



Niue Island Organic Farmers Assoc.

Date

who are we?

- ✦ NGO formed in 2001, owned and managed by the organic farmers of Niue
- ✦ NIOFA committee of 6 people
- ✦ Funding support from GoN-Certification fees, Certification Manager, Office space and utilities
- ✦ 49 BioGro certified farmers
- ✦ Previous focus has been on export of certified vanilla
- ✦ Current focus is on reintroducing young people to organic farming as tool in climate change mitigation and helping to support young entrepreneurs in the field of organics



NIOFA's Objectives

- ✦ promotion and development of organic practices to improve the health of Niueans
- ✦ Sustain the Environment using the principles of organic farming (principles of health, ecology, fairness, care and 5th Pacific principle of culture and tradition)
- ✦ Protect Niue's natural resources using the principles of organic farming
- ✦ Assist in climate change mitigation and adaptation methods by highlighting and demonstration of organic practices
- ✦ keeping a positive focus (we dont use paraquat because it affects the soil fauna and we need the worms because they help the crops by...)

Current Activities

- + implementing the IFAD funded Capacity Building for Resilient Agriculture in the Pacific (Niue, Cook Is, Marshall Is)
- + Supported by POETCom, SPC, CTA, SPREP
- + currently entering yr 2 of the 3yr project that focuses on building climate resilience in agriculture given the vulnerability of Pacific to natural hazards and climate change
- + this project recognises risk minimising traditional practices have been abandoned and need to be brought back into production systems; the multiple benefits of organic production systems are not being fully utilised to meet the challenges of climate change.
- + Young people are the focus of the project so that they are equipped with the skills and better farming practices to enable income generation for themselves, their families and have an alternative to international migration
- + IFAD, POETCom and NIOFA want to support young entrepreneurs!



Project Recipients

- Hakupu Young People's Fellowship, led by Rev Iga Mokuo and assisted by mentor farmer Mr Kenrick Viviani
- Borne out of participation in SPREP Waste Management Workshop held in Sept 2016
- Focus is on waste management to reduce the green waste going to landfill or being burnt in backyards by composting
- Rev Iga led 2 composting workshops for young people
- Currently produced 150kgs compost for sale to organic farmers for trials on organic farms
- goal is to provide enough compost to sell surplus to general public
- Comms>Young People's Fellowship, Facebook
- Challenges faced so far> high demand of Government owned shredder/mulching machine
- limited transport to collect village green waste



Project Recipients

- ✦ Vaiea Young Climate Warriors led by Nadia Fomai
- ✦ Objective is to increase the consumption of nutritious healthy food in the households of Vaiea through organic farming
- ✦ Participants 4-13yrs old
- ✦ a community garden for young people worked on by young people with assistance by parents
- ✦ utilizing Fish Fertiliser and compost>fishing village



Project Recipients...

- ✦ Jazinta Levi-young organic farmer and entrepreneur; NIOFA Volunteer Comms Officer
- ✦ -setting up a nursery to sell vegetable and fruit seedlings , ornamentals to general public
- ✦ experimenting and developing value added products using crops grown organically (experiments do far: ice cream, dried paw paw and banana, virgin coconut oil
- ✦ -organic living series via instagram and you tube*
- ✦ *Challenges>highly active young person in the community and therefore high demands on time*



General Project Activities

- ✦ 2 yr Trials comparing soils of organic farms v. conventional farm (organic farms are displaying the greater range of biodiversity)
- ✦ Small virgin coconut oil and soap production workshop*
- ✦ Selfie competition (4 categories age range 1y.o-20y.o) with organic living as the central theme to build social media profile and to receive feedback on what organic living is to young people
- ✦ Targeting annual village showdays with prizes for biodiversity and varieties of organic traditional crops
- ✦ CTA funded 4 day youth workshop utilising video media to tell stories of climate change utilising traditional stories/heros



developing...

- + awareness campaigns that work with young Niueans that use young people communication concepts; e.g. superheroes developed by young people
- + nutritional comparisons of traditional food v. imported food (eg. pele v. kale/spinach; coconuts v. soft drinks)
- + awareness campaigns of the dangers of synthetic agri-chemicals v organic methods of farming-composting/mulching/cover crops>the use of paraquat has meant the near loss of traditional crops such as polo Efua and at
- + Youth Master chef competition that has a traditional food (so taro, coconut etc) as its main component supported by other organic crops (using traditional tunu paku as the cooking method)
- + ECE Organic vegetable garden
- + Mutalau GB organic vegetable garden
- + Liku Youth Organic Banana and vegetable garden
- + Taro festival in collaboration with DAFF
- + conservation of traditional varieties of crops
- + experimental value added products

Communication...

- ✦ Keeping it simple...
- ✦ Youth focused interactive communication-NIOFA facebook main form of communication
- ✦ superheros to communicate messages
- ✦ field trips-participants are encouraged to post photos to NIOFA Facebook page
- ✦ make activities fun as well as informative
- ✦ videos of participants made by peers-song, play etc
- ✦ social media, short videos on you tube, instagram

Alignment with GoN policy

- ✦ NIOFA through its approach to organic farming has a multi sectoral approach:
- ✦ helping growers with resource management, food security and income generation (DAFF)
- ✦ assisting with developing best practice guides (DAFF)
- ✦ Helping Taoga Niue maintain and promote culture and tradition
- ✦ Promotion of healthy traditional foods (Health)
- ✦ Addressing Waste Management (Environment)
- ✦ Climate Change Mitigation (Dept of Met)
- ✦ Education...of our young people and vulnerable communities (Community Affairs)

Challenges

- ✦ aging farmers>mentor young people
- ✦ buy in of parents into organic farming>health of our families
- ✦ highlighting the connection of climate change mitigation and organic farming (slow to make the connection)..organic farming is the solution
- ✦ making the connection between the use of paraquat and our health/residues/water lens
- ✦ sharing of knowledge
- ✦ Capacity and Governance of NIOFA, has only one paid staff member; Strategic Plan in first draft
- ✦ the perception of time...('we don't have enough time to farm organically')

Opportunities

- ✦ Supported by GoN-good working relationship
- ✦ Tourism-organic and eco-farming as marketing>Humu Retreat is a certified organic property
- ✦ Working with young children-open minds
- ✦ championing our own people-pride, the knowledge is here, we just need to own it and use it



'it is not easy to promote farming to our young people, but we must not give up....'
Mr Pitasoni Tanaki, Organic Farmer...video

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