



FSM Food Security Project Newsletter

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Rutgers University Present Preliminary Findings to Project Steering Committee



On January 18, 2023, Dr. James Simon and Dr. Ramu Govindasamy presented their preliminary results of Pohnpei and Yap households surveys to the Project Steering Committee.

The presentation tallied up the current situation of food security in Yap and Pohnpei, which is crucial to identify the starting point of the project and to set benchmarks against which future progress can be assessed. The Rutgers University is currently collecting data surveys in the states of Chuuk and Kosrae, and will later share their overall findings to the committee once all data is collected and analyzed.

The Project Steering Committee is made up of members from the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (DECEM), Department of Resources and Development (R&D), National Designated Authority Office (NDA), Overseas Development Assistance (ODA), College of Micronesia-FSM (COM-FSM), and Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT).

Kosrae Project Coordinator Conducted Community Visits in Tafunsak, Lelu, Malem and Walung

From January 30 to February 06, 2023, Kosrae Food Security and Livelihoods Coordinator, Mr. Lipar George visited local governments and farmers in the municipalities of Tafunsak, Lelu, Malem and Walung. His community visits were supported by the Division of Agriculture, Kosrae Department of Resources and Economic Affairs.

Mr. George's community presentations focused on the need of establishing a Farmer's Association within the communities and at the state level. The associations are necessary in ensuring that all farmers in Kosrae are engaged in the implementation activities. Mr. George's community visits initiated discussions on ways the communities can move forward to establish their associations.

The community meetings were inclusive of local councils, women organizations, youth and senior groups.



Meeting Relevant Project Stakeholders in Chuuk State

From February 25 to March 03, 2023, Project Manager Mr. Mark Kostka, Communications Officer Ms. Luan Gilmete and with the support of Mrs. Menoleen Jacob Oswald, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Division, FSM Department of Resources and Development, visited Chuuk state and met with relevant project stakeholders who play a major role in ensuring the project's priorities and objectives are met.

The visiting team met with Chuuk Agriculture Office, Chuuk Women Council, College of Micronesia-FSM Research and Extension Center Chuuk Campus, and Chief of Chuuk Mayors Association. The meetings were necessary to establish a collective understanding of their roles and responsibilities, to ensure a successful project implementation.

A workshop was also conducted to revisit Chuuk's coordination mechanism and to share again project strategy and implementation plan. The workshop also focused on the establishment of the Chuuk Farmer's Associations and Chuuk Food Security Policy.

The workshop was attended by participants from Chuuk Environmental Protection Agency, Chuuk Agriculture Office, Chuuk Women Council, COM-FSM Chuuk Campus, Chuuk Commerce and Industry, community mayors, farmers, and other private sectors.



Project Participation in Yap International Women's Day Activities

From March 8-10, 2023, Yap Project Coordinator, Ms. Mercedes Tiningmow attended the 2023 International Women's Day workshop on gender networking and building capacity focused on nature-based solutions in climate change. During the workshop, participants discussed on the important topics of food security, organic wastes and composts, health and climate change.

The workshops provided an opportunity for Ms. Tiningmow to share information on the GCF-FSM Food Security Project and how it values women participation in its implementation activities. Ms. Tiningmow was able to connect with women across Yap and secure their support for the upcoming project activities.



Establishment of Farmers Association in Kosrae State

From March 24 to 31, 2023, the project visited Kosrae state with project partners, GEF-6 Invasive Alien Species (IAS) and the Asia Development Bank (ADB) Food Security and Social Protection project. The mission was led by the Agriculture Division, FSM Department of Resources and Development.

The mission started off with a courtesy meeting with the Honorable Tulensa W. Palik and the Honorable Arthy G. Nena, Governor and Lieutenant Governor of Kosrae State, and their cabinet members.

The GCF-FSM Food Security Project with the support of Kosrae Office of Overseas Development Assistance and Kosrae Department of Resources and Economic Affairs met with farmers from the different communities in Kosrae. The meeting was necessary to assist Kosrae in formally establishing their associations both at the community and state level.

The elected officers for the Kosrae State Farmers Association are: Chair, Gibson Siba; Vice Chair, Maker Palsis; and Secretary, Shruw Edwin. The officers will work with the communities to organize their community associations so that all community farmers take part in the project implementation.



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:

1. Lodge online at the following websites:

- MCT Website at www.ourmicronesia.org
- GCF Website at <https://irm.greencimate.fund>

2. Send formal email to MCT Executive Director at :

- director@ourmicronesia.org

3. 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:

1. Provide all female beneficiaries (farmers, households, women's groups) with a clear process for providing comment and raising grievances;
2. Disseminate grievance mechanism avenues through trusted female leaders (teachers, heads of NGOs, heads of women's groups) to all 140 local communities targeted;
3. 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

HYDROPONICS= GROWING PLANTS WITHOUT SOIL; USING MINERAL NUTRIENT SOLUTIONS IN A WATER SOLVENT