

# THE LA TROBE ASIA BRIEF

## INDIA-AUSTRALIA CLIMATE RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Ambika Vishwanath

**“THERE IS AN  
OPPORTUNITY FOR  
STRONGER COLLECTIVE  
ACTION TO NOT ONLY  
ADDRESS FOOD  
INSECURITY AS AN  
IMMEDIATE CONCERN  
BUT BUILD LONG TERM  
RESILIENCE AS A  
SECURITY MEASURE.”**





# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the newest issue of the La Trobe Asia Brief. We are delighted to be publishing this report by Ambika Vishwanath, Principal Research Fellow at La Trobe Asia. Ambika joined La Trobe Asia in 2024 as a recipient of a Maitri Fellowship, funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. During this time, she has made an exceptional contribution to both La Trobe University and Australia's academic, public and policy discourse.

In this report, Ambika turns a critical eye to food security in the South Pacific, and the opportunities that exist for closer collaboration between Australia and India and regional partners.

The future of the Pacific Islands present an ecological challenge, with rising sea levels and extreme weather events coupled with growing maritime presence, impacting supply chains and putting access to food, water and health at risk.



As this excellent report demonstrates, there is significant opportunity for Australia and India to cooperate and address these inadequacies, developing an increased focus on the Indo-Pacific, especially on climate resilience as an avenue to address long term regional security.

I would sincerely like to thank Ambika for sharing her insights and expertise in this report, and we are grateful to the Centre for Australia-India Relations and DFAT for their support of her research agenda.

**Professor Rebecca Strating**  
Director, La Trobe Asia

## ABOUT THE SERIES

The La Trobe Asia Brief is a publication from La Trobe Asia, based at La Trobe University. This series provides a platform for commentary, research and analysis of policy issues that are of key importance in the Asian region. The papers in The La Trobe Asia Brief series are written for an informed audience. Authors will be invited by La Trobe Asia to contribute to this series.

## PHOTOS

Front cover: Paddy Fields, Arunachal Pradesh, India. Photo by Hoshner Reporter.  
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## EDITOR

Matt Smith

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 18 countries and territories across the Pacific are some of the most vulnerable to growing risks emerging from climate changes, especially the small island states.

Despite contributing less than 0.03% to global greenhouse gas emissions, the islands face devastating consequences, from sea level rise and loss of territory to unpredictable weather patterns to growing food and water insecurity. These are further exacerbated by geopolitical tensions and drastic reduction in financing and aid programmes.

India-Australia's bilateral ties are at their strongest, presenting an opportune moment for more active joint collaboration on strengthening climate resilience in the Indo-Pacific region. While climate change in the Pacific Islands has garnered significant attention from development partnerships, including those of India and Australia, long-term resilience strategies such as food security remains underexplored.

This Policy Brief examines opportunities to enhance food security in the region as one step towards joint climate resilience and offers ideas for collaboration between India and Australia and partnerships in moving forward.

It is the result of research conducted under the Maitri Fellowship of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade which included field work in Fiji, discussions with experts across several PICTs, Australia and India, FAO in Rome, as well as secondary research and sources.

India and Australia have a varied, somewhat chequered, history with Pacific Island countries and territories and there is an opportunity for stronger collective action to not only address food insecurity as an immediate concern but build long term resilience as a security measure. The Brief makes the following recommendations:

- Scaling up or adjusting existing projects and programmes based on local needs with ideas for some new areas that require intervention. These range from support that is financial or in-kind to build climate resilience agriculture, fisheries conservation, trade facilitation, supply chain resilience or support for small farms across various countries.
- India and Australia should jointly establish a climate resilient food security fund that targets climate resilient infrastructure and insurance, as well as an agri-met forecasting units that can aid in predicting and managing climate impacts in a hyper local setting.
- Develop joint research capabilities between Australia, India and local partners across the PICTs using existing agreements, research and policy platforms.
- Australia can broaden its Pacific funding portfolio to prioritize long-term investments in climate resilience, with a specific focus on addressing food security as a core element of human security in the region.



# INTRODUCTION

The climate crisis has emerged as an undeniable and existential threat for Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs), exposing the stark realities of differentiated and disproportionate impacts on human, environmental and strategic security. The region comprises of 16 small island countries located in the Pacific Ocean: The Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Kingdom of Tonga, Niue, the Republic of Fiji, the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Nauru, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of Vanuatu, Samoa, New Caledonia, the Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu.

Along with Australia and New Zealand, they make up the 18 Pacific Islands Forum grouping. Despite contributing less than 0.03% to global greenhouse gas emissions, the islands face devastating consequences, most seriously the loss of territory to sea level rise. The spectrum of interconnected risks is both immediate and anticipated, and arise from extreme weather events such as storms and cyclones and erratic rainfall patterns. These risks challenge infrastructure and supply chains, food, water and health security and ultimately overall security of the countries and region. Many of these risks and ensuing crises affect water and food security, as also emphasised

in the sixth IPCC Assessment Report’s Executive Summary on Small Islands. Within the broader gamut of cascading risks and threats, this brief focuses on growing food insecurity and the opportunities for greater climate resilience measures to enhance food and water security.

There is a significant opportunity for an India–Australia collaboration and advancement of their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, and increased focus on the Indo–Pacific region especially on resilience from climate and cascading shocks. Australia has a legacy as the primary development partner and largest donor in the Pacific Islands. India is growing its leadership in the

Global South as the biggest contributor to the United Nations Office for South–South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and slowly increasing its partnerships within the Pacific region. India’s development approach, spearheaded by the India–UN Development Partnership Fund, emphasizes empowering Southern-owned and led, demand-driven projects focused on sustainable development. This approach often targets least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS).

Building on the success of India’s Triangular Climate Cooperation model which emphasizes bridging gaps between Global North and South–South Cooperation, India and Australia have the potential to build on their own bilateral momentum and work together to enhance food security within the context of climate resilience and regional security. This partnership would build greater trust for both countries within the PICTs in climate cooperation and strengthen strategic ties, as well as work towards building and strengthening public goods and services across the wider region.





# FOOD SECURITY CHALLENGES IN THE PACIFIC

The PICTs are subjected to severe food security challenges exacerbated by climate change, low domestic production, and disruptions in global food supply chains. Traditionally food security was defined by a population's access to traditional and nutritious food, agriculture and fishery. In the Pacific these factors are now affected by rapid urbanization, diminishing agricultural opportunities, and weather patterns leading to increasing food imports and a gradual shift away from traditional and subsistence (food) production systems.

Agriculture in the PICTs is largely dependent on family based small-scale farms. These farms are unable to meet requirements due to urban migration of agricultural labour for alternative economic opportunities and rising sea levels that affect these farms. Most PICTs are unable to support large-scale farming due to their volcanic soils which are fertile yet prone to erosion. Another contributing factor is the decreased availability of arable land, either due to climate events or increased development activity. This has led to an increased dependence on food imports and prompted nations to develop adaptation measures like purchasing arable fertile land in other countries. In 2014 Kiribati became the first atoll to buy land in Fiji to secure their food production.

Further, the sustainability of fish stocks is critical to food security in the Pacific, where local coastal and freshwater fisheries provide the main source of animal protein. While the expansion of offshore fisheries has led to significant increase in the amount of catch, very small quantities of subpar catch reach the local market as most is sent to processing facilities for export. This vastly reduces the supply of quality seafood to the local population.

One such dietary staple that is particularly affected is tuna. Climate change impacts such as marine heat waves are expected to shift tuna distribution patterns eastwards, from western and central Pacific, moving away from their current primary habitats in equatorial zones. This shift in tuna movements is increasingly overlapping with existing deep-sea mining activities in the eastern Pacific. Coral bleaching due to sea surface temperature rise and increased maritime activity is also affecting the fish populations. As the largest tuna fishery in the world, this shift extends beyond food security to economic security for PICTs. Over 95% of tuna purse-seine fishing by countries such as China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Philippines, Taiwan and United States occurs within exclusive economic zones (EEZs) in the Pacific region, providing around 37% of government revenue through access fees paid by industrial fishing fleets. The region contributes to about 53% to 58% of tuna caught globally. The shifting tuna stocks could reduce annual government revenue in some of these countries by up to 17%.

Another aspect of food (in)security in the last decades is the decline in nutrition and rise in epidemic of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) like diabetes and heart diseases. PICTs comprise 9 out of 10 of the most obese nations in the world, and a diabetes prevalence of 40% in adults is now increasingly common. The analysis of 2 WHO STEP surveys (STEPwise approach to surveillance of NCDs) over 2002–2019 revealed that among Pacific adults, 82% live with overweight or obesity, 33% live with hypertension, and 40% live with hypercholesterolaemia. Surging consumer prices and inflation are forcing households to either rely on local produce that is sub-standard or shift to cheaper, less nutritious options, exacerbating health disparities. The cost of nutritious food baskets has surged by up to 50% in some countries, making healthy diets unaffordable.

Monitoring efforts by the World Food Program reveal declining food consumption scores, with households in Samoa, Kiribati, and Vanuatu reducing their intake of fruits, vegetables, and essential nutrients like iron and protein. Traditionally Pacific islanders consume root crops like Taro, Cassava, and Yams as well as coconuts, green leaves, fruit, and seafood. Analysis from Pacific Food Trade Database from 1995–2018, indicates growing dependence on non-traditional foods through trade agreements. Imports include rice (50% increase) coming from Southeast Asia, wheat and meat from Australia, New Zealand, and the USA, sugar from India and Thailand and other highly processed foods from Southeast Asia. This reliance on external sources has exacerbated regional food insecurity and vulnerability due to disruptions in supply chains, as seen during the COVID-19 pandemic and Ukraine war.

The declining affordability and availability of traditional food is also attributed to the promotion of cash crops for exports. The overview of trade balance in food and beverage is skewed against the Pacific with imports exceeding the exports. The biggest exporters are Fiji and Papua New Guinea with a focus on palm oil, sugar, copra, coconut oil, vanilla, coffee and cocoa. The smaller, dominantly atoll islands export very limited food and have become increasingly import dependent since the late 90's.





# INDIAN FOOD SECURITY POLICY IN THE PACIFIC

India’s approach in the Pacific Islands has primarily revolved around grant-in aids, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and concessional lines of credit. In recent times, particularly on climate related policies, Delhi is enhancing its Act East Policy shaped by active engagement through the launch of Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) in 2014, UN-Development Partnership Fund, the International Solar Alliance and other multilateral platforms. Discussions under FIPIC, a multilateral grouping between India and the Pacific Island Countries, have centred on issues of regional significance, going beyond traditional aspects of strategic partnerships to include clean energy and water security, sustainable development and fisheries management. The second FIPIC summit in 2015 underscored India’s commitment to climate action and food security while emphasizing the need to strengthen trade and investments in sectors like agriculture (sugarcane, rice, coconut), fisheries, mining, and water desalination.

While India’s main developmental partners have traditionally been Fiji and Papua New Guinea, Delhi has been strengthening its outreach and partnerships with all PICTs, seen through a spate of high-level bilateral visits and exchanges in the recent years. India’s flagship project is the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC), a bilateral initiative that curates unique training courses in diverse sectors like technology, healthcare, agriculture, and governance. The Sustainable Coastal and Ocean Research Institute (SCORI), funded by the Government of India and housed at the University of South Pacific Campus in Suva, is a long-term initiative to enhance the multilateral cooperation on ocean sciences and climate adaptation, focusing on marine ecosystem protection.

Specifically on food security, India’s programs focus on enhancing agricultural capacity, sustainable fisheries, water security, solar energy, climate resilient infrastructure for storage and others. Investments in sugarcane, rice, and coconut production have also been made through the FIPIC platform. The Solar Cold Storage Initiative, in collaboration with the International Solar Alliance (ISA), strengthens food security by improving cold chain infrastructure for perishable goods and life-saving medicines. Through UN Partnership Development, India established ‘parametric insurance schemes’ to protect farmers against environmental shocks. Parametric insurance is event-specific and provides rapid claim payouts, often within as little as seven days, enabling farmers to initiate recovery efforts without delay.

Within the Water-Energy-Food Nexus, water security has been a primary aspect of India’s humanitarian efforts, with India contributing US\$ 100,000 in 2012 for storage, supply and management of water following the severe drought in Tuvalu, followed by a contribution of

US\$700,000 towards a crucial water storage initiative in the only public school, the ‘Motufoua Secondary School’ in Tuvalu. Furthering its commitment, at the 2023 FIPIC summit India committed to provide desalination units, with an aim to ensure that small scale units would be solar powered, across PICs to address water scarcity issues. There are also discussions underway to bring some of the learnings and success of India’s ‘piped water for all scheme’ to countries in the region that could aid in water security and have a direct benefit to long term food security.

PARTNERSHIP/PROGRAM	GRANT AMOUNT	TIMELINE	DETAILS
Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC)	US\$ 200,000 (Grant in Aid)	Established in 2014	Multilateral platform for regional cooperation in climate action, clean energy, food security, agriculture, and trade among 14 island countries.
Business Accelerator Program	N/A	Launched in 2015	Launched under the FIPIC II summit, it aims to enhance trade and investment in sectors like agriculture, fisheries, mining, and water desalination.
Sustainable Coastal and Ocean Research Institute (SCORI)	N/A	2023-Ongoing (Long-term Initiative)	Launched at the FIPIC III summit, it focuses on ocean sciences, marine ecosystem protection, and climate adaptation.
UN Development Partnership – Parametric Insurance in Fiji	US\$700,000	2023 – Ongoing	Provides rapid payouts to farmers affected by environmental shocks in Fiji.
Solar Cold Storage Initiative in Fiji	US\$ 277,500	2024-2025	Supports food security and cold chain infrastructure for perishable goods and medicines in collaboration with the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
Solar Lighting in Kiribati	US\$ 1.1 million	2017-2018	Funded solar lighting for the urban South Tarawa district.
Water Storage Initiative in Tuvalu	US\$ 700,000	2023	Provided funds for water storage in Motufoua Secondary School.
Desalination Units for PICs	N/A	2023	At the FIPIC III summit, India committed to provide desalination units to address water scarcity across Pacific Islands.

A snapshot of India’s partnership and programs in Pacific Island Countries and Territories directly relating to food security and/or Water-Energy-Food Nexus:





# AUSTRALIAN FOOD SECURITY POLICY IN THE PACIFIC

As the largest donor in the Pacific region and a member of the Pacific Islands Forum, Australia provides funding and support across a spectrum of areas and has initiated several regional and bilateral programmes to address climate change in recent years. In the year 2024-2025, Australia is delivering a record \$2 billion in development assistance to the Pacific. Amongst other partnerships, food security is a strong pillar, with initiatives focusing on building climate-resilient agriculture, fisheries conservation, improving market access, trade facilitation, supply chain resilience, and supporting smallholder farmers. As a major donor of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Australia contributes AU\$5 million annually to support partner nations conserve and manage their tuna resources. Additionally, Australia provides \$3 million per year to the Pacific Community's (SPC) Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Marine Ecosystems (FAME) Division which delivers scientific assessments and technical capacity building to help PICs manage offshore fish stocks and coastal fisheries.

Further, through programs like the Pacific Food Security Initiative and Supporting Pacific Genetic Diversity for Climate Resilient Agriculture, the aim is to enhance local

food production and biodiversity conservation to ensure long-term resilience. Programs like To'os ba Moris Di'ak (TOMAK) in Timor-Leste enhance food security through sustainable farming, while the Global Agricultural and Food Security Program (GAFSP) provides direct financial support to smallholder farmers.

These initiatives collectively aim to strengthen local food systems, boost rural livelihoods and capacity, and ideally ensure that Pacific communities are equipped to handle climate-related disruptions in agriculture and fisheries, as well as shocks arising from global disruptions. While many of Australia's programmes and aid assistance schemes have not directly targeted food or water security in the region, many such as the UN Women Markets of Change Project that was completed in 2021, have benefits to communities that indirectly aid in non-traditional forms of security including food, water and health. By focusing on supply chains and boosting trade, as well as supporting global programmes for market access, many of Australia's programmes and initiatives could have long term cascading benefits to building resilience and boosting growth.



PARTNERSHIP/PROGRAM	GRANT AMOUNT	TIMELINE	DETAILS
Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)	AU\$ 5 million annually	2018-2028	Supports conservation and management of tuna resources and supports regional cooperation in the offshore fisheries sector.
Pacific Community's Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Marine Ecosystems (FAME) Division	AU\$ 3 million annually	Ongoing	Provides scientific assessments and technical support for fisheries management.
UN Women Markets for Change Project	AU\$ 21,199,533	2014-2021	Strengthens market infrastructure, improves food security, and supports women vendors in the Pacific.
Vanuatu Skills Partnership	AU\$ 20,065,000	2017-2026	Integrates climate resilience into vocational training, including sustainable agriculture and fisheries.
Strongim Bisnis Program - Solomon Islands	AU \$32 million	2021-2023	Supports climate risk management in local enterprises, including agriculture-based businesses.
Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access Plus (PHAMA Plus) Program	AUD 41 million (Along with New Zealand)	2011- Ongoing	Supports smallholder farmers and agribusinesses in improving food production and accessing international markets.
Pacific Food Security Initiative	\$9.5 million	2020 - 2024	Aims to increase the availability and affordability of local, nutritious foods by invigorating Pacific food systems, thereby boosting economic opportunities and building climate resilience.
Supporting Pacific Genetic Diversity for Climate Resilient Agriculture	AU\$ 2.6 million	2024-2028	Strengthens conservation of food plant genetic diversity for climate adaptation, focusing on the Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees.
Global Agricultural and Food Security Program (GAFSP)	AU\$ 150 million	2010-2024	A multilateral program boosting agricultural productivity and linking farmers to markets in low-income countries, including Tuvalu and Kiribati.
Market Development Facility (MDF) Phase 2	AU\$ 139.4 million	2017-2027	Focuses on private sector interventions in agriculture and fisheries to promote climate-resilient economic growth.
To'os ba Moris Di'ak/ Farming for Prosperity (TOMAK)	AU\$ 50 million	2016-2026	To improve food security and agricultural resilience in Timor-Leste through capacity development and food supply chain support.
Australia's Aid for Trade Program in the Pacific	AU\$ 410.3 million (FY 22-23 for Pacific Islands)	Ongoing	To enhance food production and exports by improving supply chains and reducing trade barriers.

A snapshot of Australia's partnership and programs in Pacific Island Countries and Territories directly relating to food security and/or Water-Energy-Food Nexus:



# BUILDING COOPERATION FOR THE FUTURE

India-Australia's bilateral ties are at their strongest, presenting an opportune moment for more active joint collaboration on strengthening climate resilience in the Indo-Pacific region. While climate change in the Pacific Islands has garnered significant attention from development partnerships, including those of India and Australia, long-term resilience strategies such as food security remains underexplored. Pacific leaders have repeatedly emphasized the urgent need for action on this front. At the second edition of the World Sustainable Development Summit in New Delhi in 2018, Fijian Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum highlighted the immediate threat climate change poses to food production and called for enhanced finance and sustainable development assistance for climate-vulnerable nations across the PICTs. Kiribati's purchase of land in Fiji for food production underscores the gravity of this challenge.

The growing reliance on food imports in the Pacific has contributed to the decline of traditional crops, reduced nutritional diversity, and escalated food prices. This dependency is further exacerbated by global shocks such as pandemics and conflicts that disrupt supply chains. As global systems re-align in the wake of rising geopolitical tensions both India and Australia have the opportunity to build on their individual goodwill and partnership within the region and build stronger collaborative efforts with local partners to ensure that initiatives are demand driven and therefore resilience. By promoting climate-resilient farming and fishing practices, the Pacific Islands can ensure not only food security but also broader human security dimensions, including livelihoods, water, and health security. India-Australia triangular climate cooperation with the Pacific, focusing on sectors like food security, can offer a transformative pathway to address these climate-induced challenges and enhance resilience of communities in the region. While several opportunities exist, a few have been outlined below as a starting point.

## EXCHANGE OF BEST PRACTICES ON CROP DIVERSIFICATION AND CLIMATE RESILIENT FARMING

India-Australia can collaborate with PICTs to identify, promote, and adapt traditional and indigenous drought-tolerant, salt-tolerant, and flood-resilient crops and farming practices. Coastal regions in India, such as the Sundarbans Islands and mangroves, are facing similar climate challenges, including sea-level rise, coastal erosion and saline water intrusion. Local farmers in these regions have successfully revived heirloom varieties of salt-tolerant paddy, demonstrating the potential of traditional knowledge in climate adaptation. India's institutions like the Central Soil Salinity Research Institute

(CSSRI) have developed new climate-resilient crop varieties using traditional ones. Further, India is actively reviving and promoting its local nutrient-rich and climate-resilient crops like millets around the world. Within Australia, salt resistant rice varieties such as Oryza are already being developed and tested offering alternative options based on minerals and salinity levels within the water and ground.

Leveraging this experience, India and Australia can jointly provide technical support and facilitate the exchange of best practices to help Pacific farmers diversify their agricultural systems, based on local contexts and ecosystems. The Australia-India Strategic Research Fund has in the past supported joint academic research on salt tolerant rice. The Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIIC) can serve as a key platform for sharing these best practices and fostering collaborative innovation to enhance resilience to climate impacts, improve nutrition, promote gender-responsive approaches, and strengthen domestic food production, thereby reducing vulnerability to global shocks and supply chain disruptions.

## MOU ON SETTING UP OF AGRO-MET ADVISORY UNITS FOR CLIMATE FORECASTING AND IMPACTS ON CROPS

India can share its expertise in implementing Agro-Meteorological (Agro-Met) advisory systems to strengthen climate resilience in Pacific Island Countries and Territories. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has demonstrated success in reducing loss of life and property in the Bay of Bengal region, which is highly vulnerable to cyclones and tsunamis. IMD's weather data has also benefited neighbouring countries in managing disaster risks. Building on this experience, India established 199 District Agro-Meteorology Units (DAMUs) in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in 2018. Going one step ahead, The Meghdoot initiative, a joint effort by IMD and ICAR, delivers high-resolution weather-based agricultural advisories in vernacular languages. Agro-Met Field Units (AMFUs) issue tailored district- and crop-specific advisories twice a week, which are accessible through the Meghdoot App. This app also provides observed weather data and forecasts, empowering farmers with actionable information to manage risks and optimize productivity.

India and Australia can collaborate to facilitate the technology transfer and funding associated with setting up Agro-Met advisory systems in the Pacific Islands, where information dissemination in local languages becomes an integral aspect. By integrating these advisories into Pacific Island radio broadcasting networks and leveraging vernacular delivery methods,



PICTs can access localized, actionable information to enhance resilience. India's existing MoUs with Pacific Islands "Cooperation between Broadcasting Agencies" can be leveraged to advance the setting up of Agro-met advisory units, where key lessons and technology can be contextualised from Australia hyper-localised weather delivery systems. This partnership can address and build institutional capacity in the Pacific for sustainable climate adaptation.

## MOU ON ESTABLISHING CLIMATE-RESILIENT FOOD SECURITY FUND

Australia can broaden its Pacific funding portfolio to prioritize long-term investments in climate resilience, with a specific focus on addressing food security as a core element of human security in the region. This effort can align with India's demand-driven development approach, ensuring the initiatives resonate with the Pacific Islands' specific needs. An MoU can be entered into to establish a Climate-Resilient Food Security Fund, with a view of expanding it to other like-minded partners in the region.

The fund can target key areas such as:

- Agricultural and Coastal Resilience: Support capacity strengthening of subsistence farmers and fisherfolks; research and development of climate-resilient traditional seed varieties and provide resources to mitigate risks from climate change.
- Infrastructure Development: Invest in flood-proof food storage facilities, seed banks, and infrastructure for sustainable fisheries, such as boat repair and solar cold storage for fish stock maintenance and other food products. This includes extending India's solar cold storage initiative beyond 2025 and can add a key layer of using renewable energy for the cold storage systems.
- Parametric Insurance: Expand India-UNDP's parametric insurance program for small and marginal farmers and fisherfolk to safeguard livelihoods due to extreme weather events.
- Trade Opportunities: Facilitate trade in food exports from the Pacific by creating market opportunities, leveraging Australia's Aid for Trade Program in the Pacific. It can help advance regional intra-trade as well as global trade on sustainable fisheries and other food exports, promoting economic growth alongside climate resilience.



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- Peer Reviewed and Academic Journals
- Media Agencies

The WHO STEPwise approach to NCD risk factor surveillance (STEPS) is a simple, standardized method for collecting, analysing and disseminating data on key NCD risk factors in countries. The survey instrument covers key behavioural risk factors, as well as key biological risk factors, and can be expanded to cover a range of topics beyond these risk factors.



# AUTHOR



**Ambika Vishwanath**  
**Principal Research Fellow La Trobe Asia, La Trobe University**

Ambika Vishwanath is the Co-Founder and Director of the India based Kubernein Initiative and recipient of a 2024 Maitri Fellowship funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Ambika is a geopolitical analyst and water security specialist with an interest in enhanced global climate and security cooperation. At La Trobe Asia she will explore opportunities for enhanced climate and security cooperation between India and Australia, with a focus on the Pacific Islands.

She has led track two diplomacy efforts and consulted with several governments and international organizations in the MENA region, Africa, Europe and South Asia, and helped shape their policies in the field of conflict resolution, water diplomacy and security. She is a member of the Munich Security Conference Global Food Security Task Force and works with security and multilateral organisations to increase understanding on water and climate aspects of security.

Ambika has a Masters of Comparative Politics from The American University in Cairo and a Bachelor of Arts (Political Science) from Washington College.



## CONTACT

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La Trobe Asia  
La Trobe University  
Melbourne, Victoria 3086  
T +61 3 9479 5414  
E [asia@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:asia@latrobe.edu.au)

X  
[@latrobeasia](#)



[latrobe.edu.au/asia](https://latrobe.edu.au/asia)