FAMILY FARMING LIFESTYLE AND HEALTH IN THE PACIFIC

GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER 873185

DELIVERABLE D1.4

Title:	**First progress Report**
Work package:	**WP2: family farming & WP3: food, lifestyle and health**
Deliverable due date:	**M 28**
Actual submission date:	M 33
Start date of project:	1st of October 2020
Duration:	63 months
Organisation name:	University of New-Caledonia
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Nature:	Public

Project co-funded by the European Commission within the Horizon 2020 Programme (2014-2020)		
Dissemination Level		
PU	Public	**X**
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

Progress Report – RISE

SUMMARY:

1. General Progress of the action

1.1 Please indicate the progress of the action during the period covered by this report:

- ○ The action has fully achieved its objectives for the period.
- ◉ The action has achieved most of its objectives for the period with relatively minor deviations.
- ○ The action has achieved some of its objectives, but corrective action is required.
- ○ The action has failed to achieve critical objectives and/or is severely delayed.

1.2 Please describe the general scientific progress of the action during the period covered by this report (including by giving qualitative indicators and by describing deliverables and milestones achieved):

Family farming Lifestyle and Health in the Pacific project focusses on family farming including agriculture, fishing, hunting and harvesting which ensure not only food and market production, but also very fundamental social, environmental and cultural functions.
The singularity of this project stays in the fact that Pacific islands countries and territories are facing cumulative vulnerabilities such as a dramatic climate change, a rapid socio-economic transition and more recently a worldwide sanitary crisis. These combined vulnerabilities in the context of a rapid socio-economic transition and the globalization process have considerably disrupted local agro and food systems, as well as main components of lifestyle that are mainly physical activity and nutrition behaviours. Migration flows generated internally by rapid urbanization and externally by the search for international rents have a significant impact on the available labour forces in rural areas by offering alternative sources of monetary income. The improvement of human capital (education) directs people towards less physically demanding jobs, reduces the attractiveness of traditional and subsistence activities, which are generally much less remunerative. Among the large drivers of food systems, the nutrition transition has been characterised by a decrease in subsistence production leading to a less physical active life and an increase availability and consumption of industrial food products that both significantly affect health of populations. Poor diet and unhealthy lifestyles are associated with overweight, obesity and non-communicable diseases and therefore ways of assessing and monitoring the changes that happen overtime are required to co-design effective interventions to address population health. Such evolution also has serious consequences on the purchasing power of populations and food security. This is particularly the case following the acceleration of the globalization process, which has generated a strong increase in interdependencies and systemic risks, as shown by the recent Covid-19 crisis.

The impact of the FALAH project is highly relevant since its objective is to promote and revitalise family farming, including agriculture, fishing, hunting and harvesting practices, to improve the health of Pacific populations and ensure food security in the context of rapid social and economic transformations and climate change and more recently of the sanitary crisis, both affecting Pacific islands.

WP 1 performed secondments: N/A (management tasks are not eligible for secondments)

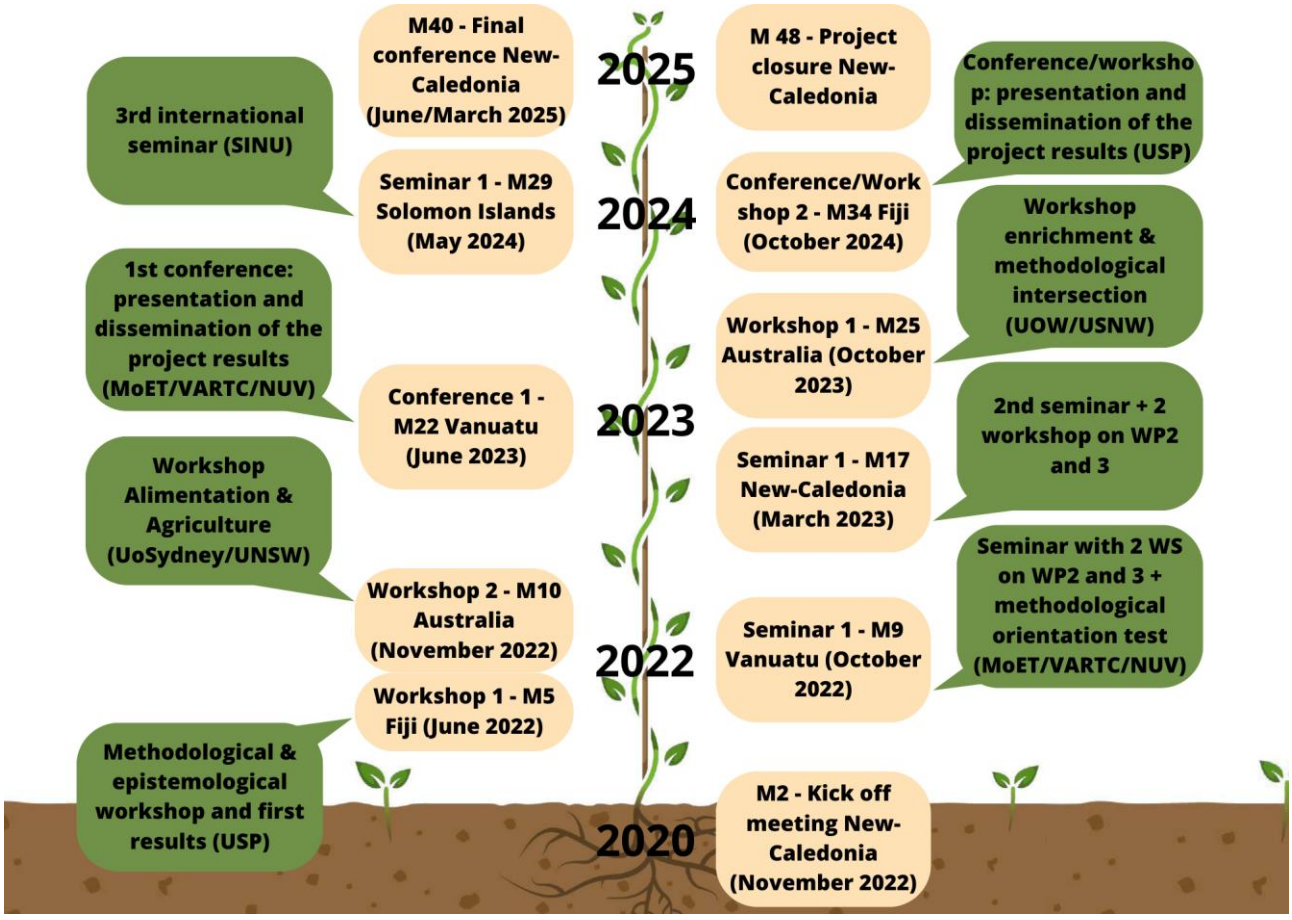
WP1 Achievements

FALAH project allows the coordination team to realise tasks assigned that are detailed in specific actions listed below.

Ensure the realisation of 10 scientific events during the four years of the project (Task 1.1).

The coordination team is in charge of 10 scientific events in the Pacific region (Vanuatu, New-Caledonia, Fiji, Solomon Islands and Australia). This first progress report includes 5 of these 10 scientific events as detailed in the figure below in spite of a 2 years pandemic period. So, in term of scientific events, half of the events has been done in due time and actions linked to these events will be developed below in this first progress report.

Figure 1: Schedule of the 10 FALAH scientific events



Enhancing the potential and future career prospects of the staff members (Task 1.5)

Since the beginning of the project in 2020, the coordination team engaged actions to allow members of the consortium to work/exchange in spite of the pandemic. Online initiatives were started to identify gaps in the literature and write reviews, to present fields of research in the pacific islands, to share research tools, methods and metrics or to write grants to fund future research. This was the first step before the reopening of the borders in 2022 that allow to concretise new collaborations and to identify complementarities in the consortium of 95 researchers.

The second step started with the reopening of the borders and secondments. Exchanges during secondments and scientific events are real scientific enrichments for FALAH members. In less than one year,

collaboration with written grants for experienced researcher (ER) and contribution to collaborative work in New Caledonia, Vanuatu for early stage researcher (ESR) are effective. The momentum is still there and will grow in the second part of the project.
In March 2023, a one week training session was proposed by Dr Simar from the University of New South Wales to PhD students of FALAH consortium. Moreover, a second week for PhD students consisted to be trained by seniors to learn how to use Redcap and Mysurvey solutions tools to prepare quantitative studies they will do on the field. These two actions aim to enrich skills of ESR and PhD students. New steps of the training for early stage researcher are planned in 2024.

Developing new and lasting research collaborations, achieving transfer of knowledge between participating organizations and contribution to improving research and innovation potential at the European and global levels (Task 1.3).

At first, we developed a strategy for a sustainable and lasting research collaboration inside the consortium to:

- Structure and concretize 9 PhD students in WP2 and WP3 co supervised by FALAH members from EU and Pacific region.

- Secures complementary funds for mobility and research:

2020 *Nutrition, health and food security in French Pacific communities.* French ministry of foreign affairs. *D. Raubenheimer (USYD), O. Galy (UNC), S. Bouard (IAC), C. Caillaud (USYD), J. Fasi (SINU), V. Iese (USP), P. Metsan (NUV).* **24 000 €**
2022 *Understanding lifestyle behaviors in the Pacific using human-centered artificial intelligence from activity sensors and nutrition digital tools*. French ministry of foreign affairs. *K. Yacef (USYD), C. Caillaud (USYD), O. Galy (UNC), P. Michon (NUV);* **60 000 €**
2022 AUF CFP NERE NAHAL 1(USP, SPC), 2(NUV, SINU), 3(UNC-USP-MOET-VARTC-SINU) **40 000 €**
2022 Toulouse PhD student recruited
2022 Le Havre PhD student scholarship obtained
2022 *Addressing health and climate challenges in Australia and the Pacific region through partnerships with schools and co-design with young people. University of Sydney. C. Caillaud, K. Yacef, D. Raubenheimer, O. Galy and al.* **100 000€**
2022 RERIPA CHANCES-Pacific PROJECT: Climate change and the future of coastal Communities: transformation of sociality, livelihoods and lifestyle in the South Pacific IAC, UNC, USP, SINU, UNV, USYDNEY, MOET **350 000 €**

- Co-write a series of papers that will be published in a collection in Open research Europe journal

- Co organize scientific events between two universities/institutions in October 2022 In Port Vila and Hosted by the Ministry of Education and training (MoET) and the Vanuatu Agricultural Research and Technical Centre (VARTC)

- November 2022 in Sydney and hosted by the University of Sydney and Western Sydney University

- October 2023 in Wollongong and co-hosted by the University of New South wales (UNSW) and the university of Wollongong (UOW).

Secondly, we developed a strategy for a sustainable and lasting research collaborations outside the consortium to allow to other partners among Pacific islands to join our scientific events. This has been done with three Papua New Guinea institutions and funded by the French ministry of foreign affairs:

2020 Small *scale agriculture, Lifestyle, and health in Papua New Guinea Families. P. Michon (PNG: Divine World University, Institute of Medical Research, University of Goroka), partners: Fiji and New-Caledonia*; **66 000 €**

Contribution of the action to the improvement of the research and innovation potential within Europe and/or worldwide (Task 1.4).

These actions can directly contribute to "farm to fork" strategy from Horizon Europe 2020.
In Europe but not only, food systems are challenged regarding: population growth, the impact of climate change (mostly from the south to the north of Europe), and socio-economic development is not the same everywhere (mostly from the west to the east of Europe). Another vulnerability from which populations have faced is the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on what they ate during lockdowns and pandemics. Even if the 3 vulnerabilities (socio-economic transition, climate change and sanitary crisis) do not evolve in parallel in Europe, while this is the case in the Pacific region. A lot can be learned and contribute to European policy objectives and strategies.

Dissemination (Task 1.5)

The dissemination strategy is still at his first stage with communications via social networks (Facebook, Twitter, Youtube) and website regarding scientific activities. Next step, we will consider scientific dissemination from fields works. This part will have a large place in the second half of the project. To ensure scientific dissemination, we launched a collection dedicated in Open Research Europe Journal. Other ways to communicate science will evolve with the project.

Use of the results (Task 1.5)

We are regularly solicited by different Medias (TV, Radio, paper) to present the project and share the results. This was the case in New Caledonia, Fiji and Vanuatu actually. Regarding scientific events, the main stream to communicate is our website.
Our communication strategy is both in English and French languages.

Expected impact (Task 1.5)

Our project has a multi impact due to the proximity of populations and researchers. Indeed, our research outcomes are systematically published in and open access journal and shared in parallel in communities with booklets or flyers including main results written in English or in French. The restitution is done in communities by researchers with the presence of community leaders and/or policy leaders. This way favorize exchanges and has a benefit for both researchers and participants to revitalize and improve family farming.

Quality of the proposed measures to communicate the action activities to different target audiences (Task 1.5)

Communication strategy (Task 1.5)

We closely followed the strategy planned in the Grant Agreement with our Newsletter, the website, Facebook page and twitter account.
We decided to no use LinkedIn since this tool is not widely used in the Pacific region and wouldn't have allow us to reach a large audience.

Activities targeted at multiple audiences (Task 1.5)

Since 2019 we were regularly solicited by different medias (TV, Radio, paper news) to present the project and share the results. This was the case in New Caledonia, Fiji and Vanuatu actually. Regarding scientific events, mean stream to communicate is our website.
Our communication strategy is both in English and in French language.

Inform and reach out to society (Task 1.5)

To reach a large audience and as expected in the grant agreement we participated to the PIURN conference in 2021, in Honiara (online). This big scientific event in the Pacific region allowed us to present the FALAH project and its firsts results in a dedicated session. In July 2023, UNC will be at the PIURN Conference in Cook Islands to communicate and disseminate our results as scientific coordinators of the project. Moreover, colleagues from the FALAH consortium will individually and collectively contribute and present research from FALAH.

Expected impact (Task 1.5)

Our project was funded before the start of "farm to fork" strategy from Horizon Europe. In a way our results regarding small scale agriculture, family farming observed in the Pacific region could be useful to understand future ways of family farming in big cities in Europe where populations will have to adapt themselves to the growth of citizen, the climate change, being resilient to pandemics. In fact, all what are facing Pacific countries and territories.

Conclusion

FALAH project was funded in 2019 before the launch of "farm to fork" strategy from Horizon Europe 2020. We are aligned with European policy objectives and strategies. This is more recently confirmed with the content of the Horizon Europe "strategic plan 2025-2027 analysis". In a way our results regarding small-scale agriculture, family farming observed in the Pacific region could be useful to understand future ways of family farming in rural areas and in big European cities. In Europe, food systems are challenged regarding: population growth, the impact of climate change (mostly from the south to the north of Europe), and socio-economic development is not the same everywhere (mostly from the west to the east of Europe). Another vulnerability from which populations have faced is the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on what they ate during lockdowns and pandemics. Even if these three vulnerabilities (socio-economic transition, climate change and sanitary crisis) do not evolve in parallel in Europe, this is the case in the Pacific region and a lot of that can be learn and contribute to European policy objectives and strategies. From our forthcoming results, future ways of innovation could help companies to do choices to create/develop products that does not exists today and increase competition in sectors that can be the benefits of the health of populations and to their well-being both in the Pacific region and in Europe.

Work Package	Description of work and role of partners	Evolution of the task	Summary of the main achievement	Contribution of the secondments to the task
WP 1	Task 1.1: Project coordination (Leader: UNC, Contributors: all partners)	Task 1.1: Ongoing	Task 1.1: Preparation of scientific events, training activity definition arrangement and linkage of researchers' secondments with WP objectives	N/A (management tasks are not eligible for secondments)
	Task 1.2: Project management and governance (Leader: UNC, Contributors: WP leaders)	Task 1.2: Ongoing	Task 1.2: General assembly, weekly UNC coordination meeting, etc Setting up a structured project to facilitate travelling Pacific -	General assembly are juxtaposed to FALAH events so secondees that are members of the

			Pacific Network activation FALAH - Consortium pour la Recherche, l'Enseignement Supérieur et l'Innovation en Nouvelle-Calédonienne (CRESICA) Pacific - Pacific Island University Regional Network (PIURN)	GA can attend.
	Task 1.3: Internal communication (Leader: UNC,| Contributors: all partners)	Task 1.3: Ongoing	Task 1.3: With WP leaders, Office Teams, emailing, Virtual meeting, FALAH CRESICA meeting (2020-22), regrouping of team FALAH CRESICA – FALAH Vanuatu (MoET/VARTC) LMU replaced by E Kula extended to Graz	N/A (management tasks are not eligible for secondments)
	Task 1.4: Kick-off and other periodic meetings (Leader: UNC, Contributors: all partners)	Task 1.4: Ongoing	Task 1.4: 5/10 FALAH scientific events completed: - November 2020 : kick off meeting - USP Fiji (June 2022) - MoET/VARTC Vanuatu (October 2022) - USYD Australia (November 2022) - UNC New-Caledonia (March 2023)	(attendance as part of secondments) Kick of meeting: 0 PM USP Fiji: 2.1 PM MoET/VARTC: 6.58 PM USYD: 3.66 PM UNC: 8.4 PM
	Task 1.5: Reporting	Task 1.5: Ongoing	Task 1.5: Deliverables, external communication, social networks	N/A (management tasks are not eligible for secondments)

WP 2 performed secondments: 15 PM

WP2 Achievements/results and conclusions

Among the 15 secondments realized by FALAH members, 7.75 PM were allocated to Biophysical environmental dimensions of family farming (Task 2.1) , done by IAC team, while Socio-economic aspects and Agricultural production in the environment and exchanges (Task 2.2 and 2.3) are ongoing.

Regarding Biophysical environmental dimensions of family farming, we observed a significant literature on family farming in New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and Solomon Islands and their contribution to diets. There are also papers and databases on the agriculture, family farming generated by IAC for New Caledonia (Bouard, Apithy, et Guyard 2018; Apithy et al. 2018), ANU (Bourke 2019), CSIRO Australia, ACIAR (Lebot et Walter 2007), SPC (VNSO 2021), IRD, CIRAD and CTRAV (Lebot et Siméoni 2015) for Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu (Iese et al. 2018; Guell et al. 2021; Vogliano et al. 2020; Georgeou et al. 2022 ; Cabalion 1984; French 2011 ; FAO & University of Wollongong 2023). The large bibliography mobilized allows us to build a consolidated list of food plants of the Pacific and their classification in the GIFT or COICOP, HDDS or according to Pacific guidelines for healthy living, in order to implement survey and analysis that link and connect own-produced food to local diets. When they are available, we detailed the vernacular names. A first version of this food plant list had been prepared for a first pilot study in New Caledonia (Lifou).

The aim of this interdisciplinary study was to understand the links between family farming (produced, exchanged, sold, and consumed food), diet (focused on produced, hunted, and caught food), physical activity (sedentary, light, and moderate-to-vigorous physical activity) and obesity in Melanesian Lifou Island families (parents and children). Forty families, including 142 adults and children, completed individual food frequency questionnaires, wore tri-axial accelerometers for seven continuous days, and had weight and height measured with a bio-impedance device. A family farming questionnaire was conducted at the household level regarding family farming practices and sociodemographic variables. Multinomial regression analyses and logistic regression models were used to analyse the data. Results showed that family farming production brings a modest contribution to diet and active lifestyles for the family farmers of Lifou Island. The drivers for obesity in these tribal communities were linked to diet in the adults, whereas parental socioeconomic status and moderate-to-vigorous physical activity were the main factors associated to being overweight and obesity in children. These differences in lifestyle behaviours within families suggest a transition in cultural practices at the intergenerational level. Future directions should consider seasonality and a more in-depth analysis of diet including macro- and micro-nutrients to acquire more accurate information on the intergenerational transition in cultural practices and its consequences on health outcomes in the Pacific region. (Galy, Frayon et al. 2022).

Finally, the inventory has been mainly finalized during webinars with Fiji and SI, and secondments of IAC research fellows to MOET and VARTC in October 2022 and February 2023, but also during secondments from VARTC to New Caledonia, at UNC and in the Northern Province of New Caledonia, at IAC. During those with the seminars, fieldtrips and observations, researchers have

developed an understanding of each other's different contexts and existing family farming, existing models through Pacific islands. The majority of the WP2 will focus on piloting the observation and interview strategies on biophysical, socio-economical aspects and exchanges (market) of family farming.

An important part of the work done during the secondments was to create and adapt surveys to each peculiarity of family farming, to support VARTC, MOET, USP and SINU early researchers and research teams to use digital tools to collect data on biophysical, socio-economical aspects and exchanges (market) of family farming.

The complete new list developed in Task 2.1 and available in the deliverable D2.1 will be used as a nomenclature for vegetable production in surveys.

WP 2	Task 2.1: Biophysical environmental dimensions of family farming (IAC)	Task 2.1: Completed	Task 2.1: Gather and summarize knowledge on cropping practices, consumption, innovation and the dynamics of family farming	7.74 PM
	Task 2.2: Socio-economic aspects (IRD)	Task 2.2: Ongoing	Task 2.2: Improve understanding of how family farming functions through ecological, economic, sociological and spatial dimensions and how it adapts to the environment	0.5 PM
	Task 2.3: Agricultural production in the environnement and exchanges (CNRS)	Task 2.3: Ongoing	Task 2.3: Agricultural production in the environnement and exchanges	6.76 PM

WP 3 performed secondments: 6.4 PM

WP3 Achievements/conclusion

The WP3 is deployed on different fields of research and in different ways linking, family farming, diet, physical activity and health outcome in young and adults, in rural or urban areas and has a particular interest on cultural specificities. So, different explorations have been done and linked to Task 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3. Moreover, this work has been done in strong relation with WP2 as underline above in the previous section.

Generational issues in linking family farming production, traditional food in diet, physical activity and obesity in Pacific Islands countries and territories: the case of the Melanesian population on Lifou Island (Task 3.2 and 3.3)

In the Melanesian culture, traditional activities are organized around family farming, although the lifestyle transition taking place over the last several decades has led to imbalances in diet and physical activity, with both leading to obesity. The aim of this interdisciplinary study was to understand the links between family farming (produced, exchanged, sold, and consumed food), diet (focused on produced, hunted, and caught food), physical activity (sedentary, light, and moderate-to-vigorous physical activity) and obesity in Melanesian Lifou Island families (parents and children). Forty families, including 142 adults and children, completed individual food frequency questionnaires, wore tri-axial accelerometers for seven continuous days, and had weight and height measured with a bio-impedance device. A family farming questionnaire was conducted at the household level regarding family farming practices and sociodemographic variables. Multinomial regression analyses and logistic regression models were used to analyse the data. Results showed that family farming production brings a modest contribution to diet and active lifestyles for the family farmers of Lifou Island. The drivers for obesity in these tribal communities were linked to diet in the adults, whereas parental socioeconomic status and moderate-to-vigorous physical activity were the main factors associated to being overweight and obesity in children. These differences in lifestyle behaviours within families suggest a transition in cultural practices at the intergenerational level. Future directions should consider seasonality and a more in-depth analysis of diet including macro- and micro-nutrients to acquire more accurate information on the intergenerational transition in cultural practices and its consequences on health outcomes in the Pacific region.

Reference: Galy O, Frayon S, Goldin M et al. Generational issues in linking family farming production, traditional food in diet, physical activity and obesity in Pacific Islands countries and territories: the case of the Melanesian population on Lifou Island [version 2; peer review: 2 approved]. Open Res Europe 2022, 1:135 (https://doi.org/10.12688/openreseurope.13705.2)

We are currently developing further research in Vanuatu, Fiji Solomon Islands in order to obtain a comparative approach to the complexity of family farming, lifestyle and health.

WP 3	Task 3.1: Food and socio-cultural environment (CNRS-UT2J)	Task 3.1: Ongoing	Task 3.1: Examine the effects of family farming on lifestyle and its impact on health and well-being	
	Task 3.2: Lifestyle in family farming (UNC)	Task 3.2: Ongoing	Task 3.2: Explore diet and physical activity in families practicing family farming First publication (related to WP4)	6.4 PM
	Task 3.3: Family farming lifestyle and eco tourism	Task 3.3: Ongoing	Task 3.3: Analyse inter-generational benefit on family farming and lifestyle	

WP 4 performed secondments: 13.03 PM

WP4 Achievements/Conclusion

Regarding Task 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 actions are ongoing in Fiji, Vanuatu and New Caledonia and are planned for Solomon Islands in 2024 and 2025.
Task 4.1 "Compare traditional family farming practices, its adaptation to the environment and identify best practices to disseminate" has been largely shared during the FALAH workshop in Noumea and after with public policies, and family farmers during the Round table in New Caledonia, March 2023,
Task 4.2: "Examine the role of school in promoting food education, physical activity, and changing dietary habits" is at the heart of our work in schools and investigations has been done in Vanuatu and New Caledonia.

University of Sydney 21st to 24th November 2022, page 74 of the presentations.
Then Task 4.3: "Share new knowledge to develop sustainable intervention strategies that can help people from other regions". This vision has been shared during Europe Day in New Caledonia and with OCTA to transmit our approach of the project.

WP 4	Task 4.1: Methodological and epistemological dialogue towards family farming science (IRD)	Task 4.1: Ongoing	Task 4.1: Compare traditional family farming practices, its adaptation to the environment and identify best practices to disseminate	9.26 PM
	Task 4.2: From Scientific Knowledge to Action (UNC)	Task 4.2: Ongoing	Task 4.2: Examine the role of school in promoting food education, physical activity, and changing dietary habits	2.14 PM
	Task 4.3: Local communities empowerment based on knowledge transfer (UNC)	Task 4.3: Ongoing	Task 4.3: Share new knowledge to develop sustainable intervention strategies that can help people from other regions	1.63 PM

In conclusion, our first milestone has been reached with the implementation of Workshops in M18 and M21 as per the grand agreement.

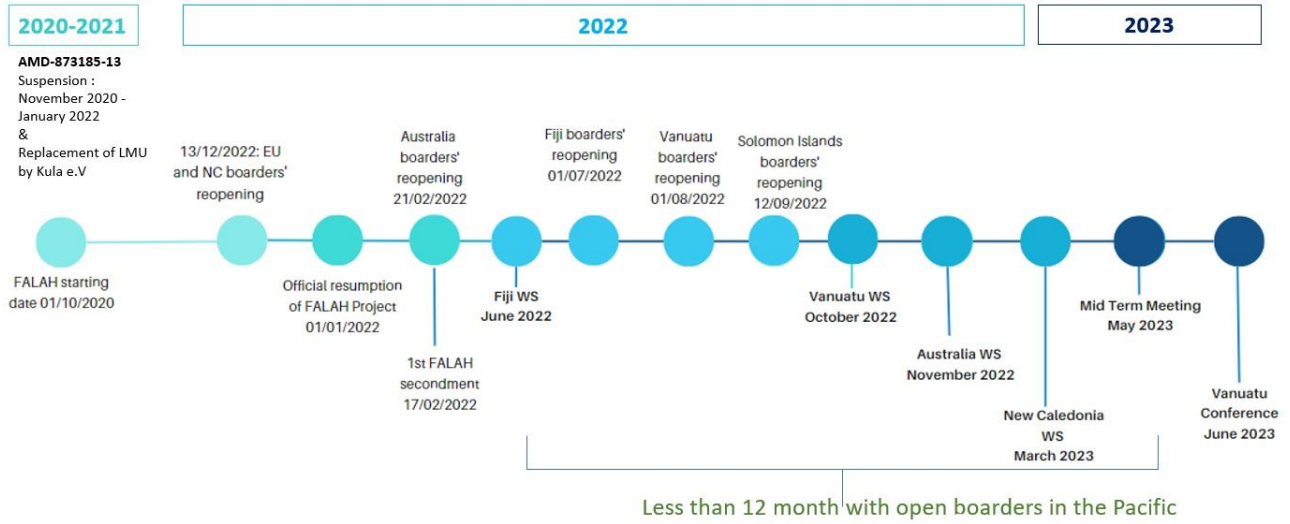
Milestone's name – means of verification:	**Progress:**
Mid-term 1 project results: Workshops in M18 and M21	Achieved
Mid-term 2 project results: conference in M33	*Ongoing*
Mid-term 2 project results: conference in M49	*Ongoing*
Final project results: end of secondments in M63	*Ongoing*

2. Corrective Measures

2.1. Please explain any delays accumulated in the secondments / activities / deliverables foreseen in the Grant Agreement and the measures taken to oversee them.

The project has been suspended from November 2020, after the FALAH kick off, until December 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, affecting countries all over the world.

However, the Pacific region and partners from the FALAH project have had their boarders closed for longer period than in Europe (up to September 2022 whereas EU boarders reopened in December 2021), resulting in even greater delays in the project's implementation.



Several factors have resulting in the project's implementation accumulating delays in secondments, and project's events:

- **COVID-19** pandemic did not allow any travels, as boarders were closed and reopened according to national laws of each country. Even though Europe and New Caledonia's boarders reopened in December 2021, for the FALAH consortium, the last boarders to reopen were in September 2022, resulting in a low implementation for some teams, including the biggest partner's (USP). All teams are aware of the importance of rescheduling the secondments that could not be implemented.

- The 2 years suspension has also resulted in tremendous **staff turnover**, which needed to be overcome by finding eligible staff to replace experts that left the project. Also, because of the time elapsed, some researchers had committed to other roles or move to other institutions or passed away and secondments were rescheduled. A focal point left its original institution making it difficult to coordinate the scientific team and motivate new comers; however he is now managing the team from overseas while a replacement is found. In addition, the coordinators plan to discuss it while being on secondment after the Mid Term Meeting.

- Another issue raised was the **inability** for some experienced researchers to be **seconded for long period** due to their teaching commitments. Those were sometimes replaced by PhD students (more available for extended period away from their institution).

- Another factor in low implementation for some teams, was the emergency situations they faced. Indeed, several **natural disasters** (2 cyclones and a seism in Vanuatu in February and march 2023)

caused their inability to be seconded, plus the rehabilitation of the country prolonged this situation. Moreover, these also affected the fields of research as the parcels used were severely damaged.

- The first project event (workshop) was supposed to take place in Vanuatu in April 2022; however its boarders opening were unsure a few months before the event. It was therefore decided to reverse the order of the two first events, with the workshop in Fiji (USP) taking place before in June and the workshop in Vanuatu in October 2022.. This has also had an impact on submissions of D4.1 Deliverables. .Deliverables have also been delayed in their submission due to an unfortunate overload of the coordinating institution (UNC) as the administrative research office is understaffed since July 2022, the recruited FALAH administrator was hired in January 2023. The UNC was also being evaluated by the HCERES (High Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education, a mandatory national evaluation every 5 years) in July 2022 and in march 2023 as well as having a thorough financial audit in April and May 2023. Indeed, UNC is responsible for most of the deliverable up to the Mid Term Meeting (MTM).

Despite all this, the consortium has still implemented some secondments (approximately 12% up to the MTM) over this shorten period due to COVID-19. To mitigate the under implementation, the reallocation of person-months between each parties' teams (some changes between initial researchers' status – ER/ESR – will be made) and rescheduling over reporting periods are planned.

Below is the detailed justification for underperformance of each partner, as per detailed above (implementation planned):

Beneficiaries:

UNC - 18,4%

COVID-19, staff turnover, academic commitments

IAC - 21,4%

COVID-19

IRD – 12,4%

COVID-19

LMU MUENCHEN - 0 (Terminated 15/03/2022)

CNRS - 3,6%

COVID-19, staff turnover

SPC - 0 (IO - not funded)

Kula e.V – 11.1 % (Added 01/01/2022)

COVID-19

TC partners:

USP - 3,2%

COVID-19, staff turnover, academic commitments, and focal point left the institution

SINU - 27,1%

COVID-19, staff turnover, academic commitments

VARTC - 40,0%

COVID-19, staff turnover, other work commitments, several natural disasters

Ministry of Education and Training - 10,7%

COVID-19, staff turnover, other work commitments, several natural disasters

UNSYD - 0

Only hosting obligations.

UNSW - 0

Only hosting obligations.

UOW - 0

Only hosting obligations.

WSU - 0

Only hosting obligations.

TOTAL IMPLEMENTATION UNTIL MTM – 15.93%

2.2 Please indicate any potential risks identified and suggested approaches to mitigate them.

For our consortium, the main risks identified is natural hazard risks and sanitary risks that are frequent in the region and could affect future mobilities and/or events. Mitigation measures will mainly rest on the ability of rescheduling secondments over time (preferably over the same reporting period). In addition to the reallocation of person-months among each beneficiaries and partners.

Risk number	**Description of risk as per the Grant Agreement**	**Occurrence and proposed risk-mitigation measures**
1	Staff turnover: Members of the research exchange team (RET) leaving their institution	Occurred: Secondment associated to this staff will be transferred to another staff of the institution
2	Delays in planned secondments or deliverables	Occurred: Secondments were rescheduled and deliverables submitted as soon as they could be ready
3	Partner's withdrawal	Occurred: The partners has been replaced with another eligible entity
4	Problems with creation of effective communication system	The project is depending on effective communication system. Each home institution has IT-support that ensure that the university´s IT service run smoothly and match the requirements of the project
5	Problems with dissemination	The dissemination activities will effectively be monitored through all the different networks each institution are engaged in and through different national and international channels in the field
6	Natural, social, health, political hazards, including COVID-19 pandemic	Occurred: Postponing of secondments
7	Shortage of funding for third country partners	Occurred: Additional funding has been secured to funds ineligible secondments to allow TC-TC travels, including attending FALAH events.
8	Delays in participants administrative achievements	Occurred: Sets of procedures, guidelines, administrative support from the coordinator and templates were made available to all participants within the consortium

3. Ethical Issues

The detailed project and all its surveys have been submitted to the Consultative Ethical Committee of New Caledonia without any concerns regarding the project's data collection and ethical issues that may arise (see deliverable D5.1). This approval is used in other countries where the FALAH project research is applied (Vanuatu, Fiji, and Solomon Islands).

4. Additional information

We would like to share the following additional information in this report, which are important issues for the project.

1: The costs of mobility following the covid pandemic as well as the various conflicts in the world significantly increased and has sometimes limited colleagues in their mobility.

2: As scientific events take place exclusively in the Pacific, there is a sticking point on the eligibility of Pacific/Pacific mobility. This aspect forced us to raise additional funds to allow Vanuatu, Fiji and Solomon Islands to meet in the same place. Scientific events could have been done in Europe but the scientific problematics are strongly related to Pacific islands. If scientists did not work with families and communities, this aspect would have been largely lacking in our research.

3: The consortium managed to secure other funding to allow non-eligible secondment to be done, for each institution or countries of the Project to be represented during all its events, and finance the research activities of the project.

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APPENDIX:

MTM powerpoint presentation