



## Ministry of Agriculture GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS

P.O. Box 96, Rarotonga, Cook Islands Phone: +682-28711 Fax: +682-21881 Email [temarama.anguna@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:temarama.anguna@cookislands.gov.ck)

### **COVID-19 AGRICULTURE SECTOR RESPONSE PACKAGE 2020 UPDATE**

#### **BACKGROUND**

COVID-19 has placed the Cook Islands in “unprecedented times”. To sustain the agriculture sector and maintain food security for the people living in the Cook Islands, an Agriculture sector response package was formulated and approved by Government.

#### **DEVELOPMENTS**

The Agriculture sector response package was launched by our Prime Minister on the 12 April 2020.

As of 04 May 2020, the Ministry had distributed free seedlings of the following short-term crops: beans (dwarf and snake), chinese cabbage, tsoi sum (chinese green), eggplant and sweet corn.

<b>Crops</b>	<b>Total number of seedlings distributed</b>
Beans	1,640
Chinese cabbage	3,948
Tsoi sum	3,312
Eggplants	504
Sweet corn	2,460

394 households received seedlings and 32 households received seeds.

The Ministry also assisted the Fijian community in Tupapa, the Nikao Puna, Corrective Services, Nautilus Hotel and Club Raro with seedlings.

All seeds and seedlings have been distributed from the Ministry nursery. The seedlings are propagated weekly and available to the public from 8am-12noon Monday to Wednesday, on a first come, first served basis. Details of all clients (including new home gardeners) are recorded for follow-up visits, which are carried out by nursery staff on Thursday and Friday. During the monitoring visits, gardens are inspected and advice given of good agriculture practices.

Seeds were also distributed to all Pa Enea and their support requested to undertake the same process.

On Rarotonga, 9 semi commercial growers have received tractor service support.

This sector response package of free seedlings and tractor service will end on 30 June 2020.