

ASSESSMENT INITIAL REPORT

A. HISTORY

1. HISTORIC TREND

YEAR/MONTH OF OCCURENCE	EVENT	EFFECT/IMPACT	RESPONSE MEASURE OF COMMUNITY
2014	Typhoon	Destroyed buildings/crops/livestock/coastal areas	Re-building and clean after typhoon
2015	DROUGHT	Destroyed crops/livestock	
NEXT HAZARD	DROUGHT		
Outside Assistance:	Yes. International donors/National Government/US Military. National Government provided RO Units as well to the community during drought.		

2. THEIR OWN EXPERIENCE OF EXPOSURE TO DROUGHT: (THEIR SENSITIVITY (IMPACT) TO THIS EXPOSURE)

From the group discussions between men and women mentioned below are a few points they brought up in their separate groups as the hardship they face when they are hit by a drought.

a. WOMEN & MEN

- Local food crops shrinking, leaves and fruits dropping, and dying (e.g. breadfruit, bananas)
- Illnesses and diseases (*affected the skin a lot, diarrhoea, mumps, scabies, pink eye*)

3. THEIR ADAPTIVE CAPACITY – WHAT THEY HAVE TO HELP ADAPT.

a. WOMEN & Men

- The USA Naval Base supported with food, water, and self-hygiene kits
- The national Government NDMO supplied RO Units
- Water rations from US Navy supply water to Community water tank
- Food rations also from Government and IOM (however, very limited)
- Disease kept coming and could not do much about it
- ***RMI Government is far, the USA is nearer to them during drought or any natural disaster.***

B. FOOD SECURITY STATUS

1. AVAILABILITY/ACCESSIBILITY/APPLICABILITY/STABILITY

1. LOCAL FOOD PRODUCED	AREA/NO		SEASONALITY	FREQUENCY of USE
	Women	Men		
Fish				Every day when available
Coconut	?	?		Every day

Breadfruit	20	80	As in seasonality calendar	Only on special occasions when in season
Banana	?	?		Every day when available
Pandanus	All around the island			Every day when in fruiting season
Root crops	None			
Vegetables	Some pumpkins seen growing			Only when seeds available for planting
Local chicken	?	?		Only on occasions
Local pig	?	?		Only on occasions

2. IMPORTED FOOD	AFFORDABILITY (y/N)	FREQUENCY of USE
Rice	yes	Every day (2-3 times)
Flour	yes	Every day (2-3 times)
Ramen	yes	Every day (2-3 times)
Biscuits	yes	Every day (2-3 times)
Q-leg chicken	yes	Every day (2-3 times)
Canned meat	yes	Every day (2-3 times)
Fruits/Vegetables	Yes	Every day (2-3 times)

1.1 LOCAL & IMPORTED FOOD USED IN DROUGHT

From both men and women, the nearby USA Naval Base (Roi Namur island)) has a supermarket, which provides for their basic needs every day and during hardship times as well. These are all imported food and usually consists of rice, flour, ramen, biscuit, q-leg chicken, canned foodstuff with fruits and vegetables.

Most of these foods are also always the contents of food baskets donated throughout droughts with bottled water by NGO's and the National government.

To supplement daily needs they have local stores on the island, which they can also purchase their food.

2. NO. OF HOUSEHOLDS PLANTING:

Almost all households have access to food crops around their homes and land like breadfruit, coconuts and pandanus. Soil with of course water is the most limiting factor for plant growth especially for cultivated crops in the atolls. Only tree crops like breadfruits, coconuts and pandanus with a few bananas are visible around homes with a few pumpkins in backyards.

3. LAND ACCESSIBILITY:

Every household seems to have access to tree crops on the island for sustenance.

4. PROXIMITY TO MARKETS/SUPERMARKETS:

Santo has four locally owned stores (Manuia) which sells daily necessities such as coffee, ramen (noodles), tinned stuff, with most imported food items and necessities that are available for purchase. The nearby USA naval base (Roi Namur) where most work has a supermarket and food court, which is accessible to all on the island. There is a USA Naval ferryboat that takes people back and forth on a daily basis at scheduled times.

5. CLIMATE/SEASONALITY/WATER AVAILABILITY:

5.1 SEASONAL CALENDAR OF CLIMATE EVENT (DROUGHT & RAINFALL)

(From previous events and present conditions)

VARIABLE	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Rainfall	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX						
Women												
Men			XXX	XXX	XXX						Less rain	Less rain
Drought							XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Women												
Men							XXX	XXX	XXX			

Rainfall

H = > 2 mm

A = 1 mm

L = < 0.2mm

Drought Severity

H – Plants die/no water

A = Plants wilting/water

L = everything is normal

As with Ailuk, women and men assessment of rain and as well as drought occurrences differs considerably and can only tell us that they interpret drought and rainfall periods differently as well in Santo. The Northern rainy season is from April to October (summer) and dry season from November to March (winter). From this seasonality assessment in Santo, we can also deduce that seasons have shifted. We can also earmark or establish times of planting to coincide with the seasons.

5.2 SEASONAL CHARACTER OF CROPS/LIVESTOCK

(Cropping systems adopted/mostly used)

VARIABLE	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Crops Grown						Coconuts						
						Breadfruit						
						Pandanus						
						Banana						
						Pumpkin						
Livestock kept						Pigs?						
						Chickens?						

Crops grown: Coconuts, Breadfruit, Bananas, Pandanus, Pumpkins

From the existing crops' seasonality calendar above and correlating it with seasonality of climatic events as mentioned above planting time of crops can be established to coincide with the right season.

5.3 PEST OCCURENCES

VARIABLE	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Pest & Diseases			Women									
						Men						

Pest observed: No pest was observed on the island during our short assessment period and nothing was mentioned either and this has to be confirmed.

A healthy and environment friendly crop protection regime for the atoll should be looked into to control any existing pest and diseases as well as to curb introduction of new pests and diseases.

Organic production systems would be ideal with the community, as we would not recommend any use of any chemical for plant growth and pest and disease control. This is solely because of the pollution of and contamination of ground water lenses, which the islanders depend on.

C. RESOURCES STATUS

HUMAN RESOURCE					
Tot Population	Men	Women	Youth	Children	No. of Household
1,100 est. 680 (2011 Census)					96 Household

NATURAL RESOURCES	Land	Forest	Water
Area			Ground & Rain water/RO
Quality	Fair/coralline soil	Fair (coconuts, pandanus, noni and breadfruit)	Ground water is all brackish water on the island (only used for toilet)
Accessibility	Yes - all	Yes - all	Yes - all

PHYSICAL RESOURCES	Accessibility
1. School building	All
2. Church building/hall - 5	All
4. Jetty	All
7. Disaster Boat & Outboard engine	All – user pay service
8. Airport – Runaway = Supermarket	USA Naval base – ALL (High security area)
9. RO Unit	School
10. Solar power	All
11. Water Tanks/wells	All
12. Boats/Ferry	ALL
13. Basketball/Volleyball court	ALL - sports and special events
14. Stores (Manuia)	ALL

FINANCIAL RESOURCES	Accessibility
1. Sale of Copra???	All
2. USA Naval Base - Work	All (High Security area)
3. Sea Resources	ALL
4. Local government - Employment	All
5. Local island shop/canteen/Manuia	All
6. Handicraft	Only before – Now no longer

The main source of income for Santo residents is employment at the nearby USA Naval base at Roi Namur Island and most employed there.

D. WHAT THEY WANT TO SEE DONE/IMPROVED/EXPECTATIONS

From group discussions with and between men and women these were some general issues and things they came up with and need to be in readiness for future hardship/drought:

The main source of income is working at the USA Naval base (Roi Namur), which is also part of Kwajalein missile testing site. According to the women during the consultation, they want to learn more about backyard gardening so they can sell whatever surpluses they can produce from their gardens. They also mentioned that they have lost most traditional knowledge of preserving breadfruit and making handicrafts. They are very eager to learn and get back these skills to revive their food preservation knowledge, handicraft skills and as well as to learn how to cook healthy food.

E. CONCLUSION

From the RENI project consultation in Santo we can say that we have established with them their own exposure to climate change, their sensitivity or the impact of this exposure to their lives and livelihood, and their adaptive capacity to go through this hardship or what measures they took to help them adapt to the situation. They are vulnerable to these exposures and have adapted with the majority of assistance from the nearby USA Naval base.

However, they still need assistance with water and food as they become scarce during prolonged hardships. From the consultation, we can also say that we have identified some areas where we can improve on to build up their adaptive capacity in future climatic hardship scenarios.

In the matrix below is the intended and anticipated project activities/objectives from the consultation which we will need to discuss and consult further.

Activity	Proposed Budget
Component 1: Sustainable crop production	
<i>1.1. Backyard gardening and improved crop systems</i>	
<i>1.2. Introduction of proven resilient crop varieties and production techniques</i>	
Component 2: Food preservation and preparation	
Component 3: Handicraft skills	
TOTAL	