



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Nadi Communiqué on the 2nd Pacific Soil Partnership Meeting

Nadi, Fiji, 18-19th April 2016

Background statement

We, the members of the soil community that make up the Pacific Soil Partnership (PSP) have met for the second time to advance the priorities and activities that we agreed on in October 2014 and to connect those activities with the five pillars of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP). We met in Nadi, Fiji for two days and reviewed our priorities and planned activities along with the developments that have occurred in the GSP.

Credits, acknowledgements and hosting

The PSP is hosted by the Pacific Community and held this meeting in Nadi, Fiji with direct financial support from the Pacific Community, CSIRO (Australia), EU-PAPP1 and Landcare Research (New Zealand).

Representatives

The attendees of the meeting represented the major soil institutions and soil-related strategies across the countries within the PSP. The meeting built on the momentum developed during the International Year of Soils (IYS) and it considered new strategies, plans and activities directed towards achieving sustainable soil management. These included a detailed discussion on the proposed Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management (VGSSM).

We bring knowledge and experience of the soil and land use in this large and diverse portion of the globe that we share, and we have a history of working in partnership in the region. We recognize the benefits to be gained from further sharing our concerns, progress, science, information and data on the use and protection of the soil, improvement in its management and productivity, and in our programs for capacity development.

What we agreed

During our discussions, we highlighted the many challenges our communities face in soil management and food production. The region's soils are diverse and vulnerable. Through joint activity and connections with the activities of the GSP, we intend to improve productivity and share resources and information, in order to increase local food production and food

¹ EU-PAPP-European Union Pacific Agriculture Policy Project

quality, achieve climate change mitigation and adaptation, control land degradation and improve environmental management. After reviewing the status of soils and their management in each member country, we agreed on three major areas of focus.

1. Improving nutrient and water management in both high volcanic islands and low lying atolls
2. Proceeding with the development of the Pacific Soil Portal originally proposed by the Pacific Community and Landcare Research NZ and incorporating recent developments in information and computing technology
3. Promoting innovation in capacity building and training with a particular focus on extension services for smallholder farmers

These priorities will be addressed as part of a project proposal for consideration by prospective donors. The draft project proposal will be distributed to members for comments by May 12th 2016.

There are other priorities beyond these three that include land degradation (especially erosion) and the appropriate use of agricultural inputs.

The other major topic was the preparation of the regional implementation plan for the PSP. A working group was established to prepare the draft plan for discussion by members prior to the GSP plenary at the end of May 2016.

What we observed

Across the region, there is substantial variation in soil resources, threats to soil function, information, capacity, investment and environmental challenges. By working together, we intend to improve soil security and benefit from enhanced regional cooperation.

We noted that soil issues were already explicitly identified in thirteen out of seventeen national agriculture and land use policies.

The PSP will use the five GSP pillars as they intersect with the region's priorities to reduce disparities and focus investment and collaboration on the PSP needs.

Reaffirmation of the PSP focus

We reaffirm the priorities of the PSP identified in the Suva Communiqué:

1. Sharing and developing appropriate soil management solutions noting the particular challenges for atolls
2. Increasing soil literacy
3. Building local and regional capacity grounded in our cultural context
4. Designing efficient and effective methods for soil analysis that are locally appropriate and robust
5. Enhancing coverage of soil information, collating legacy data and developing more usable forms
6. Ensuring soil information security to protect regional data assets against loss
7. Sharing capacity including laboratories, portals and extension resources

The Pacific Community continues to host the PSP and the countries of the Pacific continue to support the goals and aspirations of the GSP.

Nadi Communiqué on the Pacific Soil Partnership

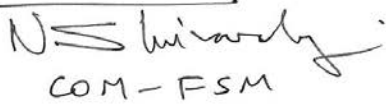
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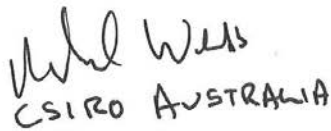
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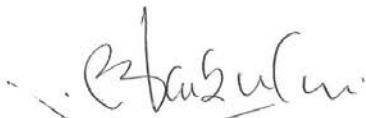
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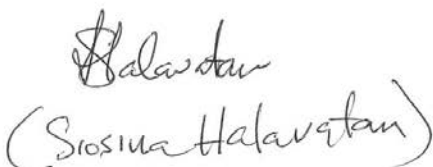
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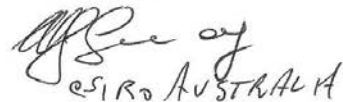
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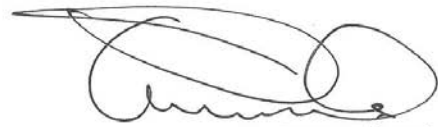
LANDCARE RESEARCH, NZ




JALESI MATEBOTO
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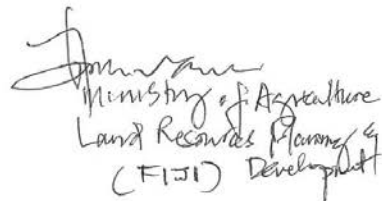
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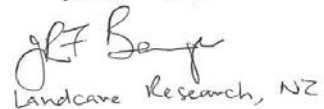
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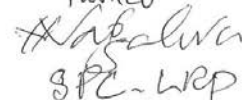
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