



REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

**NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD
ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**



**C/- VANUATU METEOROLOGY AND GEO-
HAZARDS DEPARTMENT**

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CC/DRR Project Brief Form

Project Title: Program for the development of climate resilient organic agriculture in Vanuatu	
Implementing Organisation/s: Syndicat Agricole et Pastoral du Vanuatu Steering Committee comprising SAPV, POET Com-Vanuatu members, MALFFB	Project Contact Details: Contact person: Peter Kaoh, Nambo Moses (POET Com Director) sapv@vanuatu.com <i>Nambo Mosese Acting Senior Provincial Livestock Officer (south) Department of Livestock. PMB 9095 Port Vila Vanuatu Ph: (678) 23519 Mob: (678) 7799553 Email: nmoses@vanuatu.gov.vu</i>
Duration: 3 Years and Possibility to be extended	Status: POET Com – Vanuatu is established since 2010 and operates on own resources and donor funding (Oxfam, 2011-14). The program is currently seeking climate finance to expand the climate resilient organic program in Vanuatu
Total Funding: Once NAB-CC has endorsed the project profile, POET Com- Vanuatu will elaborate an action plan + detailed budget according to donor funding opportunities	Funding Source/s: To Be Determined. Expectation that NAB will present this project once endorsed to various donors which are seeking areas for climate support. The project (including action plan + budget) will be submitted to donors through NAB-PMU
Mode of financing: Through SAPV or FSA (?) specific bank account already exists (named "POET Com Vanuatu")	Location & site/s: SAPV, Port Vila and farming associations throughout Vanuatu
Scope: - Vanuatu's agricultural production systems are almost entirely organic (no/very few chemical inputs are used) and can potentially be an important component of value adding - Vanuatu has over 15 years "organic"	Project Type: Pilot Program for extension and applied research on Organics meeting Vanuatu's Climate Change challenges

<p>experience and certification in Vanuatu, since 1998 (spices, nuts), 2000 (cocoa), 2007 (beef), 2010 (coffee, nuts), 2011 (Tamanu oil), 2012 (nuts, coconut oil, fruits)...</p> <p>- The study "<i>Vanuatu: Opportunity Analysis on Fair Trade and Organic Niche Market</i>" (PSGSP – EU-EDF10, 2012) assessed the benefit in developing certified organic production and fair trade to access niche markets and made recommendations for "a sustainable step forward":</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Organic certification, for Vanuatu’s agricultural enterprises, is viable under pre conditions: high quality products as determined by the market; sufficient volume to cover the overhead costs of certification; access to premium paying markets o There are significant costs involved in agriculture extension and certification and an important first step in achieving cost effective and more appropriate certification came with the organization of the sector (POET Com-Vanuatu), the development of the (POS¹) and the PGS by the POETCom <p>In each member country, POETCom has established a lead organic organisation. In Vanuatu, an office was established at the SAPV in 2010 and to date it has about 6 certified Exporters/Processors/buyers. Each having a hand full of producers (small holder farmers).</p>	
<p>Sectors & Themes: Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in the Agriculture and Food Security Sectors</p>	<p>Other Government & Partner Agencies: SPC-GIZ Climate Change Adaptation Programme (CCCPIR)</p>
<p>Lead Government Department: The Department of Livestock</p>	<p>NAB Approval sought: [Please tick]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To seek general endorsement of program goals • To seek project funding
<p>Objective/s: [100 words max] Organic agriculture (POET Com): Meeting the challenges of Climate Change</p>	
<p>POET Com vision: <i>Organics and ethical trade: the key contributor to sustaining our cultures and communities; improving farmer livelihoods, people’s health and the environment in the Pacific.</i></p>	
<p>The Pacific Islands region is characterised by island nations with small populations scattered across an ocean area of approximately 30 million square kilometres. Less than 2% of this area is land. Our region has a total population of around 9.5 million people. The potential effects of climate change pose a serious threat and place significant pressure on local farming systems. Although Pacific Islands produce very small amounts of greenhouse gases, we may be among the countries</p>	

¹ Pacific Organic Standard

most affected by climate change, with whole islands under threat from sea-level rise.

Climate change and the global food crisis have put a spotlight on the vulnerability, unsustainability and social inequity of agriculture and food production. There is growing acceptance that policies and practices have failed to feed the world's most vulnerable people, failed to adapt to continuously changing environmental conditions, and failed to protect the very ecosystems that sustain us. Policy makers are now referring to 'soil organic matter', 'soil carbon,' 'ecosystem services' and to 'holistic' approaches- all of which are established pillars of Organic Agriculture.

Organic Agriculture enhances biodiversity, protects our fragile soils, improves the nutritional quality of food, ensures high standards of animal welfare and provides increased employment in rural areas. At the same time, Organic Agriculture reduces green house gas emissions, cuts nutrient and pesticide pollution and stops potentially harmful pesticide residues entering our food chain. Organic Agriculture builds resilient farming systems capable of combating climate change and securing local food supplies and is highly effective in sequestering carbon.

Organic farming has significant potential to avoid or reduce the production of greenhouse gases through:

- Lower use of fossil fuels – organic farming does not use energy demanding synthetic fertilisers as it focuses on maintaining soil fertility through the use of internal farm inputs.
- Reduction in the production of nitrous oxides – organic farming does not use synthetic nitrogen fertiliser.
- Reduction in methane production by promoting soil aerobic micro organisms and high levels of soil biological activity.

In addition, organic practices encourage the sequestration of carbon by:

- Maintaining tight nutrient and energy cycles through organic management of soils;
- Systematic recycling of organic waste, often by means of composting;
- Encouraging agro-forestry farming systems;
- Protecting soil from erosion and associated loss of soil organic matter.

Organic farming also provides strategies that will assist farmers to adapt to the potential impacts of climate change, for example by establishing farming systems that:

- Lessen the impacts of wind, e.g. through providing shelter for land, farms and people;
- Are drought resistant and support the conservation of water resources;
- Are tolerant of higher temperatures and fluctuations in temperature;
- Encourage use of locally adapted varieties and in situ-adaptation of crop species.

Organic Agriculture has a significant role to play in addressing two of the world's biggest and most urgent issues: climate change and food security. While requiring political and institutional support Organic Agriculture is also a solution that empowers those most affected and engages farming communities in securing their own future.

The Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community urges NAB to embrace and endorse organic agriculture as a solution in international agreements on our shared future, in national planning and policy making and in the choices you make every day.

Description: [1-2 paragraphs per topic max]

The Project will contribute to the expansion & development of the Vanuatu Organic Industry and increase the organic farmers 'income'. The project will assist in providing the necessary organization/extension/marketing service support in order to increase the overall quantity, quality and product value, by reinforcing the organic production, processing and marketing activities.

1. To establish a sustainable POET-Com Vanuatu and make it operational for supporting organic farming & farmers in Vanuatu:
 - a. Supporting (technically, advocacy, organization) organic producers
 - b. Coordination actions (i.e. internal control, audit..)
 - c. Sharing & disseminating information..
 - d. Establishing a sustainable system for inputs supply (seeds, planting Material, organic pesticides..)
2. To create a sustainable internal control system and streamlining audit operations wishing to establish, maintain and expand organic certification, through the provision of technical support to producers currently organically certified in Vanuatu:

- a. Optimising audits
- b. Facilitating internal control
- c. Facilitating the establishment of local PGS (Participatory Guarantee System) for the local organic certification
3. To Elaborate & disseminate information and technical standard through the development of "Applied Research & Extension Programs" (Media, expertise & Training) on Organic farming practices (identifying problems And providing "Organic" solutions) and facilitation market access (information): a) fertility management, b) Pest & diseases control, c) seeds & Planting Materials propagation, d) market outlets
 - a) Supporting farmers/POET Com members in identifying issues and developing on Farm trials, documenting results/developing extension materials in farmer friendly ways
 - b) Knowledge sharing- through extension materials, visits, we/mobile platform...
 - c) Providing market information (web, Mobile...)
4. To Facilitate Technical exchange (Technologies transfer) and market information between producers and technicians locally (Vanuatu) and regionally (other POET Com members in the Pacific)
 - a. "farmers -to-farmers program ("on farm" technical exchange)
 - b. "training of Trainers" program (Upgrading technicians skills)
 - c. Web site (Market, technical materials)
 - d. Regional workshop and technical exchange (annual)

How does the project link to GoV priorities: (NAB agenda, NAPA, New CC/DRR Policy....)

The NAPA highlights the importance of agriculture and food security.

In Vanuatu's Overarching Productive Sector Policy, **Strategy 1.9** is to "Improve agricultural export trade by focusing on products for which Vanuatu has a comparative advantage such as organically certifiable products", and **Strategy 3.4** is "in the crop sector, focus on greater productivity of existing staple foods and proven specialty products, better management of land resources including more attention on maintenance of soil nutrients, pest control, weed and disease management for long-term sustainable yields (especially in organic systems)". **Strategy 4.7** "is promote the development and implementation of the Pacific Organic Standard and support where appropriate legislation development."

The overarching Policy provides the following policy directive: "*Government will provide support for institutional growth in organic and fair trade certification capability. This will include providing support for the Vanuatu chapter of the SPC PoetCOM initiative and developing capacity for domestic internal control and regional inspectors.*"

Forum leaders endorsed the Pacific Organic Standard (POS) in Niue meeting, and launched at Heads of Agriculture meeting in Samoa in 2008, and Oceania 21 Meetings² (Nouméa, 25 – 27 April 2013) Joint Declaration stated "*Supporting the implementation of the regional action plan to develop organic agriculture in the Pacific, led by POET Com (Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community)*"

Progress to date and current activities: [100 words max]

- In 2011, FSA in partnership with Oxfam International was able to secure a relatively small amount of funding for the purpose of strengthening the Secretariat role of SAPV/FSA, funding stakeholder meetings, participation in trainings and other activities to support the sector. This current funding will cease in June 2014.
- In June 2013, the Vanuatu POETCom Secretariat and the POETCom regional office in Fiji hosted one of two Pacific wide train the trainer trainings targeted to increase capacity of youth workers in agriculture. The Vanuatu training hosted 25 participants, 8 from other Pacific Islands. This training utilised the SAPV/FSA on-farm site at La Source Plantation for the practical activities.³
- SAPV/FSA, as the focal point in Vanuatu has been carrying out trials on organic pesticides for vegetable production since 2012. To date, Dipel has been identified as an effective organic

² Leaders of the 22 countries and territories in Oceania

³ See press release: <http://www.spc.int/en/component/content/article/216-about-spc-news/1300-pacific-youths-for-organic-agriculture-.html>

pesticide for caterpillars; the farm is now testing using Neem oil for bean pod borers. Other organic pesticides, using plant extracts that were previously trialled will be tested again following the lessons learned from the first trials. Dipel, has now been shared with farmers in different parts of the country as an effective way to control caterpillar damage on vegetables.

- In September 2013, one officer from SAPV/FSA and from the Department of Livestock were appointed to the regional POETCom Standards and Certification Committee
- Participation in the annual regional meetings for POETCom in 2012 and 2013.
- In 2013, following a request from the private sector stakeholders, SAPV/FSA worked with interested parties to identify and carry out potential cost saving activities. This included information gathering from stakeholders, research into the activities and working with these stakeholders to match the potential solutions with their needs.

Outputs: [IEC Materials, guidelines & handbooks, certified trainings, resources....]

None Developed to date under this program, other than a series of farmer focus manuals by FSA.

Program Deliverables

Establishing a sustainable POET Com-Vanuatu that develops:

- Sustainable organic certification system (International standard & PGS), including internal control, audit and data base establishment and maintenance
- Organic management systems to improve productivity and quality
- Applied research and extension into commercially orientated organic and integrated pest management
- Sustainable system for inputs supply (revolving fund)
- Niche market outlets
- Regional network in order to facilitate technical and commercial exchanges with other members of the POET Com in the Pacific (media, technical expertise mission)