

Overarching Productive Sector Policy

Vanuatu's Agricultural and Agro-Industry sector



By

The
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Biosecurity
(MALFB)

June 2025

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADR	Annual Development Report
BDS	Business Development Services
CROP	Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (SPC, SPREP, USP, PIFS, FFA, PPA)
DCNVB	Department of Cooperatives and ni-Vanuatu Business
DEPC	Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation
DOI	Department of Industry
DSPPAC	Department of Strategic Policy Planning and Aid Coordination
EDF	European Development Fund
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FSA	Farmer Support Association
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HACCP	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
ISO	International Organisation for Standardization
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated
ME	Monitoring and Evaluation
MALFB	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Biosecurity
MALFFB	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Forestry and Bio Security
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
MFOMA	Ministry of Fisheries, Ocean and Maritime Affairs
MFEM	Ministry of Finance and Economic Management
MIPU	Ministry of Infrastructure and Utilities
MLNR	Ministry of Land and Natural Resources
MOCC	Ministry of Climate Change
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
MTC	Ministry of Trade and Commerce
MTEF	Medium Term Expenditure Framework
MTTCNVB	Ministry of Trade Tourism, Cooperatives, Industry and Ni-Vanuatu Business
NCW	National Council of Women
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NZ MFAT	New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
OPSP	Overarching Productive Sector Policy
PA	Protected Area
PAA	Priorities and Action Agenda
NSDP	National Sustainable Development Plan
PACER	Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations
PLAS	Planning Long, Acting Short
PMO	Prime Minister's Office
PSP	Productive Sector Policy

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RSE	Recognised Seasonal Employment
SMDA	Small Business Development Agency
SPC	Pacific Community
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures
TBCP	Trade, Business and Commerce Policy (2024-2030)
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
TPF	Trade Policy Framework (2019-2025)
VADB	Vanuatu Agriculture Development Bank
VANGO	Vanuatu Association of NGO
VANWODS	Vanuatu Women Development Scheme
VARTC	Vanuatu Agricultural Research and Technical Centre
VCA	Vanuatu Chamber of Agriculture
VCCI	Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce and Industry
VISIP	Vanuatu Infrastructure Strategic Investment Plan
VNSO	Vanuatu National Statistics Office
VOCGA	Vanuatu Organic Cocoa Grower's Association
RBV	Vanuatu Reserve Bank
RTC	Rural Training Centre
WTO	World Trade Organisation
VQA	Vanuatu Qualifications Authority

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Overarching Productive Sector Policy (hereafter OPSP) is a comprehensive framework designed to guide the development of Vanuatu's agriculture sector. Agriculture encompasses crop and livestock production, aquaculture, and forestry for food and non-food products. It builds upon the previous Overarching Productive Sector Policy (OPSP) from 2012 and 2020 and aligns with the National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) 2015-2030. The policy is crucial for coordinating efforts across the sector, enhancing productivity for income generation and ensuring food security, by/through promoting sustainable and inclusive growth.

The policy acknowledges the significant role of the agriculture sector in Vanuatu's economy, considering its contribution to Vanuatu's GDP and the livelihoods of a large portion of the population. The sector is diverse, encompassing staple crops, cash crops, livestock, and fisheries. However, it is also vulnerable to economic shocks and natural disasters, as evidenced by the impact of cyclones on agricultural production and the need for improved market access and infrastructure.

Key trends include the importance of commodities like root crops, kava, cocoa, and copra in both domestic production and export markets. The policy also highlights the need to address challenges related to import substitution and increasing the value of processed agricultural exports. An important aspect of sector development is the strengthening of food safety, biosecurity, and quality standards to meet both domestic needs and international market requirements. Ensuring the safety and quality of agricultural production and commodities is essential to protect public health, enhance consumer confidence, and expand access to regional and global markets. The OPSP prioritises investments in certification systems, laboratory services, traceability mechanisms, and compliance with international standards such as HACCP, Codex Alimentarius, and relevant phytosanitary and animal health protocols. These measures will not only safeguard Vanuatu's agricultural competitiveness but also help to mitigate risks from pests, diseases, and contamination, ensuring that commodities maintain their value and reputation in trade. Resilience towards natural disasters and the faced threats of climate change such as sea-level rise, increased temperatures and changes in rainfall patterns require an even more precarious management to ensure the sustainable use of the natural resources, which are central through the policy.

The policy recognizes the critical role of women in agriculture and the need to address gender inequalities that hinder sector development. It emphasizes the importance of empowering women, ensuring their equitable access to resources, and integrating gender considerations into all aspects of policy formulation and implementation.

OPSP Goal Statement

"A revitalized (primary) productive sector through strengthened resilience, and sustainable agri-production, which supports economic growth and food security, appropriate use of natural resources, and gender equity and inclusion of youth and vulnerable groups."

Key Policy Objectives and Development Outcomes

The OPSP outlines five key development outcomes, each with specific objectives and strategies:

- **Development Outcome 1: Commodity Production and Market Access:** This outcome focuses on increasing the productivity and quality of key agricultural commodities, improving market access

for producers, and promoting value addition to enhance income generation. Key strategies include strengthening market infrastructure, promoting sustainable production practices, and facilitating inclusive participation with especial focus on small-scale producers, women, youth and vulnerable groups.

- **Development Outcome 2: Quality and Safety:** This outcome aims to enhance the quality and safety of agricultural products through strengthened national quality standards, improved capacity for producers and processors to adhere to these standards, and robust inspection and certification systems. Consumer awareness and education on food quality and safety are also prioritized.
- **Development Outcome 3: Food Security:** This outcome seeks to ensure food security for all households in Vanuatu through increased sustainable production of staple foods, improved access to affordable and nutritious food, and strengthened resilience of food systems to climate change and natural disasters. Reducing post-harvest losses and food waste is also a key focus.
- **Development Outcome 4: Environmental, Climate Change and DRR Management:** This outcome addresses the critical intersection of agriculture, climate change and natural disaster risks and environmental sustainability. It emphasizes the sustainable management of natural resources, the promotion of climate-smart agricultural practices, and the enhancement of the sector's role in providing environmental services.
- **Development Outcome 5: Governance, Institution, and Inclusion Framework:** This outcome focuses on creating an enabling environment for the agriculture sector through clear and consistent policies, strengthened institutional capacity, mainstreaming gender equality and inclusivity, fostering effective partnerships, and improving transparency and accountability.

Implementation and Monitoring

Successful implementation of the OPSP will require strong coordination among government ministries, the private sector, and other stakeholders. The policy emphasizes the importance of aligning sector strategies and corporate plans with the NSDP and OPSP and ensuring that adequate resources are allocated to priority areas.

A detailed risk matrix identifies potential challenges to policy implementation, including lack of funding, climate change impacts, market volatility, land tenure issues, and inadequate stakeholder engagement. The policy outlines mitigation measures to address these risks and ensure that the OPSP's objectives are achieved. Monitoring and evaluation will be crucial for tracking progress and making necessary adjustments to policy implementation. The OPSP includes a framework of indicators, baselines, and targets to facilitate this process, linking directly to the NSDP's monitoring and evaluation framework.

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FOREWORD BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER



It is with great pleasure that I present the Overarching Productive Sector Policy (OPSP). This policy represents a significant milestone in our ongoing commitment to the development and advancement of Vanuatu's agriculture sector. It is the product of extensive collaboration, research, and consultation with a wide array of stakeholders, including farmers, industry representatives, government agencies, and community leaders.

The agriculture sector is the backbone of Vanuatu's economy, providing livelihoods for a large portion of our population and contributing significantly to our national identity and cultural heritage. It is a sector of immense potential, with the capacity to drive economic growth, enhance food security, and improve the well-being of our people. However, it is also a sector that faces numerous challenges, including vulnerability to natural disasters, the impacts of climate change, and the need for improved market access and infrastructure.

This Overarching Productive Sector Policy is designed to address these challenges and unlock the full potential of our agriculture sector. It provides a comprehensive framework for coordinated action, outlining clear goals, objectives, and strategies for sustainable and inclusive growth. It is aligned with our national development priorities, including the National Sustainable Development Plan, and builds upon the successes and lessons learned from previous policies and initiatives.

The policy is grounded in a vision of a well-coordinated, robust, and resilient agriculture sector that sustainably supplies the food and economic needs of our growing population. This vision will be achieved through a substantial increase in primary production, processing, and value-adding, creating good jobs and ensuring social and gender equity for all.

Key priorities of the OPSP include:

- Enhancing commodity production and market access: Increasing the productivity and quality of key agricultural commodities, improving market access for producers, and promoting value addition to enhance income generation.
- Improving quality and safety: Enhancing the quality and safety of agricultural products through strengthened national quality standards, improved capacity for producers and processors, and robust inspection and certification systems.
- Ensuring food security: Ensuring food security for all households in Vanuatu through increased sustainable production of staple foods, improved access to affordable and nutritious food, and strengthened resilience of food systems to climate change and natural disasters.
- Promoting environmental and climate change management: Addressing the critical intersection of agriculture and environmental sustainability through the sustainable management of natural resources and the promotion of climate-resilient agricultural practices.
- Strengthening governance, institutions, and inclusion: Creating an enabling environment for the agriculture sector through clear and consistent policies, strengthened institutional capacity, mainstreaming gender equality, and fostering effective partnerships.

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The successful implementation of this policy will require the concerted efforts of all stakeholders. It will require strong coordination among government ministries, the private sector, and civil society organizations. It will also require the allocation of adequate resources and a commitment to transparency and accountability.

The most valuable resources in an organisation are its human resources, and therefore the Ministry supports a positive work environment where everyone is treated equally and with respect. The Ministry values the contribution of all peoples and will not tolerate any form of harassment or exploitation whether by its employees, its farmers or the wider community that operate in the primary and agri-processing sectors.

I am confident that, with our collective commitment and dedication, we can achieve the goals and objectives outlined in this policy. By working together, we can build a vibrant and sustainable agriculture sector that contributes to the prosperity and well-being of all ni-Vanuatu people.

I extend my sincere gratitude to all those who have contributed to the development of this policy. I look forward to working with you to ensure its successful implementation.

The image shows a handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Ian Wilson'. To the right of the signature is a circular official stamp. The stamp has a double border. The outer border contains the text 'REPUBLIC OF VANUATU' at the top and 'REPUBLIC OF VANUATU' at the bottom, separated by two small stars. The inner circle contains the text 'MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, FORESTRY, FISHERIES & BIOSECURITY'.

**Honourable Ian Wilson TOAGALA (MP),
Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Biosecurity**

FOREWORD BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL



This Overarching Productive Sector Policy (OPSP) represents a pivotal framework for the strategic advancement of Vanuatu's agriculture sector. Its development has been underpinned by rigorous research, extensive stakeholder consultations, and a deep understanding of the sector's multifaceted role in our national economy and its contribution to the livelihoods of a significant portion of our population. This policy is a direct response to the challenges and opportunities that define our current agricultural landscape.

The agriculture sector is a cornerstone of Vanuatu's economy, contributing substantially to our GDP, ensuring food security, and preserving our unique cultural heritage. The sector's potential to drive economic growth, enhance nutritional outcomes, and improve the overall well-being of our people is undeniable. However, this potential is often challenged by factors such as the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters, the adverse impacts of climate change, and systemic limitations in market access and infrastructure.

The OPSP is designed to provide a comprehensive and coordinated approach to addressing these challenges. It articulates clear goals, objectives, and strategies that are aligned with our national development priorities, including the National Sustainable Development Plan. Furthermore, it builds upon the foundation laid by previous policies, incorporating lessons learned and best practices to maximize its effectiveness.

This policy is anchored in a vision of a well-coordinated, robust, and resilient agriculture sector, capable of sustainably meeting the food and economic needs of our growing population. This vision will be realized through a significant increase in primary production, the promotion of value-added processing, and the creation of sustainable employment opportunities, all while upholding principles of social and gender equity.

The OPSP prioritizes the following Development Outcomes:

- **Commodity Production and Market Access:** Enhancing the productivity and quality of key agricultural commodities through targeted interventions, improving market access for producers by developing efficient and equitable market systems, and promoting value addition to maximize income generation and enhance the sector's contribution to GDP.
- **Quality and Safety:** Strengthening the quality and safety of agricultural products by establishing and enforcing robust national quality standards, building the capacity of producers and processors to comply with these standards, and implementing effective inspection and certification systems to ensure consumer protection and facilitate trade.
- **Food Security:** Ensuring food security for all households in Vanuatu through strategies aimed at increasing the sustainable production of staple foods, improving the affordability and accessibility of nutritious food, and enhancing the resilience of food systems to external shocks, including climate change and natural disasters.

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- **Environment and Climate Change Management:** Addressing the critical nexus of agriculture and environmental sustainability by promoting the sustainable management of natural resources, fostering the adoption of climate-resilient agricultural practices, and leveraging the sector's potential to provide essential environmental services.
- **Governance, Institutions, and Inclusion:** Creating an enabling environment for the agriculture sector through the development of clear and consistent policies, strengthening institutional capacity at all levels, mainstreaming gender equality and social inclusion considerations into sectoral planning and implementation, and fostering effective partnerships among key stakeholders.

The successful implementation of the OPSP will require a concerted and collaborative effort from all stakeholders. This will necessitate strong coordination among government ministries, active participation from the private sector, and engagement with civil society organizations. Crucially, it will also require the strategic allocation of adequate resources and an unwavering commitment to the principles of transparency and accountability.

I am confident that, through our collective commitment, technical expertise, and dedication, we can achieve the ambitious goals and objectives set forth in this policy. By working together, we can transform Vanuatu's agriculture sector into a modern, sustainable, and inclusive engine for economic growth and social development, contributing to the prosperity and well-being of all ni-Vanuatu people.

I extend my sincere appreciation to all those who contributed their expertise and insights to the development of this policy. I look forward to collaborating with you to ensure its effective and impactful implementation.



Tekon Timothy TUMUKON

Director General

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Biosecurity

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of OPSP and Linkages to other Policies

This overarching policy, set at the macro level, builds on the OPSP which was finalised in 2012, determining the scope of priorities for development in the agricultural productive sector. Successful implementation of this Policy should lead to the realisation of a shared vision for the agricultural productive sector across the nation. The Vision, which incorporates stakeholder values, together with these principles, underlies and determines the policies and strategies laid out in this document. The overall Vision remains the same namely:

A well-coordinated, robust and resilient agricultural productive sector with good access to arable land and rich marine and forest resources which will sustainably supply the food, income, and kastom needs of a growing population in both urban and rural areas by building on traditional practices and protecting our natural environment.

This will be achieved through a substantial increase in primary agri-production, processing and value-adding there will be good jobs and income ensuring social and gender equity and wellbeing for all.

The original Overarching Productive Sector Policy (OPSP) articulated five key policy outcomes to guide sectoral development initiatives and activities over the medium to long term. The OPSP is closely aligned with the objectives of the National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) 2015–2030, and establishes a comprehensive framework of indicators, baselines, and targets to supplement and provide greater specificity to those set out in the NSDP Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

Additionally, the OPSP consolidates relevant targets from various sectoral policies-including, but not limited to, the Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy, the Gudfala Kakae Policy, and the Trade, Business and Commerce Policy-into a single, integrated document. This integration is designed to ensure a holistic and coherent system for monitoring and evaluation, with explicit linkages to the NSDP.

Since the initial formulation of the OPSP, the national policy framework has undergone significant transformation, resulting in a clearer and more formalized relationship between the different levels of policy, planning, and implementation. At the apex of this framework is the NSDP, which provides the overarching policy direction. Further detail is provided at the strategy level by instruments such as the OPSP and the Trade Policy Framework, now updated as the Trade, Business and Commerce Policy. The strategic directions outlined in these documents are operationalized through three-year corporate plans developed by government ministries, which prioritize actions in accordance with available recurrent funding and contributions from external partners. These corporate plans are subsequently translated into Annual Department Business Plans, thereby ensuring the effective implementation of policy objectives across all levels of government.

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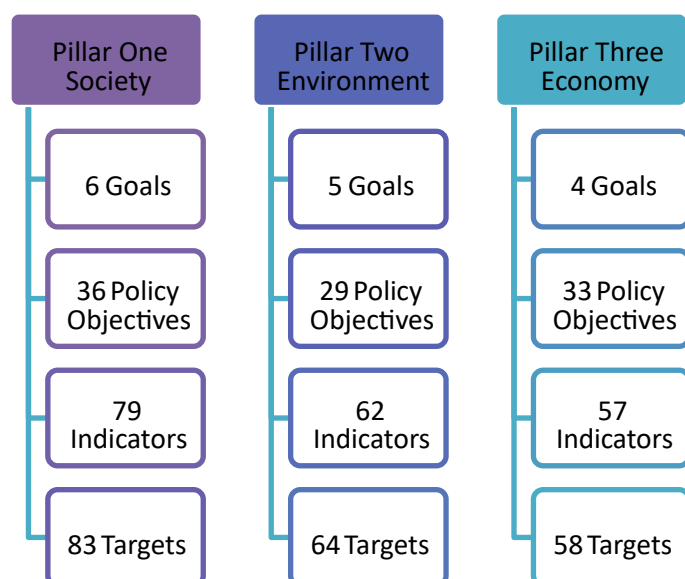
Figure 1 - Agriculture Sector Strategic Policy Framework



The NSDP 2030 builds on the progress and lessons learnt under the Priorities and Action Agenda, which guided our national development efforts between 2006 and 2015, and the Millennium Development Goals, which also expired in 2015.

As illustrated below, the NSDP is expressed through three pillars. Society, Environment and Economy. Each pillar is divided into Goals. There are 6 Goals in the Society Pillar, 5 Goals in the Environment Pillar and 4 Goals in the Economy Pillar. Each goal is made up of a series of policy objectives.

The NSDP contains a total of 196 indicators and 205 targets across 98 Policy Objectives. There are a total of 79 indicators and 83 targets in the Social Pillar, 62 indicators and 64 targets in the Environment Pillar and 57 indicators and 58 targets in the Economy Pillar. The overall number of targets is slightly higher than the number of indicators. This is due to some indicators having more than one applicable target.



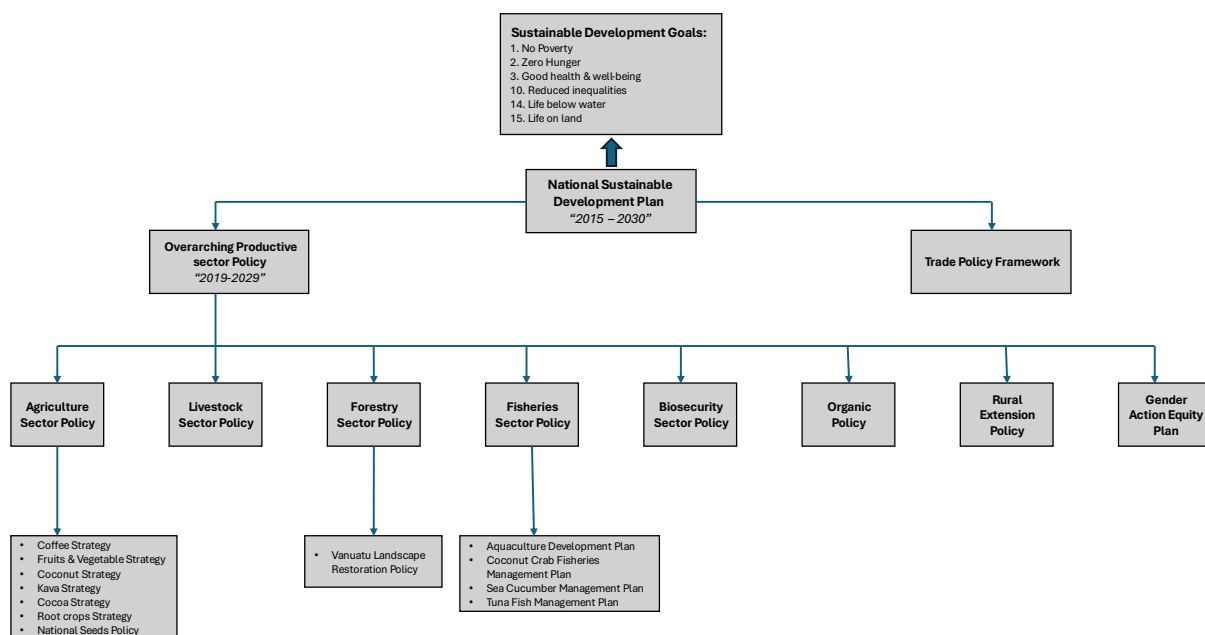
The Overarching Agricultural Sector Policy framework focuses on achieving NSDP goals covering the three main pillars. However, progressing objectives across all sector priority areas will also be necessary to achieving the productive sector vision.

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The link between the Development Objectives of the OPSP and the NSDP goals is shown in detail in [Section 2.3](#). There has been extensive work done to articulate strategies for each of the sectors and in some cases, individual commodities. This is shown in Figure 2. These strategies are designed to not only directly support the production and trade in productive sector activity but also support key development outcomes such as Goal 5: Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls of the SDG's and a range of other broader Government policies including (but not limited to):

- Vanuatu Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy 2016-2030
- Gudfala Kakae policy 2017-2030
- National Biodiversity Strategy and action plan 2018-2030
- Vanuatu National Security Strategy
- Vanuatu's National Plan of Action on Food and Nutrition Security
- Vanuatu' National Gender Equality Policy 2020-2030
- New National Aid Management Policy
- Vanuatu Infrastructure Strategic Investment Plan
- National Financial Inclusion Strategy

Figure 2 - MALFB Policy Hierarchy (2025)



The OPSP serves to reinforce the alignment between the National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP), related policy instruments, sectoral strategies, corporate plans, and budgetary frameworks. Through the establishment of a coherent logical framework, the OPSP is intended to facilitate enhanced clarity regarding priority actions and expected outcomes for the relevant line ministries, specifically the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Biosecurity (MALFB) and the Ministry of Trade and Commerce (MTC) together with the inland fisheries section of the Ministry of Fisheries, Oceans and Maritime Affairs (MFOMA). This objective will be achieved by delineating the explicit connections between the development objectives articulated in the OPSP and those set forth in the NSDP. Furthermore, the

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Corporate Plan will articulate the relationship between ministerial activities and sub-programmes and the overarching development outcomes and objectives as defined in both the OPSP and the NSDP. The final stage in this alignment process will be the formulation of business plans, which will establish the link between specific activities, the annual budget, and service delivery targets. Achieving coherence throughout this framework presents a considerable challenge, as it is not feasible for every document to encompass all relevant information. Accordingly, an overarching policy such as the OPSP is required to bridge critical gaps, particularly in connecting the NSDP with ministerial sub-programmes as outlined in the Corporate Plan

The need for a productive agricultural sector policy that incorporates the priorities of all stakeholders was initially identified in the Priorities and Action Agenda (PAA) and subsequently reaffirmed in the National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP). These frameworks aim to establish a coherent and collectively endorsed vision, delineate the Government's role within the sector, and strengthen the alignment between policy and investment, including budget allocations and partner support.

Since its introduction in 2012, the Overarching Productive Sector Policy (OPSP) has played a pivotal role in informing the development of sector strategies and the formulation of the NSDP. Notably, the OPSP provided strategic guidance to the Food Security Cluster in response to Tropical Cyclone Pam in 2015. The current revision of the OPSP is motivated by the continued need to sharpen the focus on development priorities within the productive sector, thereby enhancing clarity and accountability in decision-making by the responsible ministries and clarifying the sector's engagement with private stakeholders.

In contrast to the social sectors, such as education and health, the majority of outputs in the agricultural sector—including production, processing and marketing—are delivered by private actors, including farm households, cooperatives and commercial enterprises. Consequently, the principal roles of Government in supporting productive sector outcomes are primarily related to policy and regulatory frameworks, rather than direct public expenditure. These roles encompass, inter alia, macroeconomic policy, pricing policy (including taxes and subsidies), land policy, trade policy, factor pricing, and sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures.

Revitalizing growth in agriculture, which is predominantly based on smallholder production, will require significant improvements in infrastructure. This necessitates close inter-ministerial coordination to ensure efficient transport and market access, beyond the establishment of an enabling policy environment. Since 2012, substantial investments have been made in infrastructure across Vanuatu, including the reconstruction of wharves in Port Vila and Luganville, the construction and upgrading of roads, and the development of new and renewed market facilities. Additional progress has been achieved in telecommunications and the expansion of the electrical grid in Luganville and along the east coast of Santo.

The agricultural sector remains highly dependent on the integrity of natural resources to meet the needs of the population. Sustainable management of these resources is essential to guarantee their long-term availability, which requires consideration of the natural environment's capacity for regeneration and maintenance. Traditional farming systems prevalent throughout the islands, characterized by complex intercropping and mixed cropping of diverse food and cash crops as well as fruit trees, demonstrate practices analogous to agroforestry, circular, climate-smart, and organic agriculture. The further enhancement of these traditional systems, complemented by proven sustainable production practices, is fundamental to the development of an environmentally sustainable agricultural sector.

1.2 Vanuatu Agriculture Sector Development (2007-2022)

1.2.1 Cash Crop Cultivation

Following Vanuatu's historic agricultural production patterns, data from the Vanuatu National Agricultural Census of 2007 and 2022 have been used for analysis.

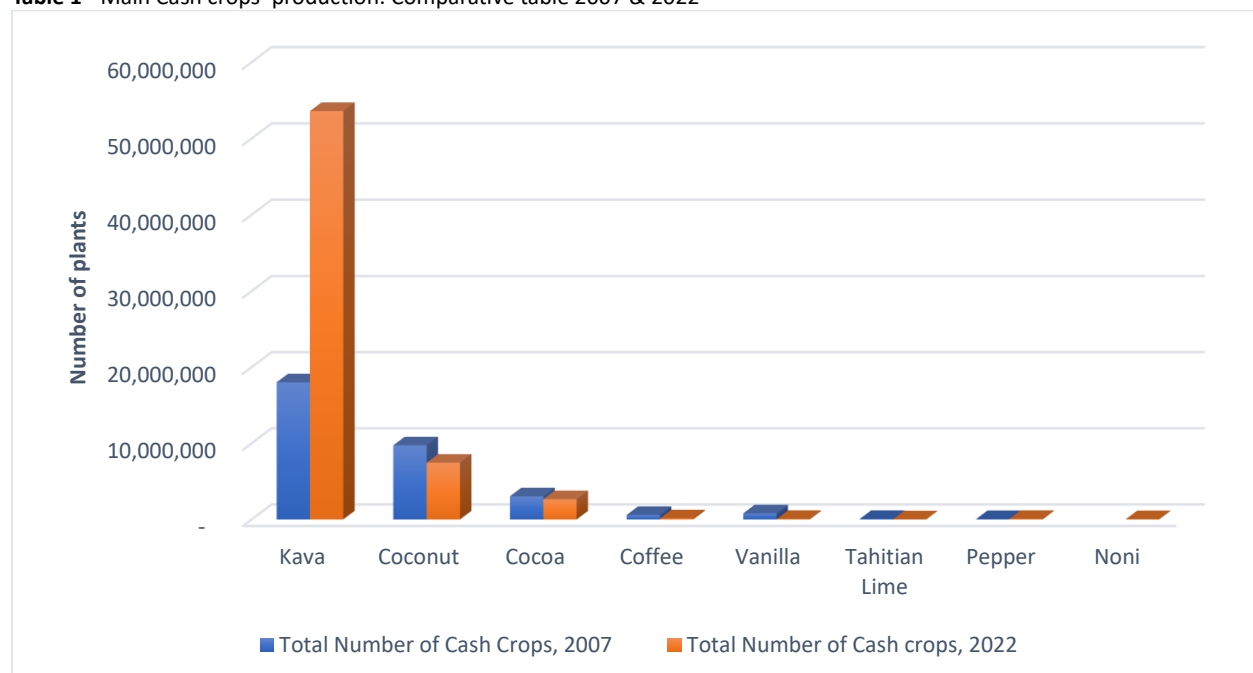
The MALFB targeted 8 crop cultivations for economic development and market orientation which are:

- Kava
- Coconut
- Cacao
- Coffee
- Vamilla
- Tahitian Lime
- Pepper
- Noni

For above identified cash crops in Vanuatu (see table 1) it is observed that most crops show the following major changes between 2007 to 2022:

- Main cash crops for Vanuatu since 2007 in terms of number of crops/plants amongst farm households are kava and coconut (copra), followed by cacao.
- Most crops have shown a decline over the last 15 years with the exception of kava and pepper.
- Kava is the cash crop that has shown a considerable large increase in production.
- One new cash crop, Noni, has been introduced.

Table 1 - Main Cash crops' production: Comparative table 2007 & 2022



Source: Government of Vanuatu, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Biosecurity, VNAC Report 2007 and 2022

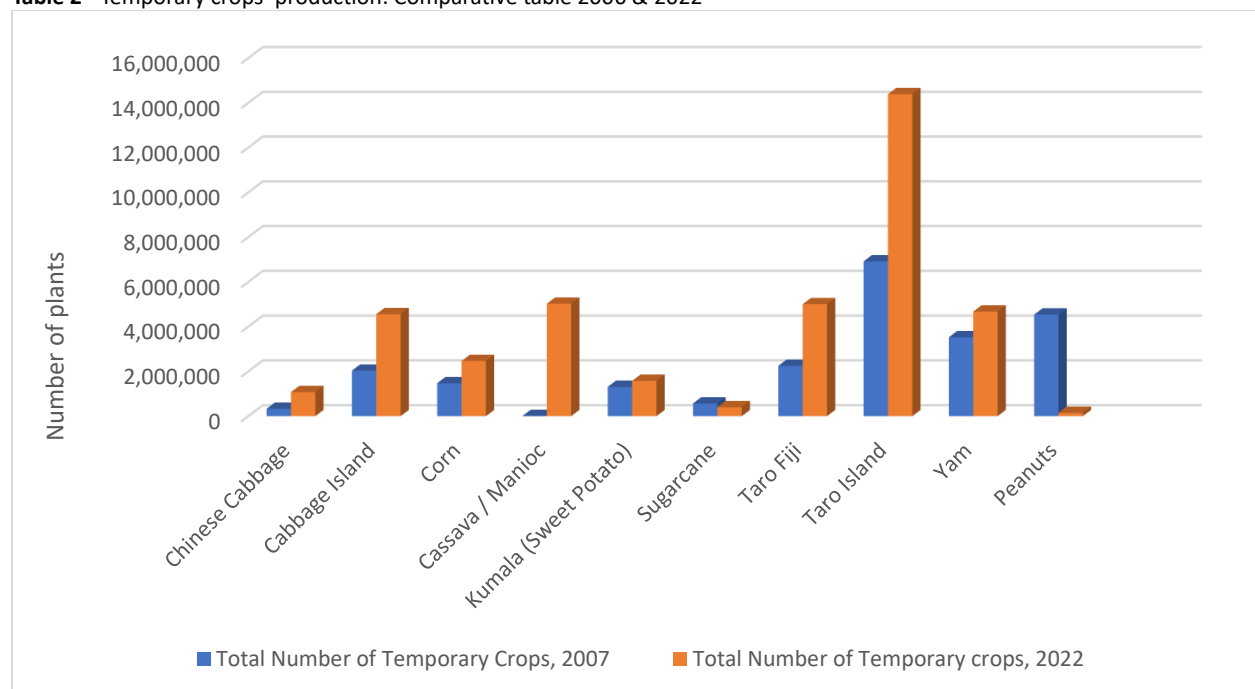
1.2.2 Temporary Crop Cultivation

Many temporary¹, predominantly food crops, play a major role in food security for Vanuatu and have been transmitted and adopted by the rural households for both (mainly local) market and subsistence production in Vanuatu. A total of 39 different crops have been reported to the Vanuatu Agricultural Census of 2022, by the surveyed households.

For the temporary crops in Vanuatu (see table 2) it is observed that most crops show the following major changes:

- Main temp. crops for Vanuatu since 2007 in terms of number of plants amongst farm households are island cabbage, corn, cassava, kumala, Fiji and Island taro, yam, pineapple and peanuts.
- Temp. crops that have shown a numeric increase over the last 15 years, are taro, yam, casava, cabbage (Island and Chinese), corn and kumala
- Temporary crops that shown a decrease in production are peanuts and sugar cane.
- Temporary crops that were not reported on in 2022 are: pumpkin, eggplant radish, garlic, pawpaw, naviso, strawberry, tobacco, taro navia, wild yam,
- New cultivated temporary crops reported on in 2022 is potato.

Table 2 - Temporary crops' production: Comparative table 2006 & 2022



Source: Government of Vanuatu, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Biosecurity, VNAC Report 2007 and 2022

1.2.3 Other Permanent Crop Production

The last group refer to multiyear crops that play a major role in food security for Vanuatu and have been transmitted and adopted by the rural households for mainly subsistence production in Vanuatu. A total of

¹ This includes also multi-year food crops as island cabbage, sugarcane, pineapple, and papaya (i.e.)

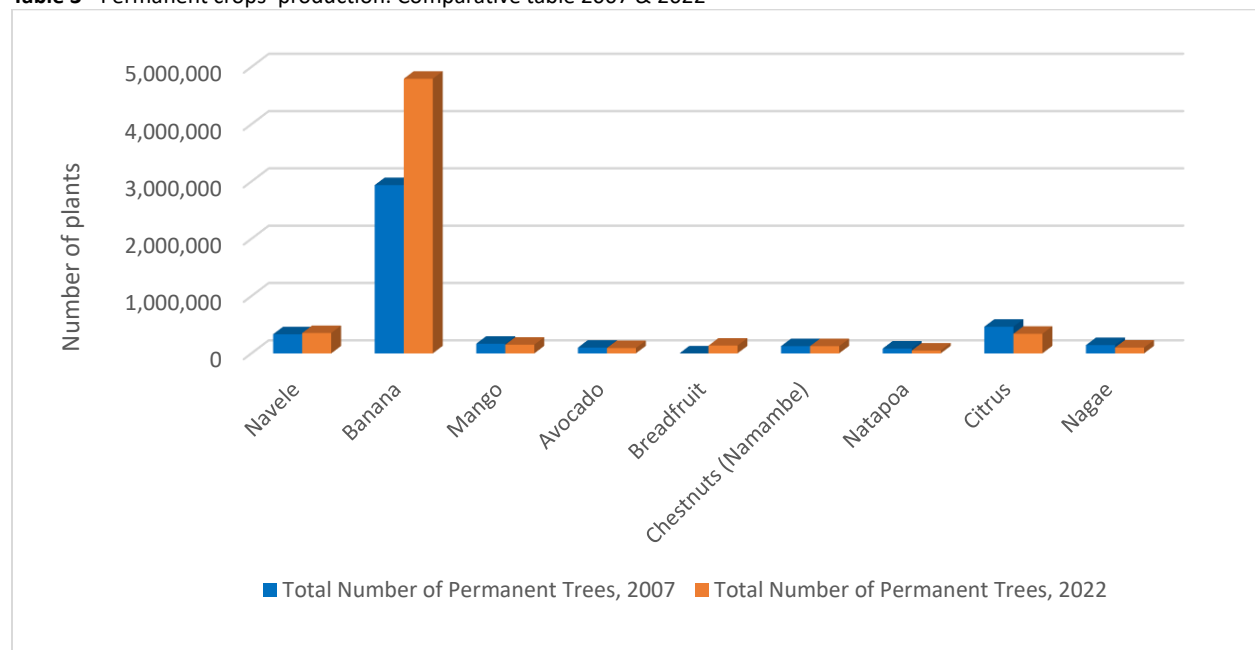
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15 different crops have been reported to the Vanuatu Agricultural Census of 2007 and 2022, by the surveyed households.

For the permanent crops in Vanuatu (see table 3) it is observed that most crops show the following major changes:

- Main permanent crops for Vanuatu since 2007 in terms of number of plants amongst farm households are banana, followed by citrus (mandarin, orange, pomelo), navele, namambe, and nangae.
- Permanent crops that have shown a notable increase over the last 15 years, are banana, navele, and breadfruit
- Most other crops show a small decrease in number
- New cultivated permanent crops reported on in 2022 are jackfruit, nakatambol, lychee, starfruit, and nakavika.

Table 3 - Permanent crops' production: Comparative table 2007 & 2022



Source: Government of Vanuatu, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Biosecurity, VNAC Report 2007 and 2022

1.2.4 Livestock

Livestock farming, especially cattle, poultry, and pig farming, play a major role in food security and protein access for Vanuatu, and is adopted by many rural households for both market and subsistence production in Vanuatu. Vanuatu's beef production, known as organic and grass fed, is highly valued and also takes an important role for income generation.

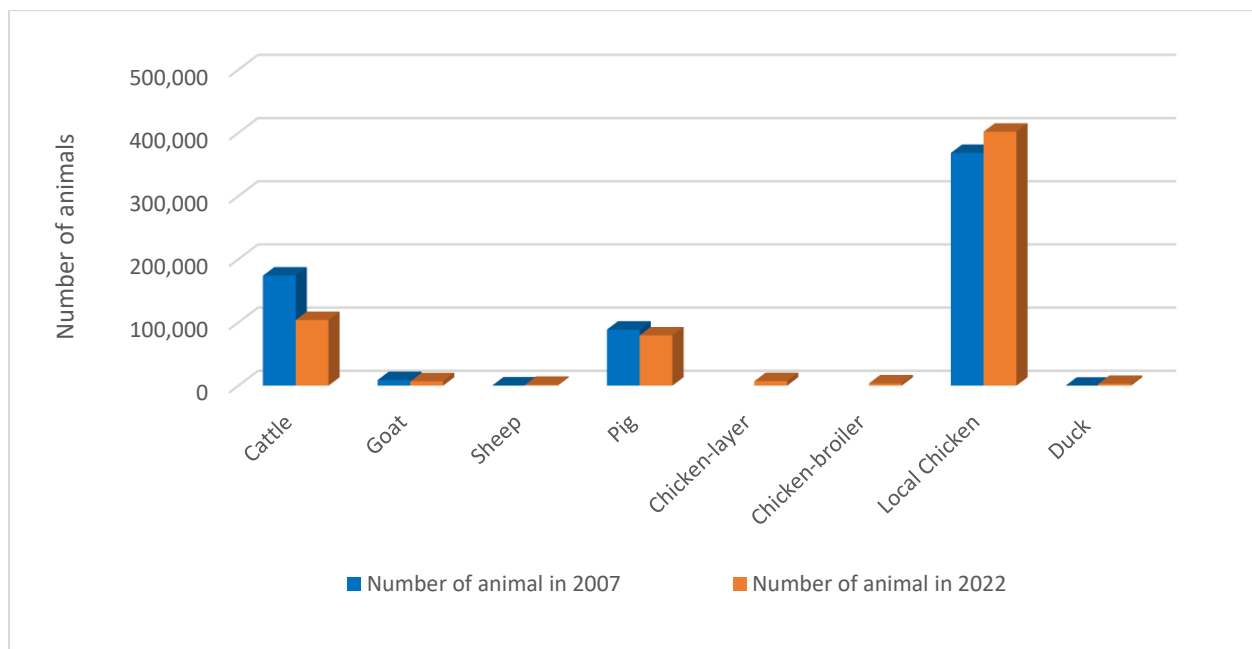
A total of 10 different livestock animals and 11 products have been reported to the Vanuatu Agricultural Census of 2022, by the surveyed households. Horses have been left out from the analysis since its purpose is mostly transport.

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For the livestock development in Vanuatu (see table 2) it is observed that most livestock show the following major changes over the last 15 years:

- Main animals raised in Vanuatu since 2007 in terms of number of animals amongst farm households are beef cattle, pigs, and chicken.
- Especially the number of beef cattle for meat production has reduced between 2007 and 2022.
- In 2007 there was no reporting on the harvest of eggs, and the raising of ducks, or the distinguishing between chicken-layer and -broiler breeds.

Table 4 - Livestock animals' production: Comparative table 2007 & 2022



Source: Government of Vanuatu, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Biosecurity, VNAC Report 2007 and 2022

1.2.5 Forestry

Commercial timber trees, sandalwood and non-timber forest products play are highly valued and also play an important role for income generation.

The primary commercial timber tree species for commercial production are kauri, whitewood, mahogany, natapoa, cordia, nangai and koyu; whilst the main non timber forest product potential is for pandanus, carving logs, rope and firewood. Sandalwood provides high-value, low-volume, non-perishable products that are in high demand on the international market.

There has been a significant growth in commercial timber products since the 2007 census. Whilst there was very limited data on planted forests for commercial use in the 2007 census (4,000 sandalwood trees and 100 mahogany trees) by 2022 the volume of trees planted for commercial timber in the preceding 12 months had greatly increased with sandalwood (356,509 trees), whitewood (237,493 trees), mahogany (85,003 trees), nangai (39,259 trees), natapoa (30,814 trees) kauri (9,863) and koyu (6,314 trees).

1.3 The Vanuatu Agriculture Sector: Economic Diagnosis

Vanuatu's economy is significantly influenced by its agriculture sector, providing livelihoods for a large portion of the population and contributing to food security, export earnings, and overall economic activity. However, the sector is also highly vulnerable to natural disasters, climate change as well as unsustainable use of its natural resources which can significantly impact production and economic contributions.

1.3.1. GDP and National Accounts

The agriculture sector grew at an average annual GDP growth rate of 1.8% from 1999-2008. In the nine years from 2009–2017 the sector growth rate has been at an average of 3.0%. This has been achieved despite the massive crop losses and disruption caused by Tropical Cyclone Pam. The latest data from 2023-2024 indicates a recovery in agricultural production following the cyclones of 2023, with key commodities like kava, cocoa, and copra driving export earnings.

The agriculture sector remains a crucial component of Vanuatu's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). While specific figures for 2023-2024 are still being finalized, available data and analysis from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) indicate that the economy likely grew by 2.2% in 2023, despite being hit by twin cyclones (Judy and Kevin) in March 2023, which significantly impacted the agriculture sector. The recovery programs, including agricultural subsidies to support rural farmers, helped mitigate the shock on domestic crops, animal, and fishing production.

Preliminary estimates suggest a deceleration in real GDP growth to around 1% in 2024, influenced by the liquidation of Air Vanuatu in May 2024, which disrupted tourism and commerce. However, the agriculture sector is still expected to have contributed positively to this growth, particularly in the recovery phase following the 2023 cyclones.

The Vanuatu Bureau of Statistics (VBoS) is the primary source for national accounts data. While the complete national accounts for 2023-2024 are yet to be released, the trend indicates that agriculture consistently contributes a significant share to the GDP, although its proportion can fluctuate due to external shocks like cyclones.

Nevertheless, these long-term averages hide the significant falls in export production of key cash-crop commodities of cocoa, copra & copra derived products, beef, and sawn timber. The relatively modest growth in exports does not imply the country has not made significant advances more broadly. As an example, Vanuatu has exceeded the economic graduation threshold out of 'Least Developed Country' status, which is testament to the growth in the economy, especially over the last decade (Brien, 2019). There are multiple contributors to this success, including state stability, donor investment and steady if modest tourism increases.

1.3.2 Local Market Trade

The Port Vila Central Market Surveys provide some insights into the supply and price of agricultural commodities. The June 2024 survey showed an overall volume increase of 44% in the supply of commodities compared to the previous quarter, with a 12% increase in overall prices. This increase was largely driven by staple produce, fruits, and vegetables. However, when compared to the same quarter in 2023, the volume of staple food decreased by 23%, while its average price increased by 28%. Vegetable supply decreased by 64%, and its average price decreased by 15% compared to June 2023.

The March 2024 survey indicated a decrease in overall volume (-45%) and price (-36%) compared to the previous quarter (December 2023), with staples and vegetables contributing most to the volume decrease. This highlights the volatility in production, potentially due to seasonal factors or lingering effects of the previous year's cyclones.

The level of production of major commodities was valued at VT 314 million in March 2024, including beef (VT 10 million), cocoa (VT 17 million), coffee (VT 1 million), copra (VT 77 million), and kava (VT 209 million). By June 2024, this increased to VT 490 million, with significant contributions from beef (VT 10 million), cocoa (VT 67 million), coconut oil (VT 10 million), copra (VT 68 million), and kava (VT 334 million). This suggests a recovery and increase in production of key commodities between the two quarters.

1.3.3 External Trade of Agricultural Production

Agriculture plays a vital role in Vanuatu's international trade, both in terms of exports and imports.

Exports

- **Kava** is a major export commodity. In March 2024, exports were valued at VT 209 million, with main destinations being China, New Caledonia, Australia, and Fiji. By June 2024, kava exports increased significantly to VT 334 million, with the United States, Kiribati, and New Zealand being major markets.
- **Copra** is another significant export, valued at VT 77 million in March 2024 (mainly to the Philippines) and VT 68 million in June 2024 (also mainly to the Philippines).
- **Cocoa** exports were valued at VT 17 million in March 2024 (mainly to Malaysia) and increased substantially to VT 67 million in June 2024 (mainly to Indonesia).
- **Beef** is exported primarily to Papua New Guinea, with a consistent value of around VT 10 million in both March and June 2024.
- **Coconut Oil** emerged as a significant export in June 2024, valued at VT 10 million, with Singapore as the main destination.

The ratio of processed export commodities (coconut, kava, cocoa, and coffee) to raw exports was reported as 1 in March 2024, indicating a balance between raw and processed agricultural exports.

Imports

Vanuatu imports agricultural products that could potentially be produced domestically. However, proper cost analysis needs to be conducted to assess whether it is economically feasible to produce the crops locally and to the same standard and quality.

Major food imports include rice, prepared or preserved fish, flour, and processed meats, mainly sourced from countries like China, Fiji, and Australia.

The Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Trade Agreement involves agricultural trade. In March 2024, total agricultural exports to MSG countries were VT 29 million, while imports were VT 253 million. By June 2024, exports increased to VT 66 million, and imports decreased to VT 173 million, indicating a favourable trade outcome

1.3.4 Highlights of Agro-Industries and Related Investments

Agro-industries, focusing on value addition to agricultural products, are crucial for economic development. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is supporting the development of value chains for root crops and cacao in Vanuatu through the Hand-in-Hand Initiative. This includes:

- Enhancing the capabilities of primary farmers.
- Investing in supporting infrastructure like inter-island shipping services.
- Stimulating local demand, particularly in the hospitality and education sectors.
- Collaborating with exporters to address bottlenecks.

A key focus is on transitioning Vanuatu towards producing high-paying specialty cacao varieties and revitalizing the cacao industry through plantation rejuvenation, farmer training, and investment in centralized fermentation operations. For root crops, the initiative aims to strengthen harvest management and replicate processing facilities to enhance value addition.

The Vanuatu Foreign Investment Promotion Agency (VFIPA) highlights that while the services sector dominates Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), the agriculture, fishery, forestry, and livestock sectors accounted for 2% of total established FDI in 2023. The government has provided subsidies to these sectors to boost production and value addition for export, and outcomes are expected to be seen.

1.3.5 Highlights of Agri-Tourism

Agri-tourism is a growing niche in Vanuatu, offering travellers unique experiences related to agriculture and local culture. The Vanuatu Tourism Office promotes various agri-tourism activities, including:

- **Aelan Chocolate Makers:** Visitors can learn about chocolate manufacturing using locally sourced cocoa beans.
- **Haos Blong Handikraft & Mahitahi:** A place to purchase genuine Vanuatu products created by local businesses, showcasing local crafts and produce.
- **Kava Discovery Tour Factory:** Offers insights into kava cultivation and processing, culminating in a kava tasting experience.
- **Lapita Cafe:** Highlights local produce like coconut and ginger cookies, with owners sharing the production process.

Agri-tourism not only provides an alternative source of income for farmers and local communities but also helps preserve cultural heritage and promotes local products. By interacting with local producers and purchasing local goods, tourists contribute directly to the local economy.

The government is increasing its efforts in agri-tourism through a public private partnership arrangement with the Regenerative Vanuatu, a not-for-profit organisation. The organisation will become the ministry's flagship organisation to organise planned travel packages for visitors to visit and experience farming and local cultures.

1.3.6 Conclusion

The agriculture sector is a cornerstone of Vanuatu's economy, contributing significantly to GDP, providing livelihoods, driving exports, and fostering rural development.

While the sector is vulnerable to natural disasters, the government and international organizations are actively working to enhance its resilience, promote value addition through agro-industries, and diversify income sources through agri-tourism.

Continued investment in infrastructure, farmer support, and the development of niche areas like agri-tourism will be crucial for maximizing the agriculture sector's contribution to Vanuatu's sustainable economic growth and development.

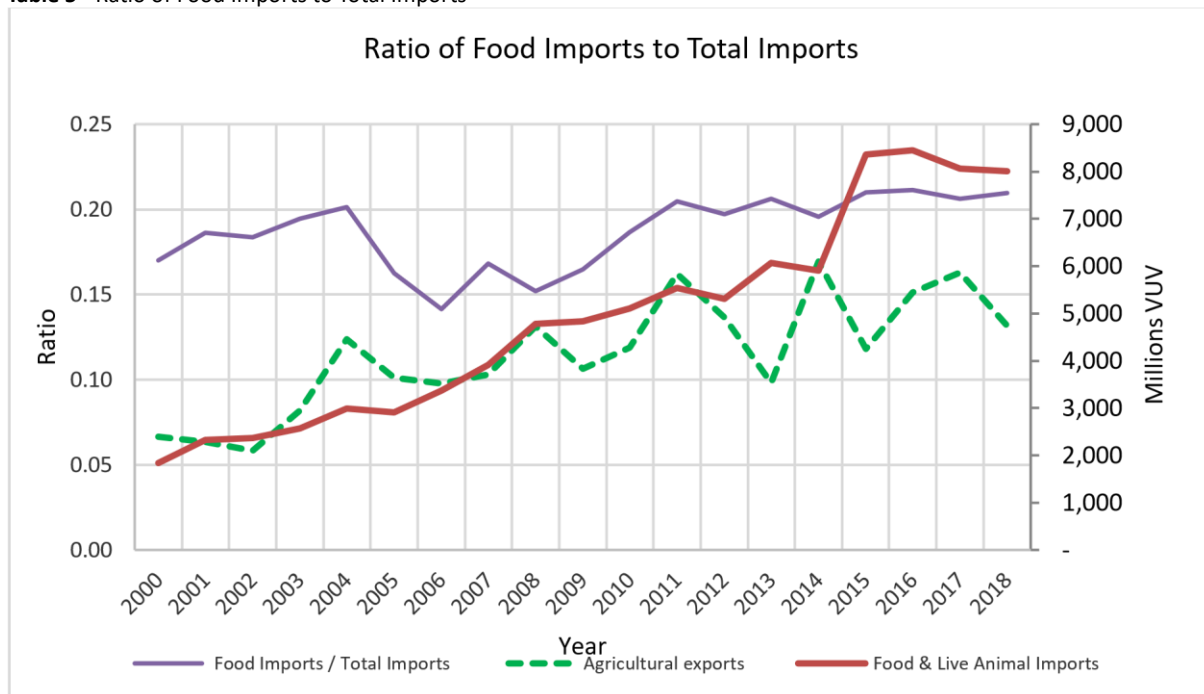
1.4 Food Security

1.4.1 Food availability, access and utilization

It is generally recognised amongst sector stakeholders that agriculture serves a central role in ensuring healthy lifestyles, providing social safety nets and preserving traditional knowledge, practices and skills. Indeed, food production on family farms together with subsistence and artisanal fishing continue to be a vital part of food security and provide resilience in the face of external shocks, either economic (price spikes, global recession) or natural (cyclones, floods, droughts etc.).

However, an increasing trend over recent years of reliance on food imports (largely comprised of rice, flour, frozen meat cuts and tin fish) to meet the population's dietary needs is a cause for growing concern.

Table 5 - Ratio of Food Imports to Total Imports



Vanuatu also faces a "triple burden of malnutrition", in which persistent undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies coexist with a growing burden of obesity and related NCDs. Vanuatu is particularly affected by

two forms of malnutrition – child stunting (the prevalence of stunting in children under 5 years of age is 28.5%) and adult obesity (the prevalence of obesity in the adult population is 20.7%).² The problem is exacerbated by cheap but unhealthy food that is being imported. The challenge is therefore how can Vanuatu increase the local sustainable production & consumption of healthy food, and this is what this policy aims to also address.

Revitalisation of the agriculture sector (including a strengthened local food production and marketing system) is the best policy option for Vanuatu. Increasing the production and consumption of local food is one of the key strategies to address some of the issues raised above.

Vanuatu also recognises the priority need for fisheries management and advancing sustainable domestic fisheries and aquaculture developments covering small scale local operations around the provinces, as well, larger commercial fishing ventures that promotes employment and improved livelihoods and ensures food and nutrition security. Vanuatu rural dwellers depend strongly on the coastal fisheries for their livelihood and food security. There is a need to promote community-based and co-management approaches to coastal fisheries. While the Vanuatu population continues to grow and affect population structures, diversification and development of fisheries alternatives to support production becomes critical. Aquaculture and development of nearshore fisheries are viable options to embrace and promote.

1.4.2 Conclusion

In sum, a productive agriculture sector is important for the national economy, vital for food security and rural poverty alleviation, and also provides links to downstream industries such as agricultural processing.

The Productive Sector Policy therefore renews the Government's emphasis on domestic food production with a priority policy focus to national food security and nutritional health through increased food self-sufficiency. It also addresses the key challenge of developing pathways for commercialisation of smallholder farming systems building on traditional systems and practices, which allow increased employment and cash-generating opportunities for rural households and up-stream agri-processing, but without sacrificing family and community cohesion and ultimately food security.

1.5 Transforming Agriculture in Vanuatu through Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups, Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

Currently, women play a crucial role in agriculture, yet this role is often unrecognized, poorly remunerated, and inadequately supported. This situation has detrimental effects not only on gender equity but also on the sustainability, productivity, and food security of the agricultural sector. Women frequently face barriers to effective participation in decision-making processes and consultations related to agricultural policies and priorities, environmental management, research, land-use planning, environmental and social impact assessments, and access to productive resources, including land and finance. They also encounter obstacles in accessing essential inputs such as financial services, technology transfers, extension services, research, training, and farm inputs. Furthermore, women often bear a disproportionate burden in

² State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, FAO, 2018, <http://www.fao.org/3/I9553EN/i9553en.pdf>

managing the risks and impacts of climate crises, natural disasters, and food insecurity, yet they are limited in their ability to participate effectively in resilience-building, preparedness, and response efforts.

Shifting rural demographics, characterized by urbanization, seasonal employment schemes, and a decline in the appeal of farming among young people (particularly young men), are significantly reducing the agricultural and rural labour force. This demographic shift places increased pressure on women, who are now frequently required to manage family farms in addition to their existing responsibilities. The substantial financial and time burden on women is compounded by restricted access to decision-making power within the agricultural sector, increased financial and social pressures, and instances of sexual and gender-based violence perpetrated by family and community members. These challenges affect not only women but also the resilience, sustainability, and productivity of Vanuatu's agricultural sector.

The empowerment of women has the potential to transform Vanuatu's agriculture, making it more productive, profitable, resilient, and sustainable. This transformation can be facilitated by:

- Enhancing women's capacity to participate equitably in decision-making processes related to areas such as natural resource management, producer boards, cooperatives, local government, disaster risk reduction, and land-use planning.
- Conducting a gender analysis of all supply and value chains.
- Ensuring equitable access to all forms of training, extension services, scholarships, technology transfer, participatory research and field trials, and financial literacy programs.
- Increasing women's access to productive resources, including credit and financial services, land, and time-saving technologies.
- Supporting the rights and access to services for rural women, including the elimination of violence, access to primary and reproductive health services, and participation in decision-making.

Engaging Vanuatu's youth in agriculture is also essential for the future sustainability, innovation, and resilience of the sector. As the rural population ages and young people increasingly migrate to urban areas or participate in international labour mobility schemes such as the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme and the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme in New Zealand, the agricultural labour force is rapidly diminishing. While these schemes provide valuable income and skills, they also contribute to a loss of productive labour in rural areas, disrupt family farming systems, and limit the transfer of agricultural knowledge between generations. This trend poses serious challenges to long-term food security and the vitality of rural communities. Despite these challenges, youth remain an untapped resource with the potential to revitalize agriculture through innovation, digital technology, and climate-smart practices.

However, barriers such as limited access to land, finance, markets, and training continue to deter youth from pursuing careers in agriculture. Strengthening agricultural education and vocational training—both formal and informal—is essential to equip young people with the skills, confidence, and opportunities they need to see agriculture as a viable and rewarding livelihood. Promoting youth involvement also addresses issues of unemployment and social inclusion, while fostering entrepreneurship, resilience, and the intergenerational transfer of knowledge. A deliberate focus on youth in agricultural policy and programming, including dedicated investment in agricultural training institutions, mentorship programs, and rural development initiatives, can transform agriculture into a more attractive, inclusive, and sustainable sector.

2 OPSP VISION, GOAL AND OUTCOMES

2.1 Vision Statement

The Government of Vanuatu envisions a future wherein the nation's agricultural food and cash crop sectors are managed sustainably and profitably, thereby contributing to the overall sustainable development and well-being of all citizens by the year 2030.

2.2 Goal Statement³

“A revitalized (primary) productive sector through strengthened resilient, and sustainable agri⁴ production, supports economic growth and food security, appropriate use of natural resources, and gender equity and inclusion of youth and vulnerable groups”

2.3 SDG and NSDP Alignment

Table 6 below highlights the linkages between SDG Goals and NSDP Objectives with the OPSP Outcomes:

Table 6 - OPSP Linkage with SDG Goals and NSDP Objectives

SDG Goal/NSDP Objective	Description	Linked OPSP Outcome
SDG 1: No poverty	Eradicating poverty in all forms	Development Outcome 1: Market and Commodity Production (enhancing income generation)
SDG 2: Zero hunger	Ending hunger, food security, improved nutrition	Development Outcome 3: Food Security (sustainable staple food production)
SDG 3: Good health & wellbeing	Ensuring healthy lives	Development Outcome 2: Quality and Safety (food safety standards)
SDG 5: Gender Equality	Empowering women and girls	Development Outcome 5: Governance (gender mainstreaming)
SDG 10: Reduced inequalities	Reducing inequalities	Development Outcome 5: Inclusion Framework (youth/PWD inclusion)
SDG 14: Life below water	Sustainable marine resources	Development Outcome 4: Environmental Management (sustainable fisheries)
SDG 15: Life on land	Sustainable land ecosystems	Development Outcome 4: Climate Change Management (forest conservation)
NSDP Economy Pillar Goal 2	Sustainable productive sectors	All 5 OPSP Outcomes (cross-cutting alignment)
NSDP Environment Pillar Goal 4	Climate change resilience	Development Outcome 4: DRR Management
NSDP Society Pillar Goal 5	Gender equality	Development Outcome 5: Gender Equity

³ Suggested from 3 policy goals originally used under OPSP 2012-2017

⁴ With Agri production all sectors of MALFB (thus forestry and livestock produce) and fisheries are included

Additionally, key linkages shown in policy documents include:

1. Direct NSDP-OPSP alignment through Annex 1
2. SDG 5/NSDP Gender Equality explicitly referenced for women's empowerment in agriculture
3. Climate resilience (SDG 13/NSDP Environment) embedded in Outcome 4's climate-smart practices
4. Food security (SDG 2) directly corresponds to Outcome 3's focus on nutrition
5. Economic growth (NSDP Economy) ties to all outcomes through production/value chains

The policy hierarchy diagram (Figure 2) explicitly shows NSDP goals 1-3,10,14-15 as foundational to sector policies, with implementation monitored through 196 NSDP indicators. Gender equality (SDG 5) is repeatedly emphasized as cross-cutting

2.4 Development Outcomes

The initial development outcomes, derived from the original OPSP, have been streamlined from eight to five to enhance structural clarity. These five overarching outcomes are integral to the realization of the National Sustainable Development Plan's objectives. Furthermore, they serve as guiding principles for the formulation of Corporate and Business Plans within the Ministry, thereby ensuring a cohesive and integrated process for planning, monitoring, and evaluation.

The OPSP aspires to impact target sectors and beneficiaries by addressing the following outcomes:

Development Outcome 1:	Commodity Production and Market access
Development Outcome 2:	Quality and Safety
Development Outcome 3:	Food Security
Development Outcome 4:	Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management
Development Outcome 5:	Governance, Institution and Inclusion Framework

2.4.1 OPSP: MALFB Limits of Responsibility

The outcomes, including their objectives, outputs and indicators, correspond to the expectations of Vanuatu, as articulated in the OPSP, NSDP, and other cross-sectoral policies. This does not suggest that the objectives and outputs in the OPSP are the exclusive responsibility of the MALFB. Rather, they require a multi-sectoral collaboration among all Ministries and stakeholders involved. For MALFB, this refers to the activities specified in its Corporate Plan, which aim to enhance and contribute to the outcomes, objectives, and outputs defined in the Corporate Plan.

2.5 Outcomes Justification

Contemporary discourse increasingly emphasizes a more holistic understanding of wellbeing, extending beyond conventional economic metrics employed over the preceding century. Within the context of Vanuatu, this signifies a paradigm shift in national development, one that seeks to firmly integrate the enduring Melanesian values of social responsibility. These values are rooted in the customary ownership of land and resources, the application of traditional ecological knowledge for resource management and the safeguarding of community physical wellbeing, and the preservation of the diverse linguistic and cultural heritage across the archipelago. A characteristic outcome of this traditional societal structure is a divergence from a singular pursuit of wealth accumulation as the primary driver of progress. Consequently, the inherent principles of a capitalist model, focused on generating ever-increasing surpluses for market exchange, are not intrinsically embedded within this cultural framework. While this is evolving due to

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factors such as increased participation in wage employment in urban centres and overseas, and the perceived benefits of supplying to processing industries through enhanced monetary incomes, island communities possess an inherent understanding of the finite nature of natural resources and the imperative for their responsible stewardship.

The critical domain of achieving nutrition and food security represents another area of potential for designation as a distinct development outcome. This area has gained considerable prominence due to increasing food scarcity in certain Pacific Island nations, coupled with the escalating prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) linked to evolving work patterns, particularly in agriculture, increased food importation, and elevated consumption of alcohol and tobacco. This crucial focus is comprehensively addressed within the National Sustainable Development Plan, notably under the goal of 'Environment 1: A nation that ensures our food and nutrition security needs are adequately met for all people through increasing sustainable food production systems and improving household production.'

A third area warranting consideration as a separate development outcome is the enhancement of access to finance and financial inclusion. This remains a persistent challenge for sectoral development, despite various interventions implemented over the past decade. These initiatives have included the establishment of a dedicated agricultural development financial institution, the expansion and strengthening of the cooperative movement as a mechanism for savings mobilization and capital pooling, the subsequent challenges faced by some of these cooperative structures, and the strategic investment by the national provident fund into the productive sector. Notwithstanding these efforts, access to credit facilities remains largely unattainable for the majority of Vanuatu citizens, particularly women, and a significant proportion lack access to formal banking services. The Vanuatu 2016 Mini Census indicated that only 49,037 adults aged 15 years and over (31% of the total population) had bank accounts, with women constituting 26,985 (40%) of this figure. Additionally, 14,187 adults aged 15 years and over (9% of the total) had access to semi-formal financial services. Consequently, approximately 60% of ni-Vanuatu adults, predominantly women, lacked access to a bank account. Notably, women's savings are more often reinvested in household improvements, family welfare, and agricultural activities. In response to these findings, the government has focused on improving the regulatory environment of the financial sector to bolster confidence, and the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu has prioritized increasing financial sector access for Ni-Van citizens.

Furthermore, the overarching goal is the integrated and sustainable management of Vanuatu's agricultural resources. This management aims to provide food, enhance incomes, and contribute to environmental and social services, ultimately improving the well-being of the population. The achievement of this goal is contingent upon the establishment of gender equality and the empowerment of skilled and knowledgeable women, with equitable access to productive resources.

3 DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES

3.1 DEVELOPMENT OUTCOME 1: Commodity Production and Market Access

3.1.1 Outcome Statement

Increased productivity and quality of sustainably produced and marketed agricultural key commodities, improved market access for producers and value addition, aiming to enhance income generation and contribute to economic growth

3.1.2 Outcome Indicator(s)

Outcome Indicator 1.1

Outcome Indicator	Means/Sources of Verification	Reason for Selection
Percentage share of the primary agriculture sector (including crops, livestock, forestry, and fisheries products) in Vanuatu's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Official GDP statistics published annually by the Vanuatu National Statistics Office (VNSO). Sector-specific economic data collected and reported by the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu (RBV). National accounts data compiled by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management. 	This is a key macroeconomic indicator that reflects the overall importance and performance of the primary agriculture sector in the national economy. An increasing or sustained high contribution to GDP suggests that the sector is vibrant and a significant driver of economic activity and income generation at the national level. While the initial outcome statement focuses on household and community income, a strong contribution to GDP provides a broader indication of the sector's success and its capacity to support livelihoods.

Outcome Indicator 1.2

Outcome Indicator	Means/Sources of Verification	Reason for Selection
Percentage increase in the average annual income of households engaged in targeted agricultural, forestry, fisheries, and livestock value chains.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Household income surveys conducted by the Vanuatu National Statistics Office (VNSO) or project-specific surveys. Farm-level record keeping, and financial data collected from participating households. Analysis of sales data and market transaction records. 	This indicator directly measures the achievement of the overarching outcome statement focused on increased income for households. It captures the impact of the various key propositions on the financial well-being of the target beneficiaries.

Outcome Indicator 1.3

Outcome Indicator	Means/Sources of Verification	Reason for Selection
Value of sales of processed and value-added agricultural, forestry, fisheries, and livestock products as a percentage of total sales in these sectors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data on sales of processed goods collected from businesses and cooperatives involved in value addition. Export statistics from the Department of Customs and Inland Revenue. Market surveys and value chain analyses tracking the proportion of 	This indicator reflects the success of efforts to enhance value addition, a key proposition for increasing income and accessing niche markets. It moves beyond simply measuring production volume to assess the sophistication and profitability of the output.

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	processed versus raw commodities sold.	
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Outcome Indicator 1.4

Outcome Indicator	Means/Sources of Verification	Reason for Selection
Number of primary producer groups (including women, youth, and vulnerable groups) with established and functional linkages to markets (e.g., through contracts, cooperatives, direct sales to tourism sector).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records of formal agreements and contracts between producer groups and market actors. Membership data and operational records of agricultural cooperatives and marketing associations. Surveys of tourism operators and local processors regarding their sourcing from local producer groups. 	This indicator addresses the key propositions related to improved market access and inclusive participation. Establishing strong market linkages is crucial for ensuring stable demand and fair returns for producers, particularly marginalized groups.

Outcome Indicator 1.5

Outcome Indicator	Means/Sources of Verification	Reason for Selection
Adoption rate of sustainable production practices (e.g., climate-smart agriculture, sustainable forestry, responsible fishing) among targeted producers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surveys of producers on their adoption of specific sustainable practices promoted by MALFB sub-programs. Field assessments and audits to verify the implementation of sustainable techniques. Data on the uptake of training and technical assistance related to sustainable production. 	This indicator aligns with the key proposition of promoting sustainable production for long-term income generation and environmental protection. It ensures that increased income is not achieved at the expense of natural resources and resilience.

3.1.3 Priority Areas for Development Outcome Objectives

Given the challenges that Vanuatu commodity production and market access faced in Vanuatu, the following priority areas are vital for the development of the objectives under the DO1:

The Foundational Role of Customary Land and Traditional Economy

Ni-Vanuatu livelihoods are deeply rooted in communal access to natural resources, fostering self-reliance and cultural identity. Customary land provides essential needs and underpins a socio-economic system prioritizing food security and reciprocal obligations over purely market-driven principles.

Overcoming Supply-Side Constraints for Value Addition and Market Development

Supply-side limitations across agriculture, livestock, forestry, and fisheries hinder processing, value addition, and market development.

Strategic Production Focusing on Comparative Advantages and Smallholders

Production strategies should prioritize agricultural products with comparative advantages or niche market potential and focus on improving production and productivity within the smallholder sub-sector.

Challenges Posed by Population Growth and Labor Migration

Urbanization, offshore labour migration, and high population growth rates will significantly challenge existing farming systems to meet food demands with a shrinking agricultural workforce, necessitating increased productivity and better resource management.

Stimulating Smallholder Commercialization through Market Access

Encouraging smallholder commercialization necessitates accessible markets and consistent financial benefits, requiring improvements in domestic and international market linkages. The success of the kava market highlights the impact of demand and support services. Duty-free trade agreements facilitate a significant portion of Vanuatu's exports.

Enhancing Market Intelligence and Agribusiness Capacity

Improved market information and promotion are vital for market expansion. The limited capacity of local agribusinesses necessitates public sector support in market intelligence and capacity development to effectively connect producers with markets.

The Role of Intermediaries and Branding for Market Access

Intermediary organizations are crucial for marketing certified products from smallholders. Quality assurance and branding are important for building market share. A strong domestic market can buffer against international market volatility.

Balancing Domestic and Export Market Development

A revised approach recognizes the potential of strengthening domestic markets for traditional foods alongside pursuing export opportunities. Improving municipal markets and supplying the tourism sector are key near-term priorities before a comprehensive export strategy. Vanuatu's reliance on limited primary exports underscores the need for value addition to mitigate vulnerability to global price fluctuations.

Leveraging Niche Products and Addressing Export Requirements

Certifying niche products can enhance market access and secure price premiums. Meeting international SPS and food safety standards remains a challenge, but government agencies tasked with supporting producers in this area, such as the Vanuatu Bureau of Standards, are making progress. International fisheries exports require coordinated efforts in traceability and regulatory oversight.

The Public Good of Market Linkages and the Role of the Private Sector

Supporting market linkages for smallholders is a public good due to limited private sector capacity. Market-smart subsidies, if considered, should avoid distorting private sector activity, as traders are essential for farmers' market access. Maritime infrastructure and shipping subsidies play a role in connecting isolated communities.

Policies for Improved Welfare and Competitiveness

Enhancing household welfare and food security requires policies promoting import substitution and viable exports within a liberalized global market. Urbanization provides growing domestic markets for local produce.

Investments in Infrastructure and Market Facilities

Initiatives have improved infrastructure and market facilities, with municipal marketplaces playing a significant role. Women are key actors in domestic marketing and should lead future market facility development planning.

Onshore Processing and Value Addition for Agricultural Growth

Agricultural sector growth requires increased productivity, a dynamic trade sector, and incentives for value addition to enhance profitability and incomes. Building on traditional food systems for value-added products can ensure both subsistence security and economic growth.

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Targeted Support for Market Chain Enterprises

Supporting agri-processors and marketing enterprises is crucial for "pulling" products through the value chain. Value addition requires careful market and cost-benefit analysis.

The Importance of Product Certification and Intellectual Property Rights

Organic and fair-trade certification can offer price premiums, but cost-benefit analysis is essential. The government recognizes that product certification should be private sector-driven, with legislative support. Effective Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) legislation is crucial for fostering innovation and niche product development.

Investment in Rural Infrastructure for Enhanced Productivity and Market Access

Inadequate infrastructure poses a major constraint. The government's Vanuatu Infrastructure Strategic Investment Plan 2015-2024 (VISIP) outlines prioritized infrastructure investments to improve connectivity, reduce costs, and support rural enterprises.

3.1.4 DO1 Objectives

Policy Objective 1.1:	Enhance the productivity and quality of priority agricultural, forestry, fisheries, and livestock commodities for market and trade through sustainable (and climate smart) technologies, practices, and easy access to viable inputs to ensure long-term income generation and resilience to environmental and climate shocks		
Proposed Outputs:	Output	Description	KPI
	1.1.1	Increased sustainable production of priority commodities for market	% increase in average farm-production of major selected cash crops (e.g., kava, coconut, cocoa, beef, poultry, eggs, sandalwood, commercial timber trees etc.)
	1.1.2	Increased volume of sustainably certified products / have number of farms producing according to organic standards	Volume of agricultural products certified as sustainable (e.g., organic, fair trade).
	1.1.3	Increased adoption of proven sustainable climate-resilient agricultural practices.	Percentage of farmers adopting climate-resilient agricultural practices (e.g., conservation agriculture, agroforestry).
	1.1.4	Reduced greenhouse gas emissions and increased GHG mitigation from agricultural activities.	Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the agriculture sector (tons of CO2 equivalent).
	1.1.5	Improved quality grades for commodities reaching the market	Percentage of commodities meeting specified quality standards

Policy Objective 1.2:	Strengthen market linkages and access for producers of agricultural, forestry, fisheries, and livestock products to local, national, and international markets.		
Proposed Outputs:	Output	Description	KPI
	1.2.1	Increased number of producers accessing markets directly. Increased number of markets available for producers	Number of markets or aggregators available to farmers.

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	1.2.2	Increased organization of smallholders/ agri-producers through product groups to improve market engagement and access	Number of registered area or island product group/ cooperatives selling agri-produce
	1.2.3	Reduced transportation costs for producers.	Percentage reduction in average transportation costs for producers in remote areas.

Policy Objective 1.3:	Promote value addition and diversification of agricultural, forestry, fisheries, and livestock commodities through processing, packaging, and branding initiatives to increase their market value and generate higher incomes for producers.		
Proposed Outputs:	Output	Description	KPI
	1.3.1	Increased number of value-added products available in the market.	Number of new value-added agricultural products developed and marketed.
	1.3.2	Higher prices realized for value-added products compared to raw commodities.	Average price premium for value-added products compared to raw commodities (percentage).

Policy Objective 1.4:	Improve infrastructure and the enabling environment (including policies, regulations, and access to finance) to support increased market and commodity production and income generation in the agricultural production sector.		
Proposed Outputs:	Output	Description	KPI
	1.4.1	Improved rural road networks.	Kilometres of rural roads upgraded, wharves, shipping routes, internet connectivity and cold chain constructed
	1.4.2	Access to credit and financial services for agri-producers.	Number of producers accessing credit and financial services.
	1.4.3	Streamlined regulations related to agricultural trade.	Number of days required to obtain necessary permits for agricultural trade/ number of agri-producers and organizations registered

Policy Objective 1.6:	Facilitate equitable access to resources, markets, and opportunities with special focus on women, youth, and people with disabilities in the market and commodity production of agricultural, forestry, fisheries, and livestock products to enhance their income generation.		
Proposed Outputs:	Output	Description	KPI
	1.6.1	Increased participation of women, youth, and vulnerable groups in agricultural activities.	Percentage of women, youth, and vulnerable groups participating in agricultural programs.
	1.6.2	Improved access to credit, and training.	Value of loans disbursed to women, youth, and people with disabilities in the agriculture sector.

3.2 DEVELOPMENT OUTCOME 2: Quality and Safety

3.2.1 Outcome Statement

Enhanced quality and safety of agricultural products through strengthened national quality standards, improved capacity for producers and processors to adhere to these standards, and robust inspection and certification systems.

3.2.2 Outcome Indicator(s)

Outcome Indicator 2.1

Outcome Indicator	Means/Sources of Verification	Reason for Selection
Percentage increase in the volume of agricultural, forestry, fisheries, and livestock products certified to meet national or international quality and safety standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records of certifications issued by relevant certification bodies (e.g., organic certification agencies, national standards bodies). Data on the volume of certified products sold in domestic and export markets, collected from producers, processors, and exporters. Audits and reports from inspection agencies verifying compliance with standards. 	This indicator directly measures the outcome statement's focus on increased quality and safety. Certification provides verifiable evidence that products meet specific standards, demonstrating progress in improving quality.

Outcome Indicator 2.2

Outcome Indicator	Means/Sources of Verification	Reason for Selection
Number of food safety incidents (e.g., outbreaks of foodborne illness, recalls of contaminated products) per capita.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data from the Ministry of Health on reported cases of foodborne illness. Records of product recalls issued by regulatory authorities. Reports from food safety surveillance systems. 	This indicator provides a negative measure of safety. A decrease in the number of food safety incidents indicates an improvement in the overall safety of the food supply, reflecting the impact of interventions to improve handling and production practices.

Outcome Indicator 2.3

Outcome Indicator	Means/Sources of Verification	Reason for Selection
Percentage of producers, processors, and handlers trained and implementing improved quality assurance and food safety practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records of training programs conducted, including the number of participants. Surveys and audits of producers, processors, and handlers to assess the adoption of trained practices. Documentation of technical assistance provided and its impact on production processes. 	This indicator reflects the effectiveness of efforts to build capacity, a key proposition for achieving enhanced quality and safety. It measures the extent to which improved practices are being implemented on the ground.

Outcome Indicator 2.4

Outcome Indicator	Means/Sources of Verification	Reason for Selection
Number of functional systems for inspection, certification, and traceability established and operational.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documentation of the establishment and operational status of inspection units, certification bodies, and traceability systems. 	This indicator measures the development of the necessary infrastructure and regulatory framework, which are essential for ensuring and maintaining quality and

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports on the number of inspections conducted, certifications issued, and products traced. • Assessments of the effectiveness and efficiency of these systems. 	safety. It addresses the key proposition related to establishing these systems.
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Outcome Indicator 2.5

Outcome Indicator	Means/Sources of Verification	Reason for Selection
Number of pest and disease outbreaks affecting key agricultural, forestry, and livestock commodities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data from the Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity (DALFFB) on reported pest and disease outbreaks. • Records of surveillance and monitoring activities. • Reports on the effectiveness of pest and disease control measures. 	This indicator directly relates to the "Controlled environment that thrives to keep agri-production safe from pest and diseases" proposition. A decrease in outbreaks indicates improved safety of agri-production, contributing to both quality and volume of production.

3.2.3 Priority areas for Development Outcome 2 Objectives

The Growing Importance and Challenges of Quality and Safety Standards

Quality assurance and certification are vital marketing tools and increasingly necessary for accessing processed product markets. Meeting stringent quality, consistency, SPS, and food safety standards presents a significant challenge, imposing financial burdens on the private sector and hindering competitiveness. Policy priorities include mitigating these costs and establishing a clear SPS and food safety framework with defined roles.

The Evolution of Industry Standards Beyond Product Safety

While managing risks related to product safety and quality remains central to industry standards, there is a growing emphasis on process-based standards encompassing environmental, social, and economic sustainability, fair trade practices, and guarantees of origin. These quality standards can potentially open niche markets and generate improved income.

Quality, Safety, and Consistency as Cornerstones of Agribusiness Success

Compromise on quality, safety, and consistent supply is no longer viable for successful agribusiness development. Vanuatu processors/exporters recognize the value of appellations of origin based on strict standards as promotional tools. Adhering to high-quality standards is fundamental for accessing niche markets for single-origin and organic commodities, with certifications serving as a complement to, not a substitute for, quality. Obtaining certification requires robust internal controls and detailed production information, posing a challenge in establishing and maintaining credible databases.

The Increasing Significance of Traceability

Beyond certified organic production, good traceability is becoming increasingly crucial for accessing diverse markets. Investments in product and process upgrades and certification will be essential for participating in more demanding markets.

Fragmentation of the Legal and Regulatory Environment for Food

The current legal and regulatory framework for food in Vanuatu is fragmented, with separate legislation and enforcement structures for meat, fish, and general food. This can lead to inefficiencies,

inconsistencies, and a dilution of limited resources, suggesting the potential for gains through clearer roles and improved stakeholder coordination.

Multiplicity of Actors in Quality Assurance and Certification

Numerous government departments, statutory boards, exporting purchasers, and smallholder organizations are involved in the development and application of the limited existing commodity standards for food and agricultural products.

The Need for Private Sector-Driven Standards Development

To drive productive sector development through high-value products and exports, the development, promotion, monitoring, and certification of a range of agricultural produce standards will be necessary. Specific commodity standards should be driven by private sector industry based on market demands and international rules like HACCP. Clear definition of agency roles is again emphasized. The national codex committee plays a vital role in standards development and coordinating food regulation concerns. Increased food imports necessitate stronger monitoring of compliance with existing food safety and labelling legislation, requiring enhanced government capacity.

Alignment with International Standards

Standards should be based on WTO-compliant international guidelines developed by bodies such as Codex and the IPPC, including SPS and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) measures.

The Respective Roles of the Private and Public Sectors in Standards

Experience indicates that private sector industries should primarily be responsible for setting standards and monitoring compliance, with the government facilitating legislation and regulations. The public sector also has a crucial role in providing technical assistance to the private sector to meet these standards, with investments in training (e.g., HACCP) and financial support yielding significant benefits.

3.2.4 DO2 Objectives

Policy Objective 2.1:	Strengthen national quality standards and regulatory frameworks for agricultural, forestry, fisheries, and livestock products to ensure food safety and meet market requirements.		
Proposed Outputs:	Output	Description	KPI
	2.1.1	Updated and enforced national quality standards.	Number of updated national quality standards for agricultural products.
	2.1.2	Increased compliance with international food safety standards.	Percentage of domestic producers/ Volume of food produce - complying with national quality standards.

Policy Objective 2.2:	Enhance the capacity of producers and processors to implement and adhere to quality assurance and food safety standards throughout the value chain.		
Proposed Outputs:	Output	Description	KPI
	2.2.1	Increased number of trained producers and processors.	Number of producers and processors trained in quality assurance and food safety.
	2.2.2	Improved infrastructure for quality control.	Number of food processing facilities meeting required standards.

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Policy Objective 2.3:	Establish and strengthen inspection, certification (including organic and sustainable certifications relevant to Vanuatu), and traceability systems for agricultural, forestry, fisheries, and livestock products to guarantee quality and safety for consumers and facilitate trade.		
Proposed Outputs:	Output	Description	KPI
	2.3.1	Functional inspection and certification systems.	Number of inspections conducted on agricultural products. Number of accredited certification systems
	2.3.2	Traceability systems implemented for key commodities.	Number and percentage of products that are successfully traced back to their origin

Policy Objective 2.4:	Promote producer and consumer awareness and education on food quality and safety standards to drive supply and demand for safer and higher-quality products.		
Proposed Outputs:	Output	Description	KPI
	2.4.1	Increased consumer knowledge of food safety standards.	Percentage of consumers/producers aware of food safety standards.
	2.4.2	Higher demand/supply for certified safe products.	Increase in sales of certified safe agricultural products.

Policy Objective 2.5:	Improved capacity to prevent, detect, manage, respond to and recover from agricultural pest and disease outbreaks		
Proposed Outputs:	Output	Description	KPI
	2.4.1	Increased knowledge on biosecurity safety standards and measures to prevent and control pest and disease outbreaks by stakeholders involved in agri-production.	Percentage of agri-producers aware of biosecurity safety standards.
	2.4.2	Increased capacity to control agricultural pest and disease outbreaks	Reduced number of agri-products affected by plaques and diseases / Increase in number of pest and disease containment measures in place

3.3 DEVELOPMENT OUTCOME 3: Food Security

3.3.1 Outcome Statement

Enhanced food security for all households in Vanuatu through increased sustainable production of diverse staple foods, improved access to affordable and nutritious food, and strengthened resilience of food systems to climate change and natural disasters.

3.3.2 Outcome Indicator(s)

Outcome Indicator 3.1

Outcome Indicator	Means/Sources of Verification	Reason for Selection
Average Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Household surveys conducted by the Vanuatu National Statistics 	This indicator directly measures the outcome statement's focus on "diverse, nutritious, and culturally appropriate

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	<p>Office (VNSO) or other relevant agencies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food consumption surveys as part of nutrition programs or food security assessments. • Community-level monitoring of food availability and consumption patterns. 	locally sourced food." The HDDS reflects the variety of food groups consumed by a household, which is a strong proxy for diet quality and nutritional adequacy.
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Outcome Indicator 3.2

Outcome Indicator	Means/Sources of Verification	Reason for Selection
Percentage of households with consistent access to sufficient food, disaggregated by location (urban/rural/remote islands) and vulnerability status.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food security surveys using tools like the Household Food Insecurity Access Scale (HFIAS). • Regular monitoring of food prices, market access, and household expenditure on food. • 	This indicator measures the core of food security: consistent access to sufficient food. Disaggregation by location and vulnerability status allows for a targeted assessment of whether the program is reaching those most in need, as highlighted in the key proposition regarding access to affordable food for vulnerable populations.

Outcome Indicator 3.3

Outcome Indicator	Means/Sources of Verification	Reason for Selection
Volume of production of targeted staple food crops (taro, yam, cassava, banana) and other key food groups (vegetables, fruits, protein sources) per capita.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural production data from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. • National agricultural surveys and crop yield assessments. • Data from farmer cooperatives and producer organizations. 	This indicator measures the increase in sustainable production of staple foods, a key proposition for achieving food security. Per capita measurement accounts for population changes and provides a clearer picture of food availability relative to need.

Outcome Indicator 3.4

Outcome Indicator	Means/Sources of Verification	Reason for Selection
Percentage reduction in post-harvest losses of key food commodities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studies and assessments of post-harvest loss rates at different stages of the value chain (harvest, storage, transport, marketing). • Data on the adoption of improved post-harvest handling and storage technologies. • Monitoring of waste generated at markets and processing facilities. 	This indicator addresses the key proposition related to reducing post-harvest losses. Reducing losses increases the amount of food available for consumption without requiring additional production, directly contributing to food security.

Outcome Indicator 3.5

Outcome Indicator	Means/Sources of Verification	Reason for Selection
Number of communities with functional food storage and preservation facilities and/or traditional preservation techniques in use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys of communities to assess the availability and use of food storage and preservation facilities. • Documentation of traditional preservation methods and their application. • Reports from projects focused on improving food storage and preservation infrastructure. 	This indicator measures the strengthening of resilience of food systems, another key proposition. Improved storage and preservation, including traditional techniques, helps communities to better withstand climate change impacts and natural disasters, ensuring more stable food supplies.

3.3.3 Priority areas for Development Outcome 3 objectives:

Agriculture as the Optimal Pathway for Food Security and Livelihoods

Revitalizing the agriculture sector, with a focus on strengthening local food production and marketing systems for products where Vanuatu holds a comparative advantage, remains the most effective strategy for ensuring food security and enhancing livelihoods.

Addressing Gender Disparities in Agricultural Access

International evidence highlights significant barriers faced by women in accessing agricultural inputs and services. Increasing women's access to training, extension, value chains, inputs, finance, and productive resources is crucial for boosting overall production and productivity.

Engagement of Youth in Agriculture

To revitalize agriculture in Vanuatu, targeted investment in youth-focused policies, training, and rural development is essential. Enhancing access to land, finance, and education will empower youth to see agriculture as a viable and rewarding livelihood.

Focusing on Smallholder Production and Productivity

Given the limited potential for large plantations and investment capital, achieving necessary production volumes will primarily rely on enhancing smallholder production and productivity.

The Vital Role of Adaptive Agricultural Research and Extension

Increased investment in producer-oriented adaptive agricultural research and extension is essential for supporting competitive smallholder agricultural enterprises. Recognizing the sector's importance for food security and livelihoods, agricultural research and extension is a public good warranting prioritized government support.

The Enduring Importance of Traditional Farming and Biosecurity

Subsistence food production and artisanal fishing remain fundamental to food security and provide resilience against economic and natural shocks. A well-functioning biosecurity service is crucial for protecting against exotic pests and diseases.

Potential in the Livestock Sector for Domestic Markets

The livestock sector holds considerable potential to increase the production and productivity of small animals (pigs and poultry) for domestic markets and rural income generation through the commercialization of smallholder enterprises, as outlined in the National Livestock Development Policy. This requires improved input supply, veterinary support, and targeted extension. Raising beef production and productivity in both smallholder and large estates remains a priority through genetic improvement, disease reduction, and improved pasture management. Animal welfare and water supply are key issues in the smallholder sector. Government restocking programs and provincial breeding centres are underway but require further scaling. Improved monitoring of domestic livestock consumption and enhanced selling facilities are needed.

Sustainable Forest Management and Non-Timber Forest Products

The Vanuatu Forestry Policy 2013-2023 prioritizes sustainable forest management through community participation and the economic development of wood and non-timber forest products like tamanu oil and nangai nuts. The ongoing national forest inventory will inform land use and sustainable yield estimates. National payments for carbon sequestration through REDD+ present a potential opportunity. Revised

forestry legislation aims to differentiate planted forest timber rights from land ownership. Despite this, commercial forest activity remains low, with most woodlots grown for family use and low uptake of rights registration. Certain timber resources face sustained pressure.

Sustainable Fisheries Management for Food Security and Market Access

The Vanuatu National Fisheries Sector Policy 2016-2031 emphasizes sustainable management, conservation, and development. Inshore fisheries have limited growth potential. Fish aggregating devices (FADs) enhance community access to seafood and improved electronic data capture supports sustainability goals and market access. With some export commodities overfished, increasing fish supplies will likely depend on tuna landings and aquaculture development.

Valuing Traditional Systems in the Pursuit of Productivity

The benefits of traditional farming and fishing systems, including a level of subsistence security, should not be underestimated in the drive for greater productivity. A key challenge is developing pathways for commercializing these systems without compromising social cohesion and food security.

Addressing Productivity Challenges for Small Farmers

Small farmers face significant challenges in increasing productivity, particularly under organic cultivation. Greater focus is needed on crop agronomic management, soil nutrient maintenance, and pest and disease management for long-term sustainable yields. Traditional fallow practices need re-examination in the face of land scarcity and changing climate patterns, necessitating active compost management and the use of soil-covering and nutrient-returning tree species. Labour productivity must be considered, with return-to-effort being a key motivator. Ongoing adaptive research with improved germplasm and appropriate technology development is critical, in collaboration with regional agricultural organizations. Testing and adapting germplasm and innovative techniques are crucial for maintaining food security during extended dry seasons.

Improving the Delivery of Agricultural Extension Services

Enhancing the delivery of extension services to small farmers remains a key challenge, requiring diverse arrangements of public and private actors with varied financing and provision models and information from multiple sources.

Integrating Gender Analysis for Enhanced Participation

A rigorous gender analysis across the agriculture and fisheries sectors will identify women's roles and opportunities for increased engagement and support in areas like fruit and vegetable farming and coconut product processing.

Addressing Labor Constraints and Land Availability

Traditional farming systems are labour-intensive with limited mechanization, primarily relying on family labour. Youth migration to urban centres and overseas seasonal work programs exacerbate labour constraints in rural areas. Declining soil fertility and limited availability of productive land due to population density, land tenure issues, and land alienation for other purposes are also significant challenges.

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Adopting a Broad Rural Development Approach

Encouraging stable and productive farming communities requires a comprehensive rural development approach that includes decentralizing non-farm economic activities like tourism to rural areas. Attracting unemployed urban youth back to farming will be difficult due to various factors motivating migration.

3.3.5 DO3 Objectives

Policy Objective 3.1:	Increase the sustainable production and availability of diverse and nutritious food crops, livestock, and fisheries to meet the dietary needs of the population.		
Proposed Outputs:	Output	Description	KPI
	3.1.1	Increased production of staple foods.	Increase in the production volume of key staple foods (tons/year)
	3.1.2	Greater diversity of food crops being cultivated.	Number of different food crops being actively cultivated.

Policy Objective 3.2:	Improve access to affordable and nutritious food for all households, particularly vulnerable populations, through targeted interventions and efficient market systems.		
Proposed Outputs:	Output	Description	KPI
	3.2.1	Reduced locally produced food prices in vulnerable areas.	Average price of key staple foods in remote and vulnerable areas.
	3.2.2	Increase in variety of locally produced economically viable food commodities(healthy) alternatives for heavy imported foods	No of new products developed for local market
	3.2.3	Improved nutritional status of vulnerable populations.	Percentage of children under 5 suffering from malnutrition and stunting in target areas. Decline in number of people below food poverty line

Policy Objective 3.3:	Enhance household resilience to food insecurity through income diversification, social safety nets, and improved food storage and processing at the household and community levels.		
Proposed Outputs:	Output	Description	KPI
	3.3.1	Increased household income from diverse sources.	Average number of income sources per household in target areas. HIES report 2025
	3.3.2	Increase number of HH consuming locally produced food	Average number of HH consuming locally produced food in target areas. HIES report 2025

Policy Objective 3.4:	Reduce food loss and waste across the agricultural value chain, from production to consumption, to improve food availability and resource efficiency.		
Proposed Outputs:	Output	Description	KPI
	3.4.1	Increased availability of locally produced dried/processed food products with improved shelf-life	Number of types of locally produced dried/processed food products

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	3.4.2	Increase in utilization of urban organic (market) waste (for fertilizer/livestock feed)	Quantity of (organic) urban waste collected for agricultural input production
	3.4.3	Increase in utilization of on-farm organic waste and harvest residues (for composting/livestock feed).	Number of farms producing reusing or selling organic waste

3.4 DEVELOPMENT OUTCOME 4: Environment and Climate Change Management

3.4.1 Outcome Statement-

Enhanced environmental sustainability of Vanuatu's agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sectors and increased resilience to the impacts of natural disasters and climate change, contributing to the nation's overall resilience.

This outcome addresses the critical intersection of agriculture, climate change and natural disaster risks, and environmental sustainability. It emphasizes the sustainable management of natural resources, the promotion of climate-smart agricultural practices, and the enhancement of the sector's role in providing environmental services.

3.4.2 Outcome Indicator(s)

Outcome Indicator 4.1

Outcome Indicator	Means/Sources of Verification	Reason for Selection
Percentage of agricultural land under sustainable management practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surveys of farmers and agricultural land users on the adoption of sustainable practices (e.g., agroforestry, conservation agriculture, integrated pest management). Field assessments and audits to verify the implementation of sustainable land management techniques. Data from agricultural extension services on the provision of training and technical assistance related to sustainable practices. 	This indicator directly measures the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices, a key proposition for enhancing environmental sustainability. It focuses on the extent to which these practices are being implemented on the ground.

Outcome Indicator 4.2

Outcome Indicator	Means/Sources of Verification	Reason for Selection
Hectares of forests and other natural habitats effectively conserved and/or restored.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data from the Department of Forestry on protected areas, reforestation efforts, and habitat restoration projects. Satellite imagery and GIS analysis to monitor changes in forest cover and habitat extent. Ecological surveys to assess the health and biodiversity of conserved/restored areas. 	This indicator measures the preservation and restoration of natural habitats, addressing the outcome statement's focus on environmental sustainability and aligning with the proposition concerning sustainable forestry and natural landscape management.

Outcome Indicator 4.3

Outcome Indicator	Means/Sources of Verification	Reason for Selection
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Number of communities with effective disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation plans implemented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation of community-level adaptation plans, including details on implementation status. • Reports from disaster management agencies on the effectiveness of implemented plans during natural disasters. • Surveys of communities to assess their awareness of climate change risks and their capacity to adapt. 	This indicator measures the strengthening of community resilience, a key proposition for adapting to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters. It focuses on the implementation of plans, not just their existence.
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Outcome Indicator 4.4

Outcome Indicator	Means/Sources of Verification	Reason for Selection
Increase in the use of climate-resilient crop varieties and livestock breeds by farmers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data from agricultural research institutions and seed/livestock providers on the distribution and sales of climate-resilient varieties/breeds. • Surveys of farmers on their adoption of these varieties/breeds and their perceived benefits. • Yield data and other performance indicators for climate-resilient varieties/breeds under different climatic conditions. 	This indicator measures a specific adaptation strategy (using climate-resilient varieties/breeds) that directly contributes to both environmental sustainability and increased resilience.

Outcome Indicator 4.5

Outcome Indicator	Means/Sources of Verification	Reason for Selection
Number of projects or initiatives that integrate traditional ecological knowledge into environmental and climate change management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project documents and reports that explicitly describe the integration of traditional ecological knowledge. • Records of consultations and partnerships with local communities and traditional knowledge holders. • Evaluations of the effectiveness of projects that incorporate traditional knowledge. 	This indicator measures the integration of traditional ecological knowledge, a key proposition, into modern approaches.

3.4.3 Priority areas for Development Objective 4 objectives

The Central Role of the Natural Environment

Vanuatu's natural environment is fundamental to food security, livelihoods, and commodity exports, making sustainable management of natural resources, particularly in the face of natural disasters and climate change, critical for sustained growth in the Agricultural Productive Sector.

Extreme Vulnerability to Natural Disasters and Climate Change

Vanuatu is identified as the world's most vulnerable developing country due to its susceptibility to external shocks and limited resilience to withstand and recover from them.

Building Resilience and Adaptive Capacity

The long-term success of Vanuatu's farming, fishing, and food security will be measured by its resilience to both short-term shocks and enduring challenges associated with globalization, energy costs, labour migration, and climate change. Recognizing and empowering women in agriculture will enhance this resilience.

Integrating Environmental Considerations into Development Strategies

Competing demands on the environment and the differentiated impacts of climate change necessitate careful assessment and integration into strategies addressing the Agricultural Productive Sector's development challenges. Policy must prioritize the resilience of food and farming systems, considering biodiversity, skilled labour, and supporting infrastructure for a low-carbon future. The potential of renewable energy sources should also be fully evaluated and utilized.

The Critical Role of Forests in Climate Change Mitigation and Ecosystem Services

Forests play a significant role in mitigating climate change, contributing to biodiversity and essential ecosystem services. However, these resources face continuous threats from agricultural clearing for subsistence farming and cattle grazing, as well as infrastructure and tourism development, and extensive coconut plantations. The imbalance between deforestation and reforestation requires urgent attention and implementation of effective reforestation programs.

Biodiversity Conservation for Ecosystem Services and Resilience

Biodiversity is crucial for essential ecosystem services, including food production and raw materials. Despite its global significance, biodiversity conservation in Vanuatu, both within protected areas and the wider landscape, is weak. While traditional taboos offer a strong foundation for resource management, biodiversity conservation often receives insufficient attention in production landscapes due to limited education, technology, and financial capacity for sustainable practices.

Challenges and Opportunities in Establishing Protected Areas

Establishing marine and terrestrial protected areas is complex due to customary land ownership, requiring community consultation and agreement. Incentives, training, capacity building, awareness programs, and environmental education are necessary to encourage communities to support conservation efforts and adopt sustainable management practices. Community-based management techniques, integrating traditional and modern approaches, and a supportive policy and legal framework are essential. Long-term funding for protected area management remains uncertain.

The Serious Threat of Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing

IUU fishing is a significant global problem that undermines sustainable world fisheries, thriving in areas with weak governance. It exerts unsustainable pressure on fish stocks and marine ecosystems, subverts labour standards, and distorts markets, with a primary cause being a lack of effective flag State control.

IUU Fishing's Detrimental Impact on Conservation and Responsible Fishers

IUU fishing undermines national and regional conservation efforts, hindering progress towards long-term sustainability and responsible fisheries management. It unfairly disadvantages fishers acting responsibly and honestly. Curbing IUU fishing is essential to allow the rebuilding of vulnerable fish stocks under strict management controls.

Government Recognition of the Need to Combat IUU Fishing

The Vanuatu government recognizes the critical need to effectively address IUU fishing to establish long-term, sustainable, and responsible conservation and management arrangements for its fisheries.

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3.4.4 DO4 Objectives

Policy Objective 4.1:	Promote the adoption of climate-smart and environmentally sustainable agricultural, forestry, and fisheries practices that enhance ecosystem health, conserve natural resources, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions (low carbon development).		
Proposed Outputs:	Output	Description	KPI
	4.1.1	Adoption of sustainable and CC resilient farming systems and practices.	Farms applying sustainable production practices.
	4.1.2	Reforestation and rehabilitation/reforestation of vulnerable protection areas to enhance environmental services (water sources and rivers, slope, and soil protection)	Farms applying agro forestry/ reforestation. Number of protection areas replanted/ rehabilitated
	4.1.3	Research-based developed sustainable and climate smart and resilient agricultural production practices and farming systems suitable to Vanuatu	Number of studies and research papers produced. Number of demonstration production plots

Policy Objective 4.2:	Strengthen the resilience of the agriculture sector to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters through improved infrastructure, early warning systems, and adaptive management strategies.		
Proposed Outputs:	Output	Description	KPI
	4.2.1	Improved infrastructure resistant to climate change impacts.	Number of kilometres of climate-resilient infrastructure built or upgraded.
	4.2.2	Increased adoption of resilient farm management practices and species.	Number of farms adopting climate smart practices Resilient cultivars/breeds planted by farmers
	4.2.3	Effective early warning systems in place.	Number of communities with access to effective early warning systems.

Policy Objective 4.3:	Enhance the role of the agriculture sector in providing environmental services, such as watershed protection, biodiversity conservation, and carbon sequestration, through appropriate incentives and management practices.		
Proposed Outputs:	Output	Description	KPI
	4.3.1	Increased forest cover in critical watersheds.	Hectares of forest cover in critical watershed areas.
	4.3.2	Enhanced biodiversity in agricultural landscapes.	Number of native species identified in agricultural landscapes.
	4.3.3	Conservation and sustainable management of forests and unique ecosystems (such as mangroves) to maintain its overall health and biodiversity	% of forest and unique coverage maintained and sustainably managed

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Policy Objective 4.4:	Integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation measures into agricultural development planning and practices at all levels.		
Proposed Outputs:	Output	Description	KPI
	4.4.1	Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation integrated into agricultural development programs.	Number of agricultural development programs that incorporate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation measures.
	4.4.2	Increased awareness of climate change impacts among farmers.	Percentage of farmers aware of climate change impacts and adaptation strategies

3.5 DEVELOPMENT OUTCOME 5: Governance, Institution and Inclusion Framework

3.5.1 Outcome Statement

A well-governed, prioritized, and effectively supported agricultural productive sector in Vanuatu, operating under a stable and coherent policy framework that actively promotes gender equality and the inclusion of youth and people with disabilities.

This outcome focuses on creating an enabling environment for the agriculture sector through clear and consistent policies, strengthened institutional capacity, mainstreaming gender equality and inclusivity, fostering effective partnerships, and improving transparency and accountability.

3.5.2 Outcome Indicator(s)

Outcome Indicator 5.1

Outcome Indicator	Means/Sources of Verification	Reason for Selection
Number of current, new or revised national policies and regulations related to agriculture, forestry, and fisheries that are effectively implemented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Official government records of policy documents, legislation, and implementation plans. Reports from government agencies (e.g., MALFB) on policy implementation progress. Evaluations of policy effectiveness by independent bodies or research institutions. 	This indicator measures the establishment and effective/efficient implementation of policies, a key proposition for a well-governed sector. It focuses on the existence of a stable and coherent policy framework.

Outcome Indicator 5.2

Outcome Indicator	Means/Sources of Verification	Reason for Selection
Percentage increase in the satisfaction rate of stakeholders (including farmers, producers, and community members) with the services provided by MALFB and relevant agencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surveys of stakeholders to assess their satisfaction with services such as agricultural extension, research, and market information. Feedback mechanisms established by MALFB to collect and respond to stakeholder input. Regular stakeholder meetings and consultations, with documented outcomes. 	This indicator measures the effectiveness and efficiency of government service delivery, a key proposition. It captures whether services are demand-driven and tailored to the needs of stakeholders.

Outcome Indicator 5.3

Outcome Indicator	Means/Sources of Verification	Reason for Selection
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Percentage increase in the representation of women, youth, and people with disabilities in decision-making processes related to the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sectors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data on the composition of committees, boards, and other decision-making bodies. • Records of participation in consultations, workshops, and training programs. • Surveys to assess the level of influence and participation of these groups. 	This indicator measures the mainstreaming of gender considerations and the promotion of inclusion, a key proposition. It focuses on ensuring that policies and programs are equitable and empower marginalized groups.
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Outcome Indicator 5.4

Outcome Indicator	Means/Sources of Verification	Reason for Selection
Number of functional partnerships and collaborations established between the Government of Vanuatu and other stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and other agreements between the government and partner organizations. • Joint work plans and reports outlining collaborative activities. • Records of meetings and communications between partners. 	This indicator measures the fostering of effective partnerships, a key proposition for enhancing service delivery and sector development. It focuses on the breadth and depth of collaboration.

Outcome Indicator 5.5

Outcome Indicator	Means/Sources of Verification	Reason for Selection
Number of mechanisms implemented to improve transparency and accountability in the governance of the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sectors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation of implemented mechanisms, such as public disclosure of information, participatory budgeting processes, and independent audits. • Evidence of stakeholder access to information and participation in decision-making. • Reports on the effectiveness of these mechanisms in improving governance. 	This indicator measures improvements in transparency and accountability, a key proposition for ensuring that policies and services are responsive to the needs of all stakeholders.

3.5.3 Priority areas for Development Outcome 5 objectives

Effective Cross-Sector Coordination and Policy Alignment

Successful implementation of the productive sector policy hinges on effective cross-sector communication and coordination among diverse actors. Policy alignment and mainstreaming of business practices are crucial, requiring a balance between necessary policy adjustments and avoiding over-regulation. A shared vision should guide policy coordination across key sectors, supported by timely investments from national and development partner funds.

Researching Optimal Financial Models for Sector Growth

To stimulate growth through adequate resource allocation, research into best-practice financial models to support the productive sector is necessary.

Strong Leadership for Policy Coordination and Implementation

Effective coordination and implementation of policies will require strong leadership from central ministries including Finance and Economic Management, the Prime Minister's Department of Strategic Planning and Aid Coordination (DSPPAC), the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Biosecurity (MALFB), the Ministry of Trade and Commerce (MTC), and the Ministry of Fisheries, Ocean and Maritime Affairs (MFOMA).

Engaging the Private Sector through Working Groups

Coordination with the private sector needs to be strengthened through existing Public/Private Working groups for key commodities like livestock, kava, coconut, and fruits and vegetables.

Enhanced Monitoring and Evaluation for Evidence-Based Investment

Linking to Ministry corporate and departmental business plans provides a clear framework for monitoring progress against the OPSP. The indicator development process aims to clarify data collection needs, facilitated by a focus on information management within Ministries for data-driven decision-making. The monitoring system should establish a clear evidence base to justify investment, be manageable, and build on iterative learning, with all data disaggregated by sex and age.

Enhanced Capacity Building for Public and Private Sector Stakeholders

Strengthening the capacity of both public and private productive sector stakeholders, with a focus on women and youth, is essential for sector growth. Targeted technical training and knowledge development are critical, delivered through extension services and strengthened training institutions. A training needs analysis will inform national assessments and scholarship allocations. Women's increasing role in agriculture requires enhanced access to capacity building.

Government Support for Technical Skills and Entrepreneurship

While agricultural enterprise is primarily private sector-driven, the government should support the acquisition of specific technical skills and on-the-job training. Fostering a culture of entrepreneurship requires support through Vanuatu Agriculture College (VAC) and rural training centres (RTCs) certified by the Vanuatu Qualification Authority (VQA).

Targeted Programs for Young Farmers and Sustainable Agriculture

Young Farmer Development Courses (YFDC) and programs like the Farm Support Association's Thrive aim to promote self-employment in agriculture and sustainable livelihoods for smallholder farmers, including women and youth, enhancing their resilience to various shocks.

Safe working environment:

Ensure that all workplaces of public sector entities engaged in agriculture, livestock, forestry, and related value chains, are free from all forms of violence, exploitation, harassment, and discrimination. This includes integrating gender mainstreaming across all policies, practices, and programs, aligning with the OPSP's emphasis on equitable growth.

Addressing Key Person Dependency through Succession Planning

The relatively small agribusiness community faces sustainability risks due to key person dependency, necessitating timely succession plans with integrated training components, potentially through enterprise-to-enterprise training models.

Prioritizing Entrepreneurship and Business Skills Development

Capacity building in entrepreneurship and business skills requires a priority policy focus, potentially involving formal education curriculum revisions and grassroots initiatives to encourage innovation. Supporting returning seasonal workers and increasing access to tertiary education can foster entrepreneurship while balancing socio-cultural impacts.

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Significant Engagement in Subsistence and Unpaid Family Work

A substantial portion of the working population is engaged in subsistence or unpaid family work, highlighting the importance of the informal sector.

Emphasis on Skills Development for Rural Economic Participation

Given limited formal job opportunities for school leavers, increased emphasis should be placed on basic education, life skills, technical and vocational training, and skills for rural development to enhance youth productivity in the village economy. Policy will focus on demand-driven, competency-based training programs, including apprenticeships and skills accreditation schemes.

3.5.4 DO5 Objectives

Policy Objective 5.1:	Develop and implement a stable, coherent, and evidence-based policy and regulatory framework for the agriculture sector that prioritizes productive activities and fosters investment.		
Proposed Outputs:	Output	Description	KPI
	5.1.1	A clearly defined and consistently applied policy and regulatory framework.	Number of policies implemented and regulations enforced.
	5.1.2	Increased investment in the agriculture sector.	Total investment in the agriculture sector (USD/VUV).

Policy Objective 5.2:	Strengthen the capacity and coordination of government agencies to deliver efficient, effective, and demand-driven services (including extension, research, infrastructure, and market support) to the primary production sector.		
Proposed Outputs:	Output	Description	KPI
	5.2.1	Improved service delivery by government agencies.	Percentage of farmers satisfied with government services. Number of farmers participating in MALFB activities.
	5.2.2	Enhanced coordination between different agencies.	Number of joint initiatives between different government agencies.

Policy Objective 5.3:	Mainstream gender equality and the inclusion of youth and vulnerable groups across all agricultural policies, programs, and service delivery mechanisms to ensure equitable access to resources and opportunities.		
Proposed Outputs:	Output	Description	KPI
	5.3.1	Gender-responsive policies and programs.	Number of agricultural policies and programs that are gender responsive.
	5.3.2	Increased participation of women, youth and people with disabilities in MALFB activities.	Percentage of woman, youth and people with disabilities participating in MALFB sub-programs.
	5.3.3	Increased participation of small scale agri-producers (define the concept of SME's farms)	Percentage of small scale agri-producers

Policy Objective 5.4:	Foster effective partnerships and collaboration between government, private sector, civil society organizations, and research institutions to enhance service delivery and support the development of the agricultural productive sector.		
Proposed Outputs:	Output	Description	KPI

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	5.4.1	Increased collaboration between different stakeholders.	Number of partnerships established between government, SOEs, private sector, civil society organizations, and research institutions.
	5.4.2	Enhanced service delivery through partnerships.	Number of farmers reached through collaborative initiatives.

Policy Objective 5.5:	Improve sector governance through transparent and accountable processes, stakeholder participation, and regular monitoring and evaluation of policy implementation and service delivery.		
Proposed Outputs:	Output	Description	KPI
	5.5.1	Increased transparency in sector governance.	Score on a transparency and accountability index for the agriculture sector.
	5.5.2	Regular monitoring and evaluation reports published.	Number of monitoring and evaluation reports published and disseminated.

Policy Objective 5.5:	The MALFB ensures a positive workplace, free from all forms of violence, exploitation, harassment, and discrimination, as stipulated by the Positive Workplace Policy within the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Biosecurity (MALFB) and related value chains, including government departments and state operated enterprises		
Proposed Outputs:	Output	Description	KPI
	5.5.1	Positive Workplace Policy principles and clear procedures and access to confidential reporting mechanisms, counselling services, and legal assistance in place.	Positive Workplace Policy principles and clear procedures and access to confidential reporting mechanisms, counselling services, and legal assistance in place.
	5.5.2	Increase awareness on Positive Workplace Policy principles, violence, harassment, gender equality and legal rights related amongst employees, members, and the community	Increase awareness on Positive Workplace Policy principles, violence, harassment, gender equality and legal rights amongst employees, members, and the community

4 OPSP Risk MATRIX

This integrated risk matrix identifies potential risks that could impede the achievement of the policy's objectives. The matrix includes:

- **Risk Description:** A clear statement of the potential risk.
- **Likelihood:** The probability of the risk occurring (e.g., Low, Medium, High).
- **Impact:** The potential consequences if the risk occurs (e.g., Low, Medium, High).
- **Mitigation Measures:** Actions to reduce the likelihood or impact of the risk.

Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measures
Lack of Funding: Insufficient financial resources to implement policy initiatives.	Medium	High	Diversify funding sources (government, donors, private sector); Prioritize activities with high impact and low cost; Develop a detailed budget and resource allocation plan.
Climate Change Impacts: Extreme weather events disrupt agricultural production and infrastructure.	High	High	Invest in climate-resilient infrastructure and farming practices; Develop early warning systems; Promote crop diversification; Strengthen disaster preparedness and response plans.
Limited Institutional Capacity: Weak government agencies struggle to deliver effective services.	Medium	Medium	Provide training and technical assistance to government staff; Improve coordination between agencies; Streamline administrative processes; Leverage partnerships with NGOs and the private sector to deliver services.
Market Volatility: Fluctuations in commodity prices reduce producer incomes and discourage investment.	Medium	Medium	Promote value addition and diversification to reduce reliance on single commodities; Develop market information systems to provide producers with timely price data; Facilitate access to financial services and risk management tools.
Land Tenure Issues: Disputes over land ownership hinder agricultural development and investment.	Low	Medium	Strengthen land tenure systems; Promote transparent and participatory land-use planning processes; Facilitate conflict resolution mechanisms.
Lack of Stakeholder Engagement: Insufficient consultation with farmers, communities, and other stakeholders.	Low	Medium	Establish participatory decision-making processes; Conduct regular consultations with stakeholders;

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			Communicate policy goals and progress transparently.
Gender and Social Exclusion: Failure to address gender inequalities and the needs of marginalized groups.	Low	Medium	Mainstream gender and social inclusion considerations into all policy initiatives; Develop targeted programs to support women, youth, and people with disabilities; Promote equitable access to resources and opportunities.
Biosecurity threats: Pests and diseases reduce agricultural productivity	Medium	Medium	Strengthen biosecurity measures, Enhance surveillance, Promote disease-resistant crop varieties

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ANNEX

Temporary Crops production 2007 & 2022

Crop production	Total Number of Temporary Crops, 2007	Total Number of Temporary Crops, 2022
Bean	163,434	26,502
Bowl cabbage	272,319	580,405
Chinese Cabbage	328,730	1,073,748
Cabbage Island	2,032,795	4,556,758
Cucumber	163,664	265,155
Lettuce	164,167	207,265
Onion (spring)	181,765	378,865
Broccoli	0	0
Carrot	182,993	313,484
Corn	1,472,535	2,465,742
Spinach	0	0
Pumpkin	77,481	0
Chilli	131,316	81,503
Eggplant	12,908	0
Radish	5,360	0
Squash	0	0
Capsicum	188,665	918,832
Garlic	121,357	0
Cassava / Manioc	8,978	5,024,653
Ginger	233,146	354,594
Kumala (Sweet Potato)	1,309,875	1,577,782
Naviso	129,384	0
Strawberry	8,288	0
Sugarcane	567,915	399,878
Taro Fiji	2,248,604	5,002,396
Taro Navia	317,474	0
Taro Island	6,917,429	14,386,388
Tobacco	175,065	0
Yam	3,525,492	4,673,127
Yam- Wild	680,853	0
Potato	0	12,710
Vanilla	806,000	53,407
Cantaloupe	0	0
Tomato	307,105	334,911
Pineapple	965,362	1,892,300

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Watermelon	108,922	146,920
Peanuts	4,538,806	12,692,353
Citrus- Tahitian Lime	60,639	13,240
Papaya/ Pawpaw	559,166	0
Bok Choy	0	0

Source: Government of Vanuatu, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Biosecurity, VNAC Report 2007 and VNAC Report 2022

Permanent Tree Crops production 2007 & 2022

Crop production	Total HH engaged in production 2022	Total Number of Permanent Trees, 2007	Total Number of Permanent Trees, 2022
Navele	39,933	334,106	355,622
Banana	76,694	2,937,860	4,794,317
Mango	31,924	169,074	152,306
Avocado	25,272	100,682	93,433
Breadfruit	23,273	218,957	136,103
Chestnuts (Namambe)	22,504	228,281	126,056
Jackfruit	4,062		32,363
Nakatambol	14,950		64,039
Natapoa	11,978	84,184	49,675
Lychee	3,387		8,191
StarFruit	1,432		3,428
Citrus (Mandarine, Orange, Pamplemous)	8,905	465,038	342,197
Nagae	17,385	145,317	101,868
Naus	21,861	71,768	72,018
Nakavika	17,818		86,407
Guava	-		

Source: Government of Vanuatu, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Biosecurity, VNAC Report 2007 and VNAC Report 2022

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Livestock animal production 2007 & 2022

Animal production	Number of animals in 2007	Number of animals in 2022
Cattle	174,152	103,827
Goat	8,792	6,966
Sheep	258	1,260
Pig	88,694	79,472
Chicken-layer	368,251	7,051
Chicken-broiler		3,527
Local Chicken		401,893
Duck	-	2,858

Source: Government of Vanuatu, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Biosecurity, VNAC Report 2007 and VNAC Report 2022

Cash crops production 2007 & 2022

Crop/ production/ animal	Total Number of Cash Crops, 2007	Total Number of Cash crops, 2022
Kava	18,015,758	53,593,410
Coconut	9,736,676	7,454,742
Cocoa	3,042,000	2,654,001
Coffee	587,000	145,341
Vanilla	806,000	53,407
Tahitian Lime	60,639	13,240
Pepper		67,014
Noni		29,680

Source: Government of Vanuatu, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Biosecurity, VNAC Report 2007 and VNAC Report 2022

POSITIVE WORKPLACE [ADDENDUM]

Definitions:

To ensure a shared understanding and consistent application of this policy, the key terms used are defined below:

Violence and Harassment: A range of unacceptable behaviours and practices, or threats thereof, whether a single occurrence or repeated, that aim at, result in, or are likely to result in physical, psychological, sexual, or economic harm.

Workplace Harassment: Unwelcome conduct that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment. Harassment means any conduct of an individual toward another individual on the basis of an attribute of that other individual that is reasonably likely, in all the circumstances, to humiliate, offend, intimidate, or distress the other individual and includes harassment that is sexual in nature. The conduct can be verbal, physical, or emotional in nature. The conduct is usually seen to be repeated toward a particular individual.

Sexual Harassment: A person sexually harasses another person if the person makes an unwelcome sexual advance or an unwelcome request for sexual favours or engages in other unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, in circumstances in which a reasonable person, having regard to all the circumstances, would have anticipated the possibility that the person harassed would be offended, humiliated, or intimidated. Sexual harassment can take various forms. It can be obvious or indirect, physical, verbal, or digital, repeated or one-off and perpetrated by any person of any gender towards any person of any gender. Sexual harassment can be perpetrated against beneficiaries, community members, citizens, as well as staff and personnel.

Sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (SEAH): Any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust for sexual purposes.

Sexual exploitation: Any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust for sexual purposes. It includes profiting monetarily, socially, or politically from sexual exploitation of another.

Sexual abuse: The actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions. It covers sexual offenses including but not limited to: attempted rape (which includes attempts to force someone to perform oral sex); and sexual assault (which includes non-consensual kissing and touching). All sexual activity with someone under the age of consent is considered to be sexual abuse.

Domestic Violence: As defined by the Family Protection Act 2008, includes physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, and economic abuse.

Family Violence: Includes physical, sexual, financial, verbal, emotional, or psychological abuse by a family member.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV): Violence directed against a person on the basis of their gender, including acts that inflict physical, mental, or sexual harm or suffering.

Affected Worker: Any worker (employee, consultant, contractor) who is experiencing or has experienced violence, harassment, or abuse.

Child: person below the age of 18 years.

Child Protection: to ensure the protection of children from abuse, exploitation, neglect and violence and child labour.

Child safeguarding: The set of internal controls that an organisation puts in place to ensure that children are protected from any intentional and unintentional abuse, exploitation, violence, injury or other serious harm in relation to the organisation's operations or the conduct of its personnel. It includes putting in place mechanisms to ensure that concerns of abuse are reported and responded to appropriately.

Child Exploitation: the use of a child in work or other activities for the monetary, social or political gain of others. These activities are to the detriment of the child's physical or mental health, education, or spiritual, moral or social-emotional development. Types of child exploitation include:

(i) Sexual Exploitation: engagement of a child in any sexual activity in exchange for money, gifts, food, accommodation, affection, status, preferential treatment, or anything else that they or their family needs. This includes child prostitution (the use of a child in sexual activities for remuneration or any other form of consideration).

(ii) Child Pornography: any representation of a child engaged in real or simulated explicit sexual activities or representation of the sexual parts of a child.

(iii) Child Labor: work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, interferes with their schooling and is harmful or dangerous to their physical, mental, social or moral development.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV): Violence directed against a person because of their gender, including acts that inflict physical, mental, or sexual harm or suffering.

Survivor Focused Approach: An approach to service delivery that recognises the widespread impact of trauma and emphasises physical, psychological, and emotional safety for both providers and survivors. A trauma-informed approach emphasises cultural sensitivity and supports the individual's agency in accessing support.

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Introduction

This Positive Workplace Policy is designed to complement and support the strategic objectives of the Overarching Productive Sector Policy 2020-2030. Recognising that the productive sector's growth and sustainability depend heavily on the people who contribute to it, this policy establishes a framework for fostering positive, inclusive, and productive work environments across all sector stakeholders.

Aligned with the OPSP's emphasis on equitable growth, gender equality, and capacity building, this policy promotes workplace practices that empower individuals, enhance collaboration, and drive innovation. It supports the government's role in creating an enabling environment that encourages private sector-led development, while ensuring that public sector agencies lead by example in workplace culture.

1. Background

Vanuatu's commitment to addressing violence and promoting equality is enshrined in our national legal and policy framework:

- The Constitution of the Republic of Vanuatu (1980) guarantees equal rights and protections for all citizens;
- Vanuatu has ratified key international conventions, including CEDAW, CRPD, and CRC;
- The National Sustainable Development Plan 2016-2030 prioritises the elimination of violence and discrimination; and
- The National Gender Equality Policy (2020 – 2030) provides a comprehensive framework for promoting gender equality and combating violence.

Despite significant challenges related to violence against women and girls, as evidenced by recent data from the Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls program, Vanuatu possesses strong foundations for positive change. While statistics underscore the urgency of addressing violence and discrimination at all levels of society, including the workplace – with 60% of women aged 15-49 experiencing physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime and 68% experiencing emotional violence (UN Women, 2022) - kastom practices like family and community mediation offer cultural avenues for resolving conflict and promoting reconciliation. By building upon this existing social cohesion and our cultural strengths, we can create workplaces where individuals feel empowered to challenge harmful behaviours and support one another. In alignment with these values and Vanuatu's national commitments, this policy not only prohibits all forms of violence and discrimination but also actively promotes healthy relationships, gender equality, and non-violent conflict resolution, thereby contributing to a healthier, more productive workforce and a more equitable society.

2. Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this Positive Workplace Policy is to establish clear principles and guidelines that promote a healthy, respectful, and inclusive workplace culture within the productive sector of Vanuatu. This policy complements and operates in accordance with the Vanuatu Public Service Staff Regulation Manual (PSSRM) and applies to all public sector entities engaged in agriculture, livestock, forestry, and related value chains, including government departments and state operated enterprises. This includes, but is not limited to:

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- Full-time, part time, temporary employees and interns
- Consultants and contractors
- Volunteers
- Board members
- External partners (while on public sector entity premises or engaged in activities)

3. Policy Objectives

Promote a Safe Work Environment:

Ensure that all workplaces of public sector entities engaged in agriculture, livestock, forestry, and related value chains, are free from all forms of violence, exploitation, harassment, and discrimination. This includes integrating gender mainstreaming across all policies, practices, and programs, aligning with the OPSP's emphasis on equitable growth.

Support Affected Employees:

Provide survivor-focused support and resources to employees affected by violence, harassment, and abuse, with tailored services for vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities. Ensure access to confidential reporting mechanisms, counselling services, and legal assistance, while respecting individual privacy and cultural sensitivities.

Raise Awareness and Prevent Violence:

Educate employees, members, and the community about violence, harassment, gender equality, and their effects on individuals and the workplace. Implement training programs that promote positive workplace behaviours, conflict resolution skills, and an understanding of workplace rights and responsibilities.

Foster a Positive Workplace Culture:

Create workplace environments that promote respect, inclusivity, collaboration, and ethical conduct. Encourage open communication, mutual support, and recognition of individual contributions. Implement strategies to build teamwork, enhance employee wellbeing, and promote a sense of belonging.

Ensure Legal Compliance:

Ensure compliance with Vanuatu's Family Protection Act 2008, ILO Convention C190, and other relevant national and international laws and standards. Establish clear procedures for reporting and addressing violations of these laws and provide ongoing training to ensure that all employees are aware of their legal rights and obligations.

4. Guiding Principles

Inclusivity and Equity:

All workplaces must be free from discrimination, harassment, and bias, promoting equal opportunities for all.

Respect and Dignity:

Every individual's contribution is valued; workplaces must nurture mutual respect and open communication.

Empowerment and Capacity Building:

Provide opportunities for skills development, leadership, and decision-making participation, especially for women and marginalised groups.

Health, Safety, and Wellbeing:

Ensure safe and healthy working conditions that support physical and mental wellbeing.

Accountability and Transparency:

Establish clear roles, responsibilities, and mechanisms for addressing grievances and promoting ethical conduct.

5. Implementation Strategies

To effectively promote a Positive Workplace within the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Biosecurity (MALFB) and related value chains, including government departments and state operated enterprises, the following strategies will be implemented:

1. Leadership Commitment:

Demonstrate visible and sustained support for positive workplace values and integrate them into organisational policies and practices, *with the aim of establishing a culture where respect, inclusivity and ethical conduct are foundational to all activities.* This includes:

- Ensuring that senior leaders visibly support and promote a culture of respect, inclusivity, and ethical conduct.
- Integrating Positive Workplace principles into performance management systems.
- Allocating resources to support Positive Workplace initiatives.

2. Training and Awareness:

Develop and deliver training programs on workplace rights, gender equality, diversity, conflict resolution, and child safeguarding, *with the goal of equipping all staff with the knowledge and skills necessary to recognise, prevent, and respond to violence, harassment, and other harmful behaviours.* This includes:

- Providing regular, inclusive training sessions for all workers, focusing on:
- Understanding all forms of violence, harassment, child abuse, and their impact on the individual and the workplace.
- Recognising the signs of violence and harassment.
- Responding sensitively and appropriately to disclosures.
- Supporting affected colleagues while maintaining confidentiality.

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- Promoting bystander intervention to prevent and address harmful behaviours.
- Cultivating leadership skills to create and maintain a respectful workplace culture.

3. Monitoring and Evaluation:

Incorporate workplace culture indicators into sector monitoring frameworks aligned with the OPSP's M&E *with the aim of tracking progress, measuring impact, and ensuring accountability for the implementation and effectiveness of positive workplace initiatives.* This includes:

- Establishing clear metrics for measuring the effectiveness of Positive Workplace initiatives.
- Regularly collecting and analysing data on workplace culture, including employee satisfaction, reporting rates of incidents, and participation in training programs.
- Using M&E findings to inform continuous improvement of Positive Workplace strategies.

4. Collaboration and Partnerships:

Foster partnerships among government, private sector, NGOs, and community groups, *with the goal of sharing best practices, leveraging resources, and building a coordinated approach to creating and sustaining positive workplaces across the productive sector.* This includes:

- Establishing a network of Positive Workplace champions
- Organising regular forums and workshops to share knowledge and build capacity.
- Collaborating with NGOs and community groups to provide support services to affected individuals.

5. Support Mechanisms:

Establish accessible channels for reporting workplace issues and provide comprehensive, survivor focused support services for affected individuals, *with the aim of ensuring that affected workers receive timely, confidential, and appropriate assistance following the reporting of an incident.* This includes:

- Maintaining an up-to-date and easily accessible resource list of support services that are survivor focussed and trauma informed.
- Handling all reports with strict confidentiality, respecting the privacy and autonomy of all involved parties.
- Implementing flexible work arrangements for affected employees, where appropriate and feasible, and always with the survivor's needs and preferences as the priority.
- Prohibiting retaliation against anyone who reports violence or harassment or participates in related investigations. All investigations should be conducted in a survivor focused way to minimise further trauma.

6. Child Protection:

Implement measures to protect children from all forms of exploitation and abuse, *with the goal of ensuring that all staff are trained in child safeguarding protocols and that all reported child protection concerns are addressed promptly and effectively.* This includes:

- Enforcing a zero-tolerance policy for child exploitation and abuse, with criminal, civil, and disciplinary penalties.
- Upholding children's rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in all actions.
- Prioritising the best interests of the child in all actions and decisions.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Biosecurity (MALFB)

- Provide high-level leadership and political commitment to fostering a positive workplace culture across the productive sector.
- Endorse and champion the Positive Workplace Policy as a strategic priority aligned with the OPSP and National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP).
- Ensure adequate resources and support for the implementation of the policy across all MALFB divisions and affiliated agencies.
- Promote inter-ministerial and sector-wide collaboration to uphold workplace standards and gender equality principles.
- Monitor progress through periodic reviews and public reporting on policy outcomes and sector-wide workplace culture improvements.

Director General of MALFB

- Lead the operationalisation of the Positive Workplace Policy within the Ministry and affiliated agencies.
- Integrate positive workplace principles into the Ministry's Corporate Plan, annual business plans, and performance management frameworks.
- Ensure all senior managers and supervisors understand and fulfill their responsibilities in creating safe, inclusive, and respectful workplaces.
- Oversee the establishment of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track implementation progress and impact.
- Facilitate coordination with development partners and stakeholders to support capacity building and resource mobilisation.

Executive Officers and Senior Managers

- Translate the Positive Workplace Policy into actionable strategies and work plans within their units.

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- Promote a workplace culture that values respect, inclusivity, and ethical conduct in day-to-day operations.
- Ensure compliance with legal frameworks including the Family Protection Act 2008 and ILO Convention C190.
- Support training and awareness initiatives and encourage staff participation.
- Address workplace issues promptly and fairly, ensuring confidentiality and protection against retaliation.

Human Resources (HR) Manager

- Serve as the focal point for Positive Workplace Policy implementation and coordination within MALFB.
- Develop and maintain workplace policies, procedures, and codes of conduct that reflect the principles of the Positive Workplace Policy, with a strong emphasis on survivor-focused support and trauma informed practices.
- Organise and facilitate regular training, awareness campaigns, and capacity building activities.
- Manage confidential reporting channels and support mechanisms for affected employees, ensuring these are easily accessible, culturally sensitive, and tailored to individual needs.
- Ensure that all investigations are conducted in a way that is survivor-focused, minimises further trauma, and respects the rights and autonomy of the survivor. efforts.
- Liaise with external partners, including NGOs and development agencies, to access resources and expertise.

Employees and Workers (including permanent, contract, casual, and volunteer staff across public and private sector entities within the productive sector)

- Uphold the values of respect, inclusivity, and professionalism in all workplace interactions.
- Participate actively in training and awareness programs.
- Report incidents of violence, harassment, or discrimination through established channels without fear of retaliation.
- Support colleagues affected by workplace issues, fostering a collaborative and supportive environment.
- Comply with workplace policies, procedures, and legal requirements.

Development Partners and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

- Collaborate with MALFB and other government agencies to support Positive Workplace initiatives through technical assistance, funding, and advocacy.
- Provide expertise in areas such as gender equality, child protection, and workplace health and safety.

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- Assist in capacity building, training, and awareness programs tailored to the productive sector context.
- Support monitoring and evaluation efforts by sharing best practices and contributing to data collection and analysis.
- Facilitate community engagement and outreach to reinforce positive workplace values beyond formal workplaces.

7. Reporting and Response

The Ministry is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and inclusive workplace. Each department or entity is required to develop detailed reporting and response procedures, including process maps, that reflect the specific context and needs of their operations. These procedures must align with the overarching principles outlined in this policy. All staff will receive regular training to ensure they understand how to report concerns and what to expect from the response process.

All employees, contractors, and stakeholders are encouraged and empowered to report any incidents of violence, harassment, exploitation, or breaches of workplace standards. Reports may be made through multiple channels, including direct supervisors, the Human Resources Manager, or anonymous reporting mechanisms.

All reports will be treated with the utmost seriousness and confidentiality. The Ministry will ensure a prompt, fair, and transparent response to every report, with clear timelines for acknowledgment, investigation, and resolution. Retaliation against any individual who reports an incident or participates in an investigation is strictly prohibited.

The Ministry will maintain comprehensive records of all reports and responses and will regularly review this data to identify trends and inform continuous improvement of workplace practices.

8. Alignment with Sector Goals

This policy supports the OPSP's priority outcomes by enhancing workforce productivity and resilience, promoting gender equality, and contributing to sustainable and equitable sector growth. Positive workplace environments are essential for meeting international standards, improving product quality, and expanding market access, thereby strengthening Vanuatu's competitive position in regional and global markets.

9. Monitoring and Reporting

Progress on the Positive Workplace Policy will be monitored through established indicators integrated into the OPSP's Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. Regular reporting will ensure accountability and inform continuous policy refinement.