



FSM Food Security Project Newsletter

VOL 2



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Project Visited Sokehs Leadership



On July 12, 2022, the FSM Food Security Project team was invited to introduce the specifics of the project to the Sokehs traditional leaders (Sokehs Mwoalen Wahu). Project Manager Mr. Mark Kostka thoroughly explained the different components of the project and how the project is essential in addressing food insecurity resulting from the issues of climate change effects in the FSM. The project will focus on providing various support such as technical assistance and promotion of the consumption and purchase of locally grown food through proper marketing. Mr. Kostka also shared the different programs and/or projects available at the national government that are in place to support and strengthen citizens resiliency to food security. The Sokehs leadership is in full support of the project and is excited to involve their community local farmers when the project activities begin in Sokehs.

Project Awareness With U Junior Police Academy



On July 8th, 2022, the FSM Food Security Project team conducted awareness and education with the U Junior Police Academy. The academy is a program that creates more awareness for elementary school children on police laws and regulations. The academy consisted of twenty six children between ages 13 to 14 years old from Awak and Saladak Elementary schools. The project team shared the negative impacts of climate change such as sea level rise, ocean acidification, increase in tidal surges, rainfall, and storm events and their impacts on local food resources. Furthermore, the team highlighted that the achievement of food security is when everyone, at all times, can get enough safe and nutritious food to live a healthy life. Food insecurity exists when the availability, accessibility, nutritional quality, and longer-term stability of food sources become strained or non-existent. The project team appreciated the academy's interest in learning about the project and the goals to address food security in the face of climate change.

Researchers from Rutgers University Arrived in Pohnpei

Researchers from the Center for Agricultural Food and Resource Economics of Rutgers University in New Jersey arrived in Pohnpei on August 10th, 2022. They paid a courtesy call to the Honorable Reed B. Oliver, Governor of Pohnpei State, Speaker of the 10th Pohnpei State Legislature, Honorable Marvin Yamaguchi and other members of the legislature. On the same day, the Rutgers University team visited the Executive Director of Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT), Mr. William Kostka and other staff at MCT.

They also met with the project's executing entities; Secretary Elna Akinaga of FSM Department of Resources and Development (R&D), Secretary Andrew of FSM Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (DECEN), and College of Micronesia-FSM (COM-FSM) Interim President, Emanuel Mori. During their stay, the team visited the College of Micronesia-FSM Center for Entrepreneurship hydroponics greenhouse farm and the FSM Vital Energy Coconut for Life (C4L) project. Rutgers University will be gathering baseline data for staple crops in the FSM (e.g., taro, yam, breadfruit, banana, and coconut), marine species that possess the potential for local aquaculture development, and other foods to model climate change impacts such as salinization, increasing temperatures, saltwater intrusion/inundation, and others on future crop yields for 2050 and 2090. Currently, baseline crop data does not exist across the FSM and for many other Pacific Island Countries (PICs). The lack of data prohibits modeling for climate change impacts on future crop yields in smaller island contexts such as the islands of the FSM. This activity will develop the baseline for the country's staple crops, identify potential aquaculture marine species, and enable the projection of climate change impacts on future agriculture yields and aquaculture development. These results will help inform future food security planning and decision making in the four states of the FSM and the project.

The researches from Rutgers University consist of Dr. James (Jim) Simon, Director of Rutgers Center for Agricultural Food Ecosystems, Dr. Oscar Schofield, Chair of Rutgers Department of Marine and Coastal Science, Dr. Ramu Govindasamy, Chair of Rutgers Dept. of Agricultural Food and Resource Economics and Dena Seidal, Department of Plant Biology School of Environmental and Biological Sciences.



Researchers from Rutgers University Arrived in Kosrae



Rutgers researchers arrived in Kosrae on August 23rd and paid a courtesy visit to Kosrae Legislature and Director of Kosrae State office of Resources and Development and Administrator of Overseas Development Assistance. They presented to them their holistic, integrated, multi-disciplinary and successful long history of supporting sustainable local food production in developing countries.

In Kosrae, Rutgers conducted their enumerators training with Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization and Kosrae Department of Agriculture. Throughout their stay in Kosrae, they met with several food and animal farmers, the Kosrae Women's Farmers Association, and the Kosrae Aquaculture Center. The Kosrae Aquaculture Center raises a variety of corals for coral reef restoration which is directly connected to local food security as many Kosrae families depend on reef fishing for food and job security.

Before departing, Rutgers met with the Honorable Carson Sigrah, Governor of Kosrae State and presented to him their findings during their stay in Kosrae. Governor was in full support of their work and has requested them to proceed with their research to support and improve our food system.



Visit to Kosrae State

In the week of September 19-27, 2022, Project Manager visited Kosrae state with the GEF-6 FSM Invasive Alien Species Project. The visit was headed by the Division of Agriculture, FSM Department of Resources & Development. Mr. Kostka met with relevant project stakeholders such as the Department of Resources and Economic Affairs, Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority and Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization. He also met with the municipality mayors, Kosrae Women Farmers Association, and the Kosrae state project steering committee. The purposes of his meetings were to initiate discussions on the Kosrae Food Security Policy, begin formulating Kosrae Farmer's Associations, finalize Kosrae's coordination mechanism and communication network, and to closely work with the women's groups so that they are well represented in the project's implementations.

Mr Kostka and the rest of the visiting team also paid courtesy calls to Kosrae State Governor Honorable Carson Sigrah and Honorable Lt. Governor Arthy Nena and other key leadership in the communities. Upon departure, they had a debrief meeting with both the Honorable Governor and the Honorable Lieutenant Governor to share the successes of their trip and their next steps forward in implementing their different projects.



Project Participation at the Global Green Climate Fund Conference

Climate resilient food security for farming households across the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) (SAP020)

Theme: health wellbeing/food and water security – resilient agriculture

Beneficiaries: 68,250 people (63% of country participating in ag)

GCF Funds: USD 8,583,350

Total Project Funds: USD 9,393,350

Timing: 7/22/21-7/22/26

Interventions:

1. Establishing an enabling environment for adaptive action and investment
2. Enhancing the food security of vulnerable households by introducing Climate Smart Agriculture practices
3. Strengthening climate-resilient value-chains and market linkages across the agriculture sector

13-15 September

The project's Task Manager, Ms. Jo Lynne Gallen-Mori and Conservation Program Manager, Tamara Greenstone of Micronesia Conservation Trust were in Incheon, Korea attending the 2nd Green Climate Fund (GCF) Global Programming Conference from September 13 to 15, 2022. The conference goal was to assess progress of the GCFs role in enabling climate action globally and provided an opportunity for GCF stakeholders to inform the strategy for the second replenishment period. The Conference was also an opportunity to advance country programming, share lessons learned from implementation, disseminate knowledge of GCF operational and strengthen the GCF partnership network. During a panel on agriculture and the GCF, Mrs. Gallen-Mori represented the Micronesia Conservation Trust and the project by presenting project highlights.

Consultant Hired to Identify Climate Resilient Agroforestry Practices

To support the College of Micronesia-FSM (COM-FSM), who is the executing entity for project components 2 and 3, Dr. Nacanieli (Nat) S. Tuivavalagi was hired as a consultant to conduct activities under component 2, which is to enhance the food security of vulnerable households by introducing climate smart agriculture practices. under component 2. Dr. Nat will work to identify, inventory and prioritize promising climate resilient agroforestry practices that can be effectively adapted and utilized in FSM including, but not limited to crop rotation, temperature and salt-resistant seeds and varietals, soil tilling, organic farming and integrated water management.

Happy Holidays!

FUN FACT

Unlike artificial trees made from plastics, Christmas trees are biodegradable, they will break down and become part of the soil again. The branches and needles make great mulch in gardens, especially for plants that like acid soil. The nutrients contained in an old tree might one day end up as part of a new Christmas tree in the future.

TALK TO US

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