

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

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| DIALOGUE DATE | Thursday, 20 May 2021 10:00 GMT +12:00 |
| DIALOGUE TITLE | Blue Pacific Food Systems |
| CONVENED BY | Hon. Amelia Afuha'amango Tu'ipolotu, Minister of Health, Tonga |
| DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE | https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/11735/ |
| DIALOGUE TYPE | Intergovernmental |
| GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS | Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu |

The outcomes from a Food Systems Summit Dialogue will be of use in developing the pathway to sustainable food systems within the locality in which they take place. They will be a valuable contribution to the national pathways and also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

1. PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

73 Male

86 Female

1 Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

Education

Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

3 Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

10 Local Non-Governmental Organization

7 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

9 Science and academia

2 Workers and trade union

2 Member of Parliament

Local authority

74 Government and national institution

34 Regional economic community

54 United Nations

International financial institution

3 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

HOW DID YOU ORGANIZE THE DIALOGUE SO THAT THE PRINCIPLES WERE INCORPORATED, REINFORCED AND ENHANCED?

The Blue Pacific Food Systems Dialogue set out to connect the diverse voices, stories and science that connect our Blue Pacific Food System. As an intergovernmental dialogue, it brought together the knowledge and experience of 22 countries in the Pacific region. It recognised complexity by taking a systems perspective from the outset, and was designed to include interconnected perspectives from health, agriculture, fisheries, water, climate change, trade, livelihoods, gender and youth sectoral approaches. The dialogue was culturally grounded using Pacific oral methods including storytelling, talanoa, and open, inclusive discussion. Facilitation was provided by a diverse coalition of actors from Pacific regional organizations, UN agencies and civil society.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR OTHER DIALOGUE CONVENORS ABOUT APPRECIATING THE PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT?

Conducting a pre-dialogue webinar and developing an evidence brief was an effective tool to ensure that all participants were on the same page when they joined.

3. METHOD

The outcomes of a Dialogue are influenced by the method that is used.

DID YOU USE THE SAME METHOD AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CONVENORS REFERENCE MANUAL?

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| <input type="radio"/> | Yes | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | No |
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The Blue Pacific Food Systems Dialogue set out to connect the diverse voices, stories and science that connect our Blue Pacific Food System. As an intergovernmental dialogue, it brought together the knowledge and experience of 22 countries. The Dialogue has offered an opportunity to explore the opportunities and challenges facing the region in the coming decade and reflect on the “game changing solutions” needed to achieve the SDGs in the region. The Dialogue was convened by the Minister for Health for the Kingdom of Tonga, the Honourable Amelia Afuha’amango Tuipulotu, and curated by Karen Mapusua, Director of the Land Resources Division, SPC. Facilitation was provided by a diverse coalition of staff from Pacific regional organizations, UN agencies and civil society. Invites were distributed through national and sectoral focal points, civil society and food system actor networks. The regional dialogue was intended to complement the national dialogues that are underway in the region. The Dialogue was conducted over 2.5 hours using Zoom, with interpretation in English and French. The curation included three major components: 1. Session 1: Short stories stimulate discussion on each of the action tracks. Five diverse actors within the food system gave a 3-minute response to the question: What are the big opportunities for this action track for the future of the Blue Pacific food system? 2. Session 2: Facilitated breakout groups organised by action track, as well as a special topic on atoll food systems. Each of the 15 parallel breakout groups had 3-6 participants, and followed a standardised approach. Each facilitator had the same questions to ask the breakout groups. A special action track on atolls was also organised. 3. Session 3: Panel question and answer on Blue Pacific Food Systems diverse perspectives. The panel included stakeholders from government, civil society, and multilateral agencies. The event closed with a reflection of emerging themes from the different break-out groups, based on a rapid sense-making session guided by the curator and facilitators. The event also had a graphic illustrator to document the process and results. Before the Dialogue, to build momentum and shared understanding, we hosted a public webinar that used story-telling and expert input to build food systems understanding and interest. To complement this webinar, we collected existing evidence of issues and challenges and published it in an Evidence Brief for the Pacific region and partners. These activities paved the way for the interactive dialogue.

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

The Blue Pacific Food System dialogue was an intergovernmental dialogue, bringing a unique regional Food Systems perspective to the global dialogue process. The Blue Pacific encompasses the interconnected land, aquatic, coastal and oceanic systems that support subsistence, livelihoods, commercial enterprise and economic development of the region, grounded in the culture, knowledge and the traditions and practices of its people.

The dialogue gathered perspectives on multiple food systems dimensions, from agriculture to fisheries, health, ecosystems, economics, and the inseparable connection between food and Pacific culture, knowledge and technology. The dialogue celebrated the unique contribution of the Pacific's land and oceans to the global food system, while also addressing the challenges facing the region, including urgent attention to the existential threat that climate change poses to the regional food system.

Agriculture and fisheries are central to Pacific livelihoods and economies. Between 50-70% of Pacific peoples depend on agriculture or associated activities for their livelihoods. Coastal fisheries provide a primary or secondary source of income for up to 50% of households. Freshwater resources are varied, with future scarcity posing a food security risk.

Pacific countries have a significant trade deficit and increasing dependence on imported food. The Pacific, as a whole, is not on track to achieve SDG2. Health outcomes are an increasing challenge, with some of the highest rates of non-communicable diseases in the world, and mal and under nutrition is persistent in some countries. C

The focus leveraged from the evidence brief produced for the Dialogue in April 2021 set the context of our Dialogue for each Summit Action Track as follows:

- AT1 Ensure safe and nutritional food for all: Traditional nutrition-rich Pacific diets have eroded. Trade systems, while enhancing access to diverse food and facilitating economic growth and prosperity, have also created food environments that lead to negative health outcomes, contributing to an NCD crisis in Pacific countries. The large geographic area and small populations create challenges for food distribution. Climate change and energy shocks create vulnerabilities in the food supply.
- AT2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns. The sustainability of international food value chains impacts the Pacific's ability to source sustainable food. There are high levels of non-communicable diseases, which are one of the leading causes of premature death. Several PICTs (Pacific Islands Countries and Territories) are among the top 10 countries in the world with the highest rates of diabetes. Convenience foods are overpackaged and contribute to increasing waste problems.
- AT3: Boost nature positive production: Agroforestry and integrated small-scale systems are common in Pacific Island countries. Land has been cleared for food and cash commodities, causing biodiversity loss, soil erosion and water pollution. Ridge-to-Reef initiatives link coastal areas with agricultural production systems.
- AT4: Advance equitable livelihoods: Poverty and inequality are growing in the Pacific, and this influences the food security of different socio-economic groups. Family-based approaches to farming and community-based approaches to managing fisheries are widespread. Women play a critical role in household nutrition and food security and income, but their contribution is not always recognised or supported.
- AT5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks, and stress. 'Slow shocks' are occurring – such as water quality and availability, soil degradation, NCDs and poverty. 'Extreme and cumulative shocks' are also occurring – such as economic, COVID-19, and the increasing frequency and impact of hazards, including of cyclones, flooding events, drought and salinity. This is in addition to existing variability from drivers including El Niño and La Niña.

The Dialogue also had incorporated a special focus on atoll countries and communities, that face unique challenges in relation to fresh availability, soil health and the impacts of climate change.

ACTION TRACKS

| | |
|---|--|
| ✓ | Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all |
| ✓ | Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns |
| ✓ | Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production |
| ✓ | Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods |
| ✓ | Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress |

KEYWORDS

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| ✓ | Finance | ✓ | Policy |
| ✓ | Innovation | ✓ | Data & Evidence |
| ✓ | Human rights | ✓ | Governance |
| ✓ | Women & Youth Empowerment | | Trade-offs |
| | | ✓ | Environment and Climate |

MAIN FINDINGS

The main findings from the synthesis of plenary and breakout groups from this Dialogue are:

1. The Pacific Ocean – the largest in the world – plays a critical role in the global food system. The global community has a stake in contributing to its sustainable management. Pacific countries have deep knowledge and strong governance systems for the sustainable stewardship of ocean resources. However, further global investment is required in the science, governance and management of this invaluable shared resource in the face of climate change and increasing pressure on fisheries, requiring global community attention.
2. Pacific knowledge and technology (including traditional and indigenous knowledge) is widely used in farming and fisheries and provides a global lever for moving towards localised solutions to food systems. Future food interventions could better leverage traditional and Indigenous knowledge in combination with novel science and technology. Innovative food interventions can use a blend of traditional knowledge with emerging science, social science, policy, business, and technology initiatives.
3. Agriculture and fisheries can be transformed through augmenting sustainable management practices, such as agroecology, regenerative farming and community-based fisheries management. There are opportunities to further integrate agriculture, coastal fisheries, aquaculture and water management through circular, ecosystem-based approaches to support blue-green economies. Innovations in land and sea production must include local communities, and technology implementation has to be place-based and co-developed with communities and users.
4. Pacific health, livelihoods and food systems outcomes are heavily influenced by global trade systems and local food environments, impacting overall food and nutrition security. A combination of improved food governance, education programs, and incentives for sustainable and healthy food can help transition diets. Investment is also needed in food safety infrastructure and legislation to facilitate access of Pacific food producers to markets.
5. Innovative investment and financing are needed to support the resilience of Pacific Food Systems in the face of shocks and climate change including innovation in payments for ecosystems services. There is a need for investment in regional public goods, including biosecurity, nutrition centred disaster preparedness and response, and insurance. Barriers to climate finance mechanisms in the Pacific need to be addressed and ensure that vulnerable households are better enabled to anticipate, plan and rapidly recover from shocks.
6. Evidence based decision making for disaster management, food security, nutritional composition and agricultural and fisheries monitoring can revolutionise food systems. Robust data collection and management platforms need to understand the behaviour of the food system and support decision making.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/6

Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all

The groups identified the following areas needed to achieve impact:

1. Leveraging Pacific knowledge and governance approaches to support equitable food systems. Food production must be supported by coherent governance and institutional frameworks to oversee the sustainable production and supply of food. Lessons can be drawn from traditional governance of food systems resources, and the contemporary sustainable management of the Western and Central Pacific tuna fishery and Community Based Management systems.
2. Integrating production on land and sea to support sustainable, regenerative and circular value chains. Solutions include linking small-scale farming and home gardens with aquaculture and mariculture for diverse production and ensuring access to open pollinated varieties of seeds for home gardens and commercial production. Commercialisation of crops needs to be developed on more sustainable and resilient models.
3. Researching food systems to support quality data and evidence that is inclusive of Pacific islands peoples and that supports decision making. Data and evidence are needed to support monitoring of nutritious food availability, consumption patterns, and market information, as well as to support better decisions, early warning and action.
4. Supporting the consumption of traditional and nutritious foods. Traditional island foods play an important role in healthy diets in the Pacific. This is an opportunity to link traditional diets with consumption.

Divergence requiring further attention.

1. Nutritious food also needs to be part of disaster response and recovery. Food relief following a disaster is often based on white rice. While non-perishables form an important part of immediate response, options for traditional and innovative preservation (transformation and packaging) of local crops such as taro, yam, banana and breadfruit could be explored.
2. There was little to no discussion on the role of poverty and climate induced poverty as a trigger of food security.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/6

Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns

The groups identified the following areas needed to achieve impact:

1. Educating current and future generations can have transformative health outcomes. Targeting youth can help save the future people of the Pacific – it can be a leverage point to reduce the NCD crisis. The gendered nature of learning must be embedded into education strategies.

2. Working with governance, trade and taxation systems to establish healthy food environments. This is an environment where adequate and nutritious food is available at an affordable price. Both regional and international mechanisms need to support these healthy environments. Investing in traditional food preservation can spur innovation and local businesses, as well as act as a response measure for building community resilience.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/6

Action Track 3: Boost Nature-Positive production

The groups identified the following areas needed to achieve impact:

1. Securing soil, food, and water resources in an integrated way is core to building future resilience.
2. Food production must amplify traditional, organic, agroecological, and regenerative practices and focus on low-input and low impact farming methods.
3. The circularity between land and sea systems needs to be understood as an integrated and complementary contributor to food security.
4. Gender-responsive adaptation needs to be embedded into short and long-term climate change strategies across all food sectors, rather than just agriculture and fishing. Women and girls need to be recognised as champions in transitioning and driving resilient farming practices. However, womens' roles and contributions are hidden in the data as subsistence agriculture and fisheries are poorly monitored. This must change.
5. Blending traditional knowledge with science advances presents a unique opportunity in the Pacific. Increasing mobile data coverage, for example, with strong traditional land and resource management systems, can lead to innovative value chain and food monitoring systems.

Areas of divergence requiring further attention

6. Socialising the language of food systems and finding local words for systems thinking is important – these can be embedded in different agriculture, fisheries and health programmes.
7. Globally, and in the region, the role of oceans, fisheries and health needs to take a more prominent place in food systems discussions to avoid reverting to a discussion limited to agriculture alone.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/6

Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods

The groups identified the following areas needed to achieve impact:

1. Supporting and improving livelihoods needs to leverage traditional knowledge, scientific knowledge, value chains and markets in an inclusive and coherent way to support livelihoods for all. This includes engaging youth in food system opportunities as a way to expand Pacific knowledge and technology and create opportunities for future generations to develop food markets.
2. Gendered roles in livelihood production need to be addressed. Women and girls often play hidden or under-valued roles in food value chains and are affected differently. Supporting women and gender equity remains core to equitable livelihoods.
3. Food systems strategies need to draw from and link to existing national level sector plans that already have a focus on different parts of the food system.
4. Addressing the differences between urban and rural food system needs and opportunities is important as poverty, livelihoods and food systems are differentiated throughout the region.
5. A focus on the family unit in urban and rural settings is important given how important family is to food production and consumption in the Pacific.

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| ✓ | Women & Youth Empowerment | | Trade-offs |
| | | | Environment and Climate |

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/6

Action Track 5 : Build Resilience to vulnerability, shocks and stress

The groups identified the following areas needed to achieve impact:

1. Financing is needed to address the Pacific’s unique vulnerabilities. The countries are isolated, are increasingly affected by climate change, and have many underlying vulnerabilities in their systems. Pacific states and territories are currently under-represented amongst recipients of climate related development funding.
2. Biosecurity systems at national and regional levels need strengthening. The introduction of pests and diseases to the Pacific’s unique ecosystems can be devastating to crops, marine species and livelihoods.
3. Early warning systems and integrated multi-sectoral monitoring and reporting systems need to be in place to facilitate timely responses and informed decision-making.
4. Investment in better adapting hazard early warning systems such as satellite-based systems is needed in the Pacific SIDS context where precise geographical accuracy is vital.
5. Increased adoption of anticipatory actions can greatly reduce the cost of humanitarian responses and ensure governments and vulnerable households are better enabled to anticipate, plan and rapidly recover from shocks.
6. Rediscovering both traditional farming skills, production and preservation systems and local crop varieties and biodiversity, especially breadfruit and taro, can support resilience This includes using science to build resilience and advance traditional preservation, replication, cultivation and genetics, including in practices such as agroforestry and organic farming that can help build resilience into farming systems.
7. Strengthening integration of water and livestock management systems in farming systems offers opportunities for policy and science innovation.
8. Data on climate stressors is important to improve anticipatory action. This needs to be supported by the use of early-warning systems and increased investment in hazard mapping and forecasting.
9. Climate risk financing approaches, including Forecast based Financing (FbF) and climate risk insurance, needs to be more widely used in order to increase resilience.
10. Local solutions must be scaled through diverse partnerships including scientists, private sector actors, fisher and farmer groups and citizens, to support common challenges including crop production, food waste and packaging reduction and traditional ways of preparing and sharing food.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 6/6

Atoll countries and communities

Atolls, and atoll countries, have unique food systems challenges and therefore warranted a specific focus within the regional dialogue in the form of a special breakout group. The Blue Pacific continent is home to four atoll countries (Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Tokelau and Tuvalu), with significant populations living on atolls in other nations such as Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. Atoll communities, living on land that rises to only an average of two meters above sea level, have been sustainably managing fragile food systems for generations. These same communities are now facing the existential threat of climate change, along with other drivers of change that threaten their health, food and water resources.

- Atoll food systems, and nutrition outcomes, are vulnerable to external drivers such as climate change and international trade.
- Sustaining the natural resource base is crucial for the future of atolls - freshwater is scarce, genetic diversity is low and coastal inundation is impacting limited agricultural systems. Innovative atoll solutions that focus on water, climate, and food linkages and their impact on livelihoods are needed.
- Urbanization is intensifying in atolls, which have some of the highest urban densities in the world. Limited land in the future means that movement of people within and beyond nations will pose sovereignty and security risks.
- Identifying strategies for household nutritious food preparation and consumption is needed.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

While the Dialogue had overall agreement around the big thematic topics in Section A of this form, there were some specific areas of divergence. These are part of larger discussions and issues in the region and require ongoing management to support food systems change.

One topic that is contested in the region is land tenure and land rights. The Pacific region has 22 countries all with different land governance systems, so land discussions need to be contextual, and place based. There are trade-offs between customary approaches to land tenure and globalisation and liberalisation of food markets and exports.

Our Dialogue raised topics that differ from the overall UN Summit, such as strong ocean and fisheries governance, and blended traditional and scientific approaches to food systems. Importantly, the Pacific has a unique context in its inseparable connection between land and marine systems and shared contributors to livelihoods and identity. The Pacific is balancing the governance and management of a global asset (the ocean and its resources, such as tuna) with the local realities of poverty, food insecurity, and climate change. The geographical size of countries and their isolation makes them unique in the global context.

Atoll countries and communities also have divergent issues to the larger mountainous Pacific countries. Atolls have very limited freshwater, poor quality soils, and are heavily dependent on food imports. They require unique solutions that deal with increasing salinity intrusion, limited food availability, and limited water supply.

ACTION TRACKS

- ☒ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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- ☐ Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
- ☒ Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

- ☐ Finance
- ☐ Innovation
- ☒ Human rights
- ☐ Women & Youth Empowerment
- ☒ Policy
- ☐ Data & Evidence
- ☒ Governance
- ☒ Trade-offs
- ☒ Environment and Climate

ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **Blue Pacific Food Systems**

RELEVANT LINKS

- **Blue Pacific Food Dialogue works toward global impact**
<https://www.spc.int/updates/blog/2021/05/blue-pacific-food-dialogue-works-toward-global-impact>
- **Webinar and Evidence Brief - Pacific Contributes to UN Food Systems Summit**
<https://www.spc.int/updates/blog/2021/05/pacific-contributes-to-un-food-system-summit>
- **Pacific food systems dialogue to help advance global summit**
<https://www.spc.int/updates/news/media-release/2021/05/pacific-food-systems-dialogue-to-help-advance-global-summit>