RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TSUNAMI-AFFECTED SOIL FOLLOWING THE TONGATAPU ERUPTION

If your land has been affected by the tsunami, crops might not grow well due to the increase of salt in the soil. This is what you can do:

**Minimise or avoid mechanical disturbance of the topsoil to allow the rainfall to leach the salt down.**

**Mulching of crop beds with organic residue to prevent water evaporation that brings salt to the soil surface where plant roots grow.**

**Improve drainage by raising crop beds in low lying areas or establishing drainage channels.** Seek advice on application of ameliorants (e.g. gypsum, lime) and nutrient management to enhance quality of soil.

**Who can farmers contact for further information**

Farmers can contact staff at the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Forests and Fisheries.

This advice is based on a report “Tongatapu post-eruption preliminary soil assessment” prepared by CSIRO for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Government.