

MAIANA ISLAND CELEBRATES WORLD FOOD DAY AND HOSTS LDCFI PROJECT CLOSURE WORKSHOP

17 November 2022 – The Food Security Project team celebrated World Food Day at Tebwangetua, Maiana Island. The World Food Day (WFD) team arrived on the island on Saturday 5 November and started off the first week with Maneaba consultations at every village and ward on the island, where the team informed and invited the islanders to join the World Food Day celebration through participation in various competitions.

The WFD team comprises of different sectors from Agriculture and Livestock (ALD) and, Environment and Conservation (ECD) from the Ministry of the Environment, Land and Agriculture Development (MELAD), Coastal Fisheries (CFD) from Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development (MFMRD), Local Government Division from Ministry of Internal Affairs with the company of Office of Attorney General (OAGs), Kiribati Meteorological Services (KMS) from Office of Te Beretitenti, the Internal Trade and Business along with Tourism (TAK) from the Ministry of Tourism, Commerce, Industries and Cooperatives (MTCIC).

During the Maneaba consultations, KMS conducted awareness-raising on weather, climate variability and climate change to inform people of forecasting and other climate parameters collected by their automated weather stations (installed and displayed on the island that contributed much to the national early warning system). Simultaneously the LGD representative with Legal Advisors from the OAG conducted an enforcement training with village wardens, police officers including special constables, on food security byelaws better known as the “Tania Ni Maiu bye law”.

The actual celebrations for World Food Day happened in the second week, with a road and float shows, farming competition with interested competitors at the individual and community levels, and a karaoke competition organised by ALD. A mangrove competition was organised by ECD, while CFD undertook a fishing competition at the lagoon, as well as cooking on coastal fish and seafood, plus making seaweed jam, followed by drama and quiz competitions for the government primary and junior secondary schools. The MTCIC’s competition was in making Virgin Coconut Oil and handicrafts on local banners, mats and baskets, while TAK held a cooking lobsters competition.

“It is with great pleasure to speak at our annual World Food Day. And we are delighted to celebrate it, though it is late this year,” said Mayor of Maiana, Mrs Rebite Takeimoa. The turn out during the celebration was almost 300 participants and onlookers, filled with entertaining items and much feasting with island Elders and participating communities

Following the celebrations, the Food Security Project, also known as ‘LDCFI’, convened a 2-day project wrap-up/closing workshop, involving Councillors, Elders. Representatives per registered ward that was inclusive of men, women, youth, and people with special needs. The project implementors from various sectors highlighted their success and achievements and also issues and challenges with their lessons learned over the six-year duration of the project, and sustainability plan for the islanders to continue this project good initiatives after project closure at end of year. The project team left the island on Sunday, 20 November.

This island visit was part of the Food Security (LDCFI) project activities, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the UNDP and managed by the MELAD in an effort to enhance food security in the context of global climate change.







© Kari James | KATE Pixel Pictures



© Kari James | KATE Pixel Pictures