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Workshop on

**“Moving Beyond Strategy to Improve Information and Knowledge Management for Agricultural Development in the Pacific Islands Countries and Territories”**

21-24 November, 2011  
Venue: Tanoa Hotel, Nadi, Fiji

Information and knowledge management i.e. generation, processing, dissemination and effective use of information and knowledge for innovation to meet current and emerging challenges in agricultural development, is a challenge in itself for the Pacific Islands Countries and Territories (PITCs). The small farm sizes, scattered nature of farms, infrastructural limitations, the need to cope with increased global competitiveness in agricultural commodities as also adapting to climate change and loss of agricultural biodiversity add further complexity to managing information and knowledge in PICTs. With limited resources for research and innovation and for information management to meet these complex needs, these states need to effectively use all useful and relevant information and related resources available locally and globally for agricultural innovation.

The advent of new Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) and global connectivity offers significant potential for PICTs to use information, knowledge and experience being generated globally for agricultural development locally. These technologies, especially the emerging mobile technologies including those using Internet Wi-Fi and 3G Cellular telephony, offer potential to overcome some of the limitations agricultural innovation and development faced in these states. The core barrier is information content that supports the specific needs of individual small holder farmers who are remote. New approaches to agricultural extension in PICTs now have specialized individuals in each commodity offering technical support. These intermediaries in innovation also need new information that is customized not only to meet their needs but also the needs of their clients.

The Workshop on ***“Moving Beyond Strategy to Improve Information and Knowledge Management for Agricultural Development in Pacific Island States”*** was envisaged after strong requests from ICT/ICM experts from the Pacific island countries who also participated in the ICT/ ICM for National Agricultural Research Information Systems in Asia-Pacific Region held at Bangkok in September 2010. FAO together with APAARI and other partners have

been working on promoting good practices and sharing experiences among countries in the Asia Pacific region on good practices in agriculture supported by innovative ICT interventions.

It is understood that many innovative initiatives using mobile phone technologies and other emerging tools are being explored in many Pacific island countries and this workshop aims to share experiences and foster stronger partnership with the Pacific island countries in the area of Information and Communication for Development (ICT4D).

There is a growing movement of the “Coherence in Information for Agricultural Research for Development (CIARD) (<http://www.ciard.net>) initiative helps advocate the importance of making agricultural research information more available, accessible, applicable and be effectively used and appropriated by agricultural communities across the world.

Organizations and individuals can benefit from CIARD as follows:

- increased national and international visibility and use of their research output and content services
- increased exchange of information content between their system(s) and others
- increased awareness of other research outputs through information content and services
- increased access to specialized expertise and knowledge and the proven solutions of the other partners

The CIARD movement has developed a checklist for enabling its partners to assess their readiness in making their information publicly accessible, pathways to guide more rapid action in improving information management in their Institutions, a CIARD Fair which offers tools, applications and support for using the pathways and the CIARD RING which offers a signpost to agricultural information services available globally. CIARD is now working with the global ICM community to develop a framework for sharing and exchanging data and information globally.

This workshop would be organized by APAARI, FAO, GFAR and SPC from 21 to 24 November, 2011 in Nadi, Fiji aims to discuss and offer recommendations for action by actors in agricultural innovation in how Pacific Island states can improve their information and knowledge management i.e. its generation, processing, dissemination and effective use for innovation, to meet current and emerging challenges to agricultural development by partnering locally, within the Pacific states and with the global community.

The 3 days Workshop will target senior policy makers, research and innovation managers, ICM experts and those involved in extension (all actors in the agricultural innovation chain) in discussing how their organizations and institutions can implement recommended strategies for the Pacific Island States using experiences, tools, applications etc., as generated by the global community through CIARD and how they can contribute to

improving information access locally, within PICTs, regionally and globally through active collaboration and partnership. The experts will discuss the implications of mobile technologies, Web 2.0 and the emerging “Semantic” and “Symbiotic” Web in providing information to users in agricultural innovation and market chains and via a technical hands-on session on Web 2.0 tools and technologies.

The **Objectives** of the Workshop are:

1. To consider new dimensions in Information and Knowledge Management (IKM) for contributing to rapid agricultural innovation to meet the complex needs of agriculture in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories.
2. To promote greater involvement and participation of Organizations and Institutions with CIARD and contribute within the States, regionally and globally through various activities, pathways, tools, applications and CIARD RING in the perspective of the needs of the Pacific States and how they can be used locally in Pacific States Organizations and Institutions.
3. To promote use and application of Web 2.0 and Social Media in providing information to users in agricultural innovation and market chains especially through participatory and “open” Information and Communication Management (ICM) models.

The **Outputs** will include:

- Improved awareness on new dimensions in Information and Knowledge Management for agricultural research for development in the Pacific Islands and Territories.
- Improved participation and contribution in CIARD movement and regional agricultural information systems by organizations and institutions in the Pacific Islands and Territories. A Pacific CIARD Community of Practice (CoP) established and participation facilitated in the CIARD initiative
- Promotion of use and application of Web 2.0, Social Media and enhance “openness” for effective information exchange in the Pacific region
- Facilitate strengthened information sharing and networking.

Working Language: English.