

# MANGAIA FARMER'S REPORT FROM JANUARY to MARCH 2020



**Introduction:** Pa Enea AgINTEL is a collection of data for vegetables, root crops and fruit trees in the Pa Enea. This report is a snap-shot of the above produce for the first quarter (Q1) of 2020. The information compiled is based on the data provided. This bulletin informs farmers and consumers of the types of crops with its value and quantity. For further information, contact Ministry of Agriculture, Corporate Services Division on phone number 28711 or email us at [moa.support@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:moa.support@cookislands.gov.ck)

## Market Bulletin for Quarter 1, 2020

### Root crop sales for Q1:

Taro remains the most commercialized produce due to the huge demand from the local population. Taro was sold at an average price of \$3.19/kg, with a total value of over one thousand two hundred dollars. Tarua was also sold at the market for the first time due to the unavailability of flights. Farmers who grew this root crop for families living on Rarotonga had no option but to sell their crop of tarua at the local Mangaia market.

### Root crop sales for Quarter 1, 2020

| Root Crops | Average Price SNZ /kg | Total Weight (Kg) | Total Value (SNZ) |
|------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Taro       | 3.19                  | 398.0             | 1,267.80          |
| Tarua      | 6.25                  | 12.0              | 75.00             |

*Data Source: Ministry of Agriculture, AgINTEL*

### Fruit sales for Q1:

Drinking Nuts (Nu), cucumber, tomatoes and corn continues to be the mostly widely sold fruit at the market with a total value of over six thousand four hundred dollars generated through sales. Other fruits that were harvested for this quarter were pineapple, watermelon, egg plants, pawpaw, bananas, chestnuts and passionfruit. With the cooler months nearing, an increase in the supply of fruits is anticipated and more exports of fruits to Rarotonga market, apart from tomatoes, is expected.

### Fruit sales for Quarter 1, 2020

| Fruits       | Average Price SNZ per Kg | Total Weight (Kg) | Total Value (SNZ) |
|--------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Banana       | 3.00                     | 6.0               | 18.00             |
| Chestnut     | 15.00                    | 6.0               | 90.00             |
| Corn         | 6.25                     | 224.0             | 1,340.00          |
| Cucumber     | 37.85                    | 749.2             | 1,689.00          |
| Dragonfruit  | 2.23                     | 22.0              | 44.00             |
| Drinking Nut | 2.10                     | 1,171.0           | 2,233.00          |
| Eggplants    | 2.50                     | 40.0              | 105.00            |
| Passionfruit | 0.83                     | 6.0               | 5.00              |
| Pawpaw       | 1.42                     | 36.9              | 53.00             |
| Pineapple    | 7.19                     | 161.7             | 979.00            |
| Tomatoes     | 10.00                    | 120.0             | 1,200.00          |
| Watermelon   | 1.00                     | 765.0             | 765.00            |

*Data Source: Ministry of Agriculture, AgINTEL*

### Vegetable Sales for Q1:

Cabbage and Pak Choy were the most supplied vegetables with a total value of over two thousand dollars generated. There has been a slow-down of growing vegetables in this quarter due to the COVID-19 situation. It is anticipated that in the next quarter, the cooler months and borders opening for travel to Pa Enea, there will be an increase in vegetable production again.

### Vegetable sales for Quarter 1, 2020

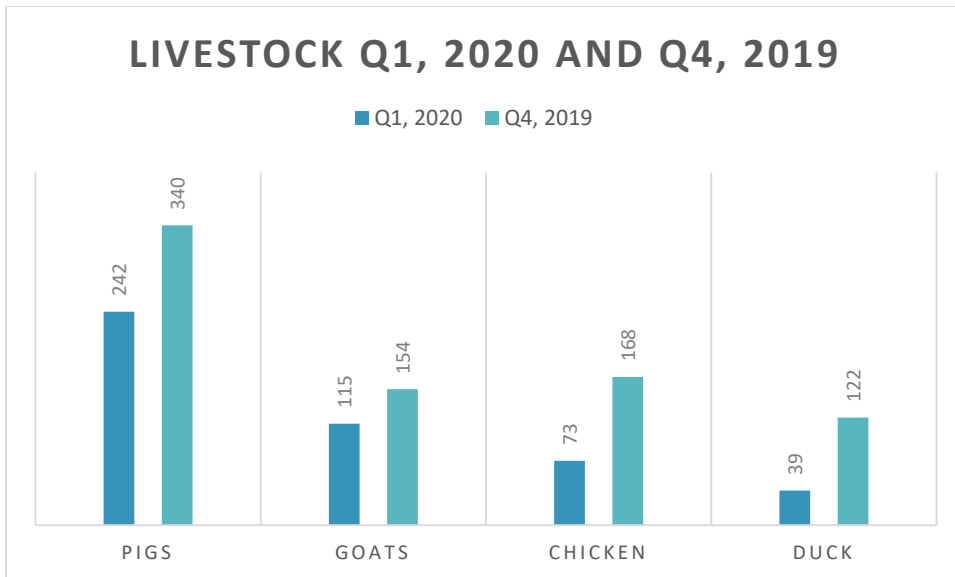
| Vegetables | Average Price SNZ/Kg | Total Weight (Kg) | Total Value (SNZ) |
|------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Cabbage    | 4.00                 | 555.0             | 1,650.00          |
| Lettuce    | 4.00                 | 75.0              | 300.00            |
| Pak Choy   | 2.00                 | 224.0             | 448.00            |
| Rukau      | 10.49                | 49.6              | 442.00            |

**LAND USE**

Most of the land utilized for agriculture was for tree crops as these are easily manageable and requires less attention. Land utilization for root crops totaled eleven acres for taro and tarua plantations. Farmers on the island did not use much land for growing vegetable crops due to a shortage of seedlings on the island. This was further compounded by the uncertainty of receiving seedlings due to the closure of the borders because of COVID-19.

| <b><u>LAND USE</u></b> | <b><u>TOTAL ACRE</u></b> |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Under root crops       | 11                       |
| Under tree crops       | 33                       |
| Under vegetable crops  | -                        |

**LIVESTOCK**



A reduction in all livestock numbers were reported in this quarter when compared to the last quarter of 2019. The festive season and closure of the Pa Enea border due to COVID-19 contributed to these reductions. Pigs and goats comprise more than 70% of the livestock on the island, with 242 and 115 reported respectively for each. The two livestock are always in high demand by the local population. Chicken was reported at 73 in total and is one of the easiest livestock to manage. Due to its sensorial taste, farmers have also started to farm ducks on the island, with a total number of 39 reported this quarter.