



FAAILOA

Faailoa Newsletter
for April 2019

enhancing partnerships to develop and sustain agriculture and fisheries....”

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Validation of Samoa's National Action Plan: Developing Pacific Local Food Crops and Fisheries Value Chains

Workshop

3-4 April, Hotel Tanoa Tusitala



IFAD
INTERNATIONAL
FUND FOR
AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT

VALUE CHAIN



“Leveraging the Development of Local Food Crops and Fisheries Value Chains for Improved Nutrition and Sustainable Food Systems in the Pacific Islands”

the Ministry with this important work.

The National Action Plan is made up of four key themes to tackle country-specific challenges in agribusiness and value chain development. These are:

Nutrition - Reduction in NCDs and increased income from investments in local food crops and fisheries value chain development

Finance - Making farmers bank ready and banks farmer ready

ICT - Robust Communication System for Growers

Insurance - Robust Insurance Package for Farmers

The Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries (MAF), in collaboration with the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) hosted this validation workshop to verify Samoa's National Action Plan.

This validation work is part of the Regional Project “Leveraging the Development of Local Food Crops and Fisheries Value Chains for Improved Nutrition and Sustainable Food Systems in the Pacific Islands” co-financed by the CTA and IFAD, and implemented in Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu.

The goal is to strengthen the capacity of Pacific Island governments, farmer and private sector organizations, and sub-regional institutions to develop strategies and programmes, as well as mobilize financing, that can increase poor rural people's access to nutritious and healthy food. The Chief Executive Officer for MAF in his opening speech acknowledged the assistance of the CTA and IFAD in supporting



Dozens of undersized fish and seafood were confiscated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (M.A.F.) officials during an investigation at Apia Fish Market on Sunday morning. A team of nine fisheries officers spanned the market between quarter to five and eight in the morning, and identified 1 fish vendor who was carrying undersized fish, egg-carrying lobsters and crabs with soft shells – all illegal stock. The vendors are now under investigation and their cases are being reviewed by MAF's legal division. Depending on the offence they are found guilty of, vendors can expect a fine not exceeding T\$10,000, according to the Local Fisheries Regulations 1995.

Regular weekday operations and monitoring meant fisheries officers had a fair idea of the issue at hand. They were regularly seeing illegal fish in the marketplaces, and confiscating them.

The Chief Executive Officer for Fisheries Division Afioga Magele Eteuati Ropeti, shared during the operation itself that he observed several vendors being supportive and cooperative of the operation, because they are aware of the law. "But some were reluctant to assist with the information we require," he said.

Senior Fisheries Officer, Lui Bell, said several vendors tried to escape investigation by the officers, including a vendor who tried to take his cooler and run before being apprehended. Giving a rough estimate of the confiscated wares, Mr. Bell said approximately 50 per cent were soft shelled crabs, followed by 40 per cent of undersized fished and 10 per cent egg-carrying lobster.

Magele believes the demand for crab meat is such that even when vendors know they must not catch small young, soft shelled crabs they may be under pressure to do so anyway, knowing the demand. "They are also simple to harvest, because they are prone to being caught," he added.

But Magele believes fishing families know what is allowed to be caught, thanks to awareness campaigns and a successful village committee engagement scheme in the coastal areas. "People who fish should not trust their eyes but measure carefully fish they catch to ensure they are within regulation size," said Magele.

Fish vendors moving their wares outside the central fish market to sell on the roadside throughout town are also under the watchful eye of the fisheries division. Operations are carried out with the partnership of police to ensure officer's safety. "We are so grateful to have a joint team with the Ministry of Police. It really gives us that confidence to continue with our operations," Magele said.

The sale of small, underdeveloped or pregnant sea creatures is illegal under the Fisheries Management Act 2016, and which is broken down in the Local Fisheries Regulations of 1995. The rules are in place to allow resources to reproduce, ensuring a thriving fisheries industry and supply for Samoa.



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