



FAAILOA



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

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MAF to lead Samoa's Dialogue for the Food Systems Summit 2021

Building healthy to food safety is what brings together other stakeholders of the sector to put in their experiences as a one compiled national representation.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries working collaboratively with MFAT and UN Office in Samoa coordinated a series of meetings which began in April 14th and is expected to conclude by June 2021.

Several key holding partners from all sectors including government ministries, private sectors, farmer organizations, civil society and research organization and academia bodies are all contributing to the Dialogue discussing the Food Systems status in Samoa beforehand.

The Food Systems Summit which will take place in New York in September 2021 is part of the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable De-

velopment Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The Summit is guided by Five Action Tracks designed to address and identify solutions that can deliver wide-reaching benefits across the world's food systems.

The 5 key objectives/action tracks in which the meeting is focused on are:

1. *Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all;*
2. *Shift to sustainable consumption patterns*
3. *Boost nature-positive production;*
4. *Advance equitable livelihoods;*
5. *Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress.*

Samoa's Food Systems Dialogues anticipating in sharing views on the impacts and seek ways to improve or transform



systems suitable for Samoa.

Samoa's Food Systems Pathway and Actions document will submit onto to the Summit Gateway by June 11th, 2021.

Livestock farmers (cattle) also get stimulus scheme



Ensuring effective and reliable source is the service these MAF staff have worked hard to distribute and deliver your cattle safe and sound.

Photo supplied by Jake

With regards to the SOE, the Ministry continue its stimulus package scheme to livestock farmers - Started off with the Cattle category.

As of May 12th, again the CEO, Afioa Tilafono, pushed an offer another stimulus package to the public and the usual stakeholders. The Eligible cattle farmers are now given the opportunity to purchase livestock at a reduced rate of the market price with assistance from the Government's Second Stimulus Package (SP2).

The maximum purchase per cattle farmer is capped at 5 cattle and under the scheme they can purchase up to 3 cattle at 60% of the total value of the cattle and the 4th to 5th cattle at 70% of the total value of the cattle.

"Under the scheme new and existing farmers will get the opportunity to establish more farms or even extend existing farms. This way will assist our farm-

ers/new farmers purchased from our existing cattle farmers, thereby keeping the cash circulating in our economy with the aim of improving and increasing the number of livestock farmers"

The farmers who applied for cattle in 2016 are being urged by the Ministry to check their names against a list which has been uploaded on to their website or contact the Animal Production and Health Division directly.

"Currently since our economy is slow and our cattle farmers are hardly getting sales for selling of cattle for farm development which is why the injection of subsidies will not only support the development of cattle farms but also assist in preventing the slaughter of livestock which impacts the sustainability of a slow growing livestock sector" said Fesiliai'i.

"The selecting criteria process are applications sent through to

the Ministry (with first priority given to those who have been on the list since 2016) to assist with the selection of buyers after a variety of criteria's are met such as having a fence and good pasture management. This also applies to any cattle farmers that are interested in selling their livestock under the scheme are also encouraged to come forward and submit an application to become a supplier.

Their current cattle suppliers are well established farms that can provide cattle within the \$1,000 category of a Weaner bull and Weaner heifer.

ACEO of Animal Production and Health Division (APHD) Fesilia'i Tulia Molimau Iosefa said the purpose behind the agriculture incentives of SP2 is to help support food security; improve commercial development and sustainable agricultural production while the country continues to be adversely impacted by the global pandemic.

Samoa-China Agricultural Experts landed for SCATAP PhaseV



MAF on behalf of Samoa Government hosted a welcoming service to the group of new Chinese Agriculture Experts and civil workers who will be joining under the Samoa-China Agricultural Technical Aid Project (SCATAP).

Caretake Minister of MAF, Afioga Lopao'o on behalf of the Samoan Government, warmly welcomed the Chinese Agriculture Expert Team! While His Excellency Chao Xiaoliang, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Samoa also welcomed his country's agricultural experts and civil group for this Phase V version of Samoa-China collaboration.

With the arrival of an additional twelve (12) experts will continue to enhance and promote the production of vegetables, citrus and broilers in Samoa.

Since 2010, Samoa-China Technical Aid Project has been implemented for 5 phase and it has been significant contribution to the agricultural development in Samoa.

The Chinese Government has dispatched 40 Chinese agricultural experts to work in Samoa. SCATAP has established the largest and most comprehensive demonstration farm aided by China in the South Pacific Islands. Large quantity of China aided resources such as tunnel houses, seeds and machineries were directly allocated to model farmers. A series of major agricultural technical packages were promoted, agricultural training involved more than 10000 people. The tireless efforts of Chinese experts have significantly promoted Samoa's agricultural production, which has been

praised by the Hon. Prime Minister as a "Successful example of South-South Cooperation". With the arrival of 12 experts, the SCATAP Phase V will be implemented at full speed. Some project goods have already arrived in Samoa and many more are on the way.

Caretaker Minister pointed out that the Samoa-China Agricultural Aid Project (SCATAP) is one of the most successful agricultural projects in Samoa, which has promoted the agricultural development of Samoa in many ways, provided sufficient vegetables for the South Pacific Games in 2019, increased the income of the model farmers and improved the diet of the people. Many villagers, who did not grow and eat vegetables in the past, now produce many kinds of vegetables. SCATAP Phase V will promote vegetables, citrus and broilers production, in particular by helping Samoa set up urgent-needed feed mill.

The current group will still be allocated to the Crops Development @Nuu under the continued leadership of Mr Jim Liu, Chinese expert. The Chinese Embassy in Samoa appreciate the friendship and cooperation of Samoa government and people with the Chinese agricultural expert team. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has established excellent working relationship with the Chinese expert team, and has been providing many help for their work and living.

The welcoming ceremony introduced the participants from both sides. The CEO of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries chaired the ceremony, which

Matching Grant Project impresses Savaii Farmers over first disbursement

Article by SAFPROM (Reprinted)

The Samoa Agriculture and Fisheries Productivity and Marketing Project (SAFPROM) marked another milestone in its progress last week when 61 farmers and fishers from Savaii utilized their Matching Grant disbursements towards the purchase of hardware goods and supplies.

Under the SFPROM Matching Grants Programme (MGP) funding is made available to eligible farmers for the purchase of new and innovative equipment (from wire fencing, high quality chain-saws to safety gear etc) to help save time and money and boost their productivity.

The grant disbursements took a total of 5 days to complete led by the SAFPROM team from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries who co-ordinated and monitored the purchase orders of each farmer and fisher at various hardware stores in the Salelologa Township.

MGP recipient and Savaiian cattle farmer, Faalii Peseta of Matavai Safune was able to purchase much needed equipment and tools like shovels, stable nails, wire- strainer and safety gear at the Samoa Agriculture Store on the first day of disbursements.

MGP Manager, Auimatagi Luaiufi Aiono says despite many delays and setbacks in rolling out the Matching Grants Programme, they are thankful to all the different stakeholders for their collaborative effort in pursuit of a shared goal to see direct assistance to farmers and fishers, especially now with the ongoing impact of the global pandemic on the economy.

“With the ripple effects of COVID19 worldwide, everything has been affected” said Aiumatagi. “The emphasis and demand on the Agriculture and Fisheries Sector locally in terms of food supply could not be stressed enough. Therefore, providing intervention through direct assistance to the farmers and fishers (and in a timely manner) is crucial.”

“Ensuring these grant disbursements are able to go out within a year of processing over 3000 applications and then going through registrations, verifications and training was a massive undertaking but it proves that it’s possible with enough persistence and



commitment from the team in collaboration with different stakeholders in the sector”

So far over 300 approved farmers and fishers from Savaii have completed their trainings and are waiting for the approval of their business plans before moving on to sign their Grant Agreements.

Auimatagi said their priority at this time is to focus on the remaining trainings and business development for the eligible applicants in Upolu while also ensuring that farmers and fishers who have received their disbursements continue to receive support.

“For those that have already received their disbursements in Savaii, support will now be concentrated in terms of monitoring and evaluation and the technical trainings which are to be provided by the Crops Division, Animal Production and Health Division (APHD), Fisheries Division and the Ministry support services in Savaii.”