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Savaii Farmers and Fishers first to sign SAFPROM Grant Agreements

MAF Press Release

Friday 16 April, 2021:

Sixty-one farmer and fishers from Savaii signed Matching Grant Agreements on Friday at Apita o Pisaga Hall in Salelologa marking a significant milestone for the Ministry of Agriculture and

Fisheries in their work implementing the Samoa Agriculture and Fisheries Productivity and Marketing Project (SAFPROM).

CEO for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Tilafono David Hunter said this is an important breakthrough in the progress of the SAPFROM project since it was signed in 2019 between the

Government of Samoa and their key donor partners, World Bank and the International Fund for Agriculture Development.

“When SAFPROM was officially signed, we received over 3,000 applications for the Matching Grant Programme (MGP) from around the country. The large numbers of applications went through a comprehensive screening and verification process last year.” Said Tilafono “ Since then 1,305 farmers and fishers have been approved to receive assistance through the MGP to help boost their productivity and improve their access to markets”

“During these times of uncertainty we need to keep the momentum going with the development of agriculture and fisheries. We are very pleased to arrive at this milestone and realise this at the farmer and fisher level. At the same time we are continuing our work through the project to put in place the infrastructure to help continue and sustain increased production and productivity.”

Fugalaau Kuini, a vegetable grower from Fusi was among the

61 farmers and fishers who signed their agreement and she was excited to begin work on extending her vegetable operation,

“I just want to thank the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Government of Samoa because for us here in Savaii we look for these types of opportunities and we seldom have them. So it's awesome to have this opportunity and I'm thankful.”

The owner of the largest Poultry farm in Samoa, Toleafoa Suafoa Siliake Lewer from Pu'apu'a was also pleased to begin work on extending his operation by utilising the SAFPROM grant towards much needed wire fencing.

“I am very happy to come through this type of programme especially because they have explained to us how to run a sustainable business.” Said Toleafoa “They've also provided us with record books which is going help me to keep a record of all my incoming and outgoing expenses. I find this very useful.”

ACEO for the Agriculture and Fisheries Sector Co-ordination Division (AFSCD), Dr Ramona Stephanie Sulifoa says last week's Grant Signing Event with farmers and fishers marks a new chapter for the SAFPROM Project.

“There have been challenges along the way with managing over a thousand approved MGP farmers and making sure they are compliant with all the Projects requirements which is why reaching this milestone is so important and satisfying.” Said Dr Ramona “We are looking forward to seeing the next groups of farmers and fishers sign their Grant Agreements this year as we are eager to work with them to ensure we have enough food locally and increase production to target our markets.”

She added “In the meantime we continue to work with our remaining approved MGP farmers and fishers undergoing mandatory training, to help push them towards the finish line.”

ENDS



PC: Samoa Grassroot Studio



Local Farmers to benefit from SROS

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The new Multipurpose building including Machinery and Equipments in which the government officially opened Tues 30th March at its location Nafanua is solely advantageous for our locally farmers to keep working the land.

Giving the Opening address by Hon. Prime Minister, Afioga Tuilaepa S. Malielegaoi, noted that the new commercialized building is one of the Government's assets implemented to produce our own value added products derived from our local planted crops.

The \$2.5 million project will enhance farmers to continue utilizing the land by planting the appropriate crop and better use of the farming practices (organic) so

our locally made product can be secured for international markets.

Such products in which the Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa already made from our natural produce samples are Samoa whiskey made from Taro; producing flour from the Breadfruit – Ulu; and Pure Oils from the avocado fruit, which is essential and natural organic plants and produce.

PM added value to our produce by converting it into alcoholic beverages and other products allowed us to bypass the bio-security barriers and present Samoa fruit and root crop farmers with an alternative use for their produce and increased profits.

Although the SROS is meant to carry research on our crops value

however having to implement a further step forward make way when essentially can mobilize value-added products from our own local fruit trees, herbs and spices following potential solutions.

For a start on our own commercialization, farmers are asked to ensure a continued supply of raw materials to ensure a steady production of the newly developed products. A hope also through this initiative is to engage and collaboratively with the business community to rise the challenge for the betterment of the Samoan economy and its people's livelihoods.

The project began in 2006 and completed in October 2020.