



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique

6th Pacific Soil Partnership Meeting

21 and 22 August 2024

SUSTAINABLE SOIL MANAGEMENT & SOIL HEALTH COOK ISLANDS



SUSTAINABLE SOIL MANAGEMENT (SSM)

- ❑ FAO project capacity building agriculture staff and farmers in SSM practices
- ❑ Soils low in N and P levels
- ❑ Very low in Organic Carbon <2.5% (according to soil survey in 1980)





DETRIMENTAL PRACTICES

- ❑ Burning/removal of OM on-farm and around the homes
- ❑ Deep tillage and spraying of grass strips on farmlands
- ❑ Use of plastic mulch
- ❑ Removal of grass strips and trees along streams
- ❑ Reclaiming wetland areas
- ❑ Development on steep slopes







PROTECTING SOIL RESOURCES

- ❑ Education and Awareness
(Schools, Farmers, Community, Public/Private Agencies)
- ❑ Land Use Policy
- ❑ Better collaboration between stakeholders
- ❑ Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management



INTEGRATED SOIL NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

- ❑ **GREEN MANURE** – *Mucuna puriens* (velvet bean); Cowpea *Vigna unguiculata*; Pigeon pea *Cajanus cajan*
- ❑ **SEAWEED**
- ❑ CHICKEN MANURE
- ❑ AGROFORESTRY/N-FIXING TREES – *Gliricidia sepium*
- ❑ LIME
- ❑ **ORGANIC MATTER**





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Thank you

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