

Growing Resilience: Strengthening the agro-processing sector in the Pacific Islands

A series of roundtables



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Co-hosted by Pacific Farmer Organisations (PFO) and COLEAD

Roundtable N°3

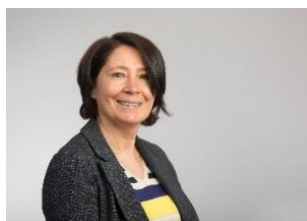
Tuesday 25 June 2024 – 9:00am - 10:30am (Fiji Time)

Monday 24 June 2024 – 9:00pm - 10:30pm (universal time - UTC)

Online ([Zoom](#))

Biodata of the speakers

Isolina Boto – Head of Networks and Alliances, COLEAD



Isolina Boto is the Head of Networks and Alliances at COLEAD, a non-profit Association of private sector operators in the agrifood sector active in the EU, Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) regions. Isolina has more than 25 years of experience in agricultural development. She started her career with the European Commission and has also worked with various ACP embassies and NGOs in areas related to food security, rural development and trade. Before joining COLEAD, she was the Manager of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU (CTA) Brussels Office (2004-2020) implementing policy initiatives related to the ACP-EU cooperation in the field of agricultural and rural development. She has led agribusiness projects in support of capacity development of SMEs, entrepreneurs and farmers organisations across Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

Jeremy Knops – Délégué Général, COLEAD



Jeremy Knops holds a master's degree in business engineering from the Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management (SBS-EM). Prior to joining COLEAD in 2009, he was involved in Guatemala with the daily operations of a farmers' cooperative exporting loquats to the EU and the US. He started to work for COLEAD as an expert in charge of matters related to private standards and certification for ACP producers and exporters of fruit and vegetables. Jeremy is an accredited coach for leadership and professional development. He was appointed as General Delegate of COLEAD in June 2019.

Richard Markham - Koko Mana, Fiji



Richard Markham initially trained as an entomologist and focused in his early career on biological control of pests and weeds in Africa. Over some thirty years as a researcher and practitioner in sustainable agricultural development his interests broadened to encompass integrated crop management, conservation of crop genetic resources and building the resilience of smallholder agrifood systems. Richard came to Fiji in 2008 as a Programme Manager for ACIAR, an Australian government agency that supports collaborative, multi-disciplinary research projects in agriculture. When he retired in 2018, Richard settled in Savusavu, Fiji, and set up KokoMana, to put into practice in the private sector some of the ideas about sustainability that he had learned through his career.

KokoMana is a micro-enterprise that seeks to be part of the sustainable development of the cocoa industry in the Northern Division of Fiji. KokoMana produces cocoa in a multi-species agroforestry system founded on ecological principles and promotes the wider use of this regenerative system to protect the land and coastal fisheries of Vanua Levu, Fiji's second largest island, while providing more resilient and inclusive livelihoods for communities. The company links up with local farmers and communities to improve the quality of cocoa produced and uses short market chain to drive quality and assure better prices for suppliers. They sell chocolate to tourists and on the high-end local market.

Faalualuo Floris Niu - Ms Sunshine Farms Tuana'i Village, Samoa



Faalualuo Floris Niu was born in Samoa and moved to New Zealand at 8 years old. She is a cacao grower and the owner of Ms Sunshine Farms in the village of Tuana'i on Upolu island, Samoa. They started to revive their family cocoa plots in 2013 to provide a single source of Trinitario beans to chocolate producers in New Zealand. Their vision is to put Samoa on the world map for growing the best, organic Trinitario cacao beans. The farm was the first to operate ecological agri-tourism activities in Samoa through cacao, chocolate and plant-based food experiences. The company exports cacao under a partnership called "Koko Beans Ltd".

Faalualuo Floris is also co-founder of and former president of the Samoa Women's Association of Growers (SWAG), a non-governmental organisation that assists and represents women growers in Samoa.

Since 2012, Faalualuo Floris is founder and managing director of Ms Sunshine Consulting, assisting other Pacific islands in producing value-added products and consuming local food, reducing imports.

Faalualuo Floris holds a bachelor's in English literature and Language from University of Auckland, Australia, and a post graduate diploma in Professional Writing, Editing, Journalism from The Australian College of Journalism. She worked in corporate recruitment, sales & marketing, communications, education and translation.

Kyle Stice - Executive Director, Pacific Farmer Organisations

American born and a Fijian horticulturist, Kyle Stice is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of Pacific Farmer Organisations (PFO), a regional farmer organisation network with membership in 13 Pacific Island nations and a direct reach of 98,000 farmers.



For the past 15 years, Kyle has led rural development and climate change adaptation programmes in the Pacific, working through farmer organizations, in partnership with multiple global development partners.



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