



Pacific R2R Programme Workshop

Most Significant Change

The GEF Pacific STAR R2R Project - NAURU



Name of Person recording story	Ms Phaedora Harris
Name of storyteller	Mrs Yvelda Adam
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A family that grows together sticks together

I am a 30 year old mother of five. My eldest child is 11 years old and my youngest is 3 years old. I have been married for 13 years and have been a housewife for 12 years. After having my fourth child, I found that I could not maintain the life-style that I wanted for my family, so I decided to look for a job. I became a community liaison officer patrolling the streets of my community reporting on suspicious incidents. My husband was also working, but he decided he wanted to be a stay at home father to our then five children. My company got disbanded and I was once again unemployed. Then I was approached by the R2R Project Coordinator to become a Technical Support Officer (TSO) for the Project. I had no idea what this job entailed, but I wanted a paying job, and thus started working there in October 2017.



Yvelda Adam Nauru R2R's Buada TSO with her family; L-R Radamad (11 yrs) Yvelda, Harmony (9 yrs), Rhapsody (7 yrs), Rebel, Wan-echo (3 yrs) and Wanga-lei (4yrs)

Taking part in prepping garden beds, transplanting tissue culture, watering the R2R seedlings daily, building compost pits, learning about marcotting, grafting, mulching and composting has made me more aware of my surroundings and the potential my back yard has in terms of food security. Being the TSO for the project has taught me the importance of providing my family a healthy meal. Before becoming a staff of the Project, I had zero knowledge in gardening and farming. I could not afford to buy fresh fruits and vegetables as they were too expensive, so these were not part of my family's diet.

The most significant change for me was having my husband take a keen interest in gardening. I would bring home seedlings and as part of my job, I was tasked with looking after gardening tools. With equipment readily available for him, he started his banana patch, then his pumpkins, and now we are growing yam, papaya, sweet potato, lime, chilli and eggplants on our small property. He is now spending more time at home with us and he has also given responsibility to our children of tending to our small farm. When it's harvest time, our children sell the food to family members.. My husband and I also share what we've learnt by experimenting in the garden to our family and friends and also exchange food and fruit trees. He beams with pride when he talks about his farm.

Since becoming part of the Project, I have felt my confidence grow by liaising and creating a network with my community leaders, district Members of Parliament (MP) and community members. My relationship with the project partner the Department of Agriculture has also become closer as I work with them prepping kitchen gardens with the five pilot districts twice a week. I sometimes lead mini training sessions in my district on composting and kitchen garden once a week. I enjoy my job as it's mostly hands-on activities, and at the same time teaches me about the importance of food security.