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# Using agrobiodiversity to support resilience of Pacific SIDS to climate change and disasters

**CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP:**  
**Building Climate Resilience Agriculture in Pacific SIDS**  
**11-13 August 2016, Nadi Fiji**



## Mission

*“ To work for the well-being of Pacific people through the effective and innovative application of science and knowledge, guided by a deep understanding of Pacific island contexts and culture”*

SPC works across more than 25 sectors using multidisciplinary approach contributing to achieving.

## DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1. Pacific people benefit from sustainable economic development
2. Pacific communities are empowered and resilient
3. Pacific people reach their potential and live long and healthy lives

## Ongoing Challenges ....



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- Water & food insecurity
- Inequity in gender & wealth, youth unemployment, shortage of skilled labor
- Access to high quality education for all children
- High prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs)
- Increased population sizes and urbanization
- Market demands for few selected varieties
- Climate change
- Natural disasters on the increase
- Environmental degradation
- New emerging pest and diseases eg phytoplasma in coconut, banana fusarium wilt race 4, zika etc
- Scarce resources especially in atoll countries

# Genebanks established by SPC to address some of these challenges....



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## Overall GOAL:

To support Pacific countries in their agricultural and forestry development by conserving important genetic resources; and to provide access to the diversity they need, when they need it.



# Two plant genebanks established at SPC, Fiji to address some of these challenges....



**1. Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees (CePaCT) in 1998 (then RGC) – mainly root crops**



**Opened in Sept 2009, occupied in March 2010, based in Narere around Suva, Fiji**

**2. Pacific Islands Tree Seed Centre, in 2011 (top floor)**



# Animal genetics genebanks established in countries to address some of these challenges....



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## 3. Genebanks - Niue, Fiji , Cook Is

Niue, Fiji & Cook Is. indigenous pig and chickens breeds, breeding, multiplication & conservation centres established.



# 1. CePaCT core activities ....



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**CONSERVATION:** Conserving the region's major crops (over 17 crops and tree species). CePaCT maintains a unique global collection of over 1,100 accessions of taro



**MOLECULAR (DNA & VIRUS) ANALYSIS:** Identifying unique diversity and facilitating distribution of healthy planting material safely across borders



**CROP DIVERSITY:** Taking diversity to the farmers to assist in build resilience to climate change and disasters



**TRAINING:** Building capacity of scientists and students on biotechnologies, including training for countries without tissue culture laboratories how to handle and grow tissue culture materials



**RESEARCH:** Improving the development of protocols for breeding, screening approaches, tissue culture, virus elimination, storage methods and multiplication rates of crops



**DISTRIBUTION:** Strengthening food, nutrition and trade security through sourcing and sharing crop varieties with farmers and partners

# CePaCT distribution since 2005....



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- > 60,000 plantlets
- > 45 countries including Europe, Africa, Caribbean and Asia (under SPC EU International Network for Edible Aroids (INEA) project)
- **Major crops distributed** – bananas, breadfruit, cassava, potato, sweet potatoes, taro and yams



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