



Agribusiness

## Pacific Agribusiness Research in Development Initiative Phase 2 – PARDI 2

### Overview

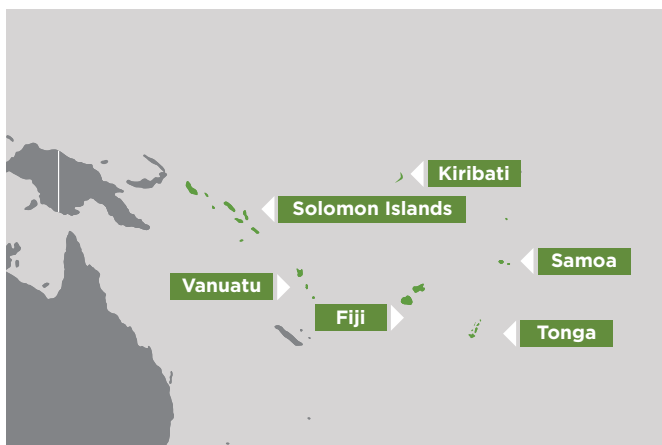
**A flourishing agribusiness sector is vital for sustainable economic growth in the Pacific Island countries (PICs).**

It is central to reducing poverty, especially in rural communities, and delivering an improved trade balance, both of which are key goals of Pacific Island governments and their development partners.

But agribusinesses in the PICs have many disadvantages, when compared with other parts of the globe with better infrastructure and vast markets, and with investment opportunities and returns in other sectors (such as retail and tourism). Durable and sustainable rural development is a challenging but vital task in the PICs and one that requires ongoing research and development to analyse and inform a more vibrant, diverse and viable agribusiness sector.

Despite the challenges, agribusiness has the potential to develop value chains in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors that are more efficient and inclusive, and which take advantage of new opportunities for primary production, value-adding and marketing.

Building on the Pacific Agribusiness Research for Development Initiative (PARDI), this second phase will look at the reasons certain agribusinesses have succeeded, document their positive impacts on community livelihoods and investigate how best to extend and make their economic benefits more inclusive and sustainable.



### KEY FACTS

**ACIAR Project No.** AGB/2014/057

**Duration:** June 2017 to May 2021 (4 years)

**Target areas:** Fiji, Vanuatu and Tonga (with extension to Kiribati, Samoa and Solomon Islands)

**Budget:** A\$2,660,197

#### Project Leader

Dr Lex Thomson, University of the Sunshine Coast

#### Key partners

- University of Adelaide
- Southern Cross University
- University of Queensland
- Pacific Community (SPC)
- The University of the South Pacific (USP)
- Pacific Islands Development Forum
- Pacific Islands Private Sector Organization
- Pacific Islands' Farmer Organization Network (PIFON)

#### ACIAR Research Program Manager

Dr Howard Hall

## Objective

**The overall aim is to identify and understand how agribusiness development opportunities can contribute to improved economic growth and livelihoods in the Pacific.**

**The project's specific objectives are to:**

- Develop tools and knowledge for identifying successful and inclusive agribusiness development opportunities.
- Identify market and value chain constraints, opportunities and solutions for selected Pacific products.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of participatory guarantee systems for improving value chain linkages and performance for emerging market opportunities.
- Implement and evaluate approaches for increasing agribusiness information availability, communication and research capacity.

## Expected scientific results

- Adaptation of livelihood improvement and resilience measures allowing the socioeconomic impacts of agribusiness development to be objectively assessed.
- An understanding of the risk environment within which Pacific island agribusiness operates, and the differing views of future risks to agribusiness (and associated livelihood improvements) held by various stakeholders and other interested parties.
- Knowledge and evidence about key commodity and product value chain agribusiness development opportunities, crucial for future development in the Pacific islands, along with identification of emerging researchable constraints to agribusiness development within the selected chains.
- Evidence-based best practice for environmental management in agriculture, agroforestry, forestry and fisheries.
- Greater capacity for sustainable growth for at least ten agribusinesses.

## Expected outcomes

- Positive impact on the commercial viability and business growth of at least 13 lead agribusinesses, farmer organisations and associated value chains, providing better outlets and markets for rural produce.
- New and/or more secure employment in the agribusiness sector for at least 250 employees and contractors (based on an average of 20 employees engaged per agribusiness).
- At least two new agribusinesses established and operating in each of the three project countries, substantially reliant and built on the agribusiness information generated and capacity development undertaken in the project, providing new outlets and jobs for at least 150 smallholder producers and employees, respectively.
- A greater awareness of the benefits and opportunities for agribusiness and its potential to become the mainstay of rural economies, particularly in peripheral parts of archipelagic countries.
- Increased knowledge and opportunities leading to greater confidence and an increased desire among rural people, especially youth and women, to participate more fully in agribusiness and other value-adding activities.
- Niche opportunities sought for improving food safety and production of Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point certified foods, as well as more nutritious foods, contributing to better nutritional security and reductions in communicable and non-communicable diseases among people in the target countries.