



VANUATU

ONGOING PROGRAMMES

Fit For Market (FFM, FFM SPS, FFM+)



ACP Business-friendly



ACP Quality Infrastructure



ACP-EU Development Minerals



Digital Finance for Resilience (DFS4RES)



DIRECCT



Business ACP



DESCRIPTION OF INTERVENTIONS

Fit For Market (FFM) programmes support companies in the horticultural sector and their environment to ensure their international access to horticultural and national markets while complying with sanitary and phytosanitary regulations and market requirements, individually or collectively. Support includes food safety, environmental management, social compliance and business management. The main types of support are related to the implementation of a management system (on social themes, environment, quality) meeting the requirements of international certification standards required by customers (GLOBALG.A.P., HACCP, Rainforest Alliance, SMETA, etc.). Set up in the continuity of FFM past programmes, the new **FFM Plus (FFM+)** programme support is tailored to facilitate the transition of ACP horticulture towards more sustainable food systems, addressing the priority areas identified in the Farm to Fork strategy of the European Green Deal.

In the Pacific region, the programme carried out a European market study for horticultural products of ACP origin. The Study provides an opportunity to identify trends, market opportunities and consequently analyse certain competitiveness factors of the ACP horticultural sectors. It specifically allows the identification of the most promising segments of these markets for Pacific products.

ACP Business-friendly is designed to achieve two key outcomes:

- Adopting and implementing business-friendly, inclusive and responsible national policies and legal frameworks;
- Strengthening productive, processing, promoting and marketing capabilities and value chains.



VANUATU

DESCRIPTION OF INTERVENTIONS

In the Pacific, the programme is working at micro level intervention on Coconut and Kava value chains and relies on a strong partnership between *SPC (Pacific Community)* and ITC to adapt and rollout the Alliances for Action approach. Both commonly grown crops, provide a strong livelihood and economic base to the countries in the region. The programme aims to strengthen value chain governance and investment in the Pacific region through the development of the Regional Kava Development Strategy. The strategy focuses on developing the Kava sector, increasing investment and private sector participation, and promoting sustainable farming practices and market-led approaches. The programme supported consultations with stakeholders, with over 200 participants from seven Kava producing countries, and initiated two calls for interest for Kava producers and MSMEs to apply and benefit from the programme. The programme also collaborated with the Basque Culinary Centre to explore new products that can be developed from Kava root, with a report highlighting its potential for use in food and beverage products.

In 2022, the Regional Engagement Window was activated in the Pacific states to support investment policy promotion. The project aims to facilitate greater investment and competitiveness in the Pacific region by strengthening the legal, institutional, and professional foundations for investment and in turn to contribute to the overall objective of economic transformation of Pacific economies.

The project is envisaged around three components: **i)** Reforming investment laws and regulations; **ii)** Strengthening investment promotion institutions; **iii)** Training and facilitating peer to peer exchange among trade and investment promotion organization (TIPO) staff.

ACP Business-Friendly interventions focused on the Kava value chain, the largest export product. More than half of rural households are involved in kava farming. However, market fluctuations and the COVID-19 crisis have created some challenges and the value chain needs to be strengthened. The programme supported rural households by developing a Kava Industry Study highlighting the industry's strengths and challenges. Some of the major challenges involving manufacturing include lack of proper equipment, non-standardized quality and molding. Financial assistance for ordinary farmers to start or expand kava planting operations is virtually non-existent. Targeting international markets is a big challenge due to import bans implemented by some countries.

The ACP Quality Infrastructure (QI) programme supports ACP policy makers, institutions and private sector actors to **(i)** enhance the regional Quality and Regulatory infrastructure governance; **(ii)** strengthen the availability of the value chain-specific QI services; **(iii)** promote quality culture and practices.



VANUATU

DESCRIPTION OF INTERVENTIONS

The programme complements and builds on the ongoing achievements of the ACP Business-Friendly programme reinforcing the UNIDO's programme action (Meso-level component). The programme will work with the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS) to support the implementation of the activities of the Pacific Quality Infrastructure Initiative.

ACP-EU Development Minerals Programme phase II. The second phase of the ACP-EU Development Minerals Programme helps Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Enterprises (ASMEs) engaged in Development Minerals value chains to improve livelihoods, generate higher employment and incomes. In particular, the programme aims to increase economic opportunities for women participating in ASMEs throughout the Development Minerals value chains.

In the Pacific region the programme is working on the development of the River Extraction monitoring tool utilizing radar and satellite technology, and facilitated under the Pacific Community's regional platform called Digital Earth Pacific.

DFS4RES Digital Finance for Resilience in the ACP countries aims at deploying digital finance solutions at the scale and speed necessary to deepen financial inclusion, and accelerate economic recovery from COVID-19, in order to make economies and societies more resilient to external shocks.

In Vanuatu, the programme supported the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu regulators in the design and monitoring of regulations diagnostics of the central bank's data systems. The findings inform the design of prototypes to automate data collection from financial service providers and improve the storage, analysis and use of data. In Vanuatu, the programme completed also the data collection process for the Inclusive Digital Economy Scorecard (IDES). IDES is a strategic performance and policy tool that has been developed to support countries in better understanding and monitoring the status of their digital transformation, with a view to helping them make it more inclusive. Based on four pillars –Policy and Regulation, Infrastructure, Innovation and Skills– the IDES facilitates governments in setting the right priorities with stakeholders to foster the development of a digital economy that benefits all.



VANUATU

DESCRIPTION OF INTERVENTIONS

DIRECCT (Digital Response Connecting Citizens) is implemented jointly by Agence française de développement (AFD) and the Belgian development agency, Enabel.

In the Pacific region, the programme is implementing the project “Supporting the Pacific Close the Digital Divides in Response to COVID-19 (SPCDDR-COVID-19)”. The project aims to advance digital health system transformation within Pacific island countries and territories for the immediate future and the post-COVID-19 era. It was developed in consultation with grantees and key partners, taking into account existing initiatives and identified gaps, with the intention of leaving no one behind. The programme works together with the **Community of Pacific States**.

In Vanuatu, the programme is enabling the **National University of Vanuatu (UNV)** to become a digitally resilient institution of higher education. The project includes human resource and infrastructure enrichment including IT equipment as well as the development of a connectivity network linking **UNV**'s main campus to its other campuses (**ITV, SOE, VAC**).

MORE INFORMATION

- Read the Monitoring Report 2021:

<https://businessacp.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Annual-Report- online-version.pdf>

- Visit the "Programmes' Highlights" page on the Business ACP website:

<https://businessacp.com/en/94071-2/>