

Ministry of Agriculture



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

It time to fly says
the “Bug Lady” 1

Asia Development 2
Bank assists 2021
Agriculture Cen-
sus

Atiu & Mauke 2
Hydroponic sys-
tems

H.E Ambassador 3
Ito visits the Min-
istry

2021 Census of 3
Agriculture &
Fisheries

Te Maeva Nui 4
2021
1st prize for float!
1st for BCI Special
prize!

MOA joins BCI 5
Trade day String-
band event

8

VOLUME 11/2021

QUARTER 11

IT'S TIME TO FLY SAYS “THE BUG LADY”

The Ministry of Agriculture bid farewell to a longtime member of its staff, Entomologist Dr Maja Poeschko, who has worked for the Ministry for 24 years.

On Friday 24th September, the staff helped Maja celebrate her 60th birthday and bid her farewell from the life of a public servant. Maja had indicated she wanted to retire once she turned 60 years.

Maja has been the lone Entomologist for the Cook Islands and is well known in the community as the Bug Lady.

We wish Maja all the best for her retirement and future endeavors.

Ka Kite Maja.



ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

ASSISTS THE 2021 AGRICULTURE CENSUS



The Asian Development Bank (ADB) through a knowledge and support technical assistance project is assisting the Ministry of Agriculture with its 2021 Agricultural census through the provision of equipment for data collection and capacity building activities.

The collaboration aims to implement a post validation activity to fine tune the results of the cense through the application of sampling techniques and Global Positioning Systems (GPS) land area measurement methods.

The grant support to the Ministry is around USD\$20,000.

Thank you ADB for your support and we look forward to continuing this partnership.

ATIU AND MAUKE HYDROPONIC SYSTEMS



The Ministry of Agriculture under the Pa Enea for Resilient Livelihoods project (PEARL), has further extended its support to the Pa Enea by funding two new Hydroponic systems for the schools on Mauke and Atiu Island in July and September of 2021.

In Mauke, the team spent five days constructing the structure of the hydroponic system and conducted training on the management of the system with the Agriculture department and senior students. The hydroponic system was blessed and opened to the school on the 16th of July 2021.



In Atiu, the Ministry completed the hydroponic system set-up and carried out training for the Agriculture department staff, teachers and students from Year 10 to Year 12 on the operations of the system.

On the 10th of September 2021, the hydroponic system was blessed and attended by Enuamanu school, Island council, farmers and the Agriculture department.

We thank the Island Council, Executive Officer, Farmers, Schools and the communities of both islands for the support of the PEARL's projects activities and the Ministry's goals on improving household food security.

H.E. AMBASSADOR ITO VISIT'S THE MINISTRY



H.E. Ambassador Ito, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Cook Islands with residence in Wellington visited the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Ministry has been end users of various Japanese assistance and grant aid programmes for many years with the latest being 3 excavators and 2 water trucks for the Pa Enea.

The Japan Grassroots project fund provided the excavators to support various agriculture projects on the Pa Enea. These were handed to the Agriculture departments on Mitiaro, Mauke and Atiu by the Minister for Agriculture Hon. Vainetutai Rose Toki-Brown.

We look forward to working with the Japanese Embassy and we thank the Government and the people of Japan for its continued partnership and support of the agriculture sector of the Cook Islands.

2021 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES

The Ministry of Agriculture staff commenced their training in preparation of the Agriculture and Fisheries Census 2021. Supported by FAO Technical Advisors, the questionnaire was developed, training manual completed and tabulated onto tablets. This is the first time the census will be conducted using technology. The Agriculture Census has typically been carried out every 10 years. The very first Census of Agriculture (CoA) in the Cook Islands was conducted in 1988, the second in 2000. The 3rd census conducted in 2011 included a fisheries component and was conducted at the same time as the Census of Population and Dwellings in November 2011.

The 2021 Agriculture and Fisheries Census will be implemented in November and December of this year in close association with the population census. The census is to gather information/data on the level of agricultural production in the country, amount of land utilized for agricultural activities, the types of agricultural activity (e.g. fresh produce, floriculture, livestock). We are also collecting data on the variety and type of value added activities in the country. The information collected will assist the Ministry in designing policies/projects necessary to address our food security and nutritional requirements as intensive economic and social changes in our country have occurred over the past 10 years and we need to confirm changes in agricultural activity in the country.

TE MAEVA NUI 2021

FIRST PRIZE FOR FLOAT! FIRST FOR BCI SPECIAL PRIZE!



The Ministry participated in this years 2021 Te Maeva Nui celebrations Float Parade.

Themed "Te Tama 'U'A a te Ui Ariki, Te Evangeria", "The Gospel, the Beloved Child of the Chiefs" the Ministry portrayed a Paramount Chief with his bounty of local delicacies as offering to the Lord.

The amount of work put into the float was beyond expectation. A float depicting a "BCI ATM" was also constructed, that when you used your card to withdraw, you received vegetables.

The outcome of the two floats was perfection and the spectators and crowd were amazed. To top it off, the Ministry's float achieved 1st placing in the Government department section and 1st placing for the BCI Special prize award.

Excellent effort team!

MOA JOINS BCI TRADE DAY STRINGBAND EVENT



Led by "Composer Extraordinaire" Mari Syme, the staff looked amazing in their uniforms when they took to the stage to sing their song for the string-band competition event.

It was not our year this year but we managed to come away with a consolation prize.

Nevertheless team MOA, you were all "O for Osum!!"

