



PROGRAM SUMMARY

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Opportunities for Impact

The Program will achieve impact at multiple scales (household, community, province and national as well as amongst program countries) through pathways that include partnerships, knowledge sharing and learning.

In Solomon Islands significant benefits will be achieved through direct engagement with partners, including communities in specific research sites in selected program hubs.

Locations:

Central Hub (2012+): Guadalcanal, Central and Malaita Provinces

Western Hub (2013+): Western and Isabel Provinces

Eastern Hub (2014+): Makira and Temotu Provinces

Opportunities in:

- Community based management of marine resources (CBRM)
- Land-based aquaculture
- Improved market linkages for aquatic agricultural products
- Improved agricultural productivity
- Improved fisheries and agricultural technologies and extension
- Integrated aquatic agricultural freshwater systems
- Improved gender equity

Of a total population of just over half a million people, 75% of Solomon Islanders are subsistence-oriented small holder farmers and fishers. Most people live on the coastal margins of the almost 1000 island archipelago while those that live inland have little access to marine resources.

More than 70% of women and 50% of men are engaged in subsistence agriculture while 50% of women and 90% of men are engaged in fishing activities. In this context aquatic agricultural systems provide an essential source of income, food and well-being for a large part of the population.

What is an aquatic agricultural system?

Aquatic agricultural systems are farming and fishing systems where the annual production dynamics of natural freshwater and/or coastal ecosystems contribute significantly to household livelihood, including income and food security.

Development Challenges in Solomon Islands Aquatic Agricultural Systems

- Declining fisheries resources through increased population pressure and declining habitat quality
- Climate change impacts on agricultural crops including salt water intrusion to coastal gardens
- High market transaction costs
- Poor access to finance
- Limited access to productive land for development
- High proportion of youth
- Gender inequality in development opportunities



Research in Development

The Program's research is designed to improve the wellbeing of people dependent on aquatic agricultural systems by addressing the key constraints that are driving poverty and vulnerability in aquatic agricultural systems.

We have used key hypotheses and theory of change to focus our research on six objectives and associated research themes:

The Program in Solomon Islands will pursue participatory action research in these six areas. The outputs generated will support, inform and guide further investments in each of these.



Theme 1: Sustainable increases in system productivity

Example research question: Can integrated gardens and land based aquaculture improve nutrition of people without easy access to coastal fisheries?



Theme 2: Equitable access to markets

Example research question: What are the dynamics of cross scale market chains and their interaction with food security and the cash economy?



Theme 3: Social-ecological resilience and adaptive capacity

Example research question: Will an integrated approach to CBRM lead to increased resilience of coral reef and mangrove ecosystems?



Theme 4: Gender equity

Example research question: What are women's roles in the market chain of AAS and how can these be improved for the benefit of both men and women?



Theme 5: Policies and institutions to empower AAS users

Example research question: What are the success factors for effective CBRM at the community, province and national level?



Theme 6: Knowledge sharing, learning and innovation

Example research question: What are effective delivery mechanisms for research, information, technology for CBRM, agriculture and aquaculture among national, provincial and community levels?

Working in Partnership

Partnership is a key element of this Program. In Solomon Islands the program is being designed, developed and implemented in collaboration with many partners including:

- 🌐 Communities
- 🌐 Provincial Governments
- 🌐 Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
- 🌐 Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology
- 🌐 Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
- 🌐 AVDRC the WorldVegetable Center
- 🌐 Kastom Gaden Association
- 🌐 Bioversity International
- 🌐 The Foundation of the Peoples for the South Pacific International
- 🌐 The Nature Conservancy
- 🌐 World Wildlife Fund
- 🌐 World Vision
- 🌐 Save the Children
- 🌐 Secretariat of the Pacific Community



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