

AITUTAKI FARMER'S REPORT JULY - SEPTEMBER 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 third quarter (Q3) of 2020. The information compiled is based on the data provided by Aitutaki Agriculture. 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

Market Bulletin for Quarter 3, 2020

Fruits

Tomatoes was the most supplied fruit on the island this quarter, with almost three thousand eight hundred and eighty eight kilograms harvested. These were sold at an average price of \$2.70/kg. Watermelon and Pawpaw were the other fruits supplied for this quarter. We noted a decrease in the supply of other fruits which could be due to inconsistent farming patterns by the farmers. There had been favorable weather conditions that resulted in the farmers supplying a large amount of tomatoes and pawpaw to the market. Other fruits that were harvested and sold were eggplant, beans, bananas and capsicum.

Crop	Quarter 3			Quarter 2
	Sold (kg)	Average Price (\$NZ)	Total Value (\$NZ)	Sold (kg)
Watermelon	720.0	2.50	1,800.00	5,990.0
Tomatoes	3,888.0	2.67	10,380.96	1,010.0
Cucumber	280.0	5.00	1,400.00	465.0
Corn	160.0	20.00	3,200.00	240.0
Pawpaw	1,500.0	0.70	1,050.00	135.0
Banana	25.0	8.00	200.00	45.0
Lime	22.5	3.33	74.93	30.0
Capsicum	4.4	3.33	14.49	28.0

Root Crops

Taro and Tarua were the only root crops supplied to the market for this quarter. Taro dominated the market with a total of six thousand kilograms and sold at an average price of \$4/kg.

Discussions have been held about exploring opportunities to export taro to NZ, plus the celebration of 200 years of Christianity arriving to the Cook Islands in 2021, has been the impetus for farmers to grow a large amount of taro on Aitutaki.

Crop	Quarter 3			Quarter 2
	Sold (kg)	Average Price (\$NZ)	Total Value (\$NZ)	Sold (kg)
Taro	6,000.0	4.00	24,000	1,000.0
Tarua	100.0	4.00	400	10.0

Vegetables

Lettuce and Pak Choi were the only vegetables supplied to the market this quarter. Lettuce has been a very popular crop in Aitutaki hence the increasing numbers provided for sale.

Crop	Quarter 3			Quarter 2
	Sold (kg)	Average Price (\$NZ)	Total Value (\$NZ)	Sold (kg)
Lettuce	150.0	4.00	600	100.0
Pak choi	300.0	2.00	600	70.0



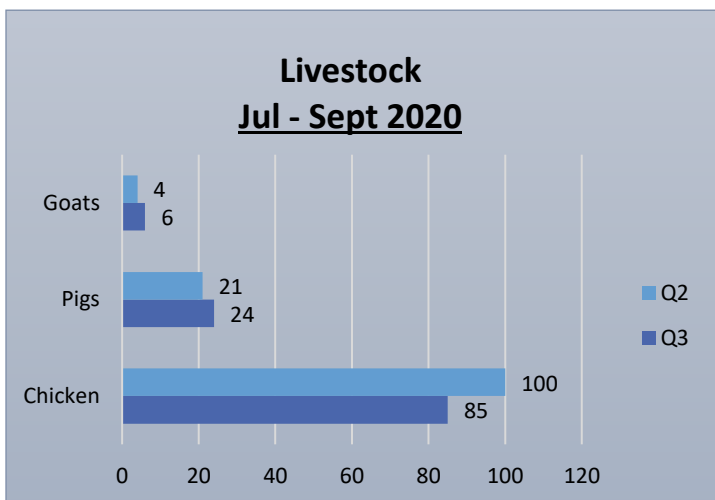
Land use

A decrease in the use of the land for agricultural purposes was noted for this quarter. Land preparation for further re-planting (following harvest) was the main reason for this reduction. It is envisaged that the last quarter of 2020 will show a different trend for land use.

LAND USE	SQUARE METRES	ACRES	SQUARE METRES	ACRES
	Q3	Q3	Q2	Q2
Under mixed/other crops	14,164	3.5	6,095	1.5
Under root crops	4,546	1.1	35,408	8.7
Under tree crops (Fruits & Nuts)	21,746	5.4	37,433	9.2
Under vegetable crops	12,129	3.0	18,329	4.5
Under fallow & non agricultural use	32,375	8.0	10,116	2.5

Livestock

Chicken is the most kept livestock on the island. Pigs followed by goats were the other livestock reported on the island with total numbers of 24 and 6 respectively.



Note: Livestock data collected are only for those being well managed by farmers.