

PRISE NEWS

Pacific Regional Integration Support (PRISE) Programme



Pacific Kava leaps ahead with Validation of Implementation Plan and an Annual Pacific Kava Expo



Caption: Vanuatu Minister for Trade and Commerce, Honourable Bob Loughman, at the Validation workshop for the Implementation Plan of the Regional Kava Development Strategy (RKDS) *Supplied by PIFS*

Strategy (RKDS) on the 5th June the Vanuatu Minister for Trade and Commerce, Honourable Bob Loughman recognised that the event marked a pivotal moment.

Under the Implementation Plan, all kava producing Pacific Island countries work together by pooling/sharing technical resources across Agricultural, Quality Infrastructure, Marketing, Branding and Intellectual Property, and common key priorities identified by Members.

“All of us in here are well aware of the importance of KAVA, not only to our cultural heritage, but, also to our economies and the livelihood of our Pacific people”.

“For Vanuatu alone, Kava exports increased by 366% from 2014 to 2022, reaching VUV 3,390m, nearly reaching VUV 4,000m for 2023. This is an indication that more can be done as a region in the kava sector where each and everyone here and along the KAVA value chain plays an important role in operationalising the Regional KAVA Development Strategy through the implementation plan”.

In his opening remarks at the Validation workshop for the implementation Plan of the Regional Kava Development

Highlights

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Safe Agricultural Trade Facilitation through Economic Integration in the Pacific (SAFE Pacific)

Biosecurity Field Simulation Enhances Regional Response Capabilities



Caption: Samoa and Fiji participants practicing Fall Armyworm field scouting.

Supplied by SPC

Officiating at the ceremony, **Prime Minister of Fiji, Honourable Sitiveni Rabuka** emphasised the crucial role of biosecurity in protecting against global threats from pests, diseases, and invasive species.

Representatives from 15 Pacific countries under the European Union-funded SAFE Pacific project convened in Fiji for a week-long workshop on “**Early Warning Systems and Biosecurity Emergency Response Planning and Field Simulation Exercises**” in April this year.

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Did You Know?



In 2022, EU's total trade with Pacific Countries was €4 billion, with a negative trade balance for the EU, first time since 2012.

- EU's total trade with Pacific iEPA Countries was €1.4 billion, a 15% increase compared to 2021.
- EU has a widening trade deficit with Pacific iEPA countries, worth EUR 1.1 billion in 2022.

Timor Leste iEPA Accession Plans move forward with work on Trade Policy and Legislative Framework



Caption: Timor Leste Minister for Commerce and Industry, Hon. Filipus Nino Pereira (centre), Ms Jill Juma, PIFS Trade Adviser under the SPIRIT project (left) and Ms Emma Roan of EY (right) during the consultations for the Trade Policy Framework. *Supplied by PIFS*

A series of consultations in **Dili, Timor Leste** to provide technical assistance to the Government of Timor Leste, was successfully concluded at the end of June.

The consultations were from the 24th -27th June and were part of the technical assistance requested by the Timor Leste Government and provided through two separate consultancies under the SPIRIT project.

The Ministry of Tourism, Commerce and Industry has been leading the **iEPA accession** process.

During the first day of consultations at the Area of Economic Ministries, the **Minister for Commerce and Industry**, the **Honorable Filipus Nino Pereira** gave his assurance that Timor Leste is determined to get accession to the Interim EU-Pacific Economic Partnership Agreement (iEPA) over the finish line.

The technical assistance requested by the Timor Leste Government is provided through two separate consultancies under the SPIRIT project; the **Formulation of Timor Leste's Trade Policy Framework**, and the **Review of Timor-Leste Legislative Framework**.

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Safe Agricultural Trade Facilitation through Economic Integration in the Pacific (SAFE Pacific)

Paravet course boosts Niue's animal health care capabilities



Caption: Paravet trainees being taken through the Summer School course organised by SAFE Pacific. *Supplied by SPC*

Six paravet trainees have passed their final assessment and are on their way to becoming fully certified paravets, marking a significant advancement in Niue's animal health capabilities and veterinary support services.

This milestone follows the completion of a 16-week training programme by six participants – three women and three men.

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Improving Pacific Islands Customs and Trade (IMPACT)

FSM implements ASYCUDAWorld across States

The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) has implemented the cutting-edge ASYCUDAWorld system, supported by the United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD), across all four of its states. The Customs and Tax Administration (CTA) began rolling out the system in Pohnpei State in March 2024, and by June 2024, it was launched across the rest of Yap and Chuuk and Kosrae states.

Following two years of planning, training, and upgrading technology, FSM has made significant steps in improving

its customs operation.

This includes digitalization, enhanced revenue collection, and streamlined data

management.



Caption: The Vice President of the Federated States of Micronesia, Mr. Aren B. Palik at the first launch ASYCUDAWorld system in Pohnpei. *Supplied by UNCTAD*

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RMI's Journey toward digitalization via ASYCUDAWorld



Caption: Participants from the Customs Division of the Finance Ministry at the Republic of Marshall Islands attend ASYCUDA training © UN Trade and Development ASYCUDA Pacific.

Supplied by UNCTAD

In January 2023, the Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI) embarked on a transformative journey to revolutionise its customs operations with the implementation of the UN Trade and Development's (UNCTAD) ASYCUDAWorld system, a significant step forward in RMI's commitment to progress and economic prosperity.

The ASYCUDAWorld implementation transcends a mere technological enhancement; it is a reflection of RMI's unwavering dedication to advancing its customs services. In collaboration with the European Union under the auspices of the IMPACT project, RMI Customs Division is set to streamline processes, bolster efficiency, and integrate automation to propel its operations into the forefront of the digital era.

This initiative began with a comprehensive review of existing customs procedures, actively involving government and private stakeholders in Majuro and Ebeye. This critical phase established the groundwork for the Inception Report, a key document adopted by the RMI Finance Ministry that delineates the project's direction.

Following the successful ASYCUDAWorld Mobilisation Seminar in May 2023, with engagement of both government and private sector stakeholders has reinforced a shared commitment to transparency and inclusivity through the implementation process.

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Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP)

Regional HACCP Training in Suva, Fiji: A Success Story

In April 2024, Suva, Fiji played host to a significant Regional Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) training session, bringing together 17 representatives from six member countries: Kiribati, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Samoa, and Vanuatu.

The training emphasized Good Hygienic Practices (GHP) and HACCP principles, essential for ensuring food safety and quality.



HACCP Training Participant
Mr Donny Andrike
Competent Authority Officer –
RMI

A former public health and port worker, Mr Andrike initially underestimated the demands of his role.

"My biggest challenge was the lack of technical knowledge," he confesses, "trainings like the ones from FFA and PEUMP have greatly helped my role- I have had training in fish inspection and sampling as well."

Among the participants, eight were female and nine were male, representing both national administrations and industry sectors.

This valuable training initiative was made possible through the joint support of FFA PEUMP and NZ MFAT, with PEUMP generously covering travel expenses, venue hire, and catering.

Rabaua is one of six women forming the backbone of Kiribati's fish export industry, now that this tiny Pacific Island nation has become the latest to enter the European Union market.



HACCP Training Participant
Ms Joana Rabaua
Senior Verification Officer –
Kiribati Fisheries Authority

"My job is to protect our reputation,"

"That training was very beneficial. I feel empowered to make on-the-spot calls...and that confidence flows back to the team."

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Additional Readings:

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| IMPACT | Visit our page for updates |
| PEUMP FFA | Visit our page for updates |

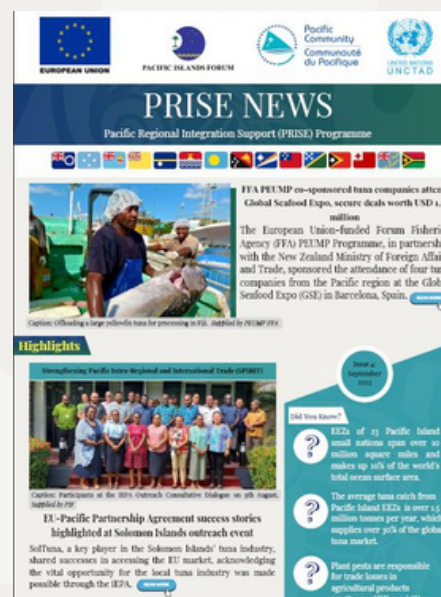
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