

FAMILY FARMING LIFESTYLE AND HEALTH IN THE PACIFIC

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| 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) | |

N.B: the powerpoint and online presentations of this deliverable are available on the FALAH website: <https://falah.unc.nc/fr/presentation-falah-events>

Summary

The document is a post workshop deliverable of the inaugural FALAH workshop recently held at the University of the South Pacific (USP) in Suva, Fiji. It is a 14-pager report that highlights and shares the workshop experience in Fiji. It covers the pre and post workshop components and is intended for the participants and project partners.

General introduction

After the reopening of Fiji's borders in June 2022 following the covid-19 crisis, the first scientific event of the FALAH project was held at the USP Campus from 28 to 30 June 2022. This seminar was initially planned to take second place to the Vanuatu seminar scheduled for April 2022, which was postponed until October. The results of the Vanuatu seminar on initial methodological approaches were to be further developed in Fiji. Despite the reversal of the timetable, the Fiji seminar entitled "methodological and epistemological workshop and first result", set itself the objective of taking stock of the conceptual advances made, in particular the definitions of family farming and the methods used to analyze its contribution to people's food and health.

The three-day seminar provided an opportunity to present methodological advances during classroom sessions, followed by a field trip to complement the presentations. The seminar also included a training session for future doctoral students in the project.



Photo 1 : Fiji's FALAH seminar

The inaugural workshop convened for three days from the 28th of June to the 30th of June, 2022. It is a part of a series of workshops under the Family Farming, Lifestyle and Health in the Pacific Project (FALAH). The workshop assembled a team of committed, dynamic and experienced researchers and academics from Australia and the Pacific Islands Countries and Territories. It also included postgraduate

research students from the Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development (PaCE-SD) at the University of the South Pacific (USP). It is an output of the project that was highly anticipated given the closing of international borders for the past two years, due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

It is important to define the way forward and provide clarity on the various aspects of the FALAH project. A clear understanding of the administrative, financial, partnership and secondments, methodological discussions and epistemology etc are key to the future progress of the project hence the convening of this workshop was important.

Being the host of the inaugural FALAH workshop was indeed fitting for the University of the South Pacific, given the fact that its staff and Postgraduate research students make up the largest number of the FALAH Pacific team. The FALAH Fiji team is headed by the Director Research, Professor Sushil KUMAR who is assisted by Dr. Viliamu IESE. Secondments for the USP FALAH Team are scheduled to begin in January, 2023.

Communication on the workshop

The USP Information Technology Department generated a zoom link for the workshop. The link was shared with all the participants, including the offshore participants as well. In addition to this, Mr. Christopher WARD from the PaCE-SD Communications team and Ms. Virginie GRIZON from the FALAH Project communications team in New Caledonia also covered the workshop. Popular social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn were used in this regard. The official opening of the workshop was also covered and documented by the USP Uni News, together with other articles published in the University of New Caledonia (UNC) newsletter and through the Pacific Islands Universities Research Network (PIURN). The links below provide access to these articles and news piece.

<https://www.usp.ac.fj/news/researchers-convene-for-the-falah-workshop-at-laucala-campus/>

<https://piurn.org/usp-hosts-the-first-scientific-falah-workshop/>

<https://piurn.org/fr/usp-organise-le-premier-seminaire-scientifique-du-projet-falah/>

<https://unc.nc/retrospective-du-premier-seminaire-scientifique-delocalise-du-projet-rise-falah-a-fidji-du-28-au-30-juin-a-lusp-de-suva-fidji/>

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<https://www.linkedin.com/school/univ-nc>





Workshop Report

Pre -workshop

A working group was formed to provide logistical and admin support towards the preparation of the workshop and during the workshop as well. The working group was led by Dr. Viliamu IESE and it comprised of representatives from the USP Research Office and the PaCE-SD. Members of the group worked closely with Professor Jean-Marie FOTSING and had frequent meetings to check on the progress of the preparations for the workshop.

Prior to the workshop, a team led by Dr. Viliamu IESE traveled to Lautoka, which is the second largest city in Fiji and is located on the West Coast of the island of Viti Levu. The purpose of the trip was to meet the team at the Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises & Development (FRIEND) Fiji and introduce the FALAH Project to them. The PaCE-SD has worked closely with the foundation over the years, and has overseen the successful evaluation of food security interventions implemented by the foundation. Professor Jean-Marie FOTSING and Dr Olivier GALY, coordinators of FALAH, met the communities of the research fields in Fiji, the week before, with the USP FALAH team. A final meeting was held with the USP Deputy Vice Chancellor Education, Professor Jito VANUALAILAI a week prior to the workshop.

Opening ceremony



Figure 2: L-R Top/Bottom: The opening ceremony. A traditional ITaukei kava ceremony was accorded to his Excellency, Ambassador Leger and other invited guests. The fourth photo shows his Excellency, Ambassador Leger delivering his opening remarks.

First day: 28th June 2022

Session 1: Epistemology, methodology approaches and first results

Opening ceremony

Day 1 of the workshop started with the official opening ceremony attended by the French Ambassador to Fiji, his Excellency Mr François-Xavier LÉGER. Also present were the Deputy Head of the European Union to Fiji, Dr. Erja ASKOLA, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture in Fiji, Dr. Vinesh KUMAR and the Deputy Vice Chancellor Education at the USP, Professor Jito VANUALAILAI. A traditional kava ceremony was accorded to the invited guests and a traditional meke or dance was also performed by the members of the USP ITaukei¹ Students Association. This was followed by a group photo session and concluded with morning tea for the invited guests, workshop participants and cultural performers.



The programme that followed after the morning tea included an introductory presentation on the purpose of the workshop by Professor Jean-Marie FOTSING and Dr. Olivier GALY from the University of New Caledonia (UNC).



Photo 2 : Opening ceremony

¹ ITaukei – refers to the indigenous people of Fiji.

1.1 - FALAH presentation: research project, additional enrichment, deployment, aim of the Fiji workshop.



Photo 2 : FALAH presentation : research project



Photo 3: Deployment and aim of the workshop

1.2 - Presentation of WP2: “Family farming”

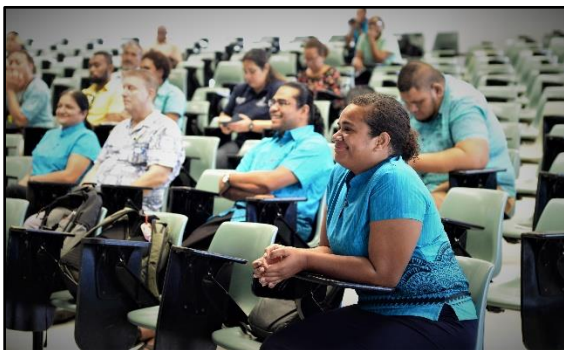


Photo 4 : Students and researchers attending presentation of WP2



Photo 5 : Senior researchers listening to the presentation of WP2

1.3 - Presentation of WP3: “Lifestyle and health”



Photo 6 : Explanation of lifestyle and health in the Pacific islands

1.4 - Expectation and layout of the Fiji workshop



Photo 7 : Layout of the Fiji workshop

1.5 - FALAH scientific activities at USP



Photo 7 : FALAH scientific activities presentation at USP

1.6 - FALAH scientific activities at Pacific Community

Dr Ellen IRAMU presented SPC research work, with an accent on their food cubes, these movable containers that can be filled with soil and used like garden beds to enable atoll households to grow their own diverse food crops. They are a ‘wicking based system’, meaning the soil or compost in the container draws water up from the base to provide the plants with the moisture they need to grow.

1.7 - Presentation of administrative, financial, partnership and secondments aspects

Day 1 also featured a presentation by Ms. Marine MARTINEZ on the administrative, financial, partnership and secondments aspects of the project and Ms Mathilde SOUCHON, PIURN coordinator, on the collaborative aspects of the FALAH project. It concluded with final discussions followed by afternoon tea.

1.8 - iRecall24 : a digital nutrition app for Pacific Islands: the example of New Caledonia



Photo 8 : A digital nutrition application presentation

1.9 - Presentation of FALAH Team from the Solomon Islands National University

Dr John FASI presented his teammates and their respective areas of expertise.

1.10 - Discussions & conclusions of the day

There were other presentations from the USP, the Institute of Agronomies (IAC) in New Caledonia, the Pacific Community (SPC), the University of Sydney and the Solomon Islands National University (SINU).

Second day: 29th June 2022

Session 2: Epistemology, methodology approaches and first results

2.1 - Presentation of day 2: study cases, methodological discussions and epistemology for WP2 and WP3

Day 2 began with a presentation on case studies, methodological discussions and epistemology by Dr. Viliamu IESE.

2.2 - Presentation of Papua New Guinea teams and upcoming research on small scale agriculture, Lifestyle, and health.

2.3 - Presentation of Vanuatu teams and first results on urban and peri urban agriculture in Port Vila.



Photo 9: First results on urban and peri urban agriculture in Port Vila

2.4 - Food Security and small holder farming in Pacific Island countries and territories: A Scoping Review

2.5 - Case study in Lifou (New Caledonia): discussions on epistemology and transversalities

2.6 - Public seminar How to build an international multidisciplinary research project : FALAH an European Union Research and Innovation Staff Exchange project

2.7 - Part 1: Case study in Fiji and discussions on achievements and opportunities to improve methods and Approaches for WP2 and WP3 (Fiji, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea)

2.8 - Part 2: Discussions on achievements and opportunities to improve methods and Approaches for WP2 and WP3 (Fiji, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea)

It also included presentations from the Divine Word University and the Institute of Medical Research in Papua New Guinea, Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) Vanuatu and Western Sydney University (WSU).

It finally concluded with discussions on the achievements and way forward.

Third day: 30th June 2022

Session 3: Epistemology, methodology approaches and first results

Day 3, the final day of the workshop took a different approach. The participants were given the opportunity to go for a field trip. They visited 2 villages, namely Molituva village and Buretu village in the Province of Tailevu. Fiji comprises of 14 Provinces and the Province of Tailevu is one of them. Upon arriving in both villages a kava ceremony known as the “sevusevu”² was presented to the village headmen and elders. Before departure a second kava ceremony known as the “i-tatau”³ was also presented. The team was hosted to morning tea in Molituva village before going on a tour of the village. In Buretu village the team visited a Primary school before being hosted to lunch. Rugby balls were donated by the FALAH team in both villages.

Upon returning from the villages the team visited the CePaCT and food cube field research at the Pacific Community (SPC) Office in Narere, Nasinu. The visit was facilitated by Dr. Ellen Iramu and Dr. Atumaira from the SPC. The final day of the workshop concluded with a buffet dinner at Paradiso Restaurant in Suva, the capital city of Fiji. The highlight of the dinner was a cultural performance by the representatives of the USP Samoan Students Association.

Post workshop:

Professor FOTSING and Dr. GALY facilitated post workshop meetings with the senior members of the FALAH Fiji team and PhD students to discuss their secondments. Other meetings were also held with USP ICT, SPC and the Fiji National University (FNU).

1- First results report:

The link below provides access to the FALAH USP event folder. The official programme in the folder shows the various presentations and presenters. The folder also provides access to key presentations from the workshop.

https://uncnc-my.sharepoint.com/personal/marine_martinez_unc_nc/_layouts/15/onedrive.aspx?id

2- Conclusion:

The successful completion of the inaugural FALAH workshop in Fiji shows a strong collaboration between the University of the South Pacific, the University of New Caledonia co-chairs of the Pacific Islands University Research Network, and the others PIURN Members Universities. It also reassures the commitment that France has towards strengthening research collaboration in the Pacific through research institutes and universities such as the University of the South Pacific. Vice versa the

² Sevusevu – a traditional iTaukei ceremony that involves the presentation of kava by visitors before entering an iTaukei village in Fiji. This gives them access to the village for the intended purpose and it also releases the blessings of the village elders.

³ I-tatau – similar to the sevusevu, it is presented before departing the village. It is the traditional iTaukei way of thanking the host village and also apologizing for any behavior by the visitors that were not fitting to village protocols.

participation of universities from Australia and the Pacific at the workshop depicts a sign of welcome towards the idea of research collaboration with France and countries from the European Union.

The FALAH Project is seen as an opportunity to create lasting links with researchers from Europe, Australia and the Pacific region. The convening of this workshop has paved the way for this and further strengthens the project’s multidisciplinary research in connecting agriculture and food, and focusing on the role that families in the Pacific play in farming and food.

Furthermore, the series of workshops that lie-ahead will continue to strengthen this research collaboration and increase knowledge base. This would have a positive impact on the objectives of the project which includes the promotion of sustainable family farming and ensuring supplies for urban and rural population. This would further contribute to a healthy and balanced diet based on local products, a simple, low-sedentary lifestyle and the sharing and exchange of traditional and scientific knowledge. Also including the transition to sustainable food systems, food safety, active life, populations and environment’s health.

Some photos of the preparatory stages of the Fiji Workshop



Figure 1: L-R Top/Bottom: The FALAH workshop preparation Working Group, the third photo was taken with the Deputy Vice Chancellor Education at the USP, Professor Jito VANUALAILAI, third from the left, and the Director Research, Professor Sushil KUMAR, first from the left. The fourth photo shows a few members of the Working Group in Lautoka having a meeting with the Director and Founder of FRIEND Fiji, Ms. Sashi Kiran.



Figure 4: L-R Top/Bottom: Photos from the community visit on day 3 of the workshop.