



FAAILOA



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

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INSIDE THIS EDITION

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Stimulus Package in preparations for the possible impacts of COVID19.

Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries and Samoa China Agriculture Technology Assistance Project (SCATAP) introduces the Juncao Grass Technology as an invention to boost mushroom production and pasture for livestock production.



CROSSWORD - AGRICULTURE

This crossword helps expand your knowledge a bit more on the field of Agriculture.



COVID19 Stimulus Package - Translating challenges into Opportunities.



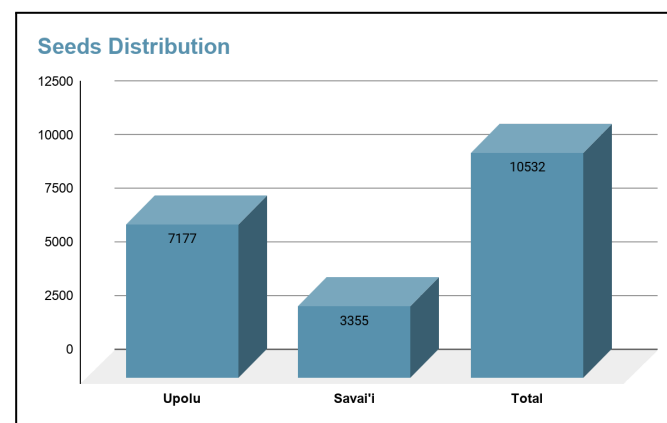
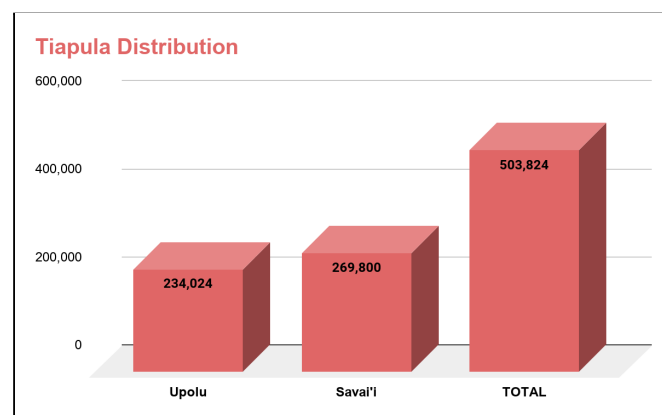
The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries continues to assist the farmers and fishers in Samoa in preparations to cope with the possible impacts of the current global pandemic. COVID19 has continued to put pressure on all sectors of the economy impacting people and their livelihoods. Since the official closing of the borders in March 2020 the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has been offering assistance for our people through its technical divisions; crops, livestock and fisheries. The Stimulus Package in collaboration with our key partners have distributed 1.5million taro cultivars (tiapula) for farmers and families as an emergency response initiative incase of a COVID19 outbreak. The smallholder taro farmers and families of the villages are the prioritised recipients at the moment. The first Stimulus Package assistance provided 500,000 tiapula in 2020 and short term crops seeds of vegetables and other root crops including cassava, yam and sweet potato for free to the farmers and families.

Both Upolu and Savaii villages are eligible and the distribution depends on the number of families in each village of the traditional constituencies based on the National Agriculture Census.

The SP initiative is one of the continued efforts of the ministry since the past years where it sought to revitalize the coconut, cocoa, taro and vegetable industries of our people.

This not only benefits our national food security but it also heavily assists some people who are seeking employment because of global lockdowns through participation in a replanting scheme that offers wages incentives (*please refer to link for information on replanting scheme* https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AvYolWdgLA3XYSeNWMJvNqbtIOa0_fFW/view?usp=sharing).

Stimulus Package 1 Crops Distribution



COVID19 Stimulus Package - Translating challenges into Opportunities.

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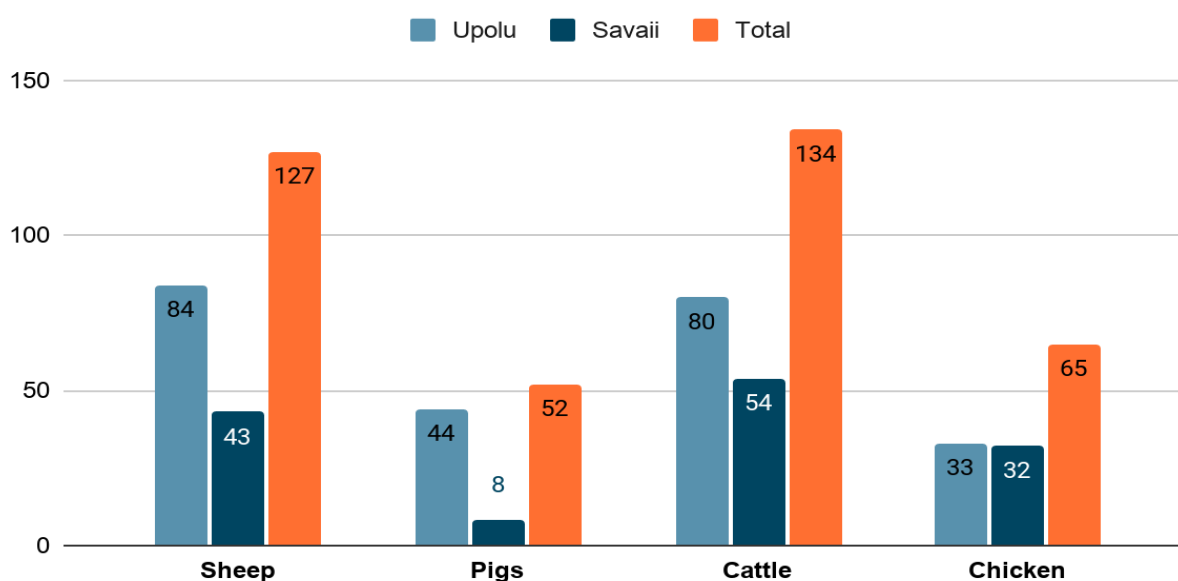
Samoa heavily relies on imported meat for consumption and chicken is the cheapest and affordable in comparison to other available eat. One of the Ministry's focuses is to bring Samoa to a self sufficiency nation and to reduce the reliance on imported meat.

Locally bred and raised quality chicken has been a challenge for the Ministry but through this Stimulus Package assistance we are aiming to produce and distribute to our producers and partners whose familiar proper operations have been evidently successful. Given the latter, the Ministry is confident that these local producers of quality chicken and eggs will use this opportunity for development and not faalavelave.



During the first SP there were cattle, sheep, pigs and chicken distributed in Upolu and Savaii.

Livestock Distributed for Upolu and Savaii



Juncao Technology - The Energy Grass

Thursday 25th February 2021 @ 2pm, SCATAP Demo Farm, Nu'u.



The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries together with the Samoa-China Agriculture Technology Assistance Project (SCATAP) has introduced the Juncao Grass, an invention by the National Juncao Research Centre to produce mushrooms in Samoa.

The Ministry implemented mushroom production in the 1990s and underwent technological research to promote this development as a high value cash crop to our farmers.

Unfortunately, this did not last long because of the high capital and maintenance costs associated with the production technology to sustain it long term.

Growing this grass here in Samoa will also be used in producing livestock forage, as well as raw material for biogas and industry processing.

Since the inception of the SCATAP in 2010, the project has immensely contributed to the development and advancement of vegetables and fruits in Samoa. Now they are stepping in to develop the mushroom using this grass known to many as the magic or energy grass.

One acre of land, if properly managed, can produce up to 200 tonnes of fresh grass annually, which can produce up to 60 tonnes of fresh mushroom, or feed 12 cattle or 120 goats. The crude protein content of an 8-month old Juncao grass is more than twice that of the local grass commonly used as pasture for our livestock production.

This Juncao Technology Training programme aims to help our farmers to grow the Juncao grass to help us revive our mushroom production, and diversify pasture production options for our livestock production.

The staff of MAF will get the opportunity to be well equipped with knowledge and skills in order to effectively and efficiently extend this useful technology to our farmers.

The MAF and SCATAP partnership contributes to achieving our aim for a healthy, productive and sustainable agriculture for Samoa, and supports our commitments to achieving the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.