



## IMPROVING FOOD SECURITY FOR VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES IN SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES THROUGH IMPROVED ANTICIPATION AND MANAGEMENT OF CLIMATE RISKS

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) share a range of economic and sustainable development challenges, including low availability of resources, small but rapidly growing populations, remoteness and a susceptibility to weather and climate extremes. The effects of climate change, in particular, such as increasing temperature and rainfall variability, greater frequency of extreme weather events and a rise in sea levels, are expected to affect human health and safety, agricultural production and, ultimately, food security.

The project aimed to advance the integration of agricultural sectors into national climate change priorities, in particular the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), in an effort to ensure sustainable and resilient domestic food production and food security and nutrition for the most vulnerable communities, including women and young people.

In particular, the project worked towards improving the capacities of the target countries to (i) use analytical techniques to assess risks, vulnerabilities and impacts of climate change in the agricultural sectors and (ii) create enabling policy environments to mainstream climate change, resilience and food security concerns and to undertake climate actions.



### WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project contributed to enhancing the integration of agriculture and food security priorities into NDCs through enhanced technical capacities, policy dialogues and enabling policy environments. National and state government agriculture staff in all of the target SIDS substantially improved their technical capacity on climate change adaptation through policy dialogues, trainings, workshops and participation in regional and international fora. The first of the two project outputs was to strengthen technical capacities and national processes for innovations in climate change adaptation and mitigation in agricultural sectors. A significant part of this process was the establishment at community level of a number of adaptation pilots. Other activities implemented to achieve this output included the production of national synthesis reports on climate risks and vulnerabilities and the impact of climate change, the preparation of training materials on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, training of national staff and the establishment of national technical fora.

The second output, meanwhile, was to integrate agricultural sector and food security priorities into national climate change strategies, action plans and NDCs. A series of policy dialogues were held, bringing together focal points from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and their national counterparts. The project also contributed to the inclusion of climate-resilient agriculture priorities into two NDCs and a National Climate Change Strategy that will form the basis of a National Adaptation Plan.

### KEY FACTS

**Contribution**

USD 2 000 000

**Duration**

January 2017 – June 2021

**Resource Partner**

Italy

**Partners**

Ministries of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Environment, National Focal Points of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

**Beneficiaries**

Vulnerable rural and coastal communities in small island developing states, who depend directly on agriculture, fisheries and forestry for their livelihoods, as well as agriculture officers in national government institutions

# IMPACT

The desired impact of the project was to increase the ability of national and local stakeholders to better anticipate and manage climate risks, reduce the vulnerabilities associated with climate variability and climate change in agricultural sectors and improve food security.



## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- Assessment of climate risks, vulnerabilities and the impacts of climate change on the agricultural sector completed for Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu and country reports completed for Guyana and Saint Kitts and Nevis.
- 24 communities piloted adaptation pilots across nine SIDS. This included the construction of 30 protected shade house structures in Guyana, rainwater harvesting in Grenada, water management in Saint Kitts and Nevis, the building of Perone beehives in Suriname, soil improvement techniques in Federated States of Micronesia, seed sowing and pest management in Kiribati, training on cropping systems in Samoa, climate-resilient practices in Solomon Islands and sweet potato planting techniques in Vanuatu.
- A non-technical training manual, including the tools and methods required for the preparation of new NDCs, was documented and used to inform the National Climate Change Committee in Guyana.
- National technical fora established, strengthened or held in seven of the nine target countries, with agriculture raised in relation to adaptation and mitigation priorities.
- Training for agriculture extension officers and local community members across the target countries, focusing on aspects such as interpretation of tools, methods and data on climate change adaptation and mitigation, cropping techniques and mulch production as an adaptation strategy to climate change.
- Three regional and 14 national policy dialogues documented (five in Samoa, three in Federated States of Micronesia, two each in Kiribati and Vanuatu and one each in Guyana and Solomon Islands).
- Technical support provided to fund two Green Climate Fund proposals – one on food and nutrition Security in Grenada, the other on building the climate resilience of farming households in Samoa (focusing on women and youth) in agriculture and land management practices.



### Project Code

FAO: GCP/GLO/726/ITA

### Project Title

Assisting Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to Integrate the Agricultural Sectors into Climate Change Priorities and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

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Partnerships and Outreach

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