

December Issue # 23 Climate Change Cook Islands Office of the Prime Minister

SRIC CC seals partnership with Red Cross



Small Grants Team with Kahali from Samoa 11/12/2014 (Photo by Celine Dyer)

Red Cross Cook Islands won the tender to be the host agency to drive the Small Grants Project under the SRIC CC Programme. Under this arrangement Red Cross will be the implementing partner of funds provided by SRIC CC. The small grants project gives opportunities for the Pa Enua to apply for funding for small projects that are climate change related.



Climate Change meeting with Lizbeth Cullity UNDP Coordinator 12/12/2014 (Photo by Celine Dyer)

UN Resident Coordinator Visit

Ms Lizbeth Cullity met with the climate change team on Friday 12 this month. Ms Cullity is the United Nations Resident Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative based in Samoa. This was her first visit to the Cook Islands to meet with Cook Islands counterparts and stakeholders. Part of her visit included a trip to Aitutaki organised by the SRIC CC Programme to view the progress of the water tank project. She was impressed with the standard of the work carried out and with future plans of sustaining the project. According to William Tuivaga the SRIC CC Manager, Ms Cullity thoroughly enjoyed herself and spoke highly about the buzz of climate change activities in the Cook Islands.

Complete Package for Nassau



Outboard motors for Nassau (Photo by Celine Dyer)



Boat bound for Nassau 11/12/2014 (Photo by Celine Dyer)

Arrival of the boat and trailer completes the package for the island of Nassau including two outboard motors. Mr William Tuivaga the SRIC CC Programme Manager hopes to ship the consignment

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at the next boat to Nassau hopefully before Christmas. The consignment was possible through a proposal put together by the Nassau SRIC Focal Point, Mrs Manini Tuatai.

Another SRIC Project!



Team meeting with Mr William Tuivaga SRIC Programme Manager 15/12/2014 (Photo by Celine Dyer)

Eight delegates from the Pa Enea which included three women from Mauke, three men from Atiu and two from Manihiki congregated in climate change office to report back on their trip to Samoa. The team spend ten days in Samoa attending a cold press coconut virgin oil workshop that was conducted by Women in Business Development Inc (WIBDI) who has been in the cold press virgin coconut oil business for eighteen years. Through their business training and accreditation program, it has enabled farmers in Samoa to gain organic certification to international standards certifying them as suppliers of virgin coconut oil to the renowned "The Body Shop International". The Women in Business also work with similar organisations around the Region sharing their experiences and hope to develop a network market of similar products as a support mechanism for women in the region interested in pursuing such business ventures.

The team underwent training on how to set up the business, construction of a processing site, operations on the site, procedures as well as commercially marketing their products. They came away with their own ideas how to construct a processing unit on their respective islands. According to team leader Josephine Ivirangi, " the team is very keen to put the training into practice with the aim of improving on what they have seen and learned in Samoa". Team members were enthusiastic about the project and

with the potential prospect of economic benefits to their island communities.

The islands of Mauke, Manihiki and Atiu under the SRIC CC Programme identified coconut oil as a viable opportunity to build on, expand and leverage on existing skills and knowledge of women on their islands. From this training, the islands will be able to commercialize their products and with accreditation will also be able to join in the list of suppliers of virgin coconut oil to the global market.

SRIC CC has done it again!

Residents on Palmerston Island are better prepared for lengthy dry periods with the instalment of water tanks for each of the thirty households on the island. Once again, this was made possible through a proposal put forward to SRIC through their Focal Point Mr Tere Marsters. According to the Executive Officer Mr Arthur Neale, by increasing water capacity of each household this will ease dependency on the community water tanks which can now be reserved for severe conditions thus enabling more manageable water resources on Palmerston.



A completed household water tank on Palmerston Island (Photo provided by Arthur Neale)

Partnership through increased capacity

Support provided through funding from the SPC EU GCCA PSIS has enabled for the upskilling of staff at the Ministry of Marine Resources to carry out water quality testing and lagoon monitoring. In addition, it also lead to the upgrading of the marine laboratory, where previously, they depended on NIWA to provide these services and advice. On 15 December, an MOU was signed between the Ministry of Marine Resources and Infrastructure Cook Islands for the provision of

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water quality testing and lagoon monitoring services to the value of \$370,000.00 to Infrastructure Cook Islands.



Marine Resources staff member Tutu in the new upgraded lab (Photo provided by Teariki Rongo)

Kura Kuriri

Plans are under way for a water scoping exercise in the Northern Group in early January under the SRIC CC Programme. This will enable planning for sustainable water supply in the North.

It is anticipated that the Rauti Para Tablet training will also take place at the same time in the North.

Till next time

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



from the Climate Change Team 2014

Spending time with our Are Pa Metua



Celebrating the festive season



Joint string band with BCI, Climate Change & ICT



Presenting the climate change calendar to Are Pa