



FAAILOA

NEWSLETTER

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES
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Enhancing partnerships to develop and sustain agriculture and fisheries

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THE PALOLO SEASON

Photo from Facebook: by Radio Samoa



Palolo is a *Polychaeta* species found in the waters of the Pacific islands around Samoa and an important delicacy of the Samoan people. Like unto a spirit that only appears shortly once a year, the palolo season in Samoa is celebrated in some of the local villages and communities as a special event. People would gather in certain spots to wait for the rising of the palolo on the predicted

dates and host entertainments while waiting for the palolo swarming. The palolo is scooped using hand nets along the shoreline.

According to the Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Inshore Unit, there are two predictions for Samoa; the 8th to 10th of October and November on the 7th to 9th for this year.

There are traditional and natural methods for Samoans to predict the days of the palolo swarming and these include the flowering of the moso'oi tree, a strong smell from the reef, brown foamy scum (from coral spawn) on the ocean, toxins occurring in reef fish, and abrupt weather changes or bad weather such as thunderstorms or lightning.

Food Security and COVID19

Seed Processing

Saving your own seeds available for more crop production is strongly encouraged by the Ministry for everyone and not just the farmers.

“I still remember my grandmother saving the seeds of fruits and some vegetables back in the days and she would put it in an open container and leave it to dry for some time and then plant it in the soil later when ready.”, one youth farmer shared.

Ioelu Iosefa is an Advisory Officer for Seed Production at MAF Crops Division, mentions the importance of producing one's seeds; “This traditional method was used by our farmers in the past to help sustain crop production for their families and it was also totally free”.

Tilafono David Hunter, Chief Executive Officer for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries emphasized in one of his



[Fresh Pumpkin seeds]



[Dried Tomato Seeds]

speeches at a seed production workshop facilitated by SPC in 2018 saying; “Locally produced seeds helps farmers to decrease costs on imported seeds, fast and easy seed access, increase capacity in seed production and save farmers from high costs”.

The process is very easy and free.

1. Harvest the fruit, make sure it is ripe and mature.
 2. Divide it in half
 3. Extract the seeds from the fruit
 4. Rinse and clean it in a container with water
 5. Dry seeds in the sun
 6. Make sure they are dry properly then put it in an airtight container.
 7. Store it in a cool place or a refrigerator.
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