

Atoll Food Futures

This project is an Australian Aid initiative implemented by Live & Learn Environmental Education on behalf of the Australian Government.

Project goal

The goal of the Atoll Food Futures Project is to adopt climate-smart agriculture technologies in vulnerable atoll populations to improve their food security and reduce the reliance on imported food.

Context

Atoll countries are faced with a range of climate related issues including sea-level rise, an increase in temperature and more intense weather events. Growing food is difficult due to the poor soil quality of atolls, which lack nutrients needed for healthy crops. Limited amounts of freshwater and saltwater inundation have put strain on traditional food systems. In addition, Atoll countries are also challenged by rapidly growing populations and a lack of access to land. All these factors impact food security and have resulted in an overreliance on imported food.



Atoll Food Futures (AFF) is a multi-country project operating in Tuvalu, Kiribati and Fiji. Through AFF Live & Learn hopes to improve food production using various methods, with an emphasis on local knowledge and community-based solutions. Building upon the success of previous projects, AFF promotes traditional farming practices and utilising new climate-smart technologies to encourage a robust and diverse strategy to food security. This work also includes training with households, community members, and stakeholders on agricultural skills and nutrition.

Donor: The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Project Timeline: 2019 – 2025



PROJECT THEMES

Theme 1: Sustained use of affordable climate-smart technologies and designs This theme focusses on rolling out a mix of technologies appropriate to each country to support food production and consumption.

Theme 2: Local food economies with consistent input supply chains This theme addresses supply chain issues for fill materials (for Foodcubes and other climate-smart garden technologies) and seeds needed for climate-smart agricultural solutions to food security.

Theme 3: Improved diet quality Improved diet quality largely focuses on designing resources and education programs (a key part of the project to date), designed to promote healthy eating with the youth.

Theme 4: Increased consumption of locally grown foods. To improve the self-sufficiency of local food production this theme focuses on improving the supply and distribution of produce, as well as supporting local market systems.



CLIMATE-SMART GARDENING

The Atoll Food Futures project promotes climate-smart technologies and growing practices. Communities are supported by project staff on the use of raised garden beds, wicking gardens, keyhole gardens and Biofilta Foodcubes. With trainings provided on the construction, use and maintenance of these technologies, communities and households can grow a diverse range of crops in any condition. Many of these technologies can be made using materials that communities already have access to and don't require a lot of space to provide families with fresh, nutritious food throughout the year.



TRAINING & DEMONSTRATIONS

To build a holistic approach to food production and healthy lifestyles, Atoll Food Futures also conducts training and demonstrations with households on compost making, natural pest protection, seed saving, nutrition, food preservation and cooking techniques. To encourage climate-smart gardening for the whole community, this training is often conducted with schools, labourers and project stakeholders using community and demonstration gardens that are accessible to all. This works towards creating food resilience for as many people as possible.

