



# ANNUAL REPORT 2018 - 2019





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## MINISTERS FOREWORD



The 2018 2019 Annual Report of the Ministry of Agriculture reflects the Ministry's Annual Performance, aligned to the Ministry's Costed Operational Plan; together with its audited Financial Statements.

The Ministry is responsible in providing support to hard-working Fijian farmers, ensuring they adapt to changing market signals and climate change. The approach is wide-reaching, administering technical crop and livestock extension services to conducting new research and developing innovative solutions.

This report will highlight key activities of the Ministry especially the establishment of brucellosis-free farms, work on enhancing Fijian grown products for international markets and focus on import substitution commodities.

The Ministry will continue to work towards improving farmer's perception on farming as a way of life by promoting farming as a business and modernising farms to take full advantage of a prospering Fijian economy.

On that note, I am pleased to acknowledge the continuing effort of all ministry staff and senior management in continuing to pursue the Ministry's goals and strategic objectives.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mahendra Reddy', is written over a horizontal dotted line.

**Hon. Dr. Mahendra Reddy**  
**Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development**  
**Waterways and Environment**



## ASSISTANT MINISTER'S STATEMENT



I am honored to offer my acknowledgement for the publication of the Ministry of Agriculture's 2018-2019 Annual Report.

Despite challenges experienced throughout the year, the Ministry staff continued to perform in delivering services to the public and stakeholders. This report highlights the Ministry's achievements, aligning it to Government's directions and goals.

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.

I would like to express my gratitude to Management and staff of the Ministry for their contribution and endless support to the Ministry's overall objective throughout the year.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jale Sagarara".

**Hon. Jale Sagarara**  
**Assistant Minister for Agriculture,**  
**Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment**



## ASSISTANT MINISTER'S STATEMENT



The 2018 - 2019 Financial Year has been crucial to the Ministry of Agriculture as we embarked on implementing reform strategies, Ministry restructure and management turnover.

Throughout the year, the Agriculture Officials continued to perform in delivering services to public and stakeholders. This report highlights the Ministry's delivery of activities throughout the Financial Year and how it dovetails to Government's directions and strategies.

Also included in the report are a series of success stories and divisional highlights that reflects the achievement and successful implementation of planned programmes.

I would like to express my gratitude to Management and staff of the Ministry for their contribution and endless support to achieving Ministry's overall objective.

Vinaka Vakalevu.

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, Waterways and Environment**



## PERMANENT SECRETARY'S STATEMENT



2018/2019 financial year was an exciting one for the Ministry as we embrace the Costed Operational Plan (COP) as our new guiding document for all activities undertaken. The COP highlighted detail funding for individual planned activities which enable the Ministry to monitor progress on assigned budget utilisation.

In delivering on our new plan, we reviewed our recent past performances, successes and shortcomings to develop and prioritise key changes that enable us to deliver more efficiently and effectively. The Ministry focused on key commitments, such as the review of standard operations procedures, use of technology to streamline our support and service delivery and begin consultation on a new organisation structure.

Whilst progressing to achieve our COP targets, we continue to commit to the highest standard of service delivery and support to all our stakeholders and citizens we serve.

Through this report, the Ministry outlines its performance and achievements on implementation of divisional plan and highlight success stories that signifies the impact of our intervention.

On that note I wish to sincerely acknowledge output by my team and continued support from our Stakeholders that has enabled us to deliver in this financial year.

It gives me great pleasure to present the Ministry of Agriculture 2018-2019 Annual Report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DK' with a stylized flourish.

.....  
**Mr. David Kolitagane**  
Permanent Secretary for Agriculture



## ABOUT THE REPORT

The Ministry of Agriculture Annual report highlights the Ministry performance in accordance with the COP and Annual Budget for the year.

The report consists of details of performance measures from 1st August 2018 to 31st July, 2019.

Compilation of this report will be on:

1. Overview of the Ministry
2. Agricultural Key Numbers
3. Annual Performance Achievements
4. Ministry Annual Financial Statement



## MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AT A GLANCE

### Ministry 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.

#### VALUE

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



## STAKEHOLDERS

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 Staffs
- Rural Community Leaders
- Exporters
- Importers
- Processors
- MoA Consultants

#### External

- Ministries and Departments
- Private Sector
- Statutory Bodies
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Diplomatic Missions
- Unions and Employers
- Resource Owners
- Academic Institutions



## MINISTRY FUNCTION

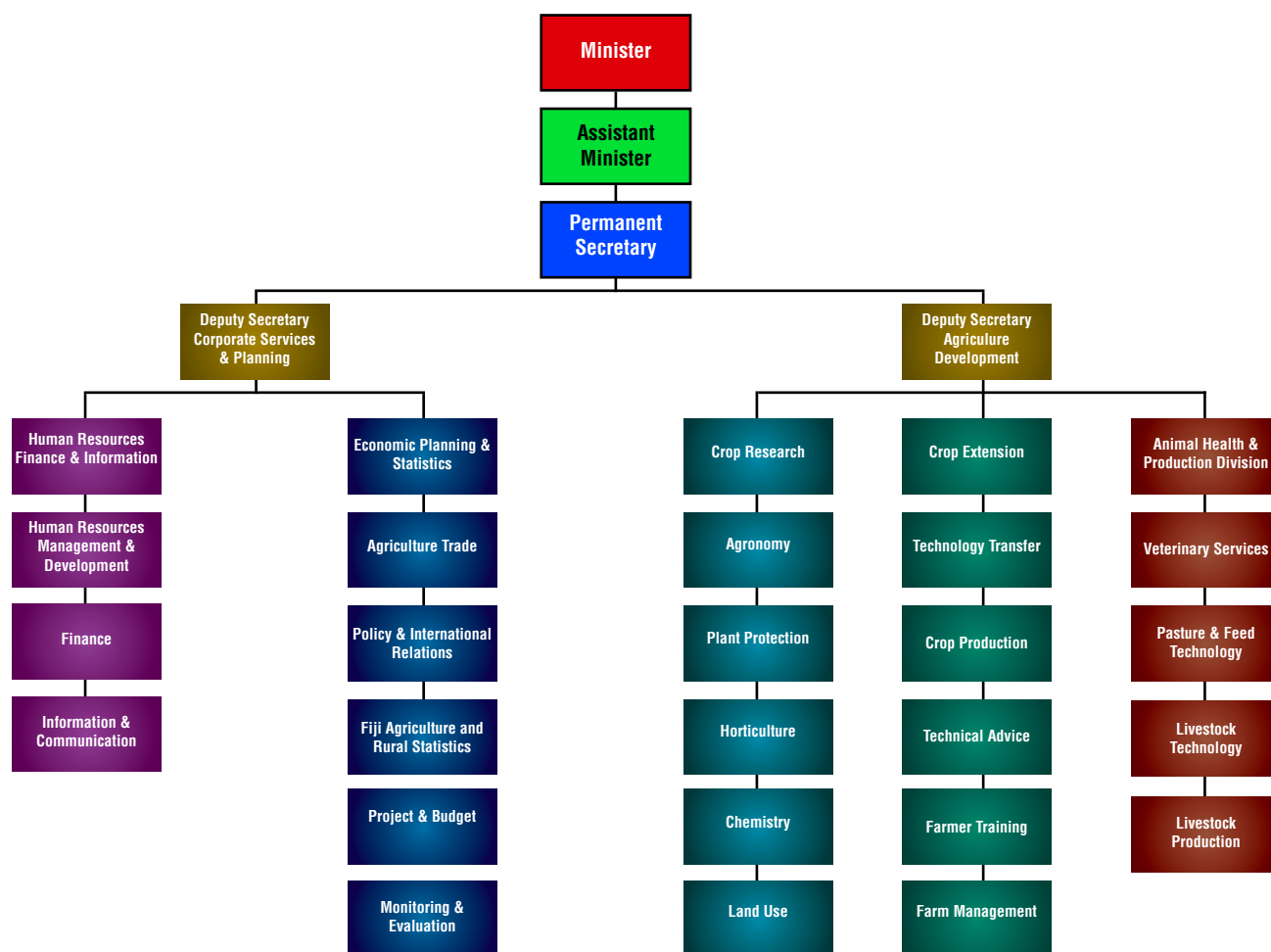
- To accelerate agricultural product diversification into crops and livestock products where competitive advantage has been identified.
- To facilitate private sector development
- To promote food security
- To ensure sustainable development in the non- sugar sector

## MINISTRY PORTFOLIO

- The Ministry has six (6) departments; Human Resource Division, Finance Division, Economic Planning and Statistics Division, Crop Extension Division, Animal Health & Plant Protection Division and Research Division. These Divisions are devoted to achieving the yearly objectives of the MoA.
- The MoA sets out plan and implements key policies and key activities to achieve higher economic growth whilst ensuring substantial sustainability of Fiji's Agriculture Sector. Continuing partnership with relevant stakeholders will enable more land available for productive and social purposes which encourage farming, adequate production and committed agriculture workforce.
- The MoA provides an enabling environment for direct efficient delivery of services to stakeholders throughout Fiji. The adoption of a 'professional' service delivery by the Ministry promotes maximum production through increased investments in the agriculture sector.



## MINISTRY STRUCTURE



### STAKEHOLDERS



### Key

- Human Resources Finance & Communication
- Economic Planning & Statistics
- Crop Research
- Crop Extension
- Animal Health & Production



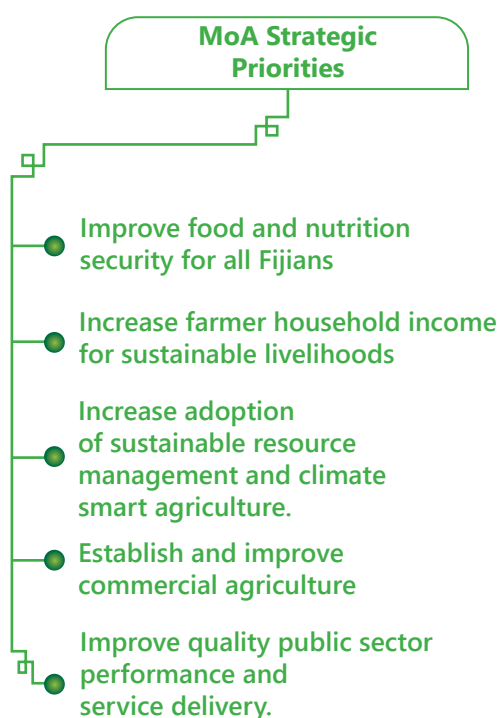
## MINISTRY STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The 5 year and 20-year National Development Plan highlights the goal of the MoA:

The strategies aligned to achieve the overall goal of the Ministry of Agriculture are as follows:

"Every Fijian has access to adequate food of acceptable quality and nutritional value"

"Competitive, sustainable and value-adding non-sugar agriculture" promoting food self-sufficiency and the production of those agricultural products where Fiji has a competitive advantage.





## AGRICULTURE KEY NUMBERS

### MoA Budget



**\$96.8 million**

### Actual Expenditure



**\$64,739.9 million**

### Crop & Livestock GDP



**\$630.2 million**

### Crop & Livestock Production



**327,824 mt**

## AGRICULTURE (Crop & Livestock) TRADE

Crop & Livestock  
Sector Export

**\$234M**



Crop & Livestock  
Sector Domestic  
Import

**\$766M**



## KEY CROP PERFORMANCE 2018-2019



**Dalo Production:**  
51,509 mt

**Total Export:**  
• Volume (5,126mt)  
• Value (\$25m FJD)

**Top Export Destination:**  
New Zealand (2,358mt)



**Cassava Production:**  
76,030 mt

**Total Export:**  
• Volume (1,141mt)  
• Value (\$2.2m FJD)

**Top Export Destination:**  
New Zealand (651 mt)



**Ginger Production:**  
9,398 mt

**Total Export:**  
• Volume (214 mt)  
• Value (\$1.3m FJD)

**Top Export Destination:**  
Australia (73 mt)



**Pawpaw Production:**  
4,005 mt

**Total Export:**  
• Volume (271 mt)  
• Value (\$1.3m FJD)

**Top Export Destination:**  
New Zealand (157 mt)



**Yaqona Production:**  
11,739 mt

**Total Export:**  
• Volume (328 mt)  
• Value (\$32.5 m FJD)

**Top Export Destination:**  
United States (188mt)



**Pineapple Production:**  
7,158 mt

**Total Export:**  
• Volume (3mt)  
• Value (\$0.007m FJD)

**Top Export Destination:**  
New Zealand (2mt)



## KEY LIVESTOCK PERFORMANCE 2018 - 2019



**Pig Production:** 1,752 mt

**Export of Pork** (Fresh/Chilled/Frozen)

- Volume (0.4mt)
- Value (\$0.004m FJD)

**Top Export Destination:**  
Any other source



**Dairy Production:**  
10,767 mt

**Export of Milk**

- Volume (23mt)
- Value (\$0.2mFJD)

**Top Export Destination:**  
Tonga (8 mt)



**Poultry Production:**  
Broiler (34,188mt), Ducks (145mt), Eggs (11,329 mt)

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

- Volume (335mt)
- Value (\$2.4m FJD)

**Top Export Destination:**  
Vanuatu (250mt)



**Goat Production:**  
194 mt

**Export of Goat Meat**

- Volume
- Value

**Top Export Destination:**



**Beef Production:**  
2,749 mt

**Export of Beef** (Fresh/Chilled/Frozen):

- Volume (2mt)
- Value (\$0.03m FJD)

**Top Export Destination:**  
High Seas (1mt)



**Sheep Production:**  
90 mt

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

- Volume (0.5 mt)
- Value (\$0.008m FJD)

**Top Export Destination:**  
High Seas (0.5mt)



## CROP EXTENSION DIVISION



*Farmers during a talanoa session in Tavua.*



Crop Extension Divisions core responsibility is delivering quality and timely services to our customers. To fully accomplish its role and responsibility, the Division focuses on:

- Improving Crop and Livestock Production;
- Increasing Seeds Supply and Planting Materials to farmers;
- Increase Mechanization through provision of farming machineries, cooler sets and sheds;
- Enhancing Food Security and Livelihoods through establishing backyard gardens;
- Coordinating and facilitating trainings;
- Improving Resilience and Risk Management through facilitating awareness and promotional activities;
- Sustainable Management of Natural Resources through sustainable land management practices;
- Increasing Commercial Production through the Division Development Programmes and linking farmers to tourism industry.

### **Crop Extension Achievement Summary**

#### **Outcome 1.1: Maintaining Food Security Through the Provision of Extension and Research Services Both for Livestock and Crops**

To wholly deliver on outcome 1.1, the Division:

- Targets farmers diversifying to increasing farm production, facilitating promotion and awareness programs and constructing farm access;
- Facilitates and conducts distributions of seeds and planting materials to our farmers;
- Planned to purchase farm machines and implements, construct processing and drying sheds, procure tool sets and conduct farm visits;
- Organized and conducted food security awareness and promotional activities, establish school and backyard gardens.

In this 2018-2019 financial year, the following was achieved:

- Targeting farmers to increase production is facilitated through 12 approved programs; FSP, EPP, Pineapple, Vanilla, Potato, Agro Subsidy, Cocoa, Rice, Nadarivatu, Sigavou, SVDP and AES. Through these 12 programmes, more than 720 farmers were diversified to boost production.
- There were 42 number of promotion and awareness conducted for rice, Nadarivatu and AES farmers in the North, Central and Western Division. Promotion and awareness conducted were establishment of rice demo plots, market linkages tour for farmers and staffs, demo for irrigation set ups, plastic house and construction

of green houses for high value vegetable crops in Nadarivatu. AES Program supported the establishment of 4 farmers field schools per geographic division HOTEK Show in Ba for farmers and Hoteliers, Nacula Mini Agriculture and Yam show and market linkages for Staffs and farmers.

- Farmers were also assisted with land clearing. There were 247 farmers assisted directly and indirectly with land clearing under Coconut and Nadarivatu programs.
- Three (3) farm roads (3km) were completed for three (3) communities in Nadarivatu; Lewa, Nadala and Navai to assist with farm market access.
- Total of 30 different commodities and planting materials were distributed to farmers over Fiji. Commodities were kumala (sweet potato), vudi (plantain), banana, via, dalo ni tana, yams, tivoli, dalo tausala, dalo mix, coconut, cocoa, pineapple, potato, long bean, french bean, okra, maize, capsicum, chillies, chinese cabbage, english cabbage, egg plant, tomatoes, zucchini, cauliflower, broccoli, cowpeas, rice, sweet corn and lettuce.
- 15 farm machines and implements purchased under the Rice program. These items include mini rice harvesters, reapers and combined harvesters.
- Five (5) processing sheds were constructed;
- Five (5) drying sheds were constructed;
- 10 tool sets were procured;
- 2047 farm visit were conducted.
- 93 awareness and promotional activities were facilitated and conducted; Rotuma Day, Cocoa Day, Coconut Day, Ra Mini Agriculture show, Market Day, Nadarivatu, field days, demo plots, road shows with other Ministries and field days. These were organised for farmers to enhance farmers knowledge and skills;
- 200 number of school gardens were established. Assisted given were seed pkts, tools and nursery establishments for boarding schools both primary and secondary;
- 100 backyards gardens established for peri urban areas. Assistance given were seed packets and mini nurseries;
- 1167 farmers capacited through our different awareness programs.

#### **Outcome 2.2: Maintain and Improve Linkages of Farmers to Markets Financial Services, and Tourism Sector**

To ensure that partnership between farmers and financial institutions are established, the Division organized 93 joint awareness with lending



institutions. Empowering farmers on the different packages available to improve their farm systems. Most of these were carried out during the Tikina and provincial meetings, farmers awareness and road shows held in Kadavu, Lomaiviti, Keiyasi, Ra, Rotuma and Yasawa. In addition, two (2) Literacy training conducted for farmers.

### **Outcome 2.3: Ensuring Equal Access for Women and Youth in Agriculture**

To ensure equal access, women and youth were assisted through procurement of planting equipment's and materials, training programs and forming of women and youth cluster groups.

Trainings and tours were organized by the Division, 177 women and youth were trained and also participated in the market linkage tours organised for women farmers in Fiji. In addition, 11 staffs trained and were engaged in the market linkage tours.

Nine (9) procurements were done under Vanilla and Cottage. Procurements of brush cutters, pruners, curing materials, nursery materials, drying sheds, tools and equipment's. 77882 planting materials for voivoi, floriculture, vanilla and Masi were distributed.

355 women farmers and youth were visited and were advised accordingly. Furthermore, 73 clusters were also established.

### **Outcome 2.4: Poverty Alleviation Through Capacity Building of Farmers**

To alleviate poverty, the Division has organized and facilitated training targeting farmers not only to increasing production however to enhance farmers knowledge and skills. In addition, meetings were organized to discuss on developing market access on agriculture products and upgrading of infrastructures.

In 2018-2019 financial year, 14 farmers training were conducted under the Coconut, Cocoa, Rice and Sigavou programmes for farmers to adopt new techniques on pruning, fertiliser application and new agronomic packages to improve production. From the four mentioned (4) programmes, 840 farmers were trained. Moreover, four (4) farmers field school were established, 49 agriculture projects were identified, approved and implemented and six (6) consultation meetings were organized.

### **Outcome 3.1: Reduction of Disaster Risks and Strengthen Preparedness**

Particular activities were implemented ensuring that resilience and risk management and staffs' capacity of responding to disaster are improved. In 2018-

2019:

- 15 indigenous crops were established;
- 23 awareness were conducted on disaster response and preparedness;
- 37 integrated programs with relevant trainings to prepare and adapt to Climate Change;
- 113 food security awareness and promotional activities conducted;
- Seven (7) commodity trainings conducted under SVIDP, Rice, Cocoa, Coconut, Nadarivatu, Sigavou, Rotuma programmes.

### **Outcome 3.3: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources Through Sustainable Land Management Practices**

The following activities were successfully implemented in 2018-2019 financial year:

- 202 farm plans were compiled and submitted to TLTB, FDB and Land Bank;
- Two (2) in-house trainings conducted for technical staffs in Northern and Central Division;
- 125.67 ha developed under Flat Land Development Programs;
- Five (5) monitoring reports compiled and submitted;
- 257 farmers visited and advised.

### **Outcome 4.1: Increasing Commercial Production**

To wholly ensure that the number of commercial productions do increase, the Division has coordinated 102 farmers linked to the tourism industry, assisted 51 farmers under the Dalo Development Program, 483 farmers under the Ginger Development Program, 85 farmers under the Yaqona Development Program, 251 farms were visited and farmers were advised accordingly and four (4) monitoring reports were compiled and submitted.

Furthermore, to maintain commodity protocols for BQA and Non-BQA commodities:

- 156 farmers were capacitated;
- 12 farmers meeting were organized and conducted;
- 10 field monitoring were conducted;
- Seven (7) staffs were recruited under BQA;
- 731 farms were visited and were advised accordingly.

### **Outcome 5.2: Strengthen Institutional Linkages and Quality Data Collection**

Ensuring that staffs data collection ability is improved, staff training was conducted and 20 locality officers went to attend a training in China on Rice.

To ensure that quality of data is captured, 10 equipment were procured.



## Success Story

### Visual Impairment Does Little to Deter Rukuruku Farmer



*Eremasi on his farm with his aiding stick.*

Eremasi Vesikalou wasn't a person to let anything slow him down, be it the arduous rural surroundings he was raised in or the eyes that couldn't guide him on his life's journey. Rather than have self-pity for what was dealt with him, the man from Rukuruku Village on Ovalau made the best of what he had. Stricken with a condition that slowly led to him fully losing his eyesight, he overcame overwhelming odds to become the successful farmer that he is today.

Though he had envisioned himself as an engineer while a student at Delana Junior Secondary School back in 1976, this was not to be, as, at the age of 15, his eyesight began deteriorating and could not be healed through either conventional or herbal medicine. He recalls having to return to his village after learning of his fate; "It started with a slight headache which continued to become severe and soon after my sight was affected leaving me totally blind, I was devastated, I had to return to the village and because of my condition, I knew I couldn't do much.

"My condition left me helpless, I depended on people and was often the center of mockery, all this led to my urgency to start something for myself and I knew that I had to turn to the land and just farm," he said. Despite his shortcomings, the now 57-year-old Lomaiviti man has made a life for himself through farming and is an active farmer, living life the same way an able-bodied person would; Vesikalou made use of his mataqali's land and with the assistance of his cousins, he ventured into yaqona farming.

A few years down the line, as a young man, Eremasi immersed himself in his yaqona farming and through its harvest, became one of the only youths at the time to build his own home. Even in his condition, Eremasi has been farming for more than 20 years now, expanding from yaqona to dalo farming and has become accustomed and attuned to his situation and physical surroundings that he is able to travel to his farm and work alone. "I use my stick and walk my way slowly to this place. It is my farm, so I know it, I don't require much assistance to get here anymore."

"I'm able to manage my way because I've created a mental image of the location of my farm, aided by small pegs I've used as markings," he says with a smile. His sense of touch became his sight as he is able to differentiate and distinguish weeds from yaqona and dalo plants, "It's something I've been doing for years. So I use my hand to feel the plants, once I touch it and it's not a crop, I know the feeling, so I remove it." His slim frame tells the tale of a man who has been through a lot but his attitude and character reflect that the father of three is far from over as he does not show any signs of slowing down or giving up.

His life has come full circle as he is supported by his wife who hails from Driti Village in Dawasamu and their three children, something everyone thought Vesikalou would never have – a family of his own. "I gathered the courage to seek my wife's hand in marriage and I found happiness, despite my condition, she accepted my heartfelt request with sincerity," he said. "The birth of our children was the best thing that has happened to me and although I haven't seen the faces of my wife and children, the love that we share was sufficient for me to put an identity to their voices."

He has continuously defied the odds and tirelessly works to provide for his family from farming; "From the farm revenue, I managed to build a house for my family in the village with a portion used for my children's tuition and other needs," he said. "At first I went through challenges in the search for my eldest's tuition and with my condition, I still went knocking on doors, I faced disappointment and fortunately other doors opened enabling my son to continue his education, with the assistance of good-hearted friends," he said. "It was probably because of my condition that I was turned away but that feeling of rejection gave me strength and confidence to keep moving and it all went away after my son successfully enlisted in the army. A proud moment for both father and son.

He has managed to put all his children through their education and has molded them into strong-willed individuals just like him, a reflection of which can be said to be his unorthodox farmhouse which surprisingly enough is not a small corrugated iron house nor is it a tent but is a huge rock, one that he makes himself comfortable underneath whenever he decides to take a breather. Through the Ministry of Agriculture's outreach in 2017, he became a member of the cluster group in Rukuruku where the burden of shouldering his farm works alone was shared.

Agriculture Assistant Ovalau Losana Nakato said the group was assisted through the Dalo and Yaqona Development Programs and received 2,200 dalo tausala suckers and 2,600 yaqona planting materials in 2017. As a vessel of change, Eremasi encourages people with special needs or in a similar situation to not look down on themselves; "If something is wrong with a part of you, don't be disheartened as you still can accomplish a lot of things, you are still useful and can achieve far better than abled people could if you believe in yourself.



## Divisional Highlights



SLM Farmer of the Year - Parma Nand (1st from left), Assistant Minister for Agriculture - Hon. Jale Sigara, DS AD - Mr. Jone Sovalawa and Director Research - Dr. Apaitia Macanawai during the 2019 Agriculture Show in Valelevu.



Ministry staff with farmers of Rewa at the Spice Farm in Navua.



Backyard gardening initiative launched in Tavua.



Agriculture technical officers who were part of the Irrigation Training held at Koronivia Research Station.



Fieldman Ilaisa Gonebure (right) assisting a cocoa farmer in Tailevu, drying cocoa seeds.



Coconut Day Celebrations in Taveuni.





## ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION DIVISION

*Poultry farm at Navuso Agriculture Technical Institute*



## Animal Health and Production Division Achievement Summary

### **Outcome 1.1: Maintaining Food Security Through the Provision of Extension and Research Services Both for Livestock and Crops**

To utterly deliver on outcome 1.1, the Division targets to provide technology advancement, improved genetics research at national level, manage pest and diseases, increase supply of seeds and planting materials to farmers, increase mechanization, develop livestock biotechnology, enhance food security and livelihoods and strengthen agriculture research services.

In this financial year, the Division has achieved:

- 7 calf rearing; senepol breed, brownswiss breed, Pig f1 distb, pig indigenous, poultry f1 distb, poultry local;
- 200 nucleus genetic improved at research;
- 200 queen bees genetic improved at research;
- Conducted 68 farm disease surveys;
- Conducted 1021 TB test and 911 Brucellosis test on farms;
- Conducted 40,520 TB test and 27,055 Brucellosis test on animals;
- Four (4) awareness programs organized;
- 11,700 of animal drugs were sold on managing diseases;
- Received 4,600 clinical cases;
- Three (3) pounds were constructed;
- Six (6) pounds were maintained;
- 102 stray animals' awareness program were organized and conducted;
- 500kg of seeds distributed;
- Two (2) breeding plan developed;
- Two (2) nucleus herd developed for Beef and Dairy on government stations;
- Seven (7) promotional activities organized;
- Three (3) Research Unit facilitated for upgrade;
- Seven (7) feed supplements distributed;
- 382 of Quality Feed, Pasture Soil Sample Tested;
- Two (2) pasture and feed survey report formulated;
- One (1) quality manual produced.

### **Outcome 2.3: Ensuring Equal Access for Women and Youth in Agriculture**

To make certain equal access, women and youth are provided with trainings to enhance their knowledge on farming. The Division has facilitated 60 trainings for our women and youth.

### **Outcome 2.4: Poverty Alleviation Through Capacity Building of Farmers**

To eradicate poverty, the Division provides basic services to rural and maritime areas and trainings to our farmers to help boost agriculture production. In this year 2018-2019, the Division has:

- Conducted 520 trainings to our farmers;
- Visited 8,500 farmers for consultation;

- Identified 89 projects;
- Organized 14 consultation develop market access on agriculture products and upgrading infrastructure;
- Conducted one (1) awareness programs to our extension staffs in rural and maritime areas on new introduced technologies.

### **Outcome 3.1: Reduction of Disaster Risks and Strengthen Preparedness**

Particular activities were accomplished ensuring that staffs' capacity of responding to disaster are enhanced:

- Seven (7) commodity trainings were organized and completed;
- Three (3) trainings on laboratory, dairy hygiene and testing (TB and Brucellosis) were conducted;
- 3,420 poultry local stock were supplied;
- 244 pigs were supplied;
- Two (2) innovations were facilitated to improve research station facilities in relevance to improvement in genetics, nutritional status and extreme weather conditions.

### **Outcome 4.1: Increasing Commercial Production**

Similar to Crop and Livestock Division, Animal Health and Production Division focuses on ensuring that the number of commercial productions do increase. In this 2018-2019 financial year, the Division has:

- Assisted 22 beef farmers on pastures and fencing materials;
- Assisted 31 commercial farms on provision of infrastructure, pasture, fencing and genetic materials;
- Three (3) cluster were assisted with materials;
- Assisted 11 sheep farms assisted on pasture development, fencing, water supply and shed upgrading;
- One (1) sheep consultancy was organized;
- One (1) new cluster was formed;
- One (1) slaughter house was constructed;
- 500 hives supplied to farmers;
- One (1) improvement of farm machineries and milk cartage through FCDCL.

### **Outcome 5.1: Portfolio Leadership, Policy Advice and Secretariat Support.**

The Division in this financial year has developed four (4) Memorandum of Understandings (MoU's) with relevant stakeholders.

### **Outcome 5.2: Strengthen Institutional Linkages and Quality Data Collection.**

Similar to Crop and Livestock Division, to ensure that Animal Health and Production officers data collection proficiency is enhanced, seven (7) trainings were organized, 44 monitoring reports were submitted and 15 equipment were procured in this financial year.



## Success Story

### It's Dairy for Titilia



*Titilia Bolakoro controlling the calf into the shed at her farm.*

Not everyone wakes up before the rooster crows and heads straight out to the farm before the crack of dawn.

To even awake in the early hours of the morning is a huge ask in itself but that is exactly the type of dedication and commitment that Titilia Bolakoro has shown for past two decades on her dairy farm.

Rain, hail or shine, regardless of the weather, she is out on her dairy farm every morning, something which has become second nature to her.

The 54-year-old Naluwai native was born and raised on a dairy farm, and after 20 years of marriage in Naocosaga settlement in Nabaitavo, Naitasiri she continues to ply her trade in the same industry upon which she was reared from.

"I was born and brought up in a dairy farm back at Naluwai, so dairy farming was nothing new to me when I decided to become a full time dairy farmer and after getting married, I took control of my husband's farm and helped him in his farming," she said.

"My husband's family have been dairy farmers since the 50's and they've come a long way since then, I just stepped in and helped to revive the farms production level.

After marrying in 1997, the couple concentrated efforts in raising the standard of their farm by applying differing techniques with mixed results.

Through trainings conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture and consultation with stakeholders and other experienced farmers, the couple soon reaped the rewards of their labour.

She has consistently supplied approximately 25 liters of milk per day and earns a decent living from the dairy farm to support her family.

"There have been a lot of changes in the dairy industry as compared to the past because the Government has committed itself to helping farmers and making their work easier like constructing farm access roads and other agricultural developments, which is good for us," said Titilia.

She also acknowledged Government's exhaustive effort to assist and support farmers in the dairy industry in order to achieve its potential, highlighting the onus was also on farmers to do their part for the industry's benefit.

"It is our responsibility, as farmers to look after our animals, we should ensure they are secured in the fence and have the frequent Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) and Brucellosis tests done in order to prevent animals from catching these diseases," she said.

Her only wish was for more farmers to show interest in the dairy industry as it could be a lucrative venture if one remained committed to it.

She has optimistic plans for the future, plans which involve a fully automated milking system to ease her burden and she hasn't shown any signs of giving up on her goal.

"We have a 5-year development plan to fully develop this farm to a level that we have envisioned, to have proper milking sheds, to have more calves and milking cows, to secure fully automatic milking machines and in the long term a vehicle to assist transport our milk to chilling centers," she said.

Her advice, work smart and work together; "I would like to advise dairy farmers and other farmers who are interested in the dairy industry to work smartly and closely with each other, do things communally as this is our strength and most importantly to take heed of technical advice given by the Ministry of Agriculture, this will only boost and enhance the dairy industry for everyone."

Such is the life and drive of Titilia Bolakoro, dedication of this like will ensure the dairy industry is headed in the right direction.



## Divisional Highlights



*Handing over of F1 Sheep Cross breed by the Hon. Dr. Mahendra Reddy and the Ministry staff to farmers in the West.*



*A success farmer Rajesh Sami at his poultry farm in Savusavu.*



*Assistant Minister - Hon. Viam Pillay (right) during his tour to India.*



*Bee hives in Kanakana village, Tunuloa, Cakaudrove.*



*Assistant Minister - Hon. Viam Pillay with farmers in Sigatoka during his tour to the West.*



## AGRICULTURE RESEARCH DIVISION



**TARO**  
**[*Colocasia esculenta*]**

*Tissue Culture Lab at Koronivia Research Station*



The Division enthusiastically continues to implement activities that will ensure agriculture growth.

It aims:

- To conduct and foster applied and adaptive crop research that will enhance food and income security;
- To facilitate scientific, technical and professional support services for agriculture development;
- To provide analytical, diagnostic and regulatory services;
- Develop products and value adding to enhance income security;
- To promote sustainable land use practices with major emphasis on land conservation and land degradation issues;
- Focused through five major disciplines including Agronomy, Horticulture, Crop Protection, Analytical Chemistry Land Use.

#### **Agriculture Research Division Achievements Summary:**

##### **Outcome 1.1: Maintaining Food Security Through the Provision of Extension and Research Services Both for Livestock and Crops**

To maintain food security, the Division:

- Released two (2) new dalo varieties tolerant to taro leaf blight (TLB) and a new kumala variety for commercial cultivation;
- Facilitated 14 adoptable, cost-effective and affordable technology;
- Supplied 97,455kg of seeds;
- Developed one (1) mechanized technology;
- Conducted 23 awareness program with NGOs on Food Security and Livelihood;
- Organized eight (8) awareness program in promoting healthy food in combating NCD's;
- Planted 1200 fruit trees;
- Purchased 10 new lab equipment's;
- Conducted 20,000 tests;
- Conducted 300 tests and submitted test reports as per client's request;
- 37 best farm practices researched;
- Facilitated 10 quality programs (proficiency test);
- 12 infrastructures were enhanced;
- 12 orchards were successfully established.

##### **Outcome 2.1: Support Agriculture Growth through Implementation of Commodity and Industry Program**

To support agriculture growth, the Division aims at strengthening its existing BQAs and Commodity Protocols. In this financial year, the Division conducted four (4) quarterly trainings on BQA.

##### **Outcome 2.3: Ensuring Equal Access for Women and Youth in Agriculture.**

To ensure that both women and youth have equal access to agriculture, the Division successfully facilitated six (6) awareness trainings and consultations.

##### **Outcome 2.4: Poverty Alleviation Through Capacity Building of Farmers**

The Division organized capacity building trainings to our farmers not only aimed at helping boost agricultural production however to also minimize poverty.

This 2018-2019 financial year, the Division has successfully organized and facilitated 14 farmers training.

Furthermore, the Division pursues to improve provision of basic services to rural and maritime areas through organizing and facilitating awareness to extension staff in rural and maritime on new farming technologies. This financial year, the Division successfully conducted four (4) awareness consultations on new farming technologies to our extension officers in rural and maritime areas.

##### **Outcome 4.1: Increasing Commercial Production**

The Division aims at increasing commercial production development of value-added product. This financial year, the Division has efficaciously developed seven (7) value added product.

##### **Outcome 5.1: Portfolio Leadership, Policy Advice and Secretariat Support**

The Division in this financial year has developed one (1) Memorandum of Understandings (MoU's) with relevant stakeholders, issued 50 research publication and 13 staff capacitated.



## Divisional Highlights



*Launching of Capsicum variety - Golden Bell*



*Research and Extension officers with SAO Cakaudrove (middle) during the PHC at Seaqaqa Research Station*



*Hon. Dr Mahendra Reddy with the Deputy Secretary for Agriculture Development Mr. Jone Sovalawa at Naduruloulou Research Station.*



*Launching of 2 new rice variety, Sitara and Cagivou.*



*Minister visits Tissue Culture lab in Koronivia*



*DSAD (left) with Taiwan Technical Mission (TTM) Mr Dominick during the planting of the Guava Orchard.*





*Vetiver Hedgerow planting by LRPD Staff*



The Land Use Section is responsible for and committed to the implementation of the LAND CONSERVATION AND IMPROVEMENT ACT (LCIA) for the conservation and improvement of Fiji's land resources to ensure sustainable socio-economic and environmental development and management.

The section provides scientific, technical, research and advisory services 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.
- Develop & disseminates appropriate sustainable land management technologies.
- Develop and manage land based biophysical data including soil and land use capability & classification through the Geographical Information Systems tools.
- Consolidates land resources information and its management.
- Build capacity and mainstreaming of Sustainable Land Management in Fiji
- Combat land degradation in Fiji through the promotion of SLM
- Disseminate information on sustainable land management.
- Regional and international collaborations, cooperation and consultations
- Ensuring good agricultural land use practices for sustainable agricultural production
- Developing effective soil conservation practices to enhance the retention of soil fertility for sustained agricultural production
- Initiating Sustainable Land Management practices for climate change adaptation in Fiji

## **LAND RESOURCE PLANNING DIVISION ACHIEVEMENTS SUMMARY:**

### **Outcome 1.1: Maintaining Food Security Through the Provision of Extension and Research Services Both for Livestock and Crops**

The Division have successfully:

- Conducted nine (9) awareness program - Naimasimasi, Nuku, Naqesa village in Tikina Nuku, Serua, Namalata, Naivakacau, Dama, Labasa. And Vunavutu village, Sigatoka;
  - Facilitated awareness activities with NGOs on food security and climate change adaptation and resilience problems in the following aspects:
- 1) CB2/CCD, UNCCD - Rio Conventions Focal Point Technical Officers Workshop, AAD Project Workshop, Fiji Geospatial Council Workshop (SOPAC),

- 2) Regional Geospatial Conference – USP, REDD+ Project - Draubuta, Navosa - Forestry
  - 3) Rescue project - IAS/USP
  - 4) Agroforestry Project - PIAF/SPC
  - 5) ITTO - Forestry
  - 6) International Symposium of Tropical Fruits - Nadi
  - 7) Continuation of our engagement with the REDD+ Project – actively involved in the finalization of the emission reduction program (ERP) (forest carbon enhancement in communities & agroforestry)
  - 8) Join Agricultural land field verification with the Ministry of Lands in Tavua & Ba
  - 9) Collaboration with Ministry of Lands on the Planning Workshop for Common Sensing Project
  - 10) REDD + Emission Reduction Program Workshop at Warwick, Sigatoka
  - 11) Great Sea Reef Concept Development Planning Workshop at the
  - 12) REDD + Gender Action Plan Workshop
  - 13) Signing of Agroforestry & Carbon Emission – ACIAR Project
  - 14) SEEP Partners GO2 + Consultation workshop at Nadave – Presentation to Matani Tikina for Naitasiri, Ra, Bua and Nailaga
  - 15) Attending Seminar on Crop Modelling at USP
  - 16) Meeting with CB2/CCD Project staff, AAD project coordinator for the Work plan on UNCCD Day.
  - 17) Attending the Regional Consultative Workshop on Joint Work on Agriculture. 23 - 25 July 2019. Tanoa International Hotel, Nadi. Meeting organizes by FAO and attended by all members of Agriculture Ministry in the Pacific.
  - 18) SEED FOR LIFE Project with SPC, Community awareness & introduction of Mucuna beans training at Matawailevu Village, Nalawa Tikina, Ra Province
- Facilitated three (3) promotion and awareness activity at the Northern Division on promoting local healthy food in combating NCDs.
  - 1635 - Potted caliantra, Potting of citrus seedling at KRS nursery;
  - Maintenance of NFT's Seed Bank at Nadurulou Research Station - 1000 vetiver seedling was potted;
  - Re-printing of 3 sets of brochures and 2 sets of leaflets, tote bags, 2 sets of stickers and 1 booklet for promotional activities;
  - Established 13 school gardens - Suva Grammar School, Nuku Secondary School Saint Joseph School, Queen Victoria School, Lagalaga School, Nadogo Secondary School, Banikea



School, Lautoka Special School and Koro High School, Ba Provincial Free Bird Institute, Koronivia and Lautoka Special School and Farmers Field School Demonstration Plot at Vatukaloko, Ra – Pre-Resilient Fiji Strengthen Climate Resilience of Communities for Food and Nutrition Security Project;

- Launched of the Backyard Gardening Program in Tavua with the distribution of packages to 30 household from Tavua and 30 household from Ba.

#### **Outcome 2.1: Support Agriculture Growth through Implementation of Commodity and Industry Program**

To support agriculture growth, the Division efficaciously conducted eight (8) collaboration - Signing of the National Fire Management Strategy Declaration by Permanent Secretary Agriculture & Permanent Secretary Forestry for Awareness Billboard Erection, ACIAR Project MOU vetting with SG's office – Agroforestry on Slope Land in Fiji Project, Signing of the R2R Project Funding with UNDP & SPC.

#### **Outcome 2.4: Poverty Alleviation Through Capacity Building of Farmers**

The Ministry through the Land-Use Planning and Resource Division effectively implemented the following:

- Conducted SLM Community awareness Training in Gau Island working in collaboration with Ministry of Forest;
- Conducted community awareness training on Sustainable Land Management (SLM) training for all villages within the Tikina Lovoni, Ovalau;
- 13 SLM Community Awareness facilitated with Extension Division;
- Two (2) Forest and Rural Fire Management Awareness;
- Conducted four (4) hands-on trainings & awareness on establishment of nursery, management & maintenance;
- SLM Awareness Training at Navunimono Village – Verata Tailevu;
- Nursery hands on Training at Naiburebure ni Cagi in Navovo, Sigatoka
- Declaration being sign by 2 PS for erection of Awareness Billboards on 11 sites for the Rural Fire Management Awareness Billboard in Viti Levu;
- Two (2) SLM awareness training at Gau for 3 Tikina;
- Land Use Training at Naqelewai Village for Nabobuco District;
- Vegetable Training at Nabawaqa Village for Nadrau District;
- SLM awareness training at Nauluvatu village, Nakelo, Tailevu;
- REACH Lau Mission Tour – Dissemination of

SLM information

#### **Outcome 3.1: Reduction of Disaster Risks and Strengthen Preparedness**

Particular activities were accomplished ensuring that staffs' capacity of responding to disaster are enhanced:

- Consultation with Community - Vunavutu village, Volivoli village. Biauunu village;
- Briefing and Preparation for Nasalia Land Assessment and promoting Land Care Concept in Nasalia, Naitasiri;
- SLM and conservation farm demo at Naqaravutu, Tunuloa, Cakaudrove;
- Continuation of improving conservation practices at Navurevure Demo Plots with 2000 pineapples as hedgerows, 2000 dalo tops planted intercropping and 300 meters of Vetiver planted;
- Establishment of plot in Nawaqabena, Naitasiri with 2000 Pineapples, 200 meters vetiver hedges and 1000 Dalo planting being intercropped with Pineapple;
- Field School Demonstration plot at the Vatukaloka Secondary School in Rakiraki, Ra;
- Completion of the Navurevure Demonstration plot, Naitasiri Province

#### **Outcome 3.2: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources through Effective Land Use, Planning and Sustainable Land Management Technology**

The following was successfully implemented and achieved:

- Four (4) Biophysical Survey was conducted - Tikina Nuku Biophysical Survey, Tikina Namalata (3 villages – Matacaucau, Namalata, Naivakacau), Tikina Dama, Bua and Moala Island Biophysical Survey, Lau. Continuation of digitization work for Moala Island Field Data – on Soils and LUC;
- Better utilization of land survey for Mataqali Nadanuya of Naivurevure, Naitasiri;
- 158 thematic, LUC and Soil maps produced to assist farmers and stakeholders in planning;
- 30 potential available land identified for commodities fit;
- Scanning/ Geo referencing/ Digitising of Lau Group Tracing;
- Consultation meeting with James Baringeron from the Soil Research Institute, New Zealand on the review of Fiji soils data;
- Rotuma soil data reviewed;
- Purchasing two (2) Trimble GPS with software was downloaded;
- One (1) Arc GIS licence was purchased and downloaded;
- One (1) AO size plotter printing machine
- 52inch Monitor purchased & installed for GIS Mapping services (1 per office)



- Three (3) GIS Laptops purchased for data entry during field verification (1 per office)
- Establishing Land Care Groups for Lovu village/ Vadravadra village, Gau, Lomaiviti;
- Finalizing Land Degradation Neutrality Workshop report, SKYPE with Director LRD/SPC and Global Mechanism Coordinator through UNCCD office in Bonn, Germany on Fijis engagement on LDN Targeting setting;
- Submission of draft LDN intern letter to LRD/SPC for further comment;
- Emission Reduction Project Compilation under RED+(Tanoa International Hotel Nadi);
- Consultation meeting and multi stakeholder workshop with Common Sensing Project on Adapting to Vulnerabilities in Fiji at GPH;
- Meeting with Mr Adam Formica the Senior Modeler for Common Sensing Project for the setting up of field visits to the farms and mills for information/data gathering to build appropriate agricultural models as part of the Common Sensing project;
- Consultation with Statistics Section and with Senior Modeller for Common Sensing Project on the availability of data;
- Consultation with Fiji Crop & Livestock Council and with Senior Modeller from Common Sensing Project on the availability of data for the project;
- Consultation with 7 Mataqali land for Agriculture Development;
- Yavusa Nadanuya of Naivurevure Village in Naitasiri- 4 Mataqali;
- Continuous email correspondence on UNCCD matters;
- Implementation of CB2/CCD projects under Ministry of Environment with UNCCD liaison officer;
- Finalization of NAP consultant ToR and Advertisement notice. Expecting for NAP consultant Recruitment in June;
- Endorsement of Work Plan for CB2/CCD Project by the Project Board;
- Received an invitation for the UNNCD COP 14 participation;
- Participation in the Hand on Training for the Carbon Emission calculation in Agriculture Sector with Ministry of Economy;
- Consultation meeting with Principal – Methodist Lay Training Centre, Davuilevu;
- Brief DR for the 7 Vacant Agriculture Lots for Central Division, 8 Lots for Northern Division;
- Conducting Land Use Capability Survey at Welagi village, Taveuni;
- Meeting with FAO Pro-resilient project coordinator & Field trip to Namena demo plot;
- Commemorating World Day to Combat Desertification Day was held at Labasa;
- Establishment of Agroforestry plot in Koro Island in corporation with SLM model farm;
- One (1) site identified at Navuso;
- Establishing Agroforestry Plot at Dobuilevu Research Station;
- Qalewaqa agroforestry-based system – 500 pineapple plantlets as hedgerows, 2 acres of pine trees, 2 acres of land clearing for vegetable and root crops
- Continous of work at the Dobuilevu research Station;
- Planting of Fruit trees and fencing of the whole sites
- Calliandra hedges are now ready at Naduruloulou where Kava & Dalo shade planting will be experimented;
- Established an Agroforestry plot in Tiliva, Tikina of Bua, Bua Province.
- Planting 500m vetiver hedge rows beside Naveicovatu village, Wainibuka, Tailevu;
- Planting indigenous fruit trees- 50 kavika, 50 jackfruits, & Iviasreparianzone in Naveicovatu, Suenivillage, Wairiki. Cakaudrove - 50 ivi plants, 500m vetiver grass planted along the river banks, Vitina, Dogotuki, Macuata-50 ivi plants, 800m vetiver grass, Coqeloa, Nadogo, Macuata - 200m vetiver grass;
- Discussions and site inspection with Korotari Advisory counsellor for riverbank stabilization;
- Meeting with WWF on River bank Stabilisation at Kadavu;
- Establishment of nursery for Mr. Manueli Seru, Nabasovi, Koro, Lomaiviti;
- Maintenance of SLM demo farm at Vuaki village, Nacula Yasawa

#### **Outcome 5.1: Portfolio Leadership, Policy Advice and Secretariat Support**

The Division successfully:

- Compiled brief to PSA on Memorandum of Agreement between MOA and Ministry of Waterways and Environment;
- Compilation and brief submission on cabinet paper for the changing of Waterways name.



## Divisional Highlights



*AA Farm Management (North) Niraj Lal during a refresher training.*



*Women of Taveuni undergoing Floriculture training conducted by the Farm Management and Land Use Section of the Ministry.*



*Farm Management Training in Waidracia.*



*Farmer training in Kadavu*



*Minister with farmers in Nasealevu during his two days visit to North.*



## ECONOMIC PLANNING & STATISTICS DIVISION



*Fiji and China sign MoU on Agricultural Cooperation*



In alignment with the Annual Costed Operational Plan (COP), the Division focuses on:

- Setting vision and direction for the Ministry of Agriculture and the Agriculture Sector in Fiji;
- Establish and enhance effective and sustainable linkages with external organisations including global donor agencies at bilateral and multilateral levels;
- Collate, compile and analyse agricultural statistics to assist in the formulation of policies;
- Analyse policy options and assessing its impact on the agriculture sector;
- Assist in the identification, preparation, monitoring and evaluation of all agricultural projects in Fiji;
- Coordinate the Ministry's annual budget emphasise on the capital expenditure on quarterly basis;
- Coordinate and facilitate training on marketing, project planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and report writing

## **ECONOMIC PLANNING AND STATISTICS ACHIEVEMENT SUMMARY**

### **Outcome 2.1: Support Agriculture Growth Through Implementation of Commodity and Industry Program**

In achieving Quick Economic Recovery through the Implementation of Demand Driven Approach and Other Commodity Projects, the Ministry of Agriculture has implemented the following sector driven strategies;

- For compliance of food standards for all commodities, two (2) Codex meetings were attended;
- Four (4) quarterly Duty Concession Reports were submitted;
- To increase commercial production, one (1) commodity industry plan was launched;
- One (1) local market promotion was done through the Hotel and Tourism Exhibition Show.

### **Outcome 2.4: Poverty Alleviation Through Capacity Building of Farmers**

In achieving public sector capacity to support agribusiness and increase commercial production, the Ministry through the Economic Planning and Statistics Division has achieved the following;

- Eight (8) staff recruited to enhance Ministry capacity to promote private sector agribusiness;
- For training and capacity building on agribusiness development, three (3) value chain

trainings were conducted to the Ministry staff as well as other stakeholders.

### **Outcome 4.1: Increasing Commercial Production**

The Division aims to support smallholder farmers to take advantage of and respond to the strong in-country demand for domestically produced agricultural products and develop farming as a business. In achieving public sector capacity to increase commercial production, 330 farmers were trained and 3 private sector exchange meetings were conducted in this financial year.

### **Outcome 5.1: Portfolio Leadership, Policy Advice and Secretariat Support.**

The Division is responsible for coordinating and formulating agriculture policies, strategies and programmes for the sustainable development of Fiji's agriculture sector. The following was achieved in this 2018-2019 financial year:

- 2 Research council meetings were conducted;
- The Ministry signed 4 bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China, Government of Australia, Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions, and New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
- 12 Cabinet Papers were submitted and Cabinet decisions implemented.

### **Outcome 5.2: Strengthen Institutional Linkages and Quality Data Collection**

- To develop and improve Quality Agricultural Statistics System and Strengthen Institutional Linkages, the Ministry achieved the following;
- For preparation for 2019 Agriculture Census, 4 Technical Working Group (TWG) and 2 National Steering Committee (NSC) Meeting were held;
- Completed Demarcation of Census Enumerator Boundaries;
- For compilation of Crop & Livestock Production & Trade data, 2018 Production and Trade report was produced together with crop & livestock brochures and pamphlets;
- Market Survey CAPI Trial was completed.

In addition, through the Economic Planning & Statistics Division, the Ministry verified 179 Demand Driven Approach Projects (DDA) and coordinated 4 Technical Working Group (TWG) Meeting with National Steering Committee (NSC) Meeting for approval of the identified potential projects.



## Divisional Highlights

### Fiji and China Sign MoU on Agricultural Cooperation

Agricultural cooperation between the Republic of Fiji and the People's Republic of China will now be strengthened following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two countries.

The MoU on Strengthening Agricultural Cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Fiji was recently signed by His Excellency Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Han Changfu and Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment Hon. Dr. Mahendra Reddy in Nadi.

Hon. Reddy shared Fiji and China's successful history of cooperation in the agriculture sector and highlighted the MoU would enhance connection to the Chinese market.

"Fiji has now decided to let market demand drive production, but before that, we need to develop the infrastructure; support industries so that we can modernize agriculture and get the supply side ready to respond to demand signals," said Hon. Dr Reddy.

"Here we need your support to assist us build this foundation for the production and supply side. While we are lagging behind in the introduction of machinery and infrastructure

support, we are also challenged by forces of natural disasters and the outbreak of pests and diseases for both the crop and livestock sectors.

Hon. Reddy said these issues needed to be addressed before market signals were sent to derive production and supply.

"It's then, that opening up of your market for us and assisting us in reaching it will really boost our agriculture sector growth and development," he said.

The joint agreement is earmarked to strengthen agricultural cooperation between the two countries and enhance agricultural cooperation between Fiji and China on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

The MoU allows for enhanced exchanges in research information and agricultural policies and active promotion of the cooperation and exchanges between research institutes and personnel from both countries, encouraging exchange visits of sci-tech personnel and joint researchers.

Areas of bilateral cooperation in agricultural trade and investment cooperation and other agricultural cooperation between the two Governments will also be promoted as part of the MoU.



*Pacific Island Agriculture Ministers with His Excellency Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Han Changfu during the meeting*



## Divisional Highlights



*1st SDP Workshop*



*China Ambassador to Fiji courtesy visit*



*42nd Session Codex Commission- Geneva, Switzerland.*



*Agriculture Show at Valelevu ground.*



*SDP Workshop at Nadi.*



*FAPP Training at Nadave.*



## HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE & INFORMATION



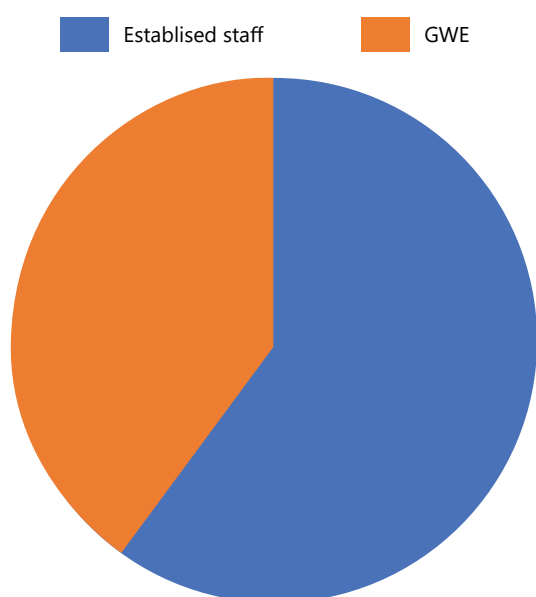


## HUMAN RESOURCES FINANCE & INFORMATION

### 1. Staff Establishments

The MoA employed a total of 705 staff; 450 established staffs and 255 general wage earners.

**Figure 1: Staff Ratio Per Establishment**



### 2. Information And Communication Services

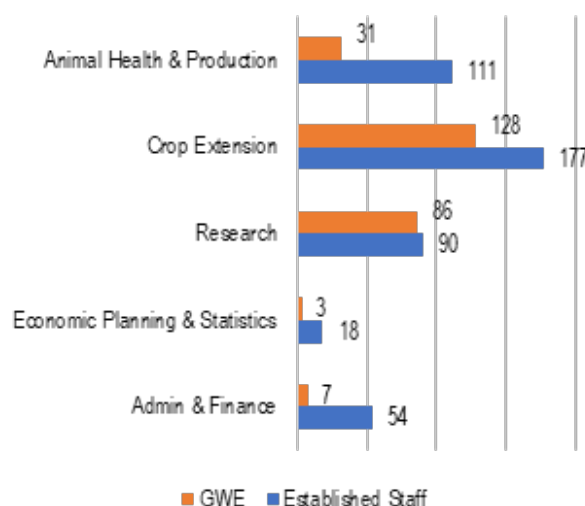
The Information and Communication Unit has provided exclusive media coverage on agriculture promotion activities. This year, 4 quarterly reports on impact of agricultural promotion activities and 485 publications including press releases and major highlights of significant events were released to enhance the Ministry's corporate image.

The Ministry hosted 1 Agriculture Show in the Central Division.

### 3. Information And Technology Services

For increased coverage through

**Figure 2: Number of Staffs by Division**



telecommunication services to rural areas, 7 agriculture stations accessed to telecommunication, govnet and linked to intranet. This allowed the staff for easy access to accurate, timely and useful information.

### 4. Assets Management

For the construction and maintenance of office and quarters, the Ministry constructed 2 new offices and repaired 12 offices and quarters.

### 5. Capacity Building

To improve productivity & performance of staff, a total of 31 trainings were conducted contributing to the development and achievement of the desired outcome of the Ministry. This included 15 local trainings and 16 overseas trainings to enhance and develop the required skills for the staff.



## Divisional Highlights



*Health Checks conducted at HR for Ministry staff.*



*Media coverage for Ministerial Tours.*



*Agriculture Show promotions and logistic preparations.*



*Hon. Dr. Mahendra Reddy officially handing over a VCO machine to representatives of Duavata Women's Group at Mua Research Station.*



*Hon. Dr. Mahendra Reddy and senior officials with Commissioner Central (left) cutting the cake during Cocoa Day celebration in Korovou.*



*Hon. Dr. Mahendra Reddy presenting the 34th APRC Report at the 41st FAO Conference in Rome, Italy.*



**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019**



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

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## OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

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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 and Statement of Losses for the financial year ended 31 July 2019, and the notes to the financial statements including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, except for the effects of the matters discussed in the Basis of Qualified Opinion paragraph, the accompanying financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2004, Finance Instructions 2010 and the Finance (Amendment) Instructions 2016.

#### Basis of Qualified Opinion

1. Under the Livestock Rehabilitation Programme, the Ministry imported 300 embryos which were transferred into local recipients' cattle at a cost of \$1,194,629. The funds were sourced from the Ministry's capital budget allocation. Given that the financial activities for the Livestock Rehabilitation Programme is recorded under the Trading and Manufacturing Account, the Ministry did not account governments' contribution in the Trading and Manufacturing Account. As a result, the Trading and Manufacturing Account Equity balance is understated by \$1,194,629 while capital budget allocation has been overstated by the same amount.
2. The Ministry was unable to explain or provide relevant supporting documents to substantiate the basis on which the unit cost of livestock are calculated. As a result, I am unable to determine the impact of the above limitations, if any, to the inventory balances amounting to \$687,997 recorded in the Trading and Manufacturing Account.
3. The loss of livestock amounting to \$9,427 reported in the Statement of Losses was not accounted for in the Trading and Manufacturing Profit and Loss Account. As a result, the Trading and Manufacturing Account net profit for the year ended 31 July 2019 is overstated by \$9,427.
4. Included in the miscellaneous revenue balance is \$106,213 worth of agency revenue generated directly from the normal course of Ministry's operations. Despite the existence of specific general ledger allocation to record agency revenue, the Ministry posted the receipts into the miscellaneous revenue allocation. As a result the miscellaneous revenue balance is overstated by \$106,213.
5. The Ministry did not pay the Fiji National University levy for the financial year ended 31 July 2019 as required by Section 19 of the Fiji National Training Levy Order. As a result, total expenditure is understated by \$103,073.
6. Internal controls over procurement processes and revenue were generally found to be weak. This relates to anomalies in the procurement process and control weaknesses in the receipting process. These weak controls resulted in payments being made without receipts of goods and services, field officers signing off on delivery documents without receiving items and advance payments for goods and services.



7. The internal controls over payroll were generally found to be weak. This relates to delay in preparation of payroll reconciliations and improper maintenance of payroll records. Consequently, I was unable to determine the accuracy of the established staff and government wage earners expenditure recorded in the Statement of Receipts and Expenditure of \$13,275,080 and \$4,784,857 respectively.

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, 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 judgement 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  
19 March 2020



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

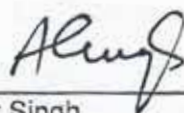
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We certify that these financial statements:

- a) fairly reflect the financial operations and performance of the Ministry of Agriculture for the year ended 31 July 2019; and
- b) have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Management Act, Finance Instructions 2010 and the Finance (Amendment) Instructions 2016.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ritesh Dass  
Permanent Secretary for Agriculture

Date: 17/3/20.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ajay Singh  
Head of Finance

Date: 17/3/20



**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019**

|  | Notes | 2019<br>(\$)      | 2018<br>(\$)      |
|--|-------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>RECEIPTS</b>                        |       |                   |                   |
| Agricultural produce & Inspection Fees |       | 602               | 1,478             |
| License                                |       | 71,679            | 35,035            |
| Court fines                            |       | 153               | -                 |
| Meat Inspection                        |       | 18,457            | 15,427            |
| Management fee                         |       | 3,125             | -                 |
| Veterinary and animal quarantine       |       | 10,140            | 27,961            |
| Sale of sheep and wool                 |       | 34,243            | 8,385             |
| Rest house                             |       | 3,575             | 4,598             |
| Rental for quarters                    |       | 44,744            | 52,080            |
| Hire of plant and vehicles             |       | 231               | -                 |
| Registration                           |       | 7,326             | 4,984             |
| Commission                             |       | 18,128            | 20,898            |
| Sale of farm produce                   |       | 49,918            | 47,334            |
| Miscellaneous revenue                  |       | 563,765           | 678,239           |
| Overpayment recoveries                 |       | 5,800             | 40,412            |
| Board Member fees                      |       | 6,764             | 5,208             |
| Agro input farmers contribution        |       | 32,640            | -                 |
| Pound keeping                          |       | 3,016             | 4,239             |
| Sale of animals by auction             |       | 1,184             | 850               |
| Water charges                          |       | 711               | 329               |
| Rural electrification                  |       | 19                | 343               |
| <b>Total Receipts</b>                  |       | <b>876,220</b>    | <b>947,800</b>    |
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>                     |       |                   |                   |
| Established staff                      |       | 13,275,080        | 12,040,455        |
| Government wage earners                |       | 4,784,857         | 4,951,495         |
| Travel and communication               |       | 883,692           | 780,664           |
| Maintenance & operations               |       | 2,054,851         | 2,029,814         |
| Purchase of goods and services         | 3 (a) | 469,866           | 593,641           |
| Operating grants and transfers         |       | 4,157,605         | 3,635,078         |
| Special expenditures                   | 3 (b) | 2,706,518         | 3,743,734         |
| <b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>     |       | <b>28,332,469</b> | <b>27,774,881</b> |
| Capital construction                   | 3 (c) | 17,437,646        | 14,916,823        |
| Capital purchase                       |       | 1,239,982         | 1,239,252         |
| Capital grants and transfers           | 3 (d) | 13,650,167        | 41,564,300        |
| <b>Total Capital Expenditure</b>       |       | <b>32,327,795</b> | <b>57,720,375</b> |
| Value Added Tax                        |       | 2,231,078         | 2,006,370         |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b>               |       | <b>62,891,342</b> | <b>87,501,626</b> |



# MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

## APPROPRIATION STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

| SEG | Item                               | Budget<br>Estimate<br>\$ | Changes<br>(Note 4)<br>\$ | Revised<br>Budget<br>\$ | Actual<br>Expenditure<br>\$ | Carry-<br>Over<br>\$ | Lapsed<br>Appropriation<br>(Note 5)<br>\$ |
|-----|------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|---|
|     | <b>Operating Expenditure</b>       |                          |                           |                         |                             |                      |   |
| 1   | Established Staff                  | 14,094,239               | -                         | 14,091,239              | 13,275,080                  | -                    | 816,159                                   |
| 2   | Government Wage Earners            | 5,298,593                | -                         | 5,298,593               | 4,784,857                   | -                    | 513,736                                   |
| 3   | Travel & Communications            | 806,450                  | 111,000                   | 917,450                 | 883,692                     | -                    | 33,758                                    |
| 4   | Maintenance & Operations           | 2,370,881                | 10,000                    | 2,380,881               | 2,054,851                   | -                    | 326,030                                   |
| 5   | Purchase Of Goods &<br>Services    | 773,203                  | (121,000)                 | 652,203                 | 469,866                     | -                    | 182,337                                   |
| 6   | Operating Grants & Transfers       | 4,614,671                | -                         | 4,614,671               | 4,157,605                   | -                    | 457,066                                   |
| 7   | Special Expenditure                | 9,838,352                | -                         | 9,838,352               | 2,706,518                   | -                    | 7,131,8                                   |
|     | <b>Total Operating Expenditure</b> | <b>37,793,389</b>        | <b>-</b>                  | <b>37,793,389</b>       | <b>28,332,469</b>           | <b>-</b>             | <b>9,460,920</b>                          |
|     | <b>Capital Expenditure</b>         |                          |                           |                         |                             |                      |   |
| 8   | Capital Construction               | 32,397,000               | -                         | 32,397,000              | 17,437,646                  | -                    | 14,959,354                                |
| 9   | Capital Purchase                   | 3,300,000                | -                         | 3,300,000               | 1,239,982                   | -                    | 2,060,018                                 |
| 10  | Capital Grants & Transfer          | 19,391,938               | -                         | 19,391,938              | 13,650,167                  | -                    | 5,741,771                                 |
|     | <b>Total Capital Expenditure</b>   | <b>55,088,938</b>        | <b>-</b>                  | <b>55,088,938</b>       | <b>32,327,795</b>           | <b>-</b>             | <b>22,761,143</b>                         |
| 13  | Value Added Tax                    | 3,954,773                | -                         | 3,954,773               | 2,231,078                   | -                    | 1,723,695                                 |
|     | <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>           | <b>96,837,100</b>        | <b>-</b>                  | <b>96,837,100</b>       | <b>62,891,342</b>           | <b>-</b>             | <b>33,945,758</b>                         |



# MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

## CONSOLIDATED TRADING ACCOUNT - COMMERCIAL UNDERTAKING FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

|                             | Note | 2019                  | 2018                  |
|-----------------------------|------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| TRADING ACCOUNT             |      | (\$)                  | (\$)                  |
| Sales                       |      | 969,020               | 1,369,248             |
| Opening stock               |      | 592,672               | 775,608               |
| Add: Purchases              |      | 546,456               | 697,287               |
| Add: Direct Labour          |      | 2,445                 | 5,507                 |
|                             |      | <u>1,141,573</u>      | <u>1,478,402</u>      |
| Less: Closing stock         |      | 687,997               | 592,672               |
| Cost of finished goods sold |      | <u>453,576</u>        | <u>885,730</u>        |
| <b>Gross Profit</b>         |      | <b><u>515,444</u></b> | <b><u>483,518</u></b> |

*(Refer to note 6 for details on TMA commercial activities)*



# MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

## CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT - COMMERCIAL UNDERTAKING FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

|   | 2019           | 2018           |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>                             | <b>(\$)</b>    | <b>(\$)</b>    |
| Gross Profit transferred from Trading A/C | 515,444        | 483,518        |
| <b>Total Income</b>                       | <b>515,444</b> | <b>483,518</b> |
| <b>EXPENSE</b>                            |                |                |
| Travelling & Communication Expenses       | 11,066         | 3,147          |
| Maintenance & Operation                   | 289,316        | 345,470        |
| Other Expenses                            | 25,352         | 27,571         |
| Loss of Inventory                         | -              | 1,147          |
| <b>Total Expense</b>                      | <b>325,734</b> | <b>377,335</b> |
| <b>Net Profit</b>                         | <b>189,710</b> | <b>106,183</b> |

*(Refer to note 6 for details on TMA commercial activities)*



# MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

## CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET - COMMERCIAL UNDERTAKING AS AT 31 JULY 2019

|                                     | Notes | 2019             | 2018             |
|-------------------------------------|-------|------------------|------------------|
|                                     |       | (\$)             | (\$)             |
| <b>LIABILITY</b>                    |       |                  |                  |
| Deposits & Retention                |       | -                | (22,113)         |
| <b>Total Liability</b>              |       | <u>-</u>         | <u>(22,113)</u>  |
| <b>EQUITY</b>                       |       |                  |                  |
| <b>TMA Surplus</b>                  |       |                  |                  |
| Opening balance                     |       | (506,438)        | (349,644)        |
| Remittance                          |       | (290,030)        | (156,794)        |
| Closing Balance                     |       | <u>(796,468)</u> | <u>(506,438)</u> |
| <b>TMA Accumulated Surplus</b>      |       |                  |                  |
| Opening balance                     |       | 1,612,227        | 1,504,897        |
| Net Profit                          |       | 189,710          | 106,183          |
| Write off loss of inventory         |       | -                | 1,147            |
| Write off deposits and retention    |       | (22,113)         | -                |
| Closing Balance                     |       | <u>1,779,824</u> | <u>1,612,227</u> |
| <b>Total Equity</b>                 |       | <u>983,356</u>   | <u>1,105,789</u> |
| <b>Total Liability and Equities</b> |       | <u>983,356</u>   | <u>1,083,676</u> |
| <b>ASSETS</b>                       |       |                  |                  |
| Cash                                |       | 294,620          | 490,265          |
| Accounts receivable                 |       | 739              | 739              |
| Finished goods                      |       | 687,997          | 592,672          |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                 |       | <u>983,356</u>   | <u>1,083,676</u> |

(Refer to note 6 for details on TMA commercial activities)



# 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 2019

|                                      | Note     | 2019<br>(\$) | 2018<br>(\$)     |
|--------------------------------------|----------|--------------|------------------|
| RECEIPTS                             |          |              |                  |
| Retention Money                      |          | -            | 1,326            |
| <b>Total Receipts</b>                |          | <b>-</b>     | <b>1,326</b>     |
| PAYMENTS                             |          |              |                  |
| Retention Money                      |          | -            | 818,684          |
| <b>Total Payments</b>                |          | <b>-</b>     | <b>818,684</b>   |
| <b>(Deficit)Surplus</b>              |          | <b>-</b>     | <b>(817,358)</b> |
| Opening Balance at 1 August          |          | -            | 817,358          |
| <b>Closing Balance as at 31 July</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>-</b>     | <b>-</b>         |



## MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

### STATEMENT OF LOSSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

#### Loss of Money

There was no loss of money recorded for the year ended 31 July 2019.

#### Loss of Revenue

There was no loss of revenue for the year ended 31 July 2019.

#### Loss of Assets

There was no reported loss (other than money) recorded for the year ended 31 July. Board of Survey was conducted by the Ministry and the following items worth \$68,935 approved by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Economy to be written off:

| Category               | Cost (\$)     |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Computers              | 19,624        |
| Office equipment       | 47,861        |
| Furniture and fittings | 1,450         |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>68,935</b> |

#### Loss of Assets (Livestock)

There was loss of livestock resulting from death of sheep, goat and chicken for the year ended 31 July 2019.

| Description  | Cost (\$)     |
|--------------|---------------|
| Sheep        | 16,522        |
| Goat         | 26,186        |
| Chicken      | 1,330         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>44,038</b> |

#### Loss of Assets (TMA Livestock)

There was loss of TMA livestock resulting from death of pigs and cattle for the year ended 31 July 2019.

| Description  | Cost (\$)    |
|--------------|--------------|
| Pigs         | 4,931        |
| Cattle       | 4,496        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>9,427</b> |



## MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

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#### NOTE 1: REPORTING ENTITY

The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for providing support to hard-working Fijian farmers (aside from sugarcane farmers, who are supported separately by Ministry of Sugar Industry), and for helping them adapt to changing markets and climate change. The Ministry's approach is wide-reaching, from administering technical crop and livestock extension services to conducting new research to develop innovative solutions to unique challenges faced by Fiji's agriculture sector.

#### 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 and the requirements of Section 71 (1) of the Finance Instruction 2010. The preparation and presentation of a Statement of Assets and Liabilities is not required under the current Government policies, except for that of the Trade and Manufacturing Accounts.

##### b) Accounting for Value Added Tax (VAT)

All income is inclusive of VAT while the expenses are VAT exclusive. 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 payment as per the Statement of Receipts and Expenditures relates to the VAT input claimed on payments made to the suppliers and sub-contractors for expenses incurred and VAT payments to Fiji Revenue and Customs Services. Actual amount paid to Fiji Revenue and Customs Services during the year represents the difference between VAT Output and VAT Input.

##### c) Comparative Figures

The financial year end for Government was changed from 31 December to 31 July in accordance with the Financial Management (Amendment) Act 2016.

The financial statements for both financial years are for a twelve months period.



## MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(Continued...)* FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

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

##### d) Revenue Recognition

Revenue is recognised when the actual cash is received by the Ministry. The major sources of revenue for the Ministry of Agriculture are the sale of agricultural produce, license and inspection fees, veterinary and animal quarantine, rental for quarters, overpayment recoveries and cash contribution from farmers assisted through various projects.

#### NOTE 3: SIGNIFICANT VARIATIONS

- a) Purchase of goods and services expenditures decreased by \$123,775 or 21% in 2019 compared to 2018. This is attributed to the reduction in operational expenses for the Koronivia Research Station, reduction in purchase of lab hygiene equipment and decrease in training expenses.
- b) Special expenditures decreased by \$1,037,216 or 28% in 2019 compared to 2018. This is attributed to the reduction in IT operational support expenses for the Information Section and reduction in expenses incurred for the Taveuni Coconut Centre.
- c) Capital construction expenditures increased by \$2,520,823 or 17% in 2019 compared to 2018. This is the result of the Ministry's dedication and commitment in ensuring the undertaking of capital projects related to Crop Extension Services and Livestock Extension Services.
- d) Capital grant and transfer expenditures decreased by \$27,914,133 or 67% in 2019 compared to 2018. The decrease is due to the completion of the Farm Care Initiative, non-implementation of the land clearing, beef and sheep multiplication program.

#### NOTE 4: DETAILS OF APPROPRIATION CHANGES

The following virements were approved by the Permanent Secretary under delegation of Authority from the Minister of Economy.

| Virement No. | From                 | Amount (\$)          | To      | Amount (\$)  |
|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------|--------------|
| MOA 01/18-19 | SEG 13               | SEG 13               | 30,039  | MOA 01/18-19 |
| MOA 02/18-19 | SEG 4, SEG 5, SEG 13 | SEG 4, SEG 3, SEG 13 | 264,325 | MOA 02/18-19 |



# MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued...) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

### NOTE 5: SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS

Significant Savings for the financial year ended 31 July 2019 are as follows:

| No. | Expenditure                    | Revised Budget (\$) | Actual Expenditure (\$) | Savings (\$) | Percentage Savings (%) |
|-----|--------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| a)  | Maintenance and operation      | 2,380,881           | 2,054,851               | 326,030      | 14                     |
| b)  | Purchase of goods and services | 652,203             | 469,866                 | 182,337      | 28                     |
| c)  | Special expenditure            | 9,838,352           | 2,706,518               | 7,131,834    | 72                     |
| d)  | Capital construction           | 32,397,000          | 17,437,646              | 14,959,354   | 46                     |
| e)  | Capital purchase               | 3,300,000           | 1,239,982               | 2,060,018    | 62                     |
| f)  | Capital grants and transfers   | 19,391,938          | 13,650,167              | 5,741,771    | 30                     |

- The savings in maintenance and operation is due to the Ministry's monitoring of the use of vehicles where they have managed to reduce the cost of fuel consumption and maintenances. For maintenance works, since most of the vehicles are leased, it is required to be serviced when it is due thus reducing its maintenance cost.
- The savings in purchase of goods and services is the result of the Ministry did not pay for FNU levy but overall this was due to the monitoring of the daily operation of the Ministry by senior management.
- The savings in special expenditure is due to the delay in vetting/finalization of contract documents and RIE applications by the Ministry of Agriculture resulting in the delay in the implementation of projects that were planned and budgeted to be carried out during the financial year. These includes projects funds allocated for under the Sustainable Rural Livelihood and Restructure Program of \$5.5 million which were not implemented in the 2019 financial year.
- The savings in capital construction is the result of delay in the tender process by the Ministry of Agriculture, vetting/finalization of contract documents and submission of RIE applications by the Ministry of Agriculture resulting in the delay in the implementation of capital projects that were planned and budgeted to be carried out during the financial year. Significant savings were noted for projects including the projects funds allocated for under the Farm Access Roads, Construction of Office & Staff Quarters, FAPP, Agro Processor Infrastructure, and construction of Agronomy Building which were not implemented or was implemented late.
- The savings in capital purchase is attributed to the delay in the tender process by the Ministry of Agriculture, finalization of contract documents and submission of RIE applications by the Ministry of Agriculture resulting in the delay in the implementation of capital projects that were planned and budgeted to be carried out during the financial year. This includes the late procurement of farm machinery under the farm mechanisation program and the non-purchase of the Equipment-Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory in 2019 as provided for under the budget.



## MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(Continued...)* FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

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#### NOTE 5: SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS (continued)

- f) The savings in capital grants and transfers is attributed to the delay in the tender process by the Ministry of Agriculture, finalization of contract documents and submission of RIE applications by the Ministry of Agriculture resulting in the delay in the implementation of capital projects that were planned and budgeted to be carried out during the financial year. These includes projects funds allocated for under the land clearing program of \$1.5m which were not implemented and underutilisation of the Agro Processors Infrastructure Support and Agro Input Subsidy. Capital grants paid to the Agriculture Marketing Authority in 2019 was reduced by \$1.5million.

#### NOTE 6: TRADING AND MANUFACTURING ACCOUNT – COMMERCIAL UNDERTAKING

The Trading and Manufacturing account (TMA) records livestock, fuel and oil. The services of the TMA is provided through livestock extension offices, veterinary clinics, research stations and fuel and oil is provided through the crop extension offices.

The services include provision of recommended livestock genetic material, fencing material, tools, provision of veterinary services and advices to livestock stakeholders. It has also been used in the case of emergencies whereby destocking and transferring of animal to address animal welfare issues during disasters. The machinery hire within the crop extension division include hiring of government owned machines such as tractors, diggers and rice harvesters for farmers at a rate of \$28/hour.

The Trading and Manufacturing Account operates as a revolving fund and has a ceiling of \$200,000 yearly (\$120,000 for the livestock operation and \$80,000.00 for fuel and oil for crop extension).

#### NOTE 7: 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. This account is now closed and has been transferred to the Ministry of Waterways.



