

General Cattle Health Management

- * Environmental changes can cause stress, reduced productivity and increased vulnerability to diseases and pests.
 - Monitor health of your animals and immediately report any disease cases to your livestock extension officers.
 - Clean shelters regularly.
 - Record keeping as part of good farm management practices

Waste Management

- * To reduce the impact of animal waste in the environment, greenhouse gas emission and public health:
 - Encourage rotational pasture grazing to allow recovery of pasture and control of worms.
 - Fence water ways.
 - Composting animal manure for use as organic fertilizers in gardens, pastures and fodder plants.
 - Integrate cattle and plantation cash crop for value adding and utilizing animal wastes as fertilizers.

giz



SPC
Secretariat
of the Pacific
Community

For More Information:

Contact your local animal health extension officer or the Secretariat of the Pacific Community – LRD helpdesk:
lrdhelpdesk@spc.int

Produced by the Animal Health and Production Team,
Land Resources Division, Secretariat of the Pacific Community
in collaboration with the

German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)
Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region Project
(CCCPIR)

Illustrations by John Bryan Mausio

SPC-AHP CC FACT SHEET NO.03

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION FOR SMALLHOLDER CATTLE FARMING IN THE PACIFIC



Climate change affecting **cattle** production in the Pacific is a reality. Let us be prepared.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS:

Increased Temperature



1. Decreased production (reduced grazing, low body weight, less milk, fewer offspring).
2. Animals become temperamental and difficult to handle.
3. Heat stress.
4. Loss of animals and genetic resources

Drought & Variable Rainfall



1. Poor pasture and fodder quality and reduced quantity.
2. Water shortage.
3. Heat stress.
4. Loss of animal and genetic resources.
5. Fire risks to pasture and structures.

Increased Cyclones & Flooding Intensity



1. Destruction of farm sheds and pastures cover.
2. Loss of production due to:
 - Increased incidence of pest and diseases such as foot rot.
 - Shortage of feeds due to flooded pastures.
 - Loss of animals due to drowning and diseases.
3. Increased risk of spread of animal diseases to humans, example leptospirosis

Sea Level Rise



1. Reduced land area for grazing and natural shelter for cattle.
2. Salt spray damage to pasture and fodder crops.
3. Salt contaminated drinking water.

ADAPTATION OPTIONS:

- Select cattle breeds that are tolerant to high temperatures.
- Plant tree shades in paddocks.
- Build open-sided sheds.
- Cut and carry to supplement non-grazing period.
- Access to a good water source.

- Planting of drought tolerant pasture and fodder species.
- Supplement feeding through cut-and-carry grasses and introduce silage.
- Installation of additional water sources such bore water, rain water tanks.
- Consider use of commercially available stock feeds.
- Adjust stocking rates.

- Locating farm sites away from flood-prone areas.
- Planting trees to cover and wind breaks.
- Have an animal evacuation plan in place.
- Organising animals for rapid relocation during floods and cyclones.
- Monitor health of animals and family members.
- Cut and carry during periods of flood and cyclones to supplement feed.

- Locate farm sites on elevated areas.
- Adjust stocking rates appropriate for available grazing areas.
- Planting of salt tolerant pasture and fodder crops.
- Installation of additional rain water harvesting and storage facilities.