

POETCom General Assembly 17th – 19th November, 2021



Supporting Organic Policy Development in the Pacific



POETCom General Assembly

17 November 2021

Presentation by

Jon Manhire, Managing Director, The AgriBusiness Development
Group, New Zealand Ltd

Presentation Outline



**Background - organic policy
development**



Pacific Organic Policy Toolkit

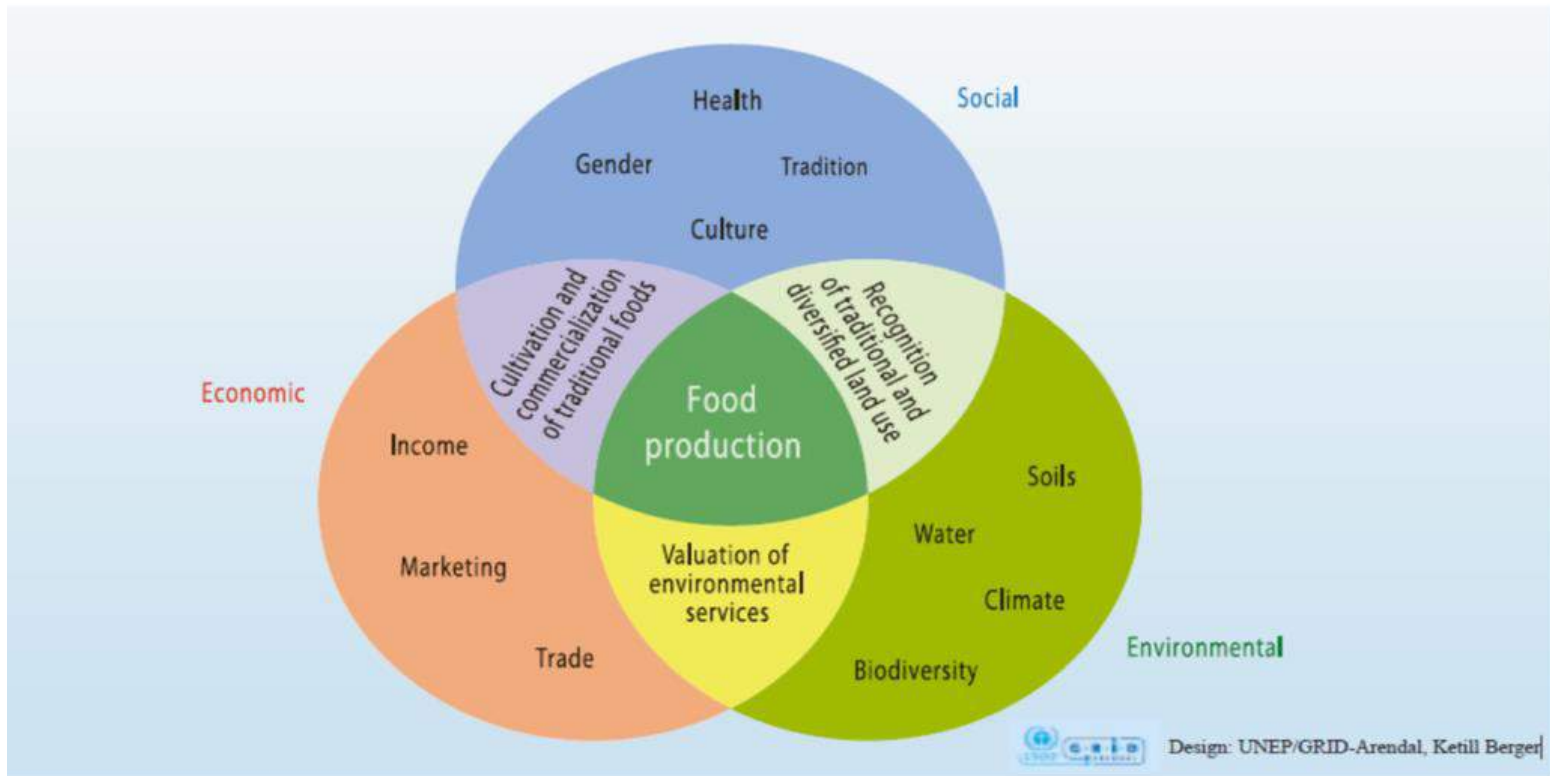


**Project - *'Building capacity for non-
state actors to lead sustainable
agricultural policy development'***

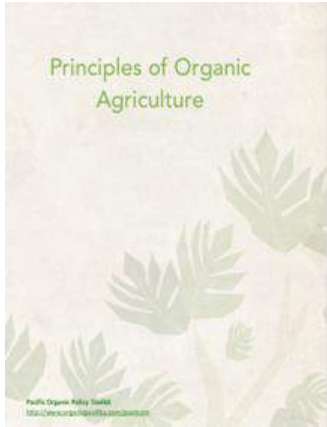
Organic Policy Development



Agriculture - roles and function



The inescapable interconnectedness of agriculture's different roles and functions.



Health - healthy soil, healthy plants and animals, healthy food and people.

Ecology - based on living ecological systems and cycles, works with them, emulates them and helps to sustain them.

Fairness - develop relationships that ensure fairness of environment & life opportunities. Respects the role of farmers & rural communities are recognised and benefits shared equitably with them.

Care -precautionary and responsible manner to protect the health and well-being of current and future generations and the environment.

Culture and traditions - Pacific organic agriculture recognises the value of contributions from traditional agriculture and Pacific cultures.

Benefits of Organic Agriculture



- ▶ Public Goods
 - ▶ Greater biodiversity
 - ▶ Reduced nutrient losses and pollution
 - ▶ Improved soil quality, reduced erosion, better water management and improved carbon sequestration
 - ▶ Adaptation to climate change
 - ▶ Lower use of non-renewable resources
 - ▶ Safer working conditions
 - ▶ Quality and human health
 - ▶ Nutritional quality of organic products
 - ▶ Positive impacts on climate change
 - ▶ Rural development and landscapes
 - ▶ Gender equality

Why “subsidize” organic agriculture?

- Organic agriculture is “**multi-functional**”: it produces food and many public goods. The food production function is remunerated by the market. Public goods must be remunerated through other means, primarily public support.
- Upcoming concept of “true cost accounting”
- At early stages of development of the sector, “subsidization is justified by the “**infant industry argument**”: there are obstacles to transition that needs to be levied, such as farmers’ fear of social exclusion, low economies of scale, lack of organized value chains, lack of knowledge at all levels, etc.

What is an organic agriculture policy?

What can it do?

- ▶ Defines the potential of organic agriculture to address the economic, environmental and social goals of a country and its people.
- ▶ Builds on the specific situation of a countries organic agriculture, its challenges, and potentials
- ▶ Creates a space for government and the organic agriculture community to collaborate on achieving defined objectives.
- ▶ Specifies the most appropriate actions to be taken by government to grow organic agriculture and commerce.
- ▶ Creates accountability for implementing these actions and achieving objectives.



What can an organic policy do (Continued)

- ▶ Protect and build the integrity of organic certification and organic branding - establishing systems for the protection of certified organic products and their labelling.
- ▶ Support other government policies that are aligned to the organic sector e.g. environmental, pesticide, biosecurity, food security, health, tourism policies.

Link with International Policies



2009 World Food Summit Four pillars of food security

Unite people in pursuit of the same mission



- ▶ Intra-government
 - ▶ Government ministries
 - ▶ State/local governments
- ▶ Regional links - SPC
- ▶ International development
- ▶ Private sector/civil society

Benefits of collaboration

Roles

Condition for Co-operation

Pacific Organic Policy Toolkit

PACIFIC ORGANIC POLICY TOOLKIT

A resource for effective government policies and programs to support organic agriculture

ENTER SITE

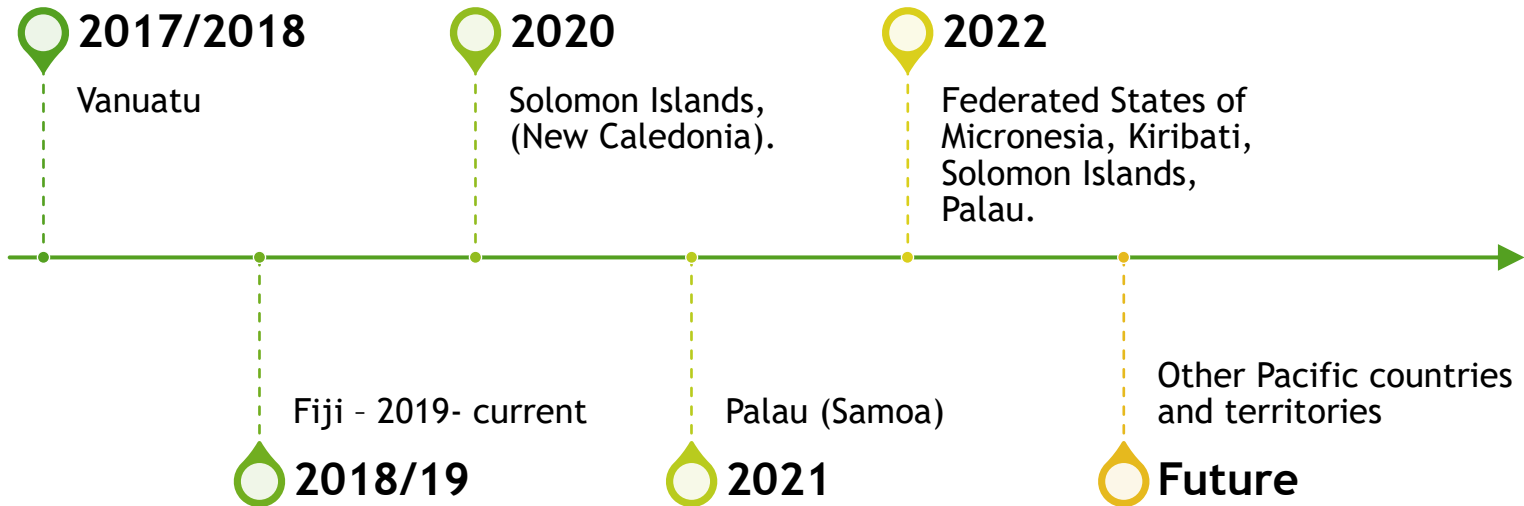


Pacific Organic Policy Toolkit 2016

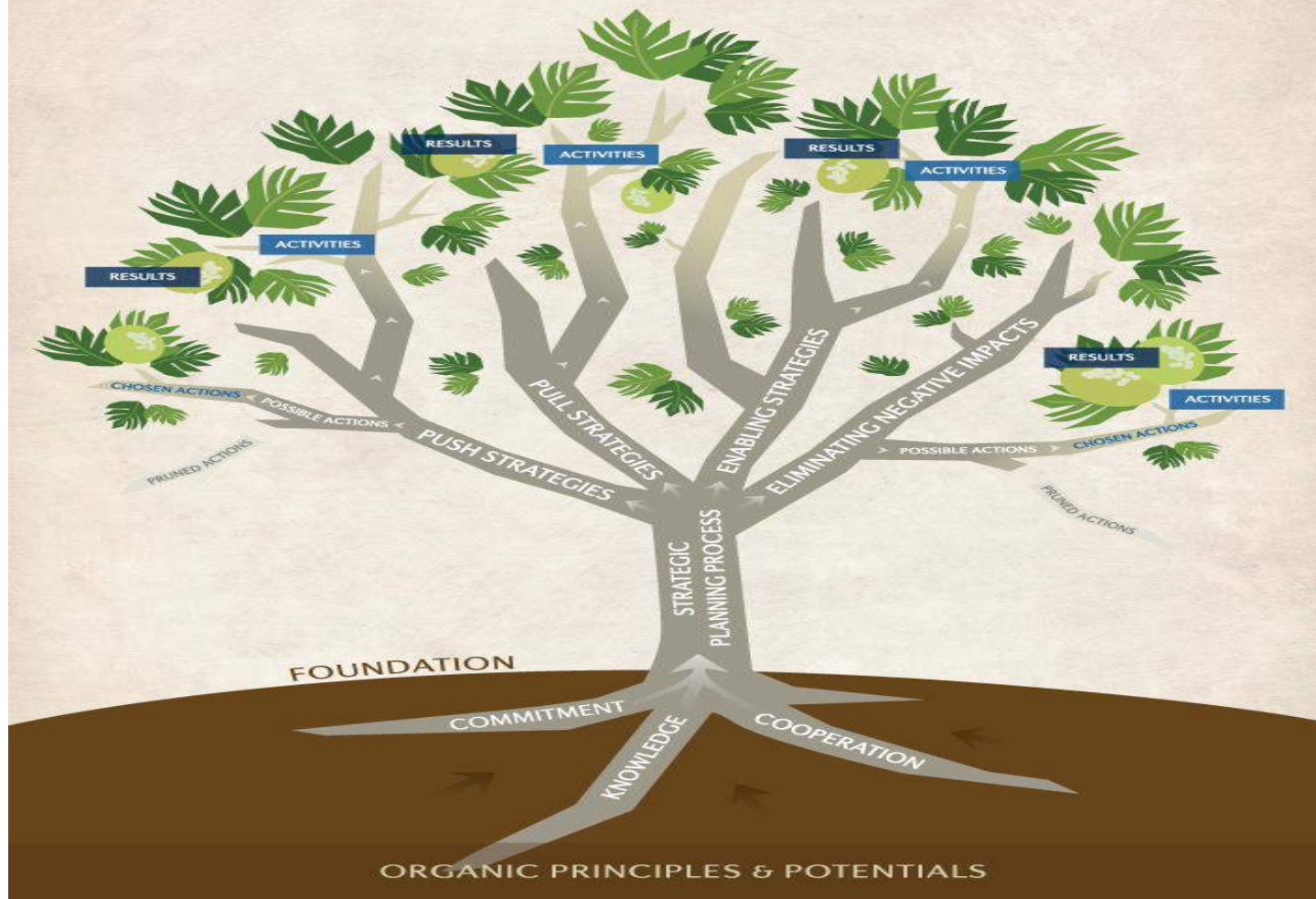
- ▶ Developed by POETCom
- ▶ Provides the planning process, potential actions and a decision aid for developing organic agriculture policies in the Pacific
- ▶ English/French versions

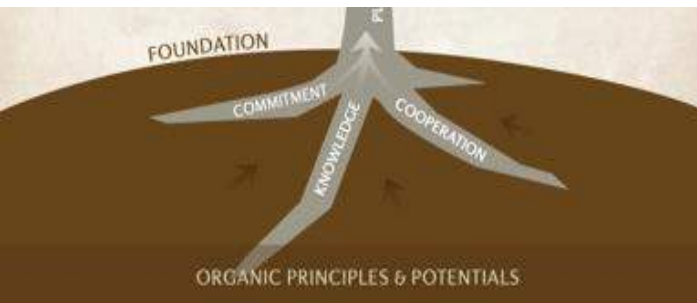


Previous, current, future use



ORGANIC AGRICULTURAL POLICY TREE





Foundation resources

The Foundation of the policy is the soil (organic principles and potentials) and the Roots (commitment, knowledge and cooperation)

The Toolkit features several tutorials related to these:

Knowledge and understanding of organic agriculture and its potentials.

Tutorial: Organic agriculture and markets

Tutorial: Organic agriculture in the Pacific Islands

Tutorial: Organic Standards and regulations

Tutorial: Organic Certification

Commitment to developing organic agriculture to achieve key objectives.

- Can we commit to policy support for organic agriculture?
- Government support for organic agriculture: a global overview
- Case studies

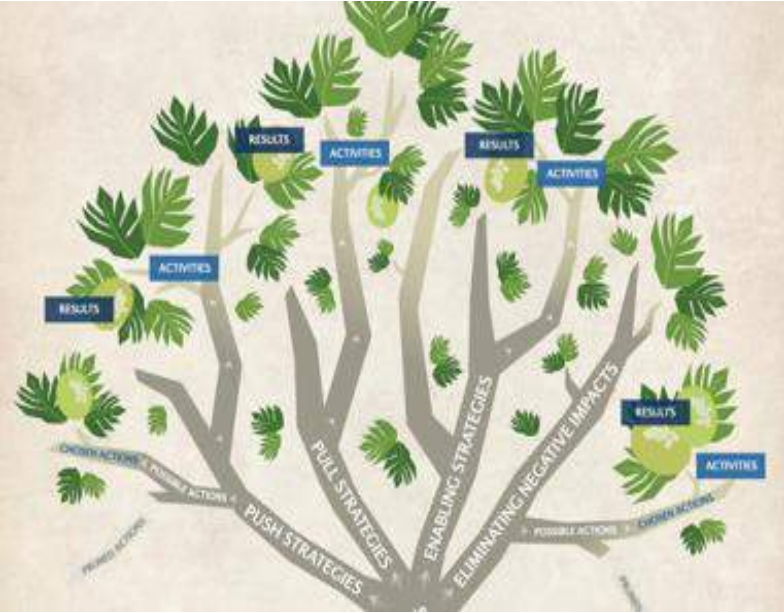
Cooperation among governments and key stakeholders.

- Dimensions of Cooperation



Strategic Planning Process resources

- [Guidance for the Strategic Planning Process](#)
- [Case Examples of Strategic Plans](#)
- [Introduction to Decision Aid](#)
- [Guidance and Template for Organic Regulation Development](#)
- [Guidance for Organic Promotion Policy](#)
- [Outline for Strategic Plan for Organic Agriculture and Markets](#)



Strategic Policy Actions

- Push strategies (supply)
- Pull strategies (demand)
- Enabling strategies (systems/institutions)
- Eliminating negative impacts (other policies)

**PUSH Actions
Support to:**

organic
certification

organic
farming
inputs

subsidy
payments to
organic
operations

organic
research &
extension

organic
vocational &
academic
education

organic
supply chain
developmen
t

organic
farm
investment

subsidies for
specific
environmental
practices

organic
product
developmen
t

tax
breaks for
organic
operation
s

organic farm
diversification

PULL Actions support to:

Export
promotion

consumer
awareness &
education
campaigns

School organic
gardening &
curricula

Public
procurement
of organic
food

developing
national logo
for organic
products

ENABLING ACTIONS support to:

participatory
guarantee
system (PGS)
development

organic data
collection &
disseminatio
n

development of
organic
associations

community
organic
gardens/urba
n agriculture

Building
organic
expertise in
government

organic
management
of public
lands

REMOVING NEGATIVE IMPACTS

subsidies for
chemical
fertilizers &
pesticides

allowance of
GMO crops

Unfavorable
regulations for
organic inputs

food safety &
phytosanitary
requirements

* Approval/tax
breaks for
chemical pesticide
and fertilizer
imports

***SPC/POETCom
project
'Building capacity
for non-state actors
to lead sustainable
agricultural policy
development'***

October 2021 to June
2022

Project Background

- ▶ The project aims to build and support Government and organic sector understanding of the benefits of organic agriculture and associated policies.
- ▶ POETCom members from Farmers Associations will be trained on how to use the **Pacific Organic Policy Tool Kit** in order to collaborate with their Governments in developing relevant National Policies.
- ▶ Project funding - European Union via Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
- ▶ Project Focus - activities will be implemented in Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, and Solomon Islands - it will also benefit the 53 members of POETCom in 16 Pacific Island Countries & Territories.



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique

Project Plan

Update Pacific organic policy toolkit

Engage in-country consultants - Palau, FSM, Kiribati, Solomon Islands

Support national level training on organic policy development

Regional Training - POETCom General Assembly 2021, 2022

Update Pacific Organic Policy Toolkit

Next Steps

- ▶ November/December - 2021 stakeholder survey - to obtain feedback from Pacific organic stakeholders to help inform the updating of the content and associated support for the Organic Policy Toolkit.
- ▶ The survey will clarify
 - ▶ The current awareness and use of the toolkit.
 - ▶ The relative priority the development of organic policies in your organisations overall development priorities.
 - ▶ The types of resources/support that your organisation may need to support the development of a policy with your Government.
 - ▶ Prioritise the potential policy areas that could be most relevant for your organisation and country
 - ▶ Obtain other relevant feedback.
- ▶ Now start of engagement with target countries

Feedback,
questions



Further information or
feedback -

jon@agribusinessgroup.com



Further information on the
Toolkit

<http://www.organicpasifika.com/pasifikapolicytoolkit/about-the-policy-toolkit>



Thankyou

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