

CSO Statement on Pacific

Thank you Mr. Chair.

I am Esther Penunia, from Asian Farmers Association, speaking in behalf of the CSOs, especially the network of organic farmers in Pacific, and also of PIFON (Pacific Island Farmer Organization Network), the sub regional implementing agency for Mtcp 2 that our organization AFA and La Via Campesina are managing, with support of IFAD, Swiss Development Cooperation and EU.

1. We appreciate FAO and member states' efforts to involve the regional and national farmers organizations in the Conference of Ministers at the regional level, and ask for continuous and strengthened involvement and partnership to address the complexities of the agriculture issues in the Pacific. We ask FAO and member states to ensure the participation of the north Pacific nations: Palau, FSM, RMI and Nauru so the meeting is truly regional (Pacific).
2. We would like to affirm the statement in Paragraphs 22 and 23; indeed we have suggested to this meeting to devise mechanisms to make South South cooperation possible in the region, with special emphasis to Farmer to farmer exchanges already taking place in the Pacific under MTCP2 program in the Pacific.
3. The term "climate smart agriculture" is controversial due to the lack of social or environmental safeguards and the failure to prioritize farmers' voices, knowledge and rights. We suggest to use the term agro-ecology, which is actually climate resilient, and which includes the agriculture as practiced with local knowledge and wisdom, and that which includes enhanced production and processing of traditional food crops to facilitate availability and consumption and need to address as a necessity issues of soil health, biodiversity, agro-forestry, and integration of sound traditional practices into commercial production.
4. We support the conduct of a Pacific Agriculture Week and look forward to contributing to its planning and implementation; and request that regional FOs/CSOs be involved in members of the PWA planning committee.
5. We suggest to FAO to continue providing funding and technical support to POETCOMs secretariat and activities.

In relation to Pacific CSO participation in the APRC and other FAO regional policy and technical consultations, we urge FAO to recognize recommendations that we have put forward in the past, which we reiterate now, to support their meaningful participation by ensuring financing towards their participation. *(CSO consultation in conjunction with 32 and 33 APRC there had been no Pacific CSO participants due to budgetary limitations).*

Thank you, Mr. Chair.