



# 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

## Exploring new economic potential – TROCHUS shell

The Fisheries Division coincide with the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) have conducting a series of workshops on Upolu and Savaii to educate the public on the commercial benefits of trochus shells by transforming them into a handcraft masterpiece.

Fisheries Senior Officer, whom represented the Ministry, stated that the workshop involves shell polishing and jewelry making demonstrations for participants from communities under the community based programme and the representatives Fishers fishing for trochus and handcraft makers.

An underwater survey was also conducted to identify areas in which the fishery shell is sustainable and well-populated. According to the Fisheries senior, the data they collected were from 28 reefs on both islands, highlighting that the translocations of trochus from Vanuatu to Samoa 15 years ago resulted in abundant populations being established at multiple site in Upolu and Savaii.

The workshop targets fishers especially women youth and those who have knowledge to make and create handcrafts.

Trochus is a gastropod and it was introduced into Samoa many years ago, so the target of the workshop is to make sure that we don't discard the shell because usually once the meat is extracted, it then threw away, however there is a potential that it can make another piece out of it.

Trochus is not a native species in Samoa and was first introduced in 1990 from Fiji then from Vanuatu in 2003 through financial assistances from ACIAR Partnering with MAF's Fisheries Division.

The workshop trainers were Australian specialists in handcraft, De'arneKershler and Southern Cross University Biologist, Steven Purcell who is the facilitator of the workshop.

## Enhancing the capacity of beekeeping in Samoa

The bee keeping development in Samoa is currently developed and assisted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries under the Crops Division at Nu'u and Atele. It has been shared that the bees help a lot in the pollination of fruit trees giving fast and good yields for our farmers. The importation of honey had been prohibited under the Importation Prohibition Order of March 2000 to protect our Samoan bee stock from the major diseases around the world. These diseases are very infectious and are caused by bacterial, fungal spores that produce toxins which can be found in some overseas produced honey and prohibited imported items.



WIBDI, CERES & ROTARY – other agencies/institutions helping beekeepers.

Horticulturalists from Melbourne, Australia are in Samoa to assist the women's farmer groups and other local farmers in developing the capacity of our bee keepers. These specialists from the Centre for Education and Research in Environmental strategies (C.E.R.E.S) together with staff from Women in Business Development Incorporated (WIBDI) facilitated presentations on the proper keeping of bees to ensure good quality hives and honey. One farmer from the village of Faleasi'u; shared that the presentations helped her see that harvesting the honey can be done by one person; "...it is really helpful because now I am able to harvest and bottle the honey myself." Apart from the presentations, there were also other donations by Rotary which included boxes, smokers and other beekeeping tools for the farmers.



# MAJOR CROPS GROWING CALENDARS FOR SAMOA

WET SEASON IN SAMOA

OCTOBER - MARCH

DRY SEASON IN SAMOA

APRIL - SEPTEMBER

CROPS	Peak Harvest Time & Optimum growing conditions	Planting Time	Number of harvest cycles per year
<b>Seasonal Crops</b>			
<b>Vegetables</b>			
• 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
• Pumpkin	4- 12 months 	All year round	
<b>Spices</b>			
• Ginger	5-6 months 	All year round	
• Black pepper	2-3 years 	All year round	
• Spring Onions	2-3 months 	Wet season	
<b>Annual Crops</b>			
• 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
<b>Permanent Crops</b>			
• 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	Fruit in 4yrs, peaks in 5-20yrs 		2 cycles
• Mango	Fruit in 4yrs, peaks in 5-20yrs 		1 cycle
• Avocado	Fruits in 5yrs, peaks from 6-20yrs 		1 cycle
• Rambutan	Fruits in 5 yrs, peaks from 6-20yrs 		1 cycle