



Location

Nui Island, Tuvalu, located northwest of the capital Funafuti, has an estimated population of 412 people, accounting for 3.9% of the national population.



Consultation process

After inclusive community consultations with local stakeholders, including local leaders, women, youth, and people with disabilities (over 140 participants), the local community of Nui strategically prioritized the Food Cube Gardening initiative.

Food Cubes Gardening



Pilot Project description

An innovative climate-resilient farming technique, the food cubes allow gardening in locations where it is not possible to cultivate. In case of cyclones and inundation, the food cubes can be easily moved to a safer location, therefore protecting local food crops and ensuring food security for the local community of Nui. The easy installation and the relatively limited amount of work required will contribute to ensuring that all families in Nui will benefit from this initiative.



Criteria

- The Tuvalu Integrated Vulnerability Assessment (TIVA), conducted by the Climate Change Department in all the islands, was the basis of the selection, confirming that the site is extremely vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, including climate-related disasters, constantly experiencing inundation, especially during cyclones.
- The impact of climate-related risks in the community is representative of the situation that other island communities in Tuvalu are facing. Therefore, the pilot can be easily replicated on the other outer islands.
- On Nui Island, the local community prioritizes food security. Community leaders and community-based organizations are supportive of the pilot project and are willing to commit time and human resources to its implementation.



Ensuring a climate-secure future

Agriculture and fisheries are the mainstays of Tuvaluans' traditional lifestyles. Due to rising sea levels and associated climate risks such as saltwater intrusion, soil salinity, and frequent inundation, lands have become less fertile.

On Nui Island, the traditional gardening system, called pulaka pits, continues to face inundation during cyclones. The food system, already suffering the negative impacts of climate change, has been even more under stress due to the Covid-19 pandemic. While Pulaka pits are fundamental in traditional crop farming, the use of food cubes will strengthen food security on Nui Island.



Through inclusive community consultations, the project was alerted that claims over land are leading to disputes and are threatening the social cohesion of the community.

The impacts of climate change on the already limited arable lands, coupled with an increase of the population, are making the risk of land disputes and conflicts a reality.

The initiative will help local communities to overcome potential conflicts over natural resources.

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