

**TUVALU**  
**PROJECT ACTIVITY REPORT**

- 1. TITLE:** Home Gardening Project
- 2. NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY CODE:** YP-ECE 6.4
- 3. DATES:** 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2007 – 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2007.
- 4. PROJECT LOCATION:** Tuvalu
- 5. IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES:** Youth Department
- 6. CONTACT PERSON:** Petueli T Noa, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, phone 688 20175, youthunits@tuvalu.tv
- 7. PARTICIPANTS:** Male - 37, Female - 35, Total - 72.
- 8. ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:**

**Summary of the project:**

To implement this project was one of the most important roles for the young people of the group, yes there are other huge gardens, but this idea is about self employment and learning how to manage a small business and to keep them occupied during their free time.

**Objectives of the project**

1. To train and understand the methodology in preparing home gardening
2. To practice to eat nutritious green
3. To market them, to get money to support the project sustain.

**2-Day workshop**

A 2-day workshop took place in mid-July 2007 on the main island, Funafuti, before the composition of the group was identified. The group came from the Outer island and the participants ranged in age from 15 – 35 years old. The workshop was organized by The Department of Youth by Mr Obaro Masaysyae.

80 people were exposed (including audiences) to this workshop activity.

The outcome was that participants for the project were selected and that most of the audience began to make their own home gardens and were assisted by agriculture officers.

Participants learnt the theory on preparing gardens, composting, setting the spacing of the plants.

The topics of the workshop included:

1. Layout of the area of the gardening including the size;
2. Prepare good composer and how to use composer to the plant;
3. Using of fertilizer, A & B;
4. Identify a good local market;
5. Financing control basic skill.

The participants included young people, hospital cooks, hotel Chef and interested mature families. The presenter was a technical resource person from the Agriculture units.

Participants learnt a new style of preparing gardens, and were also encouraged to produce gardens for their own uses.

The workshop was a success because more young people became involved with gardening

There was also a component on nutrition. Tuvalu is one of the highest diabetic nations in the Pacific and one of the objectives was to help reduce diabetes and to encourage people to eat more greens. This component was organised by the Youth Department with the support of the Agriculture Units. Visitations were regularly done by the Youth officer and the identify Agriculture officer to the garden.

The project was promoted in Tuvalu through radio, Tufa – tala news letter, Tuvalu echo newsletter, awareness workshops.

### **Home Gardens**

Land was assigned to construct the home garden. There is the main garden and 15 small home gardens by individuals. The main garden is 10 meter sq while the individual ones 3mtr sq is located beside their homes. 5 people worked on the main garden. Some of the participants had learnt to do gardening in Primary school and attended the gardening workshop in Funafuti.

The following vegetables were put in the gardens:

Chinese cabbage, Capcicum, Sweet corn, Water melon & rock melon, Tomatoes(Pimix dwaft), Pumkin, Ocra plant, Cucumber, Snake peas, Egg plant.

All the vegetables grew well except the the Ocra plant which failed due to the soil.

The group decided which vegetables to grow with the assistance from the agriculture officer, Obaro Masaysay, a Filipino expert on gardening.

Before the project, the participants already had their own garden. Now they have learnt how to keep a routine to look after the garden.

The project was a success. The Youth officer will help them to identify their customers and to value a good selling rate which is affordable to the public.

### **Selling the vegetables**

The vegetables were sold to pre-defined customers, the hospital, and also shipped to the main island. The group is in charge of selling the vegetables. In the meantime the stock of seeds is still enough, and they can buy seeds out of their sales.

### **Results and outcomes of the project:**

The project is achieved because most of the youths apart from the select group, are also making their own garden for their own uses. About 90% of the total youths are involved with home gardening.

If I could redo the project, if I had enough funds I will do awareness to other islands, to promote home gardening.

Some of the challenges faced by the gardening group included bad weather and dry season/drought.

There is a holistic approach to prepare home gardening. However each of the young people involved are all excited and learn different ideas. Most of them have a timetable provided for watering and working on their garden.

The main ideas that the youth learnt was the possibilities of home gardening to eat fresh veggies, reduce obesity, hypertension, and live long.

The current status of the project is well controlled by the selected group and the island community in monitoring the progress of the project. Even all the materials needed have been purchased and handed over to the group. All that is needed is to keep the garden rolling over. To continue in the future, it depends on the spirit of the group and also from the assistance from abroad. If the group implement this project, why not give the group another chance if it is possible.

### **Conclusion**

First of all, I would like on behalf of the Department under the Ministry of Education Youth and Sport to express, how sincere the group for the funding support. I can see how excited this group to start this project with their shown heart of commitment. I also recommended that this group needs support from my office to keep them moving and assist with identifying a good customer for selling their greens. A review of the success of the gardens will be done in two months time.