

9th REGIONAL MEETING OF
PACIFIC HEADS OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY SERVICES (PHOAFS)
(15 – 17 May 2024) – virtual

Paper reference	Session 4: Agenda item 6
Title	Update: One Health progress and forward plan
Action	For Information
Author(s)	Dr. Eric Rafai

Background

1. One Health is an integrated and collaborative approach that recognizes the interconnectedness of human health, animal health, and environmental health in Pacific Island countries & territories (PICTs). It emphasizes the shared responsibility of safeguarding the well-being of humans, animals, and ecosystems by promoting interdisciplinary cooperation, sustainable practices, and disease prevention to ensure the health and prosperity of communities and their animals in the island environment context.
2. The One Health concept is not a new idea to the Pacific as the practice of working in multi-sectors is a common occurrence for PICTs during natural disasters or national emergencies. During major tropical cyclones, tsunamis, etc. the different government sectors, private entities and partners are driven to work together by national leadership in an organized manner under a national disaster mandate to monitor and respond to humanitarian efforts before -, during- or post disaster.
3. Historically, a One Health type project was implemented at the regional level, from 2006 to 2011, by PICTs and partners (New Zealand, Australia) which established the Pacific Regional Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Project (PRIPP) to respond to an emerging threat at that time. The PRIPP was aimed at building the capacity of PICTs to detect and effectively respond to emerging diseases, in particular the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). The project was jointly managed and delivered by SPC's Public Health Division and the Animal Health & Production thematic teams of the Land Resource Division (LRD) of SPC. The PRIPP ceased in 2011 but a positive documented outcome of its One Health approach is the PICTs readiness and resilience towards the impact of Pandemic H1N1 in 2009. For example, the PICTs had at hand country pre-pandemic plans to respond to the pandemic event and as the workforce had undertaken capacity-building and simulation exercises prior to the 2009 Pandemic event¹.

¹ [Influenza surveillance in the Pacific Island countries and territories during the 2009 pandemic: an observational study - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)

4. During the PRIPP project, the Pacific Heads of Veterinary & Animal Production Services (PHOVAPS) was the eminent coordinating body and secretariat for the veterinary or animal health services for the region. A decade later, the 2021 PHOVAPS Charter prescribed a One Health Scientific & technical Working group in section 6.2.7 which has the intent to support multi-stakeholder approach to addressing animal health, zoonosis, food safety, and antimicrobial resistance guidelines in PICTs.
5. More recently, the concept of One Health was introduced during the 2023 Pacific Agriculture Week to the Heads and Ministers of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries meeting at a side-event. At this panel discussion, some senior officials notably declared having minimal or basic knowledge about One Health and its application in the Pacific prompting a general consensus for all PICTs and partners to advocate for the benefits and importance of initiating a One Health approach and the need to create greater awareness across sectors and communities in the Pacific.
6. The concept of One Health is also strongly advocated by regional partners as an approach to strengthen country multi-sector collaboration and transdisciplinary support to address some of the key priorities across these sectors such as zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance, food security, etc. The recent COVID19 pandemic, frequent disease outbreaks, etc. is compelling evidence to strengthen global and regional health security by enabling greater preparedness to identify and respond to threats to the livelihood & well-being of the people, animals, and environment in the Pacific.

Purpose

7. This paper aims to provide an update on the current progress of One Health and plan forward.

Progress Update: One health and forward plan

8. The SPC (Pacific Community) and its partners are committed to promoting the One Health approach in the Pacific with the establishment of a One Health coordinator position in 2023. The position coordinates the One Health initiatives across the Land Resource Division (LRD) and the Public Health Division (PHD) and similarly work across the corresponding regional meetings of PHOVAPS and PPHSN and related partner agencies.

USAID – SPC Global Health Security One Health project to support One Health activities for the next 5 years (2024-2028)

9. Furthermore, the current development of a USAID – SPC Global Health Security One Health project to support One Health activities for the next 5 years (2024-2028) will certainly benefit the PICTs directly and through PHOVAPs and PPHSN, especially through the POSW group (Pacific One Health Scientific & Technical Working) Group. The SPC – USAID Global Health Security project is focused initially on Strengthening Global Health Security in 11 Pacific Island countries. The project is aimed at targeting support to strengthen multisectoral collaboration, coordination, and communication within countries to address country priority issues identified from health, animal & environment sector, in conjunction with partner agencies initiatives in the region. An inception plan meeting with the Pacific Island Countries & territories (PICTs) is planned for the latter half of the year, in conjunction with the Quadripartite Joint Plan of Action workshop.

Pacific Quadripartite -Pacific Community

10. The Agencies of the Quadripartite which consists of WHO, FAO, WOA and UNEP are committed to support One Health activities in the Pacific Island countries & territories. The One Health High Level Expert Panel (OHHP) is an advisory group for the Quadripartite organization that provides guidance and recommendations on One Health issues to these agencies and countries. The Quadripartite is planning to assist the PICTs in a Joint of Plan of Action workshop for One Health implementation in August 2024. Therefore, seeking support of HOAFs to this workshop to release the Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry One Health representative to participate in this workshop. The candidate will be invited together with country representatives from the Human Health and Environment Health sector to enable the completion of a One Health workplan for the country, to be supported by the Quadripartite and its partners.

[Link to PHOVAPS network through the POSW group.](#)

11. Lastly and more importantly, in direct reference to the PHOVAPS information paper in Session 4, Agenda item 12, the PHOVAPS Governance document outlines the PHOVAPS members endorsement of (b) selection of PHOVAPS technical working groups to be activated. One of the Scientific & Technical working groups from the Charter to be activated is the Pacific One Health Scientific & Technical Working Group, also abbreviated as POSW (pronounced as 'PAWS') group. A draft term of reference of the POSW group was also provided to PHOVAPS meeting for endorsement. A group of PICTs represented at the PHOVAPS meeting were selected as POSWs members, as the other members of the POSW group would be selected from the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN) and other regional sector groups in the region. The POSW group's purpose is to provide oversight and support through coordination, collaboration and communication between One Health partners and countries. The full POSW group will meet within the fringes of the PHOVAPS and PPHSN meetings to opportunistically work on related issues and to conduct the project-steering mechanism for the USAID – SPC Global Health Security Project.
12. The USAID - SPC Global Health Security project is co-developed and is a partnership between the Land Resource Division and the Public Health Division guaranteeing co-ownership of resources and for most parts of the project co-facilitation of activities in Pacific Island countries in the spirit of One Health. This arrangement has unique implications for the PHOVAPS-POSW members composition, responsibility, and function. The link and reporting to the PHOVAPS council remain like other TWGs (Scientific and Technical Working Groups) under PHOVAPS.
13. Several One Health activities have also been initiated by partners with SPC and PICTs since the last meeting. In 2023, FAO SAP facilitated a Virtual learning Course (VLC) One Health that was completed by several Country and Partner agency representatives from the public, animal, and environment sectors. FAO SAP also facilitated a One Health capacity building workshop in Samoa with Senior government officials and Heads of livestock & animal production services from PICTs of selected countries. Further advocacy for the One Health approach was conducted by FAO SAP at the Senior Officials meeting at the FAO Asia Pacific Regional Conference. FAO ECTAD (RAP) had also initiated inception workshops for its USAID Global Health Security projects for its intensive support countries (Fiji, PNG). WOA continues to support countries with Progressive Veterinary Services (PVS) pathway activities, while WHO & SPC Public Health Division help a few countries complete their Joint external evaluation (JEE) which is a key foundational principle for the One Health approach, core to the Pandemic fund application.

Recommendations:

14. The PHOAFS are invited to **note** the One Health progress and future*:
 - a. establishment of One Health initiatives at SPC, FAO, WHO, WOAHA and UNEP its expansion to PICTs.
 - b. Support PHOVAPs recommendation for activation of Pacific One Health Scientific & Technical working group and governance structure with partners and other sectors in the region.
 - c. Support implementation of USAID-SPC Global Health Security project in PICTs (2024-2028) Quadripartite joint plan of action for Pacific Workshop in August 2024, release of PICTs reps. from Agriculture, Public Health, and Environment sector

* Similar recommendations were presented and supported by the Pacific Heads of Health, meeting in Samoa, April 2023.

Annex 1 : 37th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia Pacific

APPLYING ONE HEALTH APPROACH TO ACCELERATE AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION IN THE PACIFIC REGION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. One Health is a holistic concept that recognises the fundamental interconnections between the health of people, animals (terrestrial and aquatic), plants and the environment. While the formal application of programmes and policies under the One Health concept to may be relatively new, the concept itself is not. In the Pacific Islands region, where traditional practices and culture are deeply intertwined with the natural world, One Health has been, and remains, a way of life.
2. The Pacific Islands region faces unique challenges affecting human, animal, plant and environmental health due to its vulnerability to the adverse impacts of climate change (such as rising sea levels and salinity, the increased frequency of extreme weather events, vector-borne diseases), natural disasters, geographic remoteness, limited arable land, increasing population pressures, and small economies. In addition, the region has high rates of non-communicable diseases, straining under-resourced health care systems. This is mainly due to inadequate sources of good quality and affordable local produce, which are substituted by imported ultra-processed foods and cheap offcuts of beef, pork and poultry.
3. The One Health concept can help address threats to human, animal, plant and environmental health—and food and nutrition security at risk from these threats—by promoting collaboration, data sharing, evidence-based decision-making and analysing the effectiveness of government policies and strengthening these where they are deficient or developing them where they are absent. The increasing and unregulated use of agrochemicals and antimicrobials in the agrifood sector can be effectively addressed through a One Health approach.
4. In the Pacific Islands region, animals are important assets, providing food and nutrition, livelihood opportunities, import substitution and fulfilling cultural obligations. Animal diseases therefore have far-reaching impacts on Pacific peoples' health, culture and livelihoods. Strengthened biosecurity in the agri-food sector to prevent the introduction and spread of diseases is critical to not only safeguarding human health from zoonotic diseases (diseases that can spread from animals to humans), but also preventing the emergence of antimicrobial resistance, avoiding shocks to the economy, preserving biodiversity and the environment. This applies equally to plant and aquatic pests and diseases and invasive alien species (IAS) such as giant African snails and coconut rhinoceros beetles in the crop sector; and vibriosis and ice-ice¹ in the fisheries and aquaculture² sector.
5. Through the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations' (UN) Strategic Framework 2022-31³ 'Four Betters' (i.e., better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life), FAO is advancing the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁴ and UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)⁵. The four betters specifically target No Poverty (SDG 1), Zero Hunger (SDG 2) and Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10). Adopting a One Health approach can effectively contribute to these SDGs and to Good Health and Well-

¹ A disease of seaweed

² Agriculture includes crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries sectors

³ [FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31](#)

⁴ [Transforming Our World: the 2023 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)

⁵ [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#)

being (SDG 3), Gender Equality (SDG 5), Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6) and Climate Action (SDG 13).

6. FAO aims to augment sustainable results through promoting a One Health approach to government agencies responsible for human, animal and plant health, agriculture, environment,
7. disaster management and climate change, as well as donors, civil society (including traditional leadership structures) and the community.
8. This paper provides an overview of the status of implementation of One Health in Pacific Island Countries (PICs), health challenges facing PIC populations and opportunities for PICs to better address these through a One Health approach with FAO's technical support.
9. To provide the impetus for this technical support, guidance from the FAO's Asia Pacific Regional Conference (APRC) is sought on how to accelerate the application of the One Health approach by governments in the Pacific Islands region. Suggested interventions include strengthening early warning systems and better preparedness for health threats; enhancing health, food safety and food security; preserving livelihoods and developing sustainable alternatives; adapting to climate change impacts and protecting the environment including preserving and sustainably managing biodiversity; and finally, ensuring adequate resources to contribute to the SDGs.

GUIDANCE REQUESTED FROM THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

10. The APRC is therefore invited to note the benefits of a One Health approach in the design and implementation of policies and programmes by PIC governments with support from FAO. The APRC is also invited to acknowledge the need for PIC government agencies to facilitate engagement with each other as well as with non-government stakeholders (e.g., civil society, development partners and donors) to enhance opportunities to implement a One Health approach to address multi-sectoral and multi-faceted issues and opportunities for the Pacific Islands region as articulated in the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent⁶.
11. The APRC is requested to:
 - endorse PIC governments application of the One Health approach to programmes, policy development, legislation, research, partnerships and resource mobilisation to accelerate agrifood systems transformation in the Pacific Islands region;
 - endorse that PIC governments apply One Health approaches to mitigate health and threats to their agriculture, forestry, livestock, and fisheries sectors through the establishment of national One Health coordination committees;
 - agree that national One Health coordination committees in PICs develop implementation plans through a whole-of-government approach, as well as consultation and inclusion of non-government stakeholders;
 - recognise FAO's leadership role in global One Health initiatives that can be contextualised to the Pacific Islands region in line with FAO's Strategic Framework and the Four Betters;
 - endorse FAO's role in facilitating the establishment of a Pacific Regional One Health network; and
 - recommend that a One Health concept be included in all FAO projects to improve the engagement of relevant ministries and other stakeholders to accelerate agrifood systems transformation in the Pacific Islands region.

⁶ 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, 2022 <https://www.forumsec.org/2050strategy/>

INTRODUCTION

12. The Pacific Islands region faces an existential challenge from the impacts of climate change, which is increasingly affecting the health of Pacific peoples, their environment, and economies⁶. Pacific Island Countries (PICs) have an estimated population of approximately 13.5 million people living on thousands of islands with a land area of approximately 800,000 square kilometres dispersed over millions of square kilometres of the Pacific Ocean. The region encompasses a diverse range of ethnicities, cultures, languages, and ecosystems. The Pacific Islands region includes Small Island Developing States (SIDS). PICs have limited natural resources, narrow-based economies, are remote from major markets and vulnerable to external shocks. Agriculture, fishing and tourism form the backbone of many PIC economies.
13. PICs have shown renewed interest in, and support for, agriculture, forestry, livestock, and fisheries; innovation in food systems and value chains; and the creation of new domestic market opportunities post COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic's disruption of supply chains resulted in challenges in obtaining inputs and commercializing outputs, both as domestic sales and exports of products. As a result, incomes and productivity declined. Results of a study by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research published in 2020 highlight the vulnerabilities of food systems in the Pacific Islands region during the COVID-19 pandemic⁷ and showed that not only were the loss of income and production by farmers and fishers evident, but also the disruption in service delivery and reverse migration to rural areas, which increased food demands and resource pressures.

WHAT IS ONE HEALTH?

14. One Health is defined as '*an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals, and ecosystems. It recognizes that the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants, and the wider environment (including ecosystems) are closely linked and inter-dependent. The approach mobilizes multiple sectors, disciplines, and communities at varying levels of society to work together to foster well-being and tackle threats to health and ecosystems, while addressing the collective need for clean water, energy and air, safe and nutritious food, taking action on climate change, and contributing to sustainable development*'⁸.
15. The Quadripartite organizations—FAO, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Health Organization and the World Organisation for Animal Health—have endorsed a One Health Joint Plan of Action⁹ (OH JPA). The OH JPA aims to prepare the world to be better at preventing, detecting and responding to health threats while improving human, animal, plant and environmental health and their contribution to sustainable development. The OH JPA is a collaborative framework that can be contextualised for use in PICs to support implementation of One Health concepts in the region.

STATUS OF ONE HEALTH IN PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES

17. A strategic and planned implementation of a One Health approach in PICs is currently in its infancy. The focus of a One Health approach in PICs has been to tackle antimicrobial resistance (AMR). While a few PICs have national action plans (NAPS) for addressing AMR, these plans lack other aspects of health security such as biosecurity, diagnosis of zoonoses, animal health and welfare, plant and ecosystem health, and food safety.
18. Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu have developed NAPS but implementing these has been

⁶ [Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability](#)

⁷ [COVID-19 and food systems in the Indo-Pacific: An assessment of vulnerabilities, impacts and opportunities for action](#)

⁸ One Health definition developed by the One Health High Level Expert Panel, the Quadripartite organization's advisory panel

⁹ [One Health Joint Plan of Action \(2022–2026\)](#)

challenging. Non-government organizations have established platforms in Papua New Guinea for sectors to collaboratively implement and advocate addressing AMR through a One Health approach through the development of a Frontline Field Epidemiological Training Program. The

-
19. Australian Government's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation has been working with the Fiji and Samoan Governments to enhance the management of AMR. The Pacific Community, through its Public Health Division and Public Health Surveillance Network, has over the years hosted events to encourage One Health approaches to address AMR in the Pacific Islands region. Veterinary paraprofessional training in the Pacific Islands region incorporates One Health approaches in disease investigations and for surveillance and response activities for transboundary diseases.
 20. FAO's work on One Health in the Pacific Islands region is strategically focused on raising awareness of what is One Health and its broader application. FAO has convened several One Health awareness, capacity enhancing and planning events and transboundary animal disease preparedness and response workshops. FAO has also conducted online training courses on One Health to enhance capacity in PICs. This has been augmented by on-the-ground and in-country training to develop technical capacity in the application of a One Health approach to bolster health security.
 21. FAO promotes One Health concepts through the adoption of an all-hazards and early warning approach to incorporate major biosecurity threats into national disaster and emergency prevention, preparedness, and response plans. FAO, in collaboration with PICs and other Quadripartite members and the Pacific Community, is supporting the implementation of the OH JPA to enhance One Health in the Pacific Islands region.

CHALLENGES TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ONE HEALTH

22. Despite the potential benefits of a One Health approach, several challenges remain. The most significant challenge relates to governance, policy, and coordination in PICs amongst the main resource sectors of agriculture and health and environment sectors. Government agencies are often focussed on their own work areas within their silos, focusing only on their respective priorities, programmes, and areas of expertise. To be effective, a One Health approach requires a whole-of-government approach with high-level political commitment and structural changes to ensure cross-sectoral collaboration.
23. Another barrier to greater uptake of the One Health approach is limited human, financial and technical resources, and capacity to support One Health initiatives. In many PICs, there is a shortage of trained professionals with the necessary skills and knowledge to implement a One Health approach. This hinders development of cross-sectoral partnerships and limits the scope and effectiveness of interventions.
24. Most PICs are geographically isolated, making communication and networking, accessing, and sharing information and resources difficult. These issues can limit the effectiveness of regional One Health initiatives and exacerbate existing health inequalities at national levels.
25. Cultural and social factors sometimes challenge formal implementation of a One Health approach in the Pacific Islands region. Traditional beliefs and practices may influence attitudes towards plants, trees, animals, and aquatic resources. These must be catered for through Pacific peoples having ownership of designing and suitable participation in implementing One Health strategies and interventions to ensure these activities are culturally appropriate. For example, the cultural importance of pigs conflicted with conventional disease control measures during an outbreak of African swine fever in Papua New Guinea in 2020. This was overcome by using movement control restrictions instead of text-book control measures of destruction and disposal of infected and in-contact pigs.

26. Lastly, funding arrangements—both government and donor funding—can sometimes hinder uniform implementation of a One Health approach. Most funding is subsumed by the health sector, unless there is specific funding support for a disease outbreak that threatens agriculture. However, donors are increasingly putting One Health as a preferred, and sometimes mandated, approach to project funds.

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEVERAGE ONE HEALTH APPROACHES FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

27. Despite the challenges outlined above, FAO is well-positioned to provide technical support to PICs to address multi-sectoral challenges.
28. As noted above, Pacific peoples have a deep understanding of the connections between human, environmental health—in essence, an understanding of the One Health concept. Promoting and preserving these practices can facilitate One Health implementation, with additional support from current scientific knowledge and technologies. The Pacific Islands region's knowledge and cultural diversity can be harnessed to promote sustainable and community-led approaches to health, agriculture, forestry, livestock and fisheries management. The predominance of women and girls in health and education professions, while also strongly involved in subsistence production and marketing, provides opportunities to engage with women, especially with their role as care givers in the home. Strong social cohesion through families, clans, communities, and membership in faith-based institutions can be influential advocates of a One Health approach, particularly with respect to improving behaviour and livelihood choices.
29. Unlike Asia, which has experienced numerous outbreaks of infectious diseases of animal origin, such as highly pathogenic avian, swine influenza and severe acute respiratory syndrome, the Pacific Islands region has limited experience, apart from the COVID-19 pandemic with tackling serious and immediate health threats enforcing One Health approaches. Extensive outbreaks of serious zoonotic diseases have not occurred yet in the Pacific Islands region, apart from bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis in Fiji and sporadic outbreaks of leptospirosis in some PICs.
30. PICs are however, dealing with climate change impacts and regularly experience natural disasters and managing these is a priority for many PICs. Therefore, climate change and natural disasters are existing entry points for a One Health approach, since these have elicited inter-agency cooperation with existing governance and policy structures, including funding.
31. As noted above, the Pacific Islands region is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, affecting human, animal, plant, trees, livestock and aquatic resources health. Rising temperatures and sea levels, and extreme weather events have led to the spread of diseases, pests, vectors and invasive species which have affected food security and, in some cases, resulted in the displacement of communities. Vector-borne diseases are on the rise with warmer temperatures, and invasive plant and fish species are emerging threats. Diseases in livestock, crops and seafood threaten food supplies, livelihoods, and economies.
32. Contamination of water supplies affect human, animal, plant, and environmental health. A One Health approach would address the complex interplay between climate change, biosecurity, and health by promoting the sustainable use of natural resources, building ecosystem resilience, and implementing adaptation strategies by promoting best practices for resource management, thereby reducing reliance on external inputs and strengthening the ability of agriculture, forestry, livestock and fisheries sectors to cope with environmental shocks. An example of where a One Health approach can assist with mitigating health impacts caused by flooding is by managing outbreaks of water-borne diseases such as leptospirosis. Further challenges exist including the provision of clean water and sanitation, as well as the provision of nutritious food and associated food preparation and food safety issues, transmission of communicable diseases, and in some cases, maintenance of law and order. Livestock also need

to be relocated, fed, and watered, and crops need to be salvaged and rehabilitated. Such situations can be effectively managed through involving a multi-agency synergistic approach, including governments, civil society, the media and communities.

33. **Disease Surveillance, Prevention, Preparedness and Response** are also important for the Pacific Islands region, which is home to several zoonotic diseases, such as tuberculosis, brucellosis and leptospirosis. Climate change and increased connectivity due to international trade and travel are some factors that contribute to the spread of diseases. The lack of adequate biosecurity at international and national borders presents threats for agrifood sectors. A One Health approach can help strengthen the capacity of PICs early warning system to detect, prevent and respond to diseases, pests, and IAS. Improved surveillance systems, laboratory networks and communication channels can enable timely detection and response to outbreaks. At present, there is a lack of data on disease prevalence and transmission in the Pacific Islands region, particularly in the animal sector, but also in the plant, forestry and fisheries sectors. This makes it difficult to accurately monitor and track health issues in these sectors or to detect and respond to emerging health threats in a timely manner. A One Health approach can promote the development of integrated disease surveillance systems. This allows for early warning and response to disease outbreaks, reducing the risk of disease transmission and improving health outcomes. Mapping of infected areas can also assist disease control programmes and raise awareness of hotspots to be monitored.

34. **Non-communicable Diseases** such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer are a growing problem in the Pacific Island region, driven in part by lifestyle and dietary changes and choices. All PICs depend heavily on imported food products. Affordability by local communities is a key consideration. Nutritionally deficient animal products (such as lamb flaps and turkey tails) and canned meat and fish are examples. NCDs have a significant adverse impact on the health and wellbeing of Pacific peoples. Import substitution through increased and sustainable livestock, crops and fisheries production can attract consumers to these healthier food choices.

35. **Food and Water Safety** are also important for PICs due to the dependence on subsistence farming and fishing for their livelihoods and food security. The Pacific Islands region is home to many small-scale food producers who lack the resources to implement good hygiene and food safety practices. This can result in foodborne illnesses affecting human, animal, and environmental health. Food safety is the responsibility of all sectors since it involves improved hygiene practices in food production, processing, preservation, and preparation. A One Health approach can support sustainable farming, forestry, livestock and fishing practices as well as better food production and preservation techniques promoting food and water safety. Good hygiene practices reduce the need for antimicrobials in livestock and aquaculture production by improving animal and aquatic health. Collaboration between health, agriculture and environmental sectors can also improve the management of agrochemical and antimicrobial use, waste, and wastewater, to reduce the risk of waterborne diseases and preserve waterways. The Pacific Islands region has a rich diversity of traditional food systems and cultural practices, and a One Health approach can help to strengthen these local food systems by supporting the production and consumption of traditional foods (e.g., substituting taro for imported potatoes), reducing food waste and the alternative use of food waste (e.g., compost and silage) as well as improving food safety and quality.

36. FAO can support the advancement of a One Health approach by providing policy, legislative and technical assistance to help PICs set national targets and priorities across the agrifood sectors.

SUMMARY

37. In conclusion, the One Health approach recognizes the interconnections between human and environment health and the dependent sectors of agriculture, forestry, livestock and fisheries. One Health concepts have the potential to significantly accelerate agrifood systems
38. transformation in the Pacific Islands region and contribute to the SDGs goals. By adopting a One

- Health approach, PICs can develop strategies that promote early warning of biosecurity and other threats; promote sustainable farming, forestry, livestock and fisheries practices; enhance food safety and improve nutrition; and mitigate the risks of climate change.
39. One of the key benefits of a One Health approach is the ability to promote collaboration and coordination amongst different sectors and disciplines. This collaboration can lead to the development of comprehensive policies, regulations and interventions that address the complex challenges faced by agrifood production systems in the Pacific Islands region. By involving stakeholders from agriculture, forestry, livestock and fisheries; public and animal health; the environmental sciences; and other relevant fields, a greater holistic, synergistic, integrated and Pacific-appropriate approaches can be achieved.
 40. Furthermore, a One Health approach can help build resilience in food production systems, crucial in the face of the impacts of climate change, natural disasters, and other environmental and economic stressors. By considering the inter-connectedness of human and the environment that all production sectors depend upon, strategies can be developed to mitigate the impacts of climate change, improve disaster preparedness, and promote sustainable land and aquatic management practices.
 41. However, the successful implementation of a One Health approach requires strong political commitment, adequate resources, and effective governance structures. It is therefore essential to engage all relevant stakeholders to ensure the successful adoption and implementation of a One Health approach. Through effective collaboration, the possibility to develop effective strategies that promote health and wellbeing for humans, animals and plants, and the environment in the Pacific Islands region can be realised. Addressing the challenges facing the implementation of a One Health approach in the Pacific Islands region also requires sustained efforts to raise awareness and build capacity and to foster cross sectoral partnerships and address structural barriers to collaboration and coordination.
 42. We are all responsible for One Health.