



PREFACE

This publication, Palau soil assessment and agricultural production, will make a dent on our collective effort to increase food production, thus enhancing food security for the people who call Palau home. This initial publication will be used as a first step in finding answers for agriculture and food production related issues in Palau. Subsequent work is underway that will be able to add more information to future editions of this ever evolving text to meet the challenges of agriculture production in Palau.

The themes and topics are arranged in a way that informs us to respond to critical questions that we ought to be asking and answering in order to find the right path forward. It will help us to know where we've been, where we are now and definitely makes appropriation recommendations of where we ought to be heading.

This publication provides: a) explanation of ecology in Palau and it's importance; b) a brief history of land use in Palau under various administering authorities; c) an explanation of Palauan soil characteristics and practices, based on these soil types, to support agricultural production; d) an explanation, as well as, and methods to increase potential for agricultural

development; e) an explanation of constraints that must be overcome to ensure agricultural success; f) geographical recommendations for potential agriculture development sites as well as a focused module on upland crop production. g) methods for fruit production; h) and lastly, a guide to locally available materials and methods for soil amendment, greatly needed to increase agriculture output in Palau.

This monumental publication is a result of multiple collaborative works between researchers and practitioners from three countries and representing four major programs and NGO's: The United States department of Agriculture's National Institute for Food and Agriculture (USDA NIFA); Japan's Japan International research center for agricultural sciences (JIRCAS); Palau's Palau Community College (PCC) and Ministry of natural resources, environment and tourism's Bureau of Agriculture; and Ridge to Reefs.

On behalf of Palau Community College, I thank the authors for taking the time to work on this publication. Students and communities will be better off because of this publication.



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