



# FSM Food Security Project Newsletter

VOL I



## Pre-Inception Workshop at the 2nd R&D Conference in Chuuk



On January 25, 2022, a closed session for the FSM Food Security Project was held at the 2nd FSM Department of Resources and Development Conference in Chuuk. The session was attended by twenty six (26) participants representing various offices such as the FSM Department of Finance, FSM Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management, and the Pacific Community (SPC). The session provided a brief introduction of the project and captured key challenges faced and recommendations from previous or ongoing food security projects. The team also sought to obtain lists of key stakeholders from each state to participate in the inception workshops. The Project Manager then offered an overview of the GCF project and clarified that further details and recommendations will be discussed during the individual inception workshops with states and national government in their respective jurisdictions. The session then allowed the participants to identify relevant stakeholders that should participate in the inception workshops planned to be held in each of the states in early 2022.

## Establishment of the Project Management Unit

The Project Management Unit (PMU) is based at the FSM R&D Office, which serves as one of the executing entities for the project. The PMU is made up of a Project Manager, an Administrative Officer, and a Communications Officer. The PMU is responsible for the overall planning of project activities, tasks, and end results. The PMU will ensure that project proceeds within the specified time frame and under the established budget while achieving its objectives.



**Project Manager**  
Mark Kostka



**Administrative & Finance Officer**  
Tracy Ardos



**Communications Officer**  
Luan Lavern Gilmete

## Project Presentation at the 2022 International Women's Day

On March 03, 2022, the FSM Food Security Project team attended the 2022 International Women's Day hosted at the Pohnpei Governor's Conference room. The project team gave an overview of the project and detailed the project's objectives and components. The team emphasized that the project activities largely involve the participation of women in hopes to empower women farmers in increasing their income, developing a stable livelihood and contributing to ensuring food security on our islands.



## Inception Workshops Completed in All Four FSM States



From March to May 2022, the FSM Food Security Project completed inception workshops for the states of Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae and for the FSM National Government Departments. The workshops were attended by representatives from state departments, municipal governments, private sectors, civil organizations, non-governmental organizations, and national departments.

The primary objectives of the workshops were to familiarize key stakeholders with the project strategy and discuss any changes that may have taken place in the overall context since the project idea was initially conceptualized which might influence its strategy and implementation. The group also discussed the roles and responsibilities of the project team, including reporting and communication and conflict resolution mechanisms, reviewed and validated the project's Results Framework (indicators, targets, means of verification, assumptions).

The inception workshops included separate meetings with farmers and women's groups to ensure their understanding of the project and their participation in the project activities at the community level.

Following the inception workshops, each of the states established their institutional coordination mechanisms to ensure that priorities and responsibilities of relevant stakeholders are coordinated effectively.



## Visit to Kosrae High School

On March 16, 2022, the project team visited the Freshmen and Junior class of Kosrae High School. The team spoke to the students on how the effects of climate change, such as drought and sea level rise, contribute substantially to food insecurity in the FSM. The project team toured the student's small scale agriculture farm and also provided advice on how to best manage their food crops. The team also encouraged the students to seek professions in the agriculture area, given that it is one of the needed professions in the FSM.



## Visit to Awak St. Joseph Church Youth Group

On June 18, 2022, the project visited a youth group of Saint Joseph Church in Awak, Pohnpei. The project team shared that the FSM is currently one of the most highly vulnerable Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Pacific. The team also shared about climate change impacts such as rising sea levels, increased temperatures, increased rainfalls, increased tidal surges, and ocean acidification. Additionally, they talked about the COVID-19 pandemic, the current rise in fuel prices and the reduction in imports as they relate to our food security across the FSM.



## Approval of Inception Report

On May 30th, 2022, the inception report was submitted to Green Climate Fund (GCF) by the Micronesia Conservation Trust, who is the Accredited Entity of the project. The inception report was immediately approved by GCF and forwarded to the project partners including all the participants of the inception workshops.

The Executing Entities for the project are the FSM Department of Resources and Development, the College of Micronesia-FSM and the FSM Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management.

