

F.A.L.C.O.N (Farmers in Agriculture, Livestock, Cooperative, Organic Network)

Project Progress Summary for Fiscal Year 2023

"CONTRIBUTING TO HEALTHY LIVES IN MAURITIUS THROUGH SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND PGS CERTIFICATION OF SMALL-SCALE ORGANIC VEGETABLE PRODUCERS".

Objective:

The project's primary objectives were to improve **agricultural practices** in Mauritius, **enhance food security**, and promote **organic farming and climate-smart agriculture**.

Key Achievements in 2023:

- Achievement 1: Conducted multiple Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) workshops across Mauritius, increasing local knowledge of organic agriculture certification.
- Achievement 2: Successfully implemented PGS, organic and climate-smart agriculture training, resulting in sensitisation of planters, and improvements in organic farming techniques.
- Achievement 3: Boosted compost production and usage among local farmers, contributing to better soil health and sustainability.
- Achievement 4: Has set up a pilot PGS system, which will be operational soon.

Project Activities and Outcomes

Activity 1: PGS Workshops

- Description: A series of PGS workshops aimed at educating farmers on organic and climate smart agricultural practices and fostering community-based certification.

Date	
7 April 2023	PGS Workshop at St Pierre, Central Region
20 April 2023	PGS Workshop at Belle Mare, East Region
17 May 2023	PGS Workshop at UOM Reduit
19 July 2023	PGS Workshop at Terre Rouge, North Region
3 August 2023	PGS Workshop at Union Park, South Region
9 October 2023	High-Level PGS Workshop with the Minister of Agriculture

- Participants: 200 farmers, Small Farmers Welfare Fund & FAREI Ext Officers across all workshops
- Outcome: Improved understanding and adoption of PGS principles and organic farming techniques.



Training of farmers at local centres



High-level training

Activity 2: Development of official PGS logo and QR code



The PGS logo developed



Sensitisation of consumers and exhibition on PGS



The QR code

Activity 2: Training on Climate-Smart Agriculture

- Description: A two-day training program focusing on climate-smart agriculture techniques tailored for Mauritian farmers.
- Participants: 40 farmers
- Outcome: Enhanced knowledge and skills in climate-smart practices, with a significant increase in the application of these techniques among participants.



Training on smart agriculture techniques held at University of Mauritius and certificates awarded

Activity 3: Study Tour to Local Innovation Hub

- Description: Arranged a study tour for farmers to visit the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC) to explore new agricultural technologies and practices.
- Participants: 30 farmers
- Outcome: Increased exposure to innovative practices

Activity 4: Practical Session on Compost Making and locally made organic pesticide.

- Description: Conducted a hands-on session to teach compost making techniques, crucial for sustainable farming.
- Participants: 35 farmers
- Outcome: Increased capacity for compost production



Organic fertiliser



Sorting neem leaves



Processing bio-organic fertilisers

Financial Summary: The budget was effectively allocated to cover the costs of workshops, training sessions, and practical activities. Expenditures aligned with the plan, with adjustments made to accommodate high-level workshop requirements and additional logistical needs.

6. Conclusion and Next Steps

Summary:

The project made significant strides in improving organic and climate smart farming practices across Mauritius in 2023. Key achievements included development of PGS Logo, successful workshops, increased adoption of organic and climate-smart techniques, development of local biopesticides, and enhanced compost production.

Next Steps:

For the coming year 2024, we plan to:

- Expand the scope of workshops and training sessions.
- Explore new technologies and practices to integrate into local farming.
- Continue partnerships with local research and innovation hubs.
- Registration of QR code and trademark for PGS
- National Promotion of PGS trademark
- Setting up of organic markets throughout the island.

Promotion on MBC Broadcast regarding the PGS project by Falcon Association

- Links to video accomplishments and project launches:
 - [Accomplishments](https://youtu.be/8IVUfiOAB4k?si=Bvqs_IUaXM6Q-lrO)
https://youtu.be/8IVUfiOAB4k?si=Bvqs_IUaXM6Q-lrO
 - [Launching of PGS Part 1](https://youtu.be/mkinYjIMLio?si=-ZEyRmYyb-xmFt6R)
<https://youtu.be/mkinYjIMLio?si=-ZEyRmYyb-xmFt6R>
 - [Launching of PGS Part 2](https://youtu.be/ucUYS4gFW0k?si=S9lLk0rmHCJhUQVX)
<https://youtu.be/ucUYS4gFW0k?si=S9lLk0rmHCJhUQVX>