

Ministry of Agriculture



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WORLD FOOD DAY 2021

The theme for World Food Day 2021 recognized “Our Actions Are Our Future — Better Production, Better Nutrition, A Better Environment & Better Life”.

The Ministry commemorated WFD 2021 on Friday 15th October 2021. This was another successful event according to the vendors who participated on the day. We also recognized 2021 as the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables.

“We must support our local food heroes — our farmers and the workers throughout the food systems. They are the ones who are making sure that food makes its way from the plantation to your plate even during the disruptions we are experiencing with this current COVID-19 crisis.

We must continue to work together to ensure the threats COVID-19 is posing to food security and agricultural livelihoods are well managed and does not impact negatively on our nation’s food security. We also acknowledge our partners and co-partners who have contributed towards the planning and implementing of this event.” *Secretary of Agriculture, Mrs. Temarama Anguna-Kamana*



LAUNCH OF PHAMA PLUS



The PHAMA Plus program with the Cook Islands was launched on Tuesday 30th November 2021 at the Crown Beach Resort.

Attended by the Minister for Agriculture Hon. Rose Brown, representatives for NZ and Australia, MFAI and MOA, Phama Plus is a multi-country aid trade program jointly funded by the Government of Australia and New Zealand.

The engagement of this program with the Cook Islands is an element of the support provided by

Australia and New Zealand under the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER Plus).

The 'Agriculture Sector Action Plan 2020-2025' and the 'Cook Islands National Agriculture Policy' highlights the need for sustainable development of the agricultural sector and the potential benefits to the people of the Cook Islands.

From a trade and market access standpoint, the objectives outlined in the key agricultural documents overlap and play a key role in facilitating and promoting market access within the Cook Islands and overseas.

PHARMA Plus to the Cook Islands is intended to create opportunities to assist Cook Islands exporters and producers in a number of areas that include;

- Assistance to better understand the market requirements for key export products
- Build capacity for Cook Islands Biosecurity to respond to biosecurity threats such as African Swine Fever, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle etc.
- Explore market opportunities for local and value added products ensuring compliance with certification programs.
- Work with agri-businesses and exporters to save costs by processing and cold storage and address some biosecurity requirements.
- Strengthen compliance with food safety requirements and access to market opportunities through Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) systems.

We acknowledge the supporting role the agricultural sector provides the tourism and infrastructure sectors, which are the largest contributing sectors to our national Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

PHAMA PLUS – SPC (POETCOM) ORGANIC WORKSHOP

An Organic workshop facilitated by SPC and MOA was held on Thursday 2nd December 2021 at MOA premises. Supported by Phama Plus, the workshop is the 1st phase of the collaboration between the PHAMA Plus program and POETCom of the Land Resources Division (LRD) of the Pacific Community (SPC).

The workshop provided an overview of the principles, benefits and process relating to organic certification. On the production and supply side, organic farmers from 3 countries (Fiji, Kiribati & Niue) shared their experience with the Cook Islands participants via an online zoom session.

Today, organic certification is often considered the key driver for stakeholders with more direct economic benefits. Most importantly, it also recognises that a holistic approach needs to combine the science with the practical experience, and traditional/ indigenous knowledge.

Given the impacts with the changing climate and associated environmental degradation from agricultural expansion, the principles of organics may provide the opportunities for Cook Islands stakeholders to be more sustainable.

The workshop was attended by various organic farmers on Rarotonga.



CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES 2021

The 10 year Census of Agriculture and Fisheries commenced in December 2021 with data collecting by Ministry of Agriculture enumerators.

Running alongside the Population Census, subsistence, semi-subsistence and commercial growers were enumerated by staff. The last Agriculture & Fisheries census was carried out in 2011.

The information collected from the farmers and growers will better assist the Ministry in designing policies and projects necessary to address our food security and nutritional requirements.

We also need to identify what changes have occurred in the agriculture sector over the last 10 years.



MOA USP GRADUATES 2021

On Friday the 19th of November 2021, 3 Agriculture staff graduated at the National Auditorium.

Piriariki Maa and Grace Ioane received a Certificate in Business Administration from USP.

Puna Kamoe received a Certificate in Cyber Forensics and Cyber Law with Centre of Excellence in IT (CEIT) funded by the Indian Government.

Congratulations to you three!

Let this be a motivator to all staff in the Ministry to pursue further qualifications for your own benefit, professional development and personal gain!



2021 MINISTRY SPORTS DAY—PHOTOS PAINT THE PICTURE



2021 MINISTRY CHRISTMAS WRAP UP – & THE WINNER IS...

