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Specialty Crops for Pacific Island Agroforestry

Update #2—Survey Results March 19, 2008

During January and February 2008, we conducted a survey to determine the most promising specialty crops for Pacific island agroforestry. We asked respondents to recommend crops that are economically, ecologically, and culturally sustainable for family farmers in the Pacific. There were 103 surveys submitted, including 10 surveys kindly completed by attendees of the Pacific Island Committee meeting in Rota February 19–23, 2008. We received surveys from a wide range of experts with knowledge of Pacific island plants, horticulture, and economic crops.

Respondents were based in American Samoa, Australia, Saipan, mainland U.S.A., Cook Islands, East Timor, Fiji, Pohnpei, Guam, Hawaii, Kiribati, Kosrae, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Palau, Samoa, and Yap. Many thanks again to everyone who contributed their time and knowledge.

We will be developing thirty-two Farm and Forest Production and Marketing (FFPM) sheets to support our region's food security and environmental health while expanding access to the marketplace for high quality food, fiber, and healthcare products. The 12–24 page FFPM sheets will provide extension-level, detailed information that will be available for free, unrestricted download from the Internet in PDF format.

I hope you will find the following results of interest. Several authors have offered to write the FFPM sheets, and we are actively looking for additional authors and reviewers. If you have any recommendations, we would be happy to hear them. Also, your comments are always welcome.

Aloha,
Craig

Craig Elevitch
Main web site: <http://www.agroforestry.net>
Specialty crops for Pacific islands: <http://www.agroforestry.net/scps>

50 top rated species in our survey by category

Spices

black pepper (*Piper nigrum*)
chili pepper (*Capsicum* spp.)
cinnamon (*Cinnamomum* spp.)
edible ginger (*Zingiber officinale* and related species)
turmeric (*Curcuma longa*)
vanilla (*Vanilla fragrans*)

Beverages/teas

cacao, chocolate (*Theobroma cacao*)
coffee (*Coffea arabica* and other spp.)
hibiscus tea, roselle (*Hibiscus sabdariffa* and others)

Fragrance/oil/garland

frangipani (*Plumeria rubra* and *P. obtusa*)
gardenia (*Gardenia* spp.)
maile (*Alyxia stellata*)
sandalwood, 'iliahi (*Santalum* spp.)
ylang ylang (*Cananga odorata*)

Fruits/Nuts

avocado (*Persea americana*)
banana and plantain (*Musa* spp.)
breadfruit (*Artocarpus altilis*)
citrus (including *Citrus sinensis*, *C. reticulata*, *C. hystrix*, *C. aurantium*, and *C. aurantifolia*)
guava (*Psidium guajava*)
lychee (*Litchi chinensis*)
mango (*Mangifera indica*)
mangosteen (*Garcinia mangostana*)
papaya (*Carica papaya*)
pineapple (*Ananas comosus*)
soursop (*Annona muricata*)
Tahitian chestnut (*Inocarpus fagifer*)

Cosmetic oil/wax

candlenut, kukui (*Aleurites moluccana*)
tamanu, kamani (*Calophyllum inophyllum*)

Fiber/thatching

screwpine, hala (*Pandanus tectorius* and other spp.)

Starch

banana and plantain (*Musa* spp.)
cassava (*Manihot esculenta*)
giant taro, 'ape (*Alocasia macrorrhiza*)
pumpkin (*Curcubita* spp.)
squash (*Cucurbita* species)
swamp taro (*Cyrtosperma merkusii*)
sweet potato (*Ipomoea batatas*)
taro (*Colocasia esculenta*)
yam (*Dioscorea alata* and other spp.)

Leafy vegetables

bok choy, tatsoi, etc. (*Brassica rapa* subspp.)
cabbage (*Brassica oleracea* Capitata)
edible hibiscus, bele (*Abelmoschus manihot*)
taro leaves (*Colocasia esculenta*)
winged bean (*Psophocarpus tetragonolobus*)

Medicinals

betel nut (*Areca catechu*)
kava (*Piper methysticum*)
lemon grass (*Cymbopogon citratus*)
neem (*Azadirachta indica*)
noni (*Morinda citrifolia*)
yam (*Dioscorea* spp.)

Biofuel/oil

candlenut, kukui (*Aleurites moluccana*)
coconut (*Cocos nucifera*)

Timber

bamboo (*Bambusa* spp., *Dendrocalamus* spp., *Gigantochloa* spp., clumping types)
coconut (*Cocos nucifera*)
koa (*Acacia koa*)
sandalwood (*Santalum* spp.)
tamanu, kamani (*Calophyllum inophyllum*)

Crafts

ti (*Cordyline terminalis*)

Animals

bees/honey

Project contact

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Specialty crops for Pacific islands: <http://www.agroforestry.net/scps>

Sponsor information



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Photo: Craig Elevitch
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