

THINK TANK 2

Exploring the convergence of science and traditional knowledge in aqua- and agriculture for sustainable, healthy living in the 21st century



Birte Komolong (NARI)

Kristin Gembiak (ZMT)

Contents

1. Priority areas (including proposed joint initiatives)
 - a) Aquaculture
 - b) Climate resilient agricultural practices and Linking island microclimate (water and soil management)
 - c) Tenure, Intellectual Property Rights, Convergence of traditional knowledge and western science (*cross-cutting*)
 - d) Context-responsive policies (*cross-cutting*)
2. Policy recommendations

a) Aquaculture

- **Important elements:** R&D; capacity building; community & industrial partnerships to effectively drive aquaculture development in the Pacific
- **Drivers to innovation:** Chinese market, dwindling of fish stocks, population growth
- **Barriers to innovation:** little opportunity to ownership, low level of education, communication (remoteness)
- **New niches of innovation:** key species development, aquaculture planning- holistic approach
- **Proposed joint activity:** Research Centre for Pacific Aquaculture

b) Climate resilient agricultural practices and Linking island microclimate (water and soil management)

- **Important issues:** too many projects, limited availability of proof on impacts, limited knowledge on potential of local crop species
- **Drivers to innovation:** biotechnology (focus on plant genetic modification), confidence in traditional knowledge of land management practices
- **Barriers to innovation:** Plant genetic modification- public mistrust, poor financial support
- **New niches of innovation:** e.g. intra-regional transport systems for locally produced food
- **Proposed joint activity:** Decision support tool for crop management

c) Tenure, Intellectual Property Rights, Convergence of traditional knowledge and western science

- **Proposed joint activity:** Native organic food security
- **Important elements:**
 - a) Networking project driven from Maori and Pacific communities
 - b) Building collective understanding of organic agriculture
 - c) Learning from history of organic farming; social movement in the EU to build sustainable organic Pacific food security
 - d) Support Pacific capacity building through PhD's and Post-docs
 - e) Identify crops and species for organic farming
 - f) Build sustainable organic markets between EU and Pacific

d) Context- responsive policies

- **Proposed joint activity:** research indicators for measurement of success/impact
- **Important elements:**
 - a) Need to re-discuss ongoing research on indicators
 - b) Context-specific
 - c) Sensitive to traditional knowledge
 - d) To improve accountability and effectiveness for food security interventions

2. Policy recommendations

1. An enabling policy environment

- a) Dialogue between scientists and community integrating environmental/societal changes and cultural practices

2. Convergence of traditional knowledge and (western) science/knowledge:

- a) incorporation and exchange of different knowledge systems; holistic unique-to-Pacific-countries approaches
- b) monitoring of adoption of western intellectual property laws in food security and traditional practices
- c) access and benefit sharing experiences

2. Policy recommendations

3. Food and nutrition security:

- a) Reliance on imported food as a consequence of declining agricultural production
- b) Loss of traditional dietary practices
- c) Need for crop improvement and aquaculture
- d) Decision support tools
- e) Developing indicators (quantitative/qualitative) to improve accountability and effectiveness

4. Genuine high-level commitment to EU-Pacific cooperation

5. Challenge of transcultural language

Project partners

