

July 2017

Voice of the Future



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Mission: To better the well being of young people of the Kingdom of Tonga through programs that promote responsibility, citizenship, community services and leadership

Ha'apai Youth Congress

"Vanilla", the products

Ha'apai Youth Congress (HYC) can't hardly wait for the opening day of the **Camp Glow**.

"Camp Glow for girls will be open on the first week of September" said HYC office manager Teisa Fakatene "Camp Glow is not a new activities for Ha'apai but it has been some time that we have conduct this kind of camp" for Young Girls of Ha'apai.

"We have reached out to all secondary school here at Ha'apai and we have presented them with the application." continues Teisa "students where already excited to joint the camp and I can tell you this. These students can't wait for camp glow to happen. So yes we at HYC are looking for a great time when the camp open". Part of the camp will be a shadowing of prominent female leader as an empowering tools as well as inspiring young girls to achieve their dreams.

The RESULT Project a OXFAM New Zealand partnership and MFAT funding program within Tonga National Youth Congress have entered a new level this year which is the working on the vanilla commodities. The RESULT project have focus in the last two years on developing the virgin coconut oil business. Starting with working with the grower, harvesting and selling their coconut to the YES Unit and to the market the export and the local. There has been some success and there is still area to improve on production and quality but overall it has been proven that is starting to generate incomes to benefit communities, employ young people and the capacity of production to meet the demand of the export market as well as the local market.

The vanilla commodity follow a slightly different approach from the Virgin Coconut Oil. The ICS has been working with the growers certifying their farm plot. And putting the grower into different cluster that of the coconut cluster and now the vanilla cluster. With the vanilla cluster the work started with the list of the certified vanilla grower given to the buyer and using the organic certified label

and getting the buyer to buy for the organic international market prize. Starting from last years the organic vanilla grower cluster was very happy of the organic vanilla prize.

This year TNYC and RESULT project a playing two different roles TNYC organic certification unit still work with the grower and their vanilla in planting, growing and harvesting. TNYC RESULT business unit start to work with individual grower by buying the vanilla, do the curing process and negotiating a market for this grower.

This individual work enable the grower to set their own price on their products if they sell it green as well as setting up with TNYC a bonus system for when the buyer buys the dried vanilla bean.

TNYC is hoping to expand more with working with the vanilla grower especially the need for a lot of awareness for young women on the benefit from their backyard vanilla if they start planting and working with ICS on a more small cluster grower group and fast track their vanilla production so that the benefit will be sooner than later.





Photo From EYC, and Tongatapu Agri Show 2017



2017 Agricultural Show

Tongatapu is always the last island to do their Agriculture show. And this year TNYC also participate in this events. The last agriculture shows focus more on the organic grower bringing their product to the show this year was more focus on the business site of the organization by the Youth Offices showcasing a lot of the organic vanilla products that is already market locally and export.

This year agricultural show at Tongatapu His Majesty Tupou IV in his speech for Tongatapu grower, the need for “ Tongatapu has the most land for farming of more than 60,000 acres, with 73% of the population living in Tongatapu” said his majesty “Tongatapu farmers prioritize

the generation of profit, but are not mindful of the environmental impacts from the use of pesticides and chemicals, polluting the underground water”

King Tupou VI also pointed out for farmers to also take in to account that also the fruits are affected from misusing our natural resources

“as we can see today when the temperature is over 37 degrees it affected our breadfruit and our coconut”

Tongatapu farming should to be center on the balance of nature before we pursue profit and to realize the impact of not harmonizing our farming system with nature that left on our environment.

In addition, at HYC joint this year Agricultural show with showcasing how they cook.

“This year Ha’apai Youth Office focus on cooking using the virgin coconut oil with chips and other fried local dish on HYC office manager, Teisa Fakatene said “We also bring to the show our organic vegetable from our seed saving gardens program at the Ha’apai office compound.

“I’m grateful that we have the chance to show case our product so that the public may be aware of all the great work that our youth have done here” said ‘Amelia Latu EYC office manager which Eua Youth Office was also participating in the Eua Agricultural show.

Vava'u Youth Congress

Vava'u Youth Congress have mark July as one of there busies month of the year.

“Since the starting of the business entrepreneurship training with the Tonga Skills program with 15 youth participating. These youth have already identified that they are currently running their own business up to already planning and have started to work on their business plan. The trainer for this training was Mrs. Siale ‘Ilolahia Director of the Civil Society Forum of

Tonga.

Overall, 12 members of VYC are in the Ola Fou program. Eight are in the certificate program and four are in the diploma program.

“12 of our youth here had just came back from going to Fiji on the Pasifika Youth Development” said ‘Akosita “We have high expectation for our youth when coming back with such skill to help there community”

“This week we are making cos-

metic oil the old Tongan way with traditional fragrance leaves such as red ginger leaves, (tevunga) pandanus white flowering petals (hingano), Atuna Racemosa (Pipi) and spice , cinnamon, lemongrass, sandalwood and so much more you name it and all kind of soap and also organizing with the youth entrepreneurship group so that we may display products on next month Youth Day” said VYC office manager.