Food security

Securing food resources against the impacts of climate change in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)

Climate change is the single most important factor affecting the stability of food supplies in Pacific island nations.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2008

Climate change means higher air and ocean temperatures, more very hot days, rising sea levels, increasing ocean acidification and more extreme rainfall.

Until now, not a lot was known about how climate change will affect food security in FSM.

BACKGROUND

‘FSM is committed to address the adverse impacts of climate change on communities to ensure sustainable livelihood and preserve natural heritage, diverse customs, traditions and natural resources in all islands.’

FSM Nationwide Climate Change Policy 2009

The Australian Government funded research into the impacts of climate change on FSM food resources, through the Pacific Adaptation Strategy Assistance Program (PASAP) in 2011-2013.

Communities across all four states provided knowledge and assistance to identify characteristics of climate-resilient foods.

Researchers conducted field trials of drought-tolerant sweet potato and salt-tolerant taro in Pohnpei, Kosrae, Chuuk and Yap.

Communities worked together with PASAP researchers to grow and monitor trial crop sites.

RESEARCH

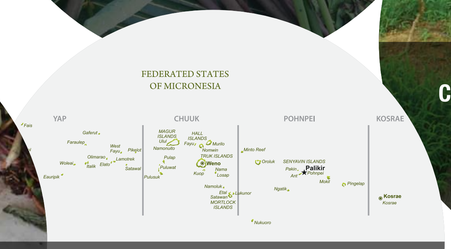
Field trials were set up in areas with different ecological conditions—inland and coastal.

The field trials involved land preparation, planting, growing, harvesting, and taste-testing.

The field trials were testing for the best performing salt- and drought-tolerant varieties of sweet potato and taro.

FIELD TRIALS

The best performing varieties are determined by plant growth, crop yield and taste.



Climate-tolerant varieties are cultivated and distributed to communities in Pohnpei, Kosrae, Chuuk and Yap.

Communities are learning how to identify and grow drought- and salt-tolerant varieties.

RESULTS

Communities continue to participate in and promote research and knowledge-sharing activities.

The FSM Government is now considering ways to integrate relevant adaptation strategies into land-management policies.

ADAPTATION

‘All people in the FSM shall at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.’

FSM Food Security Policy

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More information

The Australian Government’s **Pacific Adaptation Strategy Assistance Program** (PASAP) assisted 15 Pacific island countries to assess their vulnerability to climate change and incorporate adaptive measures into planning and development.

For further information on food security in the Federated States of Micronesia or other PASAP projects, go to www.tiny.cc/t5axxw or contact InternationalAdaptation@climatechange.gov.au

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Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education
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