

Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development PO Box 234 Bikenibeu, Tarawa Republic of Kiribati





SAY NO TO PLASTICS They are threatening our marine life





## **Press Release**

## Promotion of gardening at schools on Abemama to enhance food security in light of climate change.

Two Education (MoE) officials visited Abemama from 20<sup>th</sup> February to 02 March, to consult and raise awareness to school communities on gardening under the Food Security Project, better known as the LDCF project, managed by MELAD, with fund support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and administered by UNDP.

The team visited 4 Primary Schools, JSS, and 3 private Senior Secondary Schools to discuss with the target groups who are head-teachers/principals, teachers and some of their students, School committees and School improvement Plan communities about the significance of the project and how MoE contributes to the project at the school level.

During the promotional campaign, the team had time to distribute questionnaires to all participants to collect views on how to sustain the project and discuss challenges that might affect the sustainability of gardening in schools not just during the life of the project but for good, to come up with a good standard Garden for each school. The survey in each school compound was also done to select the best site for gardening.

The total participants consulted was 501. There were 114 teachers of which 51 are females and 63 males. There were 387 youths (students) attending the consultation of which 234 are females and 153 are males. Altogether, there were 285 females and 216 males including students of one of the senior secondary schools.

All targeted participants appreciated the project and are willing to contribute to maintain its sustainability as it highlights the significance of continuous planting of local food crops to prepare the local communities as climate change worsens but moreso to minimize dependence on imported food

These consultations are some of the initial preparatory and planning phases of the Ministry of Education (MoE) activities that will also complement the revised curriculum on Healthy Living in the Primary schools and Kiribati Community Studies in JSS curriculum which is now been rolled out for implementation at the national level to all schools.

This activity is the initial phase of more activities that will be rolled out for the remaining life of the project. Abemama is one of the three pilot islands where the Food Security project will be implemented, besides Maiana and Nonouti.



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