PIRAS: It's role in capacity building including for resilience in agriculture to Climate Change

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Four points of presentation

1. Changing context re extension & rural advisory service?

2. Who we are?

3. What we do?

4. What role we have in Capacity building re resilience in agriculture to Climate Change?



1. Changing face of research & extension

- Extension and research play critical role for efficient agricultural development
- Increasing demands for expanded role for extension
- Pluralistic but the challenge of coordination
- Often working in isolation of one another due to capacity and demands
- Increasing realisation of the role of ICT in service delivery
- Funding <5% of national budget (project based)
- Capacity Needs (ACIAR & SPC, 2009)

2. Who we are: Regional Initiative to Support Innovations

In 2005, Pacific Islands Extension Network (PIEN) was formed, endorsed by HOAFS/MOAF in 2009

- The Apia R&E Forum agreed on a number of actions to strengthening PIRAS:
 - Revival of PIEN, renamed to Pacific Islands Rural Advisory Services (PIRAS) network;
 - PIRAS Board representing the 3 subregions, private sector, universities, FOs, research institutions, international linkages
 - Development of a Regional extension strategy (RES);
 - Agreed to establish an e-platform of key contacts and institutions, including research priorities from the meeting;
 - Agreed to establish an inventory of current and past research projects in the region.



















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- PIRAS is a platform for professional development and networking among its members and other regional and global networks
- The **vision** of PIRAS is to promote Extension Excellence for Prosperous and Resilient Communities in PICTs.
- The mission of PIRAS is to provide advocacy and leadership on research and extension to meet sustainable livelihoods for PICTs.



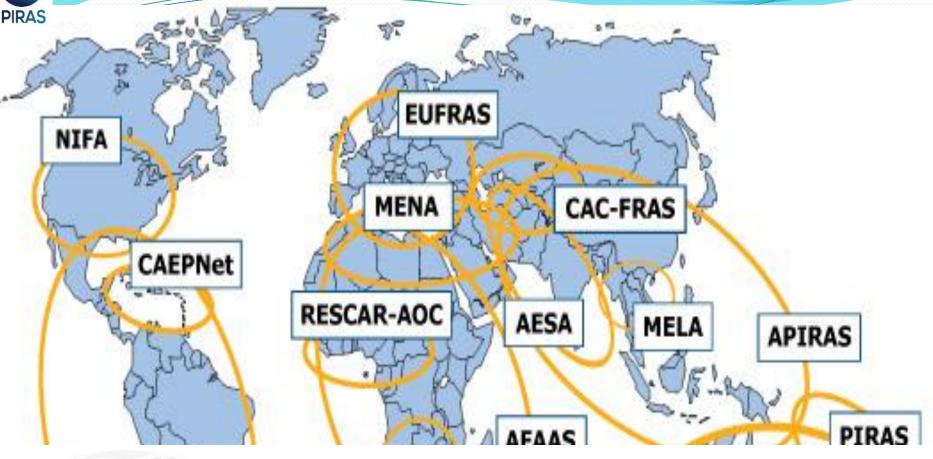
PIRAS will focus on:

- Provide a voice and representation of PIRAS members at both regional and international forums to promote improved investment in RAS for the Pacific;
- Support and develop the synthesis of evidence-based approaches and policies for improving the effectiveness of RAS;
- Strengthen the network of national actors and fora in RAS through facilitating interaction and networking and sharing of best practices;
- Collect, collate, inventory/store research results (and translate to meaningful form) and disseminate information on RAS in the region;
- Maintain and enhance PIRAS links with national, regional and global agencies, institutions, organisations.

Membership

- Governed by Board, representation from the 3 Pacific Subregions, Universities, Farmer organizations, Private Sector, Research Institutions, and International linkages;
- Membership is open to national RAS providers and other stakeholders in the Pacific;
- Other interested individuals, organisations and or networks may also become members of PIRAS;
- National focal points and ad hoc working groups will need to be appointed.





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