

Organic policy development - from the roots up.





Evolution of organics in the Pacific Islands



Pacific Organic & Ethical Trade Community (POETCom)

Mission

- coordination,
- information sharing,
- networking,
- capacity building,
- and a regional certification scheme

We aim to grow the organic and ethical trade movement and contribute to a productive, resilient, sustainable & healthy Pacific Island region.

Membership:

40 organic organizations
across 17 PICTs



Driven by values

- POETCom's values statement:

“We are guided by an understanding of Pacific approaches to decision making and take into account Pacific values, traditions and cultures.”

- Pacific Organic Standard:

“Pacific organic agriculture recognises the value of contributions from traditional agriculture and Pacific cultures”



Policy the traditional way



Sili village, Samoa



Cicia Island, Fiji

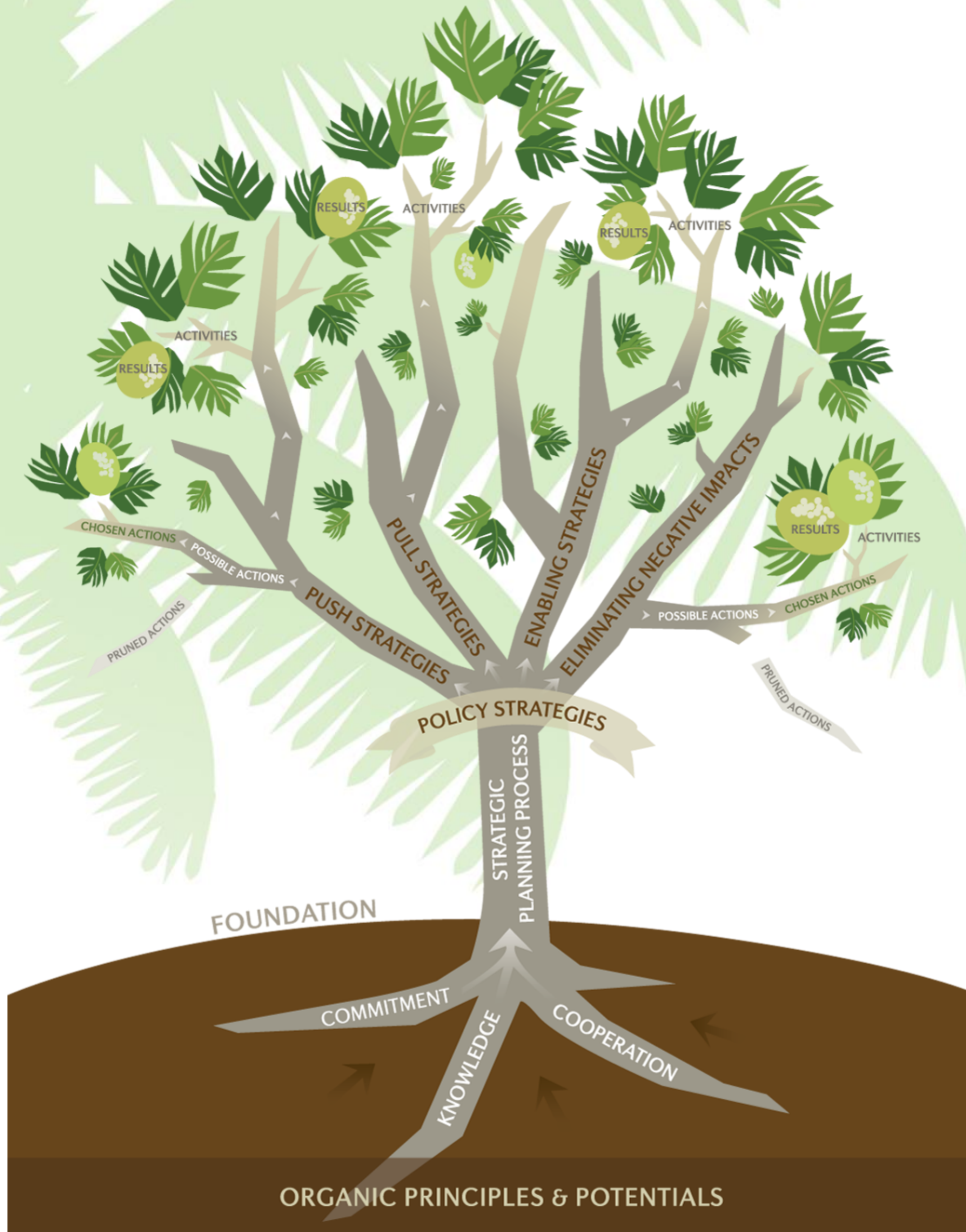


Abaiang Island, Kiribati



Emae island, Vanuatu

Moving to national policies



Top down national policy development

Vanuatu:

- Advocacy for policy support came from the organic sector focusing on support to broader Vanuatu policies such as Gudfala kakaë.
- Ministry of Agriculture led development, funded a consultant and arranged extensive consultations at provincial level.
- Cabinet have endorsed and Government is now looking at funding options for implementation
- There is a need to align to other policies – eg national seed policy



VISION:

An organic Vanuatu whose healthy and prosperous people live in harmony with nature

GOAL:

Vanuatu to become an international leader in the promotion and adoption of local organic production, to build a sustainable and healthy population, industry and environment.

Bottom up national policy development

Fiji:

- Organic stakeholders came together and decided to tell Government what they needed.
- Organic stakeholders led the consultation process, engaged a consultant for support, undertook a baseline study, and invited Government to participate in the process.
- Final policy presented to the Minister of Ag who agreed to take to Parliament for endorsement.



VISION:

Fiji organic farming is a major contributor to prosperous, healthy and sustainable living

GOALS:

- 70% of traditional and commercial production is organic by 2030
- The Fiji people are eating at least 80% local/and or organic foods by 2030.
- Fiji organic products are nationally and internationally recognized and demanded. Organic exports have become 70% of total food exports by 2030

What we are learning

- *Policy development needs a strong support base*
- Working with governments you need a champion
- *Don't let it become political*
- Make it relevant – best practice is not always best fit
- *Policy to implementation – budget is the key*
- It's a big job – make sure you know what existing policies intersect
- *Start somewhere – it doesn't need to be a whole national policy*



Thank you

