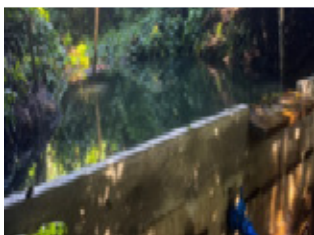
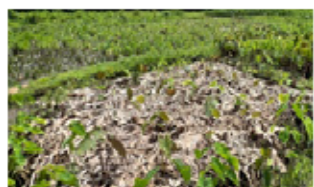
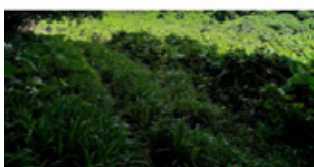
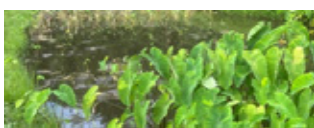


Coping with water scarcity

The example of the refilling of the Toloke taro patch
(Wallis-and-Futuna)

«Traditionally, water taro is a product specific to the first villages of the kingdom, Leava, Nuku and Vaisei. In my village, the villagers grow taro on both flooded and dry land. And this is due to the water resources, we don't have any large rivers, so in the rainy season we grow taro patches on the coastal plains, and when the dry season comes we return to the dry land».



Starting point: the abandonment of the Toloke taro patch

In 1993, an earthquake permanently affected the flow of the river near Toloke, a village on the northern tip of the island of Futuna, in the kingdom of Sigave. The taro patch being no longer supplied with water by the river, the village's taro patch is gradually being abandoned by the farmers.

Adoption of a new growing method

To compensate for the lack of water, the farmers developed a new system, inspired by the taro patches on the island of Uvea. The old basins flooded by river water were replaced by **earth mounds irrigated at their bases**. The taros are then planted on these mounds.

Rehabilitation of the old taro patch

The basins are dug and prepared using a **mechanical shovel**. This mechanisation saves a lot of time for the villagers and reduces the arduousness of such work.

Creation of a water catchment

A dam is built on the watercourse. The water is now conveyed to the taro field **via a system of PVC pipes**.

This strategy **saves farmers time** and reduces the drudgery of their work. On the other hand, by decreasing the topsoil, it **also reduces the number of possible harvest cycles** (1 to 2 versus 3 to 4) and therefore the yield of the taro fields.

