

# Impact



**Sharing the difference CRE makes in people's lives**

## Empowering Communities: Micronesia's Aquaculture Takes Root

*A Micronesian aquaculture program empowers communities to cultivate giant clams and rabbitfish, ensuring food security and economic prosperity.*

### Relevance

Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), a region heavily reliant on marine resources for food and economic security, faces the pressing issue of declining fishery resources. Traditional fishing practices are no longer sustainable and need a new approach. In response, an innovative initiative was launched, focusing on giant clam farming and rabbitfish cage culture. Recognizing the importance of preserving marine ecosystems while meeting the needs of communities, the program aimed to promote sustainable practices and enhance food security through aquaculture technology.

### Response

The program's response was multifaceted, including outreach and training, targeting a broad audience of community members, students, fisher folks, and policy-makers. Outreach events raised awareness and generated interest in sustainable aquaculture. Training sessions provided in-depth knowledge and skills in hatchery,

nursery, and grow-out techniques for giant clams and rabbitfish. Collaboration with government agencies ensured a wider reach and dissemination of information.

### Results

The program demonstrably achieved its goals, fostering a significant shift in communities' approach to seafood production. Outreach events dramatically increased public

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*Inspecting a cage of juvenile clams*

### Public Value Statement

This program empowers Micronesian communities to become stewards of their marine resources. By promoting sustainable aquaculture, the program ensures a reliable food source, protects wild fish stocks, and fosters economic opportunities in coastal areas.

awareness, with 98% of participants reporting a deeper understanding of sustainable aquaculture. Training sessions empowered individuals with practical skills, leading to a 79% adoption rate of giant clam and rabbitfish farming techniques.

This newfound knowledge and skillset translated into real-world action. The number of participants in aquaculture activities doubled, demonstrating a strong community interest. The adoption rate of these practices soared by 107%, signifying a significant shift towards sustainable seafood production. Over 1,000 new clients joined the program seeking to raise clams for conservation, gifting, and consumption, directly contributing to community food security. These results paint a clear picture: Communities are actively embracing sustainable aquaculture as a viable solution for food security and economic development.



Counting clams' eggs to determine fertilization rate

This program serves as a successful model for empowering communities to manage their marine resources sustainably, ensuring food security and economic well-being for the future.

### THE NUMBERS

OVER 2000	Participant Reached: Over 2000 individuals (including 1106 directly through outreach and training)
98%	Knowledge Increase: 98% of outreach participants
79%	Skill Adoption: 79% of training participants
94%	Participation Growth: 94% increase in aquaculture operations
107%	Adoption Rate Increase: 107% increase in aquaculture adoption
OVER 1000	New Clients: Over 1000



COM-FSM President's visit to Yap Fishing Authority clam nursery



A community clam farm on the reef slope towards Goofnuw channel. Clams are purposely kept a depth more than 10 ft. deep at high tide due to shallow reef area (Color enhanced)

The extension programs are available to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, national origin, age, disability, gender, religion, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. For question, contact: Office of the Vice President, Cooperative Research and Extension, College of Micronesia-FSM at: (691) 350 2325.

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**COOPERATIVE RESEARCH  
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