

**FARMER TO FARMER - PRACTICES FOR RESILIENCE SERIES**

# SAVING PAWPAWS IN KUKI AIRANI

Pawpaw, papaya, or the ninita though an introduced crop to the Cook Islands is grown extensively for food and income.

During the wet season from November to April, papaya trees face a big threat, strong winds associated with cyclones.

To improve the papaya trees chances of surviving the storm, farmers cut the tree down for older plants and remove the leaves of the young plants before the storm arrives. This decreases the plants wind resistance and pressure on the plant to withstand the wind that can uproot or destroy it.

Farming specialist Teava Iro of Titikaveka community said in this manner, papaya crops recover faster.

## The Older Plant



Cut on a slant



**The Younger Plant**  
Just take off the leaves and branches

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