



**SUPPORT TO THE REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR FOOD SECURITY (RPFS) IN THE PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES (PROJECT GTFS/RAS/198/ITA):**

## **Tri-Partite Review Meeting**

21-22 April 2008

Apia, Samoa

## **Summary Record of Discussions**

**Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific Islands  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)  
Apia, Samoa**

## Summary

1. The Tri Partite Review meeting for the regional project: GTFS/RAS/198/ITA: Support to the Regional Programme for Food Security (RPFS) in the Pacific was held in Apia, Samoa, 21-22 April 2008. The review was attended by National Project Coordinators from Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu; the representative from the Government of Italy, the representative of the Council for Regional Organization (CROP), the University of the South Pacific (USP), United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) and FAO.
2. The meeting was officially opened by Honourable Taua Kitona Tavaga Seuala, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries for Samoa after the statements from Madam Maria Pia Rizzo, Representative of the Government of Italy and Dr. Vili Fuavao, FAO Sub-regional Representative for the Pacific.
3. The meeting was presided by the Chairman of the Regional Project Steering Committee (RPSC), Dr. Vili Fuavao.
4. The Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU) presented the progress report on the regional project. The meeting endorsed the report and agreed on the following:
  - (i) project has supported 26 national interventions under Component 1 and continued 15 projects under the extension phase;
  - (ii) regional activities under Component 2 are progressing as planned with all activities to be completed by October 2008;
  - (iii) financial delivery of the regional project is 72% as of 31 March 2008 and that all funds for the respective activities under both components shall be committed by 31 December 2008, NTE of the project;
  - (iv) very positive contribution by the South-South Cooperation in providing the necessary technical backstopping to the activities of the project; and
  - (v) urge countries to continue with the implementation of remaining project activities and sustain those activities that have been completed under the project;
5. The meeting commended the commitment by the countries and the technical and operational support provided by FAO to the project. The appreciation to the Italian Government for their generous support was voiced by all countries. Finally, the meeting thanked the countries for having well prepared presentations and agreed on the following:
  - (i) continuous effort for capacity building on project managements and implementation as well as technology enhancement;

- (ii) setting up or linkage/partnerships with existing community or farmers association for project sustainability and additional support;
- (iii) re-emphasise that ownership of the projects is crucial for sustainability;
- (iv) countries to ensure projects are socially accepted and financially viable with data collection and monitoring activities in place;
- (v) an integrated approach to the project that shall involve participation of other line or interested ministries, private sector and NGOs;
- (vi) significant priority for national activities and the need for additional resources to strengthen and enlarge its scope;
- (vii) need for national strategies and policies to match and manage the desired outcomes of production activities;
- (viii) lack of man power and skilled personnel to provide the necessary support for national management and project implementation was shared by many countries;
- (ix) encourage open dialogue amongst countries considering the exchange of experience between countries that are implementing similar activities particularly when different approaches are applied;
- (x) difficulties in the timely mobilization of project resources due to transportation given the scatterings and isolation of some islands group within the countries;
- (xi) communication via internet was considered unreliable in some countries which impact on the timely exchange of information for project management and implementation;
- (xii) while the involvement of women and youth was reported in some projects, the importance of their participation was reconfirmed for the ownership and sustainability of project at the community level;
- (xiii) partnerships and collaboration with regional organizations, such as PIFS, SPC, USP, SPREP shall be promoted and sustained; and
- (xiv) Countries showed commitment to sustain national activities after the life of the assistance.

6. The RPMU presented status in the implementation of Component 2. In addition FAO SAP presented the approach considered for the Food Safety Chain Study which is one of the regional activities under Component 2 with case studies clearly establishing the synergies and linkages between production and trade facilitation activities. The meeting commended the presentations and agreed on the following:

- (i) importance of the linkages between Component 1 and Component 2 and the need for national policies and commitment to institutionalize national program;
- (ii) country commitment to institutionalize the production and trade facilitation linkage i.e. outcomes of the project;
- (iii) Methodology developed for commodity chain studies, which considered the three groups i.e. food security, import substitution and export potential enhances the linkage to the production activities under component 1 and accurately addressed the diversity and capacity available across the countries;
- (iv) identifying commodities through chain studies as a basis for national intervention was discussed as an option for consideration in promoting the needed linkages;
- (v) Parallel activities on commodity chain studies and trade facilitation are being implemented in the countries by other regional partners. These projects includes EU ALL ACP, FACT, DSAP; and
- (vi) careful balance of commitment shall be considered in pursuing production and trade facilitation activities.

7. The RPMU presented the report on Project Management and Coordination. The meeting endorsed the report and decided the following:

- (i) Assessment of the remaining project activities to determine possible extension time of project NTE;
- (ii) Assessment of the 15 projects under the extension phase for possible reallocation of resources to other projects including those that were not included in the extension;
- (iii) Assessment of those projects suspended from the extension phase for priority and unfinished activities for consideration for resources that will be reallocated as in (ii);
- (iv) Continuation of the SSC program with suggestion to look in to the composition of expertise and communication for future programs.

8. The RPMU presented the report on Technical Backstopping and Operational Arrangement. The meeting endorsed the report and agreed on the following:

- (i) The technical backstopping provided through the Task Force and the involvement of the SAP Multi Disciplinary Team was highly regarded and to be considered for future projects;
- (ii) The operation service provided through FAO was highly commended;
- (iii) Appreciate the technical inputs of FAOSAP to the GTFS/RAS/198/ITA through regular program.

9. The F and P Consulting Partners, Monitoring and Evaluation Consultants presented the design developed piloting project in the Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa and Vanuatu. The meeting commended the presentation and agreed as follows:

- (i) development of the logical framework for each country project is required following one common format;
- (ii) considered the option for “Interactive Forum” using the internet for activity monitoring and information sharing;
- (iii) while information exchange is important and crucial, such requires clearance from respective countries;
- (iv) consider the Results Based Management Framework (RBMF) in conjunction with the logical framework to enhance project management and monitoring; and
- (v) that additional information will be provided during the Monitoring and Evaluation Training, 23-25 April 2008 in Apia, Samoa.

#### Other Matters

#### 10. Independent Evaluation of the Regional Program for Food Security

The meeting recognized the importance of the independent evaluation and agreed that it should cover all aspects of the RPFS including the Italian funded component and the SSC component in which the experts and technicians made invaluable contribution to the implementation and the success of the RPFS. The meeting, while agreeing with the proposed cost sharing between the GTFS/RAS/198/ITA and the TCP for the evaluation, indicated that it is important for the evaluation to take into accounts the characteristics of the Pacific island countries when undertaking the evaluation. Further it is also crucial to decide the dates soonest so that countries ensure proper local arrangements are completed and the NPC are available and be in the country when the evaluation are undertaken.

#### 11. Food Security and Sustainable Livelihood Program (FSSLP)

The Chairperson gave a general brief on the development of the expansion phase of the RPFS now known as FSSLP. The meeting discussed the advantages of the approach and the focus of the project as well as the comparative advantages of the FAO in its implementation. The meeting noted the successes of the current pilot phase. Lessons have also been learnt and should be used to ensure the FSSLP is also successful. The meeting further acknowledged the comparative advantage of the FAO, as international agency with expertise and experience which has been used in the current phase and should also be used for the implementation of the FSSLP.

#### Closing

12. The chairman thanked everyone especially the countries, representative of the Government of Italy, the representative from CROP, representative from UNESCO and representative of USP. He made reference to the support of IFAD in the pacific and then thanked FAO staff from HQ and SAP for the technical and operational support given to the program. He expressed appreciation to F and P

Consulting Partnerships for being able to participate in the TPR especially given the importance of having in place a monitoring and evaluation system for national and regional activities which they had been engaged on for the project. Finally thanked the RPMU on behalf of the meeting for the work and efforts in the management and implementation of the regional project. The meeting was then officially closed.