



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Subregional Newsletter
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News from the Pacific

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Word from Gavin Wall



On 20 and 21 February, Tropical Cyclone Winston caused severe damage to agriculture in Fiji. In this edition, we highlight FAO efforts help rebuild lives and livelihoods of the people of Fiji.

The Government of Samoa and FAO officially launched the Household Income and Expenditure Survey. The survey establishes the average diet of Samoan households, and which households are most at risk the effects of poor nutrition.

Finally, we highlight the 33rd session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific which is taking place in Putrajaya, Malaysia on 7-11 March 2016.

Mr. Gavin Wall

FAO Subregional Coordinator for the Pacific Islands

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Fiji: Tropical Cyclone Winston - Situation Report

On 20 and 21 February, Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Winston cut a path of destruction across Fiji, causing widespread damage in all four divisions: Eastern, Northern, Western and Central. With sustained winds of 230 km per hour and gusts of 325 km per hour, the tropical cyclone was one of the most severe to ever hit the South Pacific.



An estimated 350 000 Fijians were affected (roughly 40 percent of the population), including nearly 55 000 who remain in evacuation centres. The Government of Fiji – which promptly declared a State of Natural Disaster – estimates the total damage at USD 500 million.

Click on the button below more on FAO's response to TC Winston.

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Household Income and Expenditure Survey launched in Samoa

The Government of Samoa in partnership with FAO officially launched the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) at the Development Bank of Samoa building in Apia recently. Along with the survey, a FAO report on Dietary patterns of Samoan households was also launched.



These documents were used to provide an overview of average diet of Samoan households, and maps which households are most at risk the effects of poor nutrition. The report on Dietary Patterns identifies the food items contributing to current nutrition outcomes and makes recommendations on dietary requirements in the most cost effective way

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New Food Safety and Nutrition Consultant arrives in Samoa

The FAO Subregional Office of the Pacific Island is pleased to welcome Ms Ann Hayman in her role of Food Safety and Nutrition Consultant in Apia, Samoa.

Ann joins the Subregional Office from New Zealand where she worked for the Ministry for Primary Industries. She has had positions with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, New Zealand Food Safety Authority and Food Standards Australia New Zealand as a manager, senior program manager, specialist adviser and senior nutritionist.



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Gearing up for International Day of Forests

Forests and trees sustain and protect us in invaluable ways. They provide the clean air that we breathe and the water that we drink. They host and safeguard the planet's biodiversity and act as our natural defence against climate change. First observed in 2013, the International Day of Forests (IDF) provides a platform to raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests and of trees outside forests.



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