



Pacific R2R Programme Workshop

Most Significant Change

The GEF Pacific IW R2R Project - TUVALU



Name of Person recording story	Yvette D'Unienville
Name of storyteller	Mr Tafoli Talava - Pig farmer, a resident on Funafuti, and Leader of the Vaitupu Community on Funafuti

Moving forward to a healthy environment and healthy families



Tafoli Talava

I heard a rumor about an idea from the Kaupule of putting pig pens in one place many years back. Year after year since I first heard about it, nothing took place and I never wanted to bother asking about it because I strongly objected the idea. Frankly, the government have relocated pig pens a few years ago with assurance of compensating the farmers to rebuild our pig pens. This never eventuate. What a waste to us farmers?

Nonetheless, each day for over ten years, when I or my sons attend to feed our pigs, we always took extra buckets of water to clean off the floor of our pig pen with water from the inland lagoon. I make about five trips each afternoon to fetch water to clean my pigpen. This everyday activity of carrying five buckets of lagoon water had always left me drained off energy with incurring backaches.

Apparently a few months ago, I believe a team from the Funafuti Kaupule, the Waste Management and the IW R2R Project, organized a consultation with our community. They shared the idea of putting all pigpens together. I whispered to another member beside me, "it's all talks as usual." However, they revealed to us that the plan has been fully supported by Cabinet and they intend to implement before this year ends.

It struck on me that it is eventually going to happen. Though I was not convinced I listened on. They continued on talking about waste water going into the ground, seeping into the lagoons and contaminating living things in the lagoon. Then, interestingly we were told that the planned project, we will no longer need water to clean the pig pens as there will be workers who will collect all the pig wastes to be mixed with green wastes to make organic compost.



Members from outer islands visiting the demo site.



Member from RPCU with the Fisheries officers during the joined workshop on water quality monitoring.

This totally changed my negative views of the intended project because no more will I carry water buckets and in fact no more back pains. Certainly, I am happy with this upcoming piggery project as the love of my life will be relieved of the infertile soil in our garden will be filled with organic compost as she is engaged in home gardening to balance our daily meals. And lastly, I am so glad that the Saugavaka Piggery Project as they named it, will also help keep our lagoon waters clean and safe for my children and grandchildren to enjoy the benefits that is currently providing them to live a healthy life and so in the years to come.