security and reducing poverty among smallholder farmers and rural communities
5	Enhanced genetic resources in the Pacific Region through improved conservation and use of food and tree crops	Size and distribution readiness of CePaCT genebank collection	2020 – CePaCT Genebank Accession Size: 2,169. Distribution ready: 567 accessions (26%)	2024 target - Genebank Accession Size: 2,519. Distribution ready: 1,633 accessions (65%)	ACIAR HORT/2017/025: Safeguarding and Deploying Coconut Diversity for Improving Livelihoods in the Pacific Islands GP/2018/193: Supporting an international initiative to maintain the coconut genetic resources network (COGENT)
6	Improved natural resources management through the good governance of land, water, and forests	Development of shared systems to capture, store, and access resource assets and land-use management	2020 - Appointment of a GIS specialist. Expanded use of digital field data collection systems linked to shared web portals in forestry and soils.	2021 - Ongoing development of a range of digital information technology 'tools' and systems to collect, analyse, store, and share data specifically for Land-Use Management.	

ACIAR Six High-Level Sustainable Development Objectives

Obj 2: Managing natural resources and producing food more sustainably, adapting to climate variability and mitigating climate change	Obj 3: Enhancing human nutrition and reducing risks to human health	Obj 4: Improving gender equity and empowerment of women and girls	Obj 5: Fostering more inclusive agrifood and forestry value chains, engaging the private sector where possible	Obj 6: Building scientific and policy capability within our partner countries
Current ACIAR & DFAT projects contributing to the ACIAR high-level objectives				
DFAT: Grant Arrangement for the Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees (Transforming CePaCT into a Centre of Excellence)			ACIAR HORT/2014/077: Enhanced fruit production and postharvest handling systems for Fiji, Samoa, and Tonga ACIAR FST/2016/158: Domestication and breeding of sandalwood in Fiji and Tonga	
ACIAR SMCN/2016/111: Soil management in the Pacific Islands: Investigating nutrient cycling and development of the soil's portal ACIAR SMCN/2014/089: Improving soil health, agricultural productivity, and food security on atolls			ACIAR FST/2014/067: Enhancing value added products and environmental benefits from agroforestry systems in the Pacific	

7	R&D programming on issues concerned with Climate Smart Agriculture pursuing integrated crop and livestock production systems	LRD CePaCT engaged in multi-locational evaluation of climate-resilient and nutrient-dense crop varieties for sustainable production in integrated crop-livestock systems.	2020 – National level mobile data collection for disseminated material evaluations commenced in one country. LRD staff involved in Climate resilient production projects (CASI, Small ruminants), and development of a digital platform for climate-smart landscapes	2021 – National level mobile data collection for disseminated material evaluations for all countries evaluating CePaCT germplasm material. Ongoing development of CASI systems and platforms for climate-smart landscapes.	ACIAR CROP/2020/185: CASI of smallholder farming systems in Pacific Countries as a pathway to transformational climate change adaptation
8	Enhanced value chains and facilitated markets through reducing transaction costs, the risk of plant and animal pest and diseases and improved biosecurity conditions	LRD acts as the Secretariat for the Pacific Plant Protection Organisation (PPPO) mandated for regional biosecurity. Enhanced value chains and prevention of transboundary pests and diseases are linked to the operations of the PPPO.	2020 - Maintain the LRD Pest List Database that maps regional invasive pest pathways. Ongoing Secretariat duties for the PPPO	2021 - Ongoing PPPO and Pest List Database management. Holistic view of coconut industry value chain development through the LRD Coconut IP.	ACIAR HORT/2016/185: Responding to emerging pest and disease threats to horticulture in the Pacific islands (ICM2)
9	Strategic Programming towards building the capacity of 'Women in Research' contributing to gender mainstreaming in the Pacific Region	All projects and programmes in LRD adhere to: SPC's General Policies: Social and environmental responsibility ACIAR's Gender Equity Policy and Strategy 2017-2022 and the Research Proposal Gender Guidelines	2020 - new LRD Director appointed, Karen Mapusua	2021 - New LRD Operations Manager (2IC) appointed, Forence Rahiri. Ongoing appointments ensuring gender equity across LRD.	



<p>ACIAR ASEM/2016/158: Climate-smart landscapes for promoting sustainability of Pacific island agricultural systems – (Phase 2)</p>		<p>ACIAR LS/2017/033: Improving small ruminant production and supply in Fiji and Samoa</p>		
			<p>ACIAR HORT/2014/078: Aligning genetic resources, production, and postharvest systems to market opportunities for Pacific island and Australian cocoa ACIAR HORT/2014/080: Integrated protected cropping systems into high value vegetable value chains in the Pacific and Australia FST/2019/128: Coconut and other non-traditional forest resources for the manufacture of engineered wood products DFAT: The implementation of generic ePhyto National Systems</p>	<p>ACIAR ADP/2018/131 Policy drivers for Public-Private Partnerships in Pacific Organics: Improving extension policy through an evidence-based approach</p>
		<p>DFAT: POETCom building prosperity for women producers, processors, and women-owned businesses through organic value chains</p>		

