

Promoting Nutritious Food Systems in the Pacific: Marshall Islands National Action Plan

NUTRITION: Reduction in NCDs and food imports and increased income from investments made in the development of local food crops and fisheries value chains

Impact Aims: Increase dietary diversity at household level and improve production and sale of fresh and processed nutrient dense local food crops and fisheries

Key Innovations / Critical Success Factors: Multi-sectoral collaboration; Adequate funding for implementation; Coordination of government actions; Leadership of respective ministerial departments for agreed actions as identified in the national policy documents

Action	Partners involved	Stakeholder Targeted	Resources Required	Timeframe	Method of Verification
<p>1. Recognize the role of traditional foods for health, nutrition and income in national policies and budgets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ identification of top 10 priority commodities for investment ➤ Development of a clear cross-sectoral strategy and a national plan (through public, private, producer, community collaboration) ➤ 2013 Food Security Policy 	<p>Government: MOH, MCIA, MIMRA, MNRC, MOE, EPPSO, WC</p> <p>Farmers Organisation: MIOFA</p> <p>Local Authorities: MC</p> <p>Private Sector: TCPA, MCC</p>	<p>CBOs, Policy makers, farmers, SMEs, SOE,</p>	<p>Funds; HR</p>	<p>1-3 years</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Policy statements by government on value of traditional foods for health, nutrition and incomes (e.g. % of breadfruit flour in local breads); ➤ Impact stories from NGOs / FOs / CBOs on increase in production and sale of traditional foods by local community groups (e.g. CTA / IFAD/ PIPSO seed funding project) ➤ No. of rural households improve their nutrition and income ➤ No. of Public-private partnerships established and mobilising funds for developing priority value chains (new products)



<p>2. Consolidate and strengthen national food and nutrition coordination mechanism (Food Security Committee) and build linkages with regional coordinating mechanism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2014 Rules and Regulations of the Public School System 	<p>Ministries: MOH, MCIA, MIMRA, MNRC, MOE, MCC, SOE, WC SPC, USP, FAO</p>	<p>Public & private sector (government ministries)</p>	<p>Funds; HR</p>	<p>1-3 years</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Minutes of committee meetings & reports on joint action ➤ Surveys on amount of food sourced domestically compared to total food available ➤ Reduction in food imports (<90%) ➤ No. of active value chain platforms established for improved coordination & value chain performance
<p>3. Awareness and education campaigns to promote traditional local foods for improved health (NCD management), nutrition and incomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ NCD Community Action Strategic Plan, 2017-2019 	<p>MOH, MOE, NGOs, WC, TCPA, Farmers; organisations</p>	<p>General population</p>	<p>Funds; HR</p>	<p>1-3 years</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reports of health promotion campaigns: ➤ Survey reports on increased consumption of local root crops, fruits, vegetables and fish ➤ Reduction in: overweight adults (<80%); stunting in children under 5 (<35%); diabetes (< 27%) ➤ No. of school gardens producing and promoting nutritious foods



FINANCE – Making farmers bank ready and banks farmer ready						
Impact Aims: Increase access to finance for farmers/ SMEs and improve collaboration between commercial and development banks and donors						
Key Innovations / Critical success factors: ICT enabled financial services; blended finance; networks/ aggregation of farmers/fisher folk/SMEs to leverage access to services; capacity building of Farmers						
Action	Partners involved	Stakeholder Targeted	Resources Required	Timeframe	Method of Verification	
1. Financial Literacy Training	ADB, CMI, WB, BOMI, MIDB, MCC	Farmers organisations; SMEs; CSOs	Funds; HR	1-3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No. of courses developed. ➤ No. of farmers/SMES trained ➤ No. of farmers/ (agri)businesses accessing funding & improving their operations 	
2. Financial Inclusion Strategy for the RMI Mobilization of adequate government funding, private sector investment and donor support for successful implementation of initiatives targeting VC actors.	ADB, WB, BOMI, MIDB, MCC FAO	Farmers' organisations; SMEs, CBOs	Funds: HR	1-3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ % increase in government funding for agriculture and VC development. ➤ MoUs signed between government, donors and banks ➤ No. of new & innovative financial products offered by financial institutions targeting smallholder farmers/SMEs 	



ICT – Robust Communication System for Growers / SMEs

Impact Aims: Farmers / SMEs increase the adoption and application of ICTs to improve production efficiencies, marketing and business systems

Key Innovations/ Critical success factors : Investments in mobile phone network; increased phone penetration in the remote and rural islands to service all farmers, ARROB, BOMI, BOG operate a mobile banking network

Action	Partners involved	Stakeholder Targeted	Resources Required	Timeframe	Method of Verification
1. Needs Analysis & Market Research - Assessment of ICT applications/platforms in use by farmers/ SMEs, financial service providers to identify gaps and opportunities	Telecom service providers;	Farmers' organisations; NGOs; SMEs; tourism industry ARROB, BOMI, BOG	Funds; HR	1-3 years	➤ Reports of market research; No. training programmes and persons trained; Increase demand for ICT service by rural communities.

Insurance – Robust Insurance Package for Farmers

Impact Aims: Increase awareness of key stakeholders on advantages and disadvantages of weather index based insurance

Key Innovations/Critical Success Factors: Bundled insurance products; ICT enabled services for processing claims; Sound banking and ICT (phone) infrastructure (mobile banking in place); legal system in place for insurance schemes; Database of farmers; Competent RMI meteorological service; Access to historical databases with sufficient data

Action	Partners involved	Stakeholder Targeted	Resources Required	Timeframe	Method of Verification
1. Stakeholder sensitisations/ awareness workshops on WIBI including legislative requirements benefits and risks	MCC, MNRC, MIMS, MIOFA, DFAT, USAID	Farmers, policy makers, financiers	Funds; HR	1-3 years	➤ Government white paper on WIBI
2. Strengthening of farmers organisations and capacity	Development partners	Farmers	Funds; HR	1-3 years	➤ Articles of association; Reports of meetings; No. of training



building on agricultural insurance and weather index based insurance				programmes.
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Acronyms

ARROB	ARRO Bank
ADB	Asian Development Bank
BOMI	Bank of the Marshall Islands
BOG	Bank of Guam
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CMI	College of the Marshall Islands
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
DFAT	Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPPSO	Economic Policy, Planning and Statistics Office
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
MC	Mayors Council
MCC	Majuro Chamber of Commerce
MCIA	Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs
MIDB	Marshall Islands Development Bank
MIMRA	Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority
MIMS	Marshall Islands Meteorological Service
MIOFA	Marshall Islands Organic Farmers Association
MNRC	Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOH	Ministry of Health and Human Services
NCD	Non-communicable disease
NGO	Non-governmental organisation



REGIONAL FORUM – Developing Pacific Local Food Crops & Fisheries Value Chains –
KEY INNOVATIONS & CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS
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RMI	Republic of the Marshall Islands
SOE	State Owned Enterprises
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
TCPA	Tobolar Copra Processing Authority
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USP	University of the South Pacific
WB	World Bank
WC	Wellness Center

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