

# TUVALU REPORT

## ***SMCN-2014-089: IMPROVING SOIL HEALTH, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY AND FOOD SECURITY ON ATOLLS***

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# OVERVIEW OF TUVALU

- ❑ Tuvalu is a Polynesian country situated midway between Hawaii and Australia
- ❑ Tuvalu consist of nine island., three reef islands and six atolls.
- ❑ The islands are scattered and have poor soils
- ❑ The total land area is approx. 26 sq km and the highest elevation is 4.6m (15ft) above sea level.
- ❑ Tuvalu experience two distinction seasons (wet & dry season)
- ❑ Tuvalu experience the effects of El Nino and La Nina.
- ❑ The total population in 2020 is approx. 11,342
- ❑ Agriculture & Fisheries are the two main source of economy
- ❑ Tuvalu is vulnerable to the effect of climate change



# BACKGROUND

## KEY CHALLENGES;

- ☐ Poor soil
- ☐ Salt intrusion
- ☐ high tides
- ☐ Limited of water
- ☐ Lack of compost materials & manures
- ☐ Lack of knowledge & skills
- ☐ Far from the main land
- ☐ Crossing the passages





# PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

- **Who are the lead implementers?**
  - ☐ Agriculture department, Tuvalu
- **Who are the in country partners?**
  - ☐ Kaupule Funafuti
  - ☐ NGOs
  - ☐ TTM



# PROJECT SITE

- **Overview of Funafala**

- ☐ Funafala is an islet in Funafuti.
- ☐ It is the second settlement for the people on the island
- ☐ the islet is located south east of the main settlement
- ☐ To go to Funafala, you have to pass two passage

- **Funafala was selected because;**

- ☐ It is the second settlement for Funafuti people
- ☐ Availability of land
- ☐ compost materials available from nearby islets





# CONTINUE

## Benefit from the site at Funafala

- ☐ People will benefit from the produces
- ☐ Building capacity (farmers, youths, children, etc)
- ☐ Engaging of people to planting starchy crops
- ☐ Employment in Funafala



# PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- To increase the sustainability and productivity of starchy staple food production system
- To increase household and community production and consumption of local nutritious foods
- Identify and develop opportunities for inter-island trade in high-value crops and products.





# PROJECT ACTIVITIES/RESULTS

- Objective 1. To increase the sustainability and productivity of starchy staple food production system

## Activities completed related to kumala, taro and cassava trials

- ☐ Collecting planting materials
- ☐ Nursing in the seedlings
- ☐ Preparing of compost materials
- ☐ Filling of cubes/tubs





# PROJECT ACTIVITIES/RESULTS

## **Objective 2: To increase household and community production and consumption of local nutritious foods**

- ☐ Compost preparation
- ☐ Sowing of seeds
- ☐ Thinning – out of seedlings
- ☐ Nursing of seedlings
- ☐ Planting of seedlings
- ☐ Distributing of seedlings
- ☐ Collecting planting materials
- ☐ Training & workshops



# PROJECT ACTIVITIES/RESULTS

## Objective 3: Identify and develop opportunities for inter-island trade in high-value crops and products

- ☐ Harvesting
- ☐ Consultation on outer islands together with trade department for trading of commodities
- ☐ Tau-maketi (program) that runs once a month to promote marketing. A one day program where it starts at 10am-10pm.





# OUTCOMES

**The results of the project lead to;**

- ☐ Farmers involvement in growing crops  
(growing taro patch beside the farmers' home)
- ☐ Increasing the number of home garden in the country  
(the number of home garden increases in most of the islands by 50%)
- ☐ Forming agriculture group/association



# OUTCOMES

## 3. Training and Involvement of youths and students in growing crops;

- ☐ The above picture shows the youths are growing root crops in the food cubes.
- ☐ The picture below express the students take parts in a training session in growing food crops.





# OUTCOMES

## 4. Expanding and improving patient diets by using food cubes at the hospital;

- ☐ Food cubes have been used wisely in the hospital to grow vegetables that can be used for the patient & staffs meals
- ☐ Promote healthy foods for the patients & staffs.
- ☐ For physical activity of patients and staffs



# OUTCOMES

**Changes as a results of food cubes**

- ☐ Farmers practices the new methods of planting using wicking system
- ☐ Growing crops on available containers as a result of the food cubes ideas





# CHALLENGES

**Below are the challenges that the project experienced;**

- ☐ Site is too far from the mainland
- ☐ Expensive to travel to Funafala
- ☐ Hard to transported material to the site
- ☐ Water shortage
- ☐ Soil salinity
- ☐ Site is affected by high tides & salt water intrusion
- ☐ Lack of compost materials
- ☐ Lack of manures on the island
- ☐ No storage place for the vegetables crops
- ☐ No compost sheds
- ☐ Lack of knowledge (using soil test kits, etc )
- ☐ Delayed in materials





# LESSONS

## Compost production lessons

- ❑ Compost is the important component for the plant growth
- ❑ Good/better compost produce high quality yield
- ❑ Highly organic compost provide healthy and nutritious produces
- ❑ Compost improves soil nutrients that help plant and soil characteristic as well.
- ❑ Good compost materials make a good compost





# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I sincerely express my gratitude and appreciation on behalf of the Government of Tuvalu to:

- ☐ The staffs of the SPC for guiding us throughout the project
- ☐ ACIAR for sponsoring this project.
- ☐ The expertise who involve in this research that help us with their technical advisors and skills in implementing the trials.
- ☐ Agriculture staffs for delivering the activities
- ☐ Stakeholders for working hand in hand with us to enhance the importance of the project.
- ☐ TTM for assist us with seedlings, equipment, implementing activities at Funafala.
- ☐ DFAT to support scaling up the project