

### The newly established Samoan multispecies hatchery is fully operational

*Samoa's aquaculture sector has been growing significantly in the past few years. To date, Samoa's fish farming sector has mostly focused on Nile tilapia farming, but local communities and independent farmers are now looking into different species, such as sea grapes (*Caulerpa racemosa*), giant clams, trochus and mullets. As a response to these national needs, the Fisheries Division of Samoa's Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries decided to set up a new "marine multispecies aquaculture facility" in Toloa (around 10 km from Apia, the capital) because the only aquaculture facility that was currently operational in the country was relatively small and could only be used for freshwater species.*

Construction and equipment costs have been co-funded by the Samoan and Japanese governments. SPC's Aquaculture Section provided assistance in 2012 with finalising the design and technical specifications of the multispecies facility, and involving all relevant stakeholders.

In 2013, the Aquaculture Division of Samoa's Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries took an active role in accomplishing the land acquisition, awarding the contractor to start construction, and signing all necessary documents to comply with Samoan government regulations.

As a result of these collaborative efforts, the hatchery construction was completed in January 2014 and the facility is now fully operational. The first spawning trials with several species of giant clams have been conducted and hatchery technicians have been trained in basic farming techniques.

The official opening of the hatchery took place on 21 February 2014, and was attended by relevant stakeholders and local communities that are involved in fish farming. The establishment of this facility is an important milestone for the future development of Samoa's aquaculture sector.



*The new hatchery in Toloa, Samoa has a sea view that many five-star hotels would envy! (images: Tim Pickering, SPC).*



#### For more information:

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*Caulerpa racemosa (sea grapes) farming trials being conducted in some of the raceways (image: Tim Pickering, SPC).*