

Climate risk in Samoa's kava sector

Samoa's climate projections point to a future of increased temperatures, more frequent extreme rainfall days and more intense cyclones. These changed climactic conditions are likely to impact Samoa's kava sector.



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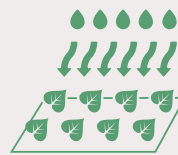


Cultivation

More frequent extreme rainfall and more intense cyclones can have significant effects on kava cultivation including:

- Destroying crops years into a cultivation cycle, impacting farmer livelihoods
- Causing soil erosion that impacts the quality of the crop, increases its vulnerability to disease and adds to the length of the ripening cycle.
- Decreasing human productivity
- Impacting farmers' ability to access kava planting areas (often in forest areas away from villages) due to heavy rainfall or disasters damaging roads

2



Processing

More extreme rainfall and higher temperatures can affect kava drying through:

- Increased difficulty in drying kava plants to the required moisture content due to more frequent rain and higher humidity, which may cause spoilage, mould, and diminish quality
- Poorer quality affecting product suitability for export
- Disruptions to storage and transport processes due to disasters, which may cause spoilage or prevent access to markets

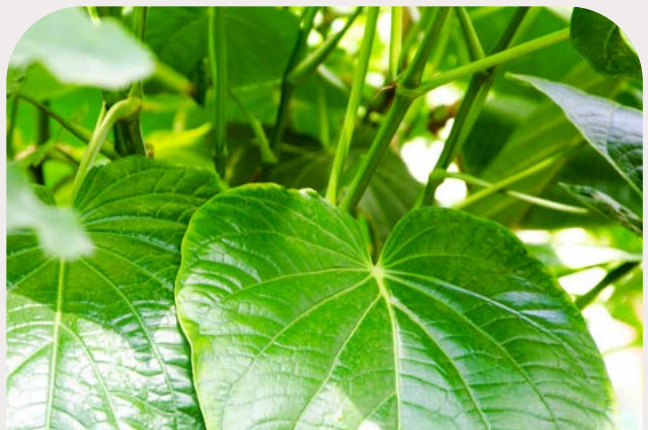
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Market

More extreme rainfall and more intense cyclones can impact kava exports to premium markets:

- Reputational damage if the country loses the bulk of its crop for one or more years due to a cyclone and cannot meet existing export demand and orders
- Reputational damage or potential export bans if the product has mould or other damage or quality issues from insufficient drying
- Because kava is often planted in forested areas, production at scale without proper consideration for sustainability may result in deforestation activities that could also cause reputational damage and a reduction in demand from overseas consumers



In Samoa, MDF is supporting the development of growing guidelines and training for kava farmers that include information on adapting to climate risks.