



Atoll Food Futures

Atoll Food Futures Kiribati

Project goal

The goal of the Atoll Food Futures (AFF) Project is to adopt climate-smart agriculture technologies in vulnerable atoll populations to improve their food security and reduce the over-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.

In Kiribati the Atoll Food Futures project aims to improve food production using climate smart technologies, with an emphasis on local knowledge and community-based solutions. This project is an initiative of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) implemented by Live & Learn Environmental Education. In Kiribati, the Australian High Commission is supporting additional activities.

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

Timeline: 2019 - 2025



Kiribati specific activities

Through the AFF project a specific package has been developed for Kiribati which suits their unique needs. This package consists of four parts, that recognise the high costs associated with vegetables and the climate challenges that limit food production. AFF aims to boost household supplies of vegetables through the use of climate-smart agriculture technology, which is cost-effective and easy to maintain.

Part 1 - Atoll Food Futures outputs:

- 160 Biofilta Foodcubes and 160 keyhole gardens.
- Upgrades to the nursery and compost house in South Tarawa.
- Seed, root vegetables and tree cuttings for the community.
- Compost and seed saving training for households and stakeholders.
- Water tanks and pumps to share between target households.



Part 2 - The High Commission extension package has benefitted an additional 300 households (extending the project to North Tarawa) with:

- 170 additional Biofilta Foodcubes and 170 additional keyhole gardens.
- Upgrades to the nursery and compost house in South Tarawa.
- Seed, root vegetables and tree cuttings for the community.
- Compost and seed saving training for households and stakeholders.
- Water tanks and pumps to share between target households.



Part 3 - The High Commission Island package will expand the project to Abaiang through:

- The establishment of a fully equipped nursery and compost house with seed to produce seedlings for the community.
- The distribution of 80 Biofilta Foodcubes and 80 Keyhole gardens to target farmers.
- Seed, root vegetables and tree cuttings for the community.
- Compost and seed saving training for households and stakeholders.
- Water tanks and pumps to share between target households.

Part 4 - The Kirimati Island Review (July 2023) will expand project work and include:

- Research to understand the social, economic and environmental challenges for climate smart food production and nutrition.
- Engagement with communities to identify the best ways to introduce new home food garden techniques, including already existing knowledge and the development of new skills.
- The set up of a demonstration nursery and compost facility, complete with Biofilta Foodcubes and keyholes gardens.



Climate-Smart technology

In Kiribati, AFF uses a suite of climate-smart agriculture technologies, including raised garden beds, keyhole gardens, wicking beds and Biofilta Foodcubes. These technologies are selected on a community needs-based approach, to cater for context specific climate and agriculture challenges. These technologies are distributed to individual households as well as community gardens.

Training on the use and maintenance of these technologies is provided by project staff, alongside training on making compost, seed saving, natural pest management, and growing and harvesting produce. In addition, cooking demonstrations and food preservation training is also conducted to encourage diet diversity and a holistic approach to healthy lifestyles.

