Melanesian Spearhead Group Secretariat

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT



Sub-Regional Action Plan

3rd Regional Workshop

Julien Bliesener, UNCTAD

October 2023





Sub-regional action plan

Draft sub-regional action plan has been submitted to countries on 25 September 2023

A Sub-Regional Action Plan for Green Trade Promotion and Sustainable Development for MSG countries





Areas of Work - Overview

Three Key Areas of Work for the sub-Regional action plan:

- 1. Capacity Building and Knowledge Exchange
- 2. Policy Coordination
- 3. Data Collection
- *. Infrastructure Development







1. Capacity Building and Knowledge Exchange

- Promote understanding on green trade practices, NTMs, VSS, and sustainable development among relevant stakeholders.
- Specific Activities:
 - Develop and conduct regional workshops and trainings for government officials and farmer organizations.
 - Build on and share existing resources (online courses, published documents, contacts for trainers, funding and programmes)
- Ongoing/planned initiatives: IMPACT, SAFE, SPIRIT, PACER Plus, Phama Plus, etc.





2. Data Collection

- Systematically collect trade policies related data (NTM and VSS) and address the gaps in data availability.
- Specific Activities:
 - Set up or strengthen a data collection system.
 - Exchange information on data collection methods at the MSG level.
 - Improve national data collection with new technologies.
 - Identify potential funding to collect data at the farm and production level
- Ongoing/planned initiatives: UNCTAD IMPACT (NTM data update), SPC database





3. Policy Coordination

- Enhance dialogue and consensus-building on trade-related regulations and NTMs at the regional level and ensure alignment with international standards.
- Specific Activities:
 - Establish or if existing, strengthen a Sub-Regional Coordination Group
 - Focus on good regulatory practices and coordination at national, subregional, and regional levels.
- Ongoing/planned initiatives: MSG TEOM, Regional CODEX committee, Pacific Islands Standards Committee





*. Infrastructure Development

- Direct follow-up from the 2nd Regional Workshop on 16 August
- Raised by different countries:
 - Value chain infrastructures processing facilities, cold storage units, storage facilities, treatment of agriculture produce
 - Quality infrastructure testing, laboratories, trade measurements
 - Farming equipment
 - Need to develop "hard" infrastructure road, ports, etc...
- With addition of a list of priority infrastructure in an annex











Sub-regional Implementation Mechanism

- Creation of a sub-regional implementation group
- Who? \rightarrow MSG Secretariat will send a circular TBD
- FJ: Foreign Affairs -
- PNG: Foreign affairs Pati Pyale
- SI: Trade Jenny Barile
- VU: External Trade -
- To whom it reports ightarrow The TEOM
- Core functions



 \rightarrow Outline precise implementation phases

 \rightarrow Monitor progression of the action plan



Questions?

Julien Bliesener (Julien.Bliesener@un.org) UNCTAD (<u>https://unctad.org/ntm</u>)

