

Niue Soils Resource Manual

This is the first Reference Manual for Understanding and Managing the Soil Resources of Niue.

The Manual was developed for the purposes of understanding the physical and chemical properties of Niue's invaluable Soil Resources.

More importantly it was developed as a reference guide for :

- field-soil identification,
- soil fertility information,
- and soil attributes that are suitable for maximum crop growth, including the suitability of soil types for growing a wide range of important forestry and agricultural crops in Niue.

The Manual will contribute to sustainable national Agriculture Production and Development.

The Manual was developed in alignment with the strategic direction set under the Niue National Strategic Plan, supporting key economic development initiatives through the sustainable utilization and management of natural resources, and contributing to the National Food and Nutritional Security of the Niue population. The Manual also support the Environment Pillar for Sustainable management of Niue's natural resources for future generations.

For many decades Niue soils have contributed significantly to supporting the lives of almost all Niuean people in relation to food security and income generating opportunities. Therefore it is of paramount importance that we all nurture and safeguard our environment from soil-loss, degradation, and from poor agricultural practices including adverse climate change impacts.

We must ensure that we adhere to practicing sustainable agricultural farming methods and soil enhancement techniques in order to re-vitalise our soils for agriculture development of future generations.

The Manual paves a way forward in providing sound practical guidelines for all local farming communities for successful high yield crop production techniques through crop suitability ratings, as well as scientific information for future researchers.

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries through the Ministry of Natural Resources will ensure that the Manual will be available and widely accessible by all relevant stakeholders(farmers, students, researchers etc.) for future use and reference.

Acknowledgements:

We are very grateful for the assistance given by FAO under the Forestry Protected Area Management Project, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Land Care Organisation-New Zealand, the Department of Environment, and Dave Leslie in particular for his expertise and scientific advice in compiling this first Reference Manual for Understanding and Managing the Soil Resources of Niue.