



Republic of Marshall Islands




Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique

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



LRD
Land
Resources
Division

POPULATION
(2020)
 54,590

POPULATION
GROWTH (2020)
 -0.08%

GDP PER CAPITA
(USD) 2020
 4,337

Republic of Marshall Islands - LRD Cooperation Summaries



OBJECTIVE 1: Land, agriculture, forestry and genetic resources are sustainable 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 the Republic of Marshall Islands with a total of 3 accessions of breadfruit.
- In 2020, a total of 94 accessions (2,301 plant samples) of banana, breadfruit, cassava, giant swamp taro, sweet potato and taro sourced from CePaCT collections were distributed to four countries including, Republic of Marshall Islands, and this led to increasing use of nutritious and resilient crop varieties.



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.
- Consultants are currently engaged in RMI in small businesses through the Office of Trade to get business plans done, which will guide the investment process in agri-businesses.
- 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.
- A workshop on the regional International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is scheduled to be held from 31 August – 3 September 2021.
- A business plan (to identify project investment in value chains) is in progress in RMI with the assistance of LRD.



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

- 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 the Republic of Marshall Islands.
- 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. This benefitted the Republic of Marshall Islands.
- 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 entered using 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 Republic of Marshall Islands, 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 implementation by the Pacific Seeds for Life programme. This benefits the region, including Republic of Marshall Islands.

- Under the PHAMA plus project, an Animal Health and Production (AHP) framework has been drafted and currently under review and this will benefit the region, including Republic of Marshall Islands.



OBJECTIVE 5: Integrated farming systems and services strengthened

- 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 pest and disease description such as insects, fungus, bacteria and unknowns'
- 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 Republic of Marshall Islands

REPUBLIC OF MARSHALL ISLANDS NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN SECTORS	STRATEGIC AREA	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL	LRD PRIORITIES
1. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender • Children, Youth and Vulnerable Groups • Community Development 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert technical knowledge built over time in atoll agriculture, genetic resources forestry and land use management and policies, bio security and value chain work • Opportunities to collaborate on cross cutting regional problems (Climate change, food systems, pest and disease incursions)
2. ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Resource Management 		<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 • Convening power and ability that improves country visibility
3. SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture and Agriculture Production • Trade and Local Manufacturing • Tourism • Financial Services, Private Sector • Investment and Employment 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access and linkages to international networks that support Pacific development • International biosecurity laboratories for conservation and distribution of genetic resources and insects • Understanding of the regional environment and contexts that help in developing Pacific solutions for Pacific problems • Excellence in agriculture and forestry research and development in the Pacific • Ability to mobilize technical resources • Pacific Innovation Hub for agriculture and forestry

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FOR ENQUIRIES

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