

# Outcomes Report

## Grassroots Partnerships for Pacific Solutions

*Addressing Climate Adaptation and Food  
Security TOGETHER*

Rarotonga, Cook Islands. August 21-25, 2023



Attendees from across the Pacific assembled in Rarotonga, Cook Islands to discuss 'Pacific Solutions by Pacific People' addressing climate adaptation and food security TOGETHER.



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## Executive Summary

The week of **'Grassroots Partnerships for Pacific Solutions'** was convened in Rarotonga, Cook Islands from 21-25 August 2023. The event was organised by Pacific Farmer Organisations and local partners Te Tango Enea and Kōrero o te 'Ōrau with financial support from the International Fund for Agricultural Development, U.S. Department of State, AgriCord and the European Union.

The week of events attracted over 180 farmers, government officials, researchers and development partners from 15 Pacific Island Countries with a focus on strengthening partnerships with grassroots organisations to address the key challenges of Climate Adaptation and Food Security. The interrelated events spread through the 5 days and included: Grassroots Partnership Symposium, Stars of Oceania Awards Ceremony, Global Breadfruit Summit, Pacific Agriculture Solutions Summit, Farmer to Farmer Learning Exchange and a PFO Learning & Planning Meeting & Annual General Meeting.

Some of the key outcomes from the week of **'Grassroots Partnerships for Pacific Solutions'**, include:

- Highlighted the important contributions of smallholder 'family' farmers to the health and wellbeing of all Pacific Island peoples and the critical role they play in achieving the goals of the [2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent](#).
- Acknowledgement that smallholder 'family' farmers are some of the most impacted by climate change but also hold the key to adaptation efforts and ensuring food security. Despite this fact, [less than 4% of climate financing](#) globally targets smallholder farmers.
- Reinforced the importance of grassroots organisations for tapping into traditional knowledge and innovation, providing key services to rural people, amplifying the voice of rural people and bridging the gap and extending the reach of government and development partners.
- Demonstrated the potential for climate resilient, traditional crops like **breadfruit** to improve food security, nutrition and livelihoods for Pacific people.
- Showcased the impact of local solutions developed by Pacific People to address climate adaptation and food security including: Climate resilient farming, Farm to School initiatives, Agro-processing and Agri-tourism.
- A call to focus policy and investment efforts on: Traditional Crops (staple crops, fruits, vegetables), Improved Traditional Agriculture, Local Food Systems and Value Chain Development and Strengthening of local organisations to deliver local solutions.
- Renewed commitment to forging closer relationships between grassroots organisations, governments and development partners.

Specific outcomes and messages that emerged from the various events are summarized in the sections below.

### Grassroots Partnership Symposium

- **The value and contribution of Grassroots Organisations is under-recognised :** Presenters and panelists acknowledged that the Pacific region does not place enough attention on the work of existing grassroots organisations nor invest enough in the development of these organisations and future ones.
- **Stronger representation from Grassroots Organisations is needed:** Policy development and implementation in the region could be greatly enhanced through better engagement with grassroots organisations which means 'a seat at the table' alongside governments and development partners. The current review of the 'Regional Architecture' being undertaken by the Pacific Islands Forum provides an opportunity to strengthen the role of CSOs.
- **A model for development partners - IFAD Declaration of Commitment with Pacific Farmer Organisations:** IFADs Declaration of Commitment signed with Pacific Farmer Organisations in 2016 provides an important model for how a development partner can institutionalise its partnership with grassroots organisations.
- **Adapting systems and processes to better support grassroots organisations:** It was acknowledged that many of the systems and processes for development assistance are not well suited to the needs and capacities of grassroots organisations.

### Global Breadfruit Summit

- **Breadfruit Development the Right Way:** As a Pacific Crop, Breadfruit development should focus on improved traditional agriculture systems that value not just economics but also health and culture
- **Breadfruit and Climate Change:** Science is clear that breadfruit is a climate resilient crop that is well suited to addressing the major challenges of food security, NCDs, and climate adaptation in the Pacific.
- **Breadfruit Genetic Diversity:** Investing more resources at a national level to understand, conserve and develop breadfruit diversity.
- **Breadfruit Propagation:** Improved propagation practices provide a clear example of how traditional knowledge can be enhanced by modern horticulture
- **Varietal Advantages:** An important emerging area is around different breadfruit varieties' performance in different farming systems in terms of height, canopy size, etc..

- **Support for Agroforestry:** Breadfruit is best suited to agroforestry farming systems and not monoculture, this is based on scientific experience and traditional knowledge.
- **Farmer Led Research Projects:** For traditional crops like breadfruit, traditional knowledge should be a foundation of our action research initiatives, and the farmer led research model, currently being implemented under the FO-RI farmer led research project provides a good basis for this practice.
- **Value-added Potential:** Breadfruit has a high potential for value-added products and has shown economic success through different products in most PICs
- **Breadfruit Festivals:** Breadfruit festivals are something that is going to be replicated around the region as a means to share information, promote awareness, and promote consumption and production.

### Pacific Solutions Summit

- **Value and invest in 'Local Solutions by Local People':** The summit highlighted numerous examples of successful initiatives that were developed and driven by Pacific island people and their organisations. Participants acknowledged that more needs to be done to highlight and scale up these examples as well as support people and organisations to continue to develop new solutions.
- **More finance for 'Climate Resilient Farming' initiatives led by grassroots organisations:** The climate resilient farming proposal that was presented was well received and participants appreciated the ability to adapt activities to local context and priorities. It was also acknowledged that despite the significant amount of resources that are available; within the Pacific region for climate adaptation, very little of this is reaching the grassroots. Participants also identified a need to strengthen the rationale and needs of women in climate change and changing dynamics in households and agriculture and the need to address labour loss due to migration.
- **Strengthening Youth Engagement:** A clear outcome from the summit was the need to place a greater importance on youth engagement. A number of successful initiatives and models were shared that targeted youth with educational awareness and practical training that helps them to value and conserve traditional land resources rather than exploit it.
- **Farm to School Movement:** The farm to school movement exists around the Pacific in various forms and has demonstrated successful impacts, particularly in places like Hawaii. There is significant interest and opportunity to scale up the initiatives and more importantly to foster regional collaboration in this area.
- **Agro-processing key to food security and livelihoods in the Pacific:** Several models to support agro-processing development in the region were explored in the

summit. The importance of agro processing for food security and livelihoods in the Pacific was also highlighted as well the opportunity to scale up successful initiatives and foster more regional collaboration in this area.

- **Agri-tourism an important diversification activity for Pacific farmers:** The experience from Fiji clearly demonstrates how a farm can be diversified to include farm tours with both activities enhanced as well the farmers income and long term sustainability. Participants highlighted the opportunity to foster greater regional collaboration and information sharing around this important area.

The week of Grassroots Partnerships for Pacific Solutions brought together diverse perspectives and expertise and also laid the foundation for ongoing collaborations and advancements in agricultural practices and partnership based strategic development throughout the Pacific region.

The Grassroots Partnerships for Pacific Solutions garnered significant media attention, both on the international stage and through robust social media engagement. Six articles featured in prominent international media outlets, amplifying the event's reach and emphasizing its global significance. A special highlight was the coverage by Olohana Foundation and Island Craft Media that produced an episode dedicated to the Summit, further enhancing its visibility. The event's social media campaign, running from July 6th to August 29th, 2023, witnessed remarkable traction. Posts reach 19264; 921 likes, reflecting a compelling engagement rate. Recognizing the power of visual content, video recordings of oral presentations from the event were published on [YouTube](#), ensuring ongoing engagement and extending the knowledge sharing beyond immediate delegates.



*Danny Mataroa, president of TE TANGO ENUA delivers an official welcome to invited speakers and participants seated at the Avarua National Auditorium, Cook Islands.*

## Grassroots Partnership Symposium

### Event summary

The Grassroots Partnership Symposium was officially opened by the King's Representative to the Cook Islands, Tom Marsters along with Queen Pa Upokotini Ariki of Vaka Takitumu. Opening remarks were also provided by Pacific Farmer Organisation Chairman, Minoru Nishi, and U.S. Envoy to the Pacific Islands Forum, U.S. Ambassador Frankie A. Reed. This opening program provided a grounding in the context of the host country - Cook Islands and also enriched participants' understanding of regional collaboration both at the political and grassroots level.

Session 1 centered around 'Grassroots Organisations as Key Partners in Development' and began with a keynote presentation by Kyle Stice, Executive Director of Pacific Farmer Organisations who provided context, common definitions and proposed a way forward for strengthening the role of grassroots organisations. A panel discussion was then held with various government and development partner representatives around the topic 'Grassroots Organisations as Key Partners in Development'. The panel was moderated by Mara Hosada (U.S.-Pacific Regional Engagement Specialist). Distinguished panelists included:

- Frankie Reed (U.S. Envoy to the Pacific Islands Forum).
- Kiri Stevens (First Secretary New Zealand High Commission to Rarotonga).
- HE Ms. Phoebe Smith (High Commissioner Australia High Commission to Rarotonga).
- Candra Samekto (Country Director, International Fund for Agricultural Development).
- Karen Mapusua (Director LRD, Pacific Communities).

Session 2 centered on 'The Role of Grassroots Organisations in Climate Change Adaptation' and began with a keynote address from Tony Jansen, Senior Advisor, Pacific Farmer Organisations who provided an overview of the impacts of climate change on agriculture in the region as well as the important role that smallholder farmers play in supporting adaptation. A panel discussion was then held with various farmer organisation representatives from around the region which was moderated by Koh Ming Wei (Center for Getting Things Started). Distinguished panelists included:

- Maria Linibi (PNG Women in Agricultural Development Foundation)
- Dr. Teina Rongo (Korero o te Orau)
- Stephen Hazelman (Live and Learn)
- Ku'uleinani Maunupau (Na Mahi'ai o Keanae).
- Pita Tikai (Kastom Gaden Association)

Recordings of all presentations and panel discussions are available online at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLujUP9tki-oBucjDesZpJIFryIeme55Q4>



*The auditorium was packed with enthusiastic farmers and farmer organisations as the King's Representative of the Cook Islands, the Hon. Tom Marsters, presented the official opening of the 1st Grassroot Partnership Symposium 2023.*

### **Key outcomes and messages**

- **The value and contribution of Grassroots Organisations is under-recognised :** Presenters and panelists acknowledged that the Pacific region does not place enough attention on the work of existing grassroots organisations nor invest enough in the development of these organisations and future ones.
- **Stronger representation from Grassroots Organisations is needed:** Policy development and implementation in the region could be greatly enhanced through better engagement with grassroots organisations which means 'a seat at the table' alongside governments and development partners. The current review of the 'Regional Architecture' being undertaken by the Pacific Islands Forum provides an opportunity to strengthen the role of CSOs.
- **A model for development partners - IFAD Declaration of Commitment with Pacific Farmer Organisations:** IFADs Declaration of Commitment signed with Pacific Farmer Organisations in 2016 provides an important model for how a development partner can institutionalise its partnership with grassroots organisations.
- **Adapting systems and processes to better support grassroots organisations:** It was acknowledged that many of the systems and processes for development assistance are not well suited to the needs and capacities of grassroots organisations.



## Summary of Presentations

### Grassroots Organisations as Key Partners in Development

*Kyle Stice (Pacific Farmer Organisations)*

The Pacific Islands are grappling with immense challenges spanning health, economics, and the environment. The conventional government-led development model can no longer suffice due to resource limitations and mounting issues. A novel alternative, involving grassroots organizations as pivotal development partners, has shown promise and now demands wider application. Grassroots organizations must enhance their services and professionalism to effectively address these challenges. Development partners must aid this capacity building and localization process. It's vital for grassroots groups to refine their consultation processes, capturing the voices of rural Pacific Islands' communities. Simultaneously, development partners must ensure these grassroots entities have a meaningful role in shaping policies, designing programs, and guiding interventions. This transition from a government-centric to a partnership-based model, centering on grassroots organizations, isn't just preferable but also proven and urgent. Strengthening grassroots capabilities and involving them in decision-making will foster a more resilient, sustainable, and tailored approach to Pacific Island development.



*Kyle Stice of Pacific Farmer Organisations in delivering his keynote address talked about the role of 'Pacific People delivering Pacific Solutions' to some of the regions biggest threats.*

## The Role of Grassroots Organisations in Climate Change Adaptation

*Tony Jansen (Pacific Farmer Organisations)*

Climate change is gathering momentum on a global scale, and its effects are reverberating across the Pacific region, altering our surroundings and influencing the lives of Pacific farmers and communities in multifaceted ways. Despite our aspirations, the achievement of the Paris Agreement's 1.5-degree warming limit seems increasingly improbable. This reality is causing ripple effects across the Pacific, characterized by more frequent and intense extreme weather events such as floods, droughts, cyclones, and storm surges. Concurrently, rising ocean temperatures drive sea level increases and inundation, while ocean acidification threatens the very foundations of our coral reefs and marine ecosystems.

The ramifications manifest across two primary axes: firstly, the perturbation of local food systems and natural resources; secondly, the disruption of economic ties to the global arena. Adaptation and preparedness must address both domains with equal vigor.

In the Pacific context, adaptation strategies include diversifying crop varieties, fostering better access to and comprehension of climate forecasts for farmers, disseminating robust agricultural technologies that can withstand imminent changes, and conducting vulnerability assessments. Furthermore, the potential to integrate traditional and indigenous knowledge into our resilience-building endeavors is immense. On the economic front, we can fortify our resilience by diversifying value chains, broadening market access, and reducing reliance on imports. It's encouraging that many of these strategies are already being embraced by members of our Pacific Farmer Organizations (PFO).

To ensure the success of our adaptation initiatives, we must foster organized farmer groups, expand farmer networks, conduct on-the-ground trials and knowledge-sharing, acknowledge gender-specific disparities and the needs of vulnerable segments, and cultivate value chains that tangibly benefit farmers. Decentralized, contextually tailored responses are essential to harmonize with the intricacies of our social, economic, and ecological landscapes. Given the multifaceted nature of these challenges, Farmer Organizations stand poised to play a pivotal role across these fronts, paving the way for the most impactful and effective adaptation outcomes.



*Tony Jansen of Pacific Farmer Organisation highlighted a number of important adaptation strategies that farmer organisations are already implementing in the region and how these types of initiatives could be scaled up to bring meaningful impacts.*

## **Panel Session: Grassroots Organisations as Key Partners in Development**

Moderated by Mara Hosada (U.S.-Pacific Regional Engagement Specialist)

Frankie Reed (U.S. Envoy to the Pacific Islands Forum)

"[Climate Finance] is a discussion that is very much on the table in the U.S. with the public and also the private sector."

Karen Mapasua (Director LRD, The Pacific Community)

"The layers of bureaucracy are really tricky and SPC has many of them as well. I think that the key is making sure that there are feedback loops from the community so that we can check how far we are getting to the ground."

HE Ms. Phoebe Smith (High Commissioner, Australia High Commission to Rarotonga)

"What we want to ensure is that direct climate finance resources go to the mechanisms that best suit the needs of the region."

Candra Samekto (Country Director, International Fund for Agricultural Development)

"IFAD does not implement projects...because we want to see that the capacity stays on the local platform with the farmer organisations."

Kiri Stevens (Deputy High Commissioner, New Zealand High Commission)

"We really support this regional approach and discussing common issues and agreeing positions for effective engagement and advocacy with Pacific leaders."



**MINORU NISHI JR**  
*Chairman, Pacific Farmer Organisations,  
Managing Director, Nishi Trading Co*



**HON. SIR TOM MARSTERS**  
*King's Representative to the Cook Islands*



**KAREN MAPASUA**  
*Director LRD, The Pacific Community*



**HER EXCELLENCY  
MS. PHOEBE SMITH**  
*High Commissioner, Australia  
High Commission to Rarotonga*



**AMBASSADOR  
FRANKIE A. REED**  
*U.S. Ambassador (Retired),  
U.S. Envoy to the Pacific Islands Forum*



**CANDRA SAMEKTO**  
*Country Director, International Fund  
for Agricultural Development*

## **Panel Session: The Role of Grassroots Organisations in Climate Change Adaptation**

Moderated by Koh Ming Wei (Center for Getting Things Started)

Maria Linibi (PNG Women in Agricultural Development Foundation)

"I encourage that extension does not just work on their own but work with the research organisations and other partners that can also help".

Dr. Teina Rongo (Korero o te Orau)

"The most important thing for us is working with our youth. If you are disconnected from the land and you have no relationship with your environment, if someone comes to you and says "I want to build a hotel in your lagoon", you will say "yes" because you are not using it".

Stephen Hazelman (Live and Learn)

"We need to educate communities on what resilience and climate change means before we can work with them"

Ku'uleinani Maunupau (Na Mahi'ai o Keanae).

"It is important to continue partnering... the more farmers you have in your organisation the better the proposal is for funding".

Pita Tikai (Kastom Gaden Association)

"If farmers can grow their own crops with resilience to pests and certain climate than they can still survive under the pressure of climate."



**MARIA LINIBI**  
*Founder & President, Papua New Guinea  
Women in Agriculture Development  
Foundation*



**KU'ULEINANI MAUNUPAU**  
*President, Native Hawaiian Philanthropy  
(Na Mahi'ai o Keanae)*



**DR. TEINA RONGO**  
*President, Kōrero o te 'Ōrau*



**PITA TIKAI**  
*President, Kastom Gaden Association*



**STEPHEN HAZELMAN**  
*Live and Learn*



## **Stars of Oceania**

### **Event Summary**

The Stars of Oceania was established in 2006 to recognize and honor those who personify the values of Aloha, Respect, Harmony, Balance, Healing and Spirituality in stewardship of the Great Moana, Humanity, and Natural Kin, via human representatives, with organisations that have contributed to the healing and welfare of our world.

In many ways it touches upon the spirit of the Royal Order of the Star of Oceania created in 1886 by King Kalākaua, to form a confederation of the Pacific rooted in kinship to preserve and protect a way of life and spirit during an era of empire building. The Stars of Oceania was established independently in 2006, and expanded King Kalakaua's vision to include kinship to nature and between all humanity. The 2023 Stars of Oceania was co-navigated by Her Royal Highness Princess Owana Ka'ōhelelani, Head of the Royal House of Hawai'i, a descendant of the royal line of King Kalākaua, along with Papalii Failautusi Avegalio, Jr., a descendent of the Malietoa Talavou line, and relative of King Malietoa Laupepa of Samoa, the first recipient of the Royal Order of the Star of Oceania in 1887.

Presence of the distinguished guests at this special evening contributed to the celebration of each of our Stars of Oceania Award recipients. We recognize them for their distinguished contributions, and we regard them as role models because they teach others how to serve the world and overcome obstacles. They rise above overwhelming challenges - challenges that require a tenacity of spirit to heal our world from the damage of irresponsible actions that have degenerated Mother Earth and human society. They know how to weave traditional wisdom, culture and spirituality with modern science and technology. They have modeled a tenacity of spirit, and we hope that it will be embraced by you. In this way we can, together, exert strength and confidence to face the future, promote well-being, kinship and healing, stewardship with aloha, respectful service. It will be our regenerative giving (restoring, or giving back in full measure, what is taken) that can save our planet.

This tenacity of spirit requires us to embrace a vision that demonstrates the highest value of our children and youth by planting the seeds of certainty and self-reliance. Future generations will act with conviction as you demonstrate courage. You will inspire them as you assure them they are loved. Develop their vision so they see themselves as strong, positive and enthusiastic. Then they will grow into resilient trees with roots that can weather any storm. Cultivate in them a well-developed value system, with a world view that includes equality, dignity and respect for all. Teach them compassion, aloha, respect, integrity, and healing with forgiveness. Display principles of unwavering belief in humanity and nature. Be their mentor.



*Stars of Oceania 2023 awardees at the Avarua National Auditorium, Cook Islands.*

*(Photo Credit: [Kōrero o te 'Ōrau](#))*

## **PROTOCOL**

Vala'au Fa'a aloalo (Respect & Permission of Entry)

Welcome Response by Rarotonga Traditional Ariki and Elders

## **MASTER OF CEREMONIES**

Papali'i Dr. Failautusi Avegalio, Jr. - Honorary Ambassador for the Stars of Oceania

## **HO'OHEAHEA**

Her Royal Highness Princess Owana Ka'ōhelelani - Head of the Royal House of Hawai'i  
Royal Order of the Star of Oceania created by His Majesty King David Kalākaua on 16 December 1886. Reinstated on 29 March 2018 by H.R.H. Princess Owana Ka'ōhelelani

## **ALOHA KEYNOTE**

Dr. Aaron J. Salā, Ph.D. - Festival Director 13th Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture (2024)  
Founder and CEO, Gravitas Pasifikas, Honolulu, Hawai'i

## **POET KEYNOTE**

David Eggleton - Distinguished Literary Critic and Poet Laureate of Aotearoa, New Zealand (2019-2022)

## **KEYNOTE**

Dune Lankard - Native Eyak of the Eagle Clan from Cordova, Alaska  
JAMACHAKIH: SCREAM OF THE LITTLE BIRD. "We Need to be Stewards of the Land and Oceans again."

Biographies of the Awardees can be found in **Appendix 5.**



## Global Breadfruit Summit

### Event Summary

The Global Breadfruit Summit 2023 brought together an international community of breadfruit researchers, farmers, and visionary leaders to address critical issues surrounding the crop through a series of presentations, panel discussions, and collaborative group activities. The summit delved deep into the multifaceted aspects of breadfruit cultivation, utilization, and its potential impact on global food security. Beyond its academic and practical contributions, the summit fostered a spirit of cooperation and innovation that promised to pave the way for a more sustainable and food-secure future, leaving attendees inspired and empowered to continue their important work with the fruit. Recordings of all the presentations can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLujUP9tki-oAoWWikGwLm88fwdxKqKa2l>



Attendees listen to presentations at the 2023 Global Breadfruit Summit

### Key Outcomes and Messages

- **Breadfruit Development the Right Way:** As a Pacific Crop, Breadfruit development should focus on improved traditional agriculture systems that value not just economics but also health and culture
- **Breadfruit and Climate Change:** Science is clear that breadfruit is a climate resilient crop that is well suited to addressing the major challenges of food security, NCDs, and climate adaptation in the Pacific.
- **Breadfruit Genetic Diversity:** Investing more resources at a national level to understand, conserve and develop breadfruit diversity.
- **Breadfruit Propagation:** Improved propagation practices provide a clear example of how traditional knowledge can be enhanced by modern horticulture
- **Varietal Advantages:** An important emerging area is around different breadfruit varieties' performance in different farming systems in terms of height, canopy size, etc..

- **Support for Agroforestry:** Breadfruit is best suited to agroforestry farming systems and not monoculture, this is based on scientific experience and traditional knowledge.
- **Farmer Led Research Projects:** For traditional crops like breadfruit, traditional knowledge should be a foundation of our action research initiatives, and the farmer led research model, currently being implemented under the FO-RI farmer led research project provides a good basis for this practice.
- **Value-added Potential:** Breadfruit has a high potential for value-added products and has shown economic success through different products in most PICs
- **Breadfruit Festivals:** Breadfruit festivals are something that is going to be replicated around the region as a means to share information, promote awareness, and promote consumption and production.

## Summary of Presentations

### Breadfruit Development the Right Way

*Mitaera Ngatae Teatuakaro Michael (Mike) Tavioni.*

When our ancestors voyaged crossing Te Moana Nui a Kiva (Pacific Ocean) they carried useful items. Plants of nutritional and medicinal value and seeds of practical and durable wood which they would transplant to the new lands they settled.

The breadfruit or 'Kuru' (Cook Islands Maori) was one of the most important. Nowadays, it is a main source of carbohydrate food in the Cook Islands. It is a plant that survives in any tropical country either on fertile alluvial soil or on coral sand. Breadfruit is part of our food security in the Cook Islands. When we were locked down for two years during the covid pandemic, businesses were affected but our people still thrived. They have food security. They have their crops, bananas, taro and breadfruit. They have their livestock and fish from the ocean and the lagoon.

Food security and health and well being are at the forefront of global issues, having a platform to connect and discuss potential of breadfruit development in the Cook Islands is a very positive and meaningful gathering. I hope to see breadfruit development in the Cook Islands and across the region that is rooted in our traditional knowledge of the crop. I hope to see the establishment of a nursery dedicated to the propagation of the many varieties of breadfruit here in the Cook Islands.



## Breadfruit diversity perpetuation: importance, strategies, and actions of the Breadfruit Institute

*Julia Vieira da Cunha Ávila, Noel Dickinson, Kaitu Erasito (Breadfruit Institute, NTBG)*



Breadfruit is an important staple crop that is traditionally cultivated and preserved throughout the Pacific Islands. There are three species within the breadfruit complex that are consumed globally as a nutritious staple starch. Despite having the potential to improve economic and food security, breadfruit continues to be considered a neglected and underutilized crop, including in face of climate change scenarios. In fact, the regions where breadfruit thrives coincide with areas that experience the greatest food insecurity in the world. Furthermore, trees are susceptible to adverse weather conditions, human activities, and plant diseases, which could lead to the loss of breadfruit varieties. These factors present challenges and opportunities for breadfruit conservation efforts and necessitate an increased focus on understanding and maintaining breadfruit diversity.

The breadfruit collection at the National Tropical Botanical Garden (NTBG) and the actions of the Breadfruit Institute have increased our understanding of breadfruit diversity. The collection at NTBG consists of over 300 trees collected from 34 islands in the Pacific. While the collection itself has great value, equally important is the intangible knowledge associated with each tree—the indigenous and local knowledge, as well as the scientific efforts made to document and gain a deeper understanding of breadfruit in general. There are several examples of breadfruit living collections throughout the Pacific Islands where regional breadfruit diversity is conserved.

As farmers and research organizations, 'breadfruit people', breadfruit farmers, and producers we have a collective responsibility to conserve breadfruit for future use. Informed by knowledge gained, the Breadfruit Institute aims to revitalize the management of the collection at NTBG to better conserve, share, and advocate for breadfruit globally.

## **Cultivars and Cropping: Management Implications**

***Noa Lincoln (University of Hawai'i Indigenous Cropping Systems Laboratory)***

Breadfruit varieties differ in many important ways. While much of the discussion on varieties have focused on nutrition and phenology, the varieties differ in many other ways that directly affect the management and performance of the varieties in cropping systems, including growth architecture and density, response to pruning, ease of propagation. Using common varieties grown in Hawai'i, some of these differences are discussed with an emphasis on how they interact with the cropping system they are cultivated in



**GLOBAL  
BREADFRUIT  
SUMMIT**  
CULTIVARS AND CROPPING

SESSION ONE  
**Harnessing Breadfruit Diversity**  
PRESENTATION  
**Management Implications**  
BY DR. NOA LINCOLN  
**University of Hawai'i Indigenous  
Cropping Systems Laboratory**

## Regenerative Breadfruit Farming

*Craig Elevitch (Permanent Agriculture Resources/Ho'oulu ka 'Ulu)*

Sustainability in agriculture is no longer a viable goal, as it suggests maintaining current conditions, which are rapidly deteriorating worldwide according to numerous sources such as the 2021 FAO report “State of the World’s Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture—Systems at Breaking Point”. Instead of sustainability, everything we do in agriculture must continually improve conditions of soil, biodiversity, water retention, resilience, and carbon sequestration. These are the outcomes of what is now called regenerative agriculture.

Imagine cropping systems that are carbon negative, increase environmental and economic resiliency, increase biodiversity, and enhance local food security. For much of the world, these regenerative outcomes are distant dreams. However, in many Pacific Islands, indigenous agriculture that achieves these regenerative goals is alive and well—we call these food systems regenerative agroforestry. Breadfruit is commonly found as a major component of indigenous agroforestry throughout the Pacific.

More than living systems, the knowledge and practices required to establish and maintain these regenerative agroforestry systems are held deep within native language, beliefs, protocols, and values. This session will explore the roots of regenerative agroforestry in indigenous Pacific Island life, the past and present threats to these traditional systems, and actions we can take to reestablish them within today’s context.



Dr. Craig Elevitch of Permanent Agriculture Resources discusses how breadfruit fits best in agroforestry cropping systems

## **Knowledge Grown Locally: Harnessing the Impact of Farmer-Led Research**

*Tony Jansen (Pacific Farmer Organisations)*

Agriculture research always has as its aim the improvement of agriculture. Traditionally it has been dominated by a science driven top down approach where farmers are seen as recipients. Research failures are often blamed on 'uneducated farmers' who need 'awareness'. But farmers also generate knowledge and conduct research on their own. Farmers' knowledge and Indigenous knowledge need to be seen as a valid knowledge system. This means recognising farmers – in all their forms - as experts. Often this can be a difficult paradigm shift for researchers and for some organisations and extension workers who are used to top down science driven approaches. Bringing the two knowledge systems together has great potential for transformation. Farmer led research can come in many forms.

We need to recognise that there is a spectrum of levels of engagement and recognise where you are as a farmer or an FO and how best to respond to a given research context. FOs have an important role to play in this divide and along different parts of this spectrum. FOs need capacity building to facilitate these processes. They need to help actors to recognise different groups within farmer knowledge holders - men, women, youth, ethnic divides. There are many good examples of farmer led research in the Pacific and globally and I will share a few of them to get us all thinking about breadfruit development and the role of farmer led research.



**GLOBAL BREADFRUIT SUMMIT KNOWLEDGE GROWN LOCALLY**

SESSION THREE

**Farmer Led Research for Breadfruit Development**

PRESENTATION

**Harnessing the Impact of Farmer-Led Research**

BY TONY JANSEN

**Pacific Farmer Organisations**



## What is Possible with Breadfruit - Lessons from 30 years of Product Development

*Richard Beyer (Food Technologist)*

There is a maxim among food product developers that it is impossible to improve crops that come from the tree or the soil. Unfortunately modern society deprives us of the luxury to pick and eat and we are dependent on techniques to preserve. But what a gift is breadfruit. Its relatively bland taste and malleable texture lends it to endless possibilities for development. From frozen products to flour from commercially available fried snacks to gravy mixes, the options are limited only by the imagination. Successful food commercial food processing demands three elements – raw material supply, technology and a market. Herein lies the issue. Even in Samoa where breadfruit is an established part of the cuisine, breadfruit harvests are informal. Fiji has some plantations but the commercial processor is continually constrained by supply continuity.

Have researchers, and policy determinants heeded the requirement of the processor and more importantly consumer demands. In many small island states there are many cases where there is a disconnect between private sector imperatives and research, policy aid agency priorities. Creating channels of communication must be the next step throughout the region.



Food Technologist; Dr. Richard Beyer presents the many different products that can be made from breadfruit from his 30+ years of experience in food science



## The 'Ulu Cooperative Experience and Future

*Dana Shapiro (Hawaii 'Ulu Cooperative)*

The Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative was founded in 2016 with 9 small-scale, diversified farmers on Hawai'i Island, and has grown to over 150 farmers across four islands over the past 7 years. The cooperative's mission is to revitalize breadfruit, or 'ulu, as a viable crop and dietary staple. According to a 2017 study by the University of Hawai'i, island residents today eat 'ulu less than three times per year on average. The 'Ulu Co-op is working to reverse this trend by empowering small farmers through a community-owned business model to reach economies of scale, create value-added products, and provide marketing and education to the public.

The co-op's product line continues to evolve and currently includes minimally processed (steamed and frozen) packages for both home and commercial chefs, 'ulu flour, and several ready-to-eat products such as 'ulu chocolate mousse, 'ulu hummus, and marinated 'ulu spears. Over the next few years, the co-op is focused on enhancing the capacity of its farmer-members to cultivate 'ulu viably and sustainably, expand its aggregation and processing infrastructure to support the growing supply of fruit, and elevating consumer knowledge and consumption of 'ulu, especially among Hawai'i's youth.



**GLOBAL BREADFRUIT SUMMIT**  
INNOVATING WITH BREADFRUIT

SESSION FOUR  
Unleashing Product Development Potential

PRESENTATION  
The 'Ulu Cooperative Experience & Future

BY DANA SHAPIRO  
Hawaii Ulu Cooperative

**Growing Minds - Empowering Young and Old with the 'Ulu Toolkit**  
***Koh Ming Wei (Center for Getting Things Started) & Lydi Bernal (University of Hawai'i)***

In this interactive session, we will explore how to teach everything from the lens of breadfruit! During the exploration, imagine how you can adapt the resources for your islands and communities. As we all work together to develop this amazing crop it is critical to share information and resources to help accelerate the work of breadfruit advocacy and education in the region.



Koh Ming Wei (Center for Getting Things Started) & Lydi Bernal (University of Hawai'i) explain online tools and a toolkit that help promote breadfruit in Hawai'i's school systems.

**Seeds of Celebration: Breadfruit Festivals for Sharing and Advocacy**  
***Diane Ragone, PhD (Breadfruit Institute, NTBG), Aunty Shirley Kauhahao (Hawaii Homegrown Food Network), Craig Elevitch, PhD (Hawaii Homegrown Food Network & Agroforestry Net)***

Festivals are an excellent way to bring people together to be engaged and educated while learning about and enjoying the many aspects of breadfruit. Hawaii Homegrown Food Network and the Breadfruit Institute, NTBG, established Hooulu ka Ulu in 2010 to revitalize breadfruit as an attractive, delicious, nutritious, abundant, affordable, and culturally appropriate food. Five festivals [Hawaii Island (4) & Kauai (1)] were held in 2011-2013 and were free and open to the public. We designed the festivals to celebrate breadfruit's rich culture, history, and diversity, and raise awareness about its importance for food security.

People had the opportunity to learn how to grow trees; how to handle/prepare the fruit—through demonstrations, cooking contests, and breadfruit-based meals; enjoy cultural and art activities and 'ulu-themed dance and song. Trees were always available for sale.

We will talk about common themes, unique aspects, and highlights of the festivals. Planning, organizing, and implementing a festival requires time and committed volunteers. Topics to be considered when thinking about putting on a festival include: who are the Team Leaders, Finances (fundraising, all event costs, reports to donors), Venue Logistics, Permits, Scheduling, FOOD, Cultural Experts, Speakers & Topics, Chefs, Hula Groups, and Publicity.



# GLOBAL BREADFRUIT SUMMIT IGNITING CHANGE

SESSION FIVE | GROUP PRESENTATION

## Breadfruit Advocacy & Education Seeds of Celebration : Breadfruit Festivals for Sharing and Advocacy



DR. DIANE RAGONE

AUNTY SHIRLEY

DR. CRAIG ELEVITCH

## Pacific Solutions Summit

### Event Summary

The Pacific Solutions Summit focused on strategies and models that have been demonstrated as successful in responding to the challenges of climate change and food security. The sessions covered: Climate Resilient Farming, Farm 2 School, Agro Processing and Agritourism.

With climate change as a central theme, speakers highlighted the vulnerability of Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) to climate hazards, which pose threats to both food security and livelihoods. This vulnerability, particularly affecting women and marginalized communities, underscored the urgent need for climate-resilient farming practices.

Gender sensitivity was another critical cross-cutting priority throughout the event. Protecting and enhancing the livelihoods of women, who play pivotal roles in Pacific agriculture, was emphasized. This theme permeated discussions on climate resilience, farm-to-school initiatives, and training programs. Additionally, community resilience took center stage, with initiatives like the Hawaii Farm to School Hui and the Rural Food Processing Lab showcasing collaborative efforts among diverse stakeholders, including farmers, educators, policymakers, and community members. These initiatives aimed to foster self-reliance, empower local communities, and promote sustainable food systems. Knowledge exchange and collaboration were evident in the Processor to Processor Learning Exchange between the Hawaii 'Ulu Cooperative and Nishi Trading, which fostered mutual learning and cooperation.

Lastly, the promotion of value addition in agriculture, exemplified by cottage industry agro-processing training, was highlighted as a means to increase income and sustainability for rural farmers.



Participants seen working in groups to identify key organisational partnerships that can help promote new climate resilient farming initiatives

## Key Outcomes and Messages

- **Value and invest in 'Local Solutions by Local People':** The summit highlighted numerous examples of successful initiatives that were developed and driven by Pacific island people and their organisations. Participants acknowledged that more needs to be done to highlight and scale up these examples as well as support people and organisations to continue to develop new solutions.
- **More finance for 'Climate Resilient Farming' initiatives led by grassroots organisations:** The climate resilient farming proposal that was presented was well received and participants appreciated the ability to adapt activities to local context and priorities. It was also acknowledged that despite the significant amount of resources that are available; within the Pacific region for climate adaptation, very little of this is reaching the grassroots. Participants also identified a need to strengthen the rationale and needs of women in climate change and changing dynamics in households and agriculture and the need to address labour loss due to migration.
- **Strengthening Youth Engagement:** A clear outcome from the summit was the need to place a greater importance on youth engagement. A number of successful initiatives and models were shared that targeted youth with educational awareness and practical training that helps them to value and conserve traditional land resources rather than exploit it.
- **Farm to School Movement:** The farm to school movement exists around the Pacific in various forms and has demonstrated successful impacts, particularly in places like Hawaii. There is significant interest and opportunity to scale up the initiatives and more importantly to foster regional collaboration in this area.
- **Agro-processing key to food security and livelihoods in the Pacific:** Several models to support agro-processing development in the region were explored in the summit. The importance of agro processing for food security and livelihoods in the Pacific was also highlighted as well the opportunity to scale up successful initiatives and foster more regional collaboration in this area.
- **Agri-tourism an important diversification activity for Pacific farmers:** The experience from Fiji clearly demonstrates how a farm can be diversified to include farm tours with both activities enhanced as well the farmers income and long term sustainability. Participants highlighted the opportunity to foster greater regional collaboration and information sharing around this important area.

Recordings of all the presentations can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfCXR2wgnDA&list=PLujUP9tki-oBZ0PHg3EzBXvz5ZuntK2wS>

## Summary of Speakers

### Local Solutions by Local People - Experience from the Cook Islands

Dr. Teina Rongo (Kōrero o te 'Ōrau)

Kōrero o te 'Ōrau, works diligently to promote youth leadership and ownership of pressing environmental issues facing Rarotonga and the rest of the Cook Islands. Through partnerships and exposing youth to other areas of the Pacific a stronger sense of responsibility and hope is instilled upon the next generation of leaders.



Dr. Teina Rongo of Kōrero o te 'Ōrau explains a program in the Cook Islands that works with youth leaders to combat marine life degradation.

### Framework for Climate Resilient Farming in the Pacific: Co-design and resource mobilization

Tony Jansen (Pacific Farmer Organisations)

PFO's climate framework objective is to protect and enhance the livelihoods for Pacific farmers by helping them adapt to the threat of changing climate and natural disasters.

The livelihoods of women and girls, particularly in the Pacific, are often dependent on sectors such as agriculture and water resources, where climate change impacts are acute. FOs and PFO are well placed to work with women farmers and with a gender lens to address climate change challenges and build resilience and this is a cross cutting priority of the framework. The framework has three pillars:

#### Pillar 1: Climate Resilient Farming Households

PFO adopts a decentralized approach in which national FOs and their members identify priority adaptation needs and plan activities which are supported through cost sharing arrangements and technical backstopping from national and regional agencies, and where appropriate in partnership with the private sector. This typically works as a multi-year objective and a results-oriented framework which is implemented through an annual planning and budgeting cycle, and is then subject to regular reporting, monitoring and a performance assessment. All feasible options for climate adaptation are eligible for support and may include:

- Diversification of crops and crop varieties of food and cover crops. This may include seed and planting material multiplication by farmers / farmer field trials and distribution activities such as diversity fairs;
- Agroforestry and tree based cropping systems that are more resilience to climate shocks and disaster;
- Improved water efficiency, access to appropriate irrigation technologies / drought resistant varieties and technologies;
- Improving women's access to and efficient use of water and fuel wood;
- Enhanced use and innovative production models for underutilised indigenous crops and knowledge;
- Food processing / value adding and preservation;
- Managing and reducing soil erosion / soil and other natural resource degradation eg vetiver grass, contour farming, and alley cropping systems, cover crops, reduced or zero tillage methods etc;
- Better managing pest and disease using Integrated Pest and Disease Management
- Ecological and regenerative agriculture farming systems innovations and transition pathways
- Seed banks and cyclone proof storage for disaster recovery
- More productive and resilient backyard / household gardens
- Women better organised including household savings groups and stronger women led CBOs/ farmer groups
- Farming and cooking education around climate adapted crops like breadfruit or emergency crops such as swamp taro, domesticated wild yams, or sago.
- Encourage more effective household partnerships that address gender inequality in farming such as family farm teams approach
- Small livestock resilience and better integration into agro ecological farming

## **Pillar 2: Farmers' Voices**

Pacific farmers often struggle to have their voices heard in dialogue on the policies and enabling environment which affects their livelihoods. This is also the case in climate change adaptation. PFO supports national farmer organisations to engage in policy formulation regarding climate change and other key issues, and also facilitates their participation in

regional policy forums that enable farmers' voices to be heard. Activities that are supported and facilitated by PFO include:

- Convening multi-stakeholder platforms, in particular enabling the voice of women and other small farmers, to gather and analyse information about climate challenges and adaptation measures, and communicating these to policy-makers.
- Conduct annual farmer forums in each country to raise awareness about key issues of concern to farming communities.
- Raising the profile of farmer organisations in the Pacific and giving farmers a voice in local, national, regional and international forums.
- Supporting knowledge sharing, advocacy, sensitisation, learning and policy advancement.

### **Pillar 3: Stronger Farmer Organisations**

Pacific farmer organisations vary in their capacity to deliver results for their members. Many are relatively small, immature and isolated from their peers, yet demand for their service is high. Capacity building is therefore an important part of PFO's mandate, and includes a range of activities guided by a PFO self-assessment tool, such as training for office-bearers, strengthening administrative and financial management systems, monitoring and reporting (to members, PFO and development partners), conduct of annual general meetings, membership surveys, and capacity-building for knowledge management. Stronger farmer organisations are a critical requirement for effective adaptation.

PFO is expanding its membership by engaging with new countries and farmer organisations in the Central and Northern Pacific, including the Micronesian states (Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, and Kiribati) and Francophone territories (New Caledonia, Tahiti, Wallis and Futuna). This, along with national level expansion to new members (for example, a new FO has recently joined from the highlands of PNG) creates an ongoing need for capacity building and network development among new and existing member organisations.

PFO has secured initial commitment with multiple donors to fund this project and is undertaking the co-design phase which the Pacific Solutions Summit supports.



## **An overview of Farm to School Initiatives in the Pacific Region - Key Constraints and Success Factors**

***Koh Ming Wei (Center for Getting Things Started)***

The three tenets of Farm to School are Learning Gardens, Education (Agriculture, Nutrition, Core Subjects, Health, etc) and Procurement. There are similarities and differences in the ways these tenets are applied in each island nation. How can we work together to meet the outcomes of food security, a robust local food system, and cultivating deep connections to place through our foods?



**PACIFIC AGRICULTURE SOLUTIONS SUMMIT**  
**FARM TO SCHOOL INITIATIVES IN THE PACIFIC REGION**

SESSION TWO  
**Farm to School Initiative**

PRESENTATION  
**Key Constraints and Success Factors**

BY KOH MING WEI  
**Center for Getting Things Started**

## **Hawaii Farm to School Hui: An integrated approach is critical**

***Dennis Chase (Hawaii Farm 2 School Hui)***

The Hawai'i Farm to School Hui is a group of more than 40 public and private partners, made up of five island networks, community organizations, state agencies, national partners, associations, and coalitions. The Hui is similar to other farm to school networks, but is intentionally decentralized and makes decisions based on consensus. Many stakeholders, including farmers, educators, parents, policymakers, and community members, come together from various sectors to work towards a common goal of promoting healthy food systems for children and families. The Hui does this through capacity building, resource sharing, professional development, and advocacy.

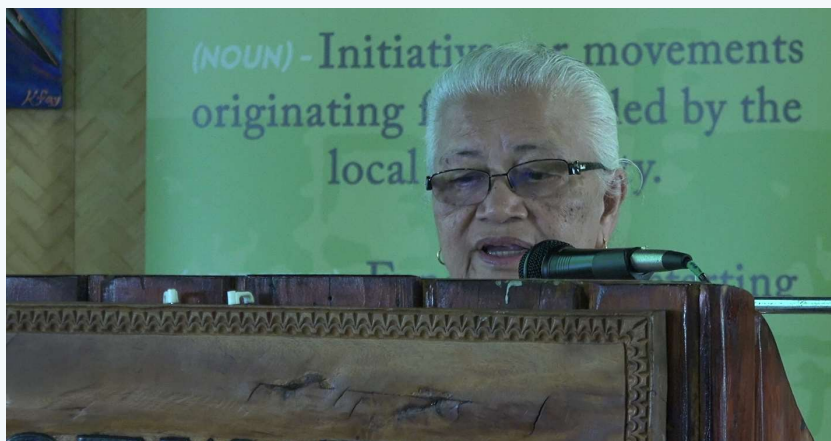


Dennis Chase (Hawaii Farm 2 School Hui) discusses an integrated approach of how multiple non-profits and organisations in Hawai'i have worked together to integrate food systems into education.

### **Diversifying a Cut Flower Business with Agritourism.**

***Aileen Burness (South Sea Orchids)***

Aileen Burness has unrivaled experience in Fiji in the cut-flower industry by creating not only many products for sale but also creating a successful event space out of the farm. South Sea Orchids (SSO) is a 9-acre homestead owned by the Burness family. Their commercial enterprise of offering tours started in Suva in the 1960s, and this has been maintained over the years, even with their move to Nasau over 15 years ago.



Aileen Burness (South Sea Orchids) explains how her cut-flower business expanded into a successful event space utilising the nursery and additional growing space for shows.

## Rural Food Processing Lab: The Tutu Rural Training Centre Example

*Dr. Richard Beyer (Food Technologist) / Fr. Petero Matairatu (Tutu Rural Training Centre)*

Ten years ago, the Tutu Rural Training Center took a bold step by establishing its Rural Food Processing Lab, thanks to the guidance of Food Technologist Dr. Richard Beyer. Today, this initiative stands as a testament to transformation and growth.

The lab not only yields a diverse range of products crafted from the center's own harvest but also operates as a vital training hub. Participants of the program immerse themselves in recipes and fundamental food processing skills, empowering them to apply these invaluable lessons upon their return to their villages.

Witness a decade of dedication in action as the Tutu Rural Training Center not only cultivates produce but also cultivates knowledge, fostering self-reliance and change.



PACIFIC AGRICULTURE  
**SOLUTIONS**  
SUMMIT

SESSION FOUR | AGRO-PROCESSING ROUNDTABLES | CASE STUDY PRESENTATIONS

Rural Food Processing Lab: The Tutu Rural  
Training Centre Example

DR. RICHARD BEYER  
FOOD TECHNOLOGIST

FR. PETERO MATAIRATU  
TUTU RURAL TRAINING CENTRE

## Cottage Industry Agro-processing Training. Traveling the North Pacific

*Craig Elevitch & Kaitu Erasito*

Delivering practical, cottage industry agro processing training is a goal of many organisations hoping to educate and inspire rural farmers and their families to engage in agriculture value addition. Craig Elevitch and Kaitu Erasito shared their individual experiences with cottage industry agro-processing training as well a joint activity conducting a series of trainings across the North Pacific.



PACIFIC AGRICULTURE  
**SOLUTIONS**  
SUMMIT

SESSION FOUR | AGRO-PROCESSING ROUNDTABLES | CASE STUDY PRESENTATIONS

Cottage Industry Agro-processing Training  
Traveling the North Pacific

DR. CRAIG ELEVITCH

KAITU ERASITO

## **Processor to Processor Learning Exchange: The Experience of Nishi Trading & The Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative**

*Minoru Nishi (Nishi Trading) / Dana Shapiro (Hawai'i 'Ulu Coop)*

The Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative (HUC) is the newest member of Pacific Farmer Organisations (PFO). During the 2022 Global Breadfruit Summit, leaders of the HUC met another PFO member - Nishi Trading, and soon learned that both organisations were producing very similar products and faced many of the same challenges. In early 2023, PFO supported a 'Processor to Processor Learning Exchange' that saw HUC Manager, Dana Shapiro travel to Nuku'alofa, Tonga to learn and share experiences with breadfruit production and processing. Both parties found the exchange beneficial and have established a strong relationship that is directly in line with one of PFO's core values of reciprocity (Def: the practice of mutual exchange or cooperation, where actions or benefits are given and received in return).



Dana Shapiro (Hawai'i 'Ulu Coop.) discusses the tangible improvements that came from a farmer to farmer learning exchange with Minoru Nishi (Nishi Trading).

## Farmer to Farmer Learning Exchange

### Site 1: Titikaveka Teava Iro - Organic Composting Facility

First stop was at AVA Excavations Ltd Organic Composting Facility in Papaaroa, Titikaveka Village. Teava Iro, the owner, led the participants on a brief tour of the impressive organic facility.

At the heart of this operation is a unique compost mixture, carefully crafted from a blend of organic waste. This includes household materials like leaves, coconut ribs, and waste, along with fish offcuts from Ocean fresh. Seaweeds sourced from hotels along the Ngatangia beaches add a coastal touch, complemented by a mixture of white sand that serves to aerate and improve the quality of the soil.

An enlightening experience delving into the sustainable practices at AVA Excavations Ltd, where organic waste finds a purposeful second life.



Teava Iro guides participants through the facility, sharing insights into the many benefits of organic composting.

## Site 2: Matavera Regenerative Farming - Organic Farming

Regenerate Cook Islands Inc. is dedicated to championing 'AERO'—Agro-Ecological, Regenerative, and Organic growing practices. Despite its small size, this farm boasts an impressive array of diverse produce. Situated on the back road of Matavera, the Organic Farm is a testament to sustainable and varied agriculture.



Participants had the chance to share their knowledge on-site while also having the opportunity to explore the farm.

### Site 3: Danny Mataroa's Farm and Breadfruit Nursery

Danny Mataroa's home in Tupapa was the next stop where he showcased 2 of his newly arrived drying and processing equipment for cooking and preparing Breadfruit chips for the market. Just recently on the opening day of the Breadfruit Summit, 1000 tissue cultured breadfruit plants from California arrived in Rarotonga with the aim of distributing them out to interested farmers.



Danny Mataroa shared with participants the pivotal role of drying machines and tissue-cultured breadfruit in achieving the goal of conserving and utilizing breadfruit resources in the Cook Islands.



#### Site 4: Korero o te Orau and TAKUVA'INE VALLEY 'ŪTŪ REFORESTATION PROJECT

Kōrero O Te `Ōrau is an environmental non-governmental organization (NGO) incorporated in 2017, consisting of Cook Islanders who are passionate about protecting the culture, environment and natural resources of the nation. Kōrero o te `ōrau in Cook Islands Māori translates to "knowledge of the sky, land, and sea". The farm visit included visiting a reforestation project in the mountains behind the facility as well as a demonstration and performance at the organization's headquarters



Kōrero o te 'Ōrau hosted participants at their 'Uritaua House, followed by an insightful field visit to Takuva'ine Valley allowing Pacific visitors to plant King Bananas ('ūtū) along the ridge valley.

# Pacific Farmer Organisations Learning and Planning Meeting

*These events were recorded separately.*



# Pacific Farmer Organisations Annual General Meeting



## Media Impact of the week of Grassroots Partnerships for Pacific Solutions

The Grassroots Partnerships for Pacific Solutions garnered significant media attention, both on the international stage and through robust social media engagement. Six articles featured in prominent international media outlets, amplifying the event's reach and emphasizing its global significance. A special highlight was the coverage by Olohana Foundation and Island Craft Media that produced an episode dedicated to the Summit, further enhancing its visibility.

The event's social media campaign, running from July 6th to August 29th, 2023, witnessed remarkable traction. Posts reach 19264; 921 likes, reflecting a compelling engagement rate.

Recognizing the power of visual content, video recordings of oral presentations from the event were published on [YouTube](#), ensuring ongoing engagement and extending the knowledge sharing beyond immediate delegates.

**Grassroots Partnerships for Pacific Solutions Summit**  
PFO - Pacific Farmer Organisations  
10 videos • 48 views • Last updated on Sep 21, 2023

- 1 Chairman Minoru Nishi & Ambassador Frankie Reed Keynote Address  
PFO - Pacific Farmer Organisations • 24 views • 1 month ago
- 2 Grassroots Organisations as Key Partners in Development  
PFO - Pacific Farmer Organisations • 14 views • 1 month ago
- 3 Queen Pa Upokotini Ariki of Vaka Takitumu Keynote Address  
PFO - Pacific Farmer Organisations • 33 views • 1 month ago
- 4 Opening of the Grassroots Partnerships Symposium  
PFO - Pacific Farmer Organisations • 32 views • 1 month ago
- 5 Cultural Show by Avarua Primary School  
PFO - Pacific Farmer Organisations • 22 views • 1 month ago

[Pacific Farmer Organisation YouTube Channel, Grassroots Partnership for Pacific Solutions Summit - Playlist](#)

For a full list of media articles see [Appendix 2](#).

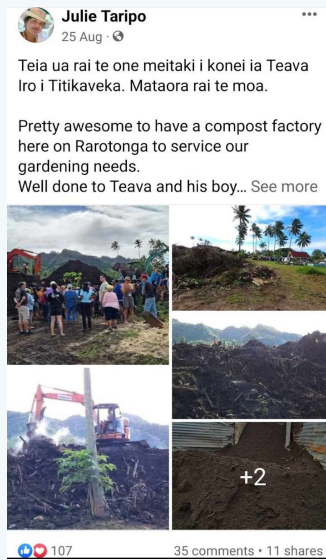
## Extending the Reach - Stories of Ongoing Impact

### Facebook Stories

Additionally, the Grassroot Partnerships for Pacific Solutions's week gained significant visibility and outreach through various mainstream and social media channels. Numerous accounts actively promoted and shared information about the event on platforms such as Facebook and Instagram. This digital promotion not only enhanced the event's online presence but also played a crucial role in reaching a wider audience, fostering community engagement, and generating interest in the objectives of the event. The collective efforts on social media contributed to creating a vibrant and inclusive virtual space for participants and stakeholders alike.

### Kōrero o te 'Ōrau - Cook Islands

## Julie Taripo of Cook Island Television News - CITV



## Pacific-Community-SPC



## Pacific Agriculture & Forestry Community



## Nishi Trading - Tonga



## Anaprofiko - Timor-Leste



## Ilyya Azaroff - Hawaii



# APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 1: Media Coverage

- [Cook Island News: Cook Islanders receive Stars of Oceania Award](#)

### Event Build Up Interview by PMN Cook Islands

- Cook Islands
- ❖ [PMN Cook Islands - Grassroot Partnerships for Pacific Solutions 21st - 25th August 2023 - Rarotonga...aere mai... Myria Rongo, Danny Mataroa](#)

### Press Release

- **Cook Islands**
  - ❖ [Cook Islands News - Fresh calls for revival of breadfruit industry](#)
  - ❖ [Cook Islands News - Local solutions to big challenges](#)
  - ❖ [Cook Islands News - Cook Islands to host growers' summit on climate resilience and food security](#)
- **Fiji**
  - ❖ [Fiji TV - International Event "Grassroots Partnerships for Pacific Solutions" to Unite Participants from 15 Pacific Islands Countries and 60 Organizations](#)
  - ❖ Fiji Times - published on 15th of August, 2023



### Television Program by Cook Islands Television News: Rima Tanutanu

A monthly Gardening show with Plant Enthusiast Mrs Luduina Williams promoting Home Gardening in our Cook Islands Māori Reo.

- [Cook Islands Television News - RIMA TANUTANU - Pt 1 - Mana o te Kuru Summit Opening & Field Trip to Organic Compost Facility and Regenerate Cook Islands Organic Farm.](#)

### **Television Interview by Cook Islands Television News**

- [Local News 24th Aug 2023 \(Global Breadfruit Summit\)](#)

### **Facebook Videos**

- [Korero o te Orau - Welcoming our visitors who are a part of the Global Breadfruit Summit onto our marae, Te Atukura Vaipae ki runga.](#)
- [Korero o te Orau - What is a flower in your language?](#)

### **Pacific Farmer Organisations**

#### **E-bulletin:**

- [Grassroots Organisations as Key Partners in Development](#)
- [Grassroots Guide Pacific Climate Adaptation Amid Regional Uncertainties](#)
- [Global Breadfruit Summit : Breadfruit Development](#)
- [Global Breadfruit Summit : Regenerative Breadfruit Farming](#)
- [Global Breadfruit Summit : Harnessing the Impact of Farmer-Led Research](#)
- [Global Breadfruit Summit : Lessons from 30 years of Product Development](#)
- [Global Breadfruit Summit : Revitalizing Breadfruit Cultivation In Hawaii](#)
- [Pacific Agriculture Solutions Summit : Climate Change & Agriculture](#)
- [Pacific Agriculture Solutions Summit : Protecting Livelihoods and Gender Equality](#)

#### **YouTube Channel:**

- [Chairman Minoru Nishi & Ambassador Frankie Reed Keynote Address](#)
- [Grassroots Organisations as Key Partners in Development](#)
- [Queen Pa Upokotini Ariki of Vaka Takitumu Keynote Address](#)
- [Opening of the Grassroots Partnerships Symposium](#)
- [Cultural Show by Avarua Primary School](#)
- [Panel Discussion on Grassroots Organisations & Climate Change Adaptation](#)
- [The Role of Grassroots Organisations in Climate Change Adaptation](#)

#### **Live Sessions:**

- [Peramedia Peramedia - Day 1: Grassroot Partnership Symposium \(Part 1\)](#)
- [Peramedia Peramedia - Day 1: Grassroot Partnership Symposium \(Part 2\)](#)
- [Peramedia Peramedia - Day 2: Global Breadfruit Summit](#)
- [Peramedia Peramedia - Day 3: Pacific Agriculture Solutions Summit \(Part 1\)](#)
- [Peramedia Peramedia - Day 3: Pacific Agriculture Solutions Summit \(Part 2\)](#)
- [Peramedia Peramedia - Day 3: Pacific Agriculture Solutions Summit \(Part 3\)](#)

- [Moments in Time - Day 4: Farmer to Farmer Exchange \(Site 1\)](#)
- [Moments in Time - Day 4: Farmer to Farmer Exchange \(Site 2\)](#)
- [Moments in Time - Day 4: Farmer to Farmer Exchange \(Site 3\)](#)



## APPENDIX 2: PARTICIPANTS LIST

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	Julia	Ávila	javila@ntbg.org	Female	Hawai'i
	Kaitu	Erasito	erasito.k@gmail.com	Male	Hawai'i
	Noel	Dickinson	ndickinson@ntbg.org	Male	Hawai'i
	Tadia	Rice	tadiarice@gmail.com	Female	Hawai'i
	Karen	Mapusa	karenm@spc.int	Female	Fiji
	Stephen	Hazelman	stephen.hazelman@gmail.com	Male	Fiji
	Koh Ming	Wei	kohmingwei@gmail.com	Male	Hawai'i
	Dennis	Chase	dennis@hiphi.org	Male	Hawai'i
	Apii	Tumutoa	tereapii.tumutoa@cookislands.gov.ck	Male	Cook Islands
	Halatoa	Fua	halatoa.fua@cookislands.gov.ck	Female	Cook Islands
	Phoebe	Smith	ahcrarotonga@dfat.gov.au	Female	Cook Islands
	Repeta	Puna	repeta.puna@cookislands.gov.ck	Female	Cook Islands
	Kelvin	Passfield	k.passfield@tiscookislands.org	Male	Cook Islands
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	Metuisela	Falesiva	metuisiva@gmail.com	Male	Tonga
	Heidi	Bornhorst	heidibornhorst@gmail.com	Female	Hawai'i
	Ku'uleinani	Maunupau	kuulei@kaehu.org	Female	Hawai'i

	Dr Wayne	Wells	wayne@hitmethods.com	Male	Hawai'i
	Frankie	Reed	reedfrankie777@gmail.com	Male	Fiji
	Leon	Siu	leonhits@gmail.com	Male	Hawai'i
	Kiri	Stevens	Tiraa.Cryer@mfat.govt.nz	Male	Cook Islands
	Candra	Samekto	c.samekto@ifad.org	Male	Fiji
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	Mara Hosoda	Su'a	HosodaMK@state.gov	Female	New Zealand
	Phil	Mckenna		Male	New Zealand
	Chris	Allison		Male	New Zealand
	Kira	Starks		Female	New Zealand
	Karin	Bolczyk	karin@tissuegrown.com	Female	U.S.; California
	April	Minnich	april@nativeconservancy.org	Female	U.S.; Alaska
	Dune	Lankard	dune@nativeconservancy.org	Male	U.S.; Alaska
	Ananda Rose	Lankard	amanda@nativeconservancy.org	Female	U.S.; Alaska
	David	Eggleton	daveggleton@gmail.com	Male	New Zealand
	Lydi	Bernal	lydi@hawaii.edu	Female	Hawai'i
	Koa	Eagleton		Female	Hawai'i
	Omar	Micaron	omar@totemicarts.com	Male	Hawai'i
	Chris	Shaeffer	cls@lomikai.com	Male	Hawai'i
	Bronson Kainoa	Azama		Male	Hawai'i
	Kawailola	Burros		Female	Hawai'i
	Barbara	Eden		Female	Hawai'i
	Dr. Aaron J.	Sala		Male	Hawai'i
	Illya	Azaroff		Female	U.S.; New York
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	Geneva	Hildreth		Female	Cook Islands
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	Tessa	Vaetoru	tessa.vaetoru@cookislands.gov.ck	Female	Cook Islands
	Soana	Harris			Hawai'i
	Jordan	Kennedy		Female	Hawai'i
	Jasmine	Stice		Female	Hawai'i
	Jamyang ('Kunkun')	Dolma			Hawai'i
	Dana's Mother			Female	Hawai'i
	Dana's Father				Hawai'i
	Dana Child 1				Hawai'i
	Dana Child 2				Hawai'i
	Pounamu Tipiwai - Chambers			Male	Cook Islands
	Taoro	Brown		Male	Cook Islands
	Maru	Willie		Male	Cook Islands
	Angaroa	Williams		Male	Cook Islands
	Ruta Viani	Tixier		Female	Cook Islands
	Anna	Tixier		Female	Cook Islands
	Terani	Boaza		Female	Cook Islands
	Iona	Taiki		Male	Cook Islands
	John	Tierney		Male	Cook Islands
	Tekura Nancy	Bataillard		Male	Cook Islands
	Luduina	Williams		Female	Cook Islands
	Julie Tarino	Shedden		Female	Cook Islands
	Uritana Mataiapo Teariki	Rongo		Male	Cook Islands
	Apii	Porio		Male	Cook Islands
	Teumere	Tairi		Female	Cook Islands
	Teumere Daughter	Tairi		Female	Cook Islands
	Kun Jawuyand	Dolma		Female	Cook Islands
	Teupoo William	Bates		Male	Cook Islands

	Lydia	Framhein		Female	Cook Islands
	Tamu	Tapaitau		Male	Cook Islands
	Teheva	Viniki		Male	Cook Islands
	Ru	Taimel		Male	Cook Islands
	Rangitava	Taia		Male	Cook Islands
	Puna John	Vano		Male	Cook Islands
	Tizariki	Mataroa		Male	Cook Islands
	Tupe Takau	Short		Male	Cook Islands
	Kopu	Afnuna		Female	Cook Islands
	Danny	Mataroa		Male	Cook Islands
	Dr Tusi				Cook Islands
	Kevin	Iro		Male	Cook Islands
	Rave	Promaki		Male	Cook Islands
	Lotivaka Sir	Teima		Male	Cook Islands
	William	Tutai		Male	Cook Islands
	Frank	Karati		Male	Cook Islands
	Tungane	Williams		Female	Cook Islands
	Princess	Owana		Female	Cook Islands
	Gregory Paul	Wilber		Male	Hawai'i
	Mc	Lyne		Female	Cook Islands
	Christine	McKachine		Female	Cook Islands
	Sam	Napa		Male	Cook Islands
	Irene Ngawaka	Walker		Female	Cook Islands
	Makenmoana	McDonald		Female	Cook Islands
	Michael	Tavzons		Female	Cook Islands
	Bernadette	Teremoana		Female	Cook Islands
	Pa	Ariki		Female	Cook Islands
	Doune	Nga		Female	Cook Islands
	Rose	Benns		Female	Cook Islands
	Rauru	Fai		Male	Cook Islands
	Kiri	Rakau		Female	Cook Islands
	Wayne MD	Wellis		Male	Cook Islands
	Sydney	Fimone		Male	Cook Islands

	Poneke	Loata		Male	Cook Islands
	Ngamau	Tou		Female	Cook Islands
	John	Tierney		Male	Cook Islands
	Mara	Hosodasua		Female	Cook Islands
	Maine	Wichman		Female	Cook Islands
	Pira	Wichman		Male	Cook Islands
	Shirky	Herman		Female	Cook Islands
	Tava	Toeta		Male	Cook Islands
	Shirley	Kauhahao		Female	Cook Islands
	Ramsay	Taum		Male	Cook Islands
	Noel	Dickinson		Male	Cook Islands
	James	Heather		Male	Cook Islands
	Dolma Kunkun	Puem		Female	Cook Islands
	Maria	Sweetman		Female	Cook Islands
	Matairangi	Purea		Male	Cook Islands
	Theresia	Purea		Female	Cook Islands
	Tangi	Tereanii		Female	Cook Islands
	Tuaine	Marste		Female	Cook Islands
	Victor	Mataora		Male	Cook Islands
	Leroy	Harris		Male	Cook Islands
	Moana	Heather		Female	Cook Islands
	Tara	Toeta		Female	Cook Islands
	Tiare	Karafonga		Female	Cook Islands

## APPENDIX 3: STARS OF OCEANIA BIOS

### GLOBAL MOANA MEDIA & TECHNOLOGY AWARD (continued)

#### Chris Shaeffer – Hawai'i

*As Technical Director for Lomikai Media and the Olohana Foundation, Chris is focused on supporting young storytellers who learn and practice the art and science of telling the stories that they feel are important. He feels that everyone has interesting stories and perspectives to share and that everyone should have the opportunity to share and learn from them. As an educator, his goals support a shift in have the mindset towards egalitarian sustainability.*



#### Arthur C. Anthony, CAPT (Ret.), MSC, USN – United States

*As owner of Clearwaters.IT, a service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses firm, Captain Anthony solves integration issues and helps customers obtain maximum value from their enterprise information systems investments. His business provides Network security for the US Air Force Medical sites in Hawai'i and Alaska. He created created the Pacific Joint Information Technology Center, the first joint medical information management and information technology research center for the Department of Defense and Veterans Health Affairs.*

#### Philippe Lemonnier – Tahiti

*Philippe is the founder and CEO of Pacific Ventury Corporation, a Tahiti-based company dedicated to helping individuals and organisations better understand the world, humanity and tomorrow. He also presently serves as a Senior Leadership Education and Development Specialist for the East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawai'i. He works with various organizations in French Polynesia, the Pacific and around the world helping companies and executives develop strategies in an innovative and adaptive way. He is also a mentor for the PRISM Incubator in Tahiti, sits on the board of directors of FrenchTech Polynesia and is a member of the Franco-New Zealand chamber of commerce.*



### GLOBAL MOANA CULINARY, FOOD PROCESSING & MANUFACTURING AWARD



#### Dr. Richard Beyer – Great Britain/Fiji

*Dr. Beyer is a prominent food technologist in the Pacific and is considered a world leader in food preservation. He is the author of over 15 commissioned reports relating to income generation and food security for the Pacific region. He recently completed a textbook relating to the preservation and processing of root crops, bananas, plantain, and breadfruit which was commissioned by the Food and Agriculture Organization. Until August 2009 he was acting Permanent Secretary of Agriculture of the Fiji Ministry of Agriculture. During that time Dr. Beyer initiated the redevelopment of the sluggish agriculture sector to become more private-sector focused and streamlined.*

## GLOBAL MOANA ARTS, LITERATURE & MUSIC AWARD

### David Eggleton – New Zealand/Aotearoa



*Recipient the Prime Minister's Award for Literary Achievement in poetry, New Zealand Poet Laureate, Robert Burns Fellowship, London Time Out's Street Poet of the Year, and Janet Frame Literary Trust Award for Poetry. David is also an art critic who writes extensively about Pacific art and music. From Rotuman, Tongan and European/Pakeha ancestry, David was raised in Auckland and Fiji. As well as his poetry, he writes extensively on New Zealand art and music, edits New Zealand's pre-eminent literary journal, Landfall. He is an acclaimed literary reviewer and is a six-time recipient of New Zealand's Reviewer of the Year. David's Pacific heritage and passion for poetry performance result in poems which have a strong oral and rhythmic quality.*

## GLOBAL MOANA EDUCATION LEADERSHIP AWARDS

### Dr. Ming Wei – Hawai'i



*Dr. Ming Wei is a researcher, educational consultant, curriculum developer, māmaki farmer, and distiller as well as an "intellectual farmer" who has insatiable curiosity. Her research includes how the school learning garden experience can be used to teach core subjects, STEM, and foundational life skills, and she has created the Pedagogy of Food to frame the kind of education she believes in and shares. She is widely traveled and interested in how different cultures and indigenous communities work with nature to resolve ecological and social challenges through community partnerships, agriculture, food, music and art, and place-based education.*

## GLOBAL MOANA HUMANITARIAN, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, RESILIENT & DESIGN AWARD

### Illya Azaroff – United States



*This noted COP28 Delegate, AIA National Board Member-at-Large, and Professor at New York City College of Technology is also a founding Partner at +LAB Architect PLLC where he engages in transformative work within various communities from New York City to Dominica and Hawai'i. He is also a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and has designed the first-ever resiliency hub in the Pacific, located in Hau'ula, Oahu. Illya is renowned for his leadership in disaster mitigation, adaptation, regenerative design, and resilience planning. Among his extensive achievements he is the Recipient of the 2022 Collaborative Achievement Award.*



## GLOBAL MOANA HEALTH & MEDICAL SERVICE AWARD

### **Lt. Colonel Kinsey McFadden (Ret.) – Hawai'i**

*Lt. Colonel McFadden is a retired Medical Service Army Lieutenant Colonel with 37 years of combined service in the United States Army and Air Force with more than 20 years in executive level management. He is highly skilled in disaster management, emergency operations and procedures, and has. Served in numerous international positions throughout Africa and the Pacific. He is an expert on international medical affairs, disaster management and vector diseases throughout the Pacific, Asia and Africa regions. As founder and CEO of Global Health Consultant Services, his company specializes in administrative support for disabled Veterans.*



### **Dr. Wayne D. Wells – United States**

*Dr. Wells (CHCQM-PHYSADV, CM) has been leading the global health responses to major pandemic outbreaks globally in support of indigenous populations that are underserved throughout Africa, the Asia-Pacific Islands and the United States. In 2019 he conducted a free Health Fair Clinic in the village of Lefaga, Samoa, and provided critical "One Health" training in West Africa supporting the Post Ebola preparedness and response strategy planning to over 15 countries.*

## GLOBAL MOANA AGRICULTURE & COMMUNITY-BASED DEVELOPMENT AWARD

### **Karen Mapusua – Suva**

*Karen is the first woman Director of the Land Resources Division of the Pacific Community based in Suva. The Land Resources Division provides technical and scientific support to 22 Pacific countries and territories on all aspects of agriculture and forestry from genetic resources to markets. She co-founded the Pacific Organic & Ethical Trade Community, serving as coordinator for five years while extensively involved in developing the Pacific Organic Standard and Guarantee Scheme where she empowered farmers with alternative forms of certification. She has worked in rural development in the Pacific Region for 25 years with a focus on organic agriculture as a path to social and economic development. She is President of IFOAM Organics International and has previously served on the Board of Directors of Fairtrade Australia New Zealand.*



### **Joanico Ximenes – Timor-Leste**

*As President of the Asosiasaun Nasional Produtor Fini Komersial (ANAPROFIKO), Joanico leadership has resulted in the organization being officially registered in 2015 under the Timor-Leste Ministry of Justice. ANAPROFIKO is a vital conduit for advocating the interests of commercial seed producers while expanding the commercial seed trade. Joanico's strategic guidance has led ANAPROFIKO to cultivate a robust partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Under his leadership the organization has facilitated the reduction of seed imports, steering the nation toward self-reliance in commercial seeds for major food crops.*

**GLOBAL MOANA AGRICULTURE  
& COMMUNITY-BASED DEVELOPMENT AWARD (continued)**

**Ku‘uleinani Maunupau – Hawai‘i**

*Director of Sustainable Planning at KA‘EHU, a nonprofit organization that manages a 64-acres of coastal wetlands whose work includes long-term resiliency, strategic Planning and natural resource management while coordinating with youth and community programs that perpetuate Hawaiian culture and Ahupua‘a traditional farming and fishing practices of regeneration with aloha.*



**Emihner Johnson – Federated States of Micronesia**



*This dedicated leader is at the helm of the Island Food Community of Pohnpei, a local nonprofit organization that was awarded the Healthy Islands Recognition Best Practice by the World Health Organization in 2013. Emihner has been committed to fostering a healthier diet for Pohnpei using local foods that historically shielded islanders against nutritional challenges of disease. She identified the unique Karat bananas, a traditional infant food that contained a wealth of beta-carotene - a precursor to essential Vitamin A. The Island Food Community organization was conceived in 2004 through the collaborative efforts of visionary minds: Lois Englberger, a prominent American nutritionist, and Adelino Lorens, a respected figure as Pohnpei State Agriculture Chief. Together, they set the foundation for a transformative movement that would harmonize tradition and innovation.*

**GLOBAL MOANA CULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY,  
PRACTICE & LEADERSHIP AWARD**

**Mitaera Ngatae Teatuakaro Michael Tavioni – Cook Islands**

*This highly revered recipient of the British Empire Medal for services to the arts is considered “Taonga” (a treasured possession). His craft includes printing, painting, woodwork, stonework, bone carving, and traditional tattooing. He is a master canoe carver with influence that resonates across the Pacific, stretching from New Zealand to Hawai‘i. His legacy continues as he nurtures emerging talent through traditional life skills, his indigenous knowledge school, and art gallery in Rarotonga. There he imparts the art of traditional vaka-making. His impactful journey was captured in the 2021 documentary “Taonga: An Artist’s Activist.”*



**Dr. Aaron Salā – Hawai‘i/American Samoa**



*As Festival Director for the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture event that take place in 2024, he is also the Founder and CEO of Gravitas Pasifika, a firm intent on harnessing the power of creative storytelling to advance Native Hawaiian and Pasifika worldviews through the exploration and integration of creativity in production. He is also founder of The Native Imaginative, a nonprofit committed to the elevating Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities.*

## GLOBAL MOANA ENTERPRISE AND DEVELOPMENT AWARD

### Murray Clay – Hawai'i

*Murray is President, Ulupono Initiative in Honolulu where he oversees and manages all aspects of renewable energy projects in Hawai'i that are models of balance and mutual benefit for the planet and humanity. He weaves capital investments with social outreach that conveys indigenous wisdom and modern science to inspire catalytic change for Hawai'i.*



## PAPAHANAUMOKU GLOBAL MOANA AWARD RECOGNIZING NATURAL KIN, ANCESTRAL SPIRITS, MANA ALOHA AND HEALING

### Yellow Cedar Tree – 10<sup>th</sup> Log



*Represented by **Dune Lankard**, Native Eyak of the Eagle Clan whose homeland for the last 3,500 years is located within the Chugach National Forest range on the coast of Prince William Sound in Cordova, Alaska. He was named "Hero of the Planet" by Time Magazine in 1998 and graced the cover of as one of the "50 Heroes of the World." Dune is a tribal leader and committed conservationist. As Chair and Founder of his grassroots and statewide organization, the NATIVE Conservancy Land Trust, he has successfully campaigned to prevent resource-extraction roadways across the Copper River Delta. His organization has helped preserve 765,000 acres of wild salmon habitat in the Exxon Valdez oil-spill zone. Dune's achievements span far and wide, winning 33 of the 35 legal battles to protect the environment by lending his voice and unwavering presence for an entity unable to do so for itself.*

### Redwood Tree, Whale Carved From 2,000 Redwood

*Represented by **Victor Bjelajic**, Superintendent of the California State Parks North Coast Redwoods District since 2007. His collaborative work with resources, people and programs began in 2008 and includes work with local tribes, federal, state and local agencies as well as non-profit organizations. Victor has been involved with the development of One Tam, Redwoods Rising, and California Landscape Stewardship Network, and is a member of California Natural Resource Agencies Environmental Justice Quarterly Roundtable. Victor is a Registered Professional Archaeologist and received the Leadership and Vision Award for his work on the North Coast of California.*



### Ma'afala Ulu, Tree of Samoa



*Represented by **His Excellency Afioga Afamasaga Fa'amatala Toleafoa**, Samoan High Commissioner to New Zealand. He is founding chairman of the Samoa Farmer Organization and of the Pacific Islands Farmers Organization Network.*

**PAPAHANAUMOKU GLOBAL MOANA AWARD RECOGNIZING  
NATURAL KIN, ANCESTRAL SPIRITS, MANA ALOHA AND HEALING (Continued)**

**Indigenous Health and Spirituality**

Represented by **Barbara Rose Eden**, holistic and integrative health practitioner of Energy Medicine with a Masters in Intuition Medicine. With 26 years of study in Eastern and Western modalities, Barbara's greatest passion is supporting communities and individuals with a return to health of mind and body through intuitive intelligence and indigenous nature-based technologies. She works with children and adults and leads international retreats, and workshops throughout North and South America, Europe, and Asia for integrative health, meditation practice, nutrition, spiritual pilgrimages, art exhibitions, educational programmes, and music festivals.. These events focus on building a more resilient, compassionate, and regenerative society. Barbara is building an international healing center on the Island of Hawai'i where she resides and works alongside other notable Polynesian teachers.



**GLOBAL MOANA YOUTH LEADERSHIP & ORGANIZATION AWARD**

**Ananda Rose Lankard – Eyak Tribe of Alaska**



Guided by elders, Ananda filed her first lawsuit against the federal government over climate change when she was one year old. She is the daughter of Dune Lankard, and a promising young dog team musher who gained attention with 16 Alaska youths who courageously took a stand against climate change impact. In 2017 they filed a lawsuit against the State of Alaska, arguing that human-caused greenhouse gas emissions were endangering their health and violating their constitutional rights. Although the lawsuit was ultimately dismissed in 2022, Ananda's determination and commitment to addressing the effects of climate change have made her a notable advocate for a more sustainable future.

**Bronson Kainoa Azama – Hawai'i**

Bronson is an 'ōpio and Aloha 'Āina advocate. He is President of the Jr. Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, Chair of the Honolulu Youth Commission, member of the international youth group "Heirs 2 Our Oceans," and former State President of Hawai'i Future Farmers of America Association. He hopes to inspire others to live a life that benefits Nā mamo ā pau loa.



**Kawaiola Burros – Hawai'i**

Kawaiola is an 18-year-old high school student in Hawai'i who is active in youth culture, indigenous media, and a Moana Aloha advocate. An aspiring artist, storyteller and filmmaker, he has chosen to navigate injustices with Aloha. He focuses on navigating the best course forward in community. He says, "The past should always have a voice, but never a vote."



## STARS OF OCEANIA MAHALO AWARD

### **Ambassador Frankie Annette Reed (Ret.) – Hawai'i**

*Ambassador Frankie Annette Reed (Ret.) is a career member of the U.S. Foreign Service. She is currently serving as the first-ever U.S. Envoy to the Pacific Islands Forum. Her varied overseas assignments have taken her around the world. She recently returned from an assignment as Consul General in Melbourne, Australia, preceded by three years as Ambassador to Fiji. Ambassador Reed began her Foreign Service career in Yaounde, Cameroon, followed by tours in Nairobi, Kenya, and Senegal. She has also served in Apia, Samoa as Deputy Chief of Mission. Returning to Africa she was Deputy Chief of Mission in Conakry, Guinea, and then accepted an assignment as Consul General in Strasbourg, France. Her responsibilities have also included Deputy U.S. Observer to the Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights. After serving as a Senior Advisor in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, in the Department of State, Ambassador Reed retired to Hawai'i. She remains a member of the Samoan Women's Association, the Kenyan Association of Women Lawyers, and the U.S. based Corporate Counsels Women of Color. An early advocate of environmental education, she works with a group of meteorologists on a Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems Project in the Northern Pacific Islands. Ambassador Reed continues to mentor youth interested in legal and international careers with a focus on underrepresented groups, notably women and minorities. She is renowned for her respect and honor of political, traditional, and indigenous leaders in Oceania and international assignments. Her quality to understand the social and cultural weave of traditional wisdom, culture, and spirituality with modern science, technology and geo-political engagement that amplifies balance and harmony shines brightly.*



### **CLOSING KEYNOTE**

#### **His Excellency the Honorable Afamasaga Fa'amatala Toleafoa – Samoa**



*This respected son of Samoa has been a career diplomat starting as First Secretary in 1976 when Samoa's first diplomatic mission was opened in Wellington, New Zealand. He later served as Samoa's Consul General in Auckland followed by several years as Samoa's Ambassador to the European Union (EU) with accreditation to several European countries including the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Sweden and Italy. He returned to Samoa in 1997 to serve five terms in Parliament before being appointed a member of Samoa's newly founded Remuneration Tribunal. He served in that role for 17 years until his present appointment to Wellington as Samoa's High Commissioner to Aotearoa New Zealand. He is a founding member and Chairman of the Pacific Islands Farmers Organisation Network (PIFON), and a 2022 Star of Oceania award recipient.*

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

### **RECEPTION**