

Seasoned farmers & floriculturalist



MAOATE FARMS

Tereinga Maoate is a former employee of the Ministry. He started his own family farming business (Maoate Farms) a decade ago and further expanded once he retired.

Maoate Farms involves his whole family including his youngest son Mapu, pictured above.

Tereinga believes in "smart farming" - i.e. selecting a number of crops for growing and being the "Master" in growing these crops. He concentrates on growing watermelon, tomatoes, pawpaw, cucumber, capsicum, bok choy and lime. Inconsistent weather patterns and pests destroying crops are some of the challenges he faces.

Tereinga encourages youth to involve themselves in farming. "Show them your achievements and success from farming, (new house, vehicles, assets) so as to motivate our youth into farming".



VICTORIA'S GARDENS

Meet Victoria Ruaporo-Charles, owner of Victoria's Gardens. Victoria is 55 years of age and lives in Vaimaanga, Titikaveka. Much of Victoria's upbringing involved time on the plantation with her father.

"I am good with my hands and I love to plant and watch flowers blossom in its season- this is something which inspires me".

Following her return home in 2006, Victoria built her business in flowers (floriculture) and put her knowledge gained from her childhood to good use.

Victoria grows many varieties of plants - flowering, foliage, tropical, indoor plants. She also has a large collection of Anthuriums, which was her father's favorite plants to grow.

Victoria's passion in floriculture continues to grow.



KIRIAU TUREPU

Meet a successful full time farmer, Kiriau Turepu.

"My family is a farming family. This is what I am. Farming has given me the experience to be confident, so that I can take care of myself without relying on anyone else and this is something that inspires me to farm".

Over the years, Kiriau's diversification of his crops is the key to his success in the agriculture sector. His production includes root crops, fruits and vegetables like pak choy, cabbage, rukau and raddish.

His biggest challenges are the weather and soil conditions.

He provides the following advice to young farmers who are already in farming - "continue farming, as people need to eat and your job is to provide them with a variety of crops to eat and maintain food security".



ANERU TAUTU

Say Kia Orana to Aneru Tautu who lives in Matavera with his family and has been a full time farmer for many years.

Aneru has been planting since his childhood, but what inspired him more was the need to feed his family.

He farms a variety of crops such as pineapples, bananas, tomatoes, pak choi and beans. He also raises chickens for the production of free range eggs.

Weather conditions and lack of technical assistance and support are his biggest challenges.

His message to the youth - "as an individual of this nation, I have taken it upon myself to plant and feed our people during COVID 19, you should do the same".