

AGRITECH GRANT TO ASSIST IN DEVELOPMENT OF HONEY AND BEE BASED PRODUCTS

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM) is pleased to announce Arorangi family based business JungleFarm has received a SMART AgriTech grant. The AgriTech funding will support JungleFarm purchase new technology based plant and equipment to develop and grow their honey and bee-product business.

JungleFarm owners Tama and Esther Heather aim to create a unique agricultural business, with its roots at their homestead in Arorangi. JungleFarm is exactly as it sounds - a farm in the jungle - and for the Heather's "it is a way of life" where they nurture a diverse and growing ecosystem of food crops, livestock and honey-bees.



JungleFarm are expanding their honey and bee-product business to become a

driving component of their operation; and with a range of hive outputs and a myriad of fresh local ingredients available, JungleFarm will be able to create and trial new and exciting products, and flavours.

Tama says that "the majority of honey and bee-based products consumed in the Cook Islands are being imported from New Zealand and the United States - I don't believe that should be the case". So over the past few years JungleFarm have been working towards their goal of introducing locally produced, quality, bee-based products, and value-added honey products to the local market.

JungleFarm needed an initial investment to establish and equip the facility, and this has been supported with the AgriTech grant. JungleFarm can now set up a facility that enables their business to inno-

vate and develop new bee-products that the Cook Islands community can enjoy. Alongside their planned expansion; over the past few months JungleFarm have also been offering swarm removals on Rarotonga, and aims to offer further bee-keeping services and opportunities to the local community.



You can follow JungleFarm's journey on:
Facebook: www.facebook.com/junglefarmlife
Instagram: www.instagram.com/junglefarm_