

Marine Ornamental Farming

- Very simple fragmentation process for easy adoption by the farmers
- Products that have no edible or local value so farm interference/theft is minimal
- Few or no predators so cleaning and maintenance is minimal
- High value species – suitable for air cargo export
- Allow for other cultural and subsistence activities
- Extremely low environmental impact



Marine Ornamentals

Consists of: hard and soft corals

Giant clams

Other invertebrates such as
zooanthids and corallimorphs

MERIP currently has a product list
of 28 species most of which are
grown locally by self-employed
farmers.



An aerial photograph of a coral farming operation in a lagoon. The image shows a dense grid of coral structures, likely made of metal or plastic frames, arranged in rows. The water is a deep blue-green color. The coral structures are covered with various types of coral, including branching and table corals. The overall scene is a well-organized and productive coral farming site.

Lagoon Based Coral Farming

Broodstock

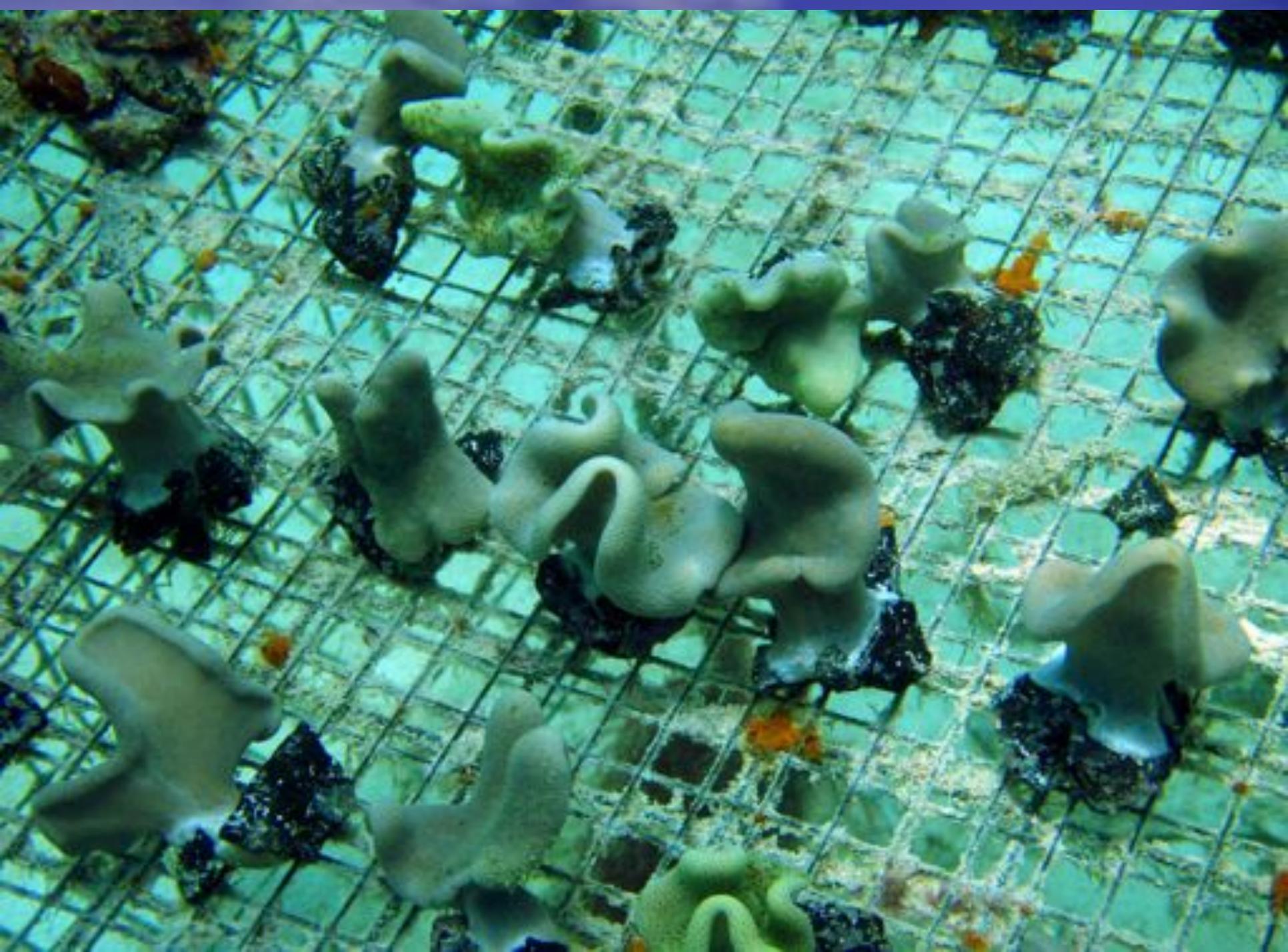
- Large colonies from which cuttings are taken
- Some regulations require all corals grown to be cut from second generation broodstock





















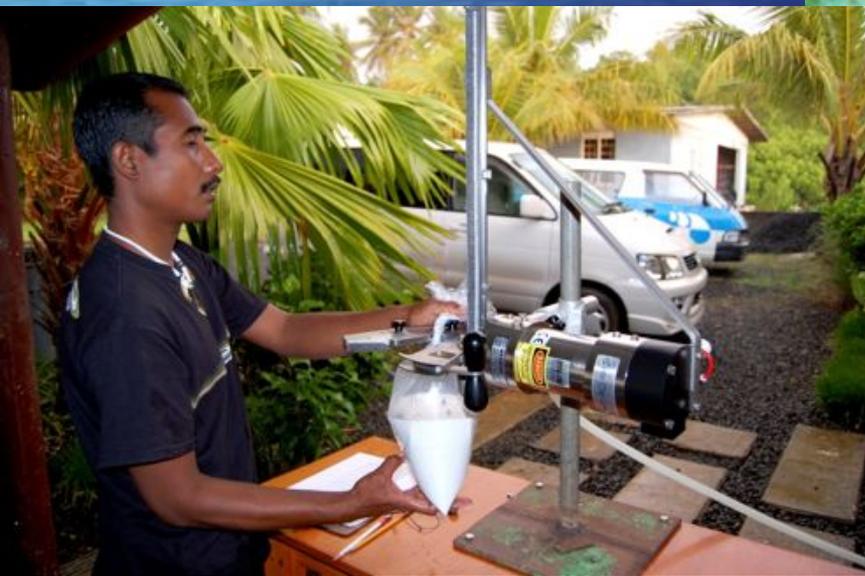


Giant Clam Farming



- Clams are grown at the MERIP facility then transferred to farmers for grow-out.
 - This a new activity starting in 2011.
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Sponge Farming

- Very simple fragmentation process for easy adoption by the farmers
- Products that have no edible or local value so farm interference/theft is minimal
- Few or no predators so cleaning and maintenance is minimal
- Lightweight species – suitable for shipment by mail or air cargo
- Allow for other cultural and subsistence activities
- Extremely low environmental impact

Sponge Species

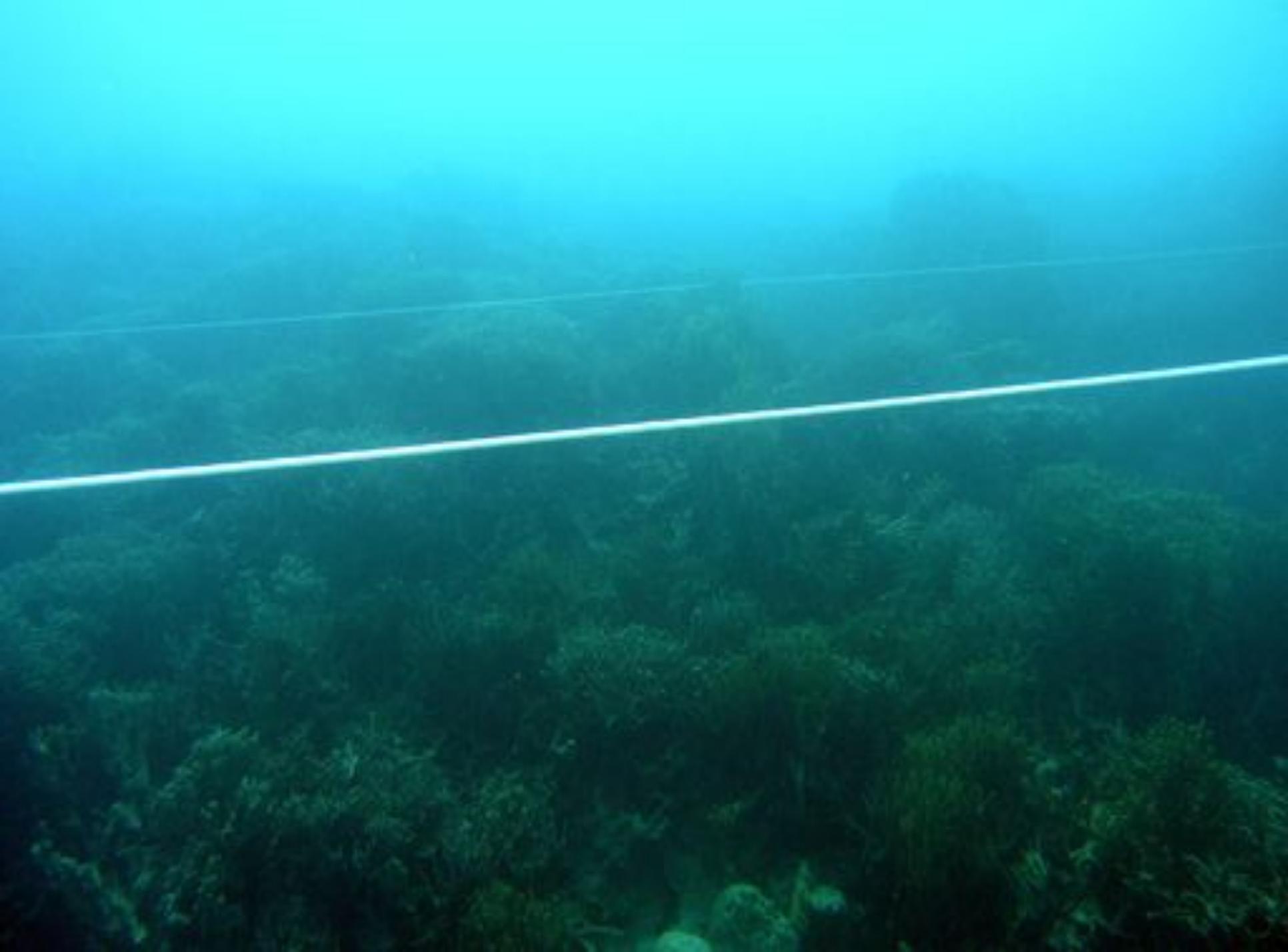
- Two species of sponges are grown:
Micronesian Wool sponge – *Cosinoderma matthewsi*. Larger and coarser. 2-2.5 year grow-out
Facial sponge – *Spongia matamata* smaller and softer. 9-12 month grow-out





An aerial photograph showing a coastal area. A large body of water, possibly a bay or lagoon, is visible on the left side, with a sandy beach and a road running along its edge. The water is a deep blue-green color, and the beach is a light tan color. The road is a thin, dark line. The overall scene is a mix of natural and man-made elements.

Setting up your farm



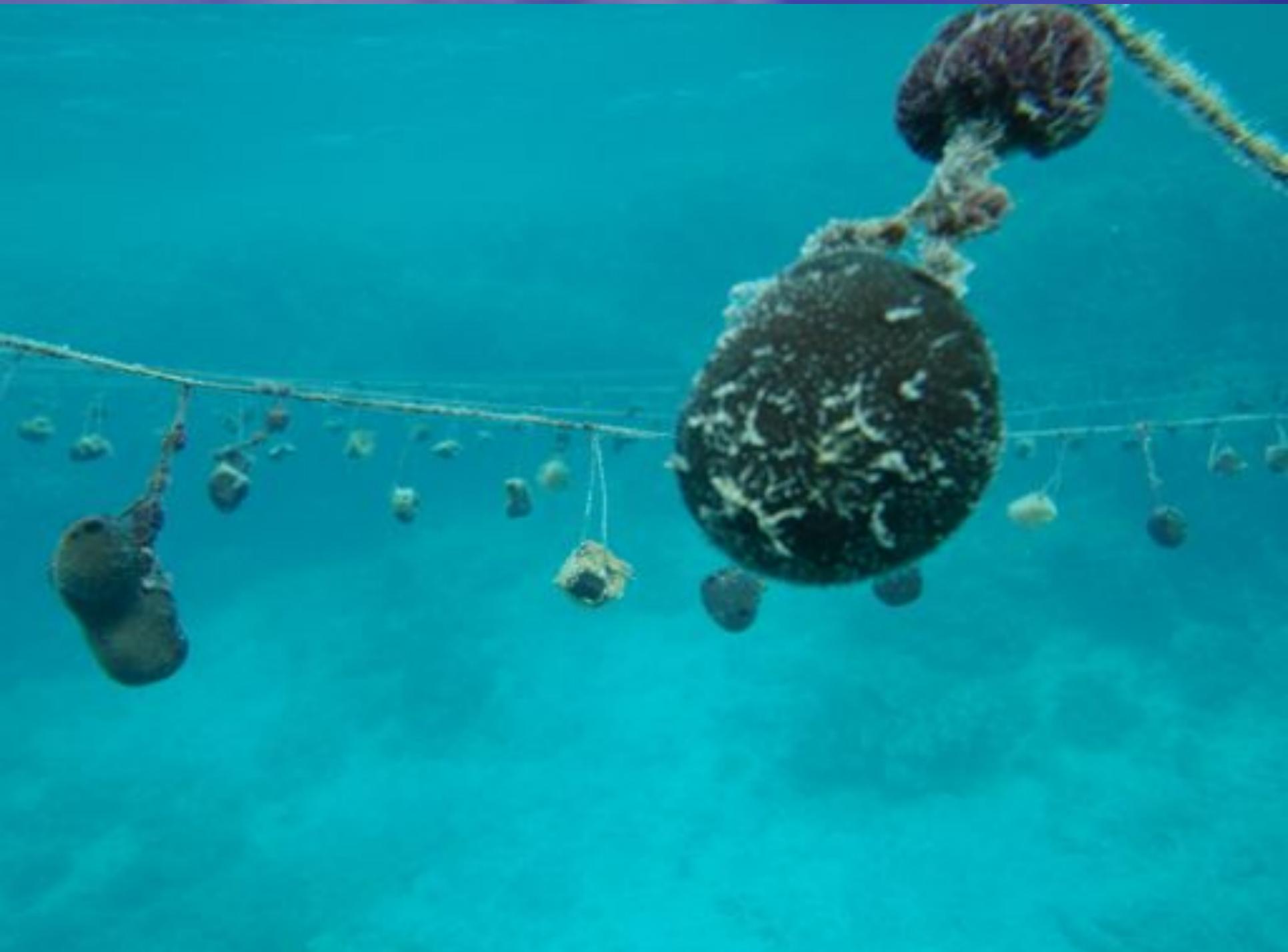


















*Natural Sea
Sponge*



An All Natural Eco-Safe
Product from Micronesia



Community Technology Transfer

A photograph of two men sitting on a wooden pier or dock by a body of water. The man on the left is wearing a light-colored shirt and a cap, while the man on the right is wearing a dark shirt and shorts. They are both looking towards the camera. The background shows a calm lake and a forested hillside.

- Individuals from fishing communities/families are encouraged to begin farming
- MPA community members also encouraged
- Individuals, families or small groups run the farms. These are not village farms.
- Farmers receive all necessary training, equipment and supplies and broodstock to start their farm

Who are the Farmers

- Generally fishermen from poorer coastal communities
- Usually subsistence or semi-subsistence
- Many younger people
- Often unemployed or underemployed
- Selected through word of mouth or interest
- Currently work with over 50 individuals



What are some constraints

- Slow uptake by farmers, suspicion of new technologies and development agencies (private and public), other opportunities
- Slow grow-out time for wool sponges 2-2.5 years
- No history of organized farming, also people don't eat these products so it is hard for them to imagine why they should grow it.
- Cultural obligations

What has worked

- Constant communication and training with farmers through meetings and site visits
- Growing the industry slowly to avoid disappointment for farmers
- Providing necessary resources for farmers
- Communication with government and NGO partners
- Building strong private sector marketing links
- Adopting a long term strategy to training and funding
- Ensuring our farmers know their obligations
- Incentivizing farmers through pro-rated payments



MARINE AND ENVIRONMENTAL



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