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Accelerating Action on Food Security and Nutrition in Pacific Small Island Developing States

Executive summary

The *Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States* (GAP) is a global guidance document intended to strengthen the coherence and coordination of global and regional support for food security, nutrition and sustainable development in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), as well as to support SIDS governments in strengthening their national approaches and in ensuring that their needs and priorities are met in relevant global and regional policy processes.

FAO has been working with member countries and development partners to develop regional frameworks for implementation of the GAP in each of the three SIDS regions – the Atlantic and Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea (AIMS); the Caribbean; and the Pacific. In the Pacific, a *Regional Framework for Accelerating Action on Food Security and Nutrition in Pacific SIDS* (the Pacific Framework) will serve as the mechanism to coordinate implementation of the GAP in the Pacific SIDS region over the next five-year period.

FAO will deliver its contribution to the implementation of the GAP through the Interregional Initiative (IRI) on SIDS. The IRI includes a cross-regional component to promote South-South Cooperation, partnerships and experience-sharing, as well as components designed to address the specificities and requirements of the three SIDS regions.

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This paper presents the approach to developing the Pacific components of the GAP and IRI, and outlines initial FAO activities under the IRI up to December 2018.

Guidance sought from the Regional Conference

The Regional Conference is invited to provide guidance on:

- preferred priority activities as proposed by the Pacific Framework and the IRI;
- how to accelerate the integration of the GAP into key Pacific regional fora – specifically the Pacific Islands Forum, the Pacific Community, and the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries¹; and
- priority actions to be taken by FAO towards enhancing collaboration and partnerships with traditional and new partners for improving food security and nutrition in the Pacific SIDS region, taking into account major trends and challenges, including climate change and migration.

I. Introduction

1. United Nations Member States have called for "improved and additional measures to more effectively address the unique and particular vulnerabilities and development needs" of SIDS at recent high-level fora, such as the International Conference on SIDS (Apia, September 2014), the FAO Conference High-Level Event on FAO and SIDS (Rome, June 2015), the Inter-Ministerial Meeting on SIDS (Expo Milano, October 2015), and, importantly, at the Paris (November 2015) and Bonn (November 2017) UN Climate Change Conferences.²

2. The need for more integrated and inclusive multistakeholder approaches to address complex food security, nutrition, and climate change challenges has also been highlighted in recent years, including in the *Rome Declaration on Nutrition*,³ the *Work Programme of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition*,⁴ the *SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway*,⁵ the *Global Strategic Framework for Food Security & Nutrition*,⁶ the *Milan Declaration on Enhancing Food Security and Climate Adaptation in Small Island Developing States*,⁷ the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*,⁸ the *Revised Pacific Platform for Action on Advancement of Women and Gender*

¹ On 11 November 2017, an Informal Dialogue Meeting between the FAO Director General and the leaders of the Pacific Islands region took place at FAO headquarters. Pacific leaders called for better partnership between FAO and relevant regional organizations.

² Including at a High-Level Round Table on climate, food security and nutrition action in SIDS to achieve SDG2 (Zero Hunger) at the 2017 Climate Change Conference in Bonn, Germany on 14 November 2017.

³ Outcome of the Second International Conference on Nutrition. 2014. [available at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-ml542e.pdf>].

⁴ <https://www.unscn.org/en/topics/un-decade-of-action-on-nutrition>

⁵ A/RES/69/15 SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway. [available at <http://www.sids2014.org/index.php?menu=1537>]

⁶ Committee on World Food Security. 2015. [available at <http://www.fao.org/3/AV031e.pdf>].

⁷ Outcome of the Inter-Ministerial Meeting on SIDS. 2015. [available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/8537MilanDeclaration.pdf>].

⁸ A/RES/70/1 Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. 2015. [available at http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E].

Equality,⁹ the report of the 33rd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific,¹⁰ and the 2017 report on the *State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World*.¹¹

3. In this context, the SAMOA Pathway, under its paragraph 61, invited FAO to facilitate a biennial forum in order to develop an action programme to address food and nutrition challenges in SIDS. In response, FAO worked closely with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the United Nations Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS) to lead the development of the *Global Action Programme (GAP) on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States*.

4. The GAP is the result of a participatory process involving wide-ranging consultations at global, regional and national levels between 2015 and 2017.¹² The GAP was officially launched at the 40th session of the FAO Conference (3-8 July 2017) and was endorsed by Conference as one component for the 2018-2019 Biennial Theme: Climate change and its impact on the work and activities of FAO.¹³

5. FAO has been working with member countries and other development partners to develop regional frameworks for implementing the GAP in each of the three SIDS regions – the Atlantic and Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea (AIMS); the Caribbean; and the Pacific. In the Pacific, a *Regional Framework for Accelerating Action on Food Security and Nutrition in Pacific SIDS* (the Pacific Framework) is under development as the mechanism to coordinate implementation of the GAP in the Pacific SIDS region.

6. Based on consultations between FAO, Pacific SIDS leaders and technical partners,¹⁴ a series of initial priority actions have been identified where enhanced partnerships and coordination are most urgently needed to support progress towards the GAP objectives within the Pacific SIDS region. These actions are broadly categorized into four priority outcome areas: 1) Strengthening the evidence base to support multisectoral policy action; 2) Enhanced multi-sectoral commitment and action; 3) Improved sustainability, resilience and nutrition-sensitivity of Pacific SIDS food systems; and 4) Scaling up actions to improve food security and nutrition among key target groups.

7. FAO will deliver its contribution to the implementation of the GAP through the Interregional Initiative (IRI) on SIDS. The IRI is a delivery mechanism to address food security and nutrition challenges in SIDS through specific actions at the global, regional, national and local levels. The IRI is to comprise three subregional components that reflect the specificities and requirements of each of the three SIDS regions in relation to the GAP. In addition, the IRI has a cross-regional component to promote South-South Cooperation, partnerships and experience-sharing.

8. This paper presents the approach to developing the Pacific Framework and the Pacific Component of the IRI, and outlines initial FAO activities under the IRI for the period July 2017 to December 2018.

⁹ <https://pacificwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/web-RPPA-for-CSW1.pdf>

¹⁰ APRC/16/REP Report of the Thirty-third Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific. 2016. [available at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mq230e.pdf>].

¹¹ <http://www.fao.org/state-of-food-security-nutrition/en/>.

¹² Consultations were launched with a High-Level Panel on SIDS at the 39th session of the FAO Conference in Rome, Italy on 6 June 2015. A Ministerial Meeting on Enhancing Food Security and Climate Adaptation in SIDS was held in Milan, Italy on 14-16 October 2015, jointly organized by FAO, UNDESA, and the Government of Italy. Regional consultations were subsequently convened for the three SIDS regions on the margins of their respective FAO regional conferences in 2016. A technical meeting was also held on 1-3 November 2016 in Suva, Fiji.

¹³ C 2017/REP Report of the Conference of FAO Fortieth Session Rome, 3-8 July 2017. [available at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mu208e.pdf>].

¹⁴ The following technical partners were involved in the development of this framework: The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), the Pacific Community (SPC), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Bank Group, and the World Health Organization (WHO).

II. The Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States

9. The GAP aims to accelerate action on food security and nutrition in SIDS to support their efforts towards attaining the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, bringing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the SAMOA Pathway together. The overarching vision of the GAP is the achievement of the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious foods, the end of hunger and malnutrition in all its forms, and the sustainable management and utilization of natural resources in SIDS for the benefit of present and future generations.

10. The GAP is a global guidance document intended to strengthen the coherence and coordination of global and regional support for food security, nutrition and sustainable development in SIDS, as well as to support SIDS governments in strengthening their national approaches and in ensuring that their needs and priorities are met in relevant global and regional policy processes. It recommends actions at global, regional, national and local levels to achieve three interconnected and mutually reinforcing objectives:

- enabling environments for food security and nutrition;
- sustainable, resilient and nutrition-sensitive food systems; and
- empowered people and communities for improved food security and nutrition.

11. In assisting SIDS to achieve these three interrelated objectives, the GAP structure is intended to facilitate and guide a comprehensive, multisectoral approach to identifying and implementing priority actions to achieve food security and improved nutrition in SIDS.

12. Translating the GAP into a successful programme will depend on: (i) ensuring that implementation is aligned with, and mainstreamed into, existing regional and national food security and nutrition or development strategies; (ii) strengthening coordination of development partners' work with SIDS governments; (iii) effective knowledge-sharing and interregional activities across the SIDS; and (iv) mobilization and provision of adequate resources and other means of implementation.

13. FAO will facilitate the delivery of the GAP through a two-pronged approach: at the global level, through advocacy and awareness-building, and strengthening and building partnerships (including the promotion of the GAP in various high-level fora); and at the regional and country levels, by supporting the adoption and implementation of the GAP through the IRI.

III. The Interregional Initiative on SIDS

14. The IRI is FAO's delivery mechanism in support of the GAP. It focuses on the thematic areas of the GAP in which FAO has a lead role to play, and builds on FAO's existing and planned projects and programmes by promoting and supporting coordinated action and knowledge-sharing, facilitating exchange of good practices, and serving as a mechanism to disseminate common sets of tools and approaches across the Pacific, Caribbean and AIMS regions. It will add value by promoting both interregional and intraregional collaboration.

15. Reflecting the spirit of the GAP, the IRI places particular emphasis on developing new, and strengthening existing, partnerships within and outside the United Nations system. As such, it includes: strengthening cooperation and collaboration with FAO's traditional development partners in the region (the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research [ACIAR], DFAT, IFAD, MFAT and SPC); forging new partnerships with other agencies involved in the implementation of the GAP (for example UNICEF and WHO); and enhancing partnership and collaboration between FAO

and regional fora (for example, the Pacific Islands Forum, SPC, and the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency), as called for by Pacific SIDS Leaders in an Informal Dialogue Meeting with the FAO Director-General at FAO headquarters on 11 November 2017.

16. To facilitate the implementation of the IRI, a ten-year implementation matrix including roles and responsibilities is under development that will be informed by the relevant FAO Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs). Resources for the IRI will be derived partially from the regular programme and through extrabudgetary funding, including voluntary contributions to the established Trust Fund for SIDS. Consultations have been initiated with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Secretariat to identify opportunities for using the GAP as a basis for the development of proposals under the Food System Impact Area.

17. Considering the interregional nature of the IRI, FAO will lead a targeted resource mobilization strategy to assist in connecting a large variety of donors, partners and beneficiary countries, and attract programmatic funding opportunities. The IRI will promote the mobilization of financial resources through mechanisms focused on adaptation to climate change and economic shocks, improvement of agricultural production and market development, and improvement of food security and nutrition.

18. The IRI will also foster the exchange of information and human resources specialized in accessing funding mechanisms, including those related to climate change and disaster risk reduction and resilience.¹⁵

IV. The Pacific components of the global action programme and the interregional initiative

The Pacific context

19. The GAP and the IRI have been designed with the recognition that SIDS share a number of challenges that make them uniquely vulnerable to food insecurity, including: limited land mass, fragile natural environments and lack of arable land; narrow resource bases and reliance on ocean resources; high vulnerability to climate change, external economic shocks and natural disasters; high dependence on food imports; dependence on a limited number of economic sectors; remoteness and distance from global markets; and high costs for energy, transportation and communication.

20. All Pacific SIDS have experienced a dietary transition away from traditional staple crops towards imported cereal-based products (white rice, wheat flour, white bread) that are lower in essential micronutrients such as vitamin A and iron; as well as processed, energy-dense foods high in salt, sugar and fat. This dietary transition, alongside declining levels of physical labour and activity, has been the driving force behind the rapid rise in overweight, obesity and associated non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in the region over the last three decades.¹⁶ Pacific SIDS now account for the top seven most obese countries in the world, and seven of the ten countries with the highest diabetes prevalence in the world.¹⁷

21. At the same time, undernutrition, including stunting, wasting, low birth weight, and micronutrient deficiencies, remains a serious concern in many Pacific SIDS, particularly among specific, vulnerable population groups, including women of reproductive age and children less than five years of age. Half of the children under five in Papua New Guinea (49.5 percent) and Timor-Leste

¹⁵ Including the Green Climate Fund.

¹⁶ Finucane, M., Stevens, G., Cowan, M. *et al.* 2011. "National, regional, and global trends in body-mass index since 1980: systematic analysis of health examination surveys and epidemiological studies with 960 country-years and 9.1 million participants." *The Lancet* 377:557-67.

¹⁷ World Bank. 2016. Pacific Possible: Health and Non-Communicable Diseases. Background Paper.

(50.2 percent), and almost one-third of the children under five in the Solomon Islands (32.8 percent) and Vanuatu (28.5 percent), are stunted.¹⁸ On average, over 40 percent of children under five and over 30 percent of women of reproductive age suffer from anaemia.¹⁹ As a result, Pacific SIDS face a “triple burden” of malnutrition, in which persistent undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies coexist with a growing burden of obesity and related NCDs. This triple burden of malnutrition has considerable health, economic and social costs.

22. Fish and fishing are culturally and economically critical for most Pacific SIDS and are a mainstay of food security in the region. The majority of seafood consumed in the Pacific originates from coastal shallow water fisheries and includes fish, shellfish, crustaceans and seaweeds. Coastal fisheries also provide the primary or secondary source of income for up to 50 percent of households in the Pacific region.²⁰ However, a combination of population growth, ineffective management of fisheries resources, over-exploitation, and pollution of near-shore shallow water resources has resulted in significant declines of coastal food fisheries and thus represents a significant threat to food security in the region.

23. Livestock provide rural households with many important benefits such as consumption of animal proteins as meat or milk, income flows and capital reserves, social status, weed control in a range of cropping systems, transport and draught power. Prices for livestock products are less variable than for commercial crops and their production is less adversely affected than crops by drought, cyclones, pests and diseases. Pacific livestock subsectors are predominantly smallholder based. Smallholders may be subsistence, partly commercial or highly commercial in their approach to managing livestock. The major livestock producers in the Pacific (Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, as well as New Caledonia) support about 6 million people including 760 000 rural households. With subsistence and commercial livestock raised by 65 percent of these rural households, livestock are an integral part of Pacific farming systems.²¹

24. The need to balance fisheries resource utilization with conservation has been considered by the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC). At the thirty-third session of the APRC held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, in March 2016, Members noted²² that the potential of fisheries and aquaculture could be significantly enhanced and recognized that the five interlinked strategies of the FAO Blue Growth Initiative,²³ which combine policy and institutional reform with on-the-ground action, offer long-term prospects for driving sustainable resource management of the fisheries and aquaculture subsectors, allowing economic growth and food security to be reconciled with conservation of aquatic resources.

25. The above challenges to food security are compounded by high poverty levels (ranging from 12.7 percent in Vanuatu to 31 percent in Fiji),²⁴ rapid urban population growth, high rates of unemployment (particularly among youth), and insufficient skills development and training to meet labour demands.

¹⁸ WHO. 2016. Global Health Observatory data repository. UNICEF-WHO-WB Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates. [available at <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.ngest?lang=en>].

¹⁹ WHO. 2016. Global Health Observatory data repository. [available at <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.imr>].

²⁰ SPC. 2015. *A new song for coastal fisheries – pathways to change: The Noumea strategy*. Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Noumea, New Caledonia.

²¹ FAO. 1998. *Grazing Livestock in the Southwest Pacific: The Benefits from Improved Production*. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific, Apia, Samoa.

²² FAO APRC/16/REP. Report of the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (Putrajaya, Malaysia, 7-11 March 2016). [available at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mq230e.pdf>].

²³ <http://www.fao.org/policy-support/policy-themes/blue-growth/en/>.

²⁴ UNDP. 2014. *The State of Human Development in the Pacific: A report on vulnerability and exclusion in a time of rapid change*. United Nations Development Programme, Pacific Centre, Suva, Fiji.

26. Many Pacific SIDS face economic vulnerability as the result of a heavy reliance on remote markets for their food supplies.²⁵ This entails heavy costs for energy, infrastructure, transportation and servicing, which in turn acts to curb opportunities for private sector development needed to stimulate domestic food production, exacerbating their reliance on less nutritious imported processed food. Farming is mostly small-scale and there has been limited investment in commercial agriculture and improved agricultural technology.²⁶ As a result, agriculture in the region is not competitive against imports and has difficulty competing in export markets.

27. Agriculture has much to gain by focusing on the domestic market and import substitution and private sector growth can be a key contributing factor in this initiative. It will be important for Pacific governments to create a more conducive policy environment for private sector growth, including pricing policies (taxes and subsidies), land tenure reform and investment in marketing infrastructure.²⁷ Climate adaptation and enhanced resilience of agriculture and food systems is urgently needed to withstand the effects of climate change and economic shocks.

28. Women play a central role in Pacific SIDS food systems, constituting up to 52 percent of the agricultural work force in the Pacific.²⁸ However, they lag behind men in terms of access to productive resources (including land and equipment), credit and other financial services, and technology. The GAP underlines gender equality as transformative, and as a multiplier effect on sustainable development, and food and nutrition security, and as a driver of economic growth in SIDS.

The regional framework for accelerating action on food security and nutrition in Pacific SIDS (the Pacific Framework)

29. The Pacific Framework (2018-2022) aims to strengthen the coherence and coordination of development partner support for food security and nutrition in Pacific SIDS. It is based on the GAP but focuses on a set of priority outcomes and actions that have been identified by Pacific SIDS and their development partners as being critical to accelerating progress on food security and nutrition in the region.

30. An initial consultation workshop involving representatives from the Pacific SIDS and development partners was convened in Fiji in November 2016, with further consultations conducted throughout 2017 with country representatives and technical partners. Through these consultations, a series of priority actions were identified where enhanced partnerships and coordination among development partners are most urgently needed to support progress towards the GAP objectives within the region. These actions were broadly categorized into four priority outcome areas which align with the GAP's three overarching objectives, as summarized below:

GAP objectives	Priority outcome areas for the Pacific SIDS
1. Enabling environments for food security and nutrition	1.1. Evidence base strengthened to support multisectoral policy action
	1.2. Enhanced multisectoral commitment and action
2. Sustainable, resilient and nutrition-sensitive food systems ²⁹	2.1. Improved sustainability, resilience and nutrition-sensitivity of Pacific SIDS food systems
3. Empowered people and communities for improved food security and nutrition	3.1. Actions scaled up to improve food security and nutrition among key target groups

²⁵ FAO Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island States: Supporting the Implementation of the Samoa Pathway. [available at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7135e.pdf>]

²⁶ FAO. 2014. Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). [available at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3927e.pdf>]

²⁷ Ibid. FAO 2014.

²⁸ http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/Ion/Items/GAP_2nd_draft_Revised_13_Jan_Joint_with_annex.pdf

²⁹ This includes aquatic food systems.

1.1. Strengthened evidence-based information to support multisectoral policy action

Key priorities identified include: enhanced sharing of evidence, experiences and lessons learned from effective policies and approaches at national, regional, and interregional levels; developed comprehensive systems for monitoring trends in food security and nutrition, and health outcomes in the region, in order to provide evidence-based information for increased political commitment across sectors, and to analyse the impact of policies and programmes to guide and strengthen future investments.

1.2. Enhanced multisectoral commitment and action

Pacific SIDS have highlighted the need for enhanced support to ensure sustained political commitment across all relevant sectors, to improve multisectoral coordination and coherence of national responses, and to strengthen human and institutional capacities to achieve food security and nutrition goals.

2.1. Improved sustainability, resilience and nutrition-sensitivity of Pacific SIDS food systems

Key priorities identified include: sustainable management of coastal fisheries and oceanic resources, freshwater resources and land resources; building the resilience of Pacific food systems and communities to climate change, disasters and shocks; and improving productivity, efficiencies, inclusiveness, and food safety and quality along value chains.

3.1. Actions scaled up to improve food security and nutrition among key target groups

Pacific SIDS leaders have identified the empowerment of individuals, families and communities as an essential component of the regional approach to food security and nutrition. Priority areas in which greater cooperation is needed include: improving access of small-scale farmers and enterprises, particularly women and youth, to knowledge, resources, services and market opportunities; improving the targeting, effectiveness and nutrition-sensitivity of social protection programmes; and developing a regional approach to opportunities for safe, regular and decent labour migration in the region, while harnessing the potential of migration for poverty reduction and improved food security.

31. A draft implementation matrix based on these four priority outcome areas has been developed which outlines preliminary actions, expected results and implementation partners. It is expected that development partners will align their work planning processes with the activities outlined in the Pacific Framework.

The Pacific component of the interregional initiative

32. To facilitate the development and implementation of the Pacific component of the IRI, two work-streams are underway:

i) Initial programme of support (2017-2018)

Following the regional consultation workshop in Fiji in November 2016, a programme of support to the Pacific SIDS was developed to ensure coordination between the 2018-2022 Multi-Country Programming Framework for the Pacific Islands (Pacific CPF), the Food and Nutrition Security Impact, Resilience, Sustainability, and Transformation programme,³⁰ and other initiatives. During 2017, an initial allocation was made available from the FAO regular programme and is supplemented with funding from FAO's Multi-Partner Programme Support Mechanism. The process of planning the use of these resources (May and June 2017) has played a key role in setting the agenda

³⁰ A strategic partnership between FAO and the European Union aimed at strengthening the enabling environment for food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture in priority countries/regional organizations.

for FAO's support in the subregion. Implementation of these activities is scheduled from July 2017 to December 2018. FAO's initial activities in the Pacific include:

1.1. Evidence base strengthened to support multisectoral policy action

- **Research into the impact of food price policies with a focus on taxation policies.** In collaboration with the George Institute, University of Sydney and Deakin University, a platform for evaluating food and health policies in the Pacific Islands will be developed. This will entail supporting national food policy summits, developing and facilitating the adoption of innovative pricing and regulatory policies to achieve improved nutritional outcomes, and investigating the impacts of the relevant policy measures on food availability and consumption patterns. In collaboration with the World Bank, the Pacific Research Centre for the Prevention of Obesity and Non-communicable Diseases, Fiji National University, carried out studies on recent food taxes in Tonga that have provided a snapshot of food taxation as an entry point for food system actions for healthy diets (www.fao.org/3/a-i8052e.pdf). The findings and recommendations of the study were shared during a Stakeholder Consultation Workshop held in Nukua'lofa in September 2017.
- **Research into cost-effective measures for reducing post-harvest losses along Pacific food value chains,** in partnership with Australian universities, and potentially the Government of Australia (through ACIAR).
- **Prevalence of undernourishment (PoU) and Food insecurity Experience Scale (FIES).** Specific support will be provided to countries in monitoring progress against SDG Indicator 2.1.1 (PoU) and SDG Indicator 2.1.2 (FIES) for selected Pacific SIDS.
- **Raising awareness of 21 SDG indicators under FAO custodianship, and development of a harmonized approach to the collection and use of agricultural and rural statistics in the Pacific,** through an information dissemination workshop on the World Census of Agriculture 2020 and sharing best practices and experiences of other methodological developments at the global and regional levels.
- **Ongoing development, in collaboration with SPC and the Global Strategy to Improve Agriculture and Rural Statistics, of a new Pacific Strategic Plan for Agriculture and Fisheries Statistics (P-SPAFS)** to coordinate and develop agricultural and fisheries statistics and statistical capacity in the region. This is a governing and coordination framework to establish a common vision for the development of sustainable agricultural statistical systems. P-SPAFS was endorsed by the Pacific Statistics Standing Committee in 2016, by Heads of Fisheries at the 10th Heads of Fisheries Meeting in March 2017, by Ministers for Agriculture at the inaugural Pacific Week of Agriculture in October 2017, and at the 5th Regional Conference of Heads of Planning and Statistics in November 2017. The Strategic Plan will be co-published by FAO and SPC. It has a ten-year time-frame, including a preparatory phase (2017) and three subsequent phases (2018 to 2026).

1.2. Enhanced multisectoral commitment and action

- **Partnership with SPC in the validation and implementation of the regional Food-Based Dietary Guidelines (FBDGs).** At the Pacific regional FBDGs validation workshop, a proposal will be presented for dissemination and implementation of the regional FBDGs and country perspectives, knowledge and experiences on implementation will be integrated into a "How to implement the Pacific Regional FBDGs" guideline manual. Under the Pacific CPF, interested countries may receive further technical support to adapt the Pacific Regional

FBDGs to their national contexts, and to implement the FBDGs to guide all policies and programmes that influence food and diets.

2.1. Improved sustainability, resilience and nutrition-sensitivity of Pacific SIDS food systems

- **Evaluation of the prospects for scaling up the supply of tuna to domestic markets.** This work will evaluate the costs and benefits associated with scaling up a new small-scale fleet sector to supply tuna for domestic markets consumption.
- **Fish-Aggregating Devices (FADs) case studies.** Case studies are being undertaken on the contribution of FADs to food security in selected Pacific SIDS, and will be linked to a regional analysis developed with SPC and Worldfish.
- **Global Breadfruit Summit and Breadfruit Strategy.** FAO provided support to the Global Breadfruit Summit held in Samoa in October 2017, and is supporting the development of a breadfruit commercialization strategy for Samoa.
- **Contract farming studies and capacity development.** Technical assistance is being provided to selected countries for the development of appropriate models of contract farming as a mechanism for linking producers to markets.
- Partnership with SPC to develop capacities of member countries to integrate gender equality and women's empowerment into climate resilience planning and programming in agriculture sectors.

3.1. Actions scaled up to improve food security and nutrition among key target groups

- **Support to the development of school food programmes (SFPs) and school food and nutrition education programmes (SFNEPs).** This will include scoping studies and analysis of the relative merits of existing SFPs and SFNEPs in FAO member countries in the region,³¹ and the development of a prototype generic regional methodology or tool kit with the elements needed to establish, implement and sustain an SFP and SFNEP programme in Pacific SIDS.
- **Support to community groups to build capacities** on agri-production and processing and raise awareness for improved consumption of locally grown, safe and nutritious food.
- **Support to establish school gardening programmes** at selected boarding schools in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, to educate students on agri-production and the importance of healthy and nutritious meal options.

ii) Corporate work-planning process (2018-2019) and the 2018-2022 CPF

The corporate work-planning process for 2018-2019 and the 2018-2022 CPF provides an opportunity to more systematically reinforce programming of the IRI across all Strategic Programmes and within FAO's Pacific Programme. In addition to region and country-specific activities, emphasis is being put on identifying potential areas in which enhanced partnerships and knowledge-sharing activities across the SIDS regions can be used to add value. These could include:

- Establishment of a regional multi-agency collaborative network to lead implementation of the GAP in the region, to be discussed for endorsement at APRC in April 2018.

³¹ The member countries are the Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Tokelau is an Associate Member.

- Enhanced partnerships to establish a region-wide approach to biosecurity, including plants, fisheries, and livestock.
- Other areas of potential focus such as: support to inter-ministerial coordination; food price policy; development of FBDGs; commercialization of breadfruit; coastal fisheries and FADs; and school food and nutrition programmes.

33. The IRI will be pursued through broad partnerships and in alignment with joint efforts of government of Pacific member states and development partners, including relevant private sector bodies, non-governmental organizations, regional organizations and international partners. In particular, the Pacific Framework will provide the mechanism to strengthen the coherence and coordination of development partner support in relation to the Pacific IRI.