

Expression of Interest

Pacific Organic Learning Farms – First Circle Farm

Background/Context

The Pacific Organic Learning Farms Network [POLFN] project, has the goal of establishing organic learning farms in Solomon Island, Fiji, Nauru, and Tonga. The project is supported through the Kiwa Initiative: Nature-based solutions for climate resilience since the Organic Learning Farms Network project is a regional project funded in the framework of this Initiative (www.Kiwainitiative.org).

The Kiwa Initiative aims at strengthening the climate change resilience of Pacific Island ecosystems, communities, and economies through Nature-based Solutions (NbS), by protecting, sustainably managing, and restoring biodiversity. It is based on an easier access to funding for climate change adaptation and NbS for local, national authorities, civil society and regional organizations of Pacific Island countries and Territories including the three French overseas territories. The Initiative, managed by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), is funded by the European Union, AFD, Global Affairs Canada, Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT).

A key component of the project requires working with at least 100 farmers (First Circle Farmers), in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Tonga, and working with at least 40 farmers in Nauru. This is an extension of the first 2 learning farms being established in Component 1. Form of support that will be made available to the farmers include;

- Training on Agroecological genetic diversity, organic pest management, seed saving, green cropping, Agro silviculture, organic livestock, agroforestry and composting
- Feasible technologies (innovative/ climate smart, user and environmentally friendly) that increases water holding capacity, increases carbon storage, that maximises crop and product diversity as well
- Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) setup and certification
- Peer to peer (farmer to farmer) learnings
- Business planning, business to business meetings & market exposure through trade shows etc.

Timeframe

The support will be available until 31st December 2024.

Submission Instructions

Those interested in becoming part of the ‘first circle farmers’ are requested to complete and return this application form with the supporting documents to POLFN@spc.int no later than **15 October 2023, 11.59pm, Fiji time**. Farmers can also submit their applications manually to the following offices:

Country	Location
Tonga	Tonga National Youth Congress
Fiji	Agronomy office - Koronivia
Solomon Islands	Kastom Gaden Association
Nauru	Department of Environment Management and Agriculture

Attached to this invitation find enclosed the following:

- 1. The application form** – needs to be filled and submitted with the supporting documents
- 2. The Evaluation Criteria** - this will be used to evaluate the applications
- 3. The checklist for submission** -applicants can refer to this to ensure they are submitting all required documents with their application.

1. APPLICATION FORM

Section A: PERSONAL INFORMATION		
Full Name:	Gender	
Date of Birth:	Phone:	Email:
Residential Address:		
District:	Province:	

Section B: EXPERIENCE AND CAPACITY					
Please submit ANY of the following documents to demonstrate intent / motivation.					
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discussions / email correspondence with organic market 2. Minutes from your farmer group meeting, showing intent to adopt organic agriculture 3. Support letter from PGS group manager 4. Business plan 5. 3rd Party certificate 					
<u>Please tick one of the boxes that applies to you</u>					
Organic farmer (certified)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Organic farmer (non-certified)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transitioning to organic farmer	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Please indicate the number of years of farming experience in the above selected category</u>					
Number of years		Number of years		Number of years	

Section C: ENVIRONMENT (This information is to ascertain the current capacity)			
Land Ownership (provide proof of ownership or support letter for the right to use the land. If this cannot be provided, please provide reasons.	(Provide information on the ownership or right to use the land)		
Crop/Livestock (List the crop/livestock available on farm)	Quantity (Fill in the number of crop/livestock available on farm)	Area (acres) (Land area under cultivation)	Market Outlet (List where you sell your product, including barter or communal exchange)

Section D: ACCESSIBILITY (Please provide details of the accessibility of the farm)

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		Please provide Response
<p>Is the farm easily accessible?</p> <p>(Please provide details of the accessibility of the farm)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

DECLARATION

I hereby certify that I have the authority to submit this proposal on behalf of the applicant and I certify that the above and attached information is true and accurate.

Name

Title

Date

2. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Applicants will be evaluated by the National Advisory Committees (NAC) and POLFN project management unit, in line with the following criteria's:

Criteria	Ratings Minimum requirement is 5 and above	Pass / Fail	Justification
Experience and capacity of the applicant (Poor experience: 0-3, Experienced: 4-7, Excellent experience: 8-10)			
Environmental (site and adjacent lands are free from chronic pollution and are not sensitive sites (Polluted:0-3, Some pollution:3-7, No pollution: 8-10)			
Accessibility - can be physical or market access (No access: 0-3, Some access: 4 - 7, Access available: 8 - 10)			

3. CHECKLIST FOR DOCUMENTS TO SUPPORT APPLICANT'S ELIGIBILITY

To confirm your eligibility for this call, please provide the following evidence with your application:

Eligibility Criteria	Description of supporting documents to confirm eligibility	Check
Right to be resident and/or to operate in one of the four eligible project countries – Fiji, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Tonga	Provide any of the following: National identity document, passport, business registration certificate (if registered as a business) or similar documents.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proof of legal ownership or right to use of the land	Copy of title deed, lease agreement, and/or written confirmation from chief or traditional responsible body such as village council in the case of traditional ownership.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Experience and Capacity	Provide any of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discussions / email correspondence with organic market 2. Minutes from your farmer group meeting, showing intent to adopt organic agriculture 3. Support letter from PGS group manager 4. Business plan 5. 3rd Party certificate 	<input type="checkbox"/>