

<b>Programme Title:</b>	Engaging Youth in Fiji and Vanuatu in Organic Farming: A Farm to Table Chain Approach
<b>Country:</b>	Vanuatu

## I. Joint Programme Information

### Joint Programme Information

**Programme title:**

Engaging Youth in Fiji and Vanuatu in Organic Farming: A Farm to Table Chain Approach

**Sectorial area of intervention and policy objectives**

Inclusive economic growth for poverty eradication

    Create opportunities for decent jobs and secure livelihoods.

    Create better government policies and fair and accountable public institutions.

    Promote inclusive and sustainable business practices.

**UN Lead Agency:**

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

**UN Participating Organizations:**

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

**Local Partners:**

Fiji:

Ministry of Youth and Sports

Ministry of Agriculture

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POET Com)

Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises and Development (FRIEND)

Fiji National Youth Council

Fiji Hotel and Tourism Association

Vanuatu:

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Bio-security sectors

Ministry of Internal Affairs

Ministry of Youth

Farmers Support Association (FSA),

Vanuatu National Youth Council

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POET Com)

## Report submitted by

**Name:**

Stephen Hazelman

**Title:**

Acting POETcom Coordinator

**Organization:**

Pacific Community

**Contact information:**

Pacific Community

Nabua

Suva, Fiji

E: stephenh@spc.int

**Reporting Period Ending:**

Tuesday, November 1, 2016

## II. Contact Information

---

### Resident Coordinator

**Name:**

Osnat Lubrani

**E-mail:**

Osnat.lubrani@one.un.org

### UNCT contact person for implementation

**Name:**

Agnes Harm

**Agency:**

Office of the Resident Coordinator

**Title:**

Resident Coordinator Specialist

**E-mail:**

agnes.harm@one.un.org

**Phone:**

+679 3312500

**Address:**

Office of the UN Resident Coordinator  
UNDP  
Level 8 Kadavu House  
Victoria Parade  
Suva, Fiji.

### Alternative UNCT contact person for implementation

**Name:**

Asaeli Sinusetaki

**Agency:**

Office of the Resident Coordinator

**Title:**

Resident Coordinator Associate

**E-mail:**

asaeli.sinusetaki@undp.org

**Phone:**

+679 3312500

**Address:**

Office of the UN Resident Coordinator  
UNDP  
Level 8 Kadavu House  
Victoria Parade  
Suva, Fiji.

## Technical team contacts

Joint programme coordinator

JP monitoring and evaluation focal point

JP communications and advocacy focal point

JP knowledge management focal point

JP private sector focal point

## Agency contact points

Contact 1

Contact 2

Contact 3

Contact 4

Contact 5

## III. Financial information

---

### SDG-F Funds

<b>UN Agency</b>	<b>Total approved funds</b>	<b>Total funds Transferred to date</b>	<b>Total funds committed to date</b>	<b>Total funds disbursed to date</b>
------------------	-----------------------------	--	--------------------------------------	--------------------------------------

UN Agency	Total approved funds	Total funds Transferred to date	Total funds committed to date	Total funds disbursed to date
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	500,000.00	92,232.00	399.00	114,621.00
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	1,000,000.00	500,000.00	375,000.00	375,000.00

<b>Total</b>	1,500,000.00	592,232.00	399.00	114,621.00
--------------	--------------	------------	--------	------------

## Matching Funds

Name of source	Total approved funds	Total funds Transferred to date	Total funds committed to date	Total funds disbursed to date
Pacific Agriculture Policy Project ( EU)	440,000.00	220,000.00	165,000.00	165,000.00

<b>Total</b>	440,000.00	220,000.00	165,000.00	165,000.00
--------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

## IV. Beneficiaries

### Direct Beneficiaries – Breakdown

Beneficiary type - individual	Total	Female	Male	Comments
Farmers	700	180	520	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organic interest registration form for the 8 local PGS groups</li> <li>150 youths out of which 70 is female youth (registration ongoing and expected to increase)</li> </ul>
Entrepreneurs				
Civil servants/government	10	4	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation meeting with Vanuatu National Youth Council, Min of Agriculture, FSA, SHEFA Province and UNDP(Vanuatu office)</li> </ul>
Indigenous				
Children				
Youth				
Other 1				
<b>Total</b>	710	184	526	

Beneficiary type - institutional	Total	Comments
----------------------------------	-------	----------

SMEs		
Cooperatives		
Government/municipal organizations		
Private sector		
Community-based organizations		
NGOs	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 males each from Tanna Coffee, FSA and SPC plus 3 females each from Lapita Café, FSA and SPC attended the stake holder meeting that was held in SHEFA Province office</li> </ul>
<b>Total</b>	6	

### Indirect Beneficiaries – Breakdown

Beneficiary type - individual	Total	Female	Male	Comments
Farmers	700	180.00	520.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organic interest registration form for the 8 local PGS groups</li> <li>• 150 youths out of which 70 is female youth (registration ongoing and expected to increase)</li> </ul>
Entrepreneurs				
Civil servants/government				
Indigenous				
Children				
Youth				
<b>Total</b>	700	180.00	520.00	

Beneficiary type - institutional	Total	Comments
SMEs		
Cooperatives		
Government/municipal organizations		
Private sector		
Community-based organizations		
NGOs	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 males each from Tanna Coffee, FSA and SPC plus 3 females each from Lapita Café, FSA and SPC attended the stake holder meeting that was held in SHEFA Province office</li> </ul>
<b>Total</b>	6	

## V. Joint Programme Progress

---

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Progress	Difficulties	Expected deliverables
<p>JP Output 1.1: Skills training in organic production, certification and processing creates employment for youth within the organic agriculture Farm-To-Table value chain</p>	<p>The inception visit and workshops in Vanuatu was held on April 27th - 5th May, 2016 with FSA (Farm Support Association) as the focal partner in Vanuatu. Progressively identified around 1151 participants (based on estimated numbers that attended the first awareness training) including (farmers, high school dropouts) both genders from 8 local PGS groups spreaded on Tanna, Emae and Efate islands. Activities covered organic awareness training since last 6 months. Final PGS registration to be done by end of December 2016. Procurement of training materials with seeds and seedlings done with land preparation by farmers with commencement of planting. Eight (8) PGS groups established with continuous follow up, monitoring and mentoring of young farmers in progress. Preliminary discussion done with Nasama Resort and Breakas Lagoon on organically certified menu pending scoping study.</p>	<p>UNDP had held independent discussions with some stakeholders during the project development, which led to some confusion over who was to lead implementation at national level. This was resolved through consultations and clarification with stakeholders as to how project was developed.</p> <p>FSA was also concerned about lack of response from stakeholders invited even though majority stated that they will attend; this was resolved through strengthening existing components within FSA through provision in the budget and that it will continue work with its existing network on ground.</p> <p>Also on technical issues across the board for crop types, organic production methods, pest and disease controls, etc which POETCOM will closely work with FSA during the project.</p> <p>The development partner undertaking consultations during project development without POETCom staff present led to considerable confusion and also some un realistic expectations amongst stakeholders. In the future staff should be present at these meetings so that messages are consistent and expectations are realistic and consistent across stakeholders, SPC and development partners.</p> <p>The project through FSA to continue to have an open door policy on farmers who might be interested to join later on depending on the innovation, skills and performance of the current registered farmers to influence their participation.</p>	<p>An estimated 1151 participants including (farmers, high school dropouts) both genders attended awareness training in organic agriculture. This is gradually building up given the Farm To Table project opportunity available to them. It is expected that interest should be developed from remaining farmers gauging from performance of current participants. Advocacy roles and more organic awareness training to be rolled out with final PGS registration for potential farmers connected to organic value chains.</p>

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Progress	Difficulties	Expected deliverables
JP Output 1.2: Strengthened capacity of local organization to meet and sustain increased market demand for organic produce on a commercially viable basis	Database developed internally by FSA to monitor youth training and product supply with dedicated staff identified to manage and update database. This is however work in progress. Farmers trained on basic farm record keeping as a form of internal monitoring and evaluation system and again work in progress.		Internal improvements and database support as work in progress with readily available information required per farmer to connect to database connecting young farmers to farm to table value chains. Four (4) staffs young and energetic currently available with FSA and working through Farm to Table project and hands on training in organic certification system with one project staff as certification manager.
JP Output 1.3: To ascertain information and communication needs of youth interested in engaging in organic agriculture	Preliminary discussion done with FSA on required support required by farmers to facilitate commercial supply of organic produce and also desired Extension training materials support. These are work in progress.		

## Cross-cutting issues

How has the JP addressed during the reporting period (please provide concrete actions):

### 1) The **sustainability** of the JP work. (200 words)

Utilizing existing and well developed national organizations as implementing partners (Farm Support Association in Vanuatu helps assure sustainability of JP outcomes. The project builds their technical capacity in organic production and certification and training in Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) for organic certification has been provided to both organizations in the reporting period. These organizations have institutional capacity to continue training and capacity building support to farmers after the close of the JP and play the critical role in supporting small producers into value chains.

The JP is also building capacity at local level through establishing PGS. PGS function based on local geographical groupings and farmers are trained to participate in the decision making and governance processes of the PGS increasing ownership and sustainability. 8 local PGS groups have been established to date through the JP. PGS engage directly with markets and provides a path to market for the young growers.

The JP focuses on youth which in itself contributes to sustainability, training farmers for now and the future, but it is careful to also engage older experienced farmers as mentors and examples for younger growers leveraging community strengths and Pacific values of respect for elders to facilitate implementation and sustainability. The JP has also engaged support of local traditional governance on the Island of Emae where the council of Chiefs has declared that the whole island will be organic reinforcing the JP outcomes.

Utilizing Organic production methods also contributes to sustainability under a changing climate.

### 2) The promotion of **women's empowerment and gender equality**. (200 words)

The project has just started and there is a great scope for empowering women and gender equality. Most of these women and youth have the privilege to access to a market through a value chain. The 8 local PGS in Vanuatu provided opportunities for women and youth through these value chains. These includes small cash crops like peanuts and vegetables to processing ones like coffee and manioc flour which women and



youth all have access to in various capacities and strengths available to them.

### 3) The engagement in **public-private partnerships**. (200 words)

The regional implementing agent for the JP, the Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POETCom), is in its self a unique public private partnership. POETCom is a not for profit membership organization with over 30 active member organizations (farmers associations, farmer support organizations, NGOs, private sector, research institutions and working with governments) in 14 countries of the Pacific Island region with the Secretariat hosted by the Pacific's lead intergovernmental technical agency the Pacific Community (SPC). POETCom's current Advisory Board (elected every 2 years) consists of NGO and Private Sector members and is chaired by a Government representative from Vanuatu.

The JP is building linkages, through value chain development linking youth small holder producers and private sector enterprises such as hotels, resorts and restaurants, processors with public sector stakeholders, namely ministries of agriculture and youth in both Fiji and Vanuatu. In turn the lessons learned and opportunities identified from the projects are already feeding into decision making and policy guidelines. For example Vanuatu has a newly launch Agri-tourism strategy which has a strong focus on organic production and engaging young people in agriculture. The Ministry of Trade and Tourism in Fiji is working with POETCom to implement a national organic certification mark to help develop the local organic market benefiting young growers in the project.

## Communication and Advocacy

---

### **Has the JP articulated an advocacy & communication actions that helps advance its policy objectives and development outcomes?:**

Yes

#### **Please describe communication activities developed as part of the JP. :**

1. Social media promotions of infographics drawing out the human experience in the project. Marrying images with a powerful narrative draws attention and the curiosity of the audience. Everybody loves a great story that has key elements of struggle and overcoming it. The impact of the infographs measured through its shares, reach, responses, follow up comments, queries and responses for example:

2. Focus articles on recipients - angle on recipient life story, challenges and the benefits the project brings. The articles support the infographics and shared widely on social media as well.

Eg. Jermin's Organic Hope - <https://goo.gl/Xlao9S>

Willie's Bucket List - <https://goo.gl/9kOxa0>

3. Press Releases/Media Engagement

Eg. Emae goes organic - <https://goo.gl/iibsJo>

Farm to Table project to benefit thousands - <https://goo.gl/FUSw9Q>

4. Project Brief - for wide e-sharing - <https://goo.gl/ZD2uRu>

-distributed at meetings (launch of the Farm to Table project in Saivou district)

-distributed during POETCom's other engagements and activities

5. Online photo library - <https://goo.gl/kkxDDg>

6. Event outreach - outreach with side events at the Heads of Agriculture Meetings, Agriculture Shows, presentation to youth forums (Pacific Youth Entrepreneurship Forum)

### **Please provide concrete gains on how the the JP communication and advocacy efforts have**

### increased awareness on SDGs.:

Its early days of the project and real impact can be seen at the end. However some gains already being felt through encouraging conversation within and external of project around some key thematic areas. These are discussed or highlighted using various media tools. One of the main concrete gains is that more farmers are making the switch to organics; this is supported by the many queries received by POETCom The project supported development of an E-book and brochure on organics contribution to the SDGs supported by an infographic campaign

E book: <http://fliphtml5.com/fvzp/faod>

example infograph

<https://www.facebook.com/organicpasifika/photos/a.332765326928590.1073741828.306267226245067/472561726282282/?type=3&theater>

### JP website URL:

[www.organicpasifika.com](http://www.organicpasifika.com)

### JP website URL:

[www.organicpasifika.com](http://www.organicpasifika.com)

### JP twitter handle:

@poetcom1

### JP Facebook page:

organicpacifika

### JP Facebook page:

organicpacifika

Other social media channels managed by joint programme (Instagram, Google+, You Tube...):

## One UN Coordination and Delivering as One

The SDG-F is based on the principles of effective development cooperation, inclusion and participation and One UN coordination.

Actions	Description
Managerial practices (financial, procurement, etc.) implemented jointly by the UN implementing agencies for SDG-F JPs	
Joint analytical work (studies, publications, etc.) undertaken jointly by UN implementing agencies for SDG-F JPs	
Joint activities undertaken jointly by UN implementing agencies for SDG-F JPs	
Other, please specify:	

## National Ownership: Paris, Accra and Busan Commitments

The SDG-F strengthens the UN system's ability to deliver results in an integrated and multi-dimensional manner by supporting the Joint Programme modality and by bringing together United Nations Agencies and national counterparts in a collective effort to ensure ownership and sustainability of results of JPs and advance towards the SDGs.

Partners	Involvement *	Type of involvement	Examples
Government (specify national/local)	Slightly involved	Policy-decision making Service Provision	Vanuatu has a newly launch Agri-tourism strategy which has a strong focus on organic production and engaging young people in agriculture.
Private Sector	Fairly involved	Budget Other	Links to market are critical for project success. Examples of private sector buyers engaged to date are: - Tanna Coffee in Vanuatu ( operating a PGS group established by the JP
Civil Society	Fully involved	Policy-decision making Service Provision	The national implementing partners FSA are civil society organizations. Also engaged are Nasituan in Vanuatu a local social and economic development NGO and the Council of Chiefs of Emae Island.
Academia	Not involved		

\* Implementation of activities and the delivery of outputs

**Please briefly describe the current situation of the government, private sector and civil society on regards of ownership, align:**

Government, private sector and civil society are well aligned at national level and there is strong ownership right down to community stakeholders.

The national partners FSA have strong networks at national level and long standing relationships with Government creating an enabling environment for implementation.

The project is relatively small for Vanuatu Government and so the relevant Government Ministries (Youth and Agriculture) are happy to leave implementation to FSA and provide input or technical assistance on request. The Ministry of Agriculture has appointed a staff member to be liaison for the project, the staff member is also the current Chair of POETCom.

The Ministry for Youth directed the project to the National Youth Council for all matters however the NYC has very limited capacity and no capacity in agriculture and so have requested to be kept informed only and to be engaged when it comes to sharing learning and lessons from the projects.

## VI. Joint Programme contribution to the SDGs

SDG #	JP Contribution
Goal 1	1.1 & 1.2 Value of organic agriculture and certification as a niche commodity for premium markets, youth employment, income generation. Soon they will earn even more when the project facilitates the linkages with the hotels in the area. High school dropouts because of unpaid school fees, the youths are rewriting the story of their lives and plan with the income from farming they will build themselves a better living standard.
Goal 2	2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organic food nutritionally more vibrant than those chemically produced (healthier)</li> <li>• Organically produced can combat NCD's like diabetes because of risks of pesticides and chemical fertilizers interrupt endocrine system.</li> <li>• Organic farm systems yield increase long term compared to alternative</li> </ul>

<b>SDG #</b>	<b>JP Contribution</b>
Goal 3	3.9 Pesticide free foods are safe for people. Chemicals harm people's health.
Goal 6	6.4, 6.6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agricultural chemical use major threat to waterways and peoples drinking water</li> <li>• Organic agriculture protects purity of water content</li> </ul>
Goal 12	12.2, 12.5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organic agriculture produces healthy food in environmentally sound ways</li> <li>• Supports recycling of green waste and composting</li> </ul>
Goal 13	13.1, 13.3 Organic farming is good for climate adaption and mitigation e.g. organic farming technologies provide resilience to farm during periods of drought
Goal 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organic farming promotes the sustainable use of land resources, forests and protects biodiversity</li> </ul>

## VII. Additional Information

---

Attachments

---