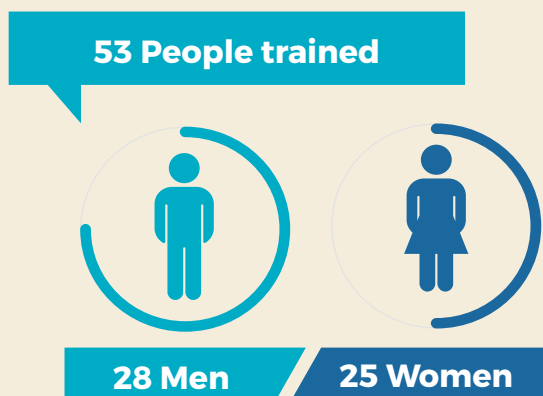


# BERU ISLAND POULTRY AND PIGGERY FARMING

**A** poultry and piggery farming training conducted in Beru Islands in Kiribati, from 29 June – 2 July, 2021 was hailed a success by those who participated in the training. The week long training, supported through the University of the South Pacific’s EU- GCCA + SUPA project, in close collaboration with the Government of Kiribati’s Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agriculture Development (MELAD) and the Rikian Arora Community, was attended by over 50 participants from across 28 local communities as well as representatives from the Beru Island Council, the Unimwane body and the Agriculture and Livestock sector under MELAD.



In May 2020, a Participatory Needs Assessment (PNA) was conducted in Beru Island and a Beru Strategic Plan 2021-2024 was developed. The two reports identified that an increase of malnutrition in children is one of the key concerns that needs urgent action. As a result, the communities selected poultry and piggery training as a measure to addressing this issue. Delivered around 6 broad objectives (Box 1), the training seeks to build and upskill the capacity of local communities in poultry and piggery farming as a means of addressing food security, household nutritional demands and overall resilience and sustained livelihoods across remote communities in Kiribati.

## Box 1: Training Objectives

1. to build the capacity on how to run a chicken and piggery farm;
2. to feed and to take care of the chicks and the pigs at their different age ranges and the right feed for them;
3. how to house them and how to take care of their eggs and piglets;
4. how to reproduce locally make it a sustainable activity for their own benefits;
5. to do a hands-on for all the responsibilities needed every day for the chickens and the pigs; and
6. to upskill the participants so they could start their own poultry and piggery farming at household level for improvement of nutrition on animal protein.

As part of the partnership between the project and the Government of Kiribati, MELAD delivered a total of 300 chicks and 3 boars to Beru Island. The MELAD was also responsible for delivering the training. It was delivered in a face-to-face mode and involved practical activities, alongside a theory-based component. This partnership enabled participants to apply the skills and knowledge gained from the training, and will continue to do so for the ongoing management of the livestock.

The training directly benefited communities in terms of skills and knowledge needed for poultry and piggery farming management. However, other benefits included correct measurements of proper feeding ratios as well as better time management as communities had to plan their daily schedule around feeding times for the animals as well as other domestic duties. Food security and nutritive value, are benefits communities have started to see, as the layers start to produce eggs for home consumption. An egg is normally sold for 50 cents and is a promising source of income.

Community ownership and uptake were highly demonstrated through the allocation of a plot of land by landowners, provision of building materials and the construction of both the piggery and poultry projects.



In the words of participants that attended the training: “ E a roko te maiu iaon Beru” [Prosperity has come to Beru]. “Tia aki kainano bwa Tia maiuraoi iaon Beru” [Poverty has gone out the door, Prosperity has walked in].

The USP EU- GCCA + SUPA would like to acknowledge the following partners who have contributed to making the training a success:

- The Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agriculture Development (MELAD)
- Rikian Arora Community Members
- Beru Island Council under the Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Marewen Beru
- Beru Island communities

