



**Ministry of Environment,  
Lands and Agricultural  
Development  
Bikenibeu, Tarawa  
Republic of Kiribati**



**SAY NO TO PLASTICS**  
*They are threatening  
our marine life*



## Press Release

### Marurungin te Bota Ni Maiu i Taari Ibukin Te Tania ni Maiu i Abemama!

E a tia n oki rikaki mai Abemama, ana tiim te Botaki n Akawa are i Tanaea n moan te namwakaina aio ae Eberi 2021. E a tia te tiim aio n waaki iaon unikakin taian ane i taari iaon te abamwakoro aio ao ai kamaiuan unikakin te tiiwita, iaan te karikirake ae te Tania ni Maiu n Kaitarai Kanganga man Bibitakin Kanoan Bong. Aikai waaki tabeua ake a na manga kona n kaoka marurungin te bota-ni-maiu (ecosystem) i taari, are e na boutoka naba keeraken te mari mai taari ao n kateimatoaa rikiraken ana tania nimaiu te abamwakoro aio.

Unikakin te ane e bon karaoia te tiim n taabo ake a kamanoaki i taari ke n ataaki n araia ae te Marine Protected Areas (MPA) ake a mena n aonon te atimwakoro ae Abatiku ao te kaawa ae Tebanga Maiaki. E taekinna te kauntira mai Abatiku ae Avia Teruruai, bwa “unikakin te ane bon te waaki ke te burokuraem ae e a tibwa manga noraki n taai aikai n karaoaki i Abatiku”. E reitia ma te bwana n kakaitau nakon te karikirake are e kinaaki n arana ae te LDCF ke te Tania ni Maiu, ibukin mwanenakin ao boutokaan waakinan aio. “Ti rang kakaitau naba bwa ti kakoaua ae unikakin te ane e na bon rang ibuobuoki riki nakon kakerakean marurungin ara rakai ao n karekea naba te nne n maeka nakoia ika n te aro are e na teimatoa te mari iaon ara kaawa ao te abamwakoro .”

E waaki naba te tiim aio iaon kamaeuan tiiwita, n taabo ake a katanaki i taari iaan kaawa aika Tanimainiku ao Tebanga Maiaki. E taekinna temanna kaain te tiim man te Botaki n Akawa aio ae Aranteiti Tekiau, bwa “ rawatan mwaitin te tiiwita ni maiu, bon ngaia karawatan naba te mari mai taari i nanao (coastal fisheries) n aron ae e a tia n noraki bwa e na rikirake iai mwaitin te bun (arkshell) n kaitara ana kaanganga te kaawa ae Tebwanga are e rikiraken ngkai taren te mari ae te bun iaona. Irarikin anne ao a na bon riki naba taabo n tiiwita aikai bwa aia tabo n kaabung ika (fish nursery) are e na kona n buoka rikiraken te mari mai taari.”

E bon reke naba ana tai te tiim aio n karaoa te kataneiai (training) nakoia ana taan mwakuri iaon te abamwakoro aika a ataaki n nakoia ae te Fisheries Assistant (FA) ao te Fisheries Extension Assistant (FEA), iaon bwai ni mwakuri ma anga ake a na kona n kabonganai imwia ibukin tararuaan ma kateimatoaan maiu-raoin ma unukakin te ane ma te tiiwita iaon aia abamwakoro.

## A healthy marine eco-system for Abemama’s food security

April 2021 – A team from the Coastal Fisheries Division Tanaea, has returned from Abemama early this month, April 2021. The team successfully carried out coral planting and seagrass restoration on this island, under the LDCF Food Security Project. The main goal of these activities is to help restore the health of these two marine habitats (coral and seagrass) in order to help provide the important part of the ecosystem for many coastal marine species and build Abemama island’s resilience to the impacts of climate change.

The coral planting session were conducted by the team at the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) located near the shores of Abatiku islet and Tebanga Maiaki village. The island councillor from Abatiku islet (village), Mr Avia Teruruai conveyed that “Coral planting is a new restoration program conducted in Abatiku lagoon and we are thankful for LDCF project for funding such program. Coral planting will help contribute to the health of our coral reef and provide habitat for our marine resources hence support our village and the island’s marine food security”

Seagrass restoration sessions were initiated by the team at Tanimainiku and Tebwanga Maiaki villages’ separate Marine Protected Areas. A member of the CFD team, Mr Aranteiti Tekiau stated that “Previously in Tebanga, Arkshell (*Anadara uropigmelana*) or Te bun, was abundant and now scarce. This activity, seagrass restoration, could help restore the resource as well as expanding the seagrass coverage providing more habitats for fish (nursery)” and hence this activity can escalate growth of marine resource for the island.

The team also managed to gives hands on training the island’s Fisheries Assistant (FA) and Fisheries Extension Assistant (FEA) on the equipment needed and methodology used for the corals and seagrass restoration.

### Photos:

**Figure 1:** Team with Abemama FA, FEA and villages from Tebanga Maiaki working on making coral cookies



**Figure 2:** Coral fragmentation (left), attaching each coral on cookies (middle) and coral table deployed at Tebanga lagoon (right)



**Figure 3:** Corals deployed at Abatiku MPA by RMU team and 3 Abatiku villagers



**Figure 4:** Seagrass meadow at Tabiang (Collection site) (Left), Staff collecting and transporting seagrass (middle) and seagrass planted at Tanimainiku (Kauma) (Right)

**Figure 5:** seagrass transported to Tebanga (left and middle), seagrass planted at Tebanga (right)

