



FOR THE YEAR 2024 VOL. 6
JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2024

GCFSAP020





GOVERNOR STEVENSON A. JOSEPH EXPLORES AGRICULTURAL COLLABORATION WITH FSM DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ENTITIES



On May 13, 2024, Governor Stevenson A. Joseph met with key representatives from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Division of Agriculture during an introductory meeting held at the Department of Resources and Development, led by Director Mark Kostka. This meeting marked a meaningful step toward strengthening partnerships and advancing agricultural development across FSM.

Governor Joseph was welcomed by Assistant Secretary Menoleen Jacob, who introduced him to the FSM Division of Agriculture team and provided a comprehensive overview of the division's ongoing projects and initiatives. The meeting served as a platform to identify shared priorities and explore future collaboration between the Pohnpei State Government and the FSM National Government in the agriculture sector.





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Assistant Secretary Jacob emphasized the division's ongoing commitment to supporting state-level initiatives and extended an invitation to Governor Joseph and his team for more in-depth technical discussions, including tailored presentations to address the specific needs and priorities of Pohnpei State.

Governor Joseph expressed his appreciation for the warm welcome and meaningful dialogue. He highlighted the importance of close coordination between national and state entities and reaffirmed his administration's dedication to improving food security, supporting local farmers, and promoting sustainable and inclusive agricultural practices.





This introductory meeting laid a strong foundation for continued collaboration and mutual progress, setting the stage for impactful partnerships in advancing agriculture across the Federated States of

Micronesia.





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GCF SAPO20 FOOD SECURITY PROJECT LAUNCHES POHNPEI STATE INCEPTION WORKSHOP TO PROMOTE LOCAL FOOD CONSUMPTION AND RESILIENCE



August 16, 2024 – The GCF SAP020 Food Security Project successfully conducted its Pohnpei State Inception Workshop, hosted at the College of Micronesia-FSM (COM-FSM). This event marked a key milestone in the implementation of Component 3 of the project, focusing on public awareness and behavior change to strengthen food security across the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).

The primary objectives of the workshop were to introduce and gather feedback on the draft Communications Plan, which promotes local food consumption, local produce, and food processing, packaging, and preservation techniques. These efforts are central to building resilience against food insecurity, particularly in the face of climate change and increasing reliance on imported foods.









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FUND

INCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE IMPACT

The workshop brought together a diverse group of stakeholders from across Pohnpei State, including representatives from the Departments of Resources & Development, Health, and Education; the Island Food Community of Pohnpei; women's groups; youth groups; farmers' associations; and church organizations. Their contributions will help refine the Communications Plan and guide future outreach activities that are culturally relevant and community-driven.

Participants shared insights and proposed outreach strategies that could be tailored to their respective audiences. These included community demonstrations, school-based education programs, church-led food events, and media campaigns to raise awareness of the benefits of local food. The workshop also emphasized the importance of empowering women and youth to lead food security initiatives in their own communities.



LEADERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

Mr. Mark Kostka, Director of the Pohnpei State Department of Resources Development and former Project Manager of the GCF Food Security Project, welcomed attendees and highlighted the project's overarching goal: to enhance the resilience of FSM's most vulnerable communities to food insecurity and climate-related shocks. He also recognized the crucial roles played by the project's implementing partners, DECEM, COM-FSM, and the Micronesia Conservation (MCT). Mr. Kostka expressed Trust confidence in the project's direction under the new leadership of Project Manager Gienah Narruhn, reaffirming the State's commitment collaborative to implementation.





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COMMITMENT AND NEXT STEPS

The enthusiasm of the participants was evident throughout the workshop, as many pledged to actively support and spread awareness of local food initiatives within their organizations and communities. Their feedback will be used to refine messaging and tailor outreach activities to local needs and preferences.

The GCF SAP020 Team extends its sincere gratitude to all attendees for their meaningful contributions. Your participation is essential to the success of this project and to fostering a stronger, more self-reliant food system for FSM.

Together, we are working toward a more sustainable future one rooted in the power of local knowledge, local food, and community collaboration.



TIP FOR THE DAY

ADOPT CROP DIVERSIFICATION AND SUSTAINABLE FARMING PRACTICES, SUCH AS AGROFORESTRY AND NO-TILL AGRICULTURE, TO BUILD RESILIENCE AGAINST CLIMATE IMPACTS ON FOOD PRODUCTION. SUPPORTING THESE METHODS ENHANCES SOIL HEALTH, IMPROVES WATER RETENTION, AND INCREASES BIODIVERSITY, MAKING AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS MORE ROBUST AND ABLE TO WITHSTAND CHALLENGES FROM BOTH DROUGHT AND FLOODS.





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GO LOCAL SCHOOL CLUBS LAUNCHED TO PROMOTE FOOD SECURITY AND LOCAL AGRICULTURE

ON OCTOBER 10, 2024, THE FSM GCF FOOD SECURITY PROJECT, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA-CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND THE STATE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION IN POHNPEI AND CHUUK, IS MAKING MEANINGFUL STRIDES IN YOUTH ENGAGEMENT THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GO LOCAL SCHOOL CLUBS IN HIGH SCHOOLS ACROSS BOTH STATES.



These student-led clubs play a vital role in promoting the consumption of locally grown staple crops while educating students and their communities on the nutritional, cultural, and economic benefits of supporting local food systems in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).

Under Component 3.3.3 of the project, the Go Local School Clubs are designed to serve as platforms for advocacy, peer learning, and community outreach. Over the next four years, club members will take on the role of Go Local Champions, leading a wide range of promotional activities, educational campaigns, and hands-on training events.





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EACH CLUB WILL BEGIN BY DELIVERING TRAINING WITHIN THEIR OWN HIGH SCHOOLS, THEN EXPAND THEIR OUTREACH TO NEARBY ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, AND EVENTUALLY ENGAGE HOUSEHOLDS IN SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES. THROUGH THIS PHASED APPROACH, THE INITIATIVE AIMS TO STRENGTHEN AWARENESS AND ADOPTION OF LOCAL FOOD CONSUMPTION PRACTICES, ESPECIALLY THOSE INVOLVING TRADITIONAL STAPLE CROPS.

TO DATE, THE PROJECT HAS SUCCESSFULLY FORMALIZED PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION IN POHNPEI AND CHUUK STATES, WITH PLANS TO REPLICATE THIS MODEL IN YAP AND KOSRAE IN THE COMING PHASES.









STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES ON STUDENT-LED EVENTS, COMMUNITY OUTREACH STORIES, AND THE GROWING MOVEMENT TO GO LOCAL ACROSS FSM!





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WORLD FOOD DAY 2024: A CELEBRATION OF LOCAL FOOD AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE



ON OCTOBER 16, 2024, THE FSM GCF SAP020 FOOD SECURITY PROJECT, IN COLLABORATION WITH COM-FSM COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION (CRE), CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP (CFE), AND INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS, PROUDLY CELEBRATED WORLD FOOD DAY IN POHNPEI. THE EVENT BROUGHT TOGETHER A VIBRANT NETWORK OF OVER 400 PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING STUDENTS, EDUCATORS, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS, ALL UNITED UNDER THIS YEAR'S THEME: "RIGHT TO FOOD FOR A BETTER LIFE AND BETTER FUTURE."









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PARTNERS AND PARTICIPANTS

The event was made possible through the collaboration of:

- Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- Our Lady of Mercy High School (OLMHS)
- Calvary Christian Academy (CCA)
- Nanpei Memorial High School (NMHS)
- Madolenihmw High School (MHS)
- Seventh-Day Adventist High School (SDA)
- Pohnpei Island Central School (PICS)
- Pohnpei Catholic School (PCS)







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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DAY

- COM-FSM CRE provided on-site training sessions focused on sustainable farming and climate-smart agriculture.
- COM-FSM CFE organized a dynamic Local Food Contest, where students showcased dishes made from traditional crops.
- UNICEF generously donated gardening equipment to each of the seven participating school "Go Local" clubs to support hands-on agricultural learning.
- FAO distributed free seedlings and crops to all attendees to encourage backyard and community gardening.





SPECIAL THANKS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to: Honorable Vice President Aren P. Palik and Honorable Governor Stevenson Joseph for their leadership and presence during the celebration.

We also appreciate the participation of ambassadors from the Australian, Chinese, Japanese, and United States embassies, whose engagement underscored the global commitment to food security.

Finally, a sincere thank you to the organizing team and volunteers whose hard work made this World Food Day an outstanding success. Your dedication to promoting sustainable food systems and empowering communities is truly commendable.





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WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK



THE FSM FOOD SECURITY PROJECT WELCOMES ALL FEEDBACK, INCLUDING COMPLAINTS ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL OR SOCIALHARM CAUSED BY THIS PROJECT.TO LODGE YOUR FEEDBACK OR COMPLAINT, YOU CAN:

- 1. I ODGE ONLINE AT THE FOLLOWING
- WEBSITES:MCT WEBSITE AT WWW.OURMICRONESIA.ORGGCF
- WEBSITE AT HTTPS://IRM.GREENCLIMATE.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

STAY INFORMED!

GREEN CLIMATE

to learn more about the GCFSAP020 - Climate-Resilient Food Security Project.

Visit us @https://fsm-data.sprep.org/project/fsm-gcf-sap020



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