



OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL PUBLIC AUDITOR

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ONPA Releases Audit Report on the Audit on the Management of the Impacts of Climate Change on Food Security in the FSM

The Office of the National Public Auditor (ONPA) announces the release of Audit Report No. 2014-01, *Audit on the Management of the Impacts of Climate Change on Food Security in the FSM*. A digital copy of the report is available for public review online at www.fsmopa.fm and printed copies are available at the ONPA offices on Weno, Chuuk and in Palikir, Pohnpei. The audit was conducted pursuant to Title 55 of the FSM Code, Chapter 5 and in accordance with the Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS) issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

The audit was undertaken by the Office of the Public Auditor of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) as part of a cooperative audit initiative developed by the Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions with the support of the Asian Development Bank, the INTOSAI Development Initiative and the Victorian Auditor General's Office.

The objective of the audit was to assess the effectiveness of the actions taken by key agency/agencies in developing and implementing strategic action plans to address the impacts of climate change on food security in the FSM.

There are two entities in the FSM National Government responsible for developing the overall action plans to address the impacts of climate change on food security. The Office of Environmental and Emergency Management (OEEM) is responsible for climate change policy, addressing climate change issues and providing technical assistance to the four states (Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap & Kosrae) on any related climate change issues. The Department of Resources and Development is responsible for fisheries and agriculture and is responsible for addressing the nation's climate change issues in relation to the FSM's food security needs.

According to the reviews on the impacts of climate change in the FSM, the biggest threat to food security systems in the FSM is the projected impacts of climate change. As a small island developing country, the FSM is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to the impacts of climate change.

Poor policy and planning by R&D and OEEM has led to minimal actions. What has been done has been uncoordinated and inefficient with no assessment of whether the action is achieving improved food security.

As a result of the audit, the audit team identified the following weaknesses:

- ✓ No Comprehensive Action Plan to Address the Impacts of Climate Change on Food Security
- ✓ Inadequate food security vulnerability assessment
- ✓ Inadequate food security policy (Agriculture policy)
- ✓ Duplication of efforts/overlapping activities between national and state as well as non-government organization (NGOs)

In addressing the weaknesses above, we have recommended the following:

- ✓ That both the FSM Department of R&D, in consultation with OEEM, to develop and implement a comprehensive Food Security Plan that complies with the food security policy and mainstreams the impact of climate change.
- ✓ That the OEEM and R&D should collaborate to work together to conduct a comprehensive food security and vulnerability assessment/analysis that should integrate the climate change impacts on food security covering not only the low lying atolls, but the high atolls (ridge to ridge) and all the food components such as agricultural products, fish and food importation as well.
- ✓ R&D should develop and implement a Food Security Policy to address the impact of Climate Change on food security. The policy should include the following: Climate Change Impact on Food Security; actions to address the vulnerabilities; responsibilities to coordinate actions to implement the policy and implement individual actions; and, mechanisms for managing national-state consultation and coordination.
- ✓ The designated person to coordinate and monitor climate change/food security related activities and should assess whether the efforts administered by the national, state, communities, agencies, NGOs overlap and recommend that the budget for those activities be put into more productive use. Furthermore, the National should coordinate well with the State and NGOs in terms of planning to avoid any overlapping activities and should record all projects/programs to readily identify and avoid repetitive and overlapping activities.

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