

PACIFIC COMMUNITY, LAND RESOURCES DIVISION IN THE PACIFIC Overview of Current and Future Support



LRD
Land
Resources
Division



POPULATION
(2020)

118,744



POPULATION
GROWTH (2020)

+1.69%



GDP PER CAPITA
(USD) 2020

1,636

Kiribati - LRD Cooperation Summaries



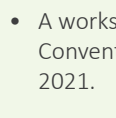
OBJECTIVE 1: Land, agriculture, forestry and genetic resources are sustainably managed/conserved

- The GRIN-Global genebank information system was installed to trial its compatibility with CePaCT's documentation systems. The new system will have a website where users can access information on crops that are available from the CePaCT genebank.
- At end of December 2020, a total of 2,241 accessions of 18 crops were conserved at CePaCT. A total of 67% of the accessions originated from the Pacific, representing diversity from 16 Pacific Island Countries and territories, including Kiribati with a total of 16 accessions of 2 crops (breadfruit, giant swamp taro).
- Two regional workshops were held by PROTEGE (coconut and forests/ agroforestry). These workshops made it possible to develop two regional action plans (one for the coconut sector and one for forestry and agroforestry).



OBJECTIVE 2: Enhanced ability to meet local and international market requirements for agricultural and forest products

- COVID-19 delayed work on the diversification of livelihoods and value chains. However, the work is expected to be on track as the situation normalises. The gender and value-chain assessment toolkit is being developed.
- The gender and value-chain assessment training module for agricultural products is being developed. A financial training module, the Participatory Guarantee System and the Pacific Organic Standard are being revised.
- The LRD team is currently engaging a video production company to film biosecurity training videos on biosecurity operating procedures for pre-border, border and post border risk assessments.
- Ongoing technical advice and support is being provided remotely to farmers on request. Organic farming practices were promoted through weekly posts and the POETCom (Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community) Quarter 3 newsletter, as well as through POETCom's website and social media platforms.



OBJECTIVE 3: Access to diverse and nutritious agriculture and forestry resources resilient to impact of climate change and disasters

- A workshop on the regional International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is scheduled from 31 August – 3 September 2021.
- Characterisation of five kumala, two cassava and four taro varieties was carried out, along with DNA sampling for DNA analysis to determine varieties selected for atolls in two countries, including Kiribati.
- Food cube technology is being distributed to Kiribati for evaluation and promotion.
- Factsheets were translated and produced in the Kiribati language for promotional purposes.
- Wicking-based systems and food cubes are currently being promoted in Kiribati as recommended soil and water technologies for atolls. An article on atoll minerals was published in the MDPI (Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute) journal. Promotion of new crop varieties is ongoing in Kiribati.
- An assessment of the seed production programme in Sigatoka and Legalega Research Station, Fiji, with targeted support collated to strengthen the seed unit, can also benefit the whole region, including Kiribati.
- LRD has developed models for crop variety development and seed production, dissemination of seeds and planting material, and Quality Declared Seeds/Quality Declared Planting Materials for sustainable seed systems in the Pacific that benefitted Kiribati.
- An economic analysis of growing capsicum and tomato in the off season under a protected cropping system showed higher returns compared with field growing. The results provide an important decision tool for governments and farmers. Economic analysis of protected cropping is being incorporated in a new manual currently being finalised.
- The design of the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) database was finalised. The database is now operational, with data being entered using the KoBo Toolbox.

- The Plant Health Team, in partnership with country plant doctors, collated and analysed plant health clinic (PHC) data and results collected via WhatsApp. PHC results are compiled to support mapping of pests and disease trends and distributions in selected localities and data will be incorporated in the pest database.
- A Plant Health Clinic manual was finalised and published in 2020. This manual is used to support extension services in pest and disease surveillance and diagnostics at the farmer field level.
- The coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) training manual was finalised and published to guide regional efforts in combating CRB.
- A draft protected cropping field manual is being developed in collaboration with Fiji's Ministry of Agriculture. The manual will provide a tool that governments and farmers can use to support scale-up of protected cropping systems.



OBJECTIVE 4: Regional and national policies, programmes and services in agriculture and forestry are gender responsive, socially inclusive, and promote and protect cultural heritage and human rights.

- The Genebank Policy under development will benefit the region, including Kiribati, and is expected to be further developed in the fourth quarter of the year.
- The regional seed systems roadmap is currently being reviewed and edited for the implementation by the Pacific Seeds for Life programme. This benefits the region, including Kiribati.

- Under the PHAMA plus project, the Animal Health and Production (AHP) framework has been drafted and is currently under review. This will benefit the region, including Kiribati.



OBJECTIVE 5: Integrated farming systems and services strengthened

- Support was provided to Kiribati on the proposed coconut genebank design and development.
- Kiribati is included in Phase 2 of the Tuvalu Food Futures Initiative got implementing research activities on food cube and compost demonstration and production.
- The soil sampling protocol is now being prepared for printing as a field booklet for distribution.
- The USP-SAFT (School of Agriculture Food and Technology) is currently developing soil correlation studies.
- Soil Dr Programme guidelines that will provide an outline of how to address capacity building needs in soil management will be completed in June.
- Building capacity in Pests and Disease description such as diagnoses of insects, fungus, bacteria and unknown substances, as well as management for national Plant Health Clinic champions, is on-going through the Centre of Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI).
- LRD successfully facilitated the level 3 certification of the Plant Health Lab in coordination with the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji and the National Fire Authority of Fiji.

LRD Priorities for Partnership with Kiribati

KIRIBATI AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK DIVISION KEY OBJECTIVES	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL	LRD PRIORITIES
OBJECTIVE 1: Sustainable atoll crop production systems developed and promoted		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable management of forests and landscapes to provide for our future • Restoration of our ecosystems to safeguard our children through sustainable practices and systems • Conservation and distribution of genetic resources • Opportunities to collaborate on cross cutting regional problems (Climate change, food systems, pest and disease incursions) • Access and linkages to international networks that support Pacific development • Expert technical knowledge built over time in atoll agriculture, genetic resources forestry and land use management and policies, biosecurity and value chain work
OBJECTIVE 2: Sustainable small animal livestock systems developed and promoted		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellence in agriculture and forestry research and development in the Pacific
OBJECTIVE 3: Improved biosecurity		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International biosecurity laboratories for conservation and distribution of genetic resources and insects • Understanding of the regional environment and contexts that helps in developing Pacific solutions for Pacific problems
OBJECTIVE 4: Capacity building for stakeholders and agricultural staff		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convening power and ability that improves country visibility • Ability to mobilise technical resources • Pacific Innovation Hub for agriculture and forestry

ADDRESS

Land Resources Division, Pacific Community
Private Mail Bag, Suva

FOR ENQUIRIES

Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor: **Varanisese Tawake**
 varanisese@spc.int +679 337 0733 +679 946 1716