

Table 13. Summary of projected effects of climate change on agricultural production: Marshall Islands.
“Low” means little effect from climate change. “High” means badly affected by climate change.

Crop & comments for the Pacific at large (from Bell and Taylor 2015)		Marshall Islands evaluation			
		Short Term (2030)	Medium Term (2050)	Long Term (2090)	Additional comments
Staple aroids / tubers	Sweet potato (Ipomea) <i>Sensitive to waterlogging; high temperatures could affect tuberization</i>	Low to moderate	Moderate to high	High	Sandy soils avoid waterlogging
	Cassava or Tapioka (Manihot)	Low to moderate	Moderate	Moderate to high	The major cause of lowered productivity during this period is expected to be sea level rise; drought will be a second cause of lowered productivity.
	Taro (Colocasia) <i>Increased temperature may favor taro leaf blight</i>	Low to moderate	Moderate to High	High	Grown in pits; sensitive to sea level rise. Dryland varieties of Colocasia will do better as pit varieties will be affected by salt water intrusion.
	Giant swamp taro (Cyrtosperma)	Moderate to High	High	High	Grown in pits; sensitive to sea level rise
	Giant taro (Alocasia)	Low to moderate	Moderate	Moderate to high	
	Arrowroot (Tacca) <i>(not addressed by Bell & Taylor)</i>	Low to moderate	Moderate	Moderate to high	
Other traditional staples	Breadfruit (Artocarpus)	Low to moderate	Moderate to high	High	More sensitive to salinity than many atoll trees
	Banana (Musa)	Low to moderate	Moderate	Moderate to high	
	Bele (Abelmoschus manihot)	Low to moderate	Moderate	Moderate to high	Must be grown inland, away from salt
	Bob (Pandanus) <i>(not addressed by Bell & Taylor)</i>	Low	Low to moderate	Moderate	Likely to be the most salt and drought tolerant food plant of the Marshalls
Commercial	Coconut (Cocos) <i>Senile plantations susceptible to wind; impacts lower for replanted trees</i>	Low to moderate	Moderate	Moderate to high	Salt and drought tolerant. Marshalls experiences fewer storms than Pacific average
Horticultural crops	Papaya (Papaya) <i>Wet weather favors fungal diseases</i>	Moderate	Moderate to high	High	
	Mango (Mangifera) <i>Fruit set affected by wet weather</i>	Moderate	Moderate to high	High	
	Citrus	Low to moderate	Moderate	Moderate to high	Lime
	Watermelon <i>High rainfall bad</i>	Moderate	Moderate to high	Moderate to high	
	Tomato <i>High rainfall, temperature bad</i>	Moderate	Moderate to high	Moderate to high	