

## **Contribute to building a sustainable future – join POETCom today**

The Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POETCom) is moving to a new phase of development and calling out to all interested parties, including founding members, friends and stakeholders, to formalise their membership with POETCom now.

POETCom was originally established as a technical committee to develop the Pacific Organic Standard. In 2010, the name POETCom was adopted and the organisation evolved from an appointed technical committee to an inclusive membership-based umbrella organisation and the peak body aiming to promote organic and ethical trade movement in the Pacific Islands region.

Last year, POETCom focused on developing a strong, transparent governance structure, with the first Advisory Board elected from the founding membership and the establishment of membership criteria. The next step in this process is to formalise membership.

POETCom seeks to be inclusive while ensuring that the organisation upholds its principles in the Pacific organic movement and establishing cost-effective functional governance. Membership is open to all organisations and individuals who endorse POETCom's vision, mission and goals, and the principles of organic agriculture and ethical trade.

One can join POETCom as an individual (a 'supporter') or an organisation or department of an institution (a 'member'). In the case of organisations, at least three people must be employed or active in the organisation applying for membership in POETCom. To become a member, the applicant organisation must have a predominantly organic and/or ethical trade focus, i.e. dedicate over 50% of its budget/activities to organic and/or ethical trade activities. Organisations that do not meet this criterion may join as supporters.

The POETCom Advisory Board encourages organisations to review the membership policy and application form and to complete and return it as soon as possible in order to formalise their affiliation with POETCom. They can also share this information and the application form with others who they think may be interested in supporting the Pacific organic and ethical trade movement.

The membership policy and application form can be downloaded from the SPC Land Resources Division website ([http://www.spc.int/lrd/index.php?option=com\\_docman&task=cat\\_view&qid=367&Itemid=517](http://www.spc.int/lrd/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&qid=367&Itemid=517)) or through the POETCom Secretariat [poetcom@spc.int](mailto:poetcom@spc.int). The Secretariat will also respond to any queries or clarifications about membership categories.