APRIL 2026
RESICO REGIONAL PROJECT

THE KIWA INITIATIVE IS FUNDED BY: European Union, France AFD, Canada, Australian Aid, New Zealand Foreign Affairs & Trade

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH: Pacific Community / Communauté du Pacifique, SPREP, IUCN

KIWA INITIATIVE

RESICO

Resilience of communities through enhanced crop biodiversity

RESICO

Project Lead: IAC, Institut Agronomique néo-Calédonien

IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

May 2025 – Aug. 2028

AMOUNT OF FUNDING

Co-funding €831,680

Kiwa €3,300,000

Theme

Agroforestry and Sustainable Agriculture

Main co-benefits, in addition to climate change adaptation

- Biodiversity conservation
- Food security
- Human health

In Vanuatu and Loyalty islands, traditional agroforestry systems are under pressure, due to rapid socio-cultural shifts, climate change, and a narrow genetic base of root and tuber plants.

The project aims to encourage biodiversity conservation and increase the communities' resilience by **maintaining, promoting and developing these agroforestry systems**, within better managed rural areas.

Specific Objectives:

- **Assessment of local knowledge** related to climate risks, food practices, and the role of women in food security.
- **Biosecurity** means improvement (construction of quarantine greenhouses).
- **Agroforestry and biodiversity** enhancement through introduction of new varieties (roots and tubers, bananas, citrus, mango trees, etc.).
- **Participatory mapping** of natural areas and resources.
- **Diseases and pests** management.

Kiwa RESICO partners and beneficiaries gathering in New Caledonia © Kiwa Initiative – September 2025

Subregion: ■ Melanesia/Timor-Leste ☐ Micronesia ☐ Polynesia

Vanuatu
- 900 direct beneficiaries

New Caledonia
- 300 direct beneficiaries

Vanuatu (9 Islands)

- Locations: Vanua Lava, Santo, Maewo, Mallicolo, Pentecost, Ambrym, Epi, Efaté and Tanna
- Partners: Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD); Department of Forests; Biosecurity Department; Vanuatu Agricultural Research and Technical Centre (VARTC); Vanuatu Cultural Center (VKS); Farm Support Association (FSA); CIRAD; IRD/UNC; France Volontaires

New Caledonia (3 Loyalty Islands)

- Locations: Lifou, Maré and Ouvéa
- Partners: Province des Îles Loyauté ; Centre d'Appui au Développement Rural Loyaltien (CADRL); CIRAD; IRD/UNC; France Volontaires

Key results to date:

Collecting traditional knowledge, assessing gender and food links

In Vanuatu and New Caledonia, survey methodologies and schedules have been developed.Surveys began in March 2026 in Vanuatu and in April 2026 in New Caledonia.

- Traditional knowledge of farming systems is being assessed to understand how communities are adapting to climate change.
- Current dietary practices are being collected, to eventually promote recipes and tutorials.
- The role of women in organizing agricultural work and decision-making is integrated in the survey.

Strengthening Quarantine, Biosecurity and Infrastructures

- Terms of reference for the construction of two quarantine greenhouses at DARD and VARTC in Vanuatu are being drafted.
- Quotes are being obtained for the construction and renovation of the CADRL greenhouse in the Loyalty Islands.

Enhancing Agroforestry and Biodiversity

- Collection lists have been obtained to establish a multiplication plan for roots, tubers, banana plants, fruit and nut trees, with technical support and training to follow.

Participatory Mapping for Management of Natural Areas and Resources

- Procurement of equipment, and development of the GIS service are on-going for the Department of Forests, Vaunuatu, and Province des Iles, New Caledonia.

Managing Diseases and Pests

- Farmer surveys are being conducted to assess the pest control methods currently in use.
- Field collections are underway to identify key pest insects and potential biological control agents.

Revitalizing agroforestry through the introduction of varietal diversity

In the region, key food crops - such as bananas, roots and island cabbage - due to their low genetic diversity, have a limited ability to adapt to changing conditions, making the introduction of new, diverse, and resilient plant varieties an urgent priority. The project will introduce improved tuber plant varieties, selected for their adaptive potential, like disease or cyclone resistance. Similarly, tree species (avocado, mango, citrus, etc.) and banana plants will be imported, selecting those best adapted to the socio-cultural context, local conditions, and potential climate changes.

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