



FSM Food Security Project Newsletter

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Establishment of Farmers Associations in Pohnpei Municipalities

One of the project's outputs is to establish a coordination mechanism to assist the progress of the project development and to ensure that the project priorities and responsibilities are coordinated among relevant stakeholders.

Madolenihmw, Kitti and U municipalities in Pohnpei have successfully elected their officers for their Farmers Associations. The officers will then elect two members from their groups to represent their respective municipalities at the state level, to ensure their participation in the formulation and implementation of the project activities.

Members of Madolenihmw's Farmers Association are Chair, Patterson K. Shed; Vice Chair, Winfred Mwudong; Treasurer, Sihna Lawrence; Secretary, Phyllis Silbanuz and members Stuard Penias and Presler Costigan.

Members of Kitti Farmers Association are President, Emilio Eperiam; Vice President, Ringlen Hadley; and Secretary and Treasurer, Ivenglynn Andon.

And for U Municipality, the members are President, Mason Albert; Vice President, Santiago Joab Jr, and Secretary and Treasurer, Youteenia Sakai.

The project is still working with Nett and Sokehs municipalities to develop their Farmers Associations. The same mechanism will also be developed in the rest of the FSM states.



Project Manager Attended 19th Annual Cross-Site Visit

On October 28th, 2022, Project Manager Mr. Mark Kostka attended the 19th annual Marine Protected Areas (MPA) cross-site visit with other conservation partners at Nanwap, Madolenihmw. At the cross-site visit, Mr. Kostka provided a brief overview of the project including its components and objectives. He also highlighted that the ocean is integral to food security. The ocean's ability to provide for humanity is interrupted by harmful activities including exploitation, development, and climate change thus establishing well-connected networks of MPAs will help protect, restore and enhance our ocean health.

In addition to the purpose of the visit, the project team is currently working to establish farmers associations at the state level and this is integral in garnering more involvement from farmers at the community level.



College of Micronesia-FSM Conducted Food Security Trainings: Technical Perspectives



On November 5 and 26, 2022, College of Micronesia-FSM conducted trainings for Farmer's Groups, Women's groups and Individual Farmers at Pohnpei Campus Gym. The trainings were conducted by Professors Alvie Cabanez and Fredo Espiritu focusing on the municipalities of Kolonia, Sokehs, Nett, & Uh. Participants were engaged in dialogues and hands on activities that gained them an insight into the project and the importance of food sustainability.

After the introductory phase, the curriculum will continue and focus on fundamental principles of food processing, the different methods of food preservation and the four P's of marketing- product, price, place and promotion.



Project Hired Food Security & Livelihoods Coordinator for Yap and Kosrae



Ms. Mercedes Tiningmow was hired as the Food Security & Livelihoods Coordinator for Yap State. Before joining the team, Ms. Tiningmow worked at the Yap Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) as a staff auditor before she was promoted to staff auditor III. She was also the Communication Liaison Focal Point for stakeholders during her time at Yap OPA. Her professional career path began at the COM-FSM Yap Campus as an accountant assistant for 3 years before she moved on to the International Organization for Migration-Micronesia (IOM) Yap Sub Office as an Administrative and Finance Assistant. She is currently a member of the Luwech Women Association and the Milew Community Youth Organization. Ms. Mercedes received her Associate of Science in Business Administration from COM-FSM in 2011 and actively participated in the Yap Student Organization where she served as the treasurer. She graduated from Yap High School ranking as a 3rd honor student in her class in 2009. She is also an alumna of TRIO Upward Bound Program.

During her free time, she likes to spend it with family and friends. She enjoys going to the beach with her daughters, reading books, or playing softball.

Mr. Lipar George was hired as the Food Security and Livelihoods Coordinator for Kosrae State. Prior to joining the project team, Mr. George served as the Special Assistant to the late FSM Vice President Yosiwo George beginning in March 2020. In 2011, he was the Chief of Staff for former Governor Lyndon H. Jackson and later became the Administrator for the Office of Budget, Statistics and Overseas Development Assistance (ODA). In January 2020, he became a Program Manager for the Office of the Overseas Development Assistance with the FSM National Government. In 2007, he was elected and served as a member of the Ninth Kosrae State Legislature. Mr. George received his Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from the University of Hawaii-Hilo in 1993. He attended Kosrae High School and a proud graduate of Malem Elementary School.

During his free time, he enjoys browsing on the internet and reading.



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