



SUPPORTING THE PACIFIC TO ADDRESS THE VULNERABILITIES OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY TO CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH THE KORONIVIA JOINT WORK ON AGRICULTURE

May 2022

SDGs:



Countries:

Cook Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu

Project Code:

TCP/SAP/3706

FAO Contribution:

USD 499 000

Duration:

8 May 2019 – 31 December 2021

Contact Info:

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Implementing Partners

Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry responsible for Climate Change, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Beneficiaries

Ministries of Agriculture in the participating countries.

Country Programming Framework (CPF) Outputs

CPF 2018-2022 Pacific Islands Output 2: Sustainable and climate-smart practices promoted to help build resilient agriculture, fisheries and forestry production systems.



BACKGROUND

Despite the progress made on climate change adaptation and mitigation in the Pacific, the agriculture sector remains peripheral in regional discussions on climate change and the path required for a sustainable future. The Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) began during Fiji's leadership at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP) 23 and discussions, expert meetings and workshops dedicated to the KJWA have continued since that date. The KJWA addresses six interrelated topics on soils, nutrient use, water, livestock, methods for assessing adaptation, and the socio-economic and food security dimensions of climate change across agricultural sectors. An emphasis on the importance of agriculture and food security in regional strategic climate change dialogue is essential if countries are to quantify the potential benefits of climate mitigation actions on the agricultural sector. Significant progress has been made in recent years, with countries agreeing on a roadmap for the KJWA and, in 2018, 42 submissions to the KJWA were made to the UNFCCC.

The Pacific has had little engagement with the KJWA under the UNFCCC. The aim of the project was thus to support Pacific countries to address the vulnerabilities of agriculture and food security to climate change through the KJWA. FAO would provide technical support to the preparation of national and regional submissions, and carry out advocacy to develop the policy environment and institutional capacities required. The project would address the fundamental interventions required to improve the integration of food security, agriculture, forestry and fisheries within international and regional climate change programmes.

IMPACT

The project contributed to strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change and natural disasters in Pacific Island countries by raising awareness on the nexus of climate change and agriculture. Pacific countries have enhanced their knowledge on the impacts of climate change on agricultural livelihoods, and improved their actions on integrated climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices, introducing climate change into national policies and planning. Pacific countries have also contributed globally through their regional submissions to the UNFCCC on the KJWA and through inputs into the negotiations on the KJWA under the UNFCCC.

ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS

The project achieved and exceeded its envisaged outcome. As a result of the project's activities, Pacific countries participated successfully and strategically in KJWA processes under the UNFCCC, through a Pacific regional submission on the KJWA to the UNFCCC and a Regional COP26 Key Message used by key Pacific negotiators as inputs into the KJWA negotiations. The number of Pacific countries participating in the KJWA negotiations at COP26 increased from one (Fiji) in previous years to four (Fiji, Palau, Solomon Islands, Kiribati). The project outputs were successfully achieved and surpassed. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic challenges, the project approach was adapted and the revised outputs included five Webinars, two workshops, one regional submission, one COP26 Key Message and four knowledge products and case studies. These contributed to Pacific negotiators' inputs to the KJWA processes under the UNFCCC. Through the case studies, countries were also able to share experiences and lessons learned on such KJWA topics as soil management, nutrient managements and livestock management.

IMPLEMENTATION OF WORK PLAN AND BUDGET

The project experienced some challenges in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, despite delays, the methodologies were adapted to the new circumstances and virtual delivery was successfully employed. Following a request for a no-cost extension, the project duration was extended to December 2021, allowing all activities to be implemented in a timely manner. Workshops aimed at supporting countries with KJWA processes under the UNFCCC were aligned to the UNFCCC sessions and delivered on time.

A large amount of the budget was intended to fund regional meetings and travel expenses. The challenge of COVID-19-related restrictions led to re-programming and approval was given to use some of the budget for the procurement of soil test kits for all 13 countries and an irrigation system for one country. Technical Webinar training in the use of the soil test kits was given before countries received the soil test kits.

The project had low environmental risks. The major risks encountered were related to COVID-19 and possible delays to activities. These were managed through the re-design of methodologies and activities, as described above.

FOLLOW-UP FOR GOVERNMENT ATTENTION

It is recommended that the governments of the participating Pacific countries continue to build their capacity to mainstream climate change into agriculture at national and local levels.

SUSTAINABILITY

1. Capacity development

After the capacity-building Webinars on soil management, countries identified the absence of soil management policies at national and regional level, and requested FAO support in the development of a regional soil management guideline, building on FAO's voluntary guidelines on soil. This request has been integrated into project TCP/SAP/3811.

The project collaborated with such partners as the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the University of the South Pacific, the Pacific Climate Change Centre, Japan International Cooperation Agency, the Mainstreaming of Rural Development Innovation, the UNFCCC Secretariat, civil society organizations (CSOs) and regional experts. All these organizations work in the Pacific region and support Pacific countries.

At the end of each Webinar, workshop and training event, countries were given the opportunity to provide recommendations. These formed the basis for country requests as a follow-up and exit strategy for the project. Relevant recommendations and requests were built into other relevant regional projects.

2. Gender equality

Men and women's capacity to engage in the KJWA processes under the UNFCCC was enhanced, as was their understanding of the nexus of climate change and agriculture. Four Pacific women focal points of project FMM/GLO/149/MUL participated in the current project and were capacitated on the KJWA and prepared for their participation in KJWA processes. Women from Solomon Islands, Palau and Kiribati were enabled to attend COP26 and to participate in KJWA negotiations and meetings.

Both women and men were given opportunities to benefit from project activities. Attention was given to ensure that women participated in the Webinars as speakers and as participants, and that they had equal opportunities to speak and make comments during Webinars, workshops and meetings.

3. Environmental sustainability

The KJWA represents a unique pathway for concrete actions to mainstream environmental sustainability in relation to food systems and addressing climate change. The integrated CSA practices learned through the project are focused on adaptation and mitigation co-benefits delivered in line with environmentally sustainable and responsible approaches.

4. Human Rights-based Approach (HRBA) – in particular Right to Food and Decent Work

Human rights issues were not directly addressed by the project.

5. Technological sustainability

The technologies introduced by the project were drawn from CSA approaches that are appropriate for the Pacific countries, such as the use of *mucuna pruriens*, targeted composts, bucket drip irrigation and soil test kits. These built on existing practices in the Pacific with a specific focus on identifying climate change adaptation and mitigation co-benefits.

A biogas digester was piloted in Samoa and dry litter piggery approaches were piloted in Kiribati. These technologies are appropriate for the respective two countries.

The capacity of Pacific countries to engage in KJWA processes under the UNFCCC has been significantly improved and the countries that were able to attend COP26 and experience the negotiations will continue their participation in future.

6. Economic sustainability

Pacific countries requested technical support on CSA and linkages to the KJWA under the UNFCCC, specifically to support the development of regional guidelines, policies on topics including soil, nutrient management, water management in agriculture, livestock and nature based solutions. In this context, project TCP/SAP/3811 has been approved and operationalized to assist countries to develop regional guidelines on good CSA practices on the topics of the KJWA.

The knowledge products developed under the project will be shared with participating countries at no cost.

DOCUMENTS AND OUTREACH PRODUCTS

- ❑ **FAO.** *Mucuna Pruriens*. Case study.
- ❑ **FAO.** *Targeted compost*. Case study.
- ❑ **FAO.** *Good Water Management is Vital for Good Nutrient Management*. Case study.
- ❑ **FAO.** *Improving Nutrient Management in the Pacific Islands*. Case study.
- ❑ **FAO.** *Dry litter piggery*. Operational manual.
- ❑ **FAO.** *An information guide on installation and management of fibreglass-reinforced bio-digester and garden waste water treatment system*.



ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS - LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Expected Impact	Climate change measures integrated into national agricultural policies, strategies and planning in the Pacific Islands		
Outcome	Increased capacities of Pacific Island countries to engage strategically in the KJWA process under the UNFCCC		
	Indicator	Pacific views on KJWA topics and implementation shared in high-level international and regional meetings.	
	Baseline	0	
	End Target	Pacific views shared in at least one UNFCCC Subsidiary Body or one UNFCCC COP, and one Pacific high-level meeting by project end.	
	Comments and follow-up action to be taken	At closure date, the overall level of achievements was very satisfactory. Approaches to implementing the activities were adapted owing to COVID-19, and virtual delivery was adopted.	
Output 1	Enabling environment established to support the engagement of Pacific Island countries in the KJWA process		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	Pacific Roadmap developed and shared.	Pacific Roadmap developed by June 2019.	Yes
Baseline	Global KJWA Roadmap agreed at UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice/Subsidiary Body for Implementation 48.		
Comments	The Pacific KJWA Roadmap was discussed during the inception workshop. In order to avoid duplicating work that had already been agreed on and endorsed by countries at the global level under the UNFCCC on the KJWA, the Roadmap of the KJWA (UNFCCC), was adopted and adapted as the Pacific Roadmap.		
Activity 1.1	Develop and agree on Pacific KJWA Roadmap		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	The KJWA Roadmap that had been agreed on and endorsed by countries under the UNFCCC was adopted and adapted as the Pacific KJWA Roadmap. This enabled synergies and close alignment of the Pacific activities to those already agreed on under the UNFCCC.	
Activity 1.2	Advocate for Pacific engagement in KJWA process in regional and international fora		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	At regional level, Tonga participated in the Asia Pacific Climate Change Week. A COP26 Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting took place ahead of COP26 to prepare the Pacific Island countries' key messages, based on their priorities, and key requests for COP26. Participation from Pacific countries was good and their awareness of the KJWA was raised as a result. A number of Pacific countries attended COP26 and participated in the KJWA negotiations using the Pacific Key Messages for COP26. These included Solomon Islands, Fiji, Kiribati and Palau.	
Output 2	Pacific national and regional submissions on KJWA developed for submission to UNFCCC		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	National and regional submissions on KJWA developed for submission to UNFCCC.	At least one national (Fiji) submission on KJWA submitted to UNFCCC by project end. At least one regional (Pacific) submission on KJWA submitted to UNFCCC by project end.	Partially
Baseline	0		
Comments	The achievements were highly satisfactory. A national submission for Fiji was developed. A regional submission was developed and submitted on behalf of the 13 Pacific countries to the UNFCCC in the call of submission under the KJWA.		
Activity 2.1	Develop Fiji national submission on KJWA		
	Achieved	Partially	
	Comments	A national submission was prepared for Fiji and put through the government processes for approval. Owing to delays and other competing national priorities, it was not approved and therefore was not submitted. However, the submission was used by the Fiji Lead Negotiator on the KJWA during negotiations and workshops under the KJWA (UNFCCC).	

Activity 2.2	Develop Pacific regional submission on KJWA		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	A regional submission on behalf of the Pacific Islands was submitted by Fiji on behalf of the Pacific Islands to the UNFCCC in December 2020.	
Output 3	Knowledge and communication products to foster the exchange of lessons learned and build capacities in implementation organized		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	Knowledge and communication products on the KJWA in the Pacific available and disseminated.	At least one knowledge product or communication material produced and published.	Yes
Baseline	0		
Comments	<p>The output was successfully achieved.</p> <p>The project developed a number of knowledge products. These were shared with countries for their inputs and internally within FAO for peer review. The knowledge products were put through a Performance Work Statement (PWS) process and will be finalized in 2022, after the PWS process, and then printed and shared with countries. Follow-up activities including identifying funds for printing and distribution to Pacific countries. To be environmentally responsible, the sharing of an electronic version of the final knowledge products is to be considered favourably.</p>		
Activity 3.1	Organize a Webinar to raise awareness on the KJWA for Pacific agriculture officials and other interested parties		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	<p>Achievements were highly successful.</p> <p>Seven Webinars were delivered virtually owing to the COVID-19 restrictions. The Webinars were successfully attended by countries, regional universities, CSO representatives, regional experts and national experts. Following these Webinars, countries requested additional support to build their capacities, including on soil, and to develop regional guidelines on soil, nutrient use and livestock management. Requests from countries will be considered in project TCP/SAP/3811.</p>	
Activity 3.2	Develop knowledge and communication products		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	<p>Four knowledge products/case studies were developed and used by countries as communication products during workshops of the KJWA and in the negotiations.</p> <p>One regional submission and one key message for COP26 were developed and used by countries as media products and outreach, bilaterally and in the negotiations. Pacific countries also requested FAO to continue to support them with the KJWA; this request was included in project TCP/SAP/3811.</p>	
Activity 3.3	Organize a regional communications workshop		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	<p>A regional communication workshop held in December 2021 focused on communicating the outcomes of COP26 and was attended by representatives of Pacific media, countries and other stakeholders from the region. This regional communication workshop was welcomed by Pacific countries, especially those who were not able to attend COP26.</p>	

Partnerships and Outreach

For more information, please contact: Reporting@fao.org

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