



Ministry of Agriculture

ANNUAL REPORT

August 1st 2016 - July 31st 2017



CORPORATE PROFILE

VISION

A Modernized Agriculture Sector providing food and income security for all Fijians

MISSION

To excel in the provision of customer focused and market driven services in the agricultural sector

VALUES

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| • Good Governance | • Impartiality | • Equity |
| • Commitment | • Professionalism | • Responsiveness |
| • Integrity | • Courtesy | • Responsibility |
| • Honesty | • Partnership | • Innovation |

THE FUNCTIONS OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE INCLUDES;

- To accelerate agricultural product diversification into crops and livestock products where competitive advantage has been identified;
- To facilitate private sector development;
- To promote food security; and
- To ensure sustainable development in the non- sugar sector

OUR CUSTOMER

We take pride in serving our customers by implementing the 'Customer Service Charter' which sets out our commitment to providing high quality standards of services that is beyond customer expectations. Our customers include:

Internal

- Farmers
- MoA Staff
- Rural Community Leaders
- Exporters
- Importers
- Processors
- MoA consultants

External

- Ministries and Departments
- Members of the Public
- Private Sector
- Statutory Bodies
- Non- Governmental Organizations
- Diplomatic Missions
- International Organisations
- Unions and Employers
- Providers of Goods and Services
- Resource Owners
- Academic Institutions

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MINISTERS FOREWORD



The 2016/2017 Annual Report signifies a milestone in Governments budgeting process whereby financial timeframes are captured from August to July.

The beginning of this new financial year has been very challenging to the Ministry due to the devastating impact of TC Winston which made landfall in Fiji on Feb 20th, 2016.

This demands for rapid rehabilitation process which is highlighted in this 2016/2017 Annual Report that will also ensure achievement of the Ministry's mandated functions - quick economic recovery, food and income security, poverty alleviation and sustainable management of natural resources.

I sincerely acknowledge contributions of all staff of the Ministry through expert guidance and visionary leadership of the management team that have enabled the achievement of immediate performance targets and overall goals of the organisation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Inia B. Seruiratu', written over a dotted line.

Hon. Inia B. Seruiratu
Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development
and National Disaster Management

ASSISTANT MINISTER'S STATEMENT



The 2016/17 Annual Report highlights the Ministry's achievements from August 2016 - July 2017 which will be the new timeframe in Government's budgeting process.

Despite TC Winston, the Ministry continued to improve its performance to ensure that our service delivery to Fiji's Agriculture sector is not affected. This achievements is clearly recorded in this report aligned to Government's direction and goals.

Irrespective of the limited resources and other constraints, I believe staff of the Ministry have continued to improve their performance addressing issues affecting the development of the Sector whilst identifying and exploring opportunities that is available.

Therefore, I would like to express my gratitude for the contribution made by the Management and staff of the Ministry for achieving another pleasing performance this year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Viam Pillay', positioned above a dotted line.

.....
Hon. Viam Pillay
Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime
Development and National Disaster Management

PERMANENT SECRETARY'S STATEMENT



It is indeed with great pleasure to present the Ministry of Agriculture's 2016-2017 Annual Report.

The 2016/17 financial year had been a challenging one for the Ministry due to the impact of TC Winston, however, I am proud to highlight the Ministry's ability to rise above those challenges to improve performances and successfully achieving all expected work targets.

The new financial year have been a hive of activities with the continuation of TC Winston rehabilitation program, engaging in key preliminary consultations which involve public private partnership promotions, investment drives, internal capacity building, reorganization, awareness campaigns with farmers and key stakeholders.

The Ministry remained focused on improving performances, addressing issues that affects development of Fiji's Agriculture Sector through identifying and exploring available options that are more responsive to needs of our stakeholders.

On this note, I express my sincere appreciation to all my staff at the Ministry for your endless committment throughout the financial year. Special thank you to other Govenment Ministries, Development Partners and stakeholders for your usual support, cooperation and assistance throughout the year which have enabled the Ministry to achieve its overall targets despite challenges.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jitendra Singh', written over a dotted line.

Mr. Jitendra Singh
Permanent Secretary for Agriculture

2016 – 2017 YEAR AT A GLANCE



H.E. the President Major-General Jioji Konrote receiving machines donated by the Chinese Government.



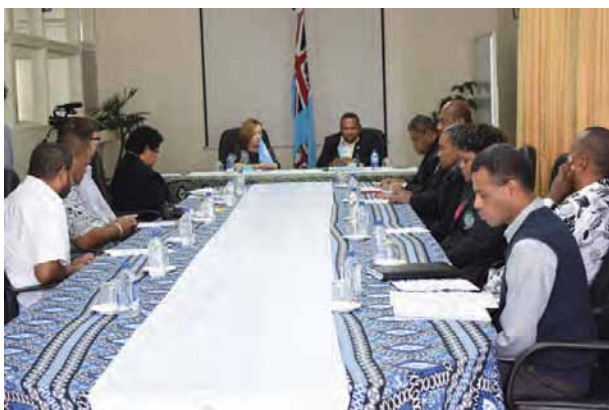
FNU / Surt University, Australia Training on De-sexing.



1st Joint Agricultural Working Group Meeting - Fiji/Thailand.



Opening of the banana cooler at Nasau village in Wainibuka.



MoU signing with UNDP on TC Winston assistance.



Ground breaking ceremony of new VCO factory in Savusavu.



Handing over of seeds from India - TC Winston Assistance.



Signing of Agreement between MoA and JUNCAO Technology.

LEGISLATED FUNCTIONS

The Ministry derived its core mandate from the Presidential decree 2007 and is currently responsible for about 28 pieces of legislations. It is envisaged that all the acts specified under the ministerial assignment must be reviewed and ensured that there is no conflict between policy interpretations of existing acts.



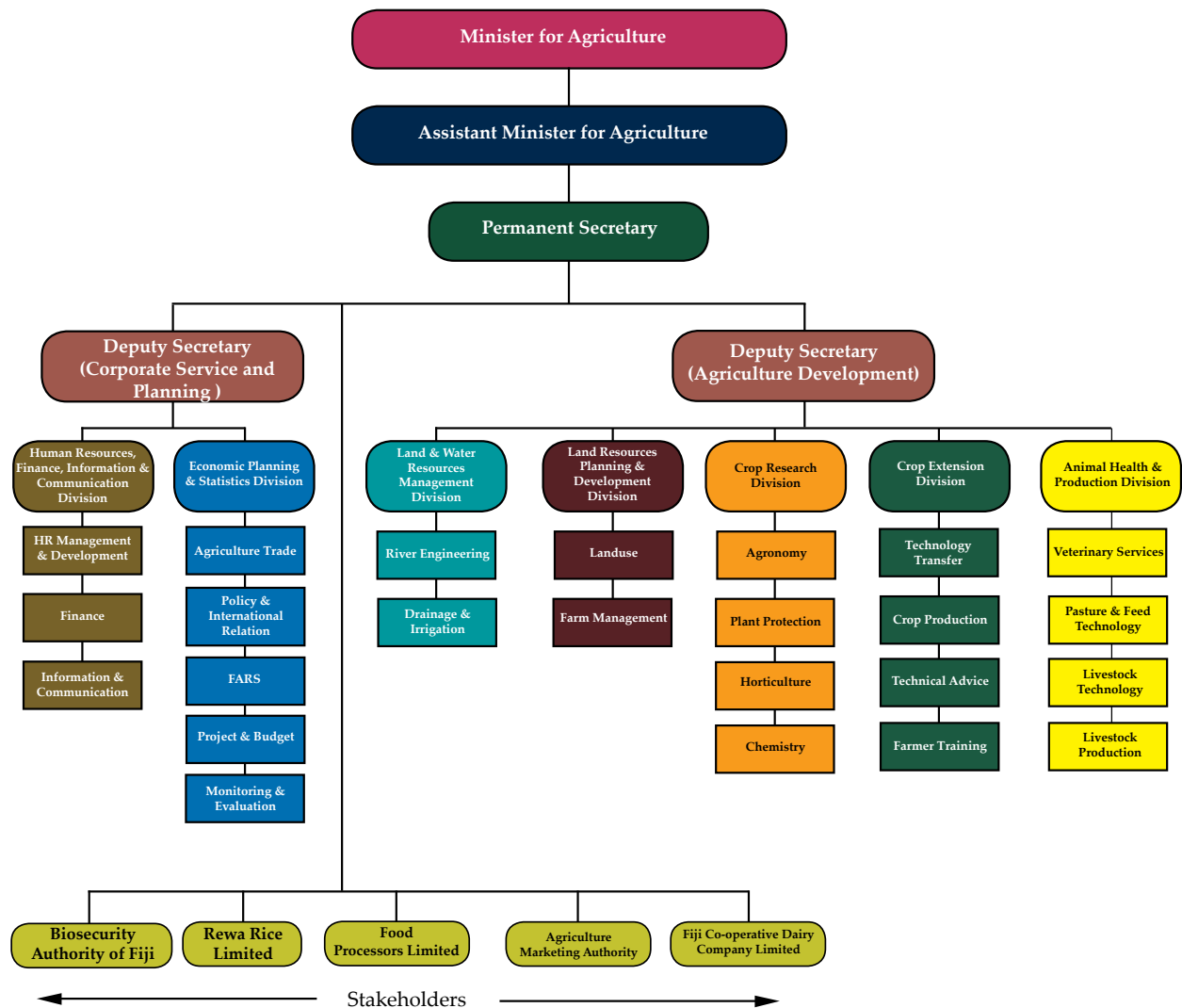
MINISTRY'S LEGISLATIONS & REGULATIONS

The Ministry of Agriculture is guided in its daily operations by the following legislations and regulations:

Table 1: Legislations and Regulations of the Ministry

1	Agricultural Land & Tenant Act (Cap.270)	15	Fruit Export and Marketing Act (Cap 154)
2	Agriculture Marketing Authority Act (2004)	16	Ginger Council of Fiji Act 1996
3	Animals (Control of Experiment)Act (Cap.161)	17	Goat (Ear marks) Act (Cap 164)
4	Banana Export and Marketing Act (Cap 155)	18	Irrigation Act (Cap 144 A)
5	Birds and Game Protection Act (Cap 170)	19	Land Conservation and Improvement Act (Cap 141)
6	Brands Act (Cap 163)	20	Meat Industry Act (Cap 137)
7	Coconut Industry Development Authority Act 1998	21	Pesticide Act (Cap 157)
8	Cooperative Dairy Companies Act (Cap 119)	22	Pound Act (Cap 165)
9	Copra Industry Loans Act (Cap 153)	23	Protection of Animals Act (Cap 169)
10	Crop Lients Act (Cap 226)	24	Rewa Rice Limited Decree 1991
11	Dairies Act (Cap 118)	25	Stock Improvement Act (Cap 162)
12	Dogs Act (Cap 168)	26	Trespass of Animal Act (Cap 166)
13	Drainage Act (Cap 143)	27	Veterinary Surgeons Act (Cap 257)
14	Fencing Act (Cap 167)	28	Promulgation of Biosecurity Act 2008

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



LINKAGE TO THE PEOPLE'S CHARTER FOR CHANGE, PEACE AND PROGRESS PRIORITIES

This Annual Report presents the Ministry of Agriculture's achievements for the fiscal year of August 2016 to July, 2017. It reports on publicly committed strategies, key actions and performance measures as outlined in the Ministry of Agriculture Annual Corporate Plan for 2016/17. It also reflects progress and commitments to Government direction.

Table 2: The Ministry's activities in 2016/17 were aligned to the following 5 Government's Key Pillars.

Key Pillar(s) PCCPP Priorities	Targeted Outcome (Goal/ Policy Objective - RDSSD)	Outcome Performance Indicators or Measures (Key Performance Indicators-RDSSD)	Ministry's Outputs (list outputs related to indicators only)
Pillar 4: Enhancing Public Sector Effectiveness and Service Delivery.	Improved performance & efficiency Public Sector Reform	Wide implementation of Service Excellence Framework Reorganize training based on training needs assessment & addressing specific & position related skills development Database developed	Enhance service delivery Portfolio Leadership, policy advice and secretariat support
Pillar 5: Achieving Higher Economic Growth while ensuring sustainability.	A sustainable agriculture industry and community livelihood through competitive exports and food security	Increase Ministry of Agriculture's contribution to GDP from 7.6% to 10% Increase value of non-sugar agriculture exports from \$395m to \$410m by 2016. Value of Fruits and vegetables imports reduced from around \$92m to \$80m by 2016	Maintaining food security through the provision of extension and research services both for livestock and crops. Quick economic recovery through the implementation of Demand Driven Approach and other commodity projects.
Pillars 6: Making more Land Available for productive and Social services.	Proper land use planning and management to support economic development	Increase number of land sites for commodity purpose and are compliant to Sustainable Land Management farming practices/ concept.	Sustainable management of natural resources through flood protection programmes and other sustainable land management practices.
Pillar 7: Developing an Integrated Development Structure at the Divisional Level.	Rural & Outer Island communities to meet their basic needs, improve living standards and quality of life towards self-sufficiency	Improve provision of basic services to rural areas in terms of agriculture services	Rural & Outer Island communities to meet their basic needs, improve living standards through agriculture development
	Achievement of gender equality and empowerment of women through full participation in agriculture development	Increase percentage of women who are economically active in agriculture activities	Achievement of gender equality and empowerment of women through full participation in agriculture development
Pillars 8: Reduce Poverty to a Negligible Level by 2015.	Creating sustainable livelihoods through enterprise development	Increase the number of projects supporting young farmers.	Assist in poverty alleviation by building capacity of farmers to increase production.

2016/17 AGRICULTURE KEY NUMBERS

MoA Total Budget



\$74.4 million

MoA Actual Expenditure



\$56.1 million

Agriculture (Crop & Livestock) GDP



\$500.8 million

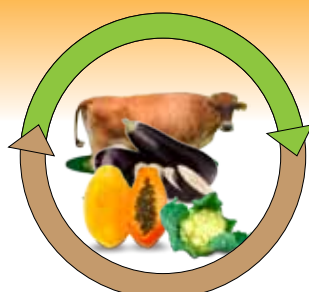
Agriculture (Crop & Livestock) Production



255,435 mt

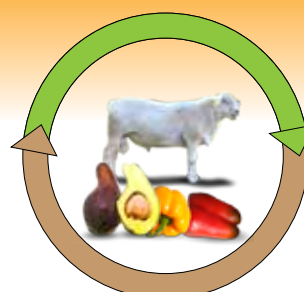
AGRICULTURE (Crop & Livestock) TRADE

Crop & Livestock Sector Export



\$194 m

Crop & Livestock Sector Import



\$645 m

MAJOR CROP COMMODITIES PERFORMANCE IN 2016/17



Dalo Production: 38,379 mt

Total Export:

- Volume (6213.84mt)
- Value (\$22.16m FJD)

Top Export Destination: New Zealand (2,770mt)



Cassava Production: 63,677 mt

Total Export:

- Volume (632.92 mt)
- Value (\$1.17m FJD)

Top Export Destination: New Zealand (389 mt)



Ginger Production: 6,548 mt

Total Export:

- Volume (633.7 mt)
- Value (\$3.82m FJD)

Top Export Destination: United States (469 mt)



Pawpaw Production: 3,174 mt

Total Export:

- Volume (272.33 mt)
- Value (\$1.17m FJD)

Top Export Destination: New Zealand (89 mt)



Yaqona Production: 7,595 mt

Total Export:

- Volume (311.27mt)
- Value (\$19.65m FJD)

Top Export Destination: United States (93.5 mt)



Pineapple Production: 5,135 mt

Total Export:

- Volume (1025 kg)
- Value (\$0.002m FJD)

Top Export Destination: New Zealand (347 kg)

MAJOR LIVESTOCK COMMODITIES PERFORMANCE IN 2016/17



Pig Production: 864 mt

Export of Pork (Fresh/Chilled/Frozen)

- Volume (3.879mt)
- Value (0.004m \$FJD)

Top Export Destination: Nauru is the only destination



Dairy Production: 14,172 mt

Export of Milk

- Volume (91.922kg)
- Value (\$0.611m FJD)

Top Export Destination: Papua New Guinea



Poultry Production: Broiler (15,115 mt), Ducks (105 mt), Eggs (4,867 mt)

Export of Poultry Meat Chicken/Duck/Turkey/etc. (Fresh/Chilled/Frozen)

- Volume (278.85mt)
- Value (\$1,928.66m FJD)

Top Export Destination: Vanuatu



Beef Production: 2,032 mt

Export of Beef (Fresh/Chilled/Frozen):

- Volume (4.445 mt)
- Value (\$0.036m FJD)

Top Export Destination: Nauru & Tuvalu



Sheep Production: 80 mt

Export of Sheep Meat (Lamb & Mutton- Fresh/Chilled/Frozen):

- Volume (0.2m)
- Value (\$0.01m FJD)

Top Export Destination: Vanuatu

CROP EXTENSION DIVISION



SAO Naitasiri with a farmer in Muainaweni, Naitasiri.

CROP EXTENSION DIVISION

OVERVIEW

Crop Extension Division's core responsibility is delivering quality and timely services to our customers. This year the Division had 3 new inclusions to the twenty existing programmes. They are Yaqona Development, Dalo Development and BQA & Non BQA commodities support services. These programs and services were designed to assist all our farmers therefore the increase in budget of \$12.7million and twenty three programs will enable the Division in achieving its annual target that links to the government policies and direction.

Tabulated below are the achievements for the Division:

Table 3: ACP Achievement of Crop Extension Division from 1st August 2016 – 31st July 2017

Output 1: Maintaining Food Security Through The Provision of Extension And Research Services For Crops, Livestock And Veterinary Services			
SUB- OUTPUT	STRATEGIES	INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENT
Increased crop and livestock production	Implement researched best farm practices for adoption by farmers	Number of best farm practices and technology widely disseminated and adopted.	20
		Number of farmers diversifying to increase farm production.	189
	Increase supply of seeds and planting materials to farmers.	Number of commodities distributed to farmers.	45
	Promotion of mechanized farming options	Number of farming machineries purchased.	26
Enhance Food Security and Livelihoods for All through a Co-ordinated and collaborative effort to support capacity building and raising awareness in a variety of formats.	Coordination of Programmes Implemented by Ministries & NGOs	Number of integrated programmes as assisted and implemented % of farmers provided with relevant training to prepare and adapt to risks from Climate Change and Disasters through the relevant programmes.	55
		Number of food security Awareness conducted	88
		Number of farmers adopting and implementing traditional techniques to enhance food security and livelihoods.	
	Setting up of backyard garden to promote accessibility of local healthy food in the communities	Number of backyard gardens Established	3

Reducing the risks from Climate Change and Disasters through strengthened adaptation and preparedness measures.	Strengthen effective planning, response and recovery. Emergency Plan [Preparedness & Response]	Number of awareness on disaster response and preparedness % of staff fully Capacitated through capacity building and training on disaster response and preparedness	45
		Number of awareness on sustainable farming practices for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation	10
Output 2: Quick Economic Recovery Through The Implementation Of Demand Driven Approach And Other Commodity Projects			
SUB- OUTPUT	STRATEGIES	INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENT
Establish Commodity protocols with existing & new markets	Capacity Building at community level for commercial agriculture	Number of farmers trained	620
Strengthening of existing BQAs & Commodity Protocols	Provide effective agriculture advisory Services & coordination to promote export commodities	Number of BQA farmers capacitated	95
Improve accessibility of farmers to credit facility and Improve linkage with financial insitutions	Coordinate partnership between farmers and financial institutions	Number of joint awareness with lending institutions to farmers for agriculture purpose.	15
		Number of Farm Plan and agricultural commercial loan proposals prepared	250
	Coordinate linkage with local tourism industry-e.g. ATS, Hotels, Catering	Number of farmers linked to tourism Industry	9
Reduce Import Bill on Agriculture Products	Encourage local production of imported agriculture commodities	Awareness & trainings to farmers on increasing local production of imported agriculture products	14
Output 3: Assist In Poverty Alleviation by Capacity Building of Farmers to Increase Production			
SUB- OUTPUT	STRATEGIES	INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENT
Capacity Building of Farmer	Capacity building on subsistence farmers	Number of farmer training / farmers field school conducted	55
		Number of farm visit and advice to farmers	7,112
		Number of subsistence farmers progressed to semi-commercial level	13
	Promote sufficiency at community leve	Number of commodities clustering formed	5
		Number of Clustered farmers profiling	9

Output 4: Sustainable Management Of Natural Resources Through Flood Protection Programmes And Other Sustainable Land Management Practices

SUB- OUTPUT	STRATEGIES	INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENT
Sustainable Land Management	Effective landuse management practices	Number of land cleared, prepared and utilized for agriculture purpose	10

Output 5: Ensuring Equal Access For Women In Agricultural Development

SUB- OUTPUT	STRATEGIES	INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENT
Participation of Women on Economic Activities	Strengthen cottage industry to create employment	Number of women groups trained/assisted and progressed in Agriculture development	40

Output 6: ROI Communities To Meet Basic Needs, Improve Living Standards Through Agriculture Development

SUB- OUTPUT	STRATEGIES	INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENT
Improve provision on basic services to rural & maritime areas in terms of agriculture services	Coordinate & implement Agriculture projects with stakeholders	Number of Agriculture projects: identified with project proposal submitted	16
		No. of consultations/meetings to increase market access on agriculture products & upgrading infrastructure.	20

2016/2017 DIVISIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



Crop Extension farm visits.



Land preparation.



Women in Agriculture.



Farmers Training.



Handing over of tractor to Waidalice farmers by PS Agriculture.



PS Agriculture hands over tractor to Prasad family at Tumakeli settlement Bilalevu, Sigatoka.



Mini Yam competition in the Western Division.



Talanoa Session with Bilalevu farmers.



Assistant Minister for Agriculture Hon. Viam Pillay with Cluster group in Ovalau.



Seed extraction exercise at Legalega.



Central Agriculture Show Farmer of the Year.



Organic ginger farming in Ra.

HUMBLE START ON THE ROAD TO SUCCESS



Rupeni with his tractor at his farm.



On the way to the highland of Naitasiri province, the attractive Medrausucu Mountains, vast indigenous forests, five rivers and fertile agricultural land are something to capture.

Prior to roads being built, the five rivers that flow through the province, the Wainibuka, Wainimala, Waidina, Waimanu and the Rewa River were the main avenues of transportation and communication.

Hence, many villages in the province were situated alongside the rivers and mainland including Nasavu village which is a home to a sixty-two year old farmer Rupeni Nawaitabu.

Rupeni's journey began way back in 1964 when he decided to leave school at class six to become a full time farmer in the village.

Leaving school at a young age, Rupeni had not much knowledge about farming but following his parents when going out to their dalo farm had taught him from planting to harvesting.

Rupeni helped his parents on the farm for 11 years until he decided to have his own dalo farm.

"I chose dalo farming in those days with the belief that one day I will be an expert and more importantly will become financially well-off," he said.

Rupeni had a humble beginning on his farm with the help of his neighbour and a farmer Basdeo Prasad who helped him to cultivate the soil.

"Not only Basdeo assisted me in basic aspects of farming but also gave me a pair of bullocks to cultivate a small piece of land near our village," he said.

"With strong faith and determination I worked so hard in the farm and planted dalo on that small piece of land," he smiled.

Rupeni said in those days, selling his produce to middle men from nearby village was a challenge but he managed to overcome all those through negotiation and more importantly saving his earnings in the bank.

"In those days, I sold dalo to Waisali Farm Produce at \$0.90 per kilogram which was equivalent to \$5 to \$10 per bundle," he said.

As Rupeni chased his dream, he made a decision to expand his farm from his savings and later he purchased

58 hectares of crown lease land located on the gentle slope near his village.

He divided the 58 hectares and named it as the Vunimolikana farm and Naqaranikula farm where he planted dalo and ventured into livestock farming which includes dairy, poultry and duck.

As years passed with all his effort and success, his next move was to purchase a tractor to assist him on land preparation. He also bought a few cows to increase his stock.

At the age of 24 he married Siteri Danford Nawaitabu who hails from Raiwaqa village located in the province of Namosi and has nine children, six girls and three boys.

A highly motivated farmer in those days had to make sure all his children attend school and do extremely well in years to come and today all of them are very successful.

Two of his sons are working as civil servants while one daughter is married to a well-known businessman Bobby Jai Ram and his other four daughters and one son are also married while the youngest daughter is still schooling.

Rupeni has spent 40 years on the farm and is still going strong. His age is not a barrier as he also assists people in the community.

He assists farmers in transportation of their produce from the farm to the market and also assists in transportation of poultry manure from the farm to their village.

Rupeni's dream of becoming financially well-off came true when he started harvesting his dalo.

"In 2013, I earned \$2,000 from the sales of dalo and it increased to \$6,000 in 2014 and after the harvest last year it increased to around \$10,000," said Rupeni.

Currently Rupeni sells his tausala variety dalo to Fijians Helping Fijians Limited at \$3 per kilogram.

While for his dairy farm, Rupeni produced 5000 liters of milk with the value of \$3,900 in 2013 which increased to 6,000 liters valued at \$4,680 in 2014 and in 2015 his milk production increased to 7,000 liters and earned \$5,460 from its sales.

Moreover, his poultry farm also thrived well and from the sales of his poultry he earned \$8,000 in 2014 which increased to \$12,000 last year.

THE WEAVING LADY



Mereseini with her daughters Amele Latia (left) and Makelesi Bulilovo (Right).



Mereseini Dawai weaving.

When the head of the house made a decision that did not satisfy the beloved wife, she made it her business to thrive and satisfy the needs of the family.

40 years old Mereseini Dawai of Nakawakawa Village in the District of Wainunu in the Province of Bua has been six years from today been the pillar of strength to her children.

The woman of strong characteristic in order to keep her family together weaves mats made of pandanus leaves and sells dried readily coiled ones.

"I looked at pandanus leaves in a different way, since my husband does not engage himself wholly in the cultivation of soil, I could make a little use of myself and start weaving," she said.

Seini as she is fondly known by has never liked weaving from a tender age and always dodge the idea of learning how to weave.

"My mother, Ema Rarogo would always have this patriotic feeling for weavers and would always try to maneuver me to learn weaving," said Mereseini.

Constant reminders of some day's marriage would come her way and in the Fijian protocol, a woman is admired for her crafty fingers in weaving.

"I would turn a deaf ear and tell her I would rather learn from my teacher in school as I know my mother would like me to spend long hours helping her."

Art and Craft is part of the Education Curriculum and more reason for Ema Rarogo to remind her daughter once again.

"I came home from school one day and told my mother of the requirement from the Art and Craft class to which she replied: You don't want to learn from me but from someone else."

School was what kept her busy and she dreamt big of some days she would don the purple uniform and graduate as a nurse serving the sick.

"I applied for nursing, went for an interview in Labasa and passed but disappointment awaited me when I came home with the news," she said.

"My father told me there are no funds to pay for my fees as it was costly and there was not much he could do."

"I had to persuade him several times but to no avail,

I was the youngest of four siblings and my older ones are not working to support me so I was stuck at a dead end," she recalled.

Dreams crushed, future ended the petite lady made a vow to marry off the first man she falls in love with and that's exactly what she did when she met Ilisoni Tuili from Saolo Village, Tikina Wainunu during her year long stay in the village from 1995' to 1996'.

"I would sometimes cry silently but would publicly expose it, the idea of not accomplishing my dream and at the moment of staying in the village I should be sitting in the classroom," she sighed.

"My father would scold me and question my reason of crying and I would reply with hurt in my voice and heart," Mereseini recalled.

The daily routine of a housewife began when she reached the womanhood and conceived her first child, a son at the age of 21.

"Straight after my son, came my four daughters who I tenderly vowed shall never go through the same ordeal I went through."

"They will have a good education and will have the luxury I never got to enjoy and will follow their dreams no matter the hardship I will have to endure," she said with confidence.

With determination, she persevered over the years with what little she could do from cleaning, selling and other odd jobs and in 2010 she made a breakthrough planting her own pandanus bed.

"My youngest is now six years old and with her growth grew my pandanus farm and whenever I would go to clean and plant new ones I would talk to it and explain that it is for the future of my children and would pray to God to help it grow," she smiled.

"My husband planted but not to what was expected, he provided but to a limited stage and from that I started with pandanus and would gladly provide and contribute financially for the family"

Her family resides at her village due to traditional set back and that deprived her husband from planting on a large scale.

The courageous Mereseini never let her children lose

sight of where the source of money comes from taking them to the farm for cleaning up and constantly reminding them to excel.

"Taking my children to the farm is part of the routine and with them we clean and they even help in the curing and coiling of the pandanus and the recent inclusion of my husband who is beginning to support our work with pandanus."

"I would tell them it is where our fortune lies and for them never to be ashamed of it, it pays their school fees and other personal needs."

Mereseini upholds her dignity dedicating her family's life to the Almighty Father for shelter and protect.

"Living a life dedicated to the Lord will sail smoothly, there will always be orders coming in for mats and for dried coiled pandanus," she smiled.

"Every morning I will pray over my family and the pandanus farm and offer newly pleated mats for tithe in church."

"The Lord did something beyond my imagination and it is because I had faith in him and I will never tire to exalt him," she said proudly.

"During the devastation of tropical cyclone Winston, I lost hope that my pandanus farm will survive, before going home on the day it hit the village I knelt prayed to the Lord that pandanus is the only thing that keeps my family going," she recalled.

"When the cyclone left I cried as not a single one of my pandanus trees was damaged, I witnessed the amazing work of God as he works in mysterious ways."

"My pandanus farm is located along the water edge, at the height of the rising water my pandanus stood strong against the current and the strong wind and I praised God for that," she smiled.

Villagers from neighboring villages often place orders to Mereseini for coiled pandanus or even mats for functions.

"From the pandanus I weave mats that I sell and for those that place orders, the villagers and government workers, I even have orders placed from Suva."

Mereseini sells her coiled dry pandanus for \$10 and her mats for \$80.

"Some say for me to increase my price but because most of them are my relatives, I remained my price and I also consider the struggles they are going through," she said.

Dalo is the main commodity the Wainunu District engages in to put their children to school, accommodate family and village functions.

"The sale obtained pays the school fees of my children; I bank the remaining revenue for future usage like family functions and trips to Suva and the future of my children."

"One of my girls wants to be a nurse while the other wants to join the military, I will provide and make them achieve their dreams all they have to do is work hard and be obedient," said Mereseini.

Life has always been a struggle for this Nakawakawa woman but determination and her faith kept her moving achieving greater things from the simple pandanus farm she has.



Women in Agriculture.

AGE NOT A BARRIER TO BABASIGA FARMER - RAM



Farmer Ram in white collar t-shirt on the right and on the left his son Pradeep Chand in blue t-shirt with sons in front of their Single Cab Ford Ranger worth \$14,000.



Farmer Ram Chandar with wife Brij Raji.

Age might be a barrier to people but to 64 year old Babasiga farmer, Ram Chandar it is just a number with the belief he can do much better than a middle aged man.

Farming is what Ram is passionate about, today he still continues what he loves best.

Ram's journey began in 2007, when he left his Draladamu home located in Daku sector in Labasa for greener pastures.

"We left Labasa because our land lease expired and planned to move to Lomaivuna sector in the province of Naitasiri," he said.

"During those days there had been stories about the area supplying lots of fresh fruits and vegetables to Suva and Nausori markets and Agricultural farming projects were on board as well," he said.

After hearing all those, he was inspired and decided to move his family to Viti Levu.

Leaving his own comfort zone and try out something new in a strange environment was a challenge to Ram.

After months of searching Ram was able to get 10 acres of land on lease through Native Land Trust Board (NLTB). The land belonged to the Mataqali Cau, Tikina Lomaivuna in the province of Naitasiri.

After receiving his land lease agreement, he did not lay back and rest besides with little knowledge he got he went forward to start his dalo, cassava and ginger farm.

"At first I utilised 3 acres where 1 ½ acre was used for dalo and cassava planting while the other 1 ½ acre covered ginger and seven acres was left out for future needs," he said.

"If the crops are planted at the right time followed by good husbandry practices, it gives good harvest," says Ram.

For two years Ram worked really hard on his farm to get the results of his hard work.

According to Ram's wife Brij Raji, her husband does not miss a day to attend his farm, unless he is sick or having family commitments.

She said her hardworking husband had to make sure he completes the day's work before returning home in the evening.

After two years of hard work, he harvested 4 tonnes of ginger and sold it to Frespac for \$950 per tonne which earned him \$3,800 dollars, with dalo and cassava Ram earned \$900 to \$1,000.

As time passed he got familiar with Lomaivuna environment, and came to know about the assistance provided by the Ministry of Agriculture.

In 2010 Ram learnt about mixed farming from the Lomaivuna Agriculture station and tried to practice it.

"Getting assistance from the ministry, with mixed farming technique, I was able to plant dalo, cassava and ginger together on a same piece of land and it grew well," he added.

Four years later, Ram started to count his blessings from all his earnings, he was able to purchase a Single Cab Ford Ranger worth \$14,000.

Not only that, he purchased another 10 acres of land which is currently in process.

The talented farmer also joined the Lomaivuna Sector 7 Farmers group, formed by farmers around the area with the objective of "no land should be left idle" and people should make maximum use of it.

The group started off with ten farmers from different background in which today they have increased to 30 farmers.

"Each member is allowed to plant any crops they intend to and during harvesting and marketing they help each other while the income goes to the individual farmers," he said.

Currently, Ram has dalo, cassava, banana, uvi (yams), kawai, long beans, Chinese cabbage and ginger in his farm.

As he gained success in mixed farming he also has 60 ducks along with 4 pair of bullocks used for ploughing the land and a fish pond near his house with the assistance from the Ministry of Fisheries and Forestry.

The recent Tropical Cyclone Winston did not do any harm to Ram's farm except a little damage to his ducks shed, which has been repaired.

"Back in Labasa, I used to plant rice and sugarcane on small scale which was enough for home consumption but now I can manage more than one commodity," he laughed.

One thing he cannot forget is the support he gets from his family. Family support is the number one priority to Ram as he believes the fact that this led him to success.

Ram and Raji have three children, a son and two daughters. His elder son Pradeep Chand aged 37 assists him on the farm while two daughters are married in Labasa.

He also hires people from Nabaitavo village to work on his farm and pays them \$20 per day.

Ram's farm is frequently visited by the government officials and he is very excited about it since his hard work is cherished by other people.

He is grateful to the Government, last year the Ministry of Agriculture assisted Ram in the construction of his goat fence, supplied NPK fertilizer and assisted him with a tractor for land preparation.

ANIMAL HEALTH & PRODUCTION DIVISION



WCC farmers co-operative members with day old chicks

ANIMAL HEALTH & PRODUCTION DIVISION

OVERVIEW

Livestock contributes to the farming operations of more than 41,918 farmers in Fiji. The Ministry of Agriculture's Livestock Division has been working very closely with these rural farmers as part of their advisory services role, thus encouraging them in raising the following stocks such as; beef, sheep, dairy, goats, poultry and apiculture. Core functions of the Livestock Division are;

- Provide knowledge and livestock related services to livestock industries, provides advice to government on the development of livestock sectoral policies and programs aimed at promoting the sustainable development of the livestock industry;
- Provide animal health, regulatory and technical services to maintain and improve animal health status and prevent the introduction of exotic pests and diseases;
- Promote and facilitate livestock research and development programs among other responsibilities.

Tabulated below are the achievements for the Division:

Table 4: ACP Achievement of AH&P Division from 1st August 2016 – 31st July 2017

Output 1: Maintaining Food Security Through The Provision of Extension And Research Services For Crops, Livestock And Veterinary Services			
SUB- OUTPUT	STRATEGIES	INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENT
Increased crop and livestock production	Implement researched best farm practices for adoption by farmers	Number of best farm practices and technology widely disseminated and adopted.	20
		Number of farmers diversifying to increase farm production.	189
	Increase supply of seeds and planting materials to farmers.	Number of commodities distributed to farmers.	20
	Pest and Disease Control	Pest's Management strategies developed to reduce the prevalence of target crop pests and disease	26



Output 1: Maintaining Food Security Through The Provision of Extension And Research Services For Crops, Livestock And Veterinary Services

SUB- OUTPUT	STRATEGIES	INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENT
Enhance Food Security and Livelihoods for All through a Co-ordinated and collaborative effort to support capacity building and raising awareness in a variety of formats.	Coordination of Programmes Implemented by Ministries & NGOs	Number of integrated programmes as assisted and implemented % of farmers provided with relevant training to prepare and adapt to risks from Climate Change and Disasters through the relevant programmes.	27
	Conduct food security awareness and support to farm household, village and settlement.	Number of food security Awareness conducted	28
		Number of farmers adopting and implementing traditional techniques to enhance food security and livelihoods.	
		Number of farmers assisted under Food Security programs (FSP).	20
Strengthening Agriculture Research Services	Conduct progressive research on best farm practices for farmers	Number of farm practices researched	5
	Co-operation for joint fund research fund research	Number of joint fund research programmes between government stations and university researches	4
Reducing the risks from Climate Change and Disasters through strengthened adaptation and preparedness measures	Promote and strengthen food security programmes to enhance community based disaster risk reduction initiatives	Conserve economic crop germplasm	2
		Provision of planting materials	3
		Provision indigenous breed for livestock to support community rehabilitation	250
	Strengthen effective planning, response and recovery. Emergency Plan (Preparedness and Response)	Number of awareness on disaster response and preparedness % of staff fully capacitated through capacity building and training on disaster response and preparedness	2
		Number of farmers capacitated during training	75

Output 2: Quick Economic Recovery Through The Implementation Of Demand Driven Approach And Other Commodity Projects

SUB- OUTPUT	STRATEGIES	INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENT
Establish Commodity protocols with existing & new markets	Strengthening of industry councils to spearhead & co-ordinate commodity development	Number of industry profiles and industry plans completed	2
	Capacity building at community level for commercial farmers	Number of farmers trained	230
		Bi-annual assessment on trainings done.	2
Strengthened Demand Driven research and extend partnership with private sector and established institutions	Conduct research activities in partnership with established institutions	Number of research activities on DDA	1
		Analysis report on impact of joint awareness to farmers	2
	Co-ordinate linkage with local tourism industry- e.g ATS, Hotels, Catering	Number of farmers linked to Tourism industry	6
Strengthen institutional Linkages & quality data collection	Coordinate monitoring & evaluation on Capital and non Capital projects	Quarterly divisional progressive/ production statistics reports on capital projects	4
Reduce Import Bill on Agriculture Products	Encourage local production of imported agriculture commodities	Supply of quality livestock to farmers	3

Output 3: Assist In Poverty Alleviation by Capacity Building of Farmers to Increase Production

SUB- OUTPUT	STRATEGIES	INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENT
Capacity Building of Farmer	Capacity building on subsistence farmers	Number of farmer training / farmers field school conducted	30
		Number of farm visit and advice to farmers	250
		Number of subsistence farmers progressed to semi-commercial level	10

Output 5: Ensuring Equal Access For Women In Agricultural Development

SUB- OUTPUT	STRATEGIES	INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENT
Participation of Women on Economic Activities	Strengthen cottage industry to create employment	Number of women groups trained/assisted and progressed in Agriculture development	7

Output 6: ROI Communities To Meet Basic Needs, Improve Living Standards Through Agriculture Development

SUB- OUTPUT	STRATEGIES	INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENT
Improve provision on basic services to rural & maritime areas in terms of agriculture services	Coordinate & implement Agriculture projects with stakeholders	Number of Agriculture projects: identified with project proposal submitted	11
		No. of consultations/meetings to increase market access on agriculture products & upgrading infrastructure.	3

Output 7: Portfolio Leadership, Policy

SUB- OUTPUT	STRATEGIES	INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENT
Portfolio Leadership & Policy Advice	Review & Develop MOAs and MOUs	Number of MOUs and MOAs developed	1
	Formulate new and review existing Acts, Legislations & policies	Number of new Acts, legislations & policies formulated	1
		Number of Acts, legislations & policies reviewed	1
	Cabinet papers submission to Cabinet	Number of Cabinet papers submitted	1
Media Coverage & Publications	Research Publications	Number of Research Publications	3

2016/2017 DIVISIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



Women in Agriculture - Poultry farmer at Lobau, Tailevu.



Private Sector engagement - Bovibase.



A dairy farmer at his milking shed.



Minister for Agriculture officially releasing Mulato II for livestock feed.



Fiji National University Diploma in Animal Health and Production program.



Veterinary training on desexing supervised by Charles Sturt University, Sydney Australia.

FARMERS APPRECIATE THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE'S ASSISTANCE



Josateki at his ginger farm.

The Ministry of Agriculture officers had been reminded that farmers are relying on them for assistance and technical advice in times of need.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Agriculture Hon. Inia Seruiratu while addressing the staff during his official tour around Western and Northern Division.

Mr Seruiratu urged the Agriculture staff to be vigilant and

assist farmers with whatever assistance needed.

Meanwhile, a 50-year old farmer Josateki Radrodro is satisfied with the assistance through the Ministry of Agriculture towards his farm since he started in 2009.

A striving farmer hails from Serea village in the province of Naitasiri with maternity links to Tamusua village located in the Yasawa Islands, with his farm located in Wainivesi Road, Tailevu, expresses his joy towards the Ministry of Agriculture services.

"I really appreciate the dedication and commitment of the staff in giving us technical advice and assistance," he said.

His journey began way back in 2009, when he first bought a 200 acre native land in Wainivesi, Tailevu.

"It was quite hard to settle in those days, to think of what type of farming to start on," he said.

For Josateki to start off with something, he approached the Ministry of Agriculture Animal and Health Production division for assistance and received 29 dairy cows and a breeding bull.

"With this timely assistance, I managed to start off a Dairy farm and was able to supply milk to the Fiji Co-operative Dairy Company Limited in Manoca, Nausori and also sold cattle for \$500 to \$900 to nearby villagers for magiti," he added.

Two years later, he found out that some of his dairy cattle died because of Tuberculosis [TB] and Brucellosis outbreak. The disease wiped out half of his livestock leaving only a few cattle on the farm.

Four years later, Josateki was lucky again to receive 12 cattle as part of the assistance by the Ministry of Agriculture through its Animal Health Production Division.

He was also assisted by the Ministry in digging bore hole for his farm and materials for fencing and repair and upgrade of his calf shed.

After receiving that assistance, Josateki's dairy farm managed to pick up from where it was left after the outbreak of the disease.

Early this year, Josateki faced another loss on his farm, after the devastations left by the tropical cyclone Winston which shocked some coastal part of Fiji and completely destroyed farms and houses even claimed livestock and human lives.

The mass destruction also led to death of a few of his dairy cows and destroyed the milking shed. He also faced TB and



Josateki's milking shed that was destroyed by Cyclone Winston.



Josateki's new milking shed.

Brucellosis outbreak again on his farm which brought him in the state of panic but he still stayed strong and continued with the remaining stock.

Josateki said despite all those, he has bigger plans for his farm with a vision to expand the business.

As part of his daily routine, he found out a large area in the pasture paddock covered with weeds and reported it to the Ministry of Agriculture Research Division for assistance.

According to the Research Officer Aradhana Deesh, Josateki approached the Research Division requesting for assistance with wedelia (creeping weeds) control which has infested his farm.

“From that point of time, the Tropical Weed Research Unit (TWRU) which is under the umbrella of the Research Division’s Plant Protection Section, further discussed on how to assist the farmer,” she said.

She added due to large area being infested, it was decided to supply the farmer with recommended herbicide which is Escort as trial basis and monitor the effectiveness of recommended herbicide on the weed.

Mrs Deesh said that the division supplied him with 474g of Escort which had been used to eradicate wedelia from his field.

After seeing all assistance being successful on Josateki’s farm, the Ministry decided to continue supplying herbicide in controlled amounts and monitor his field in terms of area made available for agricultural purpose.

“It amazes me, the chemical really works whereby it completely destroys all weeds, it left behind organic matter which add nutrients to the soil, not long a new pasture grass grew, at the same time I managed to supply feeds again for my remaining dairy cows and bulls,” he added.

Along with dairy farming the hardworking farmer also plants ginger, dalo, and raises pigs with a plan to expand his piggery farm.

Currently Josateki has 2,000 Tausala dalo variety on the ground with plans to increase to 10,000 dalo plants. One chain is allocated to ginger and he aims to increase it to three chains.

Another farmer Jagdish Kumar aged 53 hails from Naqalimare village in the Sigatoka valley now has his own assorted vegetable farm in Koronivia, Nausori.

His interest in farming began from very young age after seeing his parents working so hard at their farm which later gave him a feeling to have a farm of his own.

“I always dreamt to have a farm on my own from that young age not until I became successful in what I am doing today,” added Mr Kumar.

Family support is the backbone of his business whereby the support of his wife Praveena Kumar and his three grown up well-educated children.

According to his wife Praveena, her husband is a very progressive farmer and has a very innovative personality whereby he uses his own initiatives to do farming and always shares information with other farmers.

“He manages his farm by keeping proper records of all the commodities and sales of the produce,” she added.

Mr Kumar always desires to share his ideas with fellow farmers and usually encourages others on increasing production annually.

With his hard work and dedication he supplies tomatoes, long beans, karela and other gourds to Grand Pacific Hotel, Holiday Inn, Morris Hedstrom and the rest of the produce goes to local municipal markets.

“I am a consistent supplier to these markets with the aim to supply quality produce to maintain the market,” he added.

“With my earnings, I managed to build a double storey house for my family and purchased a 4x4 wheel drive van for farm use and also educated my children in local and overseas universities.

With what he earns from his farm, he also rewards himself in visiting countries like New Zealand, Australia and United States of America plus adopting some new technologies for vegetables such as long beans, karela and other gourds.

“I also appreciate the Ministry of Agriculture in providing assistance and technical advice as well as the frequent visits to my farm by the Agriculture Officers,” he added.

According to Senior Agriculture Assistant Rajeshni Kumari, Jagdish received some agro-inputs at subsidized rates and was also given information on proven technologies with training from the Ministry.



Josateki with Research staff at his farm to provide technical advice.

WOMEN IN DAIRY FARMING



Ms. Susana Pocock (in red) at her milking shed with the other ladies and the representatives of the Prime Consulting International Ltd.

With dairy farming comes a huge responsibility of looking after the cows, ranch fixing, waking up early to milk the cows, a job that is normally considered to be suitable for men.

This has not been the case for Susana Pocock from Naluwai in Naitasiri who strongly believes in the capabilities of women.

Susana owns a dairy farm nestling on a hill, better known as the Savu Farm, named by her father after a creek that runs on the farm and serves as land boundary.

The farm, which was operated by her father George Pocock in the 1970s is now in the ambitious hands of his daughter.

“My father leased 63 acres of land for dairy farming and used to produce 200 litres of milk daily until the expiry of the lease in 2013,” she said.

“The lease expired in 2013, but fortunately the iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) showed up with good news of extension for another 50 years.”

But prior to the renewal of lease, the Pocock family sold a few of their stock as questions of uncertainty loomed over the long-serving dairy farm.

“The land area was reduced to 22 acres but I accepted with faith despite our stock having decreased and starting from scratch,” she smiled.

Susana then took over from her father in 2013 who now resides in New Zealand and manages the farm with the help of her daughters.

She grew up without toys and her only prized possession was the fresh milk each morning and the dairy farm that her father brought her up in.

After attending Vunidawa Indian Primary School, she was

enrolled as a boarder at the Dudley High School which was in the 1980s a boarding school then to Fulton College for business studies.

“On short school breaks, it is to no other place but the dairy farm that I would go and help.”

Her love for animals kept bringing her back to the farm and being the only child made her the successor of the ranch.

Farming has always been her interest and no one will know better the success and struggles than those who practically engage in like herself.

“Dairy and farming is not designated for men only, if they can do it, we women can do it too and I urge ladies to take part,” she advised.

With her stock of a bull, four milking cows and three calves Susana is producing approximately 30-34liters of milk per day.

She is keen to build up the milk volume. For that reason, she is an active member of Women in Dairy Farming - a new group set up under the Fiji Dairy Industry Development Initiative (FDIDI) project, which commenced in 2015 to improve the productivity of the dairy industry in Fiji.

The project is being supported by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT). It is being managed by Prime Consulting International Ltd and implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and other stakeholders.

Through this project, best farming practice will be encouraged in the dairy farming communities in Fiji through the formation of farmer discussion groups and ‘focus farms’ where good practices can be shown in action.

CROP RESEARCH DIVISION



Presidential visit to Koronivia Research Station on Rice Project.

CROP RESEARCH DIVISION

OVERVIEW

This year was another successful year for the Crop Research Division. A total of \$2.83M was allocated to fund the Divisional activities which mainly concentrated on developing economical agricultural technologies to increase local production and dissemination of research findings to stakeholders. Major commodities under the program were rice; dalo, cassava, kumala, yams, potato, papaya, pineapple, tomatoes, chillies, eggplant, capsicum, pulses, maize, coconuts and cocoa were the focus of research activities during the year.

A number of collaborative researches were carried out during the year including the ACIAR funded project: Soil Health Project, Integrated Crop Management; Developing Cleaner Export Pathway for Pacific Agriculture Commodities. The FJD\$14M Chinese government funded JUNCAO Mushroom Technology Centre continued at Legalega Research Station. FAO Plant Treaty - Access & Benefit Sharing Fund/SPC funded US \$26,000 for Building Resilience to Pacific Agricultural System to Climate Change through Enhancing Access and Use of Diversity (2014 – 2016) and SPC – IKSA funded \$23,714 for Yaqona project. GEF (Global Environment Facility) funded \$30,000 Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) study on the adaptation of Root Crops on Lowland Areas in Navua and Nakelo.

Tabulated below are the achievements for the Division:

Table 5: ACP Achievement of Crop Research Division from 1st August 2016 – 31st July 2017

Output 1: Maintaining Food Security Through The Provision of Extension And Research Services For Crops, Livestock And Veterinary Services			
SUB- OUTPUT	STRATEGIES	INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENT
Increased crop and livestock production	Implement researched best farm practices for adoption by farmers	Number of best farm practices and technology widely disseminated and adopted.	2
	Pest and Disease Control	Pest's Management strategies developed to reduce the prevalence of target crop pests and disease	10
		Number of plants pest diagnostic & plant health clinics	2
Enhance Food Security and Livelihoods for All through a Co-ordinated and collaborative effort to support capacity building and raising awareness in a variety of formats.	Coordination of Programmes Implemented by Ministries & NGOs	Number of integrated programmes as assisted and implemented % of farmers provided with relevant training to prepare and adapt to risks from Climate Change and Disasters through the relevant programmes.	8
	Conduct food security awareness and support to farm household, village and settlement	Number of food security awareness conducted number of farmers adopting and implementing traditional techniques to enhance food security and livelihoods	3

Output 1: Maintaining Food Security Through The Provision of Extension And Research Services For Crops, Livestock And Veterinary Services

SUB- OUTPUT	STRATEGIES	INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENT
Strengthening Agriculture Research Services	Conduct progressive research on best farm practices for farmers	Number of farm practices re-searched	20
		Value addition and product development	2
	Conduct progressive re-search on pest and disease management on crops and livestock	Number of new control measures and management programmes developed and implemented	1
	Agriculture Chemistry / Purchase of Equipment	Number of quality programs in place, tests conducted and Lab machines purchased	2
	Co-operation for joint fund research programs	Number of joint fund research programmes between government stations and university researches	5
	Infrastructure Improvement	Improvement of Research Service Delivery and Research infrastructure	35
Reducing the risks from Climate Change and Disasters through strengthened adaptation and preparedness measures	Promote and strengthen food security programmes to enhance community based disaster risk reduction initiatives	Conserve economic crop germ-plasm	35
	Revitalisation of indigenous disaster resilience crops/livestock (e.g. via)	Number of indigenous crops established – domestication, promotion, planting materials availabilities, method of storage	7

Output 2: Quick Economic Recovery Through The Implementation Of Demand Driven Approach And Other Commodity Projects

SUB- OUTPUT	STRATEGIES	INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENT
Strengthened Demand Driven research and extend partnership with private sector and established institutions	Conduct research activities in partnership with established institutions	Number of research activities on DDA	7
Compliant Food standards for all commodities	Co-ordinate and monitor Compliance of CODEX requirements	Number of awareness & training done to stakeholders on CODEX requirement	1

Output 3: Assist In Poverty Alleviation by Capacity Building of Farmers to Increase Production

SUB- OUTPUT	STRATEGIES	INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENT
Capacity Building of Farmers	Capacity Building on subsistence farmers	Number of farm visit and advice to farmers	42

Output 5: Ensuring Equal Access For Women In Agricultural Development

SUB- OUTPUT	STRATEGIES	INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENT
Participation of Women on Economic Activities	Strengthen cottage industry to create employment	Number of women groups trained/assisted and progressed in Agriculture development	3

Output 6: ROI Communities To Meet Basic Needs, Improve Living Standards Through Agriculture Development			
SUB- OUTPUT	STRATEGIES	INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENT
Improve provision on basic services to rural & maritime areas in terms of agriculture services	Coordinate & implement Agriculture projects with stakeholders	Awareness to rural and maritime staffs on new farming technologies	3
Output 7: Portfolio Leadership, Policy			
SUB - OUTPUT	STRATEGIES	INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENT
Media Coverage & Publications	Research Publications	Number of Research Publication	13
		Number of Fiji Agricultural Journal Published	1
Improved productivity and performance of staff	Capacity building for staff	No. of extension officers trained on technical aspects of farming technologies	67.

2016/2017 DIVISIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



MoA Official attending CAPSA Meeting in Indonesia.



TTM field demonstration on Green Pearl Guava at Nacocolevu Sigatoka.



Horticultural Nursery Operators Forum in Nadi.



H.E Jioji Konrote official visit at Koronivia Research Station.



Research Officers Potato Planting Exercise.



Assistant Minister visit to Koronivia Research Station.



Pineapple Farmers Training in Seaqaqa.



Director Research Dr. Apaitia Macanawai presenting at the JUNCAO Symposium in China.



WORLD COCONUT DAY CELEBRATION



The Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management Hon. Mr Inia B. Seruiratu officially opened the World Coconut Day Celebration at Foreshore Ground in Savusavu on 15th September, 2016.

The Theme for the 2016 World Coconut Day Celebration is “Our Food, Our Shelter, Our Life”. The two day event is a collaborative initiative between the Ministry of Agriculture via Asian Pacific Coconut Community (APCC) and the coconut stakeholders in Fiji with the intension to increase the awareness on the importance of coconut to our economy and enhance its potential to alleviate poverty, improve livelihood and encourage investments.

While officially opening the celebration, the Minister

highlighted the importance of Coconut industry in Fiji.

“Approximately 120,000 households in the maritime and coastal village and settlements rely on coconut as a source of livelihood,” said Mr Seruiratu. He said the Government will always facilitate the farmers in whatever way is possible as the Coconut industry is still in the recovery process after the effects of Tropical Cyclone Winston early this year.

“Ministry is serious about reviving the industry. In the last 3 years to 2015, all efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture was centred on replanting, rehabilitation and diversification,” he said. “The ‘Plant One million Coconut Tree Campaign’ was also launched in December 2013 as part of the rehabilitation initiative,” he added. He said the Ministry will continue this initiative this year and in 2017 with greater involvement of school children and youths at the community level.

Mr Seruiratu said a total budget of \$1.04 million was allocated and utilised for the revival of the industry. “Under the current budget, a total of \$750k was allocated for Coconut development and rehabilitation,” said Mr Seruiratu.

The area focussed for the utilisation of these funds include:

1. Coconut replanting especially the replacement of senile trees.
2. Value addition as a diversification from the declining copra production which includes the production, marketing and promotion of virgin Coconut Oil (VCO).
3. The provisions of infrastructure support in terms of VCO production equipment’s and the construction of copra shed and driers.
4. Research and development in terms of control of pest and disease such as the biological control of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle.
5. Provision of capacity building for our farmers in terms of the latest production and technology
6. Promotion through public awareness on the importance of the coconut industry.

Mr Seruiratu said the Ministry has a mission of Modernising the Agriculture Sector to lift the level of efficiency through improved and increased Agricultural Productivity. “The modernisation plan basically involves the introduction of the technologies that will make Agriculture attractive and less labour intensive with maximum return,” he said.

Mr Seruiratu also acknowledged and appreciated the level of commitment by the processors and producers.

“We all know that majority of our rural women are diversifying into high value product such as VCO, and the determining factor will always be on the quality of the product,” he added. “The revival of the industry will not be achieved by the Ministry alone, but it needs the collaborative efforts,” said Mr Seruiratu.

The two days World Coconut Day Celebration will end tomorrow at the Foreshore Ground in Savusavu.

LAND & WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION



Nadi River Dredging consultations.

LAND & WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

OVERVIEW

The Land and Water Resource Management Division's core function is to facilitate sustainable use of agricultural land and water resources through effective engineering services. The Division's activities focuses on the following;

- Flood Protection-disaster mitigation activities, reduced vulnerability and risk of flooding in Nadi and Labasa.
- Watershed Management - Construction of check dams reduced the impact of flooding in Nadi - Water resource development for irrigation and drought mitigation
- Land Drainage - Drainage infrastructure improvement and maintenance works in the Central, Northern and Western Divisions.
- Irrigation Service - Irrigation infrastructure development and maintenance works in irrigation schemes in the Central and Northern Division.

Engineering support services provided includes agricultural development works for Extension, AH&P and Research Divisions within the Ministry of Agriculture, Prime Minister's office, NDMO Office, Ministry of Lands, Local Government & Environment and Provincial offices in the geographical divisions.

Tabulated below are the achievements for the Division.

**Table 6: ACP Achievement of Land and Water Resource Development from
1st August 2016 – 31st July 2017**

Output 4: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources Through Flood Protection Programmes and other Sustainable Land Management Practices			
SUB- OUTPUT	STRATEGIES	INDICATORS	2016/2017 Achievement
Flood Protection Programmes	Timely delivery of Flood Protection, Land Drainage & Irrigation Infrastructure	Number of river dredging works	2
		Number of drainage schemes maintained	63
		Number of water logged farms addressed	29
		Number of irrigation schemes maintained	1
		Number of rainfed areas improved	4
		Number of Flatland areas developed	8
Water Resource Management	Drought Mitigation Plan and Preparedness and Response	Number of Potential sites identified	2
Farm Access Road	Upgrading of Farm Access Roads	Number of Farm Access Roads upgraded	13

NADI RIVER FLOOD CONTROL SEMINAR

The two day Seminar on the project for the Planning of the Nadi River Flood Control Structure is currently underway at the Tanoa Hotel in Nadi.

The Seminar will discuss the project that has come to the concluding phase to share and exchange information on the study results and Japanese Technology in Flood Related Disaster Management.

While officially opening the seminar yesterday, the Director for Land and Water Resource Management Mr. Colin Simmons highlighted the importance of the flood control management in the Nadi River.

He said the Study was funded by the Japanese Government. The Study Team consisted of a multi-disciplinary team of seventeen members.

“The purpose of the Study was to produce the Master Plan consisting of structural and non-structural measures which would be discussed at the Seminar”, he added.

He said staff from the Ministry of Agriculture also attended the training.

“One of the trainings conducted was on hydrology and stream flow measurements”, he said.

“Another team was sent to Japan in November last year to look at some of the flood control measures proposed for Nadi River”, he added.

“The final report will be out this month and will be given to the Ministry of Agriculture. This will then be taken to Government to decide on what to do”, he said

“The Study is a very comprehensive effort by the team to understand a highly complex issue in the Nadi Basin. The Study Team has come up with some engineering solutions based on the Japanese experience which can be adopted in Fiji,” Mr. Simmons said.



SIGATOKA RIVER DREDGING PROJECT



Sigatoka River dredging.

The Ministry of Agriculture has entered into a contract with China Railway First Group for the first phase of the Sigatoka River Dredging Project. The dredging works will have significant economic benefits, improve drainage of agricultural land, increase the flood discharge capacity of the river system and reduce flood damage. The company was selected following the advertisement of tenders. A total of three companies submitted tenders for the dredging work.

The China Railway First Group was previously contracted to carry out dredging works in the Rewa, Navua and Ba River. The three-year project will be implemented in three phases. The first phase of the dredging works has commenced.

Through this project, 3.4km of the river will be

dredged from the river mouth to approximately 1km below the Sigatoka Bridge and close to 1.2 million cubic meters of silt and sand is expected to be removed from the river bed.

The first phase of the dredging works will commence from the river mouth and extend to 0.55kilometers upstream with a total volume of 300,000 cubic meters excavated. This is expected to be completed by May, 2017.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the dredging works at the Sigatoka River was carried out by Corerega Environment Consultants. The socio economic survey results showed 95% of village and community respondents supporting the development.

The dredging works will have no significant negative environmental impact on the mudflats and reefs and does not pose any major threat to the survival of marine species in the river. The dredging works will have a positive impact on fisheries resources. It will not significantly alter the level of salinity in the river where water supply, irrigation users and kai are located approximately 13km upstream from the river mouth. Under the EIA, monitoring of the salt water intrusion upstream will be undertaken.

The existing sand bars, sand dunes and mangroves located at the river mouth will not be disturbed as the dredging works will commence inland of the mouth.

The Ministry of Agriculture held discussions with the Nadroga/Navosa Provincial Council and Nahasigatoka Tikina resource owners on January 11, 2017 to brief them on the Project, the EIA Study, and plans for the river dredging works. The Chairman of the Provincial Council expressed his appreciation for the comprehensive presentation made and the support of the community for the Sigatoka River dredging works.

The Permanent Secretary for Agriculture, Mr. Jitendra Singh and senior officials of the Ministry of Agriculture also visited the site on January 20 to inspect the progress of the Project.

Mr. Singh held discussions with the Chairman of the Nadroga Navosa Provincial Office, Assistant Roko, Provincial Administrator and representative from the Sigatoka Town Council to express his appreciation for their support and assistance. He also assured the stakeholders that the Ministry will continue to monitor the project and maintain regular discussions with them.

LAND RESOURCE PLANNING DIVISION



Participants at the National Land Use Planning Guideline Workshop

LAND RESOURCE PLANNING DIVISION

OVERVIEW

The Division's core role is to ensure that the land is sustainably used according to its capabilities.

- Implement the provisions of the Land Conservation and Improvement Act of 1953.
- Conducts applied research, development, and validation of farming systems packages.
- Disseminates appropriate sustainable land management technologies.
- Develop and manage the Geographical Information Systems.
- Consolidates land resources information and its management.
- Build capacity and mainstreaming of SLM in Fiji
- Combat land degradation in Fiji through the promotion of SLM
- Disseminate information on sustainable land management.
- Regional and international collaborations, cooperation and consultation.

Tabulated below are the achievements for the Division.

Table 7: ACP Achievement of Land Resource Planning Division from 1st August 2016 – 31st July 2017

Output 1: Maintaining Food Security Through The Provision of Extension And Research Services For Crops, Livestock And Veterinary Services			
SUB- OUTPUT	STRATEGIES	INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENT
Increased crop and livestock production	Implement researched best farm practices for adoption by farmers	Number of land use and farm plans incorporating best farm practices and technology that are disseminated and adopted by farmers	23
Enhance Food Security and Livelihoods for All through a Co-ordinated and collaborative effort to support capacity building and raising awareness in a variety of formats.	Coordination of Programmes Implemented by Ministries & NGOs	Number of integrated programmes as assisted and implemented % of farmers provided with relevant training to prepare and adapt to risks from Climate Change and Disasters through the relevant programmes.	14
	Conduct food security awareness and support to farm household, village and settlement.	Number of agriculture promotional activities and materials	5



Output 1: Maintaining Food Security Through The Provision of Extension And Research Services For Crops, Livestock And Veterinary Services

SUB- OUTPUT	STRATEGIES	INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENT
Enhance Food Security and Livelihoods for All through a Co-ordinated and collaborative effort to support capacity building and raising awareness in a variety of formats.	Incorporation of best garden practices into primary school curriculum to promote food security	Number of school gardens established	4
	Setting up of backyard garden to promote accessibility of local healthy food in the communities	Number of backyard gardens established	2
	Maintain agro eco system services to sustain food production and livelihood	Number of conservation farms established	4
		Number of established demo plots & nurseries maintained	4
		Number of NFT's & Hedge-grows planting materials distributed	100
Reducing the risks from Climate Change and Disasters through strengthened adaptation and preparedness measures	Promote and strengthen food security programmes to enhance community based disaster risk reduction initiatives	Number of soil conservation measures and soil health management materials to address DRM and Climate Change	3

Output 2: Quick Economic Recovery Through The Implementation Of Demand Driven Approach And Other Commodity Projects

SUB- OUTPUT	STRATEGIES	INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENT
Improve accessibility of farmers to credit facility and improve linkage with financial institutions	Co-ordinate partnership between farmers and financial institutions	Number of farm plans and agriculture commercial loan proposals prepared	4

Output 3: Assist In Poverty Alleviation by Capacity Building of Farmers to Increase Production

SUB- OUTPUT	STRATEGIES	INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENT
Capacity Building of Farmer	Capacity building on subsistence farmers	Number of farm visit and advice to farmers	100
		Number of farmers implemented SLM/FM Training	16

Output 4: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources Through Flood Protection Programmes and other Sustainable Land Management Practices

SUB- OUTPUT	STRATEGIES	INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENT
Sustainable Land Management	Effective land use management practices	Number of Tikina based baseline biophysical reports provided to stakeholders and land users	2
		Number of Land care group established and adopting SLM technology and further developed into cluster	5
		Number land use plan and farm plan implemented and distributed to farmers	32
	Effective waste management	Report on the impact of consultation with stakeholders on better land utilization Govt, NGOs and Churches	2
	Encourage partnership with stakeholders for better land utilization	No. of impact assessment on the FM Manual from stakeholders	1
	Farm Management Manual	No. of SLM/FM Training of trainers for Extension officers	2

Output 5: Ensuring Equal Access For Women In Agricultural Development

SUB- OUTPUT	STRATEGIES	INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENT
Participation of Women on Economic Activities	Strengthen cottage industry to create employment	Number of women groups trained/assisted and progressed in Agriculture development	9

Output 7: Portfolio Leadership, Policy

SUB- OUTPUT	STRATEGIES	INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENT
Portfolio Leadership & Policy Advice	Review & Develop MoAs and MoUs	Number of MOUs and MOAs developed	1
	Formulate new and review existing Acts, Legislations & policies	Number of new Acts, legislations & policies formulated	1



Farmer's training held in Wainunu, Bua

2016/2017 DIVISIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



Sustainable Land Management Farmer Training at Tunalia, Nadi.



Farming as a Business and Sustainable Land Management Practices training for farmers at Vakabuli Village in Ba.



Farm Management Training at Nakawakawa Village in Bua.



World Day to Combat Desertification at Labasa.



Flat Land Development program at Naimalavau village, Tailevu.



Sustainable Land Management Practices.



Youth farmer's training at Nakawakawa Village in Bua.



Land Use Guideline Workshop.

THE PURSUIT OF A VANILLA FARMER



Jonacani Tamani, a Biaugunu native of Tikina Saqani in Cakaudrove started vanilla farming in 1976 with 100 vanilla cuttings and is now a proud farmer of 810 vanilla plants.

“With my 100 vines I started spacing between rows of 1.5 to 2.5 meters while 2.5-3.0 meters apart in rows and as it grew, I made more planting materials out of them,” he said.

Mr. Tamani first learnt of vanilla farming when Ministry of Agriculture officials visited his home village in 1976. During the initial stages, he was trained by the Ministry officials on vanilla farming.

“When I started planting, everything seemed hard and complicated but I did not want to give up yet and the Ministry staff were my advisory throughout the hard stages of vanilla farming.”

Mr. Tamani stated that the demand for vanilla has increased gradually over the years.

“Before we used to sell our vanilla at \$25-\$50 per kilogram but an attractive deal has been made to us by the Spices of Fiji Limited at \$150 per kg.”

This vanilla farm still has vines from the 1970’s and has withstood

numerous cyclones and hurricanes.

“It is the way you look after it that counts, if you look after it well it will give you an impressive result and that is what we always keep in mind,” he said.

The Ministry of Agriculture in 2016 through its Vanilla Development Programme assisted vanilla farmers of Saqani (Biaugunu, Navatu, Navetau and Vaturova).

The assistance included wheelbarrows for carting coconut husks, brush-cutters for maintenance, a pot and thermometer for wilting of beans.

Vanilla Development Programme

The Ministry of Agriculture through its Vanilla Development Programme aims to revive the vanilla industry in Fiji and to increase production of cured beans by 10% annually.

In doing so, the Ministry will strengthen marketing linkages with the private sector and buyers, rehabilitate the current vanilla growing areas, establish new growers and reduce reject rates by continuous farmer/staff trainings, advice and monitoring.

This programme has been implemented in Cakaudrove, Naitasiri, Tailevu, Serua/Namosi and Rewa.

ECONOMIC PLANNING & STATISTICS DIVISION



HOTEC Tradeshow held at Sheraton Fiji Resort Denarau in Nadi

ECONOMIC PLANNING & STATISTICS DIVISION

OVERVIEW

The main function of the Division is to facilitate policy advice through policy analysis utilizing appropriate economic and econometric tools, and modules to formulate appropriate ministerial support relevant to the overall development of the sector. The Division plays an important role in providing executive support services to management and appraises consultancy services to individuals and organizations, as and when it is required.

Tabulated below are the achievements for the Division.

**Table 8: ACP Achievement of Economic Planning & Statistics Division from
1st August 2016 – 31st July 2017**

Output 1: Maintaining Food Security Through The Provision of Extension And Research Services For Crops, Livestock And Veterinary Services

SUB- OUTPUT	STRATEGIES	INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENT
Reducing the risks from Climate Change and Disasters through strengthened adaptation and preparedness measures	Strengthen effective planning, response and recovery. Emergency Plan(Preparedness and Response)	Number of awareness on disaster response and preparedness % of staff fully capacitated through capacity building and training on disaster response and preparedness	3



Household Baseline Survey Team braving through the rough terrain.

Output 2: Quick Economic Recovery Through The Implementation of Demand Driven Approach And Other Commodity Projects

SUB- OUTPUT	STRATEGIES	INDICATORS	2016/2017 Achievement
Establish Commodity protocols with existing & new markets	Facilitate Market Development & Market Access	Quartely Ag Trade News Letter	3
		Number of marketing scoping	1
		Number of market promotion	1
		Number of Export promotion programme	1
	Strengthening of industry councils to spearhead and co-ordinate commodity development	Number of meetings & consultations with Industry councils	4
	Coordinate linkage with local tourism industry-e.g. ATS, Hotels, Catering	Number of food demand survey report	1
Compliant food standards for all commodities	Co-ordinate and monitor Compliance of CODEX requirements	Number of awareness & training done to stakeholder on CODEX requirement	1
Strengthen institutional linkages & quality data collection	Develop Quality Agricultural Statistics System	Improvement of Agricultural Statistics System: FBHS 2016	
		Standard Survey Design & Methodology	
		Standard Survey Frame	
		Agri Stats Database	
		Stats GIS & Information Technology	1
		Divisional quarterly report on compilation and analysis of agriculture production and trade statistics	4
		Consultation with global stakeholders – united nations global initiative to improve agricultural statistics	1
	Co-ordinate Monitoring & Evaluation on Capital & Non Capital projects	Quarterly monitoring and review activities of Capital programs	6
		Review and Analysis Performance of Capital Projects & DDA projects	1
		Number of brochure highlighting successful stories and lessons learned from implementation of Capital projects	1

Output 3: Assist In Poverty Alleviation by Capacity Building of Farmers to Increase Production

SUB- OUTPUT	STRATEGIES	INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENT
Capacity Building of Farmer	Capacity building on subsistence farmers	Number of farmer training / farmers field school conducted	2
Capacity Building of Farmer	Promote sufficiency at community level	Number of commodities clustering formed	1
		Evaluation and monitoring report on success story of women in agriculture(Cottage Industry)	1
	Improved Agriculture Gender Statistics	Gender Aggregated Data Report	1

Output 7: Portfoli Leadership, Policy Advice and Secretariat Support

SUB- OUTPUT	STRATEGIES	INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENT
Portfolio Leadership & Policy Advice	Review & Develop MOAs and MOUs	Number of MoUs and MoAs developed	1
	Formulate new and review existing Acts, Legislations & policies	Number of new Acts, legislations & policies formulated	1
		Number of Acts, legislations & policies reviewed	1
	Cabinet papers submission to Cabinet	Number of Cabinet papers submitted	5
Improved productivity & performance of staff	Public sector capacity to support agri business	Establish of agribusiness unit within MoA	1
		Consultation to develop an advance skills and resources required to drive the agri business development process	1



Impact of Climate Change on Agriculture

2016/2017 DIVISIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



Monitoring & Evaluation of Projects and Farm Assistance.



Fiji delegation to FAO Seventy-First Session Conference in Rome, Italy



Hotec Show in Nadi.



2016 Farming Household Baseline Survey.



MOU signing with UN World Food program.



Fiji Agricultural Partnership Project FAPP stakeholders workshop at Holiday Inn, Suva.



Monitoring and Evaluation Policy Framework workshop.



MoU signing with Israel.

HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE & INFORMATION DIVISION



Newly opened Namarai Agriculture Station, Ra

HUMAN RESOURCE, FINANCE & INFORMATION DIVISION

OVERVIEW

The core role of the Human Resource, Finance & Information Division is to facilitate the best and excellent service support which are guided by the Public Service Commission General Orders, Financial Instructions and State Service Decree with relevant approved procedures.

The objective of the Division is captivated by the Public Service Deliverables. In 2016/2017, the Ministry of Agriculture had a total of 949 staff employed in different fields of technical areas providing services to farmers.

Tabulated below are the achievements for the Division.

Table 9: ACP Achievement of Human Resources, Finance & Information Division from 1st August 2016 – 31st July 2017

Output 7: Portfoli Leadership, Policy Advice and Secretariat Support			
SUB- OUTPUT	STRATEGIES	INDICATORS	ACHIEVEMENT
Portfolio Leadership & Policy Advice	Formulate new and review existing Acts, Legislations & policies	Number of new Acts, legislations & policies formulated	1
Media Coverage & Publications	Provide exclusive media coverage on agriculture promotion activities	Quarterly reports on impact of agricultural promotion activities	8
Information Communication & Technology	Increased coverage through telecommunication services to rural areas	No. of agriculture stations accessed to telecommunication, govnet and linked to intranet	4
Improved productivity & performance of staff	Capacity building for staff	Quarterly staff trainings – local & overseas	4
Financial Statements	Provide annual financial statements	One reliable and accurate annual financial statement	1
Annual Procurement Plan	Formulation of Annual Procurement Plan 2016	Provide Submission of 2016 APP to PS and MOF	1
External Audit Report	Implementation of External Audit recommendation	Provide report of external audit recommendation	1
Expenditure Report	Submission of reconciled Expenditure Report	Submission of one report to PS	1



Impact of Tropical Cyclone Zena on farms in the West.

2016/2017 DIVISIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



PS Agriculture farmers meeting at Muainaweni, Naitasiri.



Farmer interviews for Radio Broadcasting.



2017 Central Agriculture Show Oratory Contest.



PSA receiving Agriculture Show donation from Nivis Motors.



Participants at the ToT Workshop.



Media coverage in a farm harvesting rice.



Senior Management at the ACP Workshop in Nasese.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2017

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

I have audited the financial statements of the Ministry of Agriculture, which comprise the Statement of Receipts and Expenditure, Appropriation Statement, Consolidated Activity Trading Account, Consolidated Trading Activity Profit and Loss Account, Consolidated Trading Activity Balance Sheet, Trust Fund Account Statement of Receipts and Payments and Statement of Losses for the financial year ended 31 July 2017, and the notes to the financial statements including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, except for the effects of the matters described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraphs, the accompanying financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Financial Management Act, Finance Instructions 2010 and the Finance (Amendment) Instructions 2016.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

1. Included in the Land Water Resource Management (LWRM) Trust Fund Account balance is retention fund of \$329,148. The Ministry was unable to provide appropriate supporting documents to ascertain whether the retention period for the projects of which retention funds were retained are valid. The balance is brought forward from prior years. As a result, I was unable to ascertain the accuracy and obligation of the retention fund of \$329,148 included in the LWRM Trust Fund Account balance.
2. The Ministry suffered loss through expiration of drugs and livestock mortality amounting to \$63,405. The amount of loss was not expensed, instead was directly adjusted to ending inventory balance thus overstating the cost of goods sold by \$63,405.

Without further qualifying the opinion above, I draw attention to the following:

Internal controls over payroll expenses and management of inventory for Trading Activity were generally found to be weak and if not addressed promptly may result in material misstatements and possible financial losses in the future.

I have conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA). My responsibilities under those standards are described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities* paragraph of my report. I am independent of the Ministry in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Fiji and I have fulfilled my other responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Management's Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

The management of the Ministry are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2004, Finance Instructions 2010 and Finance (Amendment) Instructions 2016, and for such internal control as the management determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error.

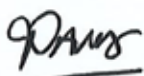
Auditor's Responsibilities

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISA will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud and error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISA, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Ministry of Agriculture's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and related disclosures made by the Ministry of Agriculture.

I communicate with the Ministry of Agriculture regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



Ajay Nand
AUDITOR-GENERAL



Suva, Fiji
02 July 2018

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2017**

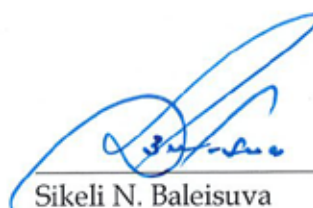
We certify that these financial statements:

- a) fairly reflect the financial operations and performance of the Ministry of Agriculture and its financial position for the year ended 31 July 2017; and
- b) Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Management Act, Finance Instructions 2010 and the Finance (Amendment) Instructions 2016.



David Kolutagane
Permanent Secretary for Agriculture

Date: 26/6/18



Sikeli N. Baleisiva
Principal Accountant

Date: 26/06/2018

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2017

	Notes	12 months 2017 (\$)	7 months 2016 (\$)
RECEIPTS			
Agricultural produce & Inspection Fees		339	203
License		41,075	30,662
Meat Inspection		19,280	14,336
Veterinary and animal quarantine		12,327	8,518
Sale of sheep and wool		30,126	4,660
Rest house		9,234	2,651
Rental for quarters		61,084	35,344
Registration		6,943	2,154
Commission		24,227	14,221
Sale of farm produce		32,227	21,935
Clearance of previous year's trust		41,476	-
Miscellaneous revenue		280,751	117,789
Overpayment recoveries		77,745	20,767
Water charges		661	199
Rural electrification		718	344
Total Receipts	3 (a)	638,213	273,783
EXPENDITURE			
Established staff		12,431,521	7,469,249
Government wage earners		5,444,014	3,438,174
Travel and communications		774,032	449,730
Maintenance & operations		2,113,395	1,387,954
Purchase of goods and services		624,846	388,589
Operating grants and transfers		3,169,595	2,716,499
Special expenditures		2,289,910	1,036,921
Total Operating Expenditure	3 (b)	26,847,313	16,887,116
Capital construction	3 (c)	17,474,568	7,860,937
Capital purchase	3 (d)	1,078,114	5,219
Capital grants and transfers	3 (e)	8,596,684	4,654,588
Total Capital Expenditure		27,149,366	12,520,744
Value Added Tax		2,144,617	1,000,364
Total Expenditure		56,141,296	30,408,224

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
APPROPRIATION STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2017

SEG	Item	Budget Estimate (\$)	Chan ges (\$)	Revised Budget (\$)	Actual Expenditure (\$)	Carry- Over (\$)	Lapsed Appropriati on (\$)
	Operating Expenditure						
1	Established Staff	14,162,452	-	14,162,452	12,431,521	-	1,730,931
2	Government Wage Earners	6,112,962	-	6,112,962	5,444,014	-	668,948
3	Travel & Communications	797,300	-	797,300	774,032	-	23,268
4	Maintenance & Operations	2,427,081	-	2,427,081	2,113,395	-	313,686
5	Purchase Of Goods & Services	704,800	-	704,800	624,846	-	79,954
6	Operating Grants & Transfers	3,564,931	-	3,564,931	3,169,595	-	395,336
7	Special Expenditure	2,811,500	-	2,811,500	2,289,910	-	521,590
	Total Operating Expenditure	30,581,026	-	30,581,026	26,847,313	-	3,733,713
	Capital Expenditure						
8	Capital Construction	27,442,415	-	27,442,415	17,474,568	-	9,967,847
9	Capital Purchase	1,626,450	-	1,626,450	1,078,114	-	548,336
10	Capital Grants & Transfer	11,560,000	-	11,560,000	8,596,684	-	2,963,316
	Total Capital Expenditure	40,628,865	-	40,628,865	27,149,366	-	13,479,499
13	Value Added Tax	3,222,900	-	3,222,900	2,144,617	-	1,078,283
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	74,432,791	-	74,432,791	56,141,296	-	18,291,495

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
CONSOLIDATED TRADING ACCOUNT - COMMERCIAL UNDERTAKING
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2017

	Notes	12 months 2017 (\$)	7 months 2016 (Restated) (\$)
TRADING ACCOUNT			
Sales	5	1,605,040	1,226,661
Opening stock		1,465,662	709,078
Add: Purchases		1,184,767	988,972
Add: Direct Labour		7,207	10,293
		<u>2,657,636</u>	<u>1,708,343</u>
Less: Closing stock		909,844	1,465,662
Cost of finished goods sold		<u>1,747,792</u>	<u>242,681</u>
Gross (Loss)/Profit		<u>(142,752)</u>	<u>983,980</u>

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT - COMMERCIAL UNDERTAKING
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2017

	12 months 2017	7 months 2016 (Restated)
INCOME	(\$)	(\$)
Gross (Loss)/Profit transferred from Trading A/C	(142,752)	983,980
Total Income	(142,752)	983,980
 EXPENSE		
Travelling & Communication Expenses	14,895	17,437
Maintenance & Operation	220,435	107,277
Other Expenses	20,469	7,957
Total Expense	255,799	132,671
 Net (Loss)/Profit	 (398,551)	 851,309

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET - COMMERCIAL UNDERTAKING
AS AT 31 JULY 2017

	Notes	12 months 2017 (\$)	7 months 2016 (Restated) (\$)
LIABILITY			
Deposits & Retention		(22,113)	(22,113)
Total Liability		(22,113)	(22,113)
EQUITY			
TMA Surplus			
Opening balance		(484,768)	(23,727)
Remittance		(359,372)	(461,041)
Adjustment	5	457,469	-
Closing Balance		(386,671)	(484,768)
TMA Accumulated Surplus			
Opening balance		2,037,684	1,186,375
Net (Loss)/Profit		(398,551)	851,309
Closing Balance		1,639,133	2,037,684
Total Equity		1,252,462	1,552,916
Total Liability and Equities		1,230,349	1,530,803
ASSETS			
Cash	5	319,766	64,876
Accounts receivable		739	265
Finished goods		909,844	1,465,662
Total Assets		1,230,349	1,530,803

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
TRUST ACCOUNT STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
LAND WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND LAND RESETTLEMENT PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2017

	12 months 2017 (\$)	7 months 2016 (\$)
RECEIPTS		
Retention Money	870,709	154,676
Total Receipts	<u>870,709</u>	<u>154,676</u>
PAYMENTS		
Retention Money	737,513	439,095
Total Payments	<u>737,513</u>	<u>439,095</u>
Surplus/ (Deficit)	133,196	(284,419)
Opening Balance at 1 August	684,162	968,581
Closing Balance as at 31 July	<u>817,358</u>	<u>684,162</u>

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
STATEMENT OF LOSSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 July 2017**

Loss of Money

There was no loss of Money recorded for the year ended 31 July 2017.

Loss of Revenue

For the financial year ended 31 July 2017, there was no loss of revenue recorded.

Loss of Assets

The Ministry carried out a Board of Survey and asset amounting to \$20,477 has been written off as approved by the Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Economy on 17/11/16.

Fixed Assets Category	Amount (\$)
Office Equipment	5,280
Furniture & Fitting	1,235
Farm Equipment	13,422
Others	540
Total	20,477

Moreover, the following losses of assets including and livestock were also reported during the year and were not included in the submissions for write offs from the annual board of survey.

Loss of Assets (Office Equipment)

Description	31 July 2017 (\$)	31 July 2016 (\$)
Laptop	3,400	1,890
External Hard Drive	-	269
Mobile Phones	6,596	-
Total	9,996	2,159

Loss of Assets (Livestock)

Loss of livestock resulted from death of sheep, pig, cattle, goat and chickens.

Description	31 July 2017 (\$)	31 July 2016 (\$)
Sheep	13,489	3,675
Pigs	1,613	2,184
Cattles	9,716	8,001
Goat	1,009	1,389
Chicken	3,597	1,110
Total	29,424	16,359

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 July 2017

NOTE 1: REPORTING ENTITY

The Ministry of Agriculture focus on diversifying be market driven and improvements in its service delivery to realise the sector's full potential. Diversification into niche export and domestic markets is therefore necessary thus priority is been given to: facilitating private sector involvement in the development of agri-business; capacity building of farmers to raise levels of production from semi-subsistence to commercial levels; enhancement of Agricultural linkages; and promote food security and ensure sound land management and development.

NOTE 2: STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Basis of Accounting/ Presentation

In accordance with Government accounting policies, the financial statements of the Ministry of Agriculture is prepared on cash basis of accounting. All payments related to purchases of fixed assets have been expensed.

The financial statements are presented in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2004, Financial Management (Amendment) Act 2016 and the requirements of Section 71 (1) of the Finance Instruction 2010 and Finance (Amendment) Instructions 2016. The preparation and presentation of a Statement of Assets and Liabilities is not required under the current Government policies, except for that of the Trading and Manufacturing Accounts.

b) Accounting for Value Added Tax (VAT)

All income is inclusive of VAT while the expenses are VAT exclusive. With effect from September 2009, the Ministry is to remit to FRCA, VAT on all fees and charges on revenue collected. The Ministry on a monthly basis takes out VAT output on total money budgeted for their expenditure. VAT input on the other hand is claimed on payments made to the suppliers and sub-contractors for expenses incurred.

The VAT payments as per the statement of financial operation relates to the VAT input claimed on payments made to the suppliers and sub-contractors for expenses incurred and VAT payments to FRCA. Actual amount paid to FRCA during the year represent the difference between VAT Output and VAT Input.

c) Comparative Figures

The Ministry changed its reporting period from 1 August to 31 July as per the Ministry of Economy circular number 04/16 due to a change in the whole of government reporting period.

Hence, the 2016 financial reporting period is for 7 months effective from 1 January 2016 to 31 July 2016. In comparison, the 2017 financial reporting period is for 12 months effective from 1 August 2016 to 31 July 2017. This was provided for in the Financial Management (Amendment) Act 2016.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued...)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2017

NOTE 2: STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued...)

d) Revenue Recognition

Revenue is recognised when it is received by the Ministry. The major sources of revenue for the Ministry of Agriculture are Agricultural produce & Inspection Fees, License, Meat Inspection Veterinary and animal quarantine, Sale of sheep and wool, Agricultural commercial undertaking, Rest house, Hire of plant and vehicle, Rental for quarters, Rental for building, Registration, Commission, Sale of farm produce, Sale of surplus farm produce, Miscellaneous revenue, Agricultural landlord and tenant, Water charges, Rural electrification

NOTE 3: SIGNIFICANT VARIATIONS

- a) Total Revenue collected increased by \$364,430 or 133% in 2017 compared to 2016 because of the change in financial year from twelve months in 2017 against the seven months in 2016. The significant increase in revenue for the 2017 financial year is attributed to the increase in miscellaneous revenue collections arising from the sale of agro inputs to farmers. Moreover, there was also an increase in the sale of the new breeds of Sheep and Goat that was imported by the Ministry and the increase in salary recovery from staffs during the year.
- b) The total operating expenditures of Ministry increased by \$10,111,290 or 60% in 2017 compared to 2016 because of the change in financial year from twelve months in 2017 against the seven months in 2016. The overall increase was mainly due to the increase in number of officers attending local and overseas trainings and workshops, increase in farm visitations and travel for project assessments/monitoring and implementation purposes, purchase of building materials for repairs and maintenance or minor improvement to staffs quarters and buildings and procurement of OHS protective clothing and equipment for staffs use. Moreover, expenditures incurred for the Fiji Sustainable Land Management Project and Fiji Ag-Trade Project increased significantly in 2017.
- c) Capital Construction expenditure increased by \$9,613,631 or 122% in 2017 compared to 2016 because of the change in financial year from twelve months in 2017 against the seven months in 2016. The increase is also attributed to the various agriculture rehabilitation programmes implemented by the Ministry after the TC Winston. Capital programs undertaken during the year were mainly related to the Crop Extension Services Livestock Extension Services, Research, Irrigation Improvement and Land, Drainage and Flood Protection services provided by the Ministry.
- d) Capital purchase increased in 2017 due to the implementation of the Farm Mechanisation Programme which includes the purchase of 10 wheeler truck and digger for Central division and purchase of six (6) tractors for respective farmers and agriculture stations. The Ministry also incurred funds for the purchase of equipment for the Agricultural Chemistry Lab during the year.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued...)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2017

- e) Capital Grants and Transfers expenditure increased by \$3,942,096 or 85% in 2017 compared to 2016 because of the change in financial year from twelve months in 2017 against the seven months in 2016. The increase is mainly attributed to the procurement of agro inputs by the Ministry in 2017 with the intention to sell it to farmers at subsidised prices, full payment of drainage subsidy to the drainage boards during the year and an increase in the number of projects implemented under the Rural and Outer Island Programme. In addition, the Ministry also implemented projects under the Beef Multiplication Programme and Sheep Multiplication Programme in 2017 for which budgeted funds in the previous year were not utilised.

NOTE 4: SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS

Significant Savings for the financial year ended 31 July 2017 are as follows:

No.	Expenditure	Revised Budget (\$)	Actual Expenditure (\$)	Savings (\$)	Percentage Savings (%)
(a)	Established Staffs	14,162,452	12,431,521	1,730,931	12
(b)	Capital Construction	27,442,415	17,474,568	9,967,847	36
(c)	Capital Grants and Transfers	11,560,000	8,596,684	2,963,316	26

- a) The savings in Established Staffs expenses is due to the vacant positions within the Ministry due to resignations and retirements of officers.
- b) The significant savings in Capital Construction expenses is mainly attributed to the delay in the tender process, vetting/finalization of contract documents and requisition to incur funds (RIE) applications therefore resulting in the delay in the implementation of capital projects that were planned and budgeted for to be carried out during the year. These includes projects funds allocated for under the Farm Access Roads, Construction of Office & Staff Quarters, Ginger Development Programme, Rice Revitalisation Programme Development, Export Promotion Programme, BTEC, Livestock Rehabilitation Programme, Land Drainage and Flood Protection Programme that were underutilised at year end. The Animal Waste Management and Fiji Agriculture Partnership Project funds were not utilised.
- c) The savings in Capital Grants and Transfers is due to the underutilisation of budgeted funds for Land clearing, Rural and Outer Island Programme and Sheep Multiplication Programme. The underutilisation of funds is attributed to the delay in the tender process and vetting/finalization of contract documents.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued...)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2017

NOTE 5: PRIOR YEAR ERROR ADJUSTMENTS

Cash remittances made by the Ministry in the 2016 financial year amounting to \$457,469 from its TMA bank account was not recorded in the 2016 general ledger. In addition, sales revenue of \$37,027 relating to 2015 was recognised in the 2016 financial year, therefore, the financial statement has been retrospectively restated to correctly reflect the cash at bank balances at year end. The effect of the restatement in the prior year's financial statements is summarised below.

Effect on TMA Profit and Loss	Effect on 2017	Effect on 2016	Effect on 2015
Increase/(Decrease) in Sales		(37,027)	37,027
Decrease in Net Loss	0	(37,027)	37,027
Effect on TMA Balance Sheet	Effect on 2017	Effect on 2016	Effect on 2015
Increase/(Decrease) in Asset	(37,027)	(494,496)	37,027
Effect on Total Asset	(37,027)	(494,496)	37,027
Increase/(Decrease) in Equity	(457,469)	(494,496)	37,027
Effect on Total Equity	(457,469)	(494,496)	37,027

NOTE 6: MAIN TRUST FUND ACCOUNT

Trust money is to be accounted for separately from public money and other money. Trust money is to be kept in a separate bank account pending its withdrawal for use.

This trust fund account is used to maintain retention funds for Land and Water Resources Management (LWRM) projects as per the conditions on the agreement. The funds will be paid out to contractors when certificate of completion is submitted and all conditions of the contract are met.



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