



COUNTRY UPDATE

KIRIBATI

December 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, 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 livelihood opportunities for rural communities.

In Kiribati, PIRAS works in collaboration with the Atolls Food Future Project to tackle water scarcity and food security for vulnerable rural farming households in South Tarawa, North Tarawa, Abaiang and Makin. PIRAS focuses on increasing farm production, nutrition and climate resilience by:

- ✓ Providing farmers with nutrition-sensitive seedlings and planting materials, labour-saving tools, and equipment; and
- ✓ Training farmers and vulnerable households in the safe use and maintenance of water tanks, agricultural tools and equipment; composting production; soil preparation; tree crop cutting methods; and liquid fertilizer production and applications.

Key successes in Kiribati

- ✓ 480 tree cuttings of moringa, citrus, papaya, local figs distributed across South Tarawa among 150 households (organized in 32 *kainga*, or extended family groups)
- ✓ Procured 8,150 vegetable seed packs for distribution to 160 households
- ✓ Established 1 nursery and 1 compost house on Makin, and 1 greenhouse in North Tarawa
- ✓ Set up 32 water tanks (5,000 litres each) across South Tarawa, Makin and North Tarawa
- ✓ Distributed 240 labour-saving tools, including shovels, spades, compost collection bins, bush knives, hoe, wheelbarrow, crowbars, greenhouse material across South Tarawa
- ✓ Purchased and distributed 3 chippers and 3 compost testers across the Outer Islands of North Tarawa, Makin and Abaiang
- ✓ Trained 80 people on the use of food cubes provided by Atolls Food Future Project
- ✓ Procured soil probes, salinity tests and soil health tests to support climate smart agricultural practices

Spotlight: Supporting the transition to farming in Kiribati

Just before the pandemic, Teekai Tabwea, from Teoraereke, South Tarawa decided to try his hand at farming, seeking relief from the long hours and difficult work of being a fisherman. Teekai established a home garden with his Kainga (extended family groups of 5 households) on their land in Teoraereke and relies primarily on income he gets from market sales to support his family. Market sales, occasionally supplemented by fishing, had been enough to purchase additional food items and pay for the school fees for his two school-aged children.

When the pandemic hit, Teekai continued gardening and selling his fruits and vegetables within the limited market hours. Sometimes, people came directly to his home to purchase fresh vegetables. As an outcome of the PIRAS trainings, Te Bai Maue, the 90-member home gardeners' association, created an informal "Fresh Market" system whereby fresh produce is collected from participating PIRAS farmers by three people who then bring it to a nearby roadside market to be sold. This has helped many farmers stay afloat during the pandemic and has increased their opportunities for direct sales.

Now that pandemic restrictions have ended, Teekai is getting help from PIRAS to improve his production and decrease his costs. New PIRAS community access rainwater tank supplies



Teekai Tabwea with his family.

some of the water he uses to irrigate his garden. He's also received labour-saving tools, seeds like tomato, eggplant, and cabbage to expand the variety of vegetables he's growing and training on composting, planting and growing seeds, and managing plant growth. This training has been essential in Kiribati, to build farmers' know how on growing in the poor atoll soils.

PIRAS is helping Teekai to complete the shift from fishing to farming by providing essential support for him to deepen his knowledge, improve his farming practice and expand the range of produce he grows. He hopes to further extend his garden with additional equipment and a greenhouse in the future.

Partners

- ✓ Live & Learn Environmental Education Kiribati
- ✓ Atolls Food Future Project

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