

# Tourism Sector: Food security



## Introduction

Food security is the state of having reliable access to sufficient quantity of affordable and nutritious food. The tourism sector is highly vulnerable to changes in agricultural productivity, especially in lands beyond our border, where Maldives like any other nation has to compete on international markets for access to food products.

Currently the tourism sector of the Maldives is heavily dependent on imported goods such as fruits and vegetables. Few resorts have established market systems to purchase fruits and vegetables from the neighboring island communities. This is mainly due to lack of infrastructure such as market facilities in these local communities. Many Tourism Resorts grow their own organic farms, and use these products for their catering needs.

## A Establishment of local markets

Setting up of new infrastructure or upgrading existing structures, in the form of a local market, where resort suppliers can purchase fruits and vegetables grown locally.



### Cost

US\$65, 000 (2008)



### Cost-benefit

Reduce cost of products, improved quality, fresher produce and a perception of more environmentally friendly sources for the goods.



### Additional benefits

Improved livelihood, increased income with reduced unemployment. Also can increased food security and local nutrition.

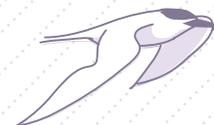


### Success Story

A local entrepreneur in Feevah is capitalizing on this resort market by providing wholesale services for local farmers from various islands to ensure a continuous supply to seven resorts.

The island sources for these market products are:

Product	Island
Banana	Feevah
Water melon	Sh.Goidhoo /B.Goidhoo
Papaya	Feevah
Pumpkin	H.A.Baarah/ H.Dh. Finey
Mango	Feevah
Custard Apple	Feevah
Cucumber	Hanimadhoo



## **B** Agricultural facilities (fruits and vegetables)



**I. Develop agriculture by introducing new and innovative techniques and technology that would make farming into a vehicle for commercially viable sustainable rural development. Example: production of virgin coconut oils and value added products**



### **Cost**

US\$ 200,000 (2005) and  
US\$21, 228 (2010)



### **Cost-benefit**

Provided an alternate source of good quality virgin coconut oil for local consumption and marketing. Also help produce value added products such as soaps and massage oils or sale to Tourism Resorts.



### **Additional benefits**

Increased income, livelihood and empowerment of women and young people by teaching them production skills for value added products from the abundant surplus of coconut on the island. Also stimulated improved coconut management and production at the island level.



### **Success story**

FAO (Food and Agricultural Organization), Technical Cooperation Program, funded US\$ 495,000 in both Northern atoll and Southern atoll, Gan under the project Production of virgin coconut oil and value added products, to enhance livelihoods and food security through income generating opportunities. The project thus, focused on developing small-scale innovative technologies to extract high quality virgin coconut oil from fresh coconuts and to produce value-added products like soaps and massages oils for sale to tourist industry.

**II. Supporting sustainable small-scale farming as well as commercial agriculture development.**



### **Cost**

US\$ 200,000 (2005)



### **Cost-benefit**

Improve local livelihoods and contribute to food security and improved nutrition.



### **Additional benefits**

Reduce unemployment by creating new jobs and strengthened local economy.



### **Success story**

US\$ 129,225 invested by UNDP from 2011-2013, helped demonstrate community level integrated farming and value addition activities in eight island communities.

## C Mari cultural facilities (Sea food)

Cultivation of marine organisms for food and other products in the open ocean, an enclosed section of the ocean, or in tanks or ponds which are filled with seawater.



### Cost

US\$ 2.67 million\*



### Cost-benefit

Support the production of a variety of seafood to cater for tourist industry. Improve local livelihoods and contribute to food security and improved nutrition.



### Additional benefits

Reduce unemployment by creating new jobs and strengthened local economy. Provide live hood opportunities for women and small scale entrepreneurs.

\*Total cost for import of fish breeding material, establishing hatcheries, nurseries and grow - out production



**THE TOURISM ADAPTATION PROJECT** The Maldives Tourism Adaptation Project (TAP) (2011 – 2015) was run by the Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). The project supported the tourism sector in the Maldives to set up the required policy environment, regulatory guidance, technical skills and knowledge to ensure that climate change- related risks were systematically factored into day-to-day tourism operations.



This booklet is a collection of 6 booklets, which identifies potential areas for investment to strengthen climate resilience and adaptation in the tourism sector.

## Tourism Adaptation Project (TAP)

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