



COUNTRY UPDATE

SAMOA

JUNE 2022



PIRAS is a collaboration between the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Australian Government that supports economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic in the Pacific.

Our target is to benefit 20,000 households across the Pacific countries of Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

Read about the regional overview [here](#).

Duration: 2021-2024

WHAT WE DO

The Pacific Islands Rural and Agriculture Stimulus Facility (PIRAS) supports COVID-19 food system and economic recovery by prioritizing food self-reliance, improving local nutrition and developing sustainable, equitable agricultural sector growth opportunities.

In Samoa, PIRAS is working on the islands of Upolu and Savaii to support food production, post-harvest handling and market access by:

- Distributing planting materials and production inputs for crops, livestock and fisheries
- Providing labour-saving farming equipment and training to improve farm productivity
- Providing food processing technology and training to support post-harvest handling, food preservation and value adding
- Linking agribusiness to markets through e-commerce platforms, and inclusion in Government purchasing supply schemes such as school feeding programmes

UPCOMING PRIORITIES

- Provision and installation of 23 tunnel houses to improve crop growing conditions
- Training on best farming practices, post-harvest handling, using food processing equipment and food preservation methods
- Distribution of seedlings, fruit trees and cuttings and livestock and fish feed to farmers

PARTNERS

- Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF)
- Samoa Agriculture and Fisheries Productivity and Marketing Project (SAFPROM)



KEY SUCCESSES IN SAMOA

- Completed land preparation and leveling, benefitting 263 farmers (28% of whom are women, and 72% youth)
- 8 acres cleared and leveled for planting of 20,000 cassava stem cuttings
- Land prepared for installation of 23 tunnel houses
- Installed five 5,000-liter water tanks for members of the Falesi'u Women Associations and one 5,000-liter water tank for TIROSH members
- Distributed 15 beehives and pig fencing material to members of the Samoa Farmers Association
- Distributed cattle fencing material to members of the Cattle Farmers Association
- Distributed 40,000 cassava and kava cuttings, and more than 6,000 suckers and other planting material for fruit and cocoa seedlings, benefitting 263 farmers (28% of whom are women, and 72% youth)
- 7 farmer associations have received labour-saving agricultural tools and equipment

PIRAS IMPACT: Water tank makes farm expansion possible

For the last eight months, Vaiula Aiulu and her husband have been farming full-time to develop their 4-acre vegetable farm in rural Falesi'u. The couple grows giant taro, eggplant, pumpkin, cucumbers, papaya, cocoa, round cabbage, green onions, chives, chili and lettuce. Vaiula sells their vegetables at a market she built in front of their home in Moamoa and occasionally supplies two local supermarkets with fresh produce.

However, lack of available water has prevented the couple from expanding. To irrigate their crops, Vaiula and her husband transported gallons of water to their farm by hand, which was both costly and labour intensive.

As a member of the Faleasiu Women's Association, Vaiula received a grant through PIRAS, enabling her to purchase a 5,000-liter water tank and chainsaw. With a reliable on-farm irrigation source and increased time now available for farming, Vaiula and her husband are expanding their farm acreage and increasing the quantity and diversity of the vegetables they grow.

"Before we received this water tank, we had to fill up gallon bottles in order to water our crops, it was so much hard work especially when there was no rain. We are finally capable of extending the land, thanks to the chainsaws we purchased



Vaiula Aiulu in front of the new water tank she purchased with PIRAS support.

with the help of PIRAS Project. We are in the process of clearing some land to extend our mixed crop vegetables and install a greenhouse for our seedlings."

PIRAS comes at a crucial time to complement the Ministry's ongoing efforts to create new and sustainable livelihoods for those severely impacted by the effects of the pandemic. PIRAS complements the government's stimulus packages, aimed at supporting farmers and their associations to increase food production and food security. It does so by working in partnership with farming and fishing associations, NGOs and industry actors.

The Pacific Islands Rural and Agriculture Stimulus Facility (PIRAS) is supported by the Australian Government and IFAD