

PROJECT BRIEF

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EU-GIZ ACSE ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY



PACIFIC ISLANDS
FORUM SECRETARIAT



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Palau: Enhancing Sustainable Livelihoods through Demonstration of Environmentally Friendly Integrated Food Production Systems in Palau

Background

The Republic of Palau is an island country located in the western Pacific Ocean. The country contains approximately 340 islands, forming the western chain of the Caroline Islands in Micronesia, and has an area of 466 square kilometres (180 sq. mi.).

Palau is exposed to many climate change impacts including sea level rise, higher temperatures, more intense rainfall, and increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events (such as category 4 and 5 typhoons). These impacts pose some of the greatest threats to food security in Palau. Food security is also threatened by the spread of crops and livestock disease, and new invasive species.

The project seeks to assist farmers in areas that are geographically equally distributed around the main island of Babeldaob to ensure high visibility among those farming communities who need assistance to increase crop and livestock production. The Bureau of Agriculture has stations on both the east and west coasts of Babeldaob allowing continuous monitoring and support to the selected farmers and their communities.

Project Objective

This project will enhance sustainable livelihoods and strengthen capacities to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change through the piloting of **integrated farming systems and marketing of goods**.

The project is closely aligned to many of Palau's policies strategies and plans including the Palau's National Food Security Policy, and the Non-communicable Disease Prevention and Control Strategic Plan of Action 2015-2020.

Project Summary

Location: Palau

Objective: Adoption of an operating and viable integrated farming system that will enhance sustainable livelihoods and strengthen capacities to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change

Implementing Agency: Bureau of Agriculture, Ministry of Natural Resource, Environmental and Tourism (MNRET)

Budget: € 390,500 (+ € 80,000 emergency response budget)

Duration: 2016—2018

Current situation

Farming in Palau is declining and recent typhoons have crippled agricultural production resulting in decreased access to high quality local food sources and increased dependency on imported food with low nutritional value. Today, 80-90% of the food consumed in Palau is imported and this leaves Palau exposed to high food security risks. Increased consumption of imported foods has also been linked to increased incidence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes and heart disease. In response to these risks, Palau has declared a "State of Emergency".

Land degradation issues coupled with food safety and water concerns are serious constraints to the integration of livestock into existing agricultural systems to improve livelihoods. The conventional system of raising livestock, particularly pigs, involved cleaning pens of animal waste which requires large volumes of water. This practice leads to unsustainable water usage and the untreated water that runs off farms creates



environmental and health safety risks. Such farming practices are not climate change ‘smart,’ and render soil completely vulnerable to stressful events such as an El Niño or a flood.

What Is EU-GIZ ACSE Doing?

The EU-GIZ ACSE programme helps the people of fifteen Pacific island countries address two common challenges: adapting to climate change and reducing their dependence on fossil fuels.

GIZ is supporting the Republic of Palau to increase local agriculture production through the introduction of integrated farming systems that are a prerequisite to reduce NCDs and improve food security. The project will be complemented with the robust promotion and marketing of local foods and cuisine through a multi-sectoral partnership.

Through the above measures five farming families (40 people) and their communities on Babeldaob, with approximately 1000 farmers, will directly benefit from the project results. The impact of the measure is countrywide though, as it aims to develop standards for animal husbandry and farming practices in Palau.

The project will focus on 3 (three) broad strategic activities including:

- 1) Establishing demonstration farms and disaster resilient nurseries,
- 2) Providing training on integrated farming practices, typhoon resilience, climate smart agriculture, El Niño mitigation and ecosystem-based agro-management, and
- 3) Promoting organics through a pig-breeding program, cultured seedlings, and composting (supported by the dry-litter system of raising livestock).

Organisational Context

The project is implemented by the Bureau of Agriculture, Ministry of Natural Resource, Environmental and Tourism (MNRET).

As part of the multi-sectoral arrangement, the following partners and agencies will support the project implementation and inclusion of results into sector planning and discussion: Belau Tourism Association, Palau Livestock Association, Palau Community College, Small Business Development Centre, US Department of Agriculture, Taiwan Technical Mission, Palau Development Bank, Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POETCom).



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