



FAAILOA

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



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OUR VISION

A sustainable agriculture and fisheries sector for food security, health, prosperity, job creation and resilience.

OUR GOAL

To increase food nutrition and income security

OUR THEME

Enhancing partnerships to develop and sustain agriculture and fisheries

Stakeholders' consultations on the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) Infestation and Allied coconut damage



Figure 2 Participants to the consultation

Rhinoceros beetle (*Oryctes rhinoceros*) is a major pest on coconut around Asian Pacific countries. In Samoa, several on-going control programs are implemented by the



Figure 1 During presentation by Dr Jelfina

Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries. These involve the use of Biological Control Methods (fungus and virus), pheromone traps and village sanitation programs.

A team of Entomologist experts, Dr Jelfina (Head of Collaboration and Dissemination Division from Indonesia Centre for Estate Crop R & D), Dr MacLean from SPC and Crops Division of MAF conducted a damage assessment survey around Upolu on the 23rd & 24th November and Savaii on the 27th November 2018. The survey aims to obtain more information to develop strategies to further control rhinoceros beetle.



MAF hosted a stakeholder consultation involving government ministries, non-government organisations and civil society organisations at Nu'u on the 29th November 2018. This was to present damage assessment survey findings and recommendations for CRB control strategies as way forward. There was more emphasis on Integrated Pest Management practices for control measures.

Dr. MacLean highlighted in his presentation the need to be cautious of the CRB – Guam type that has not yet invade the coconut industry in Samoa. It is believed that the CRB – G type is a major economic pest to the coconut industry. Therefore, our border controls should be emphasized through regular quarantine surveillance.



Concern over taro supply in Samoa

Source: Radio New Zealand

Taro supply in Samoa is down and causing concern to government and exporters as demand continues to grow overseas.

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Minister [3 Samoa's very own taro](#)
Lopao'o Natanielu Mu'a told KHJ News the

ministry had been actively working with farmers to push them to keep on planting taro.

Exporters said they had noticed the short supply and this has raised the cost of buying taro from farmers from an average of US\$90 per 20kg at present.

Taro growers in Savai'i also said they have had problems and wild animals eating their crops and some had taken action against wild pigs in particular, but it hadn't solved the issue.

The Minister also said that the Ministry was working to ensure consistency across the taro industry, and he is looking at developing a commercial taro farming sector – similar to that of the banana sector.

“FIELD MANAGEMENT OF DIRECT SEED SOWING OF WATERMELON IN TUNNEL/SHADE HOUSE”

“Consultation and Demonstration”

The watermelon is a vine like flowering plant originally from Africa. It is cultivated for its sweet, juicy fruit with deep red to pink flesh and black seeds. It is an annual plant that has a climbing habit and has both male and female flowers on hairy stalks. Watermelon is a tropical or subtropical plant and need temperatures higher than about 25°C to thrive. A well-drained sandy loam with a pH between 5.5 and 7 and medium Nitrogen levels are recommended for seed sowing.



The China Samoa Agriculture Technical Project in this Phase IV since this collaboration is continuing to host capacity building trainings and workshops for farmers. One of their activities to assist farmers' in Samoa includes a training held for effective field management of direct seed sowing of watermelon. The training was facilitated by Chinese Experts on watermelon cultivation at Nu'u CSATP station. Farmers from around Upolu hoping to be farmers of this rare fruit in Samoa participated effectively. Given that the watermelon is a high valued product in local markets the farmers were so keen to take on this initiative to the next level and even to the stage when it will be required for export markets.

The CSATP in close collaboration with the MAF, Crops Division will continue to assist the famers who will be taking on this watermelon planting initiative. Agriculture advice will be offered for ensuring the sustainability of our watermelon farms as well as other crops; enhancing our nutrition and for local and later for export markets.





MAJOR CROPS GROWING CALENDARS FOR SAMOA

WET SEASON IN SAMOA

DRY SEASON IN SAMOA

OCTOBER - MARCH

APRIL - SEPTEMBER

| CROPS | Peak Harvest Time & Optimum growing conditions | Planting Time | Number of harvest cycles per year |
|------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| Seasonal Crops | | | |
| Vegetables | | | |
| • Tomatoes | 4 -6 months |  | Dry season 3 cycles |
| • Cucumber | 4-6 months |  | Dry season 3 cycles |
| • Head Cabbage | 3-4 months |  | Dry season 3 cycles |
| • Chinese Cabbage | 3- 4 weeks |  | Dry season 3 cycles |
| • Pumphin | 4- 12 months |  | All year round |
| Spices | | | |
| • Ginger | 5-6 months | | All year round |
| • Black pepper | 2-3 years |  | All year round |
| • Spring Onions | 2-3 months |  | Wet season |
| Annual Crops | | | |
| • Taro | 6 -8months |  | All year round 1.5 cycles |
| • Taamu | 7- 8 months |  | All year round 1 cycle |
| • Banana | 8-12 months |  | All year round 1 cycle |
| • Yam | 7-8 months | | All year round 1.5 cycles |
| • Talo palagi | 6-8 months |  | All year round 1.5 cycles |
| • Cassava | 5-8 months |  | All year round 1.5 cycles |
| • Papaya | 8 months |  | All year round 1.5 cycles |
| • Peanuts | 4 months |  | All year round 3 cycles |
| • Pineapple | 12 months |  | All year round 1 cycle |
| Permanent Crops | | | |
| • Coconut | Fruits in 5yrs and peaks from 6-20yrs |  | 1 cycle |
| • Cocoa | Fruit in 3yrs and peaks from 4-20yrs |  | 1 cycle |
| • Breadfruit | Fruit in 3yrs and peak from 4 -30yrs |  | 1 cycle |
| • Coffee | |  | 2 cycles |
| • Mango | Fruit in 4yrs, peaks in 5-20yrs |  | 1 cycle |
| | Fruits in 5yrs,peaks from 6-20yrs | | |
| • Avocado | Fruits in 5yrs, peaks from 6-20yrs |  | 1 cycle |
| • Rambutan | Fruits in 5 yrs,peaks from 6-20yrs |  | 1 cycle |