



Tonga

TURNING CULTURAL STAPLES INTO
RESILIENT, EXPORT-READY VALUE
CHAINS

HAND-IN-HAND INVESTMENT FORUM
ROME, OCTOBER 2026



Why Tonga?

29,000 ha
Cropland

USD 508.7M
GDP

16% - 18.7%
Agriculture GDP share

26.29% jobs
In agriculture/fish/forest

44%
Agriculture share of exports

ACROSS TONGA,
SMALLHOLDER
FARMERS PRODUCE
CROPS DEEPLY
**ROOTED IN LOCAL
DIETS, CULTURE
AND RURAL
LIVELIHOODS.**

*Kava, cassava and bele
already have strong domestic
importance, and growing
opportunities in regional and
diaspora markets.*

*But **fragmented production,**
limited processing capacity
and **high logistics costs**
continue to prevent farmers
from capturing the full value of
these crops.*



What are the challenges these farmers face?

FOUR GAPS ARE
LIMITING PRODUCTION,
VALUE ADDITION AND
ACCESS TO HIGHER-
VALUE MARKETS

01 Fragmented production and limited planting material

Smallholder production remains fragmented, while shortages of quality planting material constrain expansion across kava, cassava and bele

02 Processing and post-harvest gaps

Limited drying, storage, cold-chain, blanching, freezing and processing capacity restrict product quality, shelf life and value addition

03 High logistics costs and irregular supply

High inter-island and freight costs, combined with fragmented aggregation, make it difficult to build consistent volumes for domestic and export markets

04 Limited access to premium markets

Gaps in quality control, certification, traceability and market development constrain Tonga's ability to capture growing demand in regional, diaspora and specialty markets

What could change?

THREE STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS FOR **USD 25 MILLION** TO STRENGTHEN PRODUCTION, ADD VALUE AND EXPAND MARKET ACCESS

01 Kava

Expand production through 1,500-acre clusters, improved planting material and climate-resilient practices, while investing in processing, quality, branding and export capacity

USD 10.9M	USD 9.4M	26.1%
Investment	NPV	IRR

02 Cassava

Strengthen production across 3,095-acre clusters and invest in cold storage, frozen processing and new product lines, including chips, flour and snacks

USD 12.1M	USD 7.9M	26.7%
Investment	NPV	IRR

03 Bele

Organize production and invest in blanching, freezing and cold storage to extend shelf life and build a more reliable supply chain for local and export markets

USD 2.0M	USD 1.0M	34.9%
Investment	NPV	IRR

What is the government doing to enable investments?

NATIONAL PRIORITIES, GROWING MARKETS AND A SUPPORTIVE INVESTMENT ENVIRONMENT CREATE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SCALE

Agrifood Top National Investment Priority

Supported by strategies for production, food safety and climate resilience

Strong Kava Export Markets

To New Zealand, Australia and the US, while cassava demand is growing in New Zealand and Australia

Favorable Investment Climate

Full repatriation of capital and profits is permitted, with tax incentives and exemptions available in some cases

Regional Market Access

Regional trade and cooperation agreements provide access to wider Pacific markets

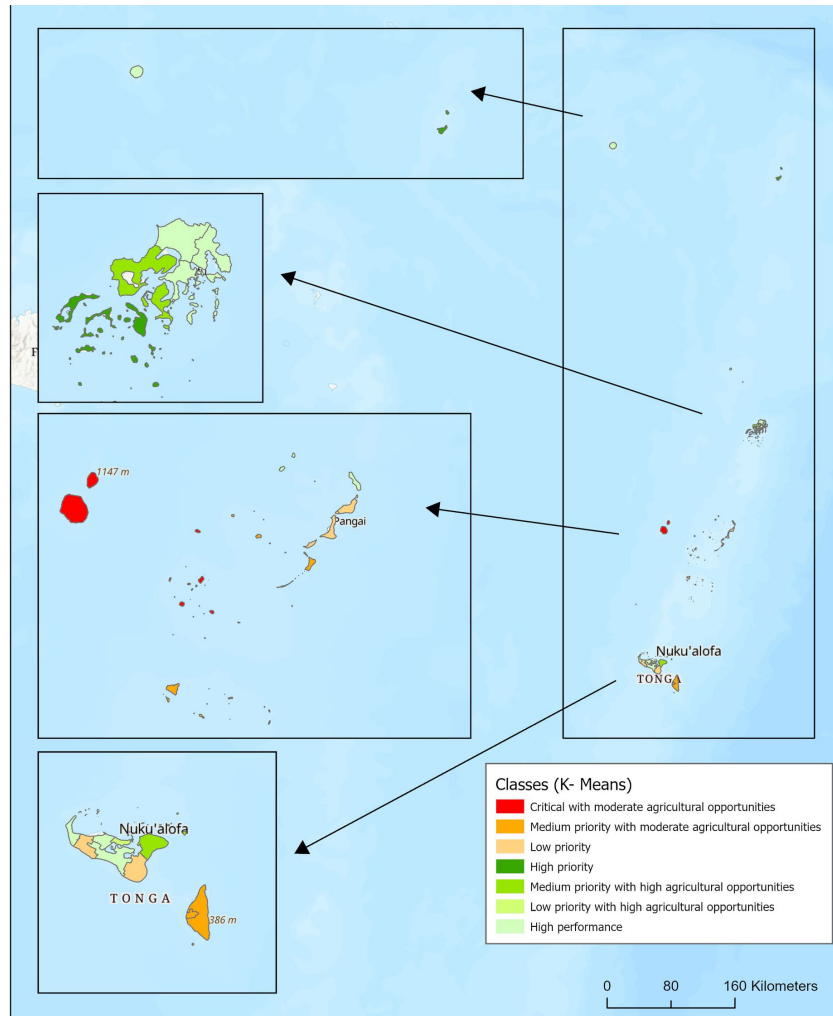
Improving Infrastructure

Upgrades to ports, roads and energy are strengthening the enabling environment for agrifood businesses

Climate Resilience

Climate-smart practices and growing renewable energy capacity

How do we know where to target these investments?



FAO'S GEOSPATIAL PLATFORM HELPS IDENTIFY AREAS WHERE AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL IS GREATEST.

INVESTMENTS ARE TARGETED TO ADDRESS THE SPECIFIC CHALLENGES OF EACH TERRITORY, MAXIMIZING IMPACT.

- Critical with moderate agricultural opportunities
- Medium priority with moderate agricultural opportunities
- Low priority
- High priority
- Medium priority with high agricultural opportunities
- Low priority with high agricultural opportunities
- High performance



What impact can these investments deliver?

BUILDING MORE PRODUCTIVE, RESILIENT AND HIGHER-VALUE AGRIFOOD CHAINS

Kava

Direct beneficiaries

1,500

Indirect beneficiaries

7,500

Per capita income increase

USD 7,878

Cassava

Direct beneficiaries

3,095

Indirect beneficiaries

15,475

Per capita income increase

USD 2,101

Bele

Direct beneficiaries

58

Indirect beneficiaries

300

Per capita income increase

USD 16,919

How can you be part of this story?

THREE SIMPLE STEPS

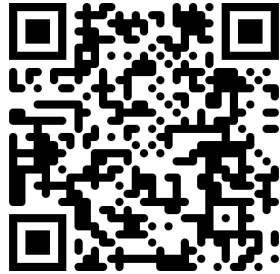
01 Explore the Investment Note

Download the **full investment note** or **investor deck** from the country page:



Access the most relevant document to you for more details on the country's investment cases.

02 Request a Bilateral Meeting



Schedule a one-on-one session with the country's delegation to discuss opportunities.



03 Join as an Investor/Partner



Engage with us as a DFI, MDB, or private investor to structure, derisk, and deploy capital.