

Sustainability Series

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Food Security, Sustainability, and Urban Gardening: Applying Anthropology to Interdisciplinary Research in Vanuatu and Oceania

In this research presentation, I analyze the discordant interventions that are pursued by governmental organizations hoping to develop sustainable food systems in the Pacific Island of Vanuatu. Both the government and families place high social value on locally grown food as healthy for children and important to sustainable development. The Ministry of Health promotes the consumption of locally grown staple foods as crucial to improving poor childhood nutrition and the Ministry of Agriculture encourages urban gardening for food security and sustainable land use practice. However, rapid population growth, limited access to land, poor soil quality, and theft prevent many families in the capital city of Port Vila from engaging in subsistence farming. I draw on applied anthropology and interdisciplinary research to call for the creation of uni ed