Vanuatu

IAEA Member State since September 2015

Selected achievements

2023: A roadmap on enhancing diagnostic radiology services in Vanuatu is developed with support from international experts.

2022: The productivity and quality of crops is enhanced through the consistent application of the mutation breeding technique.

National priorities

- Radiation safety and nuclear security
- Food productivity
- Human health and nutrition
- Management of groundwater resources

Main areas of IAEA support

- Establishment of national radiation safety infrastructure
- · Managing water resources

Project successes

Food and agriculture

Since 2019, the IAEA has been helping Vanuatu to establish a food safety/quality control laboratory at the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) and Vanuatu Bureau of Standards.

The goal of this initiative is to better protect consumers from harmful hazards in foods and to facilitate safer exports.

IAEA support has included the provision of essential laboratory equipment, such as an Ultra-High-Performance Liquid Chromatograph (UHPLC) with Triple Quadrupole Mass Spectrometer (MS/MS) and a radio receptor assay tool.

Additionally, human capacity building efforts contributed to the sustainable operation of the laboratory.



Vanuatu from the air. The South Pacific country is an archipelago of 83 small islands and is one of the IAEA's newest Member States. (Photo: M. Garten/UN Photo)

Emergency Response

In March 2023, Vanuatu declared a national state of emergency and sought out IAEA assistance following two consecutive cyclones which caused widespread damage to infrastructure and disrupted essential services.

To address the urgent healthcare needs arising from these natural disasters, the Agency provided a portable X ray machine and portable ultrasound instrument to deliver quality medical assistance to patients in remote locations.

Nuclear science and technology

The Sub-regional Approach for the Pacific Islands (SAPI), launched in 2022, fosters nuclear science and technology collaboration among Pacific Island nations, including Vanuatu. The objective is to promote cooperation in the field of nuclear science and technology in order to address national development priorities, and to provide focused IAEA technical cooperation support to the Pacific Island Member States.

As part of this initiative, Vanuatu has been receiving targeted IAEA technical support in the form of procurement and capacity building to enhance its nuclear technology capabilities.

Participation in the major initiatives

• ZODIAC



A fruitseller in a market in Port Vila, Vanuatu. Island farmers could soon be selling improved produce after specialists received training in the use of IAEA supported nuclear techniques to develop new crop varieties better suited to changing climate conditions and more tolerant to disease. (Photo: M. Garten / UN Photo)

