

**Ministry of Agriculture's Comments on an Issue raised on the Climate Change
Bill 2021**

“In relation to the National Adaptation Plan Steering Committee, the submission noted that this Bill does not offer any reasonable means for families to rebuild, fabricate or move into sustainable farming. It’s sad that we still see no desire to move Fiji into an Organic Nation.”

Ministry of Agriculture Comment:

- **The Ministry note issues raised and feel that the Climate Change Bill, being a National Document will only present high level information of the sector rather than detail activities implemented on sustainable farming and Organic program.**
- On that note, the Ministry would like to inform, activities on both issues and highlight status and ongoing progress;
 - All annual planned activities of the Ministry are guided by the 2019-2023 Strategic Development Plan which is founded on 5 key Strategic Priorities :
 1. Improve Food and Nutrition Security for all Fijians
 2. Increase Farmer household income for Sustainable Livelihood
 - 3. Increase adoption of sustainable resources management and climate smart agriculture**
 4. Establish and improve commercial agriculture
 5. Improve quality public sector performance and service delivery
- Aligned to Strategic Priority 3 - The Ministry, continue to implement capacity building programs through trainings & workshops to promote adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture in the Sector and ensure sustainable farming practices.
- Through the years there has been ongoing research of climate & pest resilient varieties on various commodities [Taro, Sweet Potato, Rice etc.] that are introduced to farmers to improve resilience especially to climate change.
- Programs to promote nature based production system and regenerative agriculture are also implemented by the Ministry to limit greenhouse gas emissions, watershed pollution and ensure sustainable farming practices.

- The Ministry is also continuing its work on Organic ensuring farmers are fully aware and confident to embrace this new method.
- A national Organic Policy has been drafted and is currently in its final stages for submission to Parliament and endorsement. This document will guide implementation of Organic initiatives in the Sector and transition to Organic Nation.
- The Ministry has developed a Bacterium Culture to improve soil fertility in Farms and boost soil microbial activities
- There are compost sites established in 4 Agriculture Research Stations – Koronivia, Nadurulolou, Legalega & Seaqaqa where organic waste materials are collected which includes – green waste, untreated saw dust, pure chicken litter, and mill ash from FSC and rice husks. The aim is to produce 120 tons of organic manure for distribution to 40 sites around Fiji.
- Distribution of this organic manure have commenced for small holder farmers in the rural remote areas of Tailevu, Rewa & Naitasiri.

End
