



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP

12th Plenary Assembly

03-05 June 2024

PACIFIC SOIL PARTNERSHIP

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Secretariat
of the Pacific
Community



Background on PSP

- At the Eighth Regional Meeting of Pacific Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services (PHOAFS) held during the Pacific Week of Agriculture from 6 to 10 March 2023, the Pacific Community (SPC) was mandated to serve as the Secretariat for the Pacific Soil Partnership (PSP) and to coordinate the resourcing and implementation of its activities across the Pacific region.
- An outcome from this meeting is the newly advertised regional soil coordinator role which will be housed within the SPC Land Resources Division (LRD).
- The PSP has adopted a set of strategic priorities aligned to the GSP Action Framework 2022-2030 to promote SSM for soil protection, conservation, and sustainable productivity.
- The priorities are:
 - ❖ soil fertility and nutrient management,
 - ❖ erosion and acidification,
 - ❖ soil testing capacity and extension,
 - ❖ soil monitoring,
 - ❖ data and information,
 - ❖ capacity building and networking.

Progress to date

- In New Zealand, erosion management continues to be a high priority, particularly in response to the impacts of cyclone Gabrielle in February 2023.
- Research is underway to understand the susceptibility to erosion of different watersheds and how to manage erosion more effectively.
- The Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry continues to implement the National Soil Strategy (released in May 2021) and has released the National Soil Action Plan 2023 to 2028, which is the first action plan to improve soil health and management.
- With the support from FAORAP, most Pacific islands have adopted the Voluntary Guidelines on Sustainable Soil Management and are integrating them in National Soil Strategies.
- Tonga is finalising its own.

Progress to date

- The Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) continued to be a driving force in the region to improve the resilience of agricultural systems and mitigate climate change.
- As part of its implementation, the Australian Government has allocated significant funding to promote SSM at national and regional level, supporting the Regional Soils Coordinators and a National Soils Community of Practice.
- The government of Australia also developed the Carbon Farming Outreach Program (2023- 2026), which provides training and advice to farmers and land managers to participate in carbon markets and integrate low emissions technologies and practices, including improving soil condition, in their operations.

Progress to date

- Research commissioned by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), partnerships like the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation's (CSIRO) Pacific Food Partnership, the Atoll Food Futures project support farmers in the region to adopt climate-smart practices to increase their resilience against climate change.
- The Pacific Soils Portal, part of the CSIRO and Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research (MWLR) Soil Management project funded by the ACIAR, provides easy access to legacy soils data and knowledge for Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga, and Tuvalu since October 2020.
- The CSIRO-led ACIAR Pacific Soils Project is implementing the GSP's Global Soil Doctor Programme's training in Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga, and Tuvalu.
- MWLR is part of the international ring test of soil spectroscopy, using both Near-infrared (NIR) and mid-infrared (MIR) spectroscopy



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THANK YOU

