

FARMER TO FARMER - PRACTICES FOR RESILIENCE SERIES

SAVING CROPS **IV BOTTLES** – A DROUGHT RESILIENCE TECHNIQUE



Severe drought conditions are some of the worst disasters to befall the Republic of Marshall Islands. Such extended periods of dry weather are symptomatic of an El Nino system and climate change and can destroy farmer's crops and livelihoods. Severely deprived of water, even coconut trees, known to survive in difficult sandy conditions can succumb to the extreme dryness.

If not for a simple, yet brilliant innovation, used by farmers, crop losses would rise to 70 percent during a drought.

The IV bottle uses discarded water bottles to hydrate plants in a controlled, consistent manner even when farmers are away fishing for protein and income and women weave handicrafts.

Step 1

Use a nail to pierce a hole in the bottle cap. Not a large hole. For a 500 ml plastic water bottle, use a 2-inch nail. For larger bottles, use a 4-inch nail.



Step 2
Fill the bottle with water and screw cap back on.

Step 3
About 4 inches from the base of the plant, dig a small hole about 3 inches deep. Place the bottle, mouth down into the hole at a 45-degree angle to allow water to drip out of the cap. Cover the mouth end with soil.



Step 4
Remove bottle from the soil and refill with water when it is empty. Place it back near base of plant using steps above.



This info sheet has been produced with the support of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Capacity Building for Resilient Agriculture in the Pacific Project and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) Youth Leading Learning in Resilient Agriculture Practices project in partnership with the Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POECom) the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Marshall Islands Organic Farming Association (MIOFA).

