



COUNTRY UPDATE

SAMOA

February 2023



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, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.**

Duration 2021-2024

Learn more about PIRAS in the Pacific [here](#).

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 works in collaboration with 11 NGOs, farmers' association and networks 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; and
- ✓ Linking agribusiness to markets through e-commerce platforms, and inclusion in Government purchasing supply schemes such as school feeding programmes.

Upcoming priorities

- ✓ Training on improved farming practices, safe post-harvest handling and food storage and preservation
- ✓ Distribution of additional planting materials, tools and equipment, and tilapia & cattle feed to livestock farmers & fishers

Partners

- ✓ Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF)
- ✓ Samoa Agriculture and Fisheries Productivity and Marketing Project (SAFPROM)
- ✓ Matuaileoo Environmental Trust Incorporated (METI)
- ✓ Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa (SROS)
- ✓ Samoa Women Association of Growers (SWAG)
- ✓ Women in Business Development Incorporated (WIBDI)



Key successes in Samoa

PIRAS Samoa strengthened value chain engagement of newly established farmers' associations, and small and medium enterprises, reaching **3,653 participants**, 41% of whom are women and 40% are youth.

- ✓ **Honey:** provided 15 beehives, beekeeping equipment and honey extraction machinery, and training on beekeeping practices, harvesting and brood box building to 76 farmers
- ✓ **Cocoa:** provided land preparation, 20,000 cocoa seedlings, 11 tunnel houses, and 20 fermentation boxes for drying and preservation to 207 farmers
- ✓ **Cassava:** provided land preparation, tools, and 20,000 cassava cuttings to 27 youth farmers
- ✓ **Vegetables:** provided land preparation, tools and equipment, built 8 tunnel houses, installed five 5,000-liter water tanks, established plant nurseries and distributed seeds to more than 230 mostly women farmers. Training provided on organic farming practices, harvesting, postharvest handling, food safety, packaging and marketing strategies
- ✓ **Tilapia and cattle:** procured feed, improved pastures and fencing for more than 200 women and youth farmers
- ✓ **Kava:** distributed 30,000 kava stem cuttings for 648 Savaii farmers
- ✓ **Supported small-scale, youth-led business** with fruit tree seedlings, agricultural tools, and processing equipment to expand product lines benefitting 227 youth entrepreneurs

Spotlight: Reaching forgotten fishers of Upolu

In Piupa'a, a small fishing village on Upolu island, fishing has been a way of life for generations—sons learn how to fish from their fathers, who learned from their fathers. The village is only about 15 meters from the main island ring road where most fishers sell their products. Fishers in Piupa'a struggled during the pandemic. Lockdowns restricted the times they were allowed to fish and movement restrictions reduced the flow of customers to their roadside market.

Piupa'a's fishers were struggling to recover from the economic insecurity they experienced after COVID-19. Though it's only 10 kilometers from Apia, Samoa's capital city, this village has never received support from a development project. For the first time, under PIRAS, the Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa (SROS), reached out to this vulnerable community to support livelihood recovery after the pandemic.

Saverio Vasega, who harvests sea grapes, was able to replace his damaged canoe and purchase buckets, bowls and coolers. Storing the sea grapes in the new coolers prevents the spoilage and wastage that used to reduce his income earning potential. Once Saverio's wife helps clean and package the sea grapes, the couple sells them on the roadside. Thanks to these small investments, this family's income has increased by about 10 tālā per day.



Daily income at the street fish market

Aundrie Alatine collects sea urchins, sea cucumbers and other sea products then bottles them and sells each bottle for 30 tālā. With his new spear, cooler, mask and fins he has increased the amount of sea products he collects and can now fill and sell 10 bottles each day. Support from PIRAS has helped increase his income from 120 to 300 tālā per day, enough to finally afford the school fees for his children.

PIRAS made a difference in these families' lives, who, for the first time ever, received a small boost to improve the productivity of their labour, decrease food loss and increase their income.

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