



# VANUATU

## AGRICULTURE SECTOR POLICY



LAEF MO MANE I STAP LONG AGRIKALJA



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Vanuatu Agriculture Sector is grateful to many partners for their valuable contributions toward the development of this Agriculture Sector Policy. Their financial, technical and in-kind inputs have ensured that this policy will serve as a realistic and well supported road map for all stakeholders within the sector for the next 10 years.

First and foremost is the assistance of key development partners namely UNDP's Pacific Risk Resilience Programme, the SPC – GIZ Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Islands Region Program, the SPC – USAID Climate Change Food Security Programme, and the World Bank IRCCNH project. They, alongside the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, provided critical financial, technical and logistical support for the policy consultations, drafting and printing of the policy document.

The important contributions of all stakeholders especially Farmers, Producers, Processors, Exporters, Government Agencies, Provincial Authorities, the Civil Societies, NGOs and others are gratefully acknowledged.

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Finally the contribution of all Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) and Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries, and Biosecurity (MALFFB) staff in coordinating and finalizing the policy document is applauded.

# FOREWORD

Since the Republic gained its Independence in 1980, the importance of the Agriculture Sector has become increasingly pronounced for national development; for maintenance of social well-being, as a foundation of culture and livelihoods, as an engine of economic growth, and for environmental integrity, biodiversity conservation and risk reduction. While vastly important, and despite efforts by past governments, the development of this important sector has yet to reach its full potential.

Faced with multiple development risks common to other Pacific Island Countries, including those associated with climate change, climate variability and natural hazards, population growth, changing cultural practices, economic inequity, market access, geographical disparity, inconsistent technical inputs and expertise, lack of credit and many others, Vanuatu's agriculture sector stakeholders have been working in overdrive and tackling these risks often in an ad hoc way, tackling them as they come and as resources materialize.

It is abundantly clear that the sector's many development challenges are exacerbated by the lack of a unified and coherent policy framework to guide all stakeholder's strategic actions and investments over an appropriate planning time horizon. In 2012, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries, and Biosecurity (MALFFB), developed the macro-level Overarching Productive Sector Policy (OPSP) which aims for improved efficiency and performance resulting in significant broad-based growth outcomes for all productive sectors. This Agriculture Sector Policy expands upon the directions and guidance provided by the OPSP and further elaborates micro level policy directives and strategies of specific relevance to Agriculture.

This policy's development is based on the cumulative knowledge gained from on-ground implementation by Government and civil society, various other sector policy developments, and dedicated Agriculture policy consideration. In 2007, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) supported the Government to undertake initial agricultural policy discussions which raised stakeholder's resolve to re-commence the development of this Policy in 2013. Many other recent Vanuatu policies, including the Trade Policy Framework, Industry Policy, Forest Policy, Land Use Planning Policy, Agriculture Climate & Disaster Risk Directive, and the Land Sector Framework all place substantial confidence on the agriculture sector to contribute to rural development and provide important guidance which is echoed and contained within this Agriculture Sector Policy.

Broadly reflecting Article 7d of the Constitution of the Republic of Vanuatu, this Agriculture Policy is based on the premise that "every person has the following fundamental duties to himself and his descendants and to others to protect the Republic of Vanuatu and to safeguard the national wealth, resources and environment in the interests of the past generations and of the future generations." Directly fulfilling the mandate of the Government's Priorities & Action Agenda (PAA), specifically Strategic Priority 4: primary sector development, for a "just, healthy, wealthy and educated Vanuatu by 2015", this policy has itself contributed to the formulation of Vanuatu's new National Sustainable Development Plan (2016-2030). In the short term, this Policy provides a roadmap to fulfil the Government's Planning Long Acting Short (PLAS) call for agriculture to be promoted as the country's engine for economic growth and employment.

Linked to the global level, this policy addresses and provides guidance to achieve Vanuatu's Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and new Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) aspirations for poverty eradication (SDG1), food security (SDG2), gender equality and empowerment (SDG5), sustainable economic growth (SDG8), address climate change impacts (SDG13), sustainably manage terrestrial resources (SDG15), and partnerships for development (SDG17).

# FOREWORD

Comprehensive stakeholder consultations in all six provinces of Vanuatu and with all types of stakeholders have validated the directives and strategies contained in this Policy and their contribution to social, economic, environmental, and cultural sustainability. By suggesting pathways for the sustenance of livelihoods to sufficient and adequate supply of nutritional food sources, from a diversity of production to value adding and marketability and from sustainable agriculture practices to ensuring high yield and maximum output, this policy represents a unified vision for the sector that has been lacking until now.

Join me and the Government of Vanuatu in embracing this integrated approach to agricultural development. In order to reduce risks, build resilience and ensure sustainable development, all stakeholders are herein entrusted to contribute, take ownership in and be accountable for the sector's development.

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**Honourable David Tosul - MP**

Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity

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*Arabica coffee on Tanna Island*

# LIST OF ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

BNPL.....	Basic Needs Poverty Line
BV.....	Biosecurity Vanuatu
CC.....	Climate Change
CGA.....	Cocoa Growers Association
COM.....	Council Of Ministers
CODEX.....	Codex Alimentarius for International Food Standards
CSO.....	Civil Society Organisation
DARD.....	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
DCIR.....	Department of Customs and Inland Revenue
DCNVB.....	Department of Cooperatives and Ni-Vanuatu Business Development
DEPC.....	Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation
DoET.....	Department of External Trades
DoI.....	Department of Industries
DWA.....	Department of Women’s Affairs
FAO.....	Food and Agriculture Organization
FSA.....	Farmer Support Association
GAP.....	Good Agriculture Practices
GDP.....	Gross Domestic Product
GIZ.....	German Agency for International Cooperation
GNP.....	Gross National Product
GoV.....	Government of Vanuatu
IRCCNH.....	Increasing Resilience to Climate Change and Natural Hazards
MALFFB.....	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fishery and Biosecurity
MDG.....	Millennium Development Goals
MIPU.....	Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Utilities
MOE.....	Ministry of Education
MTTCNVB.....	Ministry of Tourism, Trade, Commerce and Ni-Vanuatu Business
NAPA.....	National Adaptation Program for Action
NBV.....	National Bank of Vanuatu
NDMO.....	National Disaster Management Office
NTDC.....	National Trade Development Committee
OPSP.....	Overarching Productive Sector Policy
PAA.....	Priority Action Agenda
PLAS.....	Planning Long Acting Short
POETCom.....	Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community
PWD.....	Public Works Department
RTCs.....	Rural Training Centers
SLO.....	State Law Office
SPC.....	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
TPF.....	Trade Policy Framework
TRR.....	Telecommunication and Radio Regulator
TSCU.....	Training and Scholarship Coordination Unit
TVET.....	Technical Vocational Education and Training

# LIST OF ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

UNDP.....	United Nations Development Program
URA.....	Utilities Regulatory Authority
USAID.....	United States AID
VAC.....	Vanuatu Agriculture College
VADB.....	Vanuatu Agriculture Development Bank
VARTC.....	Vanuatu Agriculture Research and Technical Centre
VCCE.....	Vanuatu Copra and Cocoa Exporter Ltd
VIPA.....	Vanuatu Investment Promotion Authority
VITE.....	Vanuatu Institute of Teachers Education
VKS.....	Vanuatu Kaljoral Senta
VMGD.....	Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazards Department
VNPF.....	Vanuatu National Provident Fund
VNSO.....	Vanuatu National Statistics Office
VNTC.....	Vanuatu National Training Council
VQA.....	Vanuatu Qualifications Authority



*Batches of Peanuts grown on the island of Epi*

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The limited size of Vanuatu's good agricultural land requires that a sustainable development pathway for the agriculture sector be clearly mapped in an Agriculture Sector Policy to ensure maximum benefit, lasting utility and equitable distribution of outputs for the people of Vanuatu irrespective of socio-economic status or geographical location. The development process undertaken in putting together this policy has given due consideration to the expectations and aspirations outlined for Vanuatu in the Constitution, the Priorities & Action Agenda (PAA) for a just, healthy, wealthy and educated Vanuatu, the Planning Long Acting Short (PLAS) acknowledgement of agriculture as the country's engine for economic growth and employment and global development frameworks including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The final outcome of this policy reflects a national consensus on how this country aspires for its agriculture sector to develop and be sustained.

While the government acknowledges the contribution and impact of the service (tourism in particular) and the construction sector on Vanuatu's economy, it is also conscious of the potential role that the agriculture sector has in providing leverage for the sustained development of the tourism industry, manufacturing industry and the social and economic and ecological well-being of Vanuatu as a whole. To that extent, this policy aims to bring together and to sensitize all stakeholders into taking responsibility and overall accountability on the sustainable management of and risk minimization within this important sector.

This Agriculture Sector Policy, underpinned by social, economic, ecological and cultural principles and sustainable development pillars, is organized around 13 thematic areas. Two thematic areas, namely Research & Development and Production & Market Access, support all sustainable development pillars. The social pillar is directly addressed in the thematic areas of Institutional Setup, Capacity Building, and Gender & Vulnerable Groups. The issues of economic development are covered in the thematic areas of Finance, Investment & Employment, and Market Access. The thematic areas which contain environmental issues include Land Use, Planting Materials, Environmental Protection & Sustainable Farming and Climate Variability, Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management.

Within the thematic areas, the Policy contains a national consensus on over 39 policy directives and 145 strategies with the view that if properly and cooperatively implemented, the agriculture sector would be substantially more resilient and able to generate additional employment within the formal sector, increase GDP, supply nutritional food sources, adapt to climate change and provide for lasting and culturally founded livelihood security for the people of Vanuatu.

# AN OVERVIEW OF THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

## VANUATU AGRICULTURE SECTOR & THE NATIONAL ECONOMY

➤ Vanuatu is an agriculture based economy in which 80% of the population depends entirely on subsistence agriculture for their daily sustenance and well-being. Although the other 20% reside in the urban areas, most would still rely on agricultural products from market centres for their daily source of nutrients. The 2009 census estimated the population to 234,023 people inhabiting over 80 islands<sup>1</sup>. With a population growth rate of 2.3%, Vanuatu has one of the highest population growth rates in the world<sup>2</sup>. On the rapidly urbanizing Island of Efate, population growth rate is 3.7%<sup>3</sup>. The 2009 census shows that despite a 30.1% increase in the total number of households from 1999, there has been a considerable decline in the number of households actively engaged in the major cash crop agriculture<sup>4</sup>.

**Table 1:** Number of Households and Populations from 1999- 2009.

	Number of Households			Population		
	1999	2006	2009	1999	2006	2009
<b>Shefa</b>	10,888	12,870	15,930	54,439	68,706	78,723
<b>Sanma</b>	6,970	8,272	9,214	36,084	41,596	45,860
<b>Malampa</b>	6,483	7,348	7,990	32,705	34,925	36,722
<b>Penama</b>	5,371	6,447	6,620	26,646	26,676	30,819
<b>Tafea</b>	5,364	6,557	5,853	29,047	29,398	32,540
<b>Torba</b>	1,339	1,798	1,766	7,757	8,620	9,359
<b>Vanuatu</b>	36,415	43,312	47,373	186,678	209,920	234,023

**Source:** National Statistics Office

- A 2006 comparative assessment of poverty for 13 Pacific Island Countries placed Vanuatu at 5.6% basic needs poverty line making it the lowest in the region<sup>5</sup>. In 2010, the MDG progress report for Vanuatu identified that 4% of the population earned only \$1.00 per day while 16% of the population are living below the national poverty line<sup>6</sup>. In 2006, 5.4% of children were found to be living below the \$1.25 poverty line.
- Vanuatu’s total land area is 1,223,178 hectares of which only 492,177 hectares is good agricultural land representing only 40% of the total area or 10.4 hectares per household. More than 90% of the land is customarily held land while about 10% is Government owned or leased land on which there is an opportunity for strategically increasing production. Nonetheless, only one third of the cultivable customary land area is presently being farmed<sup>7</sup>.
- The Government strategy for alleviating the proportion of the population living under poverty is expressed in the vision of the Overarching Productive Sector Policy which states that “through substantial increase in primary production, processing and value adding there will be good jobs and income for a very significant number of Ni- Vanuatu”<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup>2009 Population Report  
<sup>2</sup>ibid

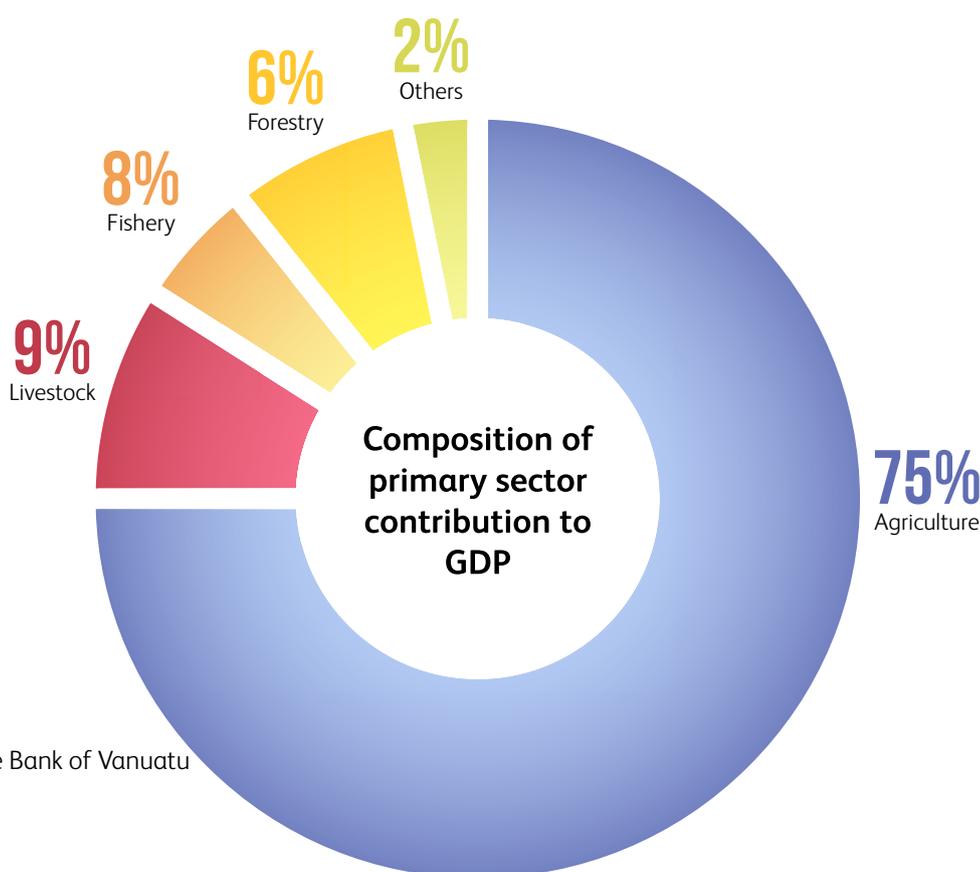
<sup>3</sup>ibid  
<sup>4</sup>ibid

<sup>5</sup>Page 20, 2010 Pacific Regional MDGs Tracking Report  
<sup>6</sup>Millennium Development Goals, Vanuatu Report

<sup>7</sup>PAA 2006  
<sup>8</sup>OPSP page 10

# AN OVERVIEW OF THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

➤ The graphic below presents the composition of primary sector contribution to GDP in 2012. Fisheries contributed 6%, forestry 9%, livestock 8%, agriculture 75% and others accounting for 2%<sup>9</sup>. The combined primary sector contribution accounts for 20% of GDP compared to the service sector which contributes around 69%<sup>10</sup>. Because Vanuatu’s industry sector currently only contributes about 10% to GDP, there is room here for expansion of the agriculture sector (since the contribution of the manufacturing sector is only 5%<sup>11</sup> with a current utility capacity of only 50%.) It is observed however, that in terms of GNP, the agriculture sector is actually contributing more than is commonly portrayed<sup>12</sup>. This is demonstrated by the capacity in which farmers and fisherman are able to produce regardless of whether it is for market or subsistence purposes.



Source: Reserve Bank of Vanuatu

## SUBSECTORS OF THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

- Vanuatu’s agriculture sector is divided into three distinctive subsectors with the subsistence sector accounting for more than 75% and a growing semi-commercial sector contributing to around 15%. An agriculture commercial subsector based on a limited range of traditional cash crops but having the potential for expanding into the emerging vegetable market contributes to around 10% of total production in the sector.
- The subsistence sub-sector is predominantly centered around root crops (Taro, Yam, Cassava and sweet potato (Ipomoea batatas)) for consumption and cultural purposes and characterized by a total reliance on rain irrigation and rudimentary implements/tools. This subsector of agriculture is labour intensive, but utilizes completely organic

<sup>9</sup> Vanuatu National Statistics Office 2012

<sup>11</sup> Cost of Doing Business

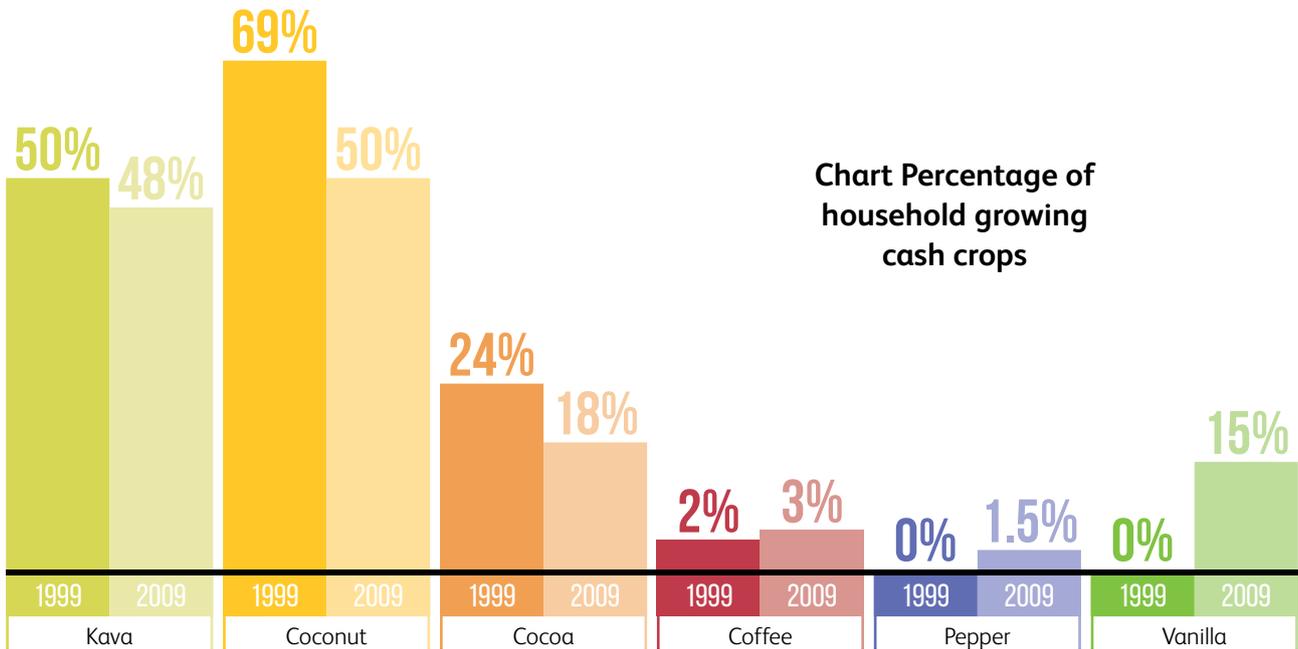
<sup>10</sup> Trade Policy Framework

<sup>12</sup> Agriculture for Growth

# AN OVERVIEW OF THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

farming practices. There exists a notable level of risk and uncertainty regarding the magnitude of potential yield at any given time thus giving rise food insecurity and vulnerability to shocks. The risks of food insecurity are further exacerbated by a rapid increase in imported foodstuffs<sup>13</sup>.

- The bulk of semi- commercial agricultural activities are concentrated near urban centres where high population growth rates, the development of the tourism industry, and high rates of urban unemployment are able to sustain a growing agricultural market for food crops. Recently there has been an expansion of green leafy vegetables in diets complementing the popular open pollinated local island cabbage (*Abelmoschus manihot*), including varieties of hybrid Chinese cabbages (*Brassica rapa L. chinensis*), tomatoes (*Lycopersicon esculentum*), capsicum and eggplant (*Solanum melongena*). Spice and herb cultivation in this subsector is a new but promising industry being led by women farmers, with potential for engagement by other vulnerable groups.
- The commercial subsector is dominated by 4 main cash crops: 24% of ni-Vanuatu households engaged in cocoa production, 50% in kava, 2% in coffee and 69% in coconut. The 2009 population census noted two other emerging cash crops, namely pepper and vanilla in which 1.5% and 15% of households were engaged. While there has been a slight increase in number of households growing coffee, the census also registered a significant drop in the number of households planting kava, coconut and cocoa. Such a decline may be related to fluctuations in world commodity prices, emerging markets for novel crops, loss of basic farming skills/knowledge or conversion of prime agricultural land near urban areas into residential estates to cater for rapidly expanding urban populations.

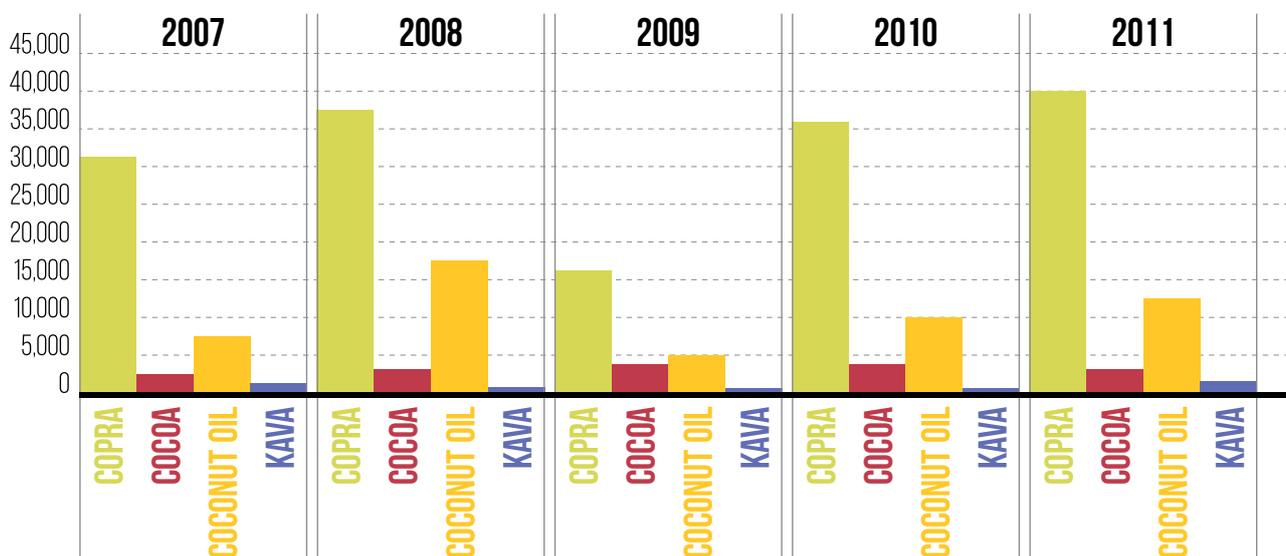


Source: Vanuatu National Statistics Office

- Copra is Vanuatu’s main agricultural export commodity outweighing the contribution of cocoa and kava by a large degree. Despite this dominancy, there is a general observation that in all the major copra producing islands, coconut rehabilitation programs have remained stagnant over the last 30 years with only a very small percentage of farmers engaging in coconut replanting programs.

<sup>13</sup> Page 4, National Food Summit 2009

# AN OVERVIEW OF THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR



Source: Vanuatu National Statistics Office

- Over the last 10 years, world prices for cocoa have greatly increased and on the domestic market the demand for kava has remained very high. The production of kava is still very high while cocoa is on the decline over the last 10 years. The local consumption of kava is huge although a definitive figure has never been given to this market sector. However, it is estimated that local sales value is about 3 times the value on export. This trend is likely due to the current high demand in the domestic market for vegetables and other short term crops (to supply a growing tourism sector) and is causing a notable shift in agricultural crops used. These short term crops are also beneficial for addressing food insecurity and other risks associated with traditional longer growing crops.
- Inconsistent production impacts adversely on per capita income and regularity of food supply. The MDG report for Vanuatu in 2010 noted that in rural areas there is evidence of nutrient deficiencies in people’s diets and in the urban areas, a shift away from traditional nutritional crops to imported processed food<sup>14</sup> consequently resulting in increased cases of lifestyle diseases (including obesity, diabetes, hypertension, heart attacks, strokes and many others) known as “Non-Communicable Diseases” or NCD. Currently, NCDs are the main cause of premature deaths among adults in Vanuatu. Disabilities and premature deaths caused by these diseases are occurring among the economically productive members of the population, tremendously straining public health care systems.
- Most agriculture in Vanuatu is based on the use of rudimentary hand tools, contributing to low and irregular production, although increasing productivity of short term economically viable root crops has been demonstrated with animal assisted and mechanized agricultural implements (e.g. doubling output).
- Decline in production is also related to factors such as landlessness, lack of improved farming skills, soil infertility, climate vulnerable varieties of crops and difficulties associated with accessing credit. The amount of credit approved by the Vanuatu Agriculture Development Bank (VADB) in 2008 for farm development was only 33% of that which was applied for and 55% less than that which was approved for cattle farming. Of the portion of credit granted to agricultural initiatives, a large percentage was intended for investment in traditional cash crop (copra, kava and

<sup>14</sup> MDG Vanuatu Report

# AN OVERVIEW OF THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

cocoa). This is an indication that financial institutions in Vanuatu do not regard agricultural investment as a potential and profitable market.

- Expanding into new cash crop markets requires increased knowledge, improved farming skills and a consistent supply of sufficient seeds and planting materials to sustain production. Research field work conducted by the Vanuatu Agriculture Research and Technical Centre (VARTC) and locally-based researchers into varieties of taro and yam on major producing islands have found that Vanuatu is facing conservation and genetic improvement issues<sup>15</sup>. If taro and yam are promoted as cash crops, the loss of genetic diversity may become a barrier for increasing production.
- Vanuatu's inability to increase and sustain agricultural production is exacerbated by the negatives effects of climate change and climate variability. With temperatures increasing, seasonal rainfall patterns shifting, and extreme events more frequent and severe the incidence of heat, water, pest/disease and soil fertility stress are drastically hampering already risk prone production. While agricultural climate adaptation programs are now widespread (e.g. via SPC-GIZ, the World Bank and others) there is still a severe deficit in climate knowledge, information, technology and implementation for vulnerable farmers.
- Vanuatu's weather is characterized by a dry cool season from May to October and a wet hot season from November to April (also cyclone season). Out of the total number of tropical storms affecting Vanuatu over the last 49 years, 36% contained hurricane force winds, 23% storm force wind and 20% gale force winds<sup>16</sup>. The probability of being struck by hurricane force winds every year is very high for Vanuatu. Storm damage to crops and critical infrastructure requires strong collaboration among various stakeholders involved in the area of disaster risk management and reduction.
- Prolonged (and or shortened) wet seasons produce conditions favourable for pests and diseases harmful to plant production and crop harvesting and become the causes of concern for food security and Vanuatu's socio-economic wellbeing. In the same manner, prolonged dry seasons are causing plant stress leading to reduced production. Traditional adaptation capacity is high, although traditional knowledge and risk reduction practices are generally being lost.
- Changing climatic conditions and natural hazards have implications for the transportation of agricultural produce from rural areas to markets in the main urban centres (e.g. poor road conditions, deteriorating wharfs and jetties and inconsistent shipping routes).

<sup>15</sup> Lebot 2008, *Root Crops Agro-biodiversity in Vanuatu*

<sup>16</sup> Page 16, *National Adaptation Program for Action*

# DEVELOPMENT OF THE VANUATU AGRICULTURE SECTOR POLICY

Given the above context of Agriculture in Vanuatu, Government through the Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (DARD) set out to develop a comprehensive Agriculture Sector Policy with the full participation and ownership of all agriculture stakeholders.

## STAKEHOLDER PROCESS & PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

The National Agriculture Policy began in 2007 and was recommenced in 2013. Initially, 20 thematic areas for the policy were identified by the DARD technical team, which were later refined to 13 during expert consultations and conceptualization workshops.

From each thematic area, a series of Specific Objectives was elaborated. Under each objective a set Policy Directives and Strategies were developed in consultation with technical experts.

Technical and financial support from SPC- GIZ, SPC-USAID, UNDP, World Bank and DARD allowed a thorough and public discussion on the draft framework at the National Inception Workshop (hosted by DARD). The purpose of the inception workshop was to introduce the policy concepts to stakeholders nationwide and receive feedback. Based on the outcome of this inception workshop, six consultations were conducted in the six provincial centres in order to seek additional directions, amendments and endorsement from stakeholders. Through the consultation process outlined, this Policy has received wide public validation on the goals, objectives, policy directives and strategies to be adopted by the many different stakeholders working in agricultural development in Vanuatu.

*Vegetable Production at Tagabe Agriculture Station, Port Vila*

# DEVELOPMENT OF THE VANUATU AGRICULTURE SECTOR POLICY

## MAIN CONSTRAINTS & ISSUES

During the course of public consultations, the following constraints and issues emerged as most relevant to agricultural development.

### 1. Absence of an appropriate policy for agriculture sector:

The agriculture sector currently lacks a strategic direction which combines the diverse interests and aspirations of all agricultural stakeholders resulting in the inability for stakeholders to collaborate to effectively manage or expand the sector;

### 2. Difficulties for access to trade and marketing opportunities:

Limited opportunities for the trading and marketing of agricultural products results in a lack of motivation for farmers to meet market demands;

### 3. Diversification of food and cash crops:

A lack of capacity for diversification in food and cash crop varieties (in the traditional and subsistence subsector) and a heavy reliance on a narrow range of crop varieties in the semi-subsistence sector results in food insecurity and low per capita income from cash crops;

### 4. High cost of shipping:

High costs associated with the transportation of products to main market centres and inconsistencies in the shipping industry result in a loss of confidence and interest in agriculture sector as a preferred sector for investment;

### 5. Lack of proper infrastructure:

Poor conditions of existing infrastructure and lack of investment in additional infrastructure that is placed in economically strategic locations results in high costs associated with marketing of produce further resulting in low production;

### 6. Poor participation of government stakeholders:

Poor collaboration and coordination among relevant government stakeholders (on service provision, local infrastructure, domestic market opportunities like tourism) results in over dependence on export markets;

### 7. Low level of input by private sector and civil society:

Low level of contribution and participation by private sector and civil society for empowering the agriculture sector results in loss of popular confidence in the sector;

### 8. Limited access to financial institutions:

Very few financial institutions make credit available for supporting farmers thus the private sector loses motivation towards farming business endeavours;

### 9. Ineffective coordination of farmer activities:

Very weak coordination of farmer activities and farming specialties amongst farmer associations (combined with a lack of capacity for coordination from DARD and DCNVB) results in an inability to meet the production demands of domestic and export markets;

# DEVELOPMENT OF THE VANUATU AGRICULTURE SECTOR POLICY

## 10. Lack of competent authority for promoting commodities:

No government authorities take responsibility for identifying new market opportunities resulting in an over reliance on a narrow range of traditional cash crops and limited opportunities for expanding income and revenue generation in the agriculture sector;

## 11. Inability to engage Vanuatu's youth in farming activities:

Increased youth urbanization in recent years is related to the perception that agriculture is not the most desirable occupation further resulting in a loss of traditional agricultural knowledge and a decline in stock of local varieties of food crops;

## 12. Prevalence of poor farming practices:

Low farm productivity often results from a combination of factors such as poor farming practices and reduced time spent and labour dedicated to farming activities

## 13. The gradual decline in number of farmers:

Low levels of overall productivity due to factors such as the declining number of households engaged in farming activities and a lack of interest in farming among educated youth

## 14. Lack of information for accessing credit:

Difficulties associated with accessing credit for agricultural activities results in insufficient investment in agricultural business enterprises;

## 15. Inability to expand business enterprise:

Lack of management, financing and marketing skills results in minimal expansion of existing and new agricultural business enterprises;

## 16. Land disputes:

The high frequency and likelihood of land disputes and tenure insecurity results in low use of good agricultural land and lack of long term investment.

## 17. Loss of prime agriculture land:

Lack of land use planning by competent and authorized institutions results in the increased use of good farmlands for residential, tourism and industrial purposes

## GOVERNMENT POSITIONS FOR AGRICULTURE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

### Inclusive Development

1. That any financial and technical assistance provided by development partners to the agriculture and horticulture should be to achieve the ultimate goals of this Policy;
2. That any NGOs and other civil society groups doing work to assist communities improve their livelihood through agriculture and horticulture will do so to fulfil the policy objectives of this Policy, the Overarching Productive Sector Policy and all other relevant productive sector policies promoting agriculture.

# DEVELOPMENT OF THE VANUATU AGRICULTURE SECTOR POLICY

## Priorities for Development Partners Assistance

3. Any national, provincial or community project and program envisaged for agriculture and rural development shall have in its components directly related to issues of climate change and risk reduction and that the process of project endorsement and approval shall be done collaboratively between the department of agriculture and rural development and the authorities responsible for climate change;
4. In the implementation process of such projects both authorities (climate change and department of agriculture and rural development) shall collaboratively monitor and evaluate its outcomes;
5. Any Development Partners funding allocated to agriculture development shall also include elements of climate change crop adaptation to extreme/variable climate conditions and the strengthening of risk resilience.

## Research and Development

6. All research activities undertaken in the agriculture sector of Vanuatu should be linked into development programs in agriculture
7. While the government prioritizes the introduction of climate and risk resilient crops for cultivations by farmers, all stakeholders must ensure that Vanuatu does not lose those crops that are endemically suited to the environments of the country
8. Increased Socio cultural research is required to understand how society is affected by and influences agricultural development in Vanuatu

## Mechanization and Mass Production

9. Vanuatu seeks to increase its capacity of agricultural production and thus the sustainable use of mechanization in production should be viewed as a possible way forward in agriculture development;
10. The Public Service of Vanuatu must increase the number of agricultural extension officers in the rural areas to reflect the level of demand for agriculture services.

## Support to Farmers

11. That the Ministry of Finance responsible for the collection of revenue must make additional and sufficient budget and funds available for assisting farmers;
12. There should be strong and active producer cooperatives or associations formed to ensure that the interests of farmers and small holders are represented in policy, decision making and allocation of support.
13. That the Ministry embraces Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as an enabler and utilize it to inform farmers on their agricultural needs further capitalizing universal access policy market development initiatives for community learning centres, with support from the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) and TRR.

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE VANUATU AGRICULTURE SECTOR POLICY

### Food Security and Agriculture Cluster

14. In all food security projects, there should be equal and balanced consideration for introduced species as well as traditionally farmed species
15. Nutrition and physical activity are crucial factors in the prevention and control of NCDs and so all activities related to food security should also ensure nutrition security.
16. That there will be a Food Security and Agriculture Cluster led by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, with provincial focal points, to coordinate and monitor programs and issues related to food security, climate change and natural disasters.



*Tractor used for land preparation*

# VANUATU AGRICULTURE SECTOR POLICY STATEMENT

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- For this policy to be successfully implemented a significant level of effective collaboration with other sectoral policies and implementing agencies is essential;
- Stakeholder participation and commitment in all levels of the society to the implementation of this policy is a primary necessity for ensuring that the objectives in this policy are achieved;
- The agriculture sector is encompassing in that it requires the effective and sustainable management of Vanuatu resources, the maximum utilization of its inherent opportunities and the equitable distribution of its benefits;
- The protection and sustainable use of Vanuatu's prime agriculture land is the duty of all citizens of the Republic of Vanuatu and therefore requires full participation and sense of responsibility and ownership from relevant stakeholders;
- The encompassing nature of Vanuatu's agriculture sector is such that its development and sustainability entails an integrative, holistic and generative approach;
- Agriculture being the mainstay of the majority of Vanuatu's population requires considerable attention and support from the government;
- As an agricultural based economy Vanuatu farmers must be informed of the consequences resulting from unwise and unsustainable agricultural and farming practices;
- In the face of changing and varying climatic conditions, farming and agricultural practices must be undertaken with due consideration to adaptation, mitigation and risk reducing strategies;
- The implementation of the Agriculture Sector Policy is expected to lead to economic growth, social wellbeing, environmental stability and cultural prosperity.



*Bags of Dried Cocoa Beans ready for Market*

# VANUATU AGRICULTURE SECTOR POLICY STATEMENT

## VISION

Agricultural food and cash crops of Vanuatu are sustainably and profitably managed, contributing to sustainable development for the wellbeing of all people in Vanuatu by 2030

## GOAL

The nation's agricultural resources are managed in an integrated and sustainable manner to provide food and improved incomes as well as contribute to environmental and social services to enhance wellbeing of all people in Vanuatu.

## THEMATIC AREAS & SPECIFIC POLICY OBJECTIVES

This Sector Policy is structured around thirteen Thematic Areas, each of which is underpinned by one or more Specific Policy Objectives:

### 1. Institutional Setup and Compliance

**Specific Objective:**

- Orderly agriculture sector

### 2. Extension and Training

**Specific Objectives:**

- Qualified and competent agriculture workforce
- Widespread coverage of agriculture information

### 3. Finance

**Specific Objective:**

- Accessible agriculture credit

### 4. Agriculture Land Use

**Specific Objective:**

- Vanuatu agriculture land appropriately allocated according to land use policy

# VANUATU AGRICULTURE SECTOR POLICY STATEMENT

## 5. Agriculture Investment

### Specific Objective:

- Agriculture sector the leading domestic and foreign direct investment option

## 6. Research and Development

### Specific Objective:

- Quality and productive agriculture produce

## 7. Planting Materials, Tools and Agricultural Inputs

### Specific Objective:

- Agricultural seeds, planting materials and inputs readily available and accessible

## 8. Environmental Protection and Sustainable Farming

### Specific Objectives:

- Environmentally friendly agriculture
- Agriculture soils improved and conserved

## 9. Production and Market Access

### Specific Objectives:

- Sufficient and surplus agriculture outputs
- Stakeholders income and revenue base increased

## 10. Food Security

### Specific Objective:

- Food and nutrition security needs of Vanuatu adequately met by all stakeholders

## 11. Employment

### Specific Objective:

- Agriculture sector the most attractive national employer

## 12. Climate Variability, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction

### Specific Objective:

- Disaster and climate resilient agriculture;

## 13. Gender and Vulnerable Groups

### Specific Objective:

- Equal opportunities in agriculture development

# VANUATU AGRICULTURE SECTOR POLICY STATEMENT



*Root Crops planting materials for deployment to farmers*

# POLICY DIRECTIVES & STRATEGIES

This Sector Policy is to be implemented through Policy Directives and action-based Strategies for achieving the Specific Objectives under each Thematic Area.

## 1. INSTITUTIONAL SETUP & COMPLIANCE

### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

- Orderly agriculture sector

### POLICY DIRECTIVES

#### 1.1 Establish and strengthen institutions responsible for enacting, administering and enforcing the agriculture sector policies and legislation

- 1.1.1 Strengthen the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to enact legislations, regulations, orders and procedures to regulate the sector (GoV, PSC, Development partners)
- 1.1.2 Develop and implement organizational structure to effectively and efficiently implement the objectives of the sector (PSC, DARD)
- 1.1.3 Strengthen institutions responsible for breeding, conservation and research in Agriculture such as the VARTC, FSA and NGO partners (GoV, CSO, and Private sector)
- 1.1.4 Promote institutions and individuals responsible for agriculture production (e.g. National Cooperative Federation, farmer associations and private individuals)
- 1.1.5 Promote business enterprises to facilitate value adding and processing (e.g. Lapita Café, Venuei Vanilla, and Kava Store)
- 1.1.6 Promote the establishment of marketing enterprises to facilitate marketing of agriculture produce (e.g. VCCE, INIK, and CGA)
- 1.1.7 Establish and strengthen financial institutions (banks and other lending institutions) such as VADB, NBV and VANWODs to provide financial support to farmers and the private sector
- 1.1.8 Establish and strengthen schools and post school education and training Institutions such as VAC, FSA, TVET, and RTCs to deliver training that are responsive to the needs of the Agriculture sector.(VNTC, DARD, NGO, Civil Society, Development Partners, MOE)

#### 1.2 Enact and enforce appropriate agriculture policies and legislations

- 1.2.1 Develop agriculture policies, procedures and protocols to effectively administer the sector (MALFFB, DARD, All Stakeholders)
- 1.2.2 Enact agriculture legislations, regulations and orders to effectively enforce the sector (DARD, SLO, All Stakeholders)

## 2. EXTENSION & TRAINING

### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

- Qualified and competent agriculture workforce
- Widespread coverage of agriculture information

# POLICY DIRECTIVES & STRATEGIES

## POLICY DIRECTIVES

### 2.1 Train all workforces in the agriculture sector

- 2.1.1 Develop appropriate agriculture training syllabus and modules based on the needs of the sector (VQA, Education, RTCs, VITE, VAC, DARD, VARTC, Industries)
- 2.1.2 Conduct formal and informal trainings with more emphasis on field practice to address the needs of the sector (RTCs, DARD, VAC, VARTC, VITE, TVET, NGOs)
- 2.1.3 Promote labour schemes for up skilling agriculture workers (Labour Dept., Industries)
- 2.1.4 Actively promote and develop avenues for work attachments and exchange programs for enhancing learning experiences (MALFFB, Industries, NGOs, Development Partners)
- 2.1.5 Promote field school programs to facilitate hands-on training in the agriculture sector (DARD, NGOs, Development Partners)
- 2.1.6 Enhance agriculture awareness, workshops, showcase events, festivals (MALFFB, MTTCNVB, Industries, Provinces, Farmers, NGOs, and Development Partners)
- 2.1.7 Increase the participation through the conduction of gender-based trainings for women, youths and vulnerable groups (DWA, NGOs, DARD, CSO, Provinces, and Development Partners)
- 2.1.8 Embrace and promote the use of ICT to support up-skilling and information sharing of farmers (OGCIO, TRR, Industries, GoV, and Development Partners)
- 2.1.9 Promote and encourage the contribution of provincial authorities and private sector in training agriculture workers (Provinces, Industries, DARD)
- 2.1.10. Develop a human resource development plan for the agriculture sector

### 2.2 Provide adequate funding for training purposes

- 2.2.1 Allocate sufficient budget to skill development fund to support agriculture training needs (GoV, Development Partners, NGOs, Private sector)
- 2.2.2 Seek Development Partners support for agriculture training (GoV, DARD, Development Partners, NGOs)
- 2.2.3 Increase agriculture share of scholarship funds (GoV, DARD, TSCU)
- 2.2.4 Increase private sector support for agriculture training (Industries, Private sector, Projects)

### 2.3 Inform and educate the public on relevant agriculture developments

- 2.3.1 Promote the use of electronic audio visual and print media (DARD, Media, NGOs, Industries, Development Partners)
- 2.3.2 Establish agriculture information database and document knowledge management on best practices (OGCIO, DARD, Development Partners, Farmers, Provinces, Industries, NGOs, VNSO)
- 2.3.3 Provide adequate funding for production and dissemination of information (GoV, Development Partners, NGOs)
- 2.3.4 Develop information gathering and communications strategies e.g. Call Centres, SMS (OGCIO, DARD, Service Providers, Development Partners, Provinces, NGOs, CSO, VNSO)

### 2.4 Adopt more effective and innovative approaches to extension services

- 2.4.1 Strengthen the role of private sector in extension services (MALFFB, Development Partners, Industries,

# POLICY DIRECTIVES & STRATEGIES

- Farmers, NGOs, CSO)
- 2.4.2 Engage lead farmers to train other farmers and provide specific technical information to relevant stakeholders (DARD, Farmers, Development Partners, NGOs)
- 2.4.3 Utilize existing structures and networks (e.g. Church networks, Provincial Area Secretaries, Farmers Associations, NGOs) to enhance extension outreach.
- 2.4.4 Promote use of ICTs media as an innovative approach to extension services with possibility to embark on the government’s mobile governance strategy (OGCIO, GoV, Industries, All Stakeholders)
- 2.4.5 Improve mobility of extension workers by provision of assets, inputs and relevant infrastructure (MALFFB, Development Partners, MIPU, Industries, Private Sector)

## 3. FINANCE

### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

- Accessible and affordable agriculture credit

### POLICY DIRECTIVES

#### 3.1 Develop capacity of farmers and local investors to access agriculture credit

- 3.1.1 Assist farmers and local investors in securing agriculture credit through up-skilling, awareness on credit acquisition, financial literacy and mentoring programs. (Banks, DARD, DoI, Dev Partners, Private sector)
- 3.1.2 Provide relevant information and documentation for accessing agriculture credit (Farmers, DARD, NGOs, Banks)

#### 3.2 Recognise movable and non-movable assets as collaterals for securing credit

- 3.2.1 Credit providers to recognize movable, as well as non-movable assets, as collaterals for obtaining agriculture credit (Banks, Farmers, DARD, Development Partners)
- 3.2.2 Document and promote success stories of farmers who benefited from credit schemes (Creditors, GoV, NGOs, DARD, Farmers, Media, Development Partners)

#### 3.3 Explore new credit opportunities for the agriculture sector

- 3.3.1 Investigate the possibility of accessing credit from institutions such as VNPF and other private entities (GoV, Development Partners, Farmers)
- 3.3.2 Decentralize banking services to all major islands (Bank, Provinces, Development Partners)
- 3.3.3 Collect levies from selected agricultural produce to support respective industry development initiatives (GoV, DCIR, DARD, Development Partners)

## 4. AGRICULTURE LAND USE

### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

- Vanuatu agriculture land appropriately allocated according to land use policy

# POLICY DIRECTIVES & STRATEGIES

## POLICY DIRECTIVES

### 4.1 Develop and implement land use policies and plans

- 4.1.1 Review and enforce the existing National Land Use Planning Policy and other land use policies and implement existing plan (Lands Department, Provinces, Landowners, Development Partners)
- 4.1.2 Appropriately allocate land according to land use policies (Landowners, Lands Department, Provinces)
- 4.1.3 Zone all agriculture land and legislate its use (Lands Department, Landowners, Provinces)
- 4.1.4 Impose levies on the use of prime agriculture land for other uses (Lands Department, Ministry of Finance, Industries)
- 4.1.5 Rehabilitate prime agricultural land currently used to enhance food security (DARD, Lands Department, Provinces, Industries, Farmers)

## 5. AGRICULTURE INVESTMENT

### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

- Agriculture sector the leading domestic and foreign direct investment option

### POLICY DIRECTIVES

#### 5.1 Enact and enforce agriculture investment policies and legislations

- 5.1.1 Create a more conducive environment for agriculture investment (DARD, VIPA, DNVB, Provinces, Farmers, Industries, Development Partners)
- 5.1.2 Enact policies and legislations supporting joint-venture investment opportunities (DARD, VIPA, DNVB, Provinces, Industries, Development Partners)

#### 5.2 Establish appropriate institutions to facilitate domestic and foreign direct investment

- 5.2.1 Strengthen the role of VIPA to facilitate a more conducive business environment incorporating joint-venture arrangements (GoV, VCCI, VIPA, DNVB, Provinces, Industries, Development Partners)
- 5.2.2 Review and improve local lending institutions to facilitate foreign and domestic investments (GoV, Development Partners, RBV and Commercial Banks, Non-state actors)
- 5.2.3 Review and improve procedures and protocols for business registration (GoV, VFSC, VIPA, DCIR, Development Partners)
- 5.2.4 Review and improve procedures and protocols for agriculture internal and external trades (GoV, VCCI, DoET, DCIR, Development Partners)
- 5.2.5 Improve infrastructure institutions responsible for domestic and foreign investment (GoV, PWD, DARD, Provinces, Industries, Farmers, Development Partners, NGOs, CSO)

#### 5.3 Reduce barriers to investment and costs of doing business in Agriculture

- 5.3.1 Provide a tax holiday for Agriculture Investment worth 50 million vatu or more for a period of 3 to 10 years based of performance (GoV, VIPA, DCIR, DARD)
- 5.3.2 Exempt all taxes and duties on agriculture inputs e.g. tools, machineries, seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, fuel (GoV, DCIR, DARD)

# POLICY DIRECTIVES & STRATEGIES

- 5.3.3 Exempt all licences on agriculture businesses for the first 3 years of operation (GoV, DCIR, DARD)
- 5.3.4 Review and establish appropriate pricing structures of transporting agriculture produce (GoV, DARD, PWD, Transport Associations, Development Partners)
- 5.3.5 Review cost of utilities for agriculture investment and establish appropriate pricing structures (GoV, DARD, PWD, URA, Development Partners)

## 5.4 Establish and improve relevant infrastructure for agriculture investment

- 5.4.1 Prioritize investment and maintenance of roads, wharves, and storage facilities based on strengthening supply chains between agricultural suppliers and markets (GoV, MALFFB, Development Partners, PWD, Provinces, CSO, NGOs)
- 5.4.2 Establish and maintain agriculture roads to new production areas (GoV, MALFFB, Development Partners, PWD, Provinces, CSO, NGOs)
- 5.4.3 Participate in the government's Universal Access Policy (UAP) initiatives to extend coverage of current telecommunications services to unserved farmers (OGCIO, GoV, TRR, Service providers, Provinces, Landowners, Development Partners)
- 5.4.4 Reduce cost of telecommunications (OGCIO, GoV, TRR, Service providers, Development Partners)
- 5.4.5 Allocate at least 5% of the Agricultural sector budget for ICT in Agriculture and smart extensions (GoV, MALFFB, OGCIO, DARD, Provinces)

## 6. RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

- Quality and productive agriculture produce

### POLICY DIRECTIVES

#### 6.1 Conserve genetic resources and materials

- 6.1.1 Collect and maintain the genetic pool of all agricultural produce (VARTC, DARD, International Research Institutions, NGOs, Farmers, Communities, Development Partners)
- 6.1.2 Promote active exchange of genetic materials with research institutions and other stakeholders based on "Material Transfer Agreements" (VARTC, DARD, NGOs, International Research Institutions, Development Partners, Farmers)

#### 6.2 Improve genetic resources and materials based on sectoral needs

- 6.2.1 Undertake demand-driven research (VARTC, DARD, International Research Institutions, NGOs, Industries, Farmers, Communities, Development Partners)

#### 6.3 Undertake collaborative research using internationally recognized standards

- 6.3.1 Collaborate with stakeholders using internationally recognized standards (VARTC, International Research Institutions, DEPC, DARD, NGOs, CSO, CODEX, Development Partners)
- 6.3.2 Facilitate research initiatives locally and internationally (GoV, VARTC, DARD, BV, NGOs, Farmers, Development Partners)

# POLICY DIRECTIVES & STRATEGIES

Partners)

- 6.3.3 Establish and strengthen the National Scientific Research Advisory Council (GoV, VARTC, VKS, VMGD, DARD, NGOs, CSO, Farmers, Development Partners)

## 6.4 Disseminate research findings to farmers and other stakeholders

- 6.4.1 Strengthen linkage between research and beneficiaries through extension service (VARTC, DARD, Lead Farmers, NGOs, Provinces, CSO, Development Partners)
- 6.4.2 Disseminate research findings to the public through mass media and print materials (VARTC, DARD, Media, NGOs, CSO, Development Partners)

## 6.5 Protect agricultural produce and products from pests and diseases

- 6.5.1 Identification and documentation of economic pests and diseases in Vanuatu (BV, VARTC, DARD, NGOs, Farmers, Development Partners)
- 6.5.2 Develop appropriate management strategies to control established pest and diseases (BV, VARTC, DARD, NGOs, Farmers, Development Partners)
- 6.5.3 Develop appropriate management strategies to control new incursions of pests and diseases (BV, VARTC, DARD, NGOs, Farmers, Development Partners)

## 6.6 Analyse all soils to determine physical, chemical and biological properties

- 6.6.1 Promote soil testing and analysis in all research initiatives (VARTC, International Research Institutions, DARD, FSA, NGOs, Projects, Development Partners)
- 6.6.2 Build capacity to undertake soil testing and analysis (DARD, VARTC, projects, Development Partners)

## 6.7 Provide funding support for appropriate research initiatives

- 6.7.1 Make available funds for research initiatives based on sectoral needs (GoV, VARTC, International Research Institutions, Development Partners)

## 6.8 Incorporate custom and traditional knowledge in agriculture research

- 6.8.1 Document traditional agricultural knowledge and validate results for adoption (GoV, VARTC, International Research Institutions, VKS, DARD, NGOs, Farmers, CSO, Development Partners)

# 7. PLANTING MATERIALS, TOOLS AND AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

- Appropriate agricultural seeds, planting materials and inputs readily available and accessible

## POLICY DIRECTIVES

### 7.1 Establish appropriate centres for planting materials and inputs in all provinces and some major islands

# POLICY DIRECTIVES & STRATEGIES

- 7.1.1 Promote the establishment of institutions and plant material centres (GoV, DARD, VARTC, Provinces, Farmers, Industries, Private Sector, Development Partners)
- 7.1.2 Establish tissue culture facilities in 2 major islands (GoV, DARD, VARTC, Provinces, Farmers, Industries, Private Sector, Development Partners)
- 7.1.3 Encourage privatisation of agricultural inputs and plant material centres to enhance wider access (GoV, DARD, VARTC, Provinces, Farmers, Industries, Private Sector, Development Partners)
- 7.1.4 Promote open-pollinated and off-season seeds from tropical seed centres and local sources, while regulating the dissemination of unverified hybrids (DARD, VARTC, Provinces, Farmers, Industries, Private Sector, Development Partners)

## 8. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION & SUSTAINABLE FARMING

### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Environmentally friendly agriculture
- Agriculture soils improved and conserved

### POLICY DIRECTIVES

#### 8.1 Mainstream environmental considerations into agriculture practices

- 8.1.1 Apply environmental considerations such as buffer zones and wildlife corridors in all agriculture practices (DARD, DEPC, Lands Dpt., Landowners, Industries, Development Partners)
- 8.1.2 Consider endemic species in all agriculture practices (Landowners, Industries, DARD)
- 8.1.3 Develop and implement environmental guidelines taking into account sustainable agriculture practices (DEPC, DARD, NGOs, Industries, Landowners)

#### 8.2 Incorporate sustainable farming practices such as agro-forestry and soil improvement technologies in all agriculture practices

- 8.2.1 Protect and promote sustainable traditional farming practices (Farmers, Industries, DARD, NGOs)
- 8.2.2 Promote site-appropriate soil improvement technologies e.g. agro-forestry, alley cropping, intercropping, contour farming, composting and cover crops in all agriculture practices (Farmers, Industries, DARD, NGOs, CSO)
- 8.2.3 Practice sustainable farming (Farmers, Industries)
- 8.2.4. Promote Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) taking into account sound traditional practices (DARD, Farmers, Industries, Development Partners)

#### 8.3 Incorporate organic production in all agriculture practices

- 8.3.1 Promote organic farming through awareness, training and certification (POETCom, DARD, FSA, NGOs, Farmers, Industries, international institutions)
- 8.3.2 Practice Organic farming (Farmer, Industries, DARD, NGOs, POETCom, Development Partners)
- 8.3.3 Market position organic products regionally and internationally (POETcom, Industries, DARD, Regional Institutions, Development Partners)

# POLICY DIRECTIVES & STRATEGIES

## 9. PRODUCTION & MARKET ACCESS

### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Sufficient and surplus agriculture outputs
- Stakeholders income and revenue base increased

### POLICY DIRECTIVES

#### 9.1 Increase production of agricultural produce and products through engagement of all stakeholders

- 9.1.1 Promote farmers associations, industries and private sector to increase and sustain production (Farmers, Industries, DARD, NGOs, CSO, Development Partners)
- 9.1.2 Provide awareness on requirements to improve and sustain production (DARD, VARTC, VAC, NGOs, CSO, RTCs, Development Partners)
- 9.1.3 Provide adequate funding support to improve and sustain production (Industries, Farmers, Banks, GoV, Development Partners)

#### 9.2 Increase productivity through mechanisation and technology

- 9.2.1 Establish and promote animal power (DARD, Livestock, Industries, Farmers, Private Sector, NGOs, Provinces, Development Partners)
- 9.2.2 Establish machinery and technology centres in all provinces and major islands to encourage the use of appropriate technology and appropriate maintenance procedures (DARD, PWD, Industries, Private Sector, NGOs, Provinces, Development Partners)
- 9.2.3 Develop and implement import substitution strategies for products such as rice, peanuts, vegetables and other agriculture produce that can be grown locally. (DARD, Industries, Farmers, Private Sector, NGOs, Provinces, Development Partners)

#### 9.3 Increase value-adding and processing of agricultural produce and products through improved technologies

- 9.3.1 Value-add agricultural produce to increase value and shelf-life (Industries, DoI, DARD, Farmers, Provinces, Development Partners)
- 9.3.2 Promote the use of appropriate processing technologies to increase productivity, which minimise ongoing costs of energy usage and maintenance (Farmers, Industries, DoI, DARD, Provinces, NGOs, Development Partners)

#### 9.4 Increase marketing of agricultural produce and products

- 9.4.1 Increase marketing of agriculture products to increase stakeholder income based on specific markets such the tourism industry (Industries, DoI, DoET, DCNVB, DARD, Farmers, Provinces, NGOs, CSO, Development Partners)
- 9.4.2 Produce and trade economically viable agriculture produce and products to increase income base of rural communities (Industries, DoI, DoET, DCNVB, DARD, Farmers, Provinces, NGOs, CSO, Development Partners)
- 9.4.3 Competitively position agriculture produce and products locally and globally (Industries, DoI, DoET, DCNVB, DARD, Farmers, Provinces, NGOs, CSO, Development Partners)

# POLICY DIRECTIVES & STRATEGIES

- 9.4.4 Create a market information system to provide market access information to stakeholders (DoET, DoI, BV, DARD, Farmers, Industries, GoV, NGOs, CSO, Development Partners)
- 9.4.5 Utilize the services of Vanuatu overseas trade commissions in accessing overseas market opportunities (DoET, DoI, DARD, Industries, Farmers, NGOs, CSO)
- 9.4.6 Promote supply and value chain studies for purposes of identifying issues and interventions (DARD, DoI, Development Partners, NGO's)

## 10. FOOD SECURITY

### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

- Food and nutrition security needs of Vanuatu adequately met by all stakeholders

### POLICY DIRECTIVES

#### 10.1 Increase production of sufficient and nutritionally adequate food at national level

- 10.1.1 Mass produce sufficient and nutritionally adequate food for domestic consumption (Farmers, Industries, DARD, NGOs, CSO, Provinces, Development Partners)
- 10.1.2 Make available planting materials for high nutritional food crops (DARD, VARTC, NGOs, Farmers, Provinces, CSO, Development Partners)
- 10.1.3 Provide funding to support food security policies, strategies and activities (GoV, DARD, Health, Development Partners)

#### 10.2 Improve access to and availability of sufficient, safe and nutritionally adequate food

- 10.2.1 Facilitate distribution of sufficient, safe and nutritionally adequate traditional foods to disadvantaged groups (CSO, NGOs, DARD, Health, VARTC, Provinces, Development Partners)
- 10.2.2 Reduce price of nutritionally adequate food products (Industries, Farmers, DARD, DoI, Provinces, Development Partners)

#### 10.3 Encourage the utilization of sufficient and nutritionally balanced diets

- 10.3.1 Facilitate the utilization of nutritionally balanced diets through awareness and distribution (DARD, Health, Provinces, NGOs, CSO, Development Partners)
- 10.3.2 Encourage consumption of locally produced foods and discourage utilization of imported foodstuffs (Health, DARD, DoET, DCIR, BV, Food Centre, Media, NGOs, CSO, Development Partners)
- 10.3.3. Develop appropriate means to enhance consumption of locally produced foods

#### 10.4 Enhance the sustainability of food supply at national level

- 10.4.1 Promote traditional and modern food preservation knowledge and technologies to sustain food needs (Health, DARD, Food Centre, Media, NGOs, CSO, Development Partners)
- 10.4.2 Provide awareness on the importance of sustaining food supply (Health, DARD, Food Centre, Education, NGOs, CSO, Farmers, Provinces, Development Partners)
- 10.4.3 Practice water irrigation to improve the productivity of farming systems (DARD, Farmers, Industries, NGO,

# POLICY DIRECTIVES & STRATEGIES

Development Partners)

## 11. EMPLOYMENT

### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

- Agriculture sector the most attractive national employer

### POLICY DIRECTIVES

#### 11.1 Establish commercial farms

- 11.1.1 Allocate sufficient land for commercial farming operations (Landowners, DARD, Provinces, Lands Dpt.)
- 11.1.2 Facilitate joint-venture arrangements with landowners and investors (Landowners, DARD, VIPA, Provinces, Lands Dpt.)
- 11.1.3 Promote and provide commercialization support to small and medium scale farmers (DARD, DCNVB, NGOs, CSO)
- 11.1.4 Promote the farming of crops for domestic markets, and domestic energy generation such as coconuts/ copra. (DARD, DoI, NGOs, Industries)
- 11.1.5 Promote farming of high value food crops demanded by the growing tourism industry (Farmers, Industries, DARD, Tourism, Trades, Hotels and Resorts Association)

#### 11.2 Establish processing, value-adding and marketing enterprises

- 11.2.1 Establish processing and value adding enterprises, (Industries, Farmers, DoI, DCNVB, DARD, Provinces, Development Partners)
- 11.2.2 Establish marketing enterprises and agents (Industries, Farmers, DoI, DCNVB, DARD, Provinces, Development Partners)

#### 11.3 Up-skill agriculture workers

- 11.3.1 Promote labour schemes e.g. RSE, to enable skills transfer, income generation (Labour Dpt., Provinces, Farmers)
- 11.3.2 Promote and strengthen lead farmers exchange programs (DARD, NGOs, Farmers, Development Partners)
- 11.3.2. Promote self-employment through farming schemes and agri-businesses (DARD, Labour Dept, provinces, farmers)

## 12. CLIMATE VARIABILITY, CLIMATE CHANGE & DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

- Disaster and climate resilient agriculture

# POLICY DIRECTIVES & STRATEGIES

## POLICY DIRECTIVES

### 12.1 Mainstream climate variability, climate change and disaster risk reduction using adaptation and mitigation strategies in all agriculture initiatives and developments

- 12.1.1 All stakeholders consider climate variability, climate change and disaster risk reduction in all agricultural development initiatives (Farmers, Industries, NAB, VMGD, NDMO, DARD, NGOs, CSO, Development Partners, International Institutions, GoV Ministries)
- 12.1.2 Consider climate variability, climate change and disaster risk reduction in all farming practices (Farmers, DARD, VARTC, NGOs, CSO, Development Partners, International Institutions)
- 12.1.3 Build risk reduction capacity of farming communities through training and awareness to adapt and mitigate effects of climate variability, climate change and natural disasters (DARD, VMGD, NDMO, NGOs, CSO, Development Partners, International Institutions)
- 12.1.4 Provide adequate funding for activities to address climate variability, climate change and disaster risk reduction (GoV, Development Partners, NGOs, CSO, International Institutions)
- 12.1.5 Promote adaptive strategies in all agricultural development initiatives (Farmers, Industries, VMGD, NDMO, DARD, NGOs, CSO, Development Partners, International Institutions, GoV Ministries)
- 12.1.6 Promote adaptive strategies in all farming practices (Farmers, DARD, VARTC, NGOs, CSO, Development Partners, International Institutions)
- 12.1.7 Promote mitigation strategies in all development initiatives (Farmers, Industries, VMGD, NDMO, DARD, NGOs, CSO, Development Partners, International Institutions, GoV Ministries)
- 12.1.8 Promote mitigation strategies in all farming practices (Farmers, DARD, VARTC, NGOs, CSO, Development Partners, International Institutions)
- 12.1.9 Develop collaborative networks with national and international agencies to address climate change, climate variability and disaster risks (All stakeholders)
- 12.1.10 Develop collaborative networks with national and international agencies regarding REDD+ initiatives and implement REDD+ activities and projects (All stakeholders)
- 12.1.11 Strengthen traditional and self-reliant agricultural systems through development and implementation of programs with components that encourage growing traditional climate-resilient staple crops such as sweet potato, taro, banana, yam, cassava and trees and animals (All stakeholders)
- 12.1.12 Prioritize micro and meso-scale (broad) land use planning to reduce land and water degradation to reduce climate-related losses and vulnerability and maximize local production.
- 12.1.13 Facilitate and coordinate research to develop stress-tolerant crop varieties, introduce new crops, and manage pests for climate change adaptation (GoV, VARTC, International Agencies)
- 12.1.14 Trial novel community extension models which enhance climate adaptation adoption, at the same time as decentralizing technology development and enabling service delivery by non-government and civil society stakeholders. (GoV, Civil Society)
- 12.1.15 Design and maintain a climate risk-informed decision support system using geographic information system (GIS) to optimize the planning and design of crucial agricultural adaptation investment project (GoV, VMGD, International Agencies)
- 12.1.16 Direct diversification efforts towards reducing reliance on climate-sensitive farming practices and crops in high-risk areas and towards fast yielding high value crops to give farmers more fungible assets for adaptation (Gov, Private Sector, Civil Society, International Agencies)
- 12.1.17 Monitor, evaluate and report on climate change, climate variability and disaster risk reduction agricultural issues initiatives and outcomes in accordance with the National Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and the National Sustainable Development Plan (All Stakeholders)

# POLICY DIRECTIVES & STRATEGIES

## 13. GENDER & VULNERABLE GROUPS

### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

- Equal opportunities in agriculture development

### POLICY DIRECTIVES

#### 13.1 Mainstream gender and support women, youths and vulnerable groups in all agriculture initiatives

- 13.1.1 Encourage and engage participation of women, youths and vulnerable groups in all agriculture practices (DWA, NGOs, DARD, CSO, Provinces, Development Partners)
- 13.1.2 Give due recognition to contribution of women, youths and vulnerable groups in development initiatives e.g. economic empowerment (DWA, NGOs, DARD, CSO, Provinces, Development Partners)
- 13.1.3 Provide equal opportunities in agriculture workforce (DWA, NGOs, DARD, CSO, Provinces, Development Partners)
- 13.1.4 Allocate sufficient funds for agriculture activities undertaken by women, youths and vulnerable groups (DWA, NGOs, DARD, CSO, Provinces, Development Partners)



*Women involved in Copra Production*

# POLICY IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

## NEXT STEPS

The success of this Policy heavily lies on its effective implementation and regular monitoring. For these two things to happen, a number of factors first will need to be addressed. They are:

- a) First and foremost DARD will develop and implement key sector strategies. These strategies will include an outlay of all activities and programs which must be executed to achieve the desired outcomes expressed in the policy.
- b) Restructuring in the Department of Agriculture & Rural Development is necessary to allow for implementation of this Policy. Gaps in staff capacity to implement policy must be identified and addressed. This will require Government to increase its annual budgetary allocation to DARD.
- c) Regular monitoring of the implementation and effectiveness of the policy will be undertaken via forums such as the NTDC. Additionally a dedicated effort to revise and strengthen policy indicators must be made with great urgency (see Monitoring and Evaluation Appendix).
- d) Farmer Associations in the provinces must be strengthened under relevant existing legislations to improve capacity and by providing ongoing public awareness about the contents of this Policy. During the course of developing this policy, consultations with communities have established some level of networking in the communities. Further follow up consultations will need to be undertaken to ensure that momentum and dialogue is maintained over a long term.
- e) Dialogue among agricultural stakeholders in all levels of the society should be maintained on a regular basis to capture, both formally and informally, feedback on the Policy implementation progress
- f) A mid-term review of this agriculture sector policy should be completed in 2022 or earlier. This review will facilitate production of reports which will then be useful for engaging potential Development Partners in the event of any additional developments relating to the implementation of the policy.
- g) The final evaluation of the outcome of this policy will be undertaken at the end of 2030. A review should therefore be planned for 2029 - 2030.

## MONITORING & EVALUATION

Currently there are severe data limitations for monitoring Agriculture sector outcomes and a first priority will therefore be to establish a minimum set of core indicators that need to be measured. It will then be important to ensure the relevant data is collected in any future agriculture surveys, HIES, Demographic Health Surveys, nutritional surveys, and Population Census. Many elements of this policy, its directives and strategies have been written in a way that can be used for Monitoring & Evaluation of implementation. For example, the following Strategy can be easily and quantitatively monitored and implementation evaluated:

# POLICY IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

*Establish agriculture information database and document knowledge management on best practices (DARD, Development Partners, Farmers, Provinces, Industries, NGOs)*

Whereas this strategy will require a more qualitative assessment based on the general perceptions of sector experts and stakeholders:

*Promote labour schemes for up skilling agriculture workers (Labour Dept., Industries)*

The development of a Monitoring & Evaluation Matrix for this Policy is essential, and urgently must be linked to higher level policies and monitoring programs led by DSPPAC in close cooperation with Vanuatu VNSO. The reason such an M&E framework has not been fully elaborated here is that the highest-level Government Policy, the Priorities & Action Agenda (PAA) is currently being revised and developed into a National Sustainable Development Plan which will include new M&E requirements for all sectorial policies. Once the NSDP has been released in 2015, the M&E framework for this Agriculture Sector Policy will be finalized.

There are however, some broad indicators of agricultural development that should be tracked regardless of the high level NSDP. At the strategy output and activity output levels indicators, data and targets will need to be established at a more disaggregated level to reflect individual sub-sector and provincial priorities.

The Department of Agriculture & Rural Development and all stakeholders implementing the policy will have a crucial role to play feeding into the monitoring, evaluation and reporting process by improving collection and timely reporting of appropriate data. Annual reports should be prepared and fed into the budget preparation process. Good reporting on results will provide policy managers and sector stakeholders the opportunity to reflect on what has and what has not worked and feed these lessons into future planning. The Policy will be updated after the completion of the Monitoring & Evaluation framework or sooner if necessary.



*Introducing Alley Cropping System at Farmers Field*

# APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 1: CROP CLASSIFICATIONS

Classification of traditional cash crops and potential root crops for short, medium and long term harvest periods.

Classification	Traditional cash crops	Potential market	Emerging cash crops	Potential market
<b>Short term 2-3 months</b>				
			Sweet potato	Domestic
			Rice	Domestic
			Peanut	Domestic
			Corn	Domestic
			Vegetables	Domestic
			Island Cabbage	Domestic
<b>Medium term 4- 12 months</b>				
			Yam	Domestic
			Pawpaw	Domestic
			Taro	Domestic
			Cassava	Domestic
			Banana	Domestic
<b>Long term 13- 48 months</b>				
	Cocoa	Export		
	Coffee	Export		
	Kava	Export		Domestic
	Coconut	Export		Domestic
	Pepper	Export		Domestic
	Vanilla	Export		
	Ginger	Export		
	Tahitian Lime	Export		

# APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 2: INDICATORS FOR MONITORING & EVALUATION

Indicators which, according to the Overarching Productive Sector Policy, should be developed into a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework for the Agriculture Sector Policy.

Agricultural Indicators	Baseline
Food Production Index	Base 40,000mt in 2007=100
Ratio of food imports/agriculture exports	1.15 (2011)
Ratio food imports/total imports	0.2 (2011)
Rural Household Incomes from Agriculture	VT1,120.4m (2007)
Employment in agriculture disaggregated by gender	M32,000 F25,000
10 year GDP Growth average	3.3 %
GDP per capita	VT242,000
GINI Coefficient (measure of income inequality)	0.42 (2006)
Subsistence contribution to family income	38% (2007)
Agriculture contribution to GDP	19.2%
Rate of growth (10yr average)	1.3%
Rate of Inflation	4%
Ratio of Exports to Imports	0.87 (2011)
Area of Land Forested . Land and water areas designated as Protected Areas.	900,000 ha (1993)
Domestic market volumes and prices for locally produced agriculture products	To be collected (tbc)
Export volumes and value of locally produced agriculture, products	Tbc
Annual output growth rates in the agriculture sector	Tbc
Number of high value agricultural products meeting internationally recognized standards.	Tbc
Volumes and value of certified products traded.	Tbc
Number of agriculture processing firms with HACCP and ISO standards in place	Tbc
Yields and areas planted and production of selected crops	Tbc
Income growth for rural areas as a result of primary sector earnings	Tbc
Prevalence of underweight children under-five years of age	Tbc
Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy and cases of Non communicable nutrition related diseases	Tbc
Range, value and volume of locally processed/value added agriculture products traded on domestic and overseas markets	Tbc
Number of agricultural processing businesses operating and sales/turnover	Tbc

# APPENDICES

Percentage of agricultural export products receiving above world parity prices	Tbc
Contribution to GDP of value added agriculture	Tbc
Numbers of farmers trained in and participating in projects related to agricultural environmental services and sector resilience to natural disasters and climate change	Tbc
Incidence of foreign pest, disease and invasive species incursions	Tbc
Number of EIAs carried out in agricultural development projects	Tbc
Number of agriculture college graduates working in support services to the sector	Tbc
Number of scholarships given for agricultural studies	Tbc
Number of farmers who have received vocational training	Tbc
Number of farm/agri-business participants that have received small business enterprise training	Tbc
Number of Sub-sector programmes, action plans and projects developed and costed	Tbc
Public spending on agriculture sector (including development partner funds)	Tbc
Number of policy implementation monitoring reports prepared	Tbc



*Fresh Pineapples sold at an Urban Market*

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