



Hon Minister for Agriculture – Dr Mahendra Reddy

Parliamentary

10/2022 -Written Question

Monday 7th February, 2022

Written Question

- **Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment – Can the Minister update Parliament on the rehabilitation measures to assist farmers in the Central Division whose crops were either damaged or destroyed by floods since 2018, in particular –**
 - a) **the total number of affected farmers who have been assisted by the Ministry annually since 2018; and**
 - b) **broad categories of crops and value of assistance for each broad category of assistance to farmers annually since 2018;**

In 2018, following TC Jossie on 1st April (Category 1), 802 farmers were affected in the Central Division (Tailevu, Naitasiri, Rewa, Serua, Namosi). A total of \$738,099 crop and livestock were damaged.

The aftermath TC Keni came in on the 10th April (Category 3), where a total of 2247 farmers were affected in the Central Division. There was an

equivalent of \$1.3 million of crop and livestock were damaged. The National Rehabilitation programme under TC Josie and TC Keni provided a total of \$2.7million for both crop and livestock farmers following which, Central Division was provided with \$100,000 worth of assistance. 979 affected farmers in the central division were provided with Vegetable seeds, seedlings, Tausala suckers, dalo Mix, Kumala cuttings, Fertilizer, Herbicides, upgrading of seed nursery, fencing kit, feed, hive material and sugar.

In 2019, -TC Sarai-(24 December), the total damage and losses to the Agricultural Sector in the Central Division was valued at \$1.2million for both crop and livestock. The total cost of Damaged Crops is \$7,336,764.26. A total of 3,280 central division farmers were affected.

For the Rehabilitation programme, a budget of \$174,000 were provided for the provision and distribution of Dry Vegetables Seeds, Kumala cuttings, Feeds and Fencing materials.

In 2020, Following Tropical Cyclone Harold -A total of 10,151 farmers from the Central Division were affected and the total damage and losses to the Agricultural Sector within the Central Division was valued around \$5.7 million.

A total of 4032 Broiler Day Old Chick were distributed to 243 farms in the Central Division (Serua, Tailevu, Rewa and Naitasiri Provinces).

For the Rehabilitation programme, a budget of \$122,988 were provided for the provision seed and seedling materials, agro inputs, and livestock materials. This includes, French bean, long bean, cucumber, watermelon, okra, cowpeas, pawpaw, eggplant, cabbage, tomatoes, kumala cuttings, NPK Blend, Black urea, glyphosate, Insecticides, fencing material, day old chicks and feed.

In conjunction with Food and Agriculture of the United Nations (FAO), the ministry was able to assist a total of 1 908 households (approximately 9 540 people). Under output 1, the project provided a total of 1 481 semi-

commercial farming households with agricultural inputs packages consisting of 3 500 eggplant, 3 500 tomato seedlings, 3 500 Chillies seedlings, 3 500 capsicum seedlings, 3 500 English cabbage seedlings and 300 papaya seedlings; and provided a total of 354 subsistence farming households with agricultural inputs packages consisting of dalo ni tana suckers (5 000), cassava cuttings (4 500), sweet potato cuttings (5 000) and duruka cuttings (3 500). Under output 2, the project provided mechanical land preparation services to a total of 73 commercial and semi-commercial farming households, clearing and preparing a total of 66.74 ha of arable land.

During TC Yasa, a total of 73,847 farmers were affected. Therefore for Rehabilitation, a total of 21,032.75kg Dry Seeds, 160,000 Papaya, 9,000 trays Vegetables (450,000 seedling) including BQA commodities (Eggplant and chillies) were distributed.

Most of the Agricultural support was given to badly affected areas in Bua, Cakaudrove, Macuata; fisheries assistance in Bua, Cakaudrove, Lau, and Macuata;

In collaboration with EU and FAO, Fiji Pro Resilience funded by EU from 2018 to 2020 benefited 10,040 subsistence farmers who received agriculture kits and smart agriculture training, 100 water tanks, 20 irrigation systems, 4 solar water pumps. The project budget was EUR2.2 Millions

In 2021, the Ministry and in collaboration with ADRA, DFAT funded response was valued at AUD 591,000 and this included, agriculture kits to 500 Farmers and 500 people received training on add value. Following 2021 cyclone and COVID crisis, USAID OFDA funded response was USD 250,000; 500 people received Post harvesting kit; 500 people received seeds kits and 40 farmers received 10,000 liters water tank. Through ADRA Network, Sanitarium, World Vision, Tear Fund USD 250,000, 500 people received seeds kits and 1000 multipurpose cash (FJD100 per HHDs)

With TC Cody this year, 20,000 Agricultural Household has been assisted with \$250.00 cash each for their land preparation and planting materials. In detail, 4030 central farmers were identified for assistance. 250 Bilateral Quarantine Registered farmers will receive \$176 cash each. The Grow from Home programme of 20,000 households will receive \$15 seed packs worth around \$300,000. In addition to that, 20,000 farmers will receive \$25 dry seeds worth \$500,000.

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