

Impacts of Covid-19 on agriculture and food systems in Pacific Islands: Evidence from communities in Fiji and Solomon Islands



Iese, V., Wairiu, M., Hickey, G.M., Ugalde, D., Salili, D., Walenenea, J., Tabe, T., Keremama, M., Teva, C., Navunicagi, O., Fesaitu, J., Tigona, R., Krishna, D., Sachan, H., Unwin, N., Guell, C., Haynes, E., Veisa, F., Vaike, L., Bird, Z., Ha'apio, M., Roko, N., Patolo, S., Dean, A.R., Kiran, S., Tikai, P., Tuiloma, J., Halavatau, S., Francis, J.

Links

- <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308521X21000524>
- <https://pace.usp.ac.fj/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/CTA-2020-Fiji-Final.pdf>
- <https://pace.usp.ac.fj/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/CTA-2020-Solomon-Islands-Final.pdf>

Impacts of COVID-19 Mitigation Measures

Positive

- Increased labour availability in rural areas
- **De-urbanisation**



Negative

- Decreased tourist arrivals
- Decreased demand for high-value products
- Decreased purchasing power
- Decreased markets for farmers
- Decreased agricultural production
- Decreased food availability and accessibility
- Decreased nutritional diversity for households
- Increased theft of agricultural produce
- **Increased hardships at household level**

Impacts of COVID-19 Interventions

Positive

- Increased home gardening
- Increased production of food
- Increase in farm sizes
- More farmers in rural areas
- Shift to traditional food systems
- Increased cultural safety nets
- **Strengthened traditional food systems and culture of resilience**

Negative

- Intervention measures lack consideration of future climate and social challenges
- **Decline in diversity of foods grown and consumed at the household level**

Research is critical to understand food systems and achieving food security

Food security is a complex system

- Must address using the system and holistic approach – local context
- Must be understood and applied at household level – every household is unique
- Research/knowledge is needed, it is not easy, but we can do it.
- USP campus and researchers in every PIC - localisation
- To understand issues – we research the components
- To solve issues – we bring the components and knowledge back together

Beautiful chaos strategy!!!



The WHOLE is More than the sum of its parts – Aristotle

We need Strategic Partnerships

Vinaka Vakalevu



Kastom Garden Association
food futures and nutritional health for Solomon Island communities



KGA staff who helped out with data collection, namely Pita Tikai, Esther Lodu, Thecla Vapusy and Landrington Linga.

Viliamu.iese@usp.ac.fj

1. Ana Ravai
1. Bradley Alungo
1. Davila
Talemaimaleya
1. Jioje Fesaitu
1. Jowalesi Taukei
1. Jyoti Prasad
1. Lutumailagi Loki
1. Malakai Waqa
1. Otto Navunicagi
1. Robson Tigona
1. Roslyn Nand
1. Sairusi Bosenaqali
1. Salote Nasolo
1. Sanita Baleinayawa
1. Sarah Naomi
1. Selai Baleirara
1. Semisi Ketenilagi
1. Sereana Seavula
1. Simione Naivalu
1. Simpson Mewa
1. Tamarisi Koroijiuta
1. Tevita Rarokolutu
1. Teyoung
Mafutamao
1. Timoci Koliavu
1. Ulita Moce
1. Vika Kalokalo

Future leaders!!!
Including graduate students as partners