

AMERICAN SAMOA  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

POINT OF CONTACT  
PETE GURR, PROGRAM COORDINATOR

USDA AMS AGREEMENT NUMBER  
12-25-B-1212

FINAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

10/30/2014

# Vegetable Growing in American Samoa Elementary Schools

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## Final Report

### Project Summary

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One of the development policy guidelines of the American Samoa Department of Agriculture is to “develop, intensify and diversify agriculture with particular emphasis on the provision of adequate and qualitative local food supplies from crops.” The purpose of the project was to provide the students with the “how to”, manage, maintain and especially the knowledge and skills in planting and growing vegetable gardens. The funds for this project weren’t available until it was approved and ready to be used, but a request from the Boys and Girls Club of American Samoa, “After School Program” was forwarded to our office few months prior. Their request was adopting two public elementary schools to help start their vegetable gardens. Once the project was approved and the funds were ready to be used, changes took place within the department.

Although we weren’t able to work with all 10 public elementary schools as planned but at the end of the project, we were able to work with some public schools, private schools and individuals who were interested in growing vegetable gardens. Even thou the project period has ended but we will continue to work with other schools to have them on board and provide technical support. Our Manu’a office along with our newly established office in Aunu’u also have vegetable beds built for the view of elementary schools there. Each office were provided with manpower, materials, supplies and equipments to help start up the vegetable garden project. The project supported the schools that were interested in having vegetable gardens on their campuses and also educational workshops, training and field visits were also provided by off-island experts as well as our own Extension division supervisors.

### Project Approach

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1. Before the start of the Vegetable Garden Project out into the school, our own extension employees had to be trained in the “how to” process such as:
  - how to deal with young age students at work;
  - need to know what to teach the students;
  - what to expect from the students;
  - be patient with the students.

2. **TRAINING:** Training off-island for elementary school science teachers was scheduled for Summer 2014, but due to the late respond from the director of the Department of Education on allowing us to work with the schools, therefore we decided to hold off on sending them off-island and instead we trained the students and teachers during their field trips to the department compound.
3. **WORKSHOPS/MEETINGS:** Workshops and meetings were also held for local farmers focusing on important areas and “how to” go about managing and maintaining vegetable gardens. The duration of each workshop and meetings was two hours free of charge. The participants received a hand full of information and each took home vegetable seeds.
4. **FIELD TRIPS:** Throughout all three years of the project, the department would have school visits and we would showcase our vegetable gardens and the greenhouse organic farm. After every visit, students were given seedlings to plant at home and other goodies from the farm. Also during the field trips, the students were trained on how to collect data and write reports of their findings every week.

**5. VEGETABLE GARDENS LOCATIONS:**

	LOCATION	TOTAL BOXES BUILT	COMMENT
1.	Tula Elementary School (public school)	5	Eastern side public elementary school-requested by the Boys & Girls Club after school program “Adopt a School” for three years
2.	Leone Midkiff Elementary School (public school)	5	Western side public elementary school-requested by the Boys & Girls Club after school program “Adopt a School” for three years
3.	Fa’asao/Marist High School (private school)	5	Western side private school-Governor’s program “Adopt a School” – started 2014 and will continue to help and maintain for the remaining of the year.
4.	South Pacific Academy (private school)	6	Central side private school-requested to have a vegetable garden on campus – started 2014 and will continue to help and maintain for the remaining of the year.
5.	Boys & Girls Club of American	5	Mrs. Maryann Tulafono, CEO for

	Samoa		the club requested to have vegetable gardens at their location. Started 2013 and continue to help maintain and monitoring for the duration of the program. They will maintain it themselves afterwards.
6.	Hope House-Fatuoaiiga Parish	5	This is a home for the elderly and for those who families are no longer able to care for the sick. We provided vegetable garden boxes and seedling to plant and monitor.
7.	Manumalo Baptist School	6	Request to have vegetable gardens at their school for Level 3 and 4 students.

**6. SUMMER YOUTH EXPERIENCE PROGRAM(SYEP):**

Every year the American Samoa Government, Human Resource Department would have the Summer Youth Experience Program (SYEP) and for the past three years, we had 20 participants working for the department in all divisions. Eight of the participants worked under the Extension division and they would help out with the Vegetable Garden Program.

**7. NU'UULI VOCATIONAL TECH HIGH SCHOOL:** NVTHS is a trade school and every year they have students who were interested in Agriculture. For the past three years we had nine (9) students and we would place them outside with the Extension division. Part of their learning experience was working with the Vegetable Garden Program and other programs administered by the department.

**8. VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM:** This office deals with disabled men and women. For the past three years the office of Vocational Rehabilitation would request if they could have a few men and women to work for a couple of hours for two months. Part of their curriculum was having hands on learning how to farm and especially growing vegetables. We would have them work on their own box growing different variety of vegetables.

**9. FARM FAIR 2012/2013:** The Farm Fair is where farmers would showcase all traditional crops, different variety of vegetables, fruit trees and all others.

## Goals and Outcomes Achieved

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The outcomes of this proposed project was aimed at increasing vegetable production and decreasing the imports of vegetables by at least 10%. It was also geared towards increasing the number of students who will take up agriculture as a future career by 5% after high school.

It is difficult to evaluate (in percent) how far we've come in achieving our goal of reducing imports as a result of this project. ASG DOA is and has been trying to develop a system in conjunction with other applicable ASG Agencies to accurately track imported goods like produce. To date, there is still no sound process in place. However, from 2013 to 2014, there was a reduction in imported produce from neighboring Samoa and Tonga islands. In 2013, tomatoes, head cabbage, squash, green onions, and cucumbers were imported from Samoa and Tonga. Due to the major increase of growing local vegetables, there are currently none being imported from these neighboring islands. In addition, previously, cucumbers and string beans were imported from the United States, however, presently there are none of these vegetables being brought into our Territory due to the sufficient supply by local farmers. Finally, taro imports from neighboring Samoa has decreased by 50% and 100% from Tonga from 2013 to 2014 due to the increase in local farmers growing enough to supply the local demand. There has also been a significant increase in roadside stands, with a surplus of produce being sold by local farmers. Thus, from the data we have on vegetable imports, we have exceeded our goal of reducing imported produce into our Territory.

As for number of students who will take up agriculture after high school, we are also facing challenges as the Dept. of Education has problems gathering this data for various reasons. We will continue to work with the American Samoa Community College's Land Grant and the American Samoa Department of Education to follow-up on students who pursue agriculture as a career. We are aware of students who are currently enrolled in agriculturally-related college courses and will follow-up to determine what careers they enter upon graduation.

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## Beneficiaries

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Direct beneficiaries of the project activities were the elementary schools, farmers and other individuals who took interest in planting and growing vegetable gardens in their farmlands. Attendance numbers for each of the vents are listed below:

EVENTS	DATES	ATTENDANCE
Dept. of Agriculture Extension employees Trainings	September 6, 2013	10 employees
Training for teachers	During their field trips	15 teachers
Training for students	During their field trips	150 students
Technical Assistance by the Dept. of Agriculture Extension employees	During field visits to the schools and the farmers farmland	number of farms and schools is unknown due to field visits once a week for the duration of the project.
Field trips to DOA compounds	December, 2013 March, 2014 April, 2014  More schools visited the department compound throughout the program, but it was not logged.	Early Childhood 25 students and 2 teachers (level 5) Pago Pago Elementary school 30 students and 2 teachers (level 6) Manulele Elementary School, 20 Kindergarden students

[PHOTOS FROM TRAINING AND MEETINGS]



## Lessons Learned

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There may have been goals and outcomes of this project that were achieved but more work was still needed to benefit schools and individuals who were interested in planting and growing vegetable gardens at their respectful schools and homes. More manpower was needed throughout the program so that workers could have been divided amongst the schools who requested vegetable gardens. A letter was submitted to the director of the Department of Education to allow us to work hand in hand with teachers who requested for vegetable gardens. A few private schools also requested for gardens [see photos below]. One disadvantage was the lack of vehicles mainly trucks to transport lumber and top soils to the schools but we managed to make things work.

## Contact Person

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Pete Gurr, Program Coordinator  
Department of Agriculture  
American Samoa Government  
(684) 699-9272

## Additional Information

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