

Ministry of Resources and Development

Presentation on the
“Importance of Water to Food and Agriculture.”

Linkages between F&A and Water

- Water is very important for Human, Animals and plants
- Rainwater/well water are main sources of nutrients to our food crops & plants
- Water is a key element to improve soil fertility through composting
- Applying water allow plants to absorb nutrients
- Water is essential for the survival of micro-organism in the soil
- Drip irrigation is a technique applied in agriculture to conserve water

Drip irrigation



Important elements of F&A policies and strategies that the Water Summit should be aware of

- Strategies as per the MRD Strategic Plan;
- Improve agriculture information collection and management
- Develop a national plan, and detailed plans for agriculture development on atolls based on information
- Build capacity in agriculture policy and planning
- Ensure legislation and government policy is conducive to the development of agriculture

Main Goals of F&A Policies and Plans

- Develop policy and plans for the effective development of agriculture in the Marshall Islands
- Increase the value of coconut and coconuts products in the Marshall Islands
- Reduce the dependence of outer islands imported fuel and copra subsidies
- Develop value-added coconuts products for export
- Increase domestic food production
- Ensure adequate production of raw materials for handicrafts, medicine, coconut products and other non-food production
- Prevent the introduction and further spread of injurious pests and diseases into and within the Marshall Islands
- Safeguard agriculture, livestock and the Marshall's natural biodiversity

Water constraints to F/A

- Available water storage
- Lack of Public Awareness
- Lack of in-country training
- School curriculums
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Questions for the group discussion for F&A and Water

- What do we need to fully understand the importance of F&A and Water?
- Are there any F&A policies in existence? If none, do we need to establish one?
- What procedures and strategies are needed in order to improve protection of our islands from toxic chemicals?
- What is the current status of our working relationship with our Pacific neighbors in terms of F&A and water?
- Is it important to have another Water Summit?