

'INE TOA LTD WINS AGRITECH GRANT TO EXPAND MANGAIA POULTRY FARM

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM) is pleased to announce it has awarded a SMART AgriTech Scheme grant to Donna Tuara's new company 'Ine Toa Ltd ('Ine Toa) to develop Mangaia's first commercial poultry business.

With financial support from the Agritech Scheme, Donna will expand her family's current chicken and egg farm to supply fresh, quality eggs to the local market on the island.

'Ine Toa will establish their new commercial poultry farm using efficient and effective farming methods. The new raised chicken house will be designed to provide healthy living conditions for the chickens and will use automated systems to ensure



efficient feeding and waste minimisation. The chicken manure will be removed and recycled as fertiliser for other farmers.

Mobile fencing for 'Ine Toa's free-range area will ensure chickens have space to roam and graze on the grass and soil, providing natural nutrients important for healthy chickens and more nutritious eggs. 'Ine Toa will also run temperature-controlled storage room and chiller using renewable energy, to prolong the quality of the eggs and chicken feed and reduce running costs.

Donna says: "Currently there is no commercial chicken farm that supplies fresh quality eggs on the island, so I am excited by the opportunity to expand my farm to meet the demand of the local market in Mangaia, and eventually the Cook Islands. By helping me to produce fresh food for my community, the Agritech grant is also helping to promote a healthy diet, retain money within our Cook Islands economy, and increase our food security."



Inconsistent shipping, limited international flights, and the cost of freight are all barriers to making fresh eggs consistently available and affordable on Mangaia. Once the farm is up and running, 'Ine Toa expect to supply approximately 300-350 eggs per week to the local community via Mangaia's small retailers.