



# FSM Food Security Project Newsletter

VOL 5



April - June 2023

## *Annual Project Steering Committee Meeting*



The second annual project steering committee (PSC) meeting was held on April 28, 2023, at the FSM National Department of Resources and Development (R&D) Office. The PSC is made up of members from the FSM Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Emergency Management (DECEM), FSM Department of Resources and Development, FSM National Designated Authority (NDA), College of Micronesia-FSM (COM-FSM), Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) and state representatives from Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae. The purpose of the meeting was to review and approve the 2022 Annual Performance Report (APR), adopt and approve the 2023 work plans of the Executing Entities, and provide guidance to the Project Management Unit.

As the Chairperson for the PSC, Secretary Elina Akinaga of FSM R&D formally welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the committee for their continuous support towards the project. Mr. Mark Kostka, Project Manager, took the lead in presenting the APR, emphasizing the major accomplishments of the project's first year of planning and preparation.

Following Mr. Kostka's presentation, the Executing Entities presented to the committee their 2023 work plans including the possible challenges that may hinder their planned activities. After a thorough and deliberative engagement, the committee came to a consensus and approved the 2023 annual work plan and APR.

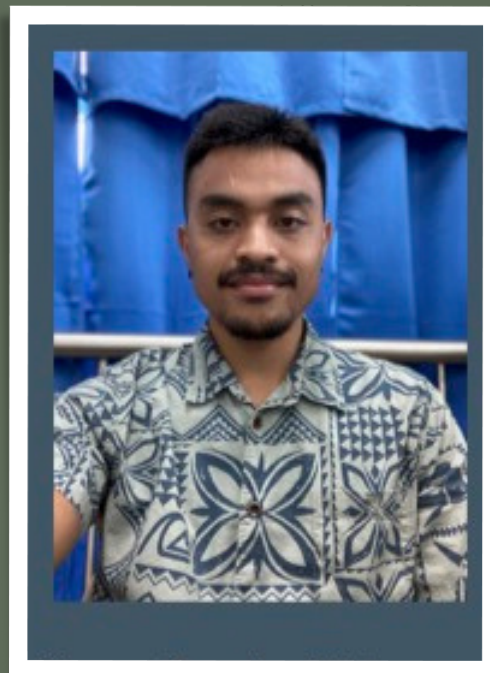
## *Hiring of Food Security and Livelihoods Coordinator for Pohnpei State*

The project brings on board Mr. Shawn Douglas Walter as the Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) Coordinator for Pohnpei State.

Mr. Walter graduated from the University of Hawaii at Hilo with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Marine Science. He has a wealth of experience in ocean and environment conservation and resource management through his internships at the Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP) and the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA). While in Hawaii, Mr. Walter also worked as an intern at the Pacific Aquaculture and Coastal Resources Center (PACRC) where he gained extensive knowledge on sustainable marketing for natural resources.

As an FSL Coordinator, Mr. Walter will ensure the proper work and communication between Pohnpei Farmers' Cooperative Association, Pohnpei State Government, PMU, and the Executing Entities.

Mr. Walter is determined to fulfill his duties as the Pohnpei FSL Coordinator and is excited to be helping our farming communities strengthen their resiliency against the issues surrounding food security.



## Project Information Exchange Conducted in Yap State

On May 19, 2023, an informal workshop was conducted in Yap to provide the general public with extensive information on the project strategy, objectives, and roles and responsibilities of the project team. The workshop was facilitated by Ms. Mercedes Tiningmow, Yap Food Security and Livelihoods Coordinator.

Mrs. Menoleen Jacob Oswald, Assistant Secretary for the Agriculture Division of FSM R&D delivered the opening remarks and welcomed the attendees. She highlighted the significance of the workshop, noting that it will provide them an opportunity to engage in discussions that will unfold any concerns relating to the project.

Several key points were raised during the discussion, including the possibility of collaborating with other similar projects to prevent duplication of activities.

The workshop hosted nearly 50 participants representing state departments, municipal governments, legislature, private sector, and civil society organizations.



## Project Presentation at the Women Learning Exchange Program



Photo Credit: Drinnette James



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From June 6-8, 2023, the project team attended a workshop for the Pacific American Fund Project called Implementing Nature-Based Solutions to Adapt to Climate Change and Protect the Local Economy. The workshop was hosted by the MCT with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Pohnpei Women's Council.

The objectives of the workshop were on providing a clearer understanding of key concepts such as ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) and nature-based solutions, identifying conservation actions within the context of climate change and manage project actions, and how nature-based solutions can help communities adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Mr. Kostka's presentation focused on mainstreaming gender considerations throughout the project. He emphasized the need to ensure gender-balanced representation in the project's decision-making, coordination, and equal access to weather and climate information. Mr. Kostka also shared that the project is currently working with the states to formalize their state Farmer's Associations, in which women will be equally represented.

The workshop was an interactive platform, allowing participants to learn and network from different projects, programs, and offices working closely in nature-based solutions.

# Election for Pohnpei State Farmers' Association

On June 15, 2023, representatives from organizations (youth, women, farmers, etc.) in the municipalities of Pohnpei gathered and unofficially elected their officers for the Pohnpei State Farmers' Cooperative Association.

- The elected officers are:
- President: Kalio Edwin
  - Vice President: Lillian C. Smith
  - Secretary: Ivenglynn Andon
  - Treasurer: Phyllis Silbanuz

The officers will establish the association's by-laws and articles of incorporation to officially charter the association at the national level. They will work closely with the national and state government, to make sure that the project activities are equally distributed to the municipalities.

The State-level associations will serve as the central entity for conducting training and outreach to local farmers and a conduit for the dissemination of climate information.



Left to Right: Secretary Andon, VP Smith and President Edwin.  
Not Pictured: Treasurer Silbanuz

## We Want Your Feedback

The FSM Food Security Project welcomes all feedback, including complaints about environmental or social harm caused by this project. To lodge your feedback or complaint, you can:

- Lodge online at the following websites:
  - MCT Website at [www.ourmicronesia.org](http://www.ourmicronesia.org)
  - GCF Website at <https://irm.greenclimate.fund>
- Send formal email to MCT Executive Director at :
  - [director@ourmicronesia.org](mailto:director@ourmicronesia.org)
- Drop off in Grievances Boxes at:
  - Palikir, Pohnpei, FSM R&D Office
  - Palikir, Pohnpei, FSM DECEM
  - Palikir, Pohnpei, COM-FSM

- To ensure that women have equal access to the grievance mechanism the project will work to:
- Provide all female beneficiaries (farmers, households, women's groups) with a clear process for providing comment and raising grievances;
  - Disseminate grievance mechanism avenues through trusted female leaders (teachers, heads of NGOs, heads of women's groups) to all 140 local communities targeted;
  - Ensure women have the opportunity to raise comments and/or concerns anonymously through the establishment of focal points for the project within the 4 State-level umbrella women's groups

**Word of the Day**  
**CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE (CSA): AN APPROACH TO FARMING METHODS, DESIGNED TO INCREASE THE RESILIENCY AND PRODUCTIVITY OF LAND AFFECTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE.**