

## NAURU

### (II) AGRICULTURE

#### (Govt focal point: Dept of Commerce, Industry and Resources)

Government's policy on food security and sustainable agriculture is firmly stated in the NSDS as a priority, which is to "*increase level of domestic agricultural production initiatives such as kitchen gardens, fish farms, milkfish and yabbie ponds to reduce dependency on imported foods and address food security*".

The following table captures the programmes and activities put in place and progress to date:

Programmes/Activities	Progress to Date
Conduct training on crop husbandry;	The Agriculture Strategic Plan is completed and will start to be implemented for the later half of this year.

Establish 3 garden plots in each district	Six community plots active out of the eighteen established due to land tenure and leadership issues.
Procure equipment (shovels, water tanks, etc) & planting materials and seeds	14 District communities initially were given 2 spades and 1 watering can with the exception to Anabare which got an extra four bush knives. Water tanks handed to most Communities.
Explore options for market outlets	Central Market Project Proposal.
Identify two nursery sites	Nursery #1 not fully completed, coconut land site to be confirmed with ongoing negotiation with Landowners.
Acquire all building materials & commence construction	As above.
Identify site for library	SPC has verbally agreed to consider funding for a Resource Centre.
Establish fish ponds	NFRMA is the main implementer for aquaculture. Agriculture (CIR) is to assist rather than implement as initially was set out to do.
Conduct training on aquaculture	Ongoing
Install new FADs and maintain existing ones	NFRMA FADs have been deployed recently which totals to 6 FADs.
Establish and promote canoe building project	Implementation just begun
Review and update quarantine legislation and regulations	Currently being undertaken by the Justice Department. Bio-security Bill expected to be tabled July/August.
Conduct training on livestock husbandry	Four existing Telefood projects for Livestock currently being implemented. Functional by the end of the year.
Engage community participation in all kitchen garden and fishing activities	NSC's are invited regularly for updates and reviews with DoA through regular distributions of crops recently Bananas.

Government's broader initiatives to enhance agricultural productivity and farmers' incomes is very much confined to the above, given the characteristics of the sector and the demography of Nauru. On the same note, the agrarian reforms are a non-issue. Land access is quite equitable between the genders by virtue of the Nauruan traditional land ownership and access system. Generally, women and men basically have the same privileges and entitlements both in terms of pre- and post-marital status.

Traditional approaches to sustainable food production has been largely eroded over the years due to the high incomes generated by phosphate in the last sixty years and will take time to rebuild. Government's agricultural programmes are currently focused on community-based approaches and targeted at subsistence level production. As such, the pursuance of environmentally sound pest-control production is done on a very small scale which is at household production level.

Initiatives for water management and efficient energy use for sustainable agricultural production is minimal or non-existent given the limited technology transfer and resource constraints. The development of infrastructure to enhance distribution to markets will follow the establishment of the central market. Recently options have been considered and a proposal for market infrastructure has been submitted to donors for funding. This

will be complemented with the envisaged grant of A\$400,000 by AusAID for seed capital funding for small micro enterprise development projects.

In regards to trade and market potential, realistically Nauru must focus on food security and sustainable agriculture as a means of survival, given the inherent resource constraints and risks. Currently there has been no initiative to establish early warning systems for monitoring food supply and demand. This could possibly be an area of focus in the near future.