

Keynote Address: Launch of Nauru Kitchen Garden App



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Virtual Launch of the Nauru Kitchen Garden Mobile App
Nauru

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Honourable Rennier Gadabu, Minister, Mrs Berilyn Jeremiah Secretary, Commerce, Industry and Environment; H.E Ambassador Dean Wang, Distinguished Guests.

It is a pleasure to be virtually present at the launch ceremony Kiāo Oangam, the first app developed by and for Nauruans. Nauru is an important member of the Commonwealth and there is a long history of collaboration with the Commonwealth of Learning. As you know, COL was established by Commonwealth Heads of Government to promote education and training in Member States through the use of technologies. Nauru has been an active participant in several online programmes offered by COL relating to capacity building and skills development.

More recently Nauru made valuable contributions to two COL studies on out-of-school children and the status of television broadcasting in the Pacific. In collaboration with MFAT, New Zealand, COL has launched a Pacific Partnership ODFL project where Nauru's representative is helping shape an online Toolkit for Professional Development of TVET Practitioners, which will be deployed across the Pacific.

The idea of developing a kitchen garden app emerged when my colleague Terry Neal, who leads our work in TVSD visited Nauru in December 2018 and held discussions to identify the priorities at the time. This has been a long but productive journey of genuine partnership where the stakeholders have been involved at every step of the process. It has been a pleasure collaborating with the Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment (CIE), Department of Education of Republic of Nauru (DERN) and the Taiwan Technical Mission (TTM).

The COL consultant visited Nauru twice--first to understand the needs and requirements of community leaders and farmers and then to seek feedback from stakeholders. The result was the organization of content under three main sections – Plants, My Garden and Cooking. Under Plants, the app offers nutritional information, how to prepare gardens for different types of plants, tips for planting, managing pests, harvesting, saving seeds and cooking. 'My Garden' includes tips on choosing a site, making a garden bed, composting, fertilising, watering and propagation. Under 'Cooking' you can search by plant to find recipes that are both healthy and delicious.

At this time, there is information on nine plants, but more content relating to new plants will be added. You only need to download the app once and you will automatically receive any new information that the CIE and TTM teams have added, whenever you access the internet.

This is a work in progress because we are still learning what does and doesn't work in Nauru. This is an app which is unique to Nauru and I hope it will lead to diverse food production and better nutrition in the country.

One element of this project is to measure the results and COL facilitated the capacity building of the teams in monitoring and evaluation. Let me thank everyone who was involved in collecting and contributing to the baseline data over the last few weeks.

The success of such projects depends to a large extent on government support and the leadership of champions. The presence of the Hon Minister shows his personal commitment and that of his government to helping the community to grow kitchen gardens and contribute to food security. Our champions are the Secretaries and the members of the teams whose dedication has led to the successful completion of the project. COL looks forward to continuing our very productive collaboration.