

Wageningen, 20 August 2014

ANNOUNCEMENT



Building resilience and strengthening climate-change adaptation for fishers and farmers in the Pacific region

A new research and development programme in the Pacific brings together the CGIAR and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) to address climate-change-adaptation needs of Pacific fishers and farmers.

The Pacific peoples are dependent on coastal resources for their livelihoods. Research has highlighted their extreme vulnerability to the effects of climate change, which is driving sea-level rise, ocean acidification, increased temperatures, erratic patterns of seasonality and increases in typhoons.

CTA and the international agricultural research centres supported by CGIAR are joining forces to initiate a research and development (R&D) programme to build resilience and strengthen adaptation to climate change and variability amongst fishers and farmers in the Pacific region. Funding will be provided by the CGIAR Fund, the New Zealand Aid Programme and the European Union. CGIAR will be represented by two of its research programmes – Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) and Aquatic Agricultural Systems (AAS). The Pacific programme will be led by WorldFish, but with other CGIAR centres contributing.

Partnerships are crucial to achieving outcomes, and the programme will be developed through established national and regional partnerships in the Pacific, including agencies of the Council for Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP), national governments, New Zealand's National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Pacific Island Farmers Organisation Network (PIFON) and the Pacific-Europe Network for Science and Technology (PACE-Net).

The private sector also is a crucial partner, ranging from small input suppliers to major players in the food system, and including the insurance and banking sectors.

The programme will also build on existing South–South exchange mechanisms. The first phase, now being initiated, will involve scoping, partnership development and visioning. The visioning process explores alternative development scenarios and the key technical and institutional options that will be important to cover in the R&D process.

While the final R&D topic areas will be decided through the stakeholder process, with an initial workshop in early 2015, possible areas include early warning and weather forecasting for farmers and fishers, index-based insurance and climate-smart practices and approaches.

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About CTA

2014 marks CTA's 30th anniversary. It's an important milestone that allows us to recognise the contribution of our numerous national, regional and international partners. By working together, we've given agricultural and rural communities across African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries the vital skills they need for improving agricultural productivity, sustainability and access to markets. This anniversary also lets us recognise the generous support of our sponsors – the European Union and the ACP Group – over the last three decades.

We've come a long way as an organisation. In fact, helping transform smallholder agriculture into a profitable and sustainable business in the ACP countries has never been as exciting. CTA is working with its partners on a host of issues ranging from getting young people interested in farming to improving access to markets and finance, developing inclusive value chains, enhancing food and nutrition security policies, building resilient agriculture, and harnessing information and communication technologies (ICTs) for the benefit of smallholders.

This is why we've chosen our anniversary theme to be, *'Knowledge is...Transformation, competitiveness, prosperity, resilience and food'* – a positive message about sharing and creating access to research and training. As part of our 2014 celebrations, we have also just published our Stories for Change book. Containing three decades of inspirational tales from around ACP, it demonstrates how the pure power of knowledge changes lives for the better.

For more information visit www.cta.int