



COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA – FSM BOARD OF REGENTS

MEETING REPORTS

Background

(Summarize the pertinent information for the matters or issues in the report to provide context; for each matter or issue, provide a new paragraph; recommend that these are kept 'to the point').

Cooperative Research and Extension
February – April, 2023

Summary

Matter/Issue	Relevant date(s)	Outcome/Expected outcome	Supporting documents (include as appendices and itemize clearly in this column)
Review of COM Land Central Office Operations	January 30 – February 10, 2023	Assisted VPCRE from PCC and CMI conduct a review of the functions, operations, and programs at the Land Grant Central Office to help the CRE components of the three partner colleges better align their needs for improved support and collaboration	See Appendix 1
Extension of the COM Land Grant Treaty	February 13-17, 2023	During the Micronesian Islands Forum, the three Micronesian countries Presidents (Palau, FSM, and Marshall Islands) agree to extend the Treaty for the College of Micronesia Land Grant	See Appendix 2

¹FSM Association of Chief State School Officers

²Skills and Employability Enhancement Project (World Bank funded)

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<p>Meetings</p>	<p>February 07-March 03, 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collaboration on the CRE component of the Green Climate Fund/Micronesia Conservation Trust project “SAP020: Climate resilient food security for farming households across the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MCT Task Manager – February 07, 2023 ○ Pohnpei State R&D Director – February 20, 2023 ○ Yap State R&D Director - March 03, 2023 	<p>Appendix 3</p>
<p>Staffs to meet program needs – in progress</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Updated the Organizational chart for CRE ● Completed requests for recruiting additional 4 agriculture extension agents, 4 aquaculture extension agents, and 4 aquaculture researchers for the four state CRE sites. 	<p>Appendix 4</p>

<p>On-going COM Land Grant USDA-NIFA Approved programs and activities</p>	<p>October 01, 2022 – February 28, 2023</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of Local Food Production and Food Insecurity <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Crop Production - 745 client contacts b. Swine Production - 360 client contacts 2. Sustainable Aquaculture Development – 503 client contacts 3. Youth and Family Issues in the communities – 1806 client contacts 4. Climate Change Challenges in Micronesia – 1114 client contacts 5. High Incidence of Food and Water-Borne Illnesses -600 client contacts 6. Childhood Obesity – 1098 client contacts <p><i>Note: all programs have exceeded their targets, based on the 2019 USDA approved Plan of Work. Changes will be made in June, 2023 to increase target levels.</i></p>	<p>Appendix 5</p>
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APPENDIX 1 . Schedule for review of COM Land Grant Central Office by the three college’s CRE offices

	TRANSITION A C T I V I T Y	DATE	DAY	T I M E		VENUE	PARTICIPANTS
				Fr	To		
1	Initial On site Meeting	30-Jan	Mon	9:00 AM	12:00 PM	TBA	Management Team
2	Initial Meeting w/ Central Office - Informational Session	31-Jan	Tue	2:00 PM	4pm	Central Offi	Management team & Central Off
3	Meeting 1 - NIFA contact review (website and conference) Structure	1-Feb	Wed	1:30 PM	5:00 PM	Central Off	Management team & Singeru & Ric
	Meeting 2 - NIFA program access, Reporting, Treaty Negotiations	2-Feb	Thurs	2:00 PM	5:00 PM	Central Off	Management team & Singeru & Ric
5	Meeting 3 - Finance						
	Meeting 4 - NIFA program access, Access, Reporting, Endowment Fund	3-Feb	Fri	1:30 PM	5:00 PM	Central Off	Management team, Singeru & Ric
6	Zoom Board Meeting	6-Feb	Mon	12 pm, 2 pm, 3 pm PCC FSM RMI		Virtual	All
7	Meeting 4 - NIFA Reporting (delayed), Letter Development for Treaty Renewal	7-Feb	Tue	1:30 PM	5:00 PM	Central Off	Management team & Muru (absent) & Ric
8	Meeting 5 - NIFA Reporting continue	8-Feb	Wed	1:00 PM	3:00 PM		Management team, ED, Ric, Muru (absent)
	Meeting 6 - Central Office Projects			3:00 PM	4:00 PM	Central Off	Management team & Engly
9	Meeting 7 - Central Office Projects			4:00 PM	5:00 PM	Central Off	Management team & Dr. Manoj
	Meeting 8 - EFNEP Program	9-Feb	Thurs	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	Central Off	Management team & Margaret
10	- Rules & Activities			2:00 PM	3:00 PM	Central Off	Management team & Araline
	- Rules & Activities			3:00 PM	4:00 PM	Central Off	Management team & Grace
11	Meeting 9 - Report Development	10-Feb	Fri	8:30 AM	11:00 PM	Central Off	Management team
	- Site Visits			11:00 AM	12:00 PM	Central Off	Ric
				2:00 PM	4:00 PM	Hydroponic Pepper Farm	
12	Special Board Meeting	13-Feb	Mon	3:00 PM	5:00 PM	COM FSM CR	BOR, Presidents, Management team
13	Regular Board Meeting	14-Feb	Tue	9:00 AM	5:00 PM	COM FSM CR	BOR, Presidents, Management team

Appendix 2. Pages 11 and 12 of the 25th Micronesian Island Forum (MIF) referencing the extension of COM Land Grant Treaty

25TH MICRONESIAN ISLANDS FORUM
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA
FEBRUARY 13 -17, 2023



III. OTHER MATTERS

12. Report of the MIFS

The Micronesia Islands Forum Secretariat presented its Annual Report, the first since the 24th Annual Meeting held in Chuuk in 2019. The Report reflected the lack of regional activity due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Office in Palau continued to be staffed by the Administrative Officer. The Office also included the Regional Coordinator for the Regional Invasive Species Committee until the contract expired. The contract was not renewed due to funding limitations and the lack of authority from Leaders to extend.

The MIFS Designated Representatives met in September of 2022 for the first time since 2019 in order to prepare for the 25th MIF Annual Meeting.

The Secretariat reported on the financial status of the MIFS and indicated that the current fund balance housed in the Palau Treasury was \$161,774. The Secretariat also reported that it has prepared a communication to the Republic of China, Taiwan requesting the transfer of the 2nd Tranche of the 2nd Taiwan grant totaling \$200,000

The Designated Representatives agreed to recommend requesting a third grant from Taiwan and to also seek comparable funding from other regional and international partners. A committee was established to move these requests forward.

Leaders re-affirmed their prior commitment to hire a professional Secretary General and appropriate staff to expand the capacity of the MIFS and to better follow-up and implement the Leaders agenda. Leaders also confirmed their commitment to identify long-term funding opportunities from Partners.

13. Land Grant Treaty

The following is the proposed language for the College of Micronesia Treaty Extension to 2033.

College of Micronesia's (COM) Land Grant Status is provided for in the Compact of each FAS entity with the U.S. COM Land Grant federal programs are operated thru the "Treaty Among the Governments of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated State of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau Regarding College of Micronesia". The Treaty was first executed in September 1987, amended in May 1989, extended in August 1991, amended again in July 1992. In December 1992, the Treaty was further revised and set to expire in September 2001 but was renewed in 2004, 2009, 2011, with the last extension in 2013 expiring September 30, 2023.

25TH MICRONESIAN ISLANDS FORUM

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA
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The Presidents of the FSM, Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands agreed, subject to legislative approval, to renew the Treaty for (10) years until September 30, 2033, as recommended by the governments' representative to the COM Board of Regents. This long-term extension does not preclude the three signatory governments from calling for renegotiation of any provision of said Treaty at any time between now and 2033.

14. Pacific Islands Development Bank

The Pacific Islands Development Bank made a presentation to the Leaders, providing a brief history of the Bank, that has now been in existence for 34 years. Over these years, over \$30 million has been loaned to Micronesian enterprises. After difficult years during the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in high default rates, the bank has stabilized and achieved modest revenues. In this post-pandemic period, new capitalization has been realized. To date, capital contributions from shareholders have totaled over \$14 million. The bank continues to leverage other sources of funding from regional and international sources. The Bank emphasized that it seeks to supplement, not supplant existing development banks in the region.

15. Local 2030 Network and Guam Green Growth

A presentation was given by the University of Guam *Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant* regarding *Local 2030 Network and Guam Green Growth*. Referencing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and the Local 2030 Islands Network, local, public and private partnerships were emphasized to meet the 17 sustainability development goals and practical Action Items of Island Sustainability. Ultimately, concrete actions were emphasized, such as food security efforts, protection of watersheds, workforce development, waste management and island clean-up to establish a new green economy throughout the region. Encouragement was given to all MIF Members to expand cooperation and partnerships to achieve Micronesia's Sustainable Development Goals.

16. Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP)

The Pacific Islands Development Program, located at the East West Center, made a presentation to Leaders regarding its efforts to build capacity and to expand interchange between jurisdictions since 1989. As an East West Center program, the PIDP works to develop a more prosperous Pacific region and to strengthen regionalism. PIDP works closely with the East West Center education and leadership programs to accomplish its goals. The PIDP noted a newly funded program for leadership training.

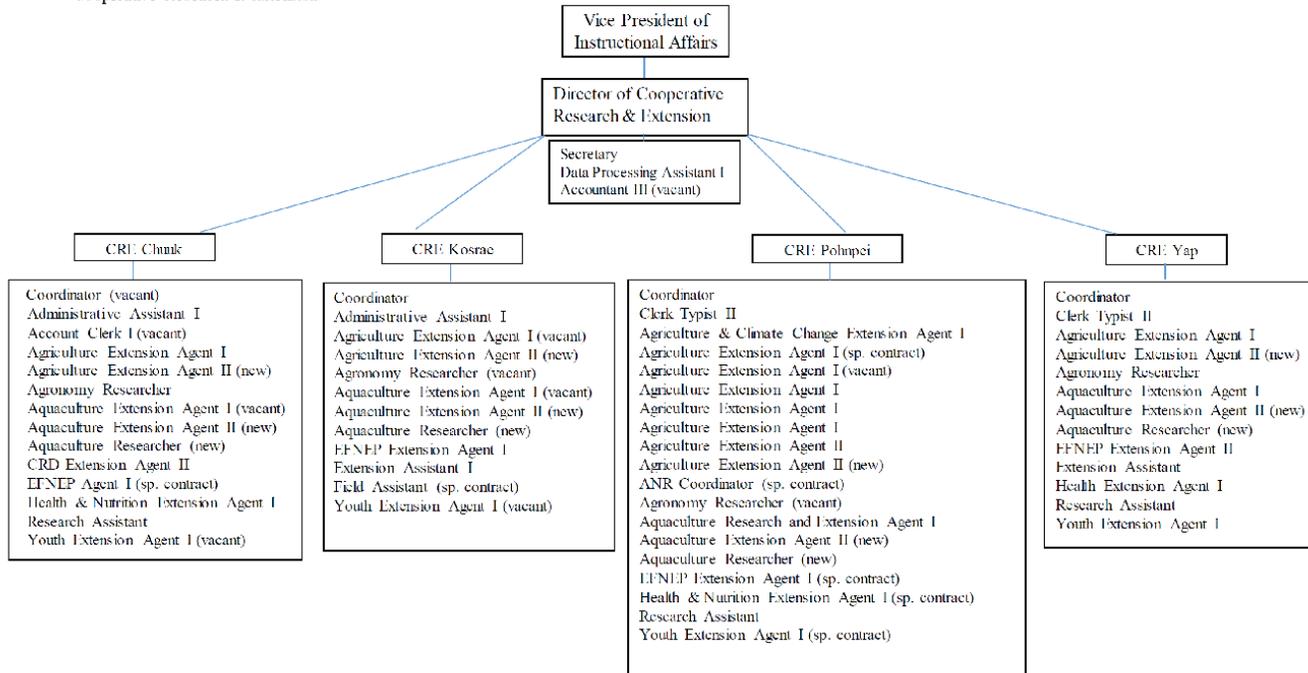
APPENDIX 3. Objectives and Budget for COM-FSM CRE component under the GCF/MCT Project
<https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/climate-resilient-food-security-farming-households-across-federated-states-micronesia-fsm>

	Interventions							
Component 2. Enhance the food security of vulnerable households by introducing climate-smart agriculture practices	<p>2.1 Promote and establish traditional and climate resilient agroforestry systems appropriate for different island systems and to the climate conditions being faced</p> <p>2.2 Build the capacity of FSM households and support channels to utilize climate adaptive farming techniques and effective household nutrition, particularly women-headed households</p> <p>2.3 Development of reserve capacity for overcoming periods of climate disruptions</p>	5,941,400	5,696,400	GrantsGrants	Public Source Public Source	145,000 (MCT); 100,000 (COM-FSM)	GrantsGrants	MCT/COM-FSM

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Appendix 4: Revised draft of the Organizational chart for CRE

Organizational Chart
Cooperative Research & Extension



COM-FSM Cooperative Research and Extension

Highlights

Status of Land Grant Programs & Treaty

In the recent Micronesia Islands Forum (Pohnpei, February 13-17, 2023), the College of Micronesia Land Grant Treaty was agreed upon by the three Presidents of partnered Micronesia countries (Palau, FSM, and Marshall Islands) to extend the Treaty for another 10 years (2023-2033), per subsequent approval from their legislative bodies. The Treaty allows for programs and funding through COM Land Grant to CRE to address critical issues of importance to the Micronesia region including agriculture, aquaculture, and food security, youth development, and nutrition and health.

Here are accomplishment highlights of the various extension (CES) and research (AES) programs at the college that directly impacts our communities and support our collaborating partners and agencies:

1. **Lack of food production and food insecurity:**
 - a. **Crop Production**

In Chuuk, technical assistance was provided to increase knowledge and skills in home gardening and pineapple propagation and production. 168 participants benefited from the program. Staffs participated in the following meetings in Pohnpei:

- February 10-18 25th Micronesia Island Forum & Invasive Committee meeting (Kalvin Assito-C/o COM-FSM Chuuk Campus/CRE)
- February 27-March 2 10th Coalition meeting for the FSM CocoNES (Kalvin Assito-No Cost TA under Vital Co. sponsorship)
- February 20-25-GCF 7 Validation workshop “Securing Climate –resilient Sustainable Land Management and Progress towards Land Degradation Neutrality in the FSM Project” (6 years)- Dr. Lolita N. Ragus (No Cost-TA under UNDP sponsorship)



National Coconut Export Strategy (CocoNes) meeting in Pohnpei, February 27-March 2, 2023.

In Yap, a total of 166 clients (children- 27 males/26 females, youth- 10 males/29 females; adults – 19 males/55 females) were provided technical assistance through hands-on trainings gardening techniques such as transplanting, compose-pile making, preparing seedling and other technical advice. 74 farmers are currently producing vegetables and other crops. One school (Gagil Elementary) and two farmers have consistently been selling their harvest resulting in combined earnings of approximately \$400.00 per month. Other farmers also sell their produce crops but usually consume at home, share with family members and friends.



In Pohnpei, hands-on trainings were provided in home gardening to 180 program participants. The program also focused on promoting the use of compost and 150 participants benefited from the program by learning and applying compost to improve their garden soil conditions. A farmer has started to sell composts on a regular basis to earn extra income.

b. Swine Production

In Yap, 138 swine farmers (children - 18 males/18 females; youth- 12 males and 19 females and adults – 19 females and 41 males) have been provided trainings and hands-on demonstrations in animal husbandry practices including pig castration, care and waste management. Six swine farmers have increased and maintained their number of pigs at 5-8 and a community-based piggery have been established with capacity for 150 pigs. The six swine farmers have earned more than \$1500 combined sales. Participants of the program have benefitted from raising pigs for home consumption and source of protein.



In Pohnpei, the swine program continues to provide technical expertise in artificial insemination to improve local stock, basic medical treatment, and waste management using dry litter system. Regular radio broadcasts and posters promote awareness in best husbandry practices. 98 trainings and hands-on demonstrations on artificial Insemination, swine treatment, castration, and tooth clipping targeted 222 clients (131 youths, 91 adults). Follow ups with 12 farmers showed that they earned \$13,600 US. dollars from selling pigs with estimated total weight of 20,400 lbs. of pork. Pigs were used for special occasions (ex; funeral, birthday party, social gatherings) by the farmers.

2. Sustainable Aquaculture –

a. Giant Clam farming

Technical assistance was provided to a total of 427 new and returning clients, 212 children (101 male and 111 female), 156 youth (57 male and 99 females) and 59 adults (223 males and 36 females). Mostly schools were visited to increase awareness in aquaculture. Community visits were to provide technical assistance and help in monitoring giant clam farms. Fourteen communities have continued to monitor and maintain their giant clam farms for more than 2 years. Here are the results from some of the community farms:

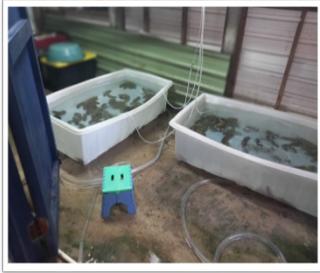
Clam farms:

- Gilfith community increased stock from 7 to 847 pcs. of two species *H. hippopus* and *T. derasa*
- Kanif community maintains a stock of 56 pcs. of *H. hippopus* with average size of 7.5 inches
- Gachpar community has 36 pcs. of *H. hippopus* and *T. derasa*
- Amun community has 66 pcs of. of *H. hippopus* and *T. derasa*
- Yap Fishing Authority (YFA) giant clam facility stock is at 4,636 pcs. (1,026 *T. derasa* and 3,610 *H. hippopus*)
- Giant clams were provided to Chuuk and two demonstration sites were established.



7. Sustainable Aquaculture – sea cucumber farming

In Pohnpei and Yap, staffs continue to carry out spawning and nursery rearing of sea cucumbers juveniles for grow-out farms. Pilot farms have been established in different villages in Yap and Pohnpei, where sandfish sea cucumbers are being grown for research and demonstration purposes. Community and village members have shown high interest in sea cucumber farming and aquaculture through their active participation in maintaining and monitoring the farms. Each farm is visited once a month for counting and measuring the cultured animals.



3. Youth and family issues in the community:

In Chuuk, the program focused on basic counseling and discussions of importance topics and issues facing youths. The program has reached 1,089 participants including 20 sessions conducted for prisoners. A wide variety of topics continues to be discussed in meetings with youth groups including leadership skills, decision-making, family and community relationships, moral values, roles in the family and communities, and drug abuse.

In Yap- Technical assistance was provided to 424 participants (children- 17 males/20 females; youth- 175 males/167 females; adults – 20 males/24 females) to increase awareness in modern and local handicrafts. Hands-on trainings and presentations were provided. Most of the clients were students. A client has started testing the market for best designs and types. She also volunteers her time in teaching other youths handicraft-making.



In Pohnpei, the youth program has focused on leadership, team building, mentoring, and sports or physical activities aimed at students and youths in the communities. Hands-on trainings in vegetable gardening were also conducted at schools and in the communities. The program has supported 256 youth participants. There has been extensive work with the senior class (15 males and 15 females) attending Pohnpei SDA School. Through their appointed class officers - they initiated, planned, and implemented a community trashathon in Madolenihmw. The consensus was that most of the community outreach had been done in the town area -- the students wanted to demonstrate their civic duty on the other end of the island. Through the process, they met with the people of that community and shared why they chose their community. This event gave the group a glimpse of what they learned - as part of a community, sometimes you do things to help others without expecting anything in return. The same youth group also participated in a Red Ribbon Campaign Week Event that focused on the fight against substance abuse. Participants learned about how to find their 'natural high' as well as other methods to cope instead of relying on drugs to deal with personal issues. This is an important issue as FSM Health & Social Affairs have publicly shared the alarming rate in which young people have been vaping and using other illicit drugs.



Pohnpei SDA School -the Senior Class initiated, planned, and implemented a community trashathon in Madolenihmw.

In Kosrae, the programs organized a weaving workshop. The weaving trainings were conducted for six weeks to complete all the planned activities. The completed products were local hats, mats, hand fans, hand bag and handicraft decorations. As result, all participants were very serious and worked together helping each other to complete the planned activities. The completed products are shown below.



4. Water and foodborne illness:

In Yap, 294 participated in the program (40 children, 123 youth and 131 adults) to increase their awareness of issues relating to water and foodborne illnesses.



5. Climate Change Challenges in Micronesia:

In Chuuk, technical assistance and advice was provided for a total of 245 participants through the following activities:

- Chuuk Solid Waste Management Project Led by EPA (October 25, 11 participants, 5 males, 6 females)
- R2R Project Technical Advisory Committee meeting at L5 Hotel (October 18, 10 participants, 6 males, 4 females)
- Climate change Adaptation Legislative Analysis Stakeholder Engagement workshop (November 9, 8 participants, 6 males, 2 females)
- Chuuk Invasive Species Task Force Workshop (Truk Stop Hotel, November 15, 18 participants, 14 males, 4 females)
- Conservation of Plant biodiversity (Logan Memorial Church, November 22, 4 females)
- Consultation for the Design of the National Coconut Export Strategy (CocoNes)(L5 Hotel, November 30-December 1, 18 participants, 15 males, 3 females)
- All Chuuk Campus meeting Health Benefits and Hazards of Kava (January 11, 85 participants, 30 males, 55 females)
- All-Chuuk Campus meeting –Health Benefits and Hazards of Betel leaves and Betel Nut (February 8, 52 participants, 22 males, 30 females)
- GCF 7 Validation workshop (L5 Hotel, 8 participants, 4 males, 4 females)
- UNDP/GEF Validation Workshop on the Securing Climate-Resilient Sustainable Land Management and Progress towards Land Degradation neutrality in the FSM Project (Pohnpei, Palm Island Hotel, February 22-23, 35 participants, 20 males, 15 females)

6. Childhood and Adolescent Obesity:

In Yap, 350 students, community members and parents (children- 117 males/167 females; youth- 1 male/10 females; adults – 17 males/ 38 females) have participated in the program to increase awareness, collect data, and receive technical information about importance of exercise, good nutrition and balanced meal. More public schools on Yap are requesting to be part of the childhood and adolescent obesity program. Last year we visited 5 schools out of the 15 schools on Yap and this year 9 new schools have requested to participate in the program. Last year, there was an increase in 20% normal BMI among clients that we visited and we have started to collect data and increased program activities.



Yap CRE – Agricultural Experiment Station (AES)

- a. Served as one of the Editors for the Journal *Frontiers in Climate*, Special volume "*Climate Risks, Resilience, and Adaptation in Coastal Systems*."

<https://www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/19910/climate-risks-resilience-and-adaptation-in-coastal-systems>

- b. Articles published:

Nagy, G. J., Krishnapillai, M., Saroar, M., & C., I. (2023). Editorial: Climate risks, resilience and adaptation in coastal systems. *Frontiers in Climate*, 4.

<https://doi.org/10.3389/fclim.2022.1090577>

Filho, W. L., Krishnapillai, M., et al. (2023). Climate change extremes and mental health in the Pacific region. *International Journal of Climate Change Strategies and Management*, 15: 20 - 40. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1108/IJCCSM-03-2022-0032>

- c. Participated in the 7th International Conference on Climate Change 2023 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and presented a paper entitled "Climate Change Adaptation Strategies for the Displaced Environmental Migrants in Yap."

Received Overall Best Presenter award.



- d. Assisted the College of Micronesia land grant program in compiling and uploading the FY 2022 Extension Program and Hatch Projects Progress Reports.
- e. Serves as an active volunteer, trainer, and mentor at the Climate Reality Project.

<https://www.climatereality.org.au/climaterealityleaders/category/blue-pacific#filters>