

Having trouble seeing this email? [view it online](#) or [unsubscribe](#)



**Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations**

World Food Day | 16 October 2017



FAO Subregional Newsletter: August 2017, Edition #37

[Subscribe](#)

PACIFIC NEWS

[FAO Pacific Website](#)

From Eriko Hibi



Vanuatu will host the first ever Pacific Week of Agriculture from October 16 to 20 2017. This event combines two regional agriculture meetings that have been supported in the past by FAO and the Pacific Community (SPC).

Also in this edition, we highlight a meeting in Palau on the FAO Port State Measures Agreement to fight illegal fishing and we welcome a Natural Resources Management/Climate Change Officer to Samoa.

We hope that this newsletter will keep you informed of the work we do in partnership with others in the region.

Eriko Hibi

FAO Subregional Coordinator for the Pacific Islands

Vanuatu to host Pacific Week of Agriculture in October

Vanuatu is expecting up to 200 delegates once the country hosts the inaugural Pacific Week of Agriculture (PWA) from 16 to 20 October 2017.

The figure has been revealed by organisers in Port Vila who are optimistic PWA, which will combine for the first time, two key regional agriculture meetings – the Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services meeting organized by the Pacific Community or SPC, and the Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry Meeting organised by SPC and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations or FAO. It is anticipated that PWA will live up to its billing as the premiere agriculture and agritourism forum for the region.



PWA will be held at the recently completed Vanuatu National Convention Centre in the Vanuatu Capital, Port Vila.

FAO Deputy Director-General, Maria Helena Samedo will represent the Rome based organisation at PWA. Also attending the meeting will be Pacific Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry, regional and international stakeholders from across the Pacific, Europe and the world at large, expected to converge in Port Vila for the first time for the one-week event.

All 26 members of the SPC, which include metropolitan countries and members of SPC: Australia, New Zealand, France and the US are sending in participants. Invitations have been dispatched and responses so far have been highly positive, said PWA Coordinator in Port Vila, Mr Howard Aru.

It follows the launching the official logo and branding of the inaugural PWA event on 23 August 2017 by the Vanuatu Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Matai Seremaiah Nawalu who expressed satisfaction with preparations so far. “Preparations on the ground have been very good. I want to thank Mr Aru and the PWA Team for their coordination efforts. Vanuatu is looking forward to hosting the event. The support from everyone – SPC, FAO, CTA (Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation) and all regional partners have been excellent. We are truly honoured and look forward to seeing you all,” said Seremaiah.

PWA will begin with a two-day agritourism festival for movers and shakers of agritourism, keen to showcase their products and establish vital connections for future trade in agriculture products, business and tourism.

The agenda for the meeting is just about set and agreed. PWA is expected to conclude with the endorsement of a communiqué on Friday 20th of September by the Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry—which will map out the way forward for agriculture and agritourism in the region.

Media Enquiries:

Kiery Manassah T: +678 33240 M: +678 7753927 E: kmanassah@vanuatu.gov.vu

Alison Small E: alison.small@fao.org

[← Back to Pacific News](#)

Palau hosts meeting on the FAO Port State Measures Agreement to fight illicit fishing

The Palau capital plays hosted the first subregional meeting in the Pacific on the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. The workshop was jointly organized by the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The world's first treaty designed to combat illegal fishing went into effect almost one year ago – on 5 June 2016. It now has 48 parties to the Agreement – with Palau, Tonga and Vanuatu comprising the three Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) that have become parties to the Agreement which is designed to help fight illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.



© FAO

The week-long meeting is the first on the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) in the Pacific and brings together concerned states, various ministries and agencies of Palau to learn about the Agreement and the responsibilities of a party to the Agreement. Also participating in the meeting are representatives of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the Pacific Community (SPC) and the neighboring Micronesian countries of the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati and Nauru. The meeting is divided into classroom and hands on practical sessions to brief government officers and the private sector on the implementation of the Agreement, a gap analysis session to identify strengths and weaknesses of administrations capacities to implement the Agreement and a field visit to fishing vessels to see how the Agreement works in operation.

Speaking at Monday's opening ceremony, the Minister for Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism Mr Umiich Sengebau noted the importance of the Port State Measures Agreement to eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing not only to Palau, but to all countries around the world to ensure the sustainability of fisheries. "For small island like Palau, we have come to realize that the rich Pacific Ocean fish stocks that sustain our people are under threat from climate change, pollution and over fishing – including vast illegal, pirate fishing – the illegal unreported and unregulated fishing that is estimated to cost the Pacific tuna fishery between USD 500 and USD 750 million every year" he said.

FAO Senior Fisheries and Aquaculture Officer, Francis Chopin said, "The Agreement signals a real sea change in the international community's commitment to combat IUU fishing in a concerted and joint manner." The meeting also "provides the opportunity for FAO, within the framework of it's Blue Economy and Blue Growth initiative, to collaborate with regional partners - the FFA and the SPC - to assist the Pacific SIDS in delivering technical assistance by combining the legal and monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) experts of FFA and SPC with FAOs Legal and policy officers and international experts in MCS", he stated.

In his opening address, Minister Sengebau emphasized the importance of issues related to illegal fishing and the need for countries to work together to combat it. "As a small island developing state with a huge ocean area surrounding it, Palau is particularly vulnerable to IUU fishing. Minister Sengebau stressed the importance of collaboration and partnerships between countries in the fight against IUU fishing. "This is not only crucial to

achieving sustainable fisheries management for the future, but also of critical importance on an economic level for affected fishing nations” he said. Minister Sengebau informed workshop participants that “the workshop is an opportunity for Palau to reaffirm its commitment to taking the necessary initiatives, at the national, regional and global levels, to promote the conservation and management of the marine resources in a sustainable manner.

“This meeting is the start of a processes to develop the baseline for Palau through a facilitated self-assessment of the legal, policy and institutional frameworks currently in place”, said Mr. Camileri, fisheries policy officer of FAO’s Fisheries and Aquaculture Department. “This will be complemented by sessions on the required operational procedures such as inspection operations, investigations and evidence collection, communications, decision making and information systems to combat IUU fishing” he said.

Mr Blaise Kuemlangan Chief of FAOs Development Law Service said that the Agreement on Port State Measures, developed under FAO auspices, aims to prevent fish caught through illegal fishing from entering national and international markets by prohibiting the entry into and use of ports by foreign vessels engaged, or believed to be engaged, in IUU fishing and noted that on 30 November 2015, Palau became the first Pacific Island Country to accede to the Agreement, followed by Tonga and Vanuatu. “The Agreement requires that port state measures are applied to foreign vessels entering ports to prevent, deter and eliminate illicit fishing. However, the Agreement does not prevent a port State like Palau to apply the same measures to its own vessels if it so wishes” he said.

The FFA Legal Counsel, Manu Tupou-Roosen informed the 40 meeting participants that cooperation would be key to implementing the PSMA, including in the sharing of information. She highlighted that port States measures play a key role in the comprehensive MCS framework in the region. In particular, she also highlighted the tools available or under current development under the Niue Treaty Subsidiary Agreement (NTSA) framework that could assist in meeting the resource demands required to implement port State measures.

In the coming days, workshop participants are expected to identify policy, legal, institutional and operational gaps and to develop a strategy for Palau to address these gaps in order to implement procedures consistent with the Agreement to combat IUU fishing, together with a strategy for a wider uptake and implementation of the Agreement in the Micronesian sub-region.

[← Back to Pacific News](#)

FAO welcomes new officer to Samoa

The FAO Subregional Office of the Pacific Island is pleased to welcome Ms Anna Tiraa, Natural Resources Management/Climate Change Officer.

A national from the Cook Islands, Anna will lead technical work and partnership building on climate change and natural resources management within the Pacific Subregion, particularly with proposal preparations and negotiations related to the Green Climate Fund (CGF).



Anna brings over 20 years conservation/environmental/climate change work experience in the Cook Islands and the Pacific. She has undertaken sustainable development related work for Government, National and international NGOs, communities, development partners, private sector and inter-governmental regional organizations.

"I have served as the Director of Climate Change, Office of the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands. In my role as the Director, I covered budgetary and planning processes, policy setting, advisory services, UNFCCC negotiation, resource mobilization, communication and capacity development".

She has been involved in preparing readiness proposals for the Cook Islands. (Cook Islands was the first SIDS to obtain direct access to Readiness Support).

Furthermore, she worked on establishing and implementing the GCF No-Objection Procedure for the Cook Islands. She has also led the Cook Islands delegation at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations.

"I look forward to working with Pacific member nations and partners in addressing climate change impacts, especially on food security. At the end of the day getting healthy, nutritious and affordable food on the table is paramount. We all need to ensure that food and nutrition security for the Pacific Islands are not compromised in the face of climate change".

What is the Green Climate Fund?

Established in 2010, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) finances climate change projects and programmes that help developing countries adapt to climate impacts and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

GCF has approved USD 2.2 billion for 43 projects and programmes to date. The Pacific region has already made strong progress, with seven projects totalling more than USD 250 million approved for the Cook Islands, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. These projects will involve building the region's resilience to climate impacts and tapping the potential for renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions.

[← Back to Pacific News](#)



You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

Location: UN Compound, Laufo Meti's Building, Matautu-Uta, Apia SAMOA

Office telephone (+685) 221226

Email Address: FAO-SAP@fao.org

© FAO 2017

I7663EN/1/09.17