



Generation and adaptation of improved agricultural technologies to mitigate climate change-imposed risks to food production within vulnerable smallholder farming communities in Western Pacific countries



Background:

- Collaborative project involving four partner and ten associate institutions across PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu in support of smallholder agriculture for climate change adaptation.
- A five year project financed by the European Union

Objectives:

- Overall objective is to mitigate climate change associated risks to food security and livelihoods for vulnerable smallholder farming communities in Western Pacific countries - PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.
- The specific objective is to improve the food production capacity of smallholder farming communities in areas where precipitation deficits and/or excesses and soil salinity problems are becoming significant threats to agricultural production and productivity.

Major activities:

- Rural surveys, participatory site appraisals
- Develop and pilot strategies for water and soil management and conservation.
- Screen, evaluate and test sweet potato and other stress tolerant crops; identify improved seed supply mechanisms.
- Assess potential for diversifying livestock assets and demonstrate improved approaches.
- Promote internet discussion forums on R&D; establish multi-stakeholder forums.

Target constraints:

- Extreme scarcity of rainfall (drought)
- Excessive soil moisture (floods, water logging)
- Worsening soil and water salinity (from sea water inundation of agricultural land).

Target beneficiaries:

About 100 smallholder farmers per site at 11 sites:

- 500 households in PNG,
- 300 households in Solomon Islands, and
- 300 households in Vanuatu.

Eventually a total of 2.4 million smallholder crop-livestock mixed farmers in the three counties.



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