

**CONCEPT NOTE:**  
**National Training Workshop: Policy Dialogue on Mainstreaming Ecosystem  
Services and Biodiversity in Agriculture - Samoa**  
TATTE Convention Centre, Apia. 22<sup>th</sup> -23<sup>th</sup> November, 2016

*Samoa's biodiversity is, in essence, the ecological foundation upon which the country exists physically, culturally, socially and economically*

*The demise of the taro export industry illustrates the high level of economic vulnerability of an agricultural economy based on a limited agrobiodiversity. It also highlights the ecological vulnerability of islands biodiversity where species endemism may be high, but – limited in genetic diversity – with poor defensive mechanisms against introduced species and diseases.*

*(Excerpts from Samoa NBSAP, 2015-2020)*

## **Background**

*Biodiversity and Agricultural Production Systems are Inter-twined*

Over thousands of years, Samoan culture and traditions became inextricably linked to local ecosystems and the diversity of living species that characterizes the environment of the Samoan archipelago and the surrounding ocean. Traditional agriculture and food production systems are accordingly not only biological systems, they are also social and cultural systems that provide the solid foundation for cultural identity and social cohesiveness.

Over the last 50 years, there has been a significant shift towards the modernization of agriculture in Samoa, as in other Pacific Island societies, driven by population growth and economic objectives, which require farmers to produce more than that needed for subsistence. The ecological footprint of modern farming systems have raised concerns exponentially on the sustainability of agricultural systems. **The high level of agro-chemical use for example, have significant costs and adverse effects, both in terms of human health and damage to surrounding ecosystems and the provision of ecosystem services from biodiversity upon which the wellbeing and livelihood of communities rely.**

More recently however, a consensus has emerged that the fate of biodiversity and agriculture are inter-twined. Biodiversity and ecosystem services are at the heart of many solutions to sustainable increases in agricultural productivity that deliver not only better outcomes for food and nutrition security but also reduce externalities of production. Solutions can be found in ecosystem-based approaches to agricultural production and management, including pest and soil fertility management, that build on both modern science and traditional knowledge of local communities.

## **Purpose and Objective**

The purpose of the national training workshop is to facilitate the uptake of ecosystem services and biodiversity as key component of healthy agricultural production and management systems in the implementation of Samoa's NBSAP and other relevant policies.

The overarching objective is to strengthen capacity at the national level to promote ecosystem-based approaches to agriculture and contribute to achieving key Aichi targets and NBSAP 2020 Targets related to agriculture.

The national training workshop will bring together stakeholders from the agricultural sector, environmental sector, health, tourism and water sector, to foster a cross-sectorial dialogue and collaboration to support an ecosystem-based approach to agriculture.

The workshop will build on the practical guidance provided in the FAO guidance document on *Mainstreaming ecosystem services and biodiversity in agricultural production and management, to minimize dependency on agrochemicals in the Pacific Islands* (see Annex). It will highlight key issues and then demonstrate practical case studies from around the Pacific and beyond that could be applied at the national level in consideration and use of biodiversity and ecosystem services in pest and weed management, soil fertility, management of invasive species, organic farming and in eco-tourism.

## Draft Agenda.

The training workshop will be a mix of presentations, Discussion, Break-out Groups and field visit over a two day programme:

### Annotated Agenda National Training Workshop: Policy Dialogue on Mainstreaming Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity in Agriculture- Samoa TATTE Convention Centre, Apia. 22<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>th</sup> November, 2016

Time	Session	Presenter
<b>Day 1: Tuesday, 22<sup>th</sup> November 2016</b>		
8:30am	Registration	
<b>Opening Session</b>		
9:00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opening Prayer</li> <li>- Opening Remarks               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Associate Minister for MNRE</li> <li>o FAO Sub-regional Coordinator</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>Seumanu Mikaele Teofilo</b>  <b>Lemalu Taefu Lemi Taefu</b> <b>Eriko Hibi</b>
<b>Session 1: Setting the Scene</b>		
9:30am	Meeting Objectives and Agenda	<b>FAO</b>
9:40am	An ecosystem-based approach to agriculture: opportunities and challenges	<b>FAO</b>
09:50am	Morning Tea Break (and Group Photo)	
<b>Session 2: National Context</b>		
10:00am	National Development Objectives as context: Strategy for the Development of Samoa (SDS) 2012-2016 – focus on agriculture.	<b>Leिताua Henry Ah Ching</b> (ACEO Ministry of Finance)
10:20am	Agriculture related aspects of National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan 2015-2020	<b>Tauti Fuatino M-Leota</b> (ACEO MNRE)

10:30am	Priorities for sustainable agriculture in Samoa & biodiversity and ecosystems related aspects of the Agriculture Sector Plan	<b>Dr Seuseu Joseph Tauati</b> (Acting CEO-MAF)
10:40am	Relevance of the “Strengthening Multi-Sectoral Management of Critical Landscape (SMSMCL)” Project to agricultural production	<b>Seumalo Afele Failagi</b> (SMSMCL Project Manager)
11:30 am	Discussion and Introduction to group work	Facilitator
12:00 pm	1st Break Out Group – Policy gap analysis and opportunities for better integration	FAO/SPREP
1:00pm	Lunch Break	
<b>Session 3: Using Ecosystem Services and BD to minimize the use of agrochemicals</b>		
2:00pm	Report back on Group work	
2:30pm	ES and Pest and Weed Management and IAS	<b>Greg Sherley</b>
2:45pm	ES and Soil Fertility, agroforestry and organic farming	<b>Shane Tutua</b>
3:00pm	ES and Eco-tourism	<b>Clare Morrison</b>
3:15pm	Afternoon Coffee break	
<b>Session 4: Policy Measures for mainstreaming Ecosystem Services</b>		
3:30pm	Policy measures and instruments supporting ecosystem services for agriculture	<b>Keneti Faulalo</b>
4:15-5:00 pm	Discussion and closing	Facilitator
<b>Day 2: Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November</b>		
<b>Session 5: Field Visits</b>		
9:00	<b>Field visit (Crops compound, Atele/Saina)</b>	<b>Malouafuli Pueata</b>
12:00	Lunch Break	
<b>Session 6: Implementation Plan for the NBSAP Ecosystem-based Approaches to Agriculture</b>		
2:00pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Break Out Groups on “detailed action/implementation plan” specifically for the mainstreaming of BD into AG production relevant activities (7, 8 and 13 in parallel with Objective 4 of NASP).	
3:00 pm	Afternoon Tea Break	
3:15pm	Break out groups report back	
3:45pm	Facilitated Discussions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identify actions that can be carried out synergistically?</li> <li>- Who should be involved?</li> </ul>	Facilitator
<b>Closing Session</b>		
4:00pm	Summarise the Key messages from previous 2 days	FAO
4:30pm	Closing Remarks: FAO, SPC, SPREP, MAF, MNRE Closing Prayer	