



## **SIDS Forum**

### **From environmental to food security concerns in Small Island Developing States**

**FAO, Rome, 4 June 2008, 13:30-15:00**

The impact of climate variability and change on all aspects of economic development of small island developing states (SIDS) is already considerable. Tropical storms or hurricanes strike more frequently and with increased intensity, destroying crops and livestock, washing away topsoil, damaging infrastructure and causing loss of life. As weather patterns change and become increasingly unpredictable, scientists are warning that the rapidly changing climate will lead to increased weather related disasters. Low lying coastal areas of all islands are especially vulnerable to rising sea levels, changes in rainfall, storm frequency and intensity. The recent bioenergy thrust has added to the threat of increased vulnerability and food insecurity. Thus, there is an urgent need to better understand and evaluate: the extent of risk arising from climate change and bioenergy production to which these countries will be exposed in future and the impact on food security, including the vulnerability of their natural and socioeconomic systems. It is equally urgent to investigate what have been the responses to mitigate those impacts and success in establishing mitigating capacity and building resilience for sustainable development and increased food security.

### **Invited Speakers**

**Opening remarks** by Mrs. Lorraine Williams, Assistant Director-General, Knowledge and Communication Department, FAO

Perspectives from the **Pacific Region**:

- Mr. Taito Nakalevu, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, Samoa
- Mr. Pa'olelei H Luteru, University of South Pacific, Fiji

Perspectives from the **Caribbean Region**:

- Mr. Ulric Neville Trotz, Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, Belize
- Mr. Roger E. Rivero Vega, Cuba Meteorological Service, Cuba

Perspectives from the **Indian Ocean**:

- Mr. Yadowsun Boodhoo, Meteorological Services of Mauritius
- Mr. Antoine Marie-Moustache, Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Transport, Seychelles

**Facilitator:** Mr. Vili Fuavao, FAO Sub-Regional Representative for the Pacific Island