

# Press Release

## **Maintaining our cultural heritage to support our food security**

**7<sup>th</sup> April 2021** - A team of six officials from the Culture and Museum Division (CMD - Ministry of Internal Affairs) had returned from a two weeks official trip to Abemama island, after the successful completion of their tasks, relatively under the LDCF Food Security Project. The main purpose of the trip was for the team to initiate a cultural trade fair, and to continue the plantation of native food crops throughout the island.

The Cultural Trade Show was the first one ever to be held for two days at an outer island. The team initiated this event with the collaborative coordination and support from various stakeholder sectors of the Food Security Project. The team leader, Mrs Pelea Tehumu conveyed that “the cultural trade fair is an opportunity for different government sectors to blend in their sectoral activities aligned to the project objectives to be widely acknowledged by the general public”. These partner sectors include the Coastal Fisheries Division, Agriculture and Livestock Division, the Quality Promotion Division (Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Cooperatives (MCIC)), Tourism Authority of Kiribati, and the LDCF Food Security Project Management Unit from the Environment and Conservation Division. With full support from the Abemama island council and local stakeholder communities on the island, the two-days event was a huge success!

Prior the event, a maneaba consultation to all villages, based on the upcoming Cultural trade fair, was conducted to motivate active communities and village members to maintain their local knowledge and skills vital in building resilience and enhancing food security as they have seen the worth of keeping such knowledge and skills in improving wellbeing as well as earning income by marketing their local products.

The event started early Friday morning 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021, with a marching parade by the local communities and women associations at the island council’s football field in Kariatebike village, followed by a guests’ tour to the local product stalls and stakeholders’ displays around the council mwaneaba Te Uee N Abemama mwaneaba. The day proceeded with a cooking competition and secondary school speech afterwards. The local mauri-wear fashion quality show, primary school drama and secondary schools speech competition were conducted on the second day. The event was closed with prize-giving for all competitions, and demonstration on planting a coconut tree, intended to be grown as a reminder of the event.

Guests of the event included a Member of Parliament and Representative of Abemama island - Mrs Tessie Lambourne, Te Boutoka elders/unimwaane, village councillors, leaders from all different churches and government workers at the island council. “We are so proud to know that Abemama leads the way in the opening of the cultural trade fair in Kiribati” stated Mrs Lambourne. “It is a great pleasure to express the people’s (of Abemama) sincere gratitude to the Kiribati government for the support given through the sector ministries involved in the preparatory work of the event, which have marked a successful milestone of the first event of its kind being celebrated on our beloved island.”

The CMD team were also able to monitor the local food plants, such as coconut trees, local fig trees, pandanus trees, breadfruit trees and swamp taro (babai), that were planted during their previous visit in 2020. Practical trainings on how to plant these native plants, using traditional skills and knowledge, were conducted to the targeted interested households on the island, prior the big event. The planting activity guarantees the increase in number of these given long term native food crops existing on the island, which contributes to increased food security on Abemama. “I thank the project for its support

to the island as the activities contribute to the wellbeing of the people of Abemama” remarked Mr Karebwa Roroa, a Seventh Day Adventist Church pastor from Tekatirirake village.

“On behalf of Abemama I would like to thank the Food Security project, in particular the Global Environment Facility (LDCF-1) for the financial support given in the implementation of project activities on the island, and also for allowing the implementation of the Cultural trade fair. I also thank the Government of Kiribati for rendering support in implementing activities to be undertaken during the trade fair” stated with appreciation by a member of Te Boutoka from Tanimainiku village, Mr Tekamaiti Tamoaieta, during his speech.

## **Kateimatoan Kateira ma Rikiara Ibukin Boutokan Ara Tania Ni Maiu!**

A tia n karairaki onoman taan mwakuri man Aobitin Katein abara ma Te Umwanibong (man te Botaki n Mwakuri ibukin Aaba i Nanao) imwin kabanenan uoua aia wiiki n karaoi aia mwakuri iaon te abamwakoro ae Abemama, ake a mwanananga iaan te karikirake ae Te Tania ni Maiu ke te LDCF Food Security Project. Oin bukin mwanangan te tiim aio bwa e na waakina te Kaotibwai iaon Kateira ma Rikiara, ao n reitanako unikan kain amwarake n Kiribati aika a teimaen maiuia iaon te abamwakoro aio.

Te Kaotibwai are e waakinaki bon tibwa te moan katabwena n karaoaki iaon aba, ao n karaoaki inanon uabong iaon Abemama. E i-wawaki n karaoa ana baaronga ma kakoroan nanon te waaki aio te tiim aio, rinanon ana i-kareke bai ma ana rabwata n mwakuri te tautaeka aika a kakaokoro, ake a mena iaan te karikirake ae te Tania ni Maiu. E taekinna te tia kaira te tiim aio, ae Nei Pelea Tehumu bwa “karaoan te kaotibwai aio e bon karekea naba aia tai ana rabwata n mwakuri te tautaeka aikai n botiia n ti teuana ibukin kataabangakan tibwangaia aika a kakaokoro iaan te karikirake bwa a na maatata ao n noraki kakawakia man karekea aia boutoka naba aomata.” Rabwatan te tautaeka aikai bon te Botaki n Akawa, Botaki n Ununiki, Botaki n mwakuri ibukin Bitineti, Karaobwai ao Boboti, Aobitin te Kaneweaba, ao ai te karikirake are te Tania ni Maiu man Aobitin Tararuaan te Otabwanin. Man boutokaan te kaotibwai irouia taan mwakuri n te kauntira iaon Abemama ao ai kaain botaki ke kaawa nako iaon te abamwakoro, e a kabobonga man kakoroa nanon kanoana!

Imwain waakinan te kaotibwai ao e a bon katoai kaawa te tiim aio n kawari mwaneaba ibukin aia kaongora ao aia kaoriori nakoia aomata nakon kanoan te tai arei. Aio are a anga naba iai aia kaunganano ao aia kauring kaain te tiim, iaon kakawakin kateimatoan te katei ma te rikia n Kiribati ibukin kateimatoan te reita ni maiu ibukin maiuraioia ma aia kareke tianti man kabonakoan rabakauia.

Te Kaotibwai iaon Kateira ma Rikiara e waakinaki n kaarangainan 12 n Maati 2021, are e a moanaki man te mwaati irouia rabwata n kaawa ma botaki n aine n ana marae te kauntira i Kariatebike, ao n taorimwiaki n kaneweabakia iruwa nakon taibora n kaotibwai ake a katobibia mwaneaban te kautira (Te Uee n Abemama) n te tai arei. E waakinaki te moan bong arei ma kanoana ae te kaboo n te kuuka, ao ai te kaboo n te taetaenikawai (speech) irouia ataain te kauarinan. Te kaotibwai iaon mauri wear ke kunikai ake a ituaki n ira te kainibae, ao te kaboo n te kaotioti a bon karaoaki n te ka-uoua ni bong. E kainaki te kaotibwai n te anga kaniwanga, ao ai unikakin te nii rinano are e a kateaki naba bwa kauringan te bukamaru n kaotibwai aio.

Iruwa ake a roko n kakoauaa boong n kaotibwai bon te tia Tei mai Abemama ae Nei Tessie Lambourne, kain te Boutoka, kauntira, mataniwiia aika a kakaokoro iaon te abamwakoro, ao ai taan mwakuri n te kauntira. “Ti rang kakatonga ngkai ti ataia bwa e karaoaki te moan tetere iaon ara abamwakoro ae Abemama, n kaukan ana waaki te tautaeka iaon Kiribati ae te Kaotibwai iaon Kateira ma Rikiara,” e taekinna Nei Tessie “e kukurei naba nanou n kaota ana kaaitau te abamwakoro nakon te tautaeka ibukin noran te boutoka rinanon ana rabwata aika a kakaokoro ake a ikarekebai n waakinan ma boutokan te kaotibwai, ao are e a mwakena naba koron nanon te moan katabwena iaon te waaki aio iaon ara abamwakoro.”

E bon reke naba ana tai te tiim aio n karaoa ana tutuo nakon kai n amwarake, n aron te nii, te bero, te kaina, te mai, ao te babai, ake a uniki n rokoia ae nako n 2020. A bon karaoi naba kataneiai ma te ununiki iaon kai n amwarake aikai n kabonganai rabakau n Kiribati, are a waakin ma kaainga tabeua ake a tia n kaota te nano n kan waaki iaon kamwaitan te kai n amwarake. Te waaki n ununiki aio are e na boutoka kateimatoan te tania ni maiu iaon Abemama. “I karabwa te karikirake aio ibukin ana boutoka nakon ara abamwakoro, riki rinanon waaki ma mwakuri aika a tia n noraki bwa a rang manena nakon marurungin ma toronibwain te I-Abemama,” e mwaneweia Karebwa Roroa, te mataniwi n aro n Te Aro n Kaitibong man te kaawa ae Tekatitirake.

“I a bon tabeka bwanaan Abemama n karabwa te karikirake ae te Tania ni Maiu, ao te rabwata ae te Global Environment Facility (GEF-LDCF1) ibukin mwanenakin karaoan mwakuri ake a tia n karaoaki iaon ara abamwakoro aio, n ikotaki ma mwanenakin te Kaotibwai are e a koro bukina n te tai aio. Te karabwarabwa naba nakon te tautaeka ibukin ana boutoka ae kororaoui rinanon aia beku taan mwakuri n tain te kaotibwai iaon Abemama”, e mwanewei Tekamaiti Tamoaieta, temanna te Boutoka man te kawa ae Tanimainiku, n tain ana maroro.

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**Photos:**

Practical planting of local food crops



**Cultural Trade show Photos:**











