

Micronesia



Organization: Island Food Community of Pohnpei
Location: Chuuk/Tonoas, Weno, Fefan, Udot, Federated States of Micronesia
Solution: Enhancing local food production and reducing reliance on imports in Micronesia through the introduction of durable food processing
Factsheet Period: First round of UNDP AFCIA funding (18 months)



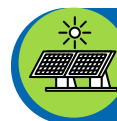
Women farmers supported by the Island Food Community of Pohnpei participating in a food fair in Micronesia @IFCP

Food insecurity poses a growing challenge in the Federated States of Micronesia, where unpredictable weather patterns and fluctuations in global food prices threaten local agriculture ([Regional Environmental Change, 2014](#)). To address these challenges, the Island Food Community of Pohnpei, in partnership with the Chuuk Women's Council, is working to enhance food security and create economic opportunities for women on the lagoon islands of Chuuk State. Women in these areas are particularly vulnerable to climate impacts, as they often lack secure access to food, employment, or income. The initiative integrates traditional knowledge of crop cultivation with modern food processing techniques, such as flour production and sun-drying, to extend the shelf life of locally grown foods. By improving the resilience of traditional crops to shifting seasonal patterns and reducing reliance on imported food, this approach promotes sustainable local food production and strengthens community resilience.



Key achievements

- Trained 5,151 individuals on cultural, health, environmental, economic and nutritional benefits of local island food production and preservation
- Conducted ten workshops for women's groups, focusing on packaging, labelling, and developing standardized local recipes
- Organized a recipe contest to promote innovation and showcase the market potential of flour made from locally processed foods
- Trained 267 individuals in the use of food processing equipment procured and installed with this grant



Innovation

- Sustainable food processing: Utilizes solar drying and hand-crank mills, reducing dependence on electricity and promoting resource efficient methods
- Enhanced crop availability: Leverages traditional agroforestry practices (not so common in these islands) to increase sustainable food availability





Adaptation benefits

- Reduces reliance on imports: Encourages the consumption of locally grown food, decreasing dependence on imported food supplies that may be vulnerable to climate disruptions
- Enhances food security: Introduces techniques such as sun-drying and flour production to extend the shelf life of seasonal crops, ensuring consistent food availability throughout the year
- Builds resilience: Promotes the cultivation of climate-resistant crops, strengthening communities' capacity to adapt to shifting weather patterns and climate-related challenges

Replication potential

- The initiatives' prior success in Pohnpei has led to replication in the Chuuk State, demonstrating its scalability across Micronesian islands or similar contexts.
- The focus on low-tech, renewable energy solutions makes the project adaptable to communities with limited access to electricity.
- Workshops and training programmes ensure the transfer of skills and knowledge for wider adoption.
- The initiative has made strategic partnerships with other organizations focused on the production of sustainable food (e.g. sustainable fish catches)

Social impact

- Increased consumption of locally grown foods, enhances dietary diversity, promotes healthy eating habits and connects families with local culture
- Empowered women with training, equipment, and resources to become micro-entrepreneurs in the food processing sector, stimulating the local economy

Funding snapshot

- UNDP-AFCIA grant: US\$60,000 (initial grant)

Investability	
Expected return	<p>Training and support for women in developing business skills and identifying market opportunities for processed local foods can strengthen long-term sustainability.</p> <p>Workshops on food processing, packaging, and labelling equip women with the skills needed to run successful micro-enterprises.</p>



To read their story, visit [UNDP-AFCIA](#)

To watch their video, click [here](#)

To contact the initiative, visit [Island Food](#)