

# Understanding School Food Provision in the Pacific

## REGIONAL SUMMARY

This project sought to identify current school food provision (SFP) activities in Pacific Islands countries, with a focus on the enabling policy environment and institutional and farmer capacity to better support the integration of local agriculture. The key findings below were identified from scoping the literature, key informant interviews and online surveys. This factsheet provides a snapshot of information gathered, recognising that not all activities may have been able to be identified within this process.













### SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMS

The provision of school meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner and/or snacks) to students at school, or as take-home rations. They can vary from national school feeding programs (SFP) to individual school initiatives.

### 22 SFPs identified

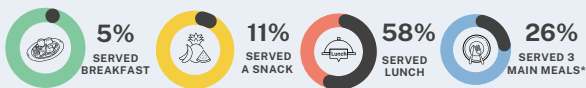
16 are known to be ongoing. This included 17 day schools and 5 boarding schools

### CURRENT SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMS IDENTIFIED

	Federated States of Micronesia	2		Kiribati	1		Palau	1
	Fiji	2		Marshall Islands	1		Solomon Islands	1
	French Polynesia	1		Nauru	1		Timor Leste	1
	Guam	1		New Caledonia	2		Vanuatu	2

\*Federated States of Micronesia (Pohnpei), French Polynesia, Guam Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Palau and Timor Leste all have national SFPs

### TYPE OF MEALS PROVIDED



\*3 main meals was provided at boarding schools only

### INTEGRATION OF LOCAL FOODS

- 8 SFPs had a requirement to include local foods
- This varied across programs and was context dependent
- Including a range of 1 local food included at each main meal, up to 75% of foods sourced locally

### SCHOOL FEEDING POLICY

- 6 SFPs had a policy or law guiding the inclusion of local foods
- The scale of the policy varied, from regional to national



For more information on the findings from this project, please see the School Food Activity Database at [www.pacificschoolfoodnetwork.org](http://www.pacificschoolfoodnetwork.org) or scan the QR code.



**Pacific School Food Network**

## SCHOOL GARDEN PROGRAMS

School program or activity that involves development and use of school gardens (SGP). This could be for educational purposes, income revenue or to supplement school food provision



11 SGPs Identified

7 are known to be ongoing

## CURRENT SCHOOL GARDEN PROGRAMS IDENTIFIED



Cook Islands

1



Fiji

2



Commonwealth of Northern Marianas

1



Federated States of Micronesia

1



Marshall Islands

1



Papua New Guinea

1

## 3 MAIN USES OF SCHOOL GARDENS



1 Education

2 Consumption\*

3 Generate Income

\*produce was provided to students, teachers, families to take home, used in cooking classes or to supplement the school feeding program



### CURRICULUM

3 programs were embedded into curriculum



### LOCAL FARMER INVOLVEMENT

5 programs involved local farmers



### FOCUS ON LOCAL FOODS

7 programs had a focus on local foods in gardens

## LOCAL FARMERS WERE INVOLVED IN 2 MAIN WAYS

1 Guest visit to schools, providing education to students

2 Educational school excursion to local farms

## SCHOOL FOOD PROVISION LESSONS LEARNED

### CHALLENGES

Common challenges to include local food in school food provision activities included:



- Environmental conditions
- Reliability of local food supply



- Funding and finance
- Governance and policy



- Food culture, perceptions and preferences



- Staff capacity and leadership for programs



- Food processing and storage/power facilities

### OPPORTUNITIES

Despite the challenges there are clear opportunities to move forward. These included:



- Share learnings from neighboring countries



- Utilise different gardening technologies



- Broaden local purchasing options



- Collaborate with traditional leaders, farmers and schools



- Supporting policy

- Diversify funding

- Upskill staff