

Ministry of Agriculture Farmer Profiles



TEARIKI TURUA NURSERY TECHICIAN

Meet this young energetic farmer who originates from Rarotonga but grew up in Aitutaki, living the old ways of life and learning the art of self sustainability.

Teariki Turua, states that “planting is my passion and planting has played a major role in my life from the time I was a toddler”. His passion for planting has enhanced his goals to grow different varieties of crops. Teariki is striving to pass this knowledge to his children so that they can grow food to sustain daily living on their own without anyone’s help.

Teariki is also aiming to manage livestock such as pigs, goats, and chickens. Teariki faces many challenges in planting but is steadily overcoming those in his role as a Nursery Technician for the Ministry. The major struggle that he has is unable to get more land for planting. His advice “Agriculture is the back bone of our nation and has been unrecognized for a long time”.

With the COVID-19 situation, he encourages people to plant and revive Agriculture“.



VICTOR MATAORA CROP TECHNICIAN

This is Victor Mataora. A proud planter who fends for his family and believes that planting is a way of life. Since his earliest memory, planting has played a major role in his upbringing.

Planting has impacted his life drastically to the point that it helps him to escape from the stress and struggles of daily living.

Victor plants all varieties of crops such as fruit trees, vegetables, root crops but his most favorite is taro.

Planting taro has been in his family for generations and he is preparing to pass that on to his children to continue the legacy of his grandfather. The only challenge Victor faces today is that he does not have enough land to plant.

His message to the youth is that, “everyday people need to eat, so if you’re in Agriculture, you’re in business. Starting today, plant something in the ground, it will be worth something tomorrow”.

Ministry of Agriculture Farmer Profiles



PATU KATU ADVISORY OFFICER

Meet Patu Katu, “a man born with plants” Patu started planting at a young age and lives to plant. His childhood nickname was “watermelon boy”.

Patu loves to plant all varieties of crops- root crops, vegetables and fruits trees including flowers.

His interest for planting grew further when he began his career in Agriculture. Patu feels privileged to serve his community and country in his capacity as an Advisory Officer.

He speaks out that planting these days is quite risky due to climate change. Being able to predict the weather for tomorrow has become a challenge when compared to the time when he was a child. However, this does not stop him from doing what he loves best.

His message to the new generation "farming should start from home, there is always opportunity in farming, If you don't know how, I am here to help you".



WILLIAM WIGMORE DIRECTOR CROP RESEARCH

This is William Wigmore, a dedicated farmer who has been planting for more than three decades.

William started planting to earn additional income for his home and then expanded into commercial farming.

He is an expert in growing fruits and vegetables such as zucchini, tomato, eggplant and capsicum to name a few. His most favorite is watermelon.

Challenges that he faces in his farming career is access to land, water supply and lack of assistance for land preparation.

His message to the youth, "no matter what, at the end of the day people need to eat. Agriculture will survive the strongest storm".

“See the value of Agriculture and the value of what you produce, see the value you have and what you can offer to your community. See the business in this”.