

# SMART AGRITECH SCHEME

## TOWARDS A SMARTER, MORE EFFICIENT AND PROFITABLE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

The Ministry of Financial Management and Economic Development (MFEM) is delighted to have awarded a SMART AgriTech Scheme to Organics Cook Islands Limited (Organics Cook Islands) to fund an innovative new Superfoods venture. Organics Cook Islands owners Robert and Susanna Wigmore will use the grant to establish The Cook Islands Tea Factory, encompassing commercial production, processing and marketing of moringa and other organic local agricultural herbs for local and export markets.

Susanna Wigmore says the project aims to create new high quality local and sustainably manufactured agricultural products to meet international export requirements and responding to rising demand of Superfoods. "The grant will allow us to invest in redirecting our business, particularly focusing on an instrumentally controlled process, to deliver a quality organic product that is grown and produced in the Cook Islands".



The Wigmore's will establish a small factory to dry and commercialise organic whole leaf fresh moringa and other medicinal herbs, marketing the new products to nourishment and health retailers worldwide and directly to consumers online. Both farms and factory will be located

ed and designed for climate resilience and sustainability, using organic farming techniques, water and energy efficient processes, and solar energy. Financial Secretary Garth Henderson commented on how Organics Cook Islands' new venture will contribute to economic sustainability

of the agricultural sector. "The Agritech Scheme is Government's way of investing in entrepreneurship and supporting innovative agricultural ideas like Organics Cook Islands new tea venture that look to expand the range of niche Cook Islands' products available to both local and international markets," he said.

MFEM encourages people wanting to apply for an AgriTech Grant to firstly read through the criteria carefully, then discuss their project with Ministry of Agriculture to ensure their project meets all the technical and legislative requirements. MFEM staff are also available to give applicants advice and feedback to ensure their application is in line with the SMART AgriTech Policy before it is submitted.

