

FAMILY FARMING LIFESTYLE AND HEALTH IN THE PACIFIC

GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER 873185

DELIVERABLE D.18

Title: First progress Report

Work package: WP2: family farming & WP3: food, lifestyle and health

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Organisation name: University of New-Caledonia

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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

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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):

Explanation of the work carried per Work Package (WP) can be found in the following table:

<u>Work Package</u>	<u>Description of work and role of partners</u>	<u>Evolution of the task</u>	<u>Summary of the main achievement</u>	<u>Contribution of the secondments to the task</u>
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 - Pacific Network activation FALAH - Consortium de la Recherche et de l'Innovation Calédonienne (CRESICA) Pacific - Pacific Island University Network (PIURN)	General assembly are juxtaposed to FALAH events so secondees that are members of the 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	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	2.3 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	3.5 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	
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 the 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)	8.61 PM
	Task 3.3: Family farming lifestyle and eco tourism	Task 3.3: ongoing	Task 3.3: Analyse inter-generational benefit on family farming lifestyle	
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	7.07 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	6.34 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	
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Project's milestones:

Milestone's name – means of verification:	Progress:
Mid-term 1 project results: Workshops in M18 and M21	achieved
<i>Mid-term 2 project results: conference in M33</i>	<i>ongoing</i>
<i>Mid-term 2 project results: conference in M49</i>	<i>ongoing</i>
<i>Final project results: end of secondments in M63</i>	<i>ongoing</i>

Impact of FALAH Project

Family farming Lifestyle and Health in the Pacific project is focussed 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 to 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 force 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 disease 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.

Gender Balance in FALAH project

Since the beginning of the project, gender balance has been considered at all levels. When compared to the proportion of South Pacific women in research, the female participation rate in the FALAH project is around 50%. The project supports gender equity, and the researchers are both men and women. In terms of responsibilities, women are fairly represented at all levels (see 1.3.3. WT3 Work package descriptions - project governance on WP1). The majority of the WP leaders and co-leaders are women, giving a greater voice to decision-making. Regarding scientific events, chairs roles are shared between men and women. Moreover, the postgraduate students in the respective teams are mostly women (nearly 60%). Among ESR research who are doing a PhD, 80% are [women from Pacific islands](#) who started their PhD with FALAH project.

Gender dimension in the research content

In the research content, gender dimension is systematically questioned. On research fields, we intend to direct work on the place and role of women in agriculture contribution to product marketing. These dimensions in production activities are often obscured or untreated. When we work in schools, the gender approach is systematically considered, in terms of diet, physical activity.

Produced impact of the project against the expected impact (Annex 1 Part B) of the Grant Agreement

Please find below the produced impact section by section at the date of this first progress report

Enhancing the potential and future career prospects of the staff members

Describe how the action contributes to realizing the potential of individuals

Since the beginning of the project in 2020, the coordination team engaged actions to allow to 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 presents 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 allows to concretise new collaborations and to identify complementarities in this consortium of 95 researchers.

The second step started with the reopening of the borders and secondments. Exchanges during secondments and scientific events is a real scientific enrichment for FALAH members. In less than one year, collaboration with written grants for ER and contribution to collaborative work in New Caledonia, Vanuatu for ESR are effective. The momentum is still there and will grow in the second part of the project.

In March 2023, a [training session](#) of one week was proposed by Dr Simar from the University of New South Wales to PhD students of FALAH consortium. Moreover, a second training 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 to action aims to enrich skills of ESR and PhD students. A continuous training for ESR is 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

Describe the development and sustainability of new and lasting research collaborations

At first, we developed a strategy for a sustainable and lasting research collaborations among 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
 - October 2022 in [Port-Vila](#) and Hosted by the Ministry of Education and training and the VARTC
 - November 2022 in [Sydney](#) and hosted by the University of Sydney and Western University
 - October 2023 in Wollongong and co-hosted by the University of New South wales and the university of Wollongong

Secondly, we developed a strategy for a sustainable and lasting research collaborations outside the consortium to allow to other partners 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 €**.

Describe the contribution of the action to the improvement of the research and innovation potential within Europe and/or worldwide.

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 as it 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 3 vulnerabilities (socio-economic transition, climate change and sanitary crisis) doesn't evolve in parallel in Europe, while this is the case in the Pacific region. A lot can be learnt and contribute to European policy objectives and strategy.

Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the action results

Describe the dissemination strategy about the results to achieve the potential impact of the action

The dissemination strategy is at his first stage with communications via [social networks and websites](#) regarding scientific activities. Next step, 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.

Elaborate on how results (when available) will be taken up/used

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 in French language.

The expected impact

Our project has a multi impact due to the proximity of populations and researchers. Indeed, our research outcomes are systematically published in open access journals 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 both for researchers and participants to revitalize and improve family farming.

Indicate intellectual property rights aspects (if applicable) and exploitation of results.

NA

Quality of the proposed measures to communicate the action activities to different target audiences

Describe the communication strategy of the project and its results

We closely followed the strategy planned in the Grant Agreement with our Newsletter, the [web site](#), [Facebook](#) page and [twitter](#) account.

We decided to not use Linked-in since this tool is not really used in the Pacific region and wouldn't have allow us to reach a large audience.

How activities will be targeted at multiple audiences

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

To reach a large audience and as expected in the grant agreement we participated at the [PIURN conference in 2021](#), in Honiara (online). This major scientific event in the Pacific region allows us to present FALAH project and its firsts results in a dedicated session. In July 2023, we will attend 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.

Elaborate on the expected impact

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 population will have to adapt themselves to the growth of citizen, the climate change, being resilient to pandemics. In fact, all what is facing Pacific countries and territories.

Potential of the project

Our 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 strategy. 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) don't 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 strategy. From our forthcoming results, future ways of innovation could help companies to do choices to create/develop products that doesn't 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.

Communication and Dissemination:

The FALAH project is basing its communication and dissemination via several means:

Organisation of a Conference:	1 kick off (November 2020) 2 conferences expected (June 2023 and July 2025)
Organisation of a Workshop:	4 FALAH workshops: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - USP Fiji (June 2022) - MoET/VARTC Vanuatu (October 2022) - USYD Australia (November 2022) - UNC New Caledonia (March 2023)
Press releases:	2 articles in local magazines (New Caledonia): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Actu n° 470 – March 2023 - Palabre coutumier
Flyer	1 FALAH leaflet
Social Media	Facebook: Projet FALAH - Agriculture Familiale, Mode de Vie et Santé dans le Pacifique Twitter: ProjetFALAH @FALAHpacific Youtube: Projet FALAH
Website	The FALAH website comprising of all relevant information on the project, its consortium, events, deliverables, articles, secondees' interviews, etc.
Training	PhD training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 14h training, by UNC, “PhD training” (Port Vila, Vanuatu) - 3 days training by UNC, “Knowing how to use digital tools to design

	surveys” (Nouméa, New Caledonia) - 3 days training by UNSW, “Doctoral training” (Nouméa, New Caledonia)
Communication Campaign (e.g. Radio, TV)	RRB radio
Participation to an Event other than a Conference or a Workshop	1 public round table on 29 th of march 2023: “Gardening and eating: what’s at stake for my health, my family, my island and the planet ?”

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.

Deviations from Annex 1 and Annex 2

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.



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 2022, 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** caused their inability to be seconded (2 cyclones and a seism in Vanuatu) and the rehabilitation of the country prolonged this situation. Moreover, these also impacted the fields of research as the parcels used were severely damaged.
- The first project event (workshop) was supposed to take place in Vanuatu, however its borders opening were unsure a few months before the event. It hence has been decided to invert the order of the two first events, and therefore the workshop in Fiji (USP) took place prior. This has also impacted the deliverables submissions of D4.1.
- 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.

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.

Justification for underperformance of each of the below listed partner, as per detailed above (implementation planned until MTM – M32):

Beneficiaries:

UNC - 18,4%

COVID-19, staff turnover, academic commitments

IAC - 21,4%

COVID-19

IRD – 44,6%

COVID-19

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

CNRS - 3,6%

COVID-19, staff turnover

SPC - 0 (IO - not funded)

Kula e.V - 50 % (Added 01/01/2022)

COVID-19

TC partners:

USP - 3,2%

COVID-19, staff turnover, academic commitments, 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 - 11,7%

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 - 11,2%

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 institutions	<u>Occurred</u> : Secondment associated to this staff will be transferred to another staff of the institution
2	Delays in planned secondments or deliverables	<u>Occurred</u> : Secondments were rescheduled and deliverables submitted as soon as they could be ready
3	Partner's withdrawal	<u>Occurred</u> : the partner 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	<u>Occurred</u> : Postponing of secondments
7	Shortage of funding for third country partners	<u>Occurred</u> : additional funding has been secured to funds ineligible secondments to allow TC-TC travels, including to attend FALAH events.
8	Delays in participants administrative achievements	<u>Occurred</u> : sets of procedures, guidelines, administrative support from the coordinator and templates were made available to all participants within the consortium

3. Ethical Issues

Please indicate how the ethical issues have been addressed during the period covered by this report and mention all the approvals/authorisations already provided to the REA (if applicable).

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, Solomon Islands and New Caledonia).

4. Additional information

Please indicate any additional information which you may consider useful to assess the project implementation during the period covered by this report, including management issues.

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 Van, FIJI and SI to meet in the same place. Scientific events could have been done in Europe but the 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.

APPENDIX:

[MTM powerpoint presentation](#)