



## Pacific Agrifood Futures

CSIRO is investing in a three-year (2023-2025) initiative to build collaborations and networks between Australian and Pacific knowledge systems to better understand and enable Pacific agrifood systems to respond to current and emerging challenges impacting their resilience and sustainability.

The Pacific plays a critical role in the global food system, but our region faces growing challenges associated with a changing climate, rising rates of non-communicable diseases and disruptions to food value chains.

Australian and Pacific scientists have been working in partnership for decades to address many of the challenges we face together as a region.

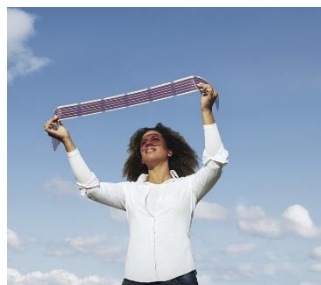
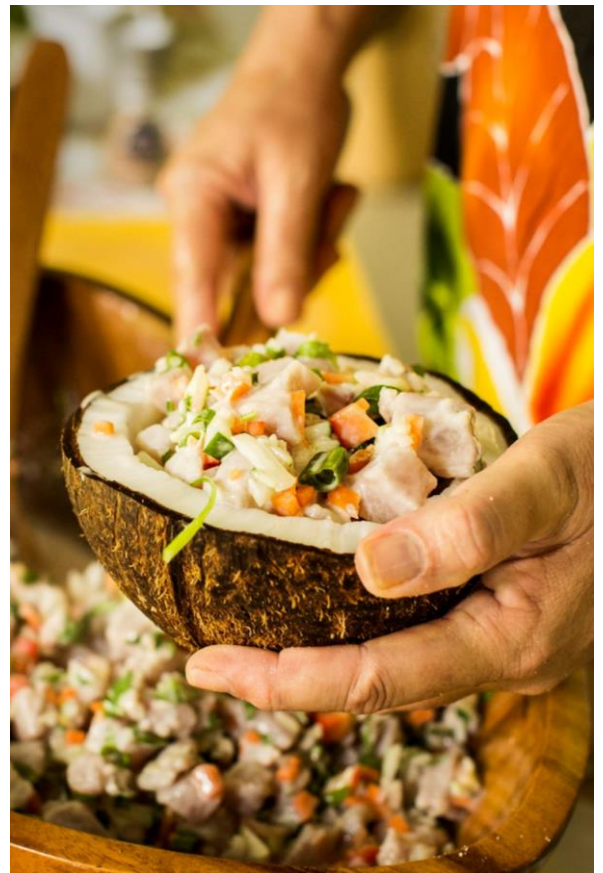
Moving forward, we will need to harness our collective knowledge and innovation and take a whole of system approach to ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all and to shift towards sustainable and resilient food systems.

### CSIRO's Pacific Agrifood Futures initiative

CSIRO is Australia's national science agency with research and technology that spans the entire food system, from food production through the value chain to end consumers, and collaborations to solve regional challenges in biosecurity, health and nutrition, fisheries and marine science, soil science, energy, water management, waste management, biodiversity and climate change.

**Our aim** with Pacific Agrifood Futures (PAF) is to:

- Establish strategic, long-term food systems collaborations and partnerships.
- Strengthen connections between Australian and Pacific knowledge systems.
- Find new ways for CSIRO's knowledge and technology to help address food systems challenges.
- Strengthen the resilience of food systems in our region to emerging and intersecting challenges.



**Our investment** through the PAF initiative will:

- Use systems analysis to identify challenges and opportunities based on priorities of Pacific countries.
- Develop ways to bring together people from across the food system to collaborate and co-develop solutions.
- Trial new or novel knowledge and technology to learn how Pacific countries can inclusively and sustainably respond to complex challenges.
- Explore how the breadth of CSIRO science and capability can contribute to collaborative solutions that are multi-disciplinary, co-designed and disruptive.
- Incorporate traditional knowledge, and social inclusion into our research.
- Develop responses to emerging disruptors, including climate change, natural disasters, and changing markets.
- Support the Australian Government's commitment to Pacific engagement.
- Systematically co-develop learning processes that capture lessons about what works and what does not work in different contexts.



**Our focus** is on partnerships and collaborations for agrifood systems change, recognising that:

- No one organisation, policy maker or community can respond effectively and at scale to the complex challenges alone.
- There is substantial knowledge in the Pacific and a great deal of activity around food system challenges that we can build upon.
- The agrifood system in each Pacific Island Country and Territory has its own unique set of social, economic, and environmental conditions which require responses that learn from previous interventions, progress priorities and leverage momentum in the system, while addressing emerging challenges.
- We need new connections, partnerships, and ways of working to support collective action and the co-production of relevant responses to the food systems challenges facing the Pacific.

We are currently scoping pilot activities with partners across the Pacific and in Australia, which includes: building resilience of food systems in fragile contexts including atolls of Kiribati, French Polynesia and Tuvalu; scaling the Agrifood Systems Climate Explorer from Samoa to a regional level to support decision-making for food systems policy under climate change; building a more resilient and sustainable aquaculture sector in New Caledonia; and disaster recovery of food systems in Vanuatu. We look forward to furthering discussions on where CSIRO can collaborate to ensure inclusive, resilient and healthy food systems in the Pacific for generations to come.

For more information, contact:

**Jennifer Kelly**

CSIRO Agriculture and Food Sustainability Program

+61 (02) 6218 3474

[jennifer.kelly@csiro.au](mailto:jennifer.kelly@csiro.au)

**Michaela Cosijn**

CSIRO Environment Sustainability Program

+61 (7) 3833 5579

[michaela.cosijn@csiro.au](mailto:michaela.cosijn@csiro.au)