



# FARM TO SCHOOL

14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2023

PACIFIC UPDATE



VANUATU  
**SKILLS  
PARTNERSHIP**





# OVERVIEW OF VANUATU'S AGRICULTURE SECTOR



PACIFIC UPDATE 2023

**VANUATU**  
AGRICULTURE SECTOR POLICY  
**2015 - 2030**

LAEF MO MANE I STAP LONG AGRIKALJA

USAID giz UN Women SPC PAPP



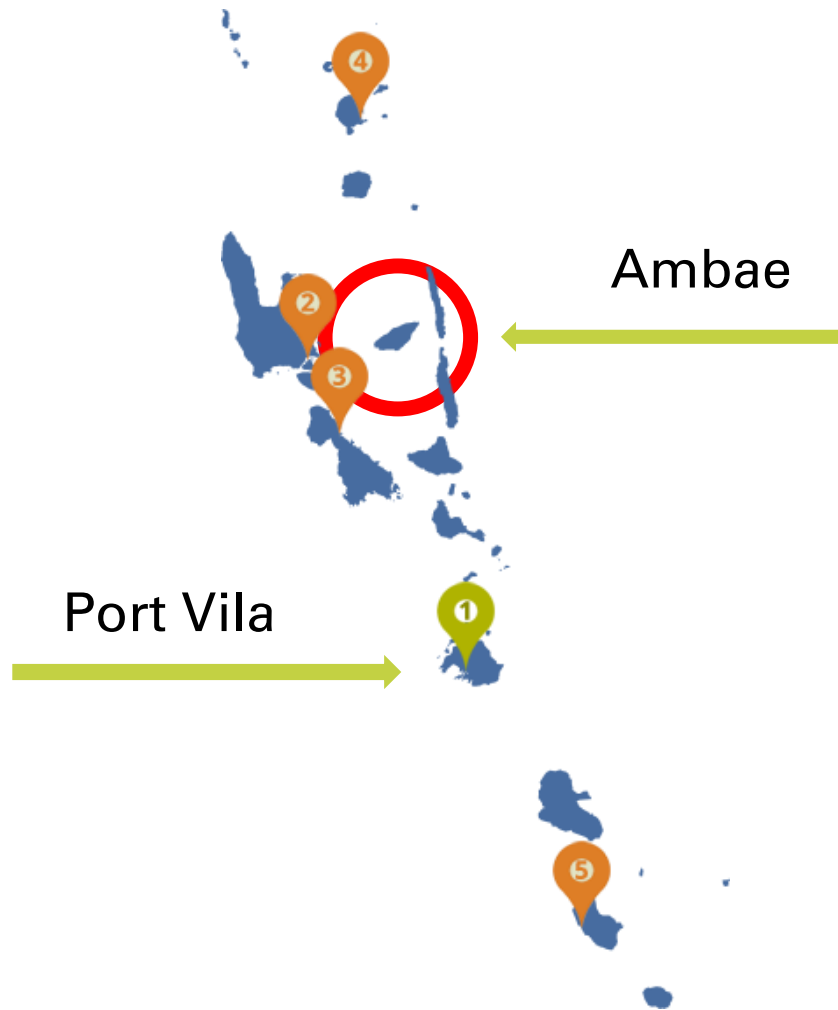
# INTRODUCING THE FARM TO SCHOOL MODEL

- In its simplest form, Farm-to-School is about connecting farmers to local schools to sell their agricultural produce.
- Farmers benefit because they gain access to a new market to sell their produce.
- Schools benefit because they gain access to healthier, cheaper food.





# AMBAEBULU JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL





# EVACUATION OF AMBAE IN 2018





# ESTABLISHMENT OF FARM TO SCHOOL AT AMBAEBULU

- Returned to Ambae in 2019 after almost two years away.
- School reopened as Department of Agriculture was commencing supply of planting materials to farmers and communities.
- Initially the concept begun as a subsidy arrangement between struggling parents and the school in lieu of school fees.
- Initiative worked so well that soon the school kitchen could not accommodate supply.



# ESTABLISHMENT OF FARM TO SCHOOL AT AMBAEBULU

- Working in collaboration through a formalised, multi-stakeholder partnership arrangement.
- Ongoing, phased support including:
  - Skills training and coaching for farmers and school chefs
  - Renovation of the school kitchen and supply of relevant equipment
  - Improvements to the school farm and tilapa fishpond to supplement kitchen needs.
- This initiative was critical for community economic resilience during COVID-19 where food security was a priority.







## ESTABLISHMENT OF FARM TO SCHOOL AT AMBAEBULU





# KEY RESULTS - A THRIVING SCHOOL





## KEY RESULTS - MORE RESILIENT FARMERS





# KEY RESULTS - INCREASED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT





# KEY RESULTS - INCREASED COLLABORATION BETWEEN PARTNERS







## WHAT NEXT FOR AMBAEBULU AND THE FARM TO SCHOOL MODEL?

- Continue to build on connections between our local farmers and Ambaebulu School.
- Ministry of Education and Training is very supportive of the model; 9 schools in Penama province are now showing interest in implementing Farm to School.
- Preparations are underway for a Provincial Forum to bring together policy-makers from both the Ministry of Education and Training and the Department of Agriculture to develop the model further.





## WHAT NEXT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE?

- Support the Ministry of Education and Training in implementing the model in other schools as appropriate - self-reliance and disaster risk reduction are key priorities within the Department of Agriculture workplan.
- Explore opportunities to adopt a similar 'Farm to-' model in other contexts, such as hospitals, which is being explored by the Department and the Vanuatu Skills Partnership.
- The method of co-investment and collaboration applied in this Farm to School initiative is replicable; we are using a similar collaborative approach in the development of a Provincial Seed Bank Network to further support resilience efforts.
- Use the lessons we have learned in relation to 'partnership' and 'collaboration' to inform our work with other partners/donors in the future.