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Market Link

for primary producers

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GENERAL CLIMATE OF SAMOA

Samoa lies just west of the International Date Line and South of the Equator. Our climate is characterized by uniform temperature, pressure, abundant rainfall and high humidity due to its geographical location. Samoa has two distinct seasons. The Hot and Wet season is from November to April, and the Cool and Dry season is from May to October[1].

Nowadays, Samoa has a very unpredictable weather forecast. Sometimes it has high precipitation in the dry season or heat stress during the wet season.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

The impacts of climate change on agriculture are the growing unpredictability of weather patterns. This results in more frequent and intense events such as droughts, floods, heat waves, and storms. Such shifts have disrupted the growing seasons and decreased crop yields. Thus making it hard for the farmers to determine the optimal times for planting and harvesting.

For instance, drought can severely deplete water supplies, causing forest fires, and lowering crop productivity, while floods can damage or destroy entire fields. Heat stress can diminish both the quality and quantity of crops, especially in regions where plants are sensitive to temperature[2].

This increased unpredictability contributes to food insecurity and creates significant economic challenges for farmers and the global food supply.

[1] Climate of Samoa - http://www.samet.gov.ws/index.php/climate-of-samoa

[2] Agri-food Systems and Climate Explorer for Samoa- https://maf.gov.ws/agri-food-systems-and-climate-explorer-for-samoa/

IMPACT ON CROPS

Climate change has impacted crop growth and productivity in various ways. Such impacts include the changes in soil microflora ecosystems, lower plant productivity, an increase in soil erosion, salinity in coastal land, and the disappearance of some plant species[3].

Droughts are known to be prolonged periods of abnormally low rainfall, and they have a huge impact on crops. For instance, drought can cause a reduction in crop production and quality due to the decrease in water availability and its negative impacts on soil. Some crops like taro, tomato, cocoa, and banana are considered to be highly susceptible to drought. Similarly, to drought, heat stress impacted the crops, as it affects soil moisture that can impact crop development and photosynthesis; hence, leafy vegetables, taro, and tomatoes are examples of crops that are highly sensitive to heat stress[4].

The increase in rainfall frequency can also cause harm to the crops by eroding soil and depleting soil nutrients. Heavy rains can also increase agricultural runoff into other water resources such as oceans, lakes, and streams. This runoff can carry nutrients, fertilizers, and pesticides to some neighboring water sources, and it could lead to depleted oxygen

levels, which can cause harm to the sea creatures or water creatures[5].

IMPACT ON LIVESTOCK

Changes in pasture and fodder growth are considered a core impact of climate change on livestock. Such impacts include lower pasture quality and productivity, an increase in lignin and reduction in digestibility and also an increase in vector-borne diseases, soil nitrogen loss and worm infestation[6].

Heat stress and Extreme weather events are known to be the most direct impacts on livestock[7]. Cattle and Sheep, in particular, have the most negative impact. Decline in live weight gain, reduced fertility and lower milk production, lack of water availability also pose as a risk to livestock during the heat stress period[8]. Extreme weather events such as floods, heatwaves and cold snaps could lead to an increase in animal mortality and displacement[9]. Hence, drought also has

[3] Samoa Agriculture and Fisheries Climate Change Policy 2023-2028

[4] Agri-food Systems and Climate Explorer for Samoa- https://maf.gov.ws/agri-food-systems-and-climate-explorer-for-samoa/

[5] Climate Change Impacts on Agriculture and Food Supply- https://www.epa.gov/climateimpacts/climate-change-impacts-agriculture-and-food-supply

[6] Samoa Agriculture and Fisheries Climate Change Policy 2023-2028

[7] Impact of climate change on livestock productivity - https://www.feedipedia.org/content/impact-climate-change-livestock-productivity

[8] Agri-food Systems and Climate Explorer for Samoa- https://maf.gov.ws/agri-food-systems-and-climate-explorer-for-samoa/

[9] Impact of climate change on livestock productivity - https://www.feedipedia.org/content/impact-climate-change-livestock-productivity

significant impacts as it limits water and feed availability and also the quality[10].

Other general indirect impacts of climate change include:

- Feed and Water availability- it can reduce the quantity and quality of grain crops and forage, which causes an increase in animal feed.
- Diseases and Pests – unpredictable warmer and rainfall patterns facilitate the spread of diseases or the carrying of insects and parasites from one place to another.
- Reduced Productivity - insufficient water and feed, increased in diseases and heat stress could lead to general declines in milk production, weight gain and fertility in livestock[11].

IMPACT ON FISHERIES

An impact on Fisheries includes coral leaching and ocean acidification, reduction in fish habitats and disappearing fish and other invertebrate species. A decline in the capacity of coral and shell-forming species to deposit calcium carbonate, weakening in coral reef structures[12].

Generally, the ecological impacts such as Ocean Warming, Ocean Acidification, Deoxygenation and Habitat degradation have really impacted our fisheries and other ocean species productivity and growth[13].

- Ocean Warming- the rise of ocean temperature has directly impacted fish physiology growth and reproduction. Hence, warmer water creates marine heatwaves which leads to fish stress, death and decline in population
- Ocean acidification- the absorption of excess carbon makes the ocean more acidic, and this harms the fish and other marine life, affecting their growth, health and overall internal chemistry.
- Deoxygenation- similarly to ocean warming, warmer water holds less dissolved oxygen, which creates dead zones and stresses the fish, particularly the pelagic species like tuna, which reduces their available living space.
- Habitat Degradation- sea level rises as seen sometimes, increased storms, and coral bleaching destroy critical habitats like coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass beds, which are essential for many fish species[14].

[10] Agri-food Systems and Climate Explorer for Samoa- https://maf.gov.ws/agri-food-systems-and-climate-explorer-for-samoa/

[11] Impact of climate change on livestock productivity - https://www.feedipedia.org/content/impact-climate-change-livestock-productivity

[12] Samoa Agriculture and Fisheries Climate Change Policy 2023-2028

[13] Climate Change and Fisheries- https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/dbfe84a5-4864-402d-8b15-196287fecfbd/content

[14] Climate Change and Fisheries- https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/dbfe84a5-4864-402d-8b15-196287fecfbd/content

Table1: Average Prices at the Fugalei Market

Commodities (SAT$/kg)	July 2025	August 2025	September 2025	Lowest Price for 2025 to date	Highest Price for 2025 to date
Taro	6.6	6.15	5.64	4.62	6.6
Banana	2.48	2.55	2.39	1.74	2.71
Ta'amu	8.89	8.15	6.35	6.13	11.22
Coconut	1.13	1.15	1.16	0.94	1.16
Breadfruit	3.08	2.25	1.77	1.07	4.12
Yam	7.65	5.68	5.92	5.68	7.89
Head Cabbage	14.84	13.57	11.36	11.36	17.48
Tomato	33.13	28.78	21.82	21.82	36.25
Chinese Cabbage	10.74	10.72	8.83	8.83	17.18
Cucumber	9.58	9.92	8.25	8.25	11.92
Pumpkin	7.27	7.26	6.30	6.30	7.61

Source: Samoa Bureau of Statistics

Table 2: Foreign Currency per Tala (SAT$)

November 2025	USD$	NZD$	AUD$	YEN$	FJD$	EURO
1 Samoan Tala SAT$=	0.3657	0.6609	0.5710	64.8800	0.8694	0.3264

Source: Bank of the South Pacific

Market Link Newsletter

This newsletter is published quarterly and it seeks to assist stakeholders (farmers, consumers, wholesalers, policymakers) make informed market and marketing decisions based on credible, relevant price and supply information. Help us help you by providing constructive feedback on market information issues that will improve the service which will lead to growing a healthy and wealthy Samoa. For more information contact the Policy, Planning, Sector Coordination and Communication Division and ask for Fereni Tofilau.

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