

VSS – an opportunity for the Pacific

MSG Green Trade Project - 3rd Regional Workshop

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Key Challenges

1. Financial Barriers:

- Initial costs and limited financial resources make it challenging for farmers.
- Benefit is not always clear.

2. Knowledge Gap: Farmers lack knowledge about sustainable practices and compliance requirements.

3. Market: Farmers need market access and fair trade practices.



Making VSS work

- 1. Financial Support:** Potential for subsidies and low-interest loans to help farmers with initial costs.
- 2. Capacity Building:** Training programs can help farmers meet compliance standards.
- 3. Market Access:** Partnerships can help find market for VSS products.

Benefits of VSS

1. Economic Benefits:

- Price premium (depending on the commodity)
- Regular contracts with clients – less fluctuations in income

2. Other Benefits:

- Improved environment
- Improved farming practices



Policy Recommendations

- 1. Policy Framework:** Develop national guidelines for commodity industries.
- 2. Cost Reduction:** Streamline certification processes to reduce associated costs for producers.
- 3. National Oversight Body:** Establish a management body to coordinate certification and quality.
- 4. Subsidy Review:** Reallocate financial instruments to incentivize quality over quantity.
- 5. Quality Control:** Support domestic testing capabilities and promote new quality.

Thank you.

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