



STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

ANNUAL REVIEW REPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE YEAR 2018 – 2019



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI
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CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD



I am pleased to present the report of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources on the review of the Ministry of Agriculture 2018-2019 Annual Report.

This review was made in accordance with Standing Order 109(2) (c) which mandates the Committee to look into issues related to Forestry, Agriculture, Mining, Environment, Fisheries, Water and Marine services.

Therefore, in accordance with the established Annual Report review process, the Committee examined the Ministry of Agriculture 2018-2019 Annual Report to investigate, inquire into, and make recommendations relating to the agencies' administration, legislative or proposed legislative programme, budget, rationalisation, restructuring, functions, structure and policy formulation.

To begin the mandated review process, the Committee formulated questions aimed to clarify certain components of the report and to further describe the technical/scientific terms used therein. Given the importance of the Ministry's role and the commitment by government to raise its performance level, the Committee noted that the report needs further improvement ensuring that the whole sector and contribution of key stakeholders are also captured. The Committee was grateful for the received written response which provided good reference to the subsequent face to face meeting held with the Ministry's senior management led by the Acting Deputy Secretary Operations, Dr Tekini Nakidakida.

The Committee also conducted site visits in the Central, West and the Northern Divisions respectively to gain a better understanding of the various functional roles of the Divisions/Departments, witness projects and programs undertaken, and confirm evidence to support the findings contained in its final report to Parliament.

The review not only looked at the Ministry's administration, structure and budgetary allocation; but most importantly, the various programs and activities undertaken throughout its functional divisions too. It enabled the Committee to align these with existing policies and at the same time took note of the challenges faced during the reporting period.

In summary, the Review Committee noted the following:

The Ministry of Agriculture's total budget allocation for the fiscal year 2018-2019 amounted to \$96.8 million compared to \$74.4 million in August 2016-July 2017 fiscal year, indicating an increase of \$22.4 million. However, it is noted that despite this significant increase, total expenditure for the fiscal year was around \$64.8 million leaving around \$32 million of the budgeted amount unutilized.

The efforts of the Crop Extension and the Animal Health and Production Divisions in providing Fiji's Food and Nutrition Security needs are well noted. This was effectively supported by Research, Land Resources and Planning, Human Resources and Financial Management and the Policy Guidance of the Ministry through the Economic Planning and Statistics Division. However, the Committee is of a strong view that a more detailed reporting will be of much value in the future and for the long term.

While export figures are valuable, equally important are the domestic production and consumption figures in order to fairly represent the Ministry's contribution to the overall food and nutrition security needs of the country let alone the Agriculture Sector's economic share.

Reports also need to reflect the main challenges faced by the Ministry during the fiscal year. This will help in identifying critical issues that will need fixing in order to enhance performance efficiency and production levels as expected by the Ministry and Government as a whole.

To diversify and broaden Fiji's economic base, the Agriculture Sector; both Sugar and Non-Sugar need special attention and relevant support in order to realize its untapped potentials.

In order to complete the mandated functions of Parliamentary Committees under Section 109(2)(c), it would be highly recommended that a Special Committee under Section 122 (1) – (5) of the Standing Orders be convened by Parliament in future to critically analyze Fiji's Agriculture Sector; both Sugar and Non-Sugar to set its future directions.

I wish to extend my appreciation to the Permanent Secretary, Senior Management, and Officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and the relevant stakeholders for their tireless commitment in their respective roles and also for the timely contributions in the final compilation of this report.

I also wish to acknowledge the valuable contribution of the Committee Members namely Hon. Isikeli Tuiwailevu (Deputy Chair) Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu (Member) Hon. Tomasi Tunabuna (Member), Hon. Joseph Nand (Member) and Hon. Jone Usamate (Alternate Member).

Lastly, I thank the Secretariat and Support Team for their continued assistance.



Hon. Inia Seruiratu
Chairperson

ACRONYMS

AMA	Agriculture Marketing Authority
AH&P	Animal Health & Production
EP&S	Economic Planning and Statistics Division
FMIB	Fiji Meats Industry Board
KRS	Koronivia Research Station
LRPD	Land Resources Planning and Development
RIE	Request to Incur Expenditure
SDG's	Sustainable Development Goals
SDP	Strategic Development Plan
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
TB	Tuberculosis
TMA	Trade and Manufacturing Account
TTM	Taiwan Technical Mission
UNCCD	United Nations Conventions to Combat Desertification

RECOMMENDATION

The Standing Committee on Natural Resources has conducted a review of the Ministry of Agriculture 2018-2019 Annual Report and recommends that Parliament take note of its recommendations as stated in the report.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Agriculture Annual Report for 2018 -2019 was presented in Parliament on July 2022 and referred to the Standing Committee on Natural Resources for scrutiny. It was reintroduced in Parliament early this year on Friday 17th March.

The Committee then proceeded with its mandatory function legislated under Standing Order 109(2) (c) *which allows the Standing Committee on Natural Resources to examine matters related to forestry, agriculture, mining, environment, fisheries, water and marine services.*

Standing Order 110 (1) (c) further authorizes the Standing Committee to *scrutinize the government departments with responsibility within the committee's subject area, including by investigating, inquiring into, and making recommendations relating to any aspect of such a department's*

administration, legislation or proposed legislative program, budget, rationalization, restructuring, functioning, organization, structure, and policy formulation.

A Standing Committee must report to Parliament any other matter referred to or initiated by the Committee as soon as it has completed its considerations and deliberations as stipulated under Standing Order 121 (1) (b).

1.1 COMMITTEE REMIT AND COMPOSITION



Hon. Inia Seruiratu
Chairperson



Hon. Isikeli Tuiwailevu
Deputy Chairperson



Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu
Member



Hon. Tomasi Tunabuna
Member



Hon. Joseph Nand
Member



Hon. Jone Usamate
Alternate Member

1.2 Procedure and Program

The Committee scrutinized the Ministry of Agriculture Annual Report and formulated written questions for the Ministry to respond to within a week's time frame. The written questions sought clarity on the contents of the Annual Reports and honed in on the challenges faced by the Ministry during the review period, the achievements, operational review, legislations in place, and progress on

the Ministry's initiatives. The Committee deliberated on the responses from the Ministry of Agriculture and its industry stakeholders and incorporated them into its final report for presentation to Parliament.

Copies of the Members' written questions and the Ministry of Agriculture responses are made available on the Parliament website www.parliament.gov.fj under "Parliament Business".

1.3 Committee Site Visit

The Committee conducted a five (5) days site visit on thirty (30) stations in the three (3) geographical divisions in Fiji namely Central, West and the North. Please refer to Table 1 below.

The purpose of the site visit was to enable the Committee to collect valuable information and physically witness the progress of each programs to support its findings. The site visits focused on the following areas of operations.

- selected agriculture stations;
- potential agriculture farmers;
- food processors;
- agricultural goods exporters;
- services providers to the agriculture industry and
- development partners of the Ministry

The table below shows areas of site visit:

Table 1: Sites Visited

Sites Visited	Central	West	North
Station	Naduruloulou KRS AH&P	Nacocolevu Rsch Stn Nawaicoba Rsch Stn Legalega Rsch Stn Rakiraki Office	Dreketi Rice Scheme Batiri Sheep Stn Seaqaqa Rsch Stn Wainigata Rsch Stn
Processing Plant	Kaiming Processing Ltd FMIB	Cassava Flour Mr. Kaushik Chand, Drasa Lautoka	AMA Dama, Fiji Rice, Dreketi Coconut Millers, AMA Savusavu
Potential Farmers		TTM Mr. Nand Lal Sabeto Valley Clusters Mr. Samisoni Manewa Yaqara Pastoral	Bua Lomanikoro Rice Farmers Belego Farmers Mr. Haynes, Mr. Viliame Pineapple Farmer Nawailevu SLM Project Wainunu Farmers' Co-operative
Exporters	Ben's Trading	Happy Valley (Ms Poonam)	

2.0 Committee Deliberations and Analysis

2.1 Background

The role of the Ministry of Agriculture is to plan, guide, align, implement, and monitor the progress of agricultural development programmes that will contribute to achieving the Fiji Government's 20-Year National Development Plan (NDP), the Ministry's 5-year Strategic Development Plan (SDP) and the Ministry's Annual Costed Operational Plan (COP).

The five key strategic priorities of the SDP are improved food and nutrition security for all Fijians, increase farmers household income for sustainable livelihoods, improve the adoption of sustainable resources management and climate smart agriculture, establish and improve commercial agriculture and improve public quality sector performance and service delivery

The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) Annual Report for this financial year highlights the Ministry's performance in accordance with the Annual Budget and COP. This report consist of details of performance measures from 1st August 2018 to 31st July, 2019.

Total budget allocation for the fiscal year 2018-2019 amounted to \$96.8 million, an increase of \$22.4 million from \$74.4 million in the August 2016-July 2017 fiscal year. Out of this allocation, the Ministry was able to utilize \$64,739.9 million which was 67% of the total allocation.

2.2 Committee Findings

The Committee in its review, noted the following;

2.2.1 Ministry Achievements

The Ministry enhanced its performance against its annual targets over the period from 2018 to 2021 and was able to utilize more of its budget. There is still room for improvement.

2.2.2 Financial Audit Report

The 2018 – 2019 report had Qualified Audit Opinion and the Ministry while noting the recommendations of the Auditor General's report has worked towards achieving non-qualified reports in future.

2.2.3 Animal Health and Production Division

The Committee noted with appreciation the following;

- The introduction and multiplication of new improved breeding stocks especially in dairy, beef, goat, sheep, pigs and poultry. This also included the improvement of our indigenous breed genetic material as a mitigation factor for climate change.

- The utilization of formulated livestock feeds from locally available ingredients to mitigate against the high cost of imported feeds.
- General extension duties to the livestock farmers – focuses on the disease eradication program (Brucellosis and TB), attending veterinary clinical cases, provision of agriculture inputs, and advocacy for involvement of women and youth in agriculture.

While the Committee noted that the overall decrease in livestock production, particularly in the meat and the milk throughput, at the same time the production for pork and poultry was at the sufficiency level. This shows that the sector through a targeted approach has huge potentials for further increase in production to reduce importation and to raise export opportunities out of our sufficiency and surplus.

The Committee is of the view that the report lacked the representation of the whole sector in terms of production and monetary value. Furthermore, it failed to highlight clearly the linkages of its programs to the relevant Sustainable Development Goals especially on SDG 1 – No Poverty, SDG 2 – Zero Hunger and SDG 5 – Gender Equality.

2.2.4 Crop Extension Division

The Committee noted with appreciation the role of the Division on the following ;

- Project identification, Planning, Implementation, Supervision and Monitoring of agriculture development projects to achieve Fiji’s Food and Nutrition Security needs;
- The distribution of planting materials and transfer of new varieties/cultivars and technologies to farmers including farmers training;
- Coordination of farm development programs in terms of land preparation, construction of farm roads, drainage/irrigation, construction of driers (cocoa and coconut) farm houses and the supply of agro – inputs (fertilizers, weedicides, pesticides, etc.);
- Special emphasis on income generation program that addresses import substitution, graduating subsistence suppliers to semi-commercial and expand commercial farmers to meet the growing export markets.

While noting the high sufficiency rate in some of the commodities, the Committee is of the view that the sector through a targeted approach has huge potentials for further increase in production to reduce importation and to raise export opportunities out of our sufficiency and surplus.

- However, the Committee noted the absence of the linkages between the production and the market sector and the need to identify and diversify into high value agriculture products.

The Committee is of the view that report lacked the representation of the whole sector in terms of production and monetary value.

Furthermore, the report failed to clearly highlight the linkages of its programs to the relevant Sustainable Development Goals especially on SDG 1 – No Poverty, SDG 2 – Zero Hunger and SDG 5 – Gender Equality.

2.2.5 Agriculture Research Division

The Committee appreciated the Division's role and the achievements on the following;

- Plant breeding, multiplication and supply of planting materials;
- Expansion of value addition to the food sector;
- Pest control programs;
oil and nutrition improvement; and
- Orchard development.

The Committee has noted that a major impediment of research has been the deteriorating state of its facilities and staff capacity. However, the committee has also noted that the Ministry has commenced with the upgrading of its research facilities and with further improvements to be done.

The committee also noted that the report failed to clearly highlight the linkages of its programs and its relevance to Sustainable Development Goals especially on SDG 1 – No Poverty, SDG 2 – Zero Hunger and SDG 5 – Gender Equality

2.2.6 Land Resources Planning and Development Division

The Committee noted that the Division has been involved in;

- Identification of proper land use management system
- Facilitating sustainable land development programs to address soil degradation that leads to soil erosion, siltation and flood mitigation.
- Improving soil nutrition

The Committee noted that the work of this Division is very critical to the overall achievement of agricultural goals. This could be improved by better resourcing. However, while the Committee appreciated the various roles and functions performed by LRPD, it is concerned that the Ministry failed to report the importance of linking its programs to the relevant Sustainable Development Goals especially on SDG 15 - Life on Land. Additionally, the Ministry of Agriculture has responsibilities under the 1994 United Nations Conventions to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). UNCCD is the sole legally binding International Agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management. It is the driving force behind SDG 15.

2.2.7 Economic Planning and Statistics Division

The Committee acknowledged the Division's achievements which included the following;

- Submission of Four (4) Quarterly Duty Concession Reports;
- Launching of one (1) commodity industry plan;
- Successful conduct of one (1) local market promotion through Hotels and Tourism Exhibition Show;
- The collation and maintenance of agriculture data and statistics;

- Signing of 4 bilateral Memorandums of Understanding (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);
- Submitting of 12 Cabinet Papers to Cabinet.

The Committee noted that there have been some delays in the work of this Division in the reports that it is required to produce. This could attribute to the lack of resources.

The committee also noted that there is room for improvement in the formulation of policies to address and help in the achievement of relevant SDG's.

2.2.8 Human Resources, Finance and Information

The Committee noted;

- The challenges faced in the Ministry because of high turnover of staff and the lack of specialists;
- The increase in total budget by \$22.4 million allocation for the fiscal year 2018-2019 amounting to **\$96.8 million** compared to \$74.4 million in August 2016-July 2017 fiscal year;
- The utilization rate was only 67% for the 2018 – 2019 budget. The key contributing factors to the low utilization are mainly related to processes within the government machinery namely, Tender Process, Procurement Process and Request to Incur Expenditure (RIE).

The Committee noted with great concern the high staff turnover particularly the scarce skills, the high number of vacant positions not being filled, and the lack of training/capacity building (exchanges/attachments to other institutions), and formulation of retention policies.

The Committee noted with concern the basis of the Qualified Opinion by the independent Auditor's Report in regards to the misappropriation of funds (TMA) and non- adherence to established systems/processes.

However, it has also been appraised of the efforts undertaken by the Ministry to rectify the discrepancies highlighted in the report.

3.0 COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee had conducted the review of the Ministry of Agriculture for 2018 -2019 Annual Report and also sought clarifications from the Ministry Officials. With the written responses received and the findings from the site visit conducted, the Committee recommends that the Ministry take heed of the Committee's recommendations and ensures timely implementation.

3.1 ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION & CROP AND EXTENSION DIVISIONS

RECOMMENDATION 1

The Committee highly recommends that the Ministry improve its future reporting in terms of Timelines and Quality.

RECOMMENDATION 2

The Committee highly recommends that the Ministry intensifies its efforts to promote the increase in crop and livestock production to meet local demands, reduce over reliance on imported food products and maximize opportunities for exports.

RECOMMENDATION 3

The Committee highly recommends that all the necessary resources support is given to both Divisions to effectively monitor and employ best technological practices in their respective programs to minimize unnecessary losses through pest, diseases, and other possible biological and ecological risks.

3.2 AGRICULTURE RESEARCH DIVISION

RECOMMENDATION 1

The Committee highly recommends improvement in research infrastructure facilities.

RECOMMENDATION 2

The Committee highly recommends continued investment in research related activities involving particularly new genetics, high value agriculture commodities, value addition, pest and disease control given our domestic and regional partnership arrangements.

3.3 LAND RESOURCES AND PLANNING DIVISION

RECOMMENDATION 1

The Committee strongly recommends that the Division be given all necessary support to actively facilitate the transfer and adoption of sustainable land management practices ensuring sustainability on land, water, and marine resources.

3.4 ECONOMIC PLANNING AND STATISTICS DIVISION

RECOMMENDATION 1

The Committee highly recommends proper resourcing of the EP&S Division to effectively carry out its functions in terms of collaboration, monitoring and maintenance of data.

RECOMMENDATION 2

The Committee highly recommends the conversion of agricultural data to critical information for the use and benefit of other stakeholders including Academia, Financial/Lending Institutions, Multilateral Organizations, etc.

RECOMMENDATION 3

The Committee highly recommends that a joint Taskforce between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Sugar be formed to look at the challenges faced by both sectors, identifying potentials and opportunities and make recommendations on its future directions.

3.5 HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE AND INFORMATION

RECOMMENDATION 1

The Committee noted with concern the lack of critical skills in the functional divisions and the high number of vacant positions and therefore recommends that these be given immediate attention. A contributing factor to these is the high demand of such skills in other institutions and sectors.

RECOMMENDATION 2

The Committee while noting the high staff turnover, highly recommends that the Division urgently addresses the issue through formulation of policies including counter offer packages, recruitment process, capacity building of staff, realignment of positions, employment conditions etc.

4.0 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

Although there were no specific mention of the SDG's in the annual report under review, however the Committee noted that the work of the Ministry is aligned to a number of SDG's. These had been indicated very briefly on the reports on targeted programmes and policies including:

- Poverty Alleviation
- Maintaining food security and Good Health and Well-being
- Ensuring equal access for Women and Youth in Agriculture
- Reduction of Disaster Risks and addressing Climate Change
- Sustainable Land use Practices to address Life Below Water and Life on Land

The Committee has noted from the above that although the Ministry only highlighted its role and the various programs undertaken during the 2018 – 2019 reporting period, these programs in fact are very much aligned towards the implementation and achievement of the following SDG's;

*1) SDG 1 – No Poverty 2) SDG 2 - Zero Hunger 3) SDG 5 – Gender Equality
4) SDG 13 – Climate Action 5) SDG 14- Life Below Water 6) SDG 15 – Life on Land*

The Committee strongly recommends that proper and accurate representations and reporting of the achievements on SDGs are captured in future reports for the whole Agriculture Sector.

5.0 CONCLUSION

Overall, the Ministry's performance for the review period was satisfactory, however it was noted that the Ministry had a Qualified Audit Accounts and is moving towards obtaining an Unqualified Audit Report in the next financial year.

The Committee acknowledged the work of the Ministry despite the challenges faced during the period under review.

6.0 COMMITTEE MEMBERS' SIGNATURE

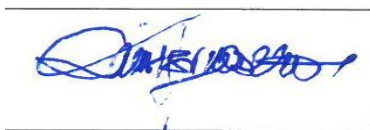
We, the Members of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources, hereby agree with the contents of this report:



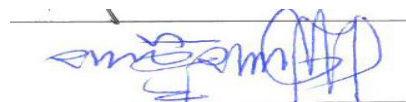
Hon. Inia Seruiratu



Hon. Isikeli Tuiwailevu



Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu



Hon. Tomasi Tunabuna



Hon. Joseph Nand



Hon. Jone Usamate

APPENDICES

Published written evidence

Written evidence and supplementary information was received from the Ministry of Agriculture and can be viewed on the Parliament website at the following link:

<http://www.parliament.gov.fj/committees/standing-committee-on-natural-resources/>

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Site Visit Pictures







Appendix 2

Powerpoint Presentations

Animal Health & Production Division.

Cabinet Sub-committee Briefing
25/09/23



Animal Health & Production Division



VISION

A competitive, sustainable, resilient livestock sector



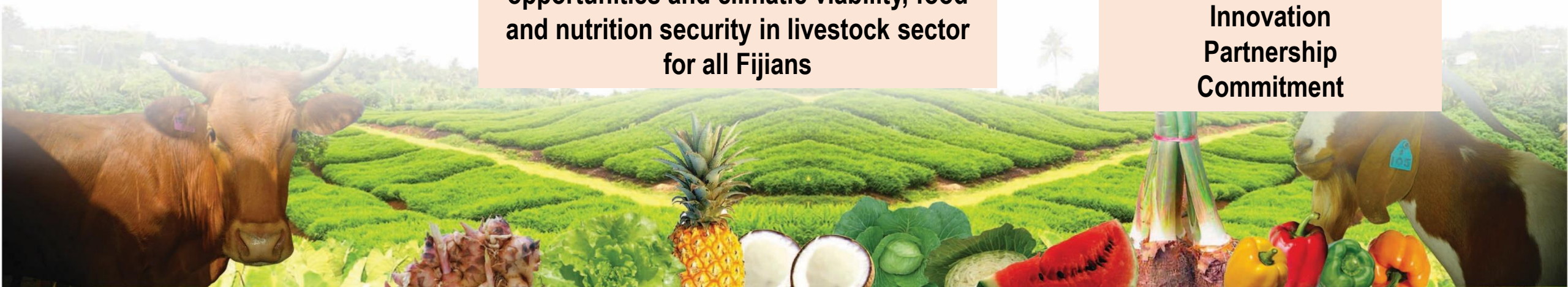
MISSION

To create an enabling environment that accelerates sustainability, economic opportunities and climatic viability, food and nutrition security in livestock sector for all Fijians



VALUES

Excellence
Integrity
Accountability
Innovation
Partnership
Commitment





Food & Nutrition Security



Sustainable Agriculture
Livelihoods and Poverty
Alleviation



Climate Risk, Resilience
and Sustainable Land
Management



Commercial Agriculture
Development

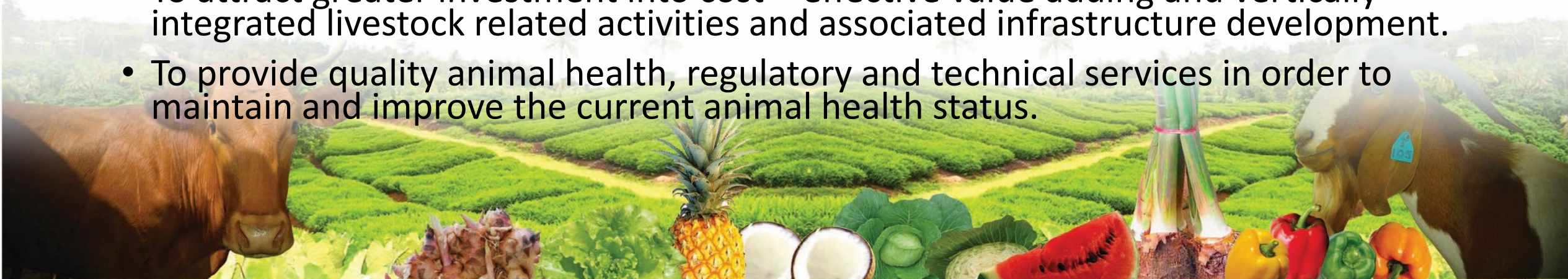


Quality Public Sector
Performance and Service
Delivery

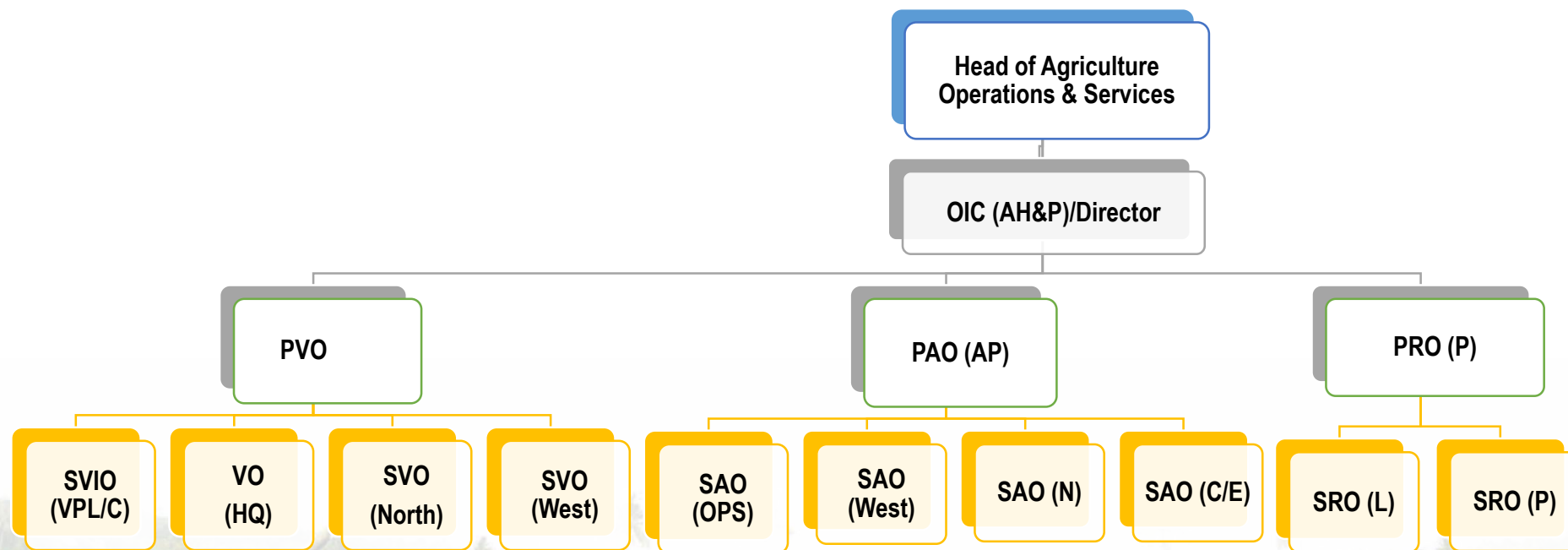
ROLE OF THE DIVISION



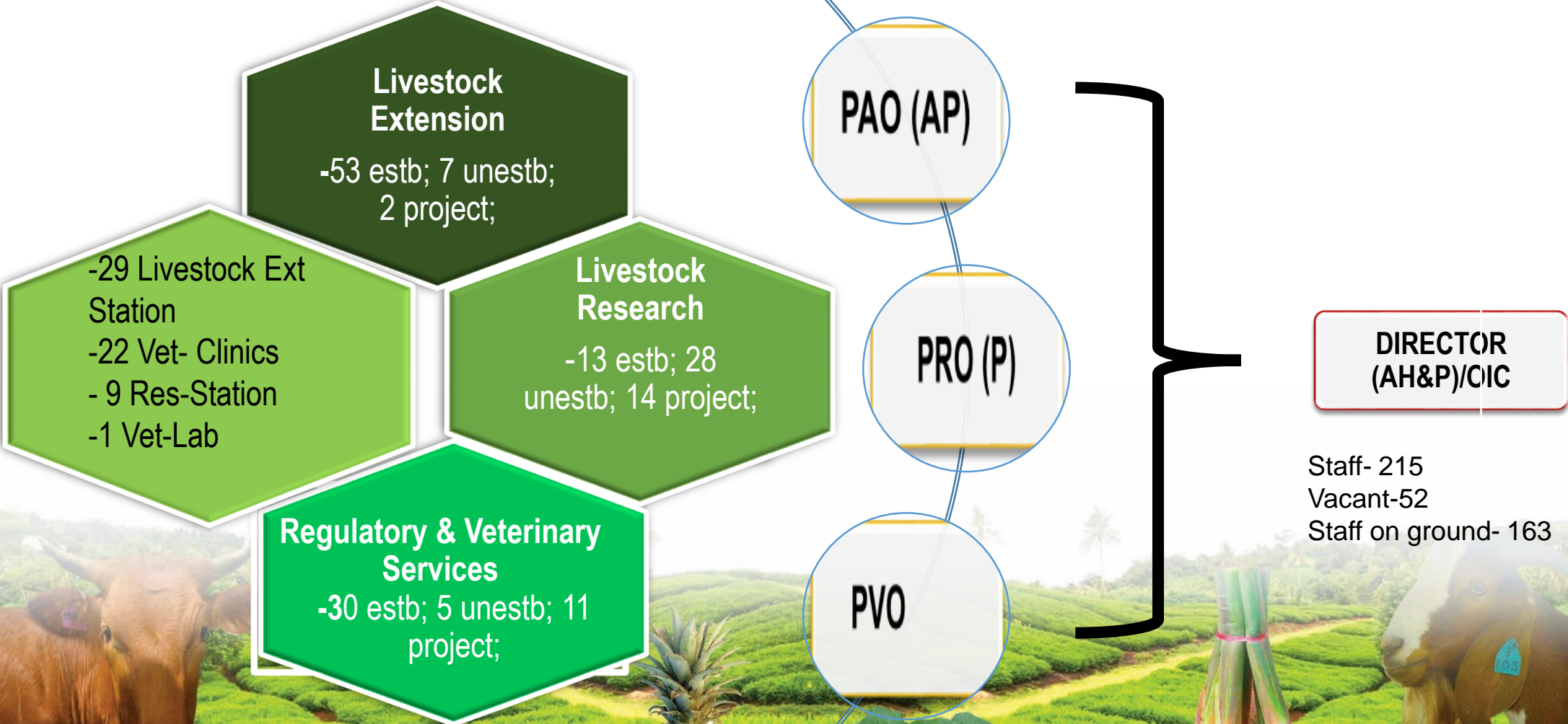
- To ensure that the Government is provided with high quality policy advice on livestock issues and the resources on which they depend.
- To formulate specific livestock sectoral policies and develop programmes aimed at promoting the sustainable development of livestock industries for potential exports.
- To be strategic and consultative when providing advisory services that will ensure efficient production enhancing food and income security.
- To promote and facilitate jointly funded Government/Private sector market focused livestock research and development programmes leading to the development of cost – effective technology.
- To attract greater investment into cost – effective value adding and vertically integrated livestock related activities and associated infrastructure development.
- To provide quality animal health, regulatory and technical services in order to maintain and improve the current animal health status.



ORGANISATION STRUCTURE



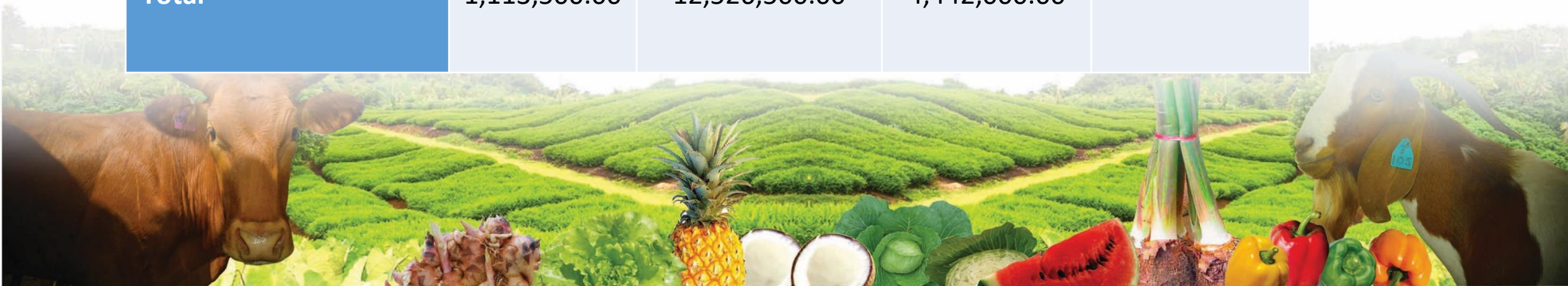
Animal Health & Production Operation Structure & Staff



2022 - 2023 BUDGETARY ALLOCATION



Program 3	Activity 1	Activity 2	Activity 3	Total
	1,113,500.00	12,526,500.00	4,442,000.00	18,082,000.00
ACIAR Apiculture Development Progam		0	0	36,668.44
ACIAR Pacifika Goat and Sheep Improvement project				309,373.30
Total	1,113,500.00	12,526,500.00	4,442,000.00	18,296,503.96





Food & Nutrition Security



Sustainable Agriculture
Livelihoods and Poverty
Alleviation



Climate Risk, Resilience
and Sustainable Land
Management



Commercial Agriculture
Development

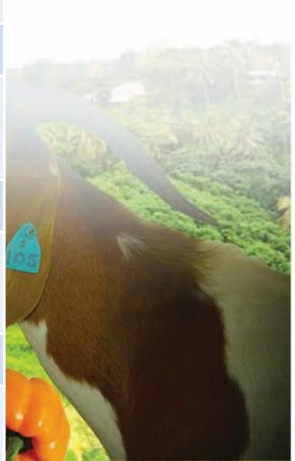
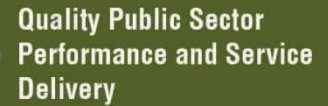


Quality Public Sector
Performance and Service
Delivery

2023 – 2024 Capital Programs Budget Allocation



No.	AH&P Capital Programmes	2022.2023	2023.2024	Head & Prog.	Act. 2 Extension	SEG.	R &
	Head No. 30 Ministry of Agriculture	Budget	Budget Estimates	Livestock	Act. 3 Research		Non R
1	Stray Animal Control Campaign	\$400,000.00	\$430,000.00	30 - 3	2	9	R
2	Brucellosis & Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign	\$2,400,000.00	\$1,629,000.00	30 - 3	2	8	R
3	Establishment of Brucellosis Free Farms	\$400,000.00	\$200,000.00	30 - 3	2	8	R
4	Veterinary Pathology Laboratory Upgrade	\$200,000.00	\$450,000.00	30 - 3	3	8	Non R
5	Beef Breeding Programme	\$900,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	30 - 3	3	8	Non R
6	Beef Extension Programme	\$100,000.00	\$170,000.00	30 - 3	2	8	Non R
7	Sheep Breeding Programme	\$446,000.00	\$400,000.00	30 - 3	3	8	Non R
8	Sheep Extension Programme	\$170,000.00	\$170,000.00	30 - 3	2	8	Non R
9	Livestock Feed Technology	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	30 - 3	3	8	Non R
10	Agricultural Extension Services - Livestock	\$230,000.00	\$230,000.00	30 - 3	2	8	Non R
11	Goat Breeding Programme	\$130,000.00	\$215,000.00	30 - 3	3	8	Non R



12	Partnership to Establish Goat Meat Industry	\$400,000.00	\$216,175.00	30 - 3	2	8	R
13	Goat Extension Programme	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	30 - 3	2	8	Non R
14	Pig Breeding Programme	\$160,000.00	\$210,000.00	30 - 3	3	8	Non R
15	Poultry Extension Programme	\$150,000.00	\$100,000.00	30 - 3	2	8	Non R
16	Piggery Extension Programme	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	30 - 3	2	8	Non R
17	Animal Waste Management for Livestock Farmers	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	30 - 3	2	8	Non R
18	Livestock Rehabilitation Programme	\$500,000.00	\$400,000.00	30 - 3	3	8	R
19	Apiculture Industry Development	\$150,000.00	\$120,000.00	30 - 3	2	8	Non R
20	Poultry Breeding Programme	\$125,000.00	\$150,000.00	30 - 3	3	8	Non R
21	Refurbishment of Veterinary Clinics	\$321,580.00	\$306,434.00	30 - 3	3	8	R
22	Dairy Industry Support Program DIS	\$0.00	\$0.00	30 - 3	2	8	R
23	Dairy Extension Programme (New)	\$300,000.00	\$500,000.00	30 - 3	2	8	R
24	Dairy Development Programme FCDCL	\$1,200,000.00	\$5,000,000.00	30 - 3	2	10	R
25	Upgrade of Nasinu & Vuda Abattoir FMIB	\$400,000.00	\$400,000.00	30 - 3	2	10	R
26	Animal Welfare Program SPCA Partnership	\$130,000.00	\$130,000.00	30 - 3	1 Admin	7	Non R
27	Veterinary Registration	\$0.00	\$50,000.00	30 - 3	1 Admin	7	Non R
	Without CADP	\$9,612,580.00	\$12,876,609.00				
	Including CADP	\$940,601.00	\$0.00				
	Total	\$10,553,181.00	\$12,876,609.00				



Food & Nutrition Security



Sustainable Agriculture
Livelihoods and Poverty
Alleviation



Climate Risk, Resilience
and Sustainable Land
Management



Commercial Agriculture
Development



Quality Public Sector
Performance and Service
Delivery

Animal Health & Production – Livestock Extension

A total of 11 Program are operated under the Livestock Extension Section of Animal Health & Production Division.

The programs focus on the following;

- Infrastructure development (Sheds/Fencing)
- Nutritional Improvement (Pasture Establishment/Renovation/Fodder banks/Water)
- Equipment (Farrowing crates/Incubators/stockyard/Identification equipment/Harvesting equipment/ weighing scales & Biogas system)
- Other Important areas (Reviewing of Act, farm visits, prepare loan & project proposals, attend to famers & other stakeholders meetings, prepare application for new & renewal of leases, clinical services and drugs sales.





Food & Nutrition Security



Sustainable Agriculture
Livelihoods and Poverty
Alleviation



Climate Risk, Resilience
and Sustainable Land
Management



Commercial Agriculture
Development



Quality Public Sector
Performance and Service
Delivery

Animal Health & Production – Livestock Research

8 capital program under livestock research section which focusses on four key areas which are

- Livestock Breeding and supplying quality stocks to farmers
- Improving the Livestock performances through proper husbandry and management practices
- Improving Livestock Nutrition and disseminating these knowledge or techniques on farms
- On farm fodder development to enhance the nutrition status on farms [New Project]
- Resilient breeds multiplication

EMBRYO TRANSFER (BEEF & DAIRY)



FARMERS FEED MIL



RESILIENT BREEDS





Animal Health & Production – Veterinary Services

- Veterinary Clinic services- 22 clinics plus 2 programs (Vet registration and Clinic upgrade)
 - Veterinary Pathology Laboratory
- 1 capital program under livestock veterinary section which focusses on the following;
- To be able to provide animal health and pathologic diagnostic services locally and regionally.
 - To continue with specific field surveys on Disease of importance in Fiji such as Avian Influenza a.k.a. Bird Flu, Leptospirosis, Parasitology Drug Resistance and other livestock diseases.
 - To be able to provide quick accurate diagnosis of Livestock diseases to reduce cost of production.
 - To establish passive surveillance systems for the continuous monitoring of the presence of animals





Food & Nutrition Security



Sustainable Agriculture
Livelihoods and Poverty
Alleviation



Climate Risk, Resilience
and Sustainable Land
Management



Commercial Agriculture
Development



Quality Public Sector
Performance and Service
Delivery

Animal Health & Production – Regulatory Services

3 capital program under livestock regulatory section which focusses on

- Stray Animal Impounding & Dog Control
- Brucellosis & TB Eradication Program
- TB Free farms establishment

Other areas under regulatory operations

- Meat Inspection , Slaughterhouse Inspection, Butchers and cattle truck registration
- Dairy Inspection & Registration
- Brand Registration
- Dog licensing
- Legislation- 13 Acts



EXISTING ARRANGEMENT WITH BILATERAL PARTNERS

- ACIAR project on - Improving small ruminant production and supply in Fiji -Sheep & Goat- (AUD320,443)
- ACIAR project on Increasing productivity and profitability of smallholder beekeeping enterprise (A\$220,016)
- ACIAR project on Emissions Reduction Options in Agriculture- New (Scoping)





Food & Nutrition Security



Sustainable Agriculture
Livelihoods and Poverty
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Climate Risk, Resilience
and Sustainable Land
Management



Commercial Agriculture
Development

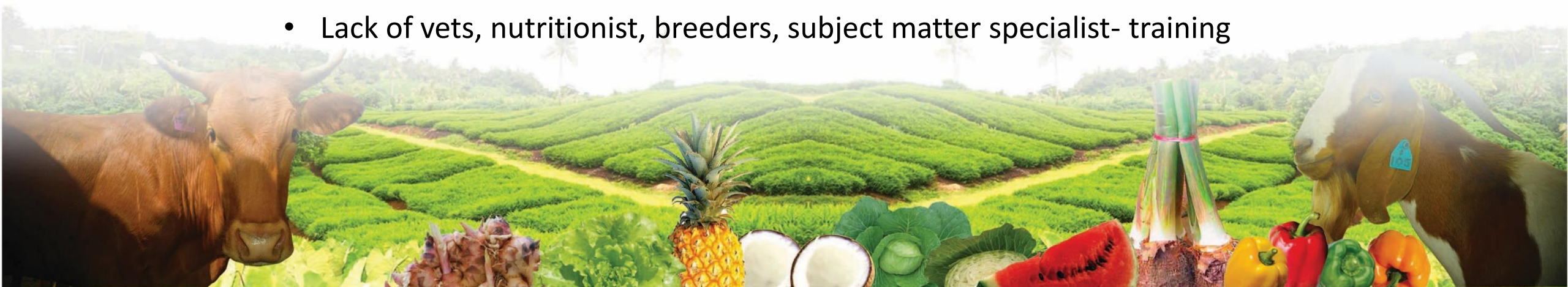


Quality Public Sector
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Challenges & Way Forward

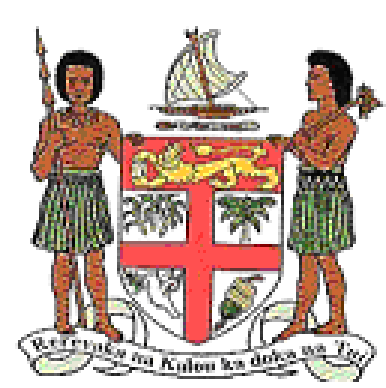
- Vacant Key Positions- Approval from MCS and advertising
- Restructure – some positions lost- realignment
- Staff resignations (high turnover)- improve pay and environment
- Low to nil Quarters and office maintenance funding
- Lack of vets, nutritionist, breeders, subject matter specialist- training





THANK YOU





**BRIEF: STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
RESOURCES SITE VISIT- MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND
WATERWAYS AT NADURULOULOU
25-09-23**

History

- Naduruloulou Research Station is the second oldest agricultural station after Sigatoka Research Station in existence.
- After the closure of the Navuso Agricultural Station in 1929, this station was established to cater for the agricultural activities that were rapidly undergoing changes.
- During that period of agricultural development in Fiji, only sugar and coconut industries were successfully established as commercial crops.
- When Naduruloulou was established it was known as Plant Introduction and Quarantine Agricultural Station.
- Later as the focus changed it was renamed as Naduruloulou Agricultural Station.
- As other Agricultural Research Station developed in different ecological zones, it became known as Naduruloulou Research Station.
- Today, this station represents one of the 8 research station in Fiji.

Function of the Station

- Assist in the agricultural development mainly through the supply of planting materials and technical advice.
- Conduction of research activities in generation of information on relevant crops currently on cocoa, spices and tree-crops.
- Conserve and expand the plant genetic resources both indigenous and exotic assembled over the years and compliment with raising the plant seedlings for the interested public.

Role of the Station

- Conservation and Maintenance of Plant Genetic Resources both exotic and indigenous crops, fruit trees and spices plants and maintain varietal collection of cocoa.
- Development of Seed and Planting Materials.
- Tree-Crops Research.
- Appropriate information dissemination to stakeholders

Research Activities

1. Conservation and maintenance of Plant Genetic Resources
2. Establishments of indigenous, exotic tree-crops and spices orchards.
3. Cocoa Research
4. Development of Seed and Planting materials of Cocoa, exotic and indigenous fruit and tree-crops.

Area and Topography

- Total Land Area- 87.133ha (215acres)
- Land Utilized: 34ha (Including Fisheries)
- Unutilized: 53.133ha(Approximately 15-20ha can be utilized while the other 33ha may need extensive drainage work.

PRESENT LAND USE MAP - NADURULOULOU RESEARCH STATION



Legend

- major roads
- minor creeks
- major creeks
- rivers
- village boundaries

Landuse

- aft - assorted fruit trees
- c - cocoa
- ct - citrus
- drk - duruka
- fa - fallow land
- fn - flower nursery
- gld - gliricidia
- gr - grassland
- mc - mix crops
- mhgy - mahogany
- nrsy - nursery
- NO - Naduruloulou office
- shr - shrubs
- SQ - staff quaters

Forests cover

- 1 - MUF Closed
- 2 - MUF Open
- 7 - Non Forests

OID	Landuse	Sum_Area_hact	Sum_Acres	percent
0	ar	0.1	0.25	0.32
1	c	5.13	12.69	16.6
2	ct	0.98	2.44	3.17
3	drk	0.2	0.48	0.63
4	fa	2.83	6.99	9.16
5	fn	0.21	0.52	0.68
6	gld	0.21	0.52	0.68
7	gr	7.46	18.42	24.14
8	mc	0.55	1.36	1.78
9	mhgy	10.94	27.04	35.4
10	nrsy	0.22	0.54	0.71
11	o	0.02	0.04	0.05
12	shr	1.89	3.92	5.15
13	sq	0.48	1.11	1.49

OID	FIELD_ID	Forests_Ty	Sum_Area_hac_f	Sum_Acres_fm	Sum_percent
0	1	MUF Closed	1.77	4.37	2.44
1	2	MUF Open	27.69	68.27	36.11
2	7	Non Forests	43.16	106.85	59.45

Unutilized Area of 53.133ha

Area utilized by Fisheries

Area Utilized by NRS

Kasavu Village

REWA RIVER

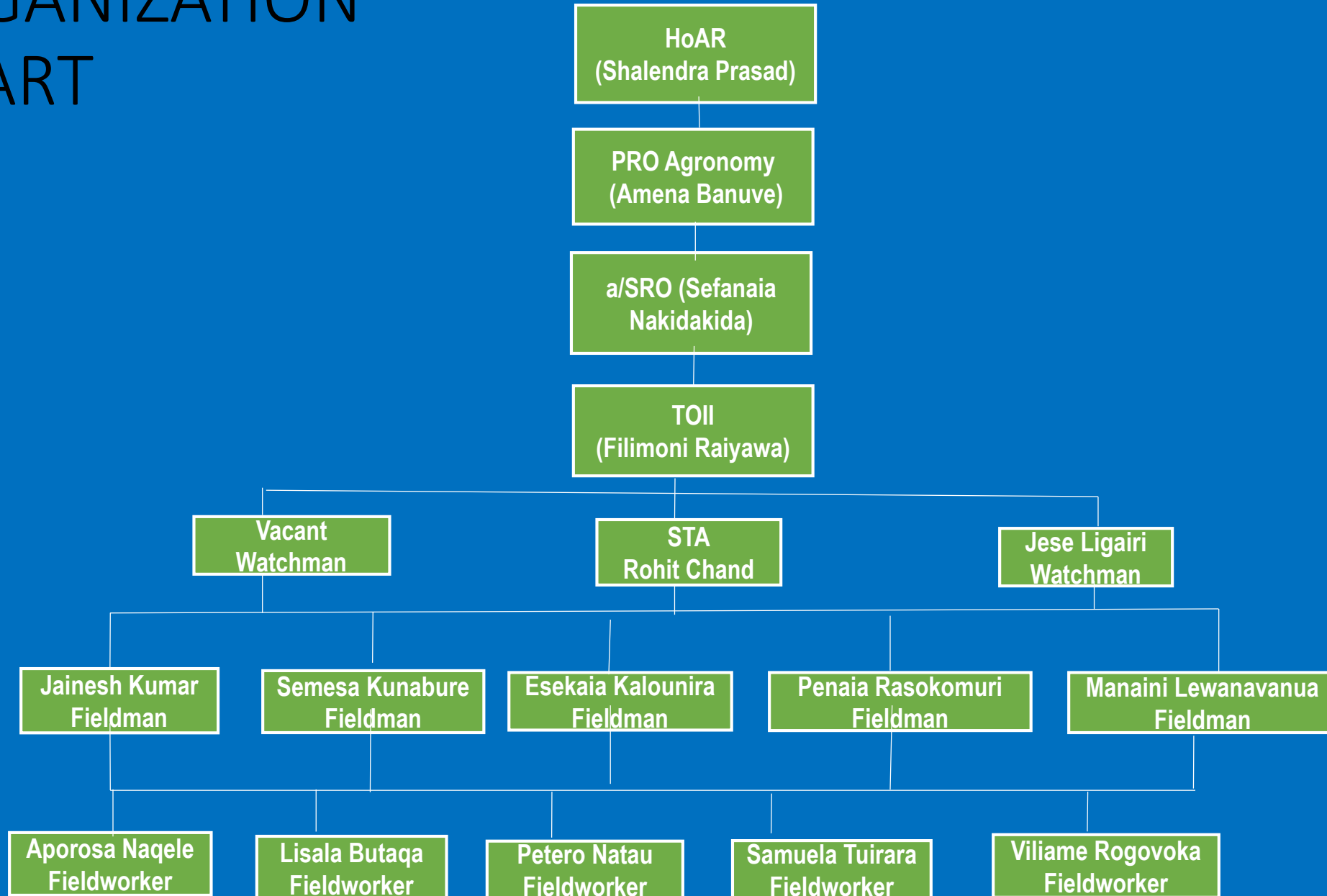
OD UNIT
Land Use Planning Section
Ministry of Agriculture
Harare, Zimbabwe
10th March, 2018

STAFF

- 1 act/Senior Research Officer (Tree-Crops).
- 1 Technical Officer
- 1 Senior Technical Assistant
- 7 GWE - 2 Watchman & 5 field man
- 5 Field Worker.

ORGANIZATION CHART

□



NRS RESEARCH PROGRAMS

- Annual Research Services.
- Organic Research and Development
- Development of Seed and Planting Materials.

BUDGET ALLOCATION 2023-2024

- ARS - \$55,832.80
- DSPM – \$15,000.00
- ORGANIC RESEARCH INFRASTURE - \$40,000.00

ARS BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Detail breakdown of Activities and Budget	
1.0. Crop Improvement and Plant Genetic Resources	
Yaqona Research * Establishment of kava germplasm – 13 noble kava varieties- Dobuilevu and TRDC	\$1,000.00
Cocoa Research * Ongoing Comparative analysis of 3 fermentation process - NRS * Monitoring of cocoa germplasm at DRS - NRS	\$1,000.00
Spices Research * Maintenance and data collection from Research Blocks (Turmeric, Cardamom, Nutmeg & Pepper) - NRS * Development of Package of Package of Practices for Turmeric - Central & Northern Division	\$1,095.97
Coffee Research * Establishment of Coffee Block – WRS	\$1,095.97
Conservation and Maintenance of all Plant Genetic Resources	\$3,630.86
2.0. Development of Cultivation Technologies	
Spices Research * Development of Package of Practices for Turmeric-DRS	\$1,000.00
3.0 Research and Publication	
Fuel and Oil	\$1,000.00
Project monitoring, evaluation & meetings	\$2,000.00
Engaging Fieldworkers 5 NRS Fieldworkers	\$43,560.00
TOTAL COST	\$55,382.80

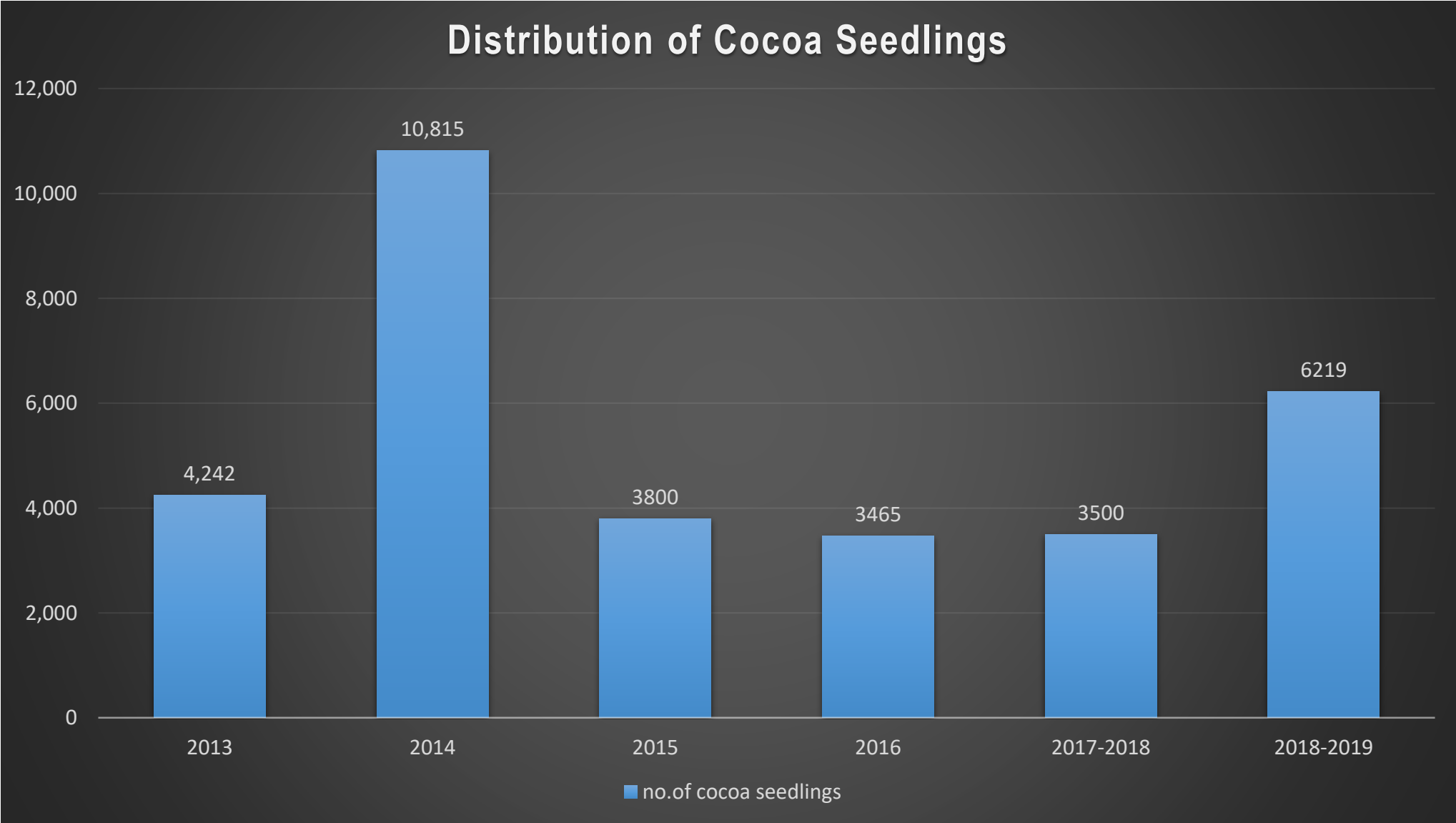
Development of Seed and Planting Materials Budget Breakdown

Detail breakdown of Activities and Budget breakdown.

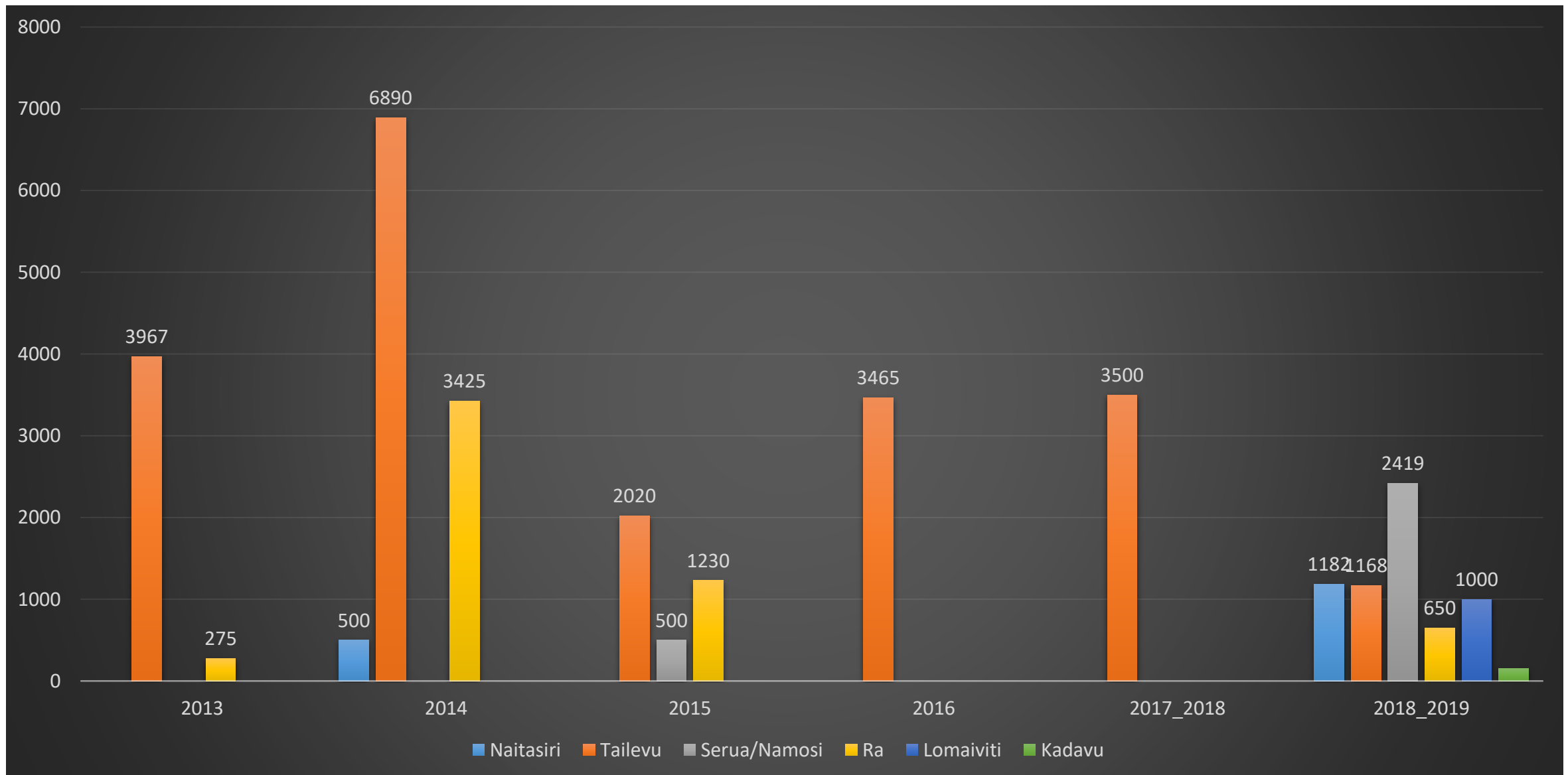
Output 1: Supply of seeds and planting materials to farmers Cocoa seedlings - 10,000 Budded cocoa seedlings-200 Grafted citrus – 1000, Assorted & native fruit trees – 7,000 seedlings, Spices – 500 seedlings, Avocado – 1000 seedlings, Turmeric: 3 tons	\$ 10,000.00
Output 2: Improvement of Nursery Upgrading status of nursery at NRS	\$ 4,000.00
Fuel and Oil	\$ 1,000.00
Total Costs	\$ 15,000.00

Production Trends of Cacao and Assorted fruit trees

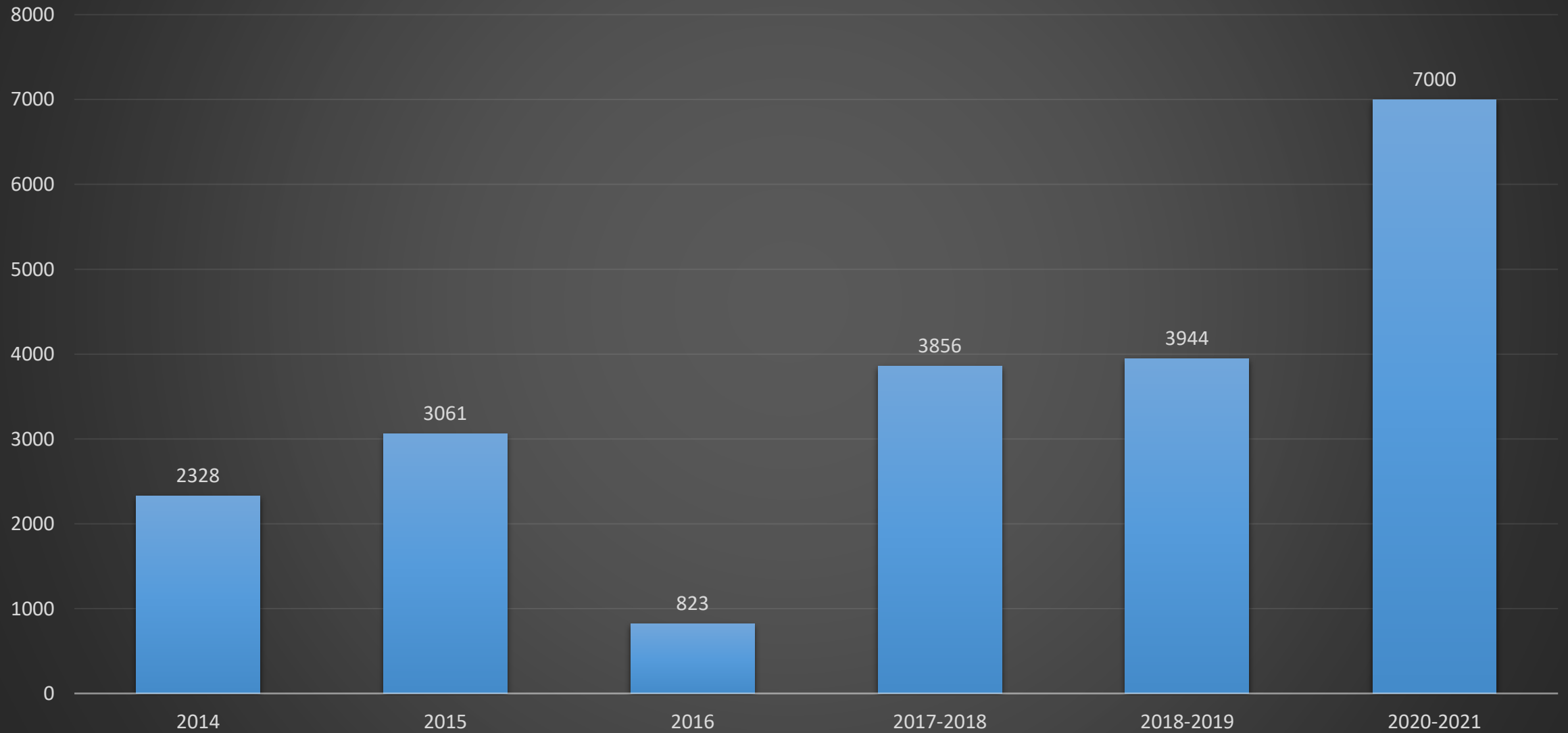
Production and Supply of Cocoa Seedlings from NRS



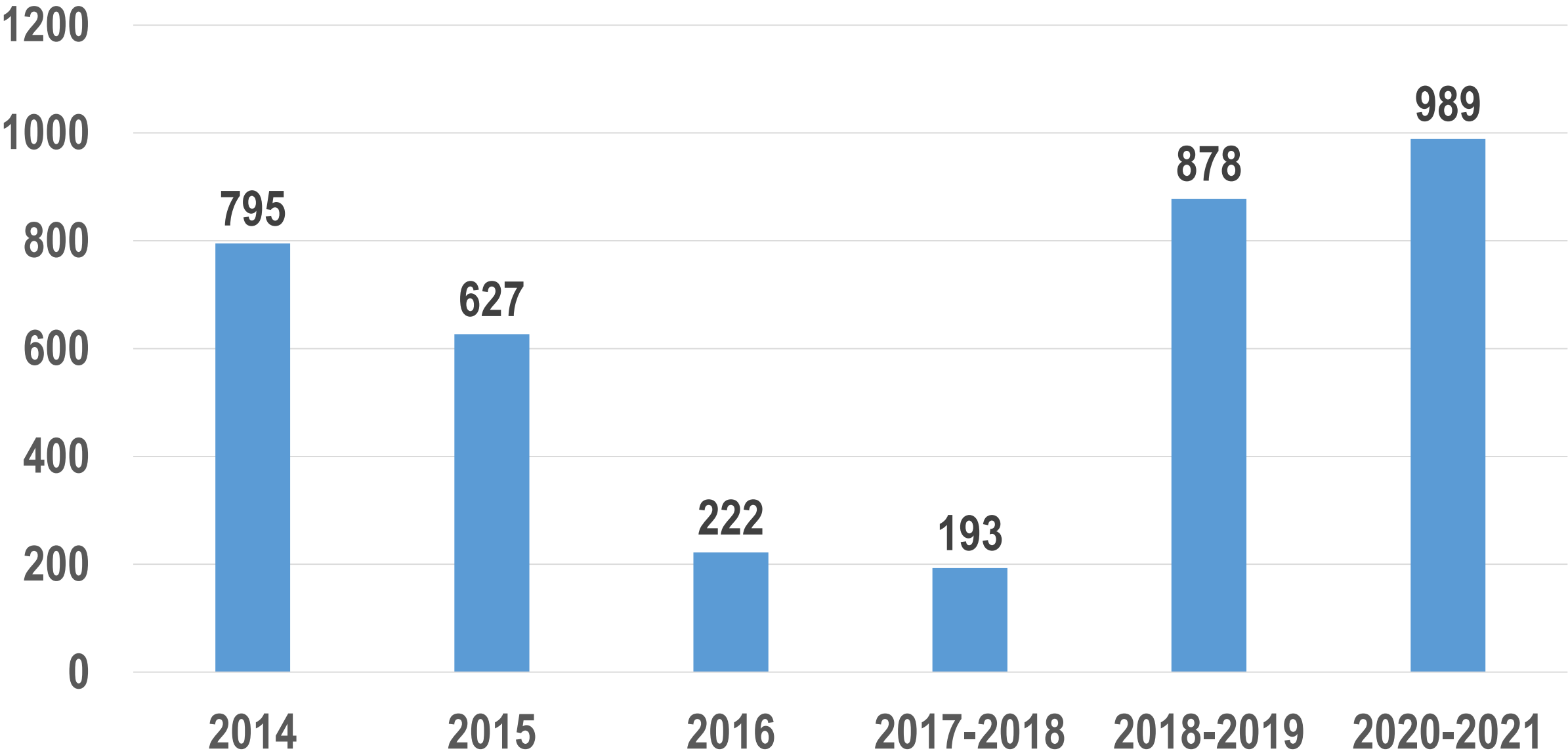
Supply and Distribution of Cocoa Seedlings by Province.



Supply of Assorted fruit Tees



Supply Grafted Citrus



VINAKA

Fiji Meat Industry Board

“Linking Paddock to Plate”

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Brief History & Overview
- Finance
- Key Issues
- Key Strategies
- Conclusion

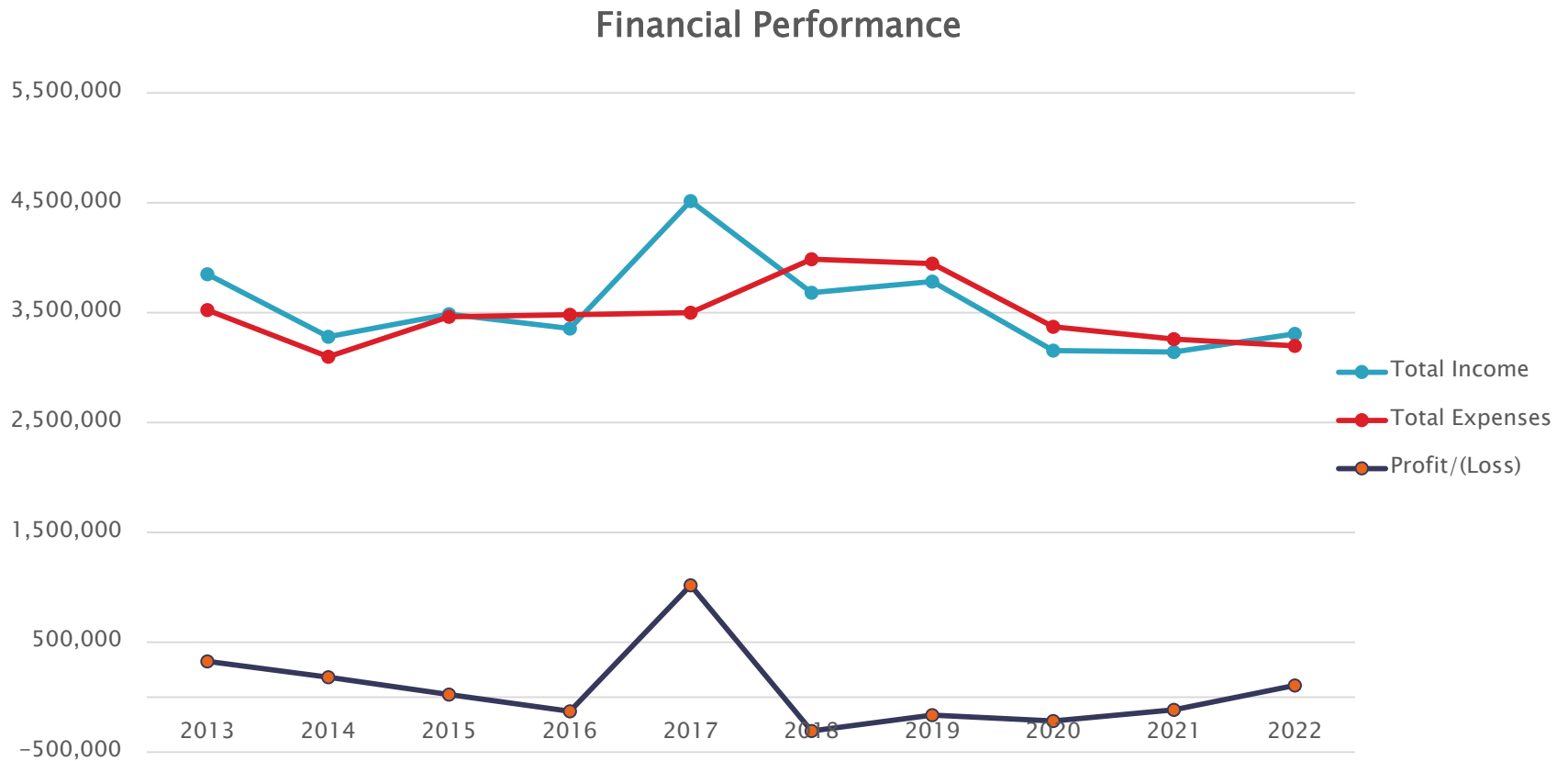
BRIEF HISTORY & OVERVIEW

- FMIB was established under the Fiji Meat Industry ACT 237 of 1970, Suva abattoir was established at Nasinu, Nine Miles in 1976 to cater for cattle, pigs, goats and sheep slaughtering services.
- Vuda Abattoir was established at Vuda Point in 1983.
- FMIB is committed to provide slaughtering and processing services in facilities that are internationally benchmarked for safety, hygiene and quality.
- FMIB is a public enterprise and must operate commercially.
- FMIB directly reports to Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Public Enterprise.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

- The low slaughter fee and decline in throughput continues to be the major factor in the loss situation over the years.
- To earn supplementary income, FMIB introduced delivery charges and chiller fees in 2022 which has contributed to additional cashflow.
- The Company has a strong cashflow position now compared to past years as Company has minimal debt with high receivables that are collected on timely basis.
- However the increasing cost of operations and the increase in minimum wage rate has increased FMIB's operational cost in 2023.
- The annual reports for 2019 & 2020 – printed and delivered to Ministry of public enterprise.
- The Accounts for financial year 2022 has been audited and signed accounts provided to MPE, MOA, Lenders, Banks.
- The annual reports for 2021 and 2022 ready for parliament.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE cont'd



FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE cont'd

Financial Dashboard

2013–2022

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total Income	3,851,263	3,282,080	3,487,415	3,355,282	4,517,655	3,681,030	3,784,809	3,154,176	3,143,363.62	3,306,729
Total Expenses	3,524,282	3,099,109	3,463,263	3,482,508	3,499,491	3,986,784	3,947,750	3,371,147	3,259,109.88	3,198,592
Profit/(Loss)	326,981	182,971	24,152	(127,226)	1,018,164	(305,754)	(162,941)	(216,971)	(115,746)	108,136
Total Current Assets	920,241	1,010,306	887,816	731,293	1,735,866	1,462,021	1,200,061	994,758	808,144	1,050,702
Total Non Current Assets	2,106,686	2,068,222	2,049,228	1,873,805	1,640,509	1,903,414	33,656,079	33,828,618	34,159,451	34,266,448
Total Assets	3,026,927	3,078,528	2,937,044	2,605,098	3,376,375	3,365,435	34,856,140	34,823,376	34,967,595	35,317,150
Total Current Liabilities	399,268	486,838	417,400	387,864	442,181	591,947	553,262	494,969	582,260	1,495,784
Total Non Current Liabilities	1,427,124	1,208,184	1,259,186	1,084,002	782,798	927,846	720,177	962,677	1,135,351	1,959,031
Total Liabilities	1,826,392	1,695,022	1,676,586	1,471,866	1,224,979	1,519,793	1,273,439	1,457,646	1,717,611	3,454,815
Total Equity	1,200,535	1,383,506	1,260,458	1,133,232	2,151,396	1,845,642	33,582,701	33,365,730	33,249,984	31,862,335
Financial Ratios	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Profitability Ratio – Net Profit Ratio	8%	6%	1%	–4%	23%	–8%	–4%	–7%	–4%	3%
Profitability Ratio – Return on Assets	10.80%	5.94%	0.82%	–4.88%	30.16%	–9.09%	–0.47%	–0.62%	–0.33%	0.31%
Current Ratio	2.30	2.08	2.13	1.89	3.93	2.47	2.17	2.01	1.39	0.70
Debt Ratio	0.60	0.55	0.57	0.56	0.36	0.45	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.10

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE cont'd

Financial Dashboard						
2018-2023						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 YTD	2023 YTD
Total Income	3,681,030	3,784,809	3,154,176	3,143,364	1,251,697	1,225,212
Total Expenses	3,986,784	3,947,750	3,371,147	3,259,110	1,320,741	1,317,963
Profit/(Loss)	(305,754)	(162,941)	(216,971)	(115,746)	(69,044)	(92,750)
Total Current Assets	1,455,999	1,200,061	994,758	808,144	907,458	1,056,694
Total Non-Current Assets	1,903,414	33,656,079	33,828,618	34,159,451	34,211,105	34,368,834
Total Assets	3,359,413	34,856,140	34,823,376	34,967,595	35,118,563	35,425,528
Total Current Liabilities	585,925	553,262	494,969	582,260	755,210	1,661,758
Total Non-Current Liabilities	927,846	720,177	962,677	1,135,351	1,182,415	2,160,158
Total Liabilities	1,513,771	1,273,439	1,457,646	1,717,611	1,937,624	3,821,916
Total Equity	1,845,642	33,582,701	33,365,730	33,249,984	33,180,939	31,603,611
Financial Ratios	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Profitability Ratio -Net Profit Ratio	-8%	-4%	-7%	-4%	-6%	-8%
Profitability Ratio -Return on Assets	-9.10%	-0.47%	-0.62%	-0.33%	-0.20%	-0.26%
Current Ratio	2.48	2.17	2.01	1.39	1.20	0.64
Debt Ratio	0.45	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.11

KEY ISSUES FACED BY FMIB

- Slaughter Fees
- Meat Act Review
- Livestock throughput
- Relocation

SLAUGHTER FEE REVIEW

- The last review of the slaughter fee was done in 2005 and since then the cost of inputs and labor have increased substantially.
- The number of cattle's and pigs slaughtered at the abattoirs have decreased significantly with 2022 recording only 9,758 cattle and 11,618 pigs slaughtered.
- FMIB needs 20,000 cattle and 30,000 pigs for breakeven slaughter operations.
- Fresh consultations with butchers have also been carried out and 59% butchers agree for increase whilst 18% have not responded.

- **Reasons for Slaughter fee increase are:**
 - ✓ Increase in cost of operations
 - ✓ Aged Abattoir, plant and equipment
 - ✓ Maintenance of Food Safety Standard
 - ✓ Address Odor from Plant
 - ✓ Decreased throughput
 - ✓ new minimum wages regulations

SLAUGHTER FEE REVIEW cont'd

➤ Proposed Slaughter Fee

Livestock	Current Rate (VEP)	Proposed Rate (VEP)
Cattle	\$0.37/kg	\$0.57/kg
Pig	\$0.55/kg	\$0.75/kg
Sheep	\$0.50/kg	\$1.00/kg
Goat	\$0.24/kg	\$1.00/kg

- The proposed slaughter fee increase is based on the dressed weight for livestock. The cattle and pigs are proposed to increase by \$0.20 per kg. The sheep is proposed to increase by \$0.50 per kg and goats to increase by \$0.76 per kg.
- Approximately \$650,000 revenue will be generated from the increase.

SLAUGHTER FEE REVIEW cont'd

➤ **Benefits to FMIB & Stakeholders**

- ✓ FMIB will be able to make at least 10% return on operations.
- ✓ Improve and maintain food safety and food hygiene (HACCP)
- ✓ Improve staff welfare
- ✓ Upgrade and maintain abattoirs
- ✓ Improve financial performance
- ✓ FMIB will not rely on government assistance.
- ✓ Look into more investment opportunities.

MEAT ACT REVIEW

- The meat act review (1969) – review outstanding.
- Some of the major amendments needed in meat act from FMIB perspective are as follows.
- ✓ Discourage bush slaughter for commercial purposes
- ✓ Butcher surveillance rights to be extended to FMIB – also able to monitor and restrict bush slaughter.
- ✓ Carcass to be classified by grade and not class.
- ✓ Slaughter fee review to be approved by the Board as and when needed and not through cabinet decision.
- ✓ FAO has done a preliminary review of the meat act and the report is available with MOA.
- ✓ FMIB proposes two separate legislation during meat act review, one for FMIB and one for meat industry in general.

MEAT ACT REVIEW cont'd

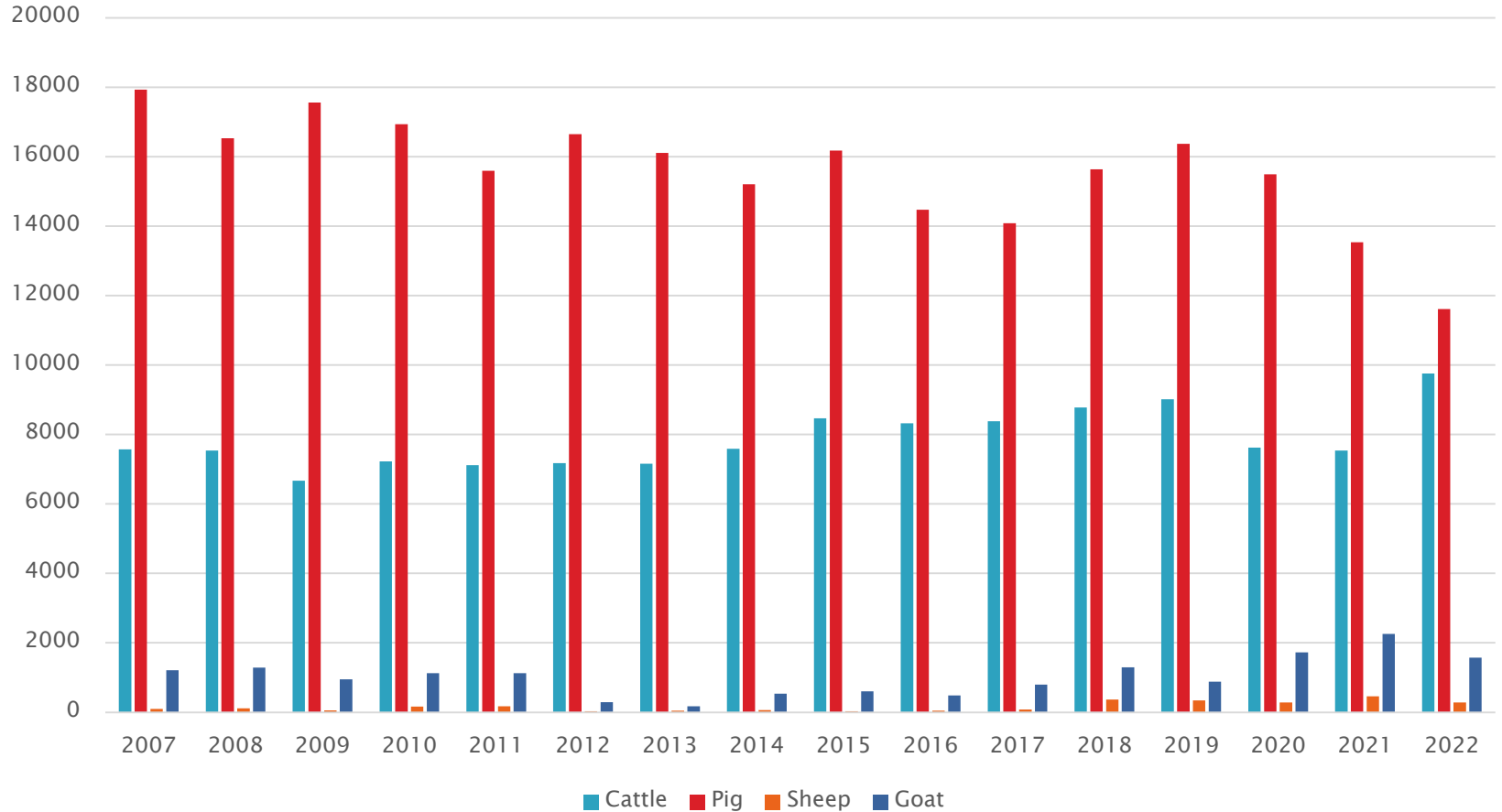
- ✓ Payment of Carcass to be made on grades.
- ✓ Only the Carcass is weighed and paid to the farmers.
- ✓ Offals are not compensated by the butchers to farmers and FMIB is not able to charge cleaning fee.
- ✓ Reconsider restrictions on female slaughter in the act.

LIVESTOCK THROUGHPUT

- ✓ Decline in throughput continues to be one of the major factors affecting the operations and profitability of abattoir operations.
- ✓ FMIB currently receives on average of 10,000 cattles and 11,000 pigs for slaughter yearly.
- ✓ However 20,000 cattle and 30,000 pigs are required to make breakeven for abattoir operations.
- ✓ Small Holder farms are being assisted by Ministry of Agriculture, however more assistance needs to be provided to the farmers in order to increase throughput.

LIVESTOCK THROUGHPUT cont'd

LIVESTOCK THROUGHPUT



LIVESTOCK THROUGHPUT cont'd

Year	Cattle		Pig		Sheep		Goat	
	No	Weight (t)	No	Weight (t)	No	Weight (t)	No	Weight (t)
2007	7575	1908	17936	977	99	1.03	1207	13.62
2008	7541	1880	16532	891	111	1.23	1283	13.83
2009	6668	1680	17563	946	57	0.65	946	11.28
2010	7223	1858	16934	974	167	1.98	1129	12.63
2011	7121	1942	15599	898	177	2.82	1129	12.32
2012	7174	1833	16655	980	27	0.41	293	3.30
2013	7160	1849	16109	967	50	0.61	169	1.92
2014	7589	1859	15208	887	64	0.91	538	6.6
2015	8471	2042	16181	977	33	0.39	603	7.56
2016	8327	2240	14473	952	47	1.00	486	7.08
2017	8381	2068	14083	917	84	1.23	801	8.6
2018	8775	2156	15636	1004	368	7.07	1298	10.5
2019	9019	2163	16376	1018	338	3.59	884	10.32
2020	7621	1788	15498	975	281	4.57	1728	18.99
2021	7539	1763	13539	863	464	5.23	2259	25.28
2022	9758	2237	11618	717	283	6.67	1570	17.37

RELOCATION PROPOSAL

- The Suva Abattoir now has been in the heart of Nakasi and the general operations and odor from Rendering plant creates nuisance for the community which can create health issues.
- Increasing development and population around the area and FMIB's strategic plan,
- Minsiter for Agriculture has instructed FMIB to treat relocation as a priority
- Options are being evaluated with a possible site identified.
- Negotiations started
- Further meetings and analysis will be done to confirm relocation site.

KEY STRATEGIES

- 5 year Strategic Plan completed and approved by Board.
- HACCP Certification – Grade 3 level now and working towards Grade 4 – certification by HACCP Australia
- Website for FMIB done
- Rebranding – In progress

CONCLUSION & DISCUSSION

- FMIB Board & Management committed to resolving issues faced.
- Offer hygiene & compliant slaughtering facility.
- Upgrade the abattoirs
- Offer meat training opportunities to workers.
- Improve staff welfare
- Improve animal welfare
- FMIB is also committed to be efficient and profitable for the shareholder.

THANK

YOU !





MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE



Sheep Research Unit Animal Health & Production





Food & Nutrition Security



Sustainable Agriculture
Livelihoods and Poverty
Alleviation



Climate Risk, Resilience
and Sustainable Land
Management

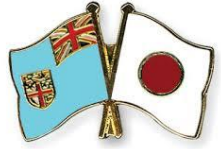


Commercial Agriculture
Development

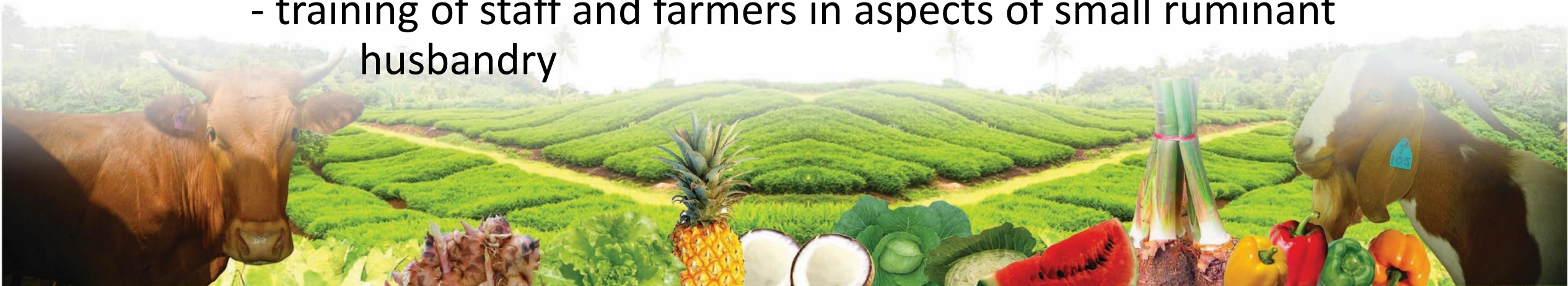


Quality Public Sector
Performance and Service
Delivery

NQS Brief



- Station was established in 1980s with important roles to play in the expansion of the national small ruminant population through the
 - provision of breeding stock to farmers wishing to enter the industry
 - implementation of research programs to address issues faced by small ruminant farmers, and
 - training of staff and farmers in aspects of small ruminant husbandry



Stations and Land Areas



NO	Station	Locality	District	Province	Land in Ha	Land Area in Acres
1.	Nawaicoba Sheep Station	Nawaicoba	Raviravi	Nadroga/Navosa	391.93	968.49
2.	Seaqaqa Sheep Station	Seaqaqa	Sasa	Macuata	60.22	148.81
3.	Batiri Sheep Station	Batiri	Wailevu West	Macuata	80.38	198.62
4.	Mua Sheep Station	Mua	Wainikeli	Cakaudrove	369.22	912.39



Sheep Breeding – BUDGET

No	Capital Project	Station	2022-23	2023-24
1	Sheep Breeding Programme	NQS/BRS/SQRS/MRS	\$ 466,000	\$ 400,000

Station	Budget
NQS	\$ 266,224.93
BRS	\$ 76,243.99
MRS	\$ 42,314.09
SQRS	\$ 15,216.98
TOTAL	\$ 400,000.00



NQS Staffing

Total Staff – 9

Established – 2 (AO – 1 & AA – 1)

Unestablished – 7 (1 stockman, 1 storeman, 1 field assistant, 1 mechanic, 3 labourers)

Vacant – 2 (CO – 1, stockman – 1)





Food & Nutrition Security



Sustainable Agriculture
Livelihoods and Poverty
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Climate Risk, Resilience
and Sustainable Land
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Commercial Agriculture
Development

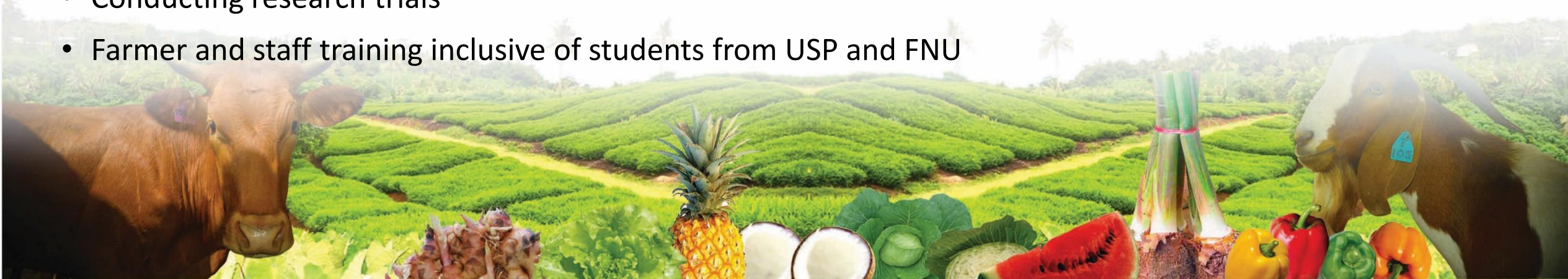


Quality Public Sector
Performance and Service
Delivery

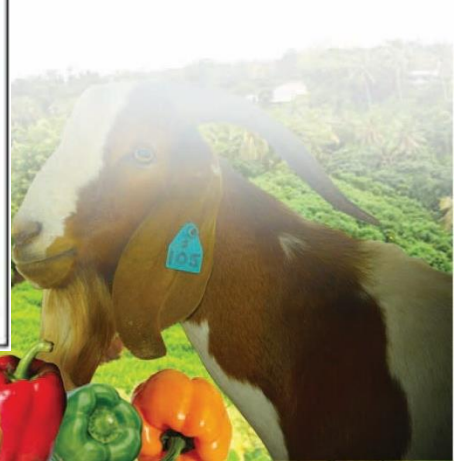
Activities of Sheep Research



- Breeding and breed evaluations (Adaptability, growth performances and production parameters).
- Supplying of quality breeding stock to farmers – 345 breeding stock (August) (NQS – 259 stock to 70 farmers; SQRS – 71 stock & Mua – 15 stock)
- Disease control and management – Vaccination Program against CLA
- Execution of best animal welfare and good farm management practices (Livestock rearing, breeding, nutrition enhancement, health, husbandry and management practices)
- Nutrition management and improvements (Pasture, fodder, mineral supplements (UMB), concentrates)
- Conducting research trials
- Farmer and staff training inclusive of students from USP and FNU



Layout of Nawaicoba Quarantine Station



Genetics & Breeds



Sheep

Classification	Fiji Fantastic	Dorper	F1 (FF X D)	F2 (F1 x D)	Total
Breeding Ewe	255	8	243	42	548
Breeding Ram	75	9	53	9	146
Lamb Male	115	4	89	10	218
Lamb Female	117	3	105	10	235
Total	562	24	490	71	1,147

Cattle

Breed	Numbers
F1 senepol	20



Issues	Way forward
1. Health Problems (worm issues)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R&D on anthelmintic studies and practices Reducing mortalities with good farm management practices
2. Climate risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crossbreeding to produce resilient adaptable breeds
3. Deteriorating Quarters & office conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocation of funding in this area
4. Station Infrastructure upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More funding to upgrade infrastructure for northern sheep stations





Food & Nutrition Security



Sustainable Agriculture
Livelihoods and Poverty
Alleviation



Climate Risk, Resilience
and Sustainable Land
Management



Commercial Agriculture
Development

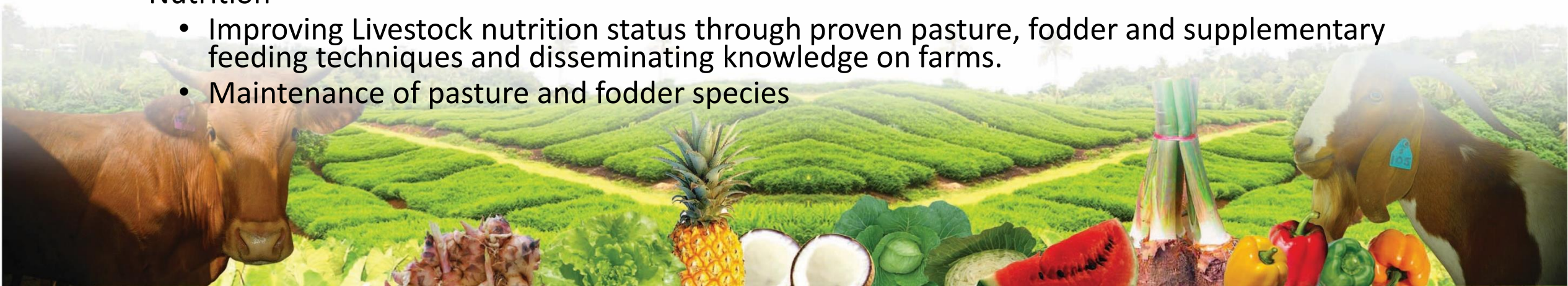


Quality Public Sector
Performance and Service
Delivery



Livestock Research Plans – KEY AREAS

- Participatory Research Work
 - Local academic institutions [USP and FNU]
 - Overseas livestock Research organisations – FAO, ACIAR, JICA and with other country ambassadors
- Genetics
 - Introduction of Laparoscopic AI in sheep
 - Controlled and Focussed Breeding program to maintain national nucleus breeds
 - Crossbreeding Program [Improved x Local stock to establish climate resilient breeds]
- Management
 - Improving livestock performances by enhancing husbandry and management practices considering farm animal welfare (subjected to research trial)
- Nutrition
 - Improving Livestock nutrition status through proven pasture, fodder and supplementary feeding techniques and disseminating knowledge on farms.
 - Maintenance of pasture and fodder species





Vinaka Vakalevu





Ministry of Agriculture & Waterways

Hon. Tomasi Tunabuna

Assistant Minister for Agriculture & Waterways

Sigatoka River Dredging, Sigatoka River Mouth

26th September 2023

Bula vinaka to you all!

Background

- The Sigatoka Watershed lies in the two province of Nadroga/Navosa. It is one of the five Watersheds in Viti Levu located in the mid-south west of the island, the drainage basin area covers 1,405km² with the river 149km in length. It is the second largest rivers systems in Viti Levu.
- A total of more than 31,691 [estimated projections -2015] people live in the watershed. Lower reaches of Sigatoka River consist of silt, sand and gravel with rapid built up of alluvial deposits due to the gully and channel erosion in the middle and upper reaches of Sigatoka River
- In January 2009 long duration extreme rainfalls in the highland caused massive flooding in both Ba and Sigatoka Rivers with resulting heavy sedimentation of the rivers. SOPAC initiated an economic cost study on the losses that revealed total losses of over F\$86 million of which about F\$31 million (35%) were household losses and about F456million (65%) business losses. The same type of loses was experienced in March,2012 when major flooding of the lower end of the Sigatoka River occurred.
- The Ministry of Waterways has planned the dredging of Sigatoka River from the River mouth to just bifurcation of Kulukulu approximately 3.5km.
- The 1st stage of dredging works starts from CS -A to CS -D approximately 780m with the volume dredged of 310,000m² in 2016. The Sigatoka River Dredging [Phase 1] for additional works from CH-D to CH-I and volume dredged is 210,000m³.
- The 2nd Stage of Dredging works starts from CH-I to CH-AA with the volume to be dredged of 750,000m³.

PROJECT PHOTOS

OUTLINED DREDGING PHASES



Vinaka Vakalevu!



Ministry of Agriculture & Waterways

Hon. Tomasi Tunabuna

Assistant Minister for Agriculture & Waterways

Vunibau Riverbank Protection Works, Navua River

Vunibau Village, Serua

25th September 2023

Bula vinaka, and a very Good Afternoon to you all!

Background

- The Ministry of Agriculture have constructed the river bank protection structures upstream of Vunibau Village over the year in 1987. The stone riprap type revetment was used for the protection of the riverbank. Additional land reclamation was also conducted downstream of Vunibau Village, during the 2006, Navua River dredging work to cater for the growing population in Vunibau Village.
- However due to the continuous wave action at the Navua River mouth and flooding of Navua River on previous occasion, soil erosion has appeared at the riverbank along the reclaimed areas. There is an urgent need for riverbank protection works to prevent further erosion and also protect villages settling in these areas.
- The riverbank protection work, with the **total length of 480m**, has been constructed along the Navua River, near Vunibau Village **on 14th February, 2018 and successfully completed on 15th December, 2018 on the Total Costing amount-\$561,292.23** The Protection work will comprise of boulder revetment and Reno Mattresses.

COMPLETION PHOTOS

RENO MATTRESSES



BOULDERS REVETMENT



Appendix 3

Summary Brief



Information Brief – for Standing Committee on Natural Resources

Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) Annual Report 2018-2019

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) Annual Report for this financial year highlights the Ministry's performance in accordance with the COP and Annual Budget. This report consist of details of performance measures from 1st August 2018 to 31st July, 2019.
- 1.2 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. The Ministry's Strategic Priorities which is aligned to the 5-year-20-year National Development Plan (NDP) includes:
- Improve food and nutrition security for all Fijians; ○ Increase farmer household income for sustainable livelihoods;
 - Increase adoption of sustainable resource management and climate smart agriculture; ○ Establish and improve commercial agriculture; and ○ Improve quality public sector performance and service delivery.

2.0 MoA Key Statistics & Analysis

- 2.1 Total budget allocation for the fiscal year 2018-2019 amounted to **\$96.8 million** compared to \$74.4 million in August 2016-July 2017 fiscal year, indicating an increase of \$22.4 million.
- 2.2 Actual Expenditure for the fiscal year 2018-2019 amounted to **\$64,739.9 million** compared to \$56.1 million in Aug 2016-July 2017 fiscal year, an increase of \$64,683.8 million.
- 2.3 Ministry of Agriculture (crop & livestock) contributions to GDP in 2018-2019 fiscal year increased to **\$630.2 million** compared to \$500.8 million in August 2016 – July 2017 fiscal year, an increase of \$129.4 million.
- 2.4 Agriculture total production rose to **327,824 mt** in 2018-2019 fiscal year compared to 255,435 mt in August 2016 – July 2017.
- 2.5 In terms of trade, Agriculture Export increased to **\$234 million** in 2018-2019 fiscal year compared to \$194.0 million in Aug 2016 – July 2017 fiscal year, an increase of \$40.0 million, whilst Agriculture Import rose drastically to **\$766 million** in 2018-2019 fiscal year compared to \$645 million in Aug 2016 – July 2017 fiscal year, an increase of \$121.0 million.

3.0 MoA Financial Statement

Independent Auditor's Report opinion noted below:

- 3.1 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. The Ministry did not account government's contribution in the Trading and Manufacturing Account, given that the financial activities for this programme



was recorded under the Trading and Manufacturing Account. As a result, the Trading and Manufacturing Account Equity balance were understated by the same amount.

- 3.2 The Ministry was unable to provide relevant supporting documents to validate the basis on which the unit cost of livestock are calculated.

Page 1 of 2

- 3.3 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 were overstated by \$9,427.

- 3.4 The miscellaneous revenue balance of **\$106,213** worth of agency revenue generated directly from the normal course of the Ministry's operation. Despite the existence of specific general ledger allocation to record agency revenue, the Ministry posted the receipts into the miscellaneous revenue allocation. As the result, the miscellaneous revenue balance were overstated by \$106,213.

- 3.5 The Ministry did not pay the Fiji National University (FNU) levy for the financial year ended 31 July 2019 as required under Section 19 of the FNU Training Levy Order. As a result, total expenditure were understated by **\$103,073**.

- 3.6 Weak internal controls over procurement processes and revenue relates to the anomalies in the procurement process and control weaknesses in the receipting process. This results in payments being made without receipts of goods and services and signing off on delivery documents without receiving items and advance payment for goods and services.

4.0 Sources

1. For more information on the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) Annual Report 2018-2019 , access here: <https://www.parliament.gov.fj/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Ministry-of-AgricultureAnnual-Report-2018%E2%80%932019.pdf>

23 August 2023

Disclaimer

This Information Brief was prepared for the **Standing Committee on Natural Resources** upon request. This note should not be relied on as a substitute for specific advice. Other sources and information should be consulted. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate, the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji will not accept any liability for any loss or damage which may be incurred by any person acting in reliance upon the information. The Parliament of the Republic of Fiji accepts no responsibility for any references or links to, or the content of, information maintained by third parties. For further information please email: Siteri Gaunalomani on email siteri.gaunalomani@legislature.gov.fj or siteri.gaunalomani@parliament.gov.fj

Appendix 4

Written Responses from
Ministry of Agriculture

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE 2018 – 2019 ANNUAL REPORT SCRUTINY

QUESTIONS AND SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE:

1) PAGE 12 – AGRICULTURE KEY NUMBERS

Activities and figures are listed but no explanation provided, Can the Ministry clarify?

The Ministry of Agriculture received a total budget allocation of \$96.8 million (FJD) in 2018/19 financial year which was an increase of 12% from 2017/18 financial year. At the end of the financial year, 67% (\$64.7 million) of the total budget was utilized.

With the \$64.7 million utilized in this financial year, the non-sugarcane agriculture sector was able to increase contribution to national economy through the following areas;

- Agriculture Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
 - Increased Agriculture GDP contribution from \$597.2 million in 2018 to \$630 million in 2019. This is a growth of 5.5%. The growth was mainly contributed by the significant increase in output of major commodities such as kava, taro, cassava, vegetables, pineapple, banana and papaya.
- Agriculture Production
 - The total gross volume of agriculture production (crop and livestock) in 2019 recorded 327,824 tonnes which was an increase of 4.4 percent as compared to previous year. Crop production has increased by 5.9% which was mainly due to increase in production of major commodities such as Cassava, Taro, Vegetables, Coconut and Yaqona just to name a few.
 - Livestock production registered a decline in production output by 1.4% in 2019. Except for pig, poultry (broiler and layers) showed an increase in output.
- Agriculture Trade
 - In 2019, the country's earnings from agricultural exports (in both fresh/chilled and value added), which accounted for 20% (234 million FJD) of the total domestic exports, increased by 7.1%.
 - A positive growth was also recorded for export of only fresh/chilled crop and livestock, which accounted for 7.2% of the total domestic export earnings, has also increased by 11%. Fiji recorded a continuous export growth of fresh/chilled commodities over the past 1 consecutive years (2017-2018).
 - The top fresh/chilled crop and livestock produce were kava, taro, tumeric, mixture of spices, mixture of spices, vegetables, meat of chicken, eggs, cassava, eggplant, pawpaw and ginger with a combined share of 97% of the total value of fresh/chilled crop and livestock exports. The major export destinations for fresh/chilled produce were United States, New Zealand, and Australia,

neighbouring Pacific Island countries, Canada, Hawaii, Germany and United Kingdom.

- The expenditures for crop and livestock imports in both the form of fresh/chilled and value added was \$766 million FJD in 2019 which was a decline of 2.1 percent as compared to 2018. This constitutes 12.7% of the country's total imports. Wheat, rice, meat of sheep, potatoes onions and meat of chicken were the leading crop and livestock import commodities. Australia was the major supplier of wheat, while Vietnam for rice.

2) PAGE 13 – KEY CROP PERFORMANCE – 2018 – 2019

(These questions are relevant for both crops and livestock as listed).

Activities and figures are listed but no explanation provided. Can the Ministry clarify?

3) Page 13 Dalo Production

- a) The breakdown of varieties, volume and destination (export) is needed. Can the Ministry please explain more?

A total of 51,509 tons of dalo was produced in 2018/19 of which 52% was produced in Central Division, 39% in Northern Division, 5% in Eastern and 4% in Western Division. The production for dalo recorded a 4.5% increase in 2019, i.e. from 49,271 tons to 51,509 tons in 2019.

Out of the total dalo produced in Fiji in this financial year, 10% (5,126 tons) was exported to major countries such as New Zealand, Australia, United States, Hawaii and Pacific Island countries. Dalo export injected a total of \$25 million (FJD) to Fiji's economy in the reference year which was an increase of 9.8%.

An estimated of 90% of total dalo production which is around 46,358 tons is anticipated to be utilized locally for home consumption, sales, social obligations and other areas.

Production by varieties – With Crop Research, on volume of dalo varieties produced and distributed to farmers

- b) How much is the value of domestic sales for dalo?

The 46,358 tons is anticipated for local consumption with an estimated value \$92.7 Million.

4) Page 13 Cassava Production

- a) How much was the value of the domestic sales?
- b) How much in terms of volume and cost is through sales to local hotels? (Both crops, vegetables and fruits).
- c) Can the Ministry please provide details of purchasing price and volume grown by Divisions or in geographical locations for both Cassava and Dalo?
- d) Apart from fresh and frozen cassava and dalo, what other products were developed out of the respective commodities? (Value adding). Cassava flour, roti, bakery and other pastry products.

In 2018/19, total volume of 76,030 tons of cassava was produced from the 4 geographical divisions in Fiji of which production was dominated by Central Division.

- Central Division: 33,378.8 (43.90%)
- Eastern Division: 4,196.5 (5.52%)
- Northern Division: 20,189.0 (26.55%)
- Western Division: 18,265.9 (24.02%)

The ongoing government investment, increase in population and market opportunities has boosted the production of cassava and reflected a 5.1% increase as compared to the previous year.

Fiji exported 1,141 tons of cassava worth of \$2.2 million (FJD) in 2019 to major destinations such as New Zealand, Australia, United States, Canada, Hawaii and other Pacific Island Countries

Value of the domestic sales- TBC

Volume and value sold to local hotels (fruits and vegetable) – TBC with AgTrade

Purchasing price by divisions- Crop Extension

5) Page 13 Ginger Production

On export market, please clarify the export volume for processed ginger and fresh ginger respectively.

- Out of the fresh exports, please indicate the volume sold as organic.
- Processed ginger – Can the Ministry please provide a list of export destination apart from Australia.

A total of 9,398 tons of ginger was produced in 2018/19, of which more than 80% was cultivated and harvested from Central Division.

For ginger exports, the breakdown for 2018-19 are as follows;

Table 1: Summary of Ginger Export

Trade	Commodity	Value (FJD)		Volume (kg)	
		2018	2019	2018	2019
Export	Fresh/Green Ginger	\$ 2,204,452	\$ 1,203,815	375,745	185,941
	Processed Ginger	\$ 6,297,645	\$ 6,696,336	789,087	821,212

Table 2: Ginger Export by Major Destination

Export Commodity	Country	Volume (kg)	
		2018	2019
Fresh/Green Ginger	United States	201,012	67,923
	Australia	127,045	57,900
	New Zealand	40,571	57,709
	Netherlands	864	2,000
	Nauru	862	343
Processed Ginger	New Zealand	226,450	181,089
	Australia	88,567	195,893
	United States	194,740	251,655
	Netherlands	221,180	167,320
	Canada	58,200	56,500
	Germany	60,060	13,500
	United Kingdom		4,010

c) Can the Ministry please provide details of ginger farmers in the North and Eastern Divisions (Maritime Islands) apart from Viti Levu?

The provision of ginger seeds to the Eastern Division (Cicia and Gau) was vested with few farmers who were interested to produce organic ginger. While ginger production was good, the inconsistency of shipping schedules and the shipping cost of harvested mature ginger to the mainland was expensive.

d) What is the Ministry doing to improve the development and marketing of ginger and ginger products?

The interventions provided to improve development and marketing of ginger are;

- Provision of seed materials
- Ginger Land Preparation
- Procurement of Agro-inputs,
- Procurement of Ginger Vats & Thermometer.
- Capacity Building and Consultation

6) Page 13 Pawpaw Production

In 2018/19, total volume of 4,005 tons of pawpaw was produced from the 4 geographical divisions in Fiji. A total of 271 tons of pawpaw was exported in 2019 to major destinations such as New Zealand, Australia, Japan and Canada.

a) Does the Ministry have a record of local sales particularly from the hotel industries? **The Ministry did not capture this data.**

- b) Are there any constraints in terms of cargo space for exporters?

Freight space

7) Page 13 Yaqona Production

- a) What was the volume and value of local sales as compared to export figures?

In 2019, Fiji exported 328 tons of fresh and processed kava which was worth \$32.5 million (FJD). This was a 15% increase in volume and 5% increase in value as compared to 2018. In terms of major export destinations, 69% of total kava export goes to USA Market, while the remaining 31% is shared to other countries such as New Zealand, Hawaii and other Pacific Island Countries.

- b) Does the export include processed yaqona products?

Yaqona Processing and marketing Centre - \$85,000

- c) Volume and Value of imported yaqona from Vanuatu and other Pacific Islands.

On the other hand, Fiji also imported 328 tons (\$20.7 million) of kava, whereby 315 tons alone is from Vanuatu.

- d) What financial assistance is available in the Ministry and other lending agencies to help the farmers in increasing production?

Total volume for yaqona 9558.5mt in which 152.9mt was recorded the Ministry of Agriculture Capital intervention. Total value is \$949.5million where \$14.5million is from our Capital Intervention funding.

8) Page 13 Pineapple Production

A total of 7,158 tons of pineapple was produced in Fiji in 2019, which was an increase of 19% as compared to 2018. Fiji mainly export pineapple to NZ.

- a) Does the Ministry have a record of local sales particularly the hotel industries?
b) What is the Ministry doing to increase the pineapple production?

These are some of the budgeted activities targeted to increase pineapple production. Supply of planting materials, Agro-inputs provided on subsidized rates, land clearing.

- c) Value adding – What is the Ministry doing promote value adding?

Pineapple Value adding machine -juice Extractor. \$12,000 and processing shed for Pineapple, \$25,200.

- 9)** The Ministry to please provide a list of local produces (crops, livestock, fruits and vegetables) with approved quarantine protocols by countries for export.

List of exporters to be included (the exporters are registered with BAF and MOAW).

10) Have the Ministry explored export opportunities? (PSIDS and New Destinations).

AgTrade is exploring new market opportunities with exporters, stakeholders and bilateral counterparts.

PAGE 14 - KEY LIVESTOCK PERFORMANCE 2018 – 2019

11) Pig Production

a. What was the production sufficiency volume not only for pigs but for all livestock products in Fiji?

Production Sufficiency – not only for pigs but for all livestock products in Fiji

Major Commodities	Items	Data Source	2018	2019
Poultry (Broiler)	Production (Tonnes)	MoA	35,499	34,188
	Export (Tonnes)	FBoS	296	335
	Import (Tonnes)	FBoS	4,126	4,539
	Self Sufficiency Ratio		90	89
Pork	Production (Tonnes)	MoA	1,425	1,752
	Export (Tonnes)	FBoS	0.4	0.5
	Import (Tonnes)	FBoS	362	188
	Self Sufficiency Ratio		80	90
Beef	Production (Tonnes)	MoA	3,587	2,794
	Export (Tonnes)	FBoS	9	2
	Import (Tonnes)	FBoS	3,493	2,693
	Self Sufficiency Ratio		51	51
Egg	Production (Tonnes)	MoA	9,148	11,329
	Export (Tonnes)	FBoS	453	534
	Import (Tonnes)	FBoS	186	73
	Self Sufficiency Ratio		103	104
Milk	Production (Tonnes)	MoA	11,767	10,767
	Export (Tonnes)	FBoS	98	23
	Import (Tonnes)	FBoS	12,807	10,288
	Self Sufficiency Ratio		48	51

b) Can the Ministry please provide details of the Volume and cost of local consumption for pigs?

The volume is 1752 tonnes and value is \$21,024,000.00.

c) What was the imported volumes and export destinations for each?

Fiji imported 188 tons of pork in 2019 mainly from Australia and New Zealand and usually export pork to neighboring Pacific Island Countries.

12) Page 14 Dairy Production

Please clarify the imported volumes/products and costs of these dairy products

Fiji imported a total of 18,847 tons of Dairy Products in 2019 which costed us \$108.7 million (FJD) mainly from NZ, Australia, Singapore and other Asian countries just to name a few.

Type of Imported Dairy Products	2019	
	Volume (kg)	Value (FJD)
Milk	10,288,175	61,316,807
Butter	1,769,578	18,901,533
Cheese	1,072,371	12,133,101
Cream	4,736,872	9,433,033
Ghee	415,175	5,252,770
Other buttermilk, curdled milk and cream, yoghurt	486,563	1,248,345
Whey	70,223	318,607
Yoghurt	8,946	105,602

13) Page 14 Poultry Production

Please clarify the imported volumes/products and costs of these poultry products

Fiji imported a total of 5,268 tons of Poultry Products in 2019 which costed us \$22.4 million (FJD) mainly from NZ, Australia and China.

Trade	Commodity	2019	
		Volume (kg)	Value (FJD)
Export	Meat of Chicken	335,483	2,449,969
	Eggs	533,861	2,422,644
	Duck Meat	9,431	78,349
Import	Meat of Chicken	4,538,830	15,129,470
	Live Chickens	492,868	4,314,967
	Prepared or preserved meat of chickens	125,020	1,301,408
	Eggs	72,631	1,236,950
	Duck Meat	39,257	397,110

14) Page 14 Goat Production

a) Is Fiji self-sufficient in goat production? Can the Ministry please explain?

Fiji is 98% self-sufficient in goat production.

b) What percentage ends up in the formal market?

Twenty percent (20%).

- c) Can the Ministry please provide details on the figures on the volume and also state the imported volume?

Production Data

Commodity	Division	Unit	2018	2019
Goat	Central / Eastern	Tonnes	33	83
	Northern	Tonnes	60	44
	Western	Tonnes	101	59
Total	Fiji	Tonnes	194	186

Import Data

Trade	Commodity	2019	
		Volume (kg)	Value (FJD)
Import	Goats	12	44,733
	Goat Meat	2,594	8,896
Import Total		2,606	53,629

15) Page 14 Beef Production

- a) Can the Ministry please provide an explanation on why there was no figure given on the volume and also state the imported volume.

Beef production of 2,749 tons is provided in the 2018/19 Annual Report.

- b) Is Fiji self-sufficient? Can the Ministry provide an explanation?

Fiji is not self-sufficient with Beef (Refer to table in Q11). Fiji imported 2,692 tons of fresh and processed beef in 2019.

- c) Clarify the Export destinations for beef products.

According to the trade data provided by Fiji Bureau of Statistics, the export of beef is mainly used for catering at High Seas (Airplanes).

17) Page 14 Sheep Production

- a) Is Fiji self-sufficient on sheep production? Can the Ministry provide an explanation?

Fiji recorded 2% Self- sufficiency ratio for Sheep Production. This reflects the high dependence on imported sheep meat for local demand.

c) Can the Ministry please clarify more on the imported volume?

Livestock Produce	Country of Origin	2019	
		Volume (kg)	Value (FJD)
Meat of sheep	New Zealand	2,498,309	25,876,112
	Australia	2,486,242	25,458,958

PAGE 16 – CROP EXTENSION DIVISION

18) Outcome 1.1 Maintaining Food Security through the Provision of Extension and Research Services both for Livestock and Crops:

- a) If the Ministry can clarify, how many are new farmers and how many are existing farmers?

Out of the 720 farmers assisted in 2018/2019, 216 were registered new farmers and 504 were existing farmers. These new farmers were recommended to be assisted after farmer consultation and field verification were carried out to confirm land ownership, land use capability, land suitability, and the ability and capability of the farmer involved. Any existing farmer can be assisted twice, if the farmer had been identified with proven records that he or she had excel to another level of value chain development that warrant Ministry's support in terms of Processing sheds, Value addition machines, infrastructure development or mechanization support.

- b) How effective is the monitoring system of the Ministry in the implementation of these projects on these selected farmers?

The Ministry's monitoring system in the implementation of these projects were carried out internally by the locality Officers at different stages during project implementation phases; These records are captured in the Quarterly Project Progress Report (QPPR) that is submitted from geo divisions on a quarterly basis to the Economic planning divisions. Currently, the Ministry has a Monitoring and Evaluation Unit that assists with Monitoring and Evaluation of these projects.

- c) How many of those selected are subsistence, semi – commercial and commercial farmers?

The distribution of these selected farmers were as follows;

288 were subsistence farmers, 300 were semi-commercial and 132 were commercial farmers respectively.

- d) Apart from assisting farmers in their production, is the Ministry also involved in facilitating market access?

The Ministry also facilitates market access to its farmers through partnership with exporters and agro processors, conduct market linkages trainings with other stakeholders, improve infrastructure and support with farm advisory service.

- e) **Rice program-** What is the progress of rice farming given the forms of assistance through machinery, seedlings, demonstration plots etc.?

The intervention through the rice program had impacted production to increase from 1121.8ha in 2018 to 1229.5ha in 2019 with a 5% increase in production dominated by the Northern Division farmers. Where distribution of the rice funding program were also directed to the Western and Central division. The assistance given had increased farmers participation and interest to increase rice production.

- f) Has this impacted Fiji's import level?
- Trade data had also indicated a decrease in import of rice from 40,613mt in 2018 to 37,379mt in 2019.
 - Local Fiji rice being sold in local municipal & supermarkets
- g) Can the Ministry list some of the challenges faced by farmers in the rice growing areas that hinders production?

Some of the identified challenges were;

- The high cost of agro-input
- Lack of mechanized farming where farmers have to resort to hiring labor.
- Labor intensive
- Limited availability of appropriate technology- mechanization for rice production (rice driller, rice harvester and portable rice mill).
- Lack of proper infrastructure
- Salt water intrusion in low lying areas

- h) What are some of the suggested solutions to address the above?

Some of the identified interventions that were implemented to encourage rice production were:

- Supply of Fertilizer to farmers on subsidy
- Mechanization program for the procurement of rice machines
- Establishment of Co-operative for Rice Farmers
- Improvement of existing structures- drainage, canals & flood gates.
- Improved data collection method

- i) Can the Ministry please clarify the 5 processing that were constructed and the 5 drying sheds (location and purpose)?

The Processing sheds were constructed on the following locations and for the following purpose.

Processing/Drying Shed	Location	Purpose
Drying Shed	Macuata – 3 Units	Coconut dryer facility
	Kadavu – 2 Units	Yaqona Dryer facility
Processing Shed	Cakaudrove – 1 Unit	Yaqona Pounding Shed
	Lomaiviti – 1 Unit	Yaqona drying & storage shed
	Taveuni – 2 Units	Yaqona & Dalo Post Harvest shed
	Tailevu – 1 Unit	Pineapple processing shed

19) Outcome 2.2 – Maintain And Improve Linkages of Farmers to Market Financial Services and Tourism Sector;

- a) Can the Ministry please provide the list of Financial Institutions and which farmers benefit from these lending institutions? Please provide in a tabulated format and by Divisions?

The promotional linkages of farmers to Financial Institutions and Tourism Sector is recognized by the Ministry as an important activity to create awareness and better informed community of services rendered to sustain rural agriculture. This is maintained through attendance of Tikina and Provincial Council meetings, Community awareness at village or community level and Agriculture Mini-shows where invitations are extended to Private Sectors, Lending institutions, and Stakeholders to showcase what they have at their disposal to support rural agriculture.

Divisions	Tikina Council Meeting	Provincial Council Meetings	Community Awareness	Agriculture Mini-Shows	Total
Northern	11	3	5	0	19
Central	19	5	5	1	30
Western	13	3	5	2	23
Eastern	12	3	4	2	21

Total	55	14	19	5	93
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- b) Can the Ministry also provide the total funding given by the Lending Institutions to each farmers and how were the funds being utilized?

One of the Ministry's advisory role, is to provide "On Farm Management Report" to any farmer or stakeholder that requires to approach a lending institution for loan support. The loan sought is to address farm and farmer limitations that is hindering farm production and productivity. In addition, a cropping program is also incorporated to imply the projected commodity or commodity combinations that would present expected inflow and outflow of income. Again this indicator provides a level of assurance to the lending institution whether or not to approve a loan. Our locality officers' play an important role to ensure that all projected activities are carried out as planned. All in all, the level of funding tend to vary depending on the scale of the farm, potential and intent.

20) Outcome 2.3 Ensuring Equal Access for Women and Youth in Agriculture

Can the Ministry please provide the different locations of women assisted under this program?

The Cottage programme support is specifically targeting women in rural & semi urban communities participating in agriculture. The activities of the program included the supply of voivoi, masi and floriculture planting materials, provision of necessary fertilizer, chemicals & farming tools, establishment of nurseries and the provision of capacity building through trainings, field trip and meetings.

A total of 6 clusters and 13 individual were assisted through this program and distribution is as tabulated below:

Program	No. Cluster Assited	No. Individual Assisted	Division	Province
Cottage Program	2	9	Central	Tailevu
	0	1	Eastern	Kadavu
	4	3	Northern	Cakaudrove
Total	6	13		

b) If the Ministry can provide a list of the 73 clusters that were established?

No	Cluster Name	Division	Province	District	Locality
1	Elshaddai Grp.	Central	Tailevu	Namalata	Naitutu
2	Tailevu North Floriculture	Central	Tailevu	Namalata	Naiyalayala
3	RKS Farm Nursery	Central	Tailevu	Sawakasa	RKS
4	Matacula Womens Club	Central	Tailevu	Namalata	Matacula
5	Natavea Womens Grp	Central	Naitasiri	Nabaitavo	Natavea
6	Waisausau Women's Group	Central	Rewa	Rewa	Rewa
7	Nakorovou Womens grp	Central	Serua	Serua	Nakorovou
8	Tubarua Womens grp Serua	Central	Serua	Serua	Tubarua
9	Marama	Central	Tailevu	Nayavu	Naituvativavatu
10	Nuku Masi Womens grp	Central	Tailevu	Nuku	Nuku
11	Ruci Tubuitamana	Central	Tailevu	Nayavu	Naqia
12	Sereima Roqica	Central	Tailevu	Namena	Lawaki
13	Sereima Roqica	Central	Tailevu	Namena	Lawaki
14	Sereima Roqica	Central	Tailevu	Namena	Lawaki
15	Women with Disability	Central	Rewa	Rewa	Burebasaga
16	Matacula Womens Club	Central	Tailevu	Namalata	Matacula
17	Ruci Tubuitamana	Central	Tailevu	Nayavu	Naqia
18	Seremaia Roqica	Central	Tailevu	Dawasamu	Lawaki
19	Sisilia Rakuila	Central	Tailevu	Dawasamu	Driti
20	Makereta Nakerea	Central	Tailevu	Nailega	Naibita
21	Lavenia Matalau	Central	Tailevu	Namalata	Nayawasara
22	My Seed My Harvest Cluster	Central	Tailevu	Namara	Waikete
23	Kesaia Wati	Central	Tailevu	Nayavu	Uluinavute
24	Sanaila Naduaono	Central	Tailevu	Nayavu	Nasaibitu Village
25	Viliame Bulimaibau	Central	Tailevu	Nayavu	Nayavu
26	Flower Lovers	Central	Rewa	Suva	Suva
27	Sunflower Floriculture Group	Central	Rewa	Toga	Koronivia
28	Muana Womens Club	Central	Rewa	Toga	Muana
29	Dream Empowers	Central	Rewa	Toga	Valelevu
30	Bangaldesh Womens Group 1	Western	Ba	Tavua	Bangaldesh Sett,
31	Bangaldesh Womens Group 2	Western	Ba	Tavua	Bangaldesh Sett,
32	Vanuakula Womens Group	Western	Ba	Tavua	Vanuakula
33	Exortic flowers	Western	Ba	Vuda	Wairabetia, Lautoka

34	Tunalia womens club	Western	Ba	Nadi	Tunalia
35	Unise Nasokia	Western	Ba	Nadi	Natalacake
36	Vika Susu	Western	Ba	Nadi	Navoci
37	Leba Cagi	Western	Ba	Nailaga	Nailaga, Ba
38	Anita Devi	Western	Ba	Vitogo	Saru, Lautoka
39	Ashyana	Western	Ba	Vitogo	Saru, Lautoka
40	Emi Lewaravu	Western	Ba	Vitogo	Gulbar Street
41	Mere Sauqaqa	Western	Ba	Vitogo	Lovu
42	Mrs. Qera	Western	Ba	Vitogo	Naikabula, Ba
43	Naaz Nursery	Western	Ba	Vitogo	Simla
44	Usha Singh	Western	Ba	Vitogo	Paipai Settlement
45	Alusio Vumainabuke	Western	Ba	Vuda	Vuda point
46	Kese Women's club	Western	Ba	Yasawa	Kese, Yasawa
47	Nasomo Womens group	Western	Ba	Yasawa	Nasomo Village
48	Navotua Women's club	Western	Ba	Yasawa	Navotua, Yasawa
49	Sisarina Nawaitauvou	Western	Ba	Yasawa	Navotua, Yasawa
50	Moreen Yunus	Western	Nadroga Navosa	Mavua	Olosara
51	Timaima Naikalawelawe	Western	Nadroga Navosa	Nokonoko	Tilivalevu
52	Tukuraki village	Western	Ba	Nadi	Tukuraki
53	Dawa Women Goup	Northern	Cakaudrove	Natewa	Dawa Village
54	Sanio Vuicakau	Northern	Cakaudrove	Tunuloa	Koronivonu
55	Wailiwaliwa Women`s Group	Northern	Macuata	Macuata	Macuata
56	Sasa Women`s Group	Northern	Macuata	Sasa	Sasa Village
57	Dawa Women Group(11 members)	Northern	Cakaudrove	Natewa	Dawa
58	Kanakana Women	Northern	Cakaudrove	Tunuloa	Kanakana
59	Karoko Women Group	Northern	Cakaudrove	Tunuloa	Karoko
60	Koronivonu Women Group	Northern	Cakaudrove	Tunuloa	Koronivonu
61	Moana Women Group	Northern	Cakaudrove	Tunuloa	Moana
62	Nasinu Womens Group	Northern	Cakaudrove	Navatu	Nasinu
63	Lea Womens Group & Dawa Womens Group	Northern	Cakaudrove	Savusavu	Dawa
64	Levuka & Fatima Women Group - 25	Northern	Cakaudrove	Rabi	Rabi
65	Nalotu Women Group - 13 members	Northern	Cakaudrove	Saqani	Yasawa

66	Vicalea/Navetau Womens Group - 15	Northern	Cakaudrove	Saqani	Navetau
67	Monfort Technical Institute	Northern	Cakaudrove	Savusavu	Balaga
68	Gasele Womens Group	Eastern	Kadavu	Yale	Gasele
69	Boitaci Womens Group	Eastern	Lau	Vanua Balavu	Boitaci
70	Solotavui Womens Group	Eastern	Kadavu	Nakasaleka	Kavala
71	Vabea Village	Eastern	Kadavu	Ono	Ono
72	Devobalavu Womens group	Eastern	Lau	Lakeba	Nayau
73	Natokalau Womens Club	Eastern	Lomaiviti	Levuka	Levuka

c) What are the long term plans for the growth and development of cluster systems in the agriculture sector?

It is important to have some binding laws associated with Farmer cluster system like that of the Cooperative to enable farmer group access development funds through financial lending institutions. The Ministry will continue its intervention through

- Organize Clusters, capacitate farmers and hive them off to Cooperatives following two successive years of adhering to small farming business guidelines
- Creating market access to established clusters, eliminate inequality and foster
- Increase investment in the agricultural sector and strengthening the partnership with key stakeholders
- Provision of incentives to genuine clusters
- Formulation of women in Agriculture policy
- Continue to support through Farm Mechanization initiative on 1/3 and 2/3 basis
- Technology Integration: Continuously integrating farming technology and technical information to farmers including the use of Drones etc to monitor and manage crop production more efficiently
- Data analytics: Leveraging data analytics to gain insights into Crop Health, weather patterns and market trends. This data driven approach helps information sharing and informed decision making, improved yields and reduces loss.
- Sustainability:
- Infrastructure Development: An example would be the MoA support provided through Farm Access and Land Preparation programs. Therefore, building and maintaining necessary infrastructure such as those provided above will support

agriculture clusters effectively. Other infrastructural support include provision of irrigation systems, agro processors initiatives.

- Education and Training: Investing in Education and Training by the Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways equip farmers with necessary knowledge and skills to help them adopt modern and resilient farming practices and technologies.

21 Outcome 2.4 – Poverty Alleviation through Capacity Building of Farmers

a) What are the Ministry's future plans for coconut and cocoa industry?

The Ministry's future plan for cocoa and coconut aims to;

- Rehabilitate existing Cocoa and Coconut farms through proper husbandry practices such intercropping farming systems to maximize production and increase income for farmers
- Introduction of graded Cocoa seedlings and hybrid coconuts, re-introduce of Fiji Talls for replanting and establishment of Cocoa and coconut orchards. Cocoa varieties includes Forestario, Trinitario which have high chocolate value likewise Amelanado and Waimaro variety.
- For coconut, it involves, identification of Fiji Tall mother palm, emasculation for hybrid seed nut production. Distribution of Coconut seedlings for replanting and rehabilitation and establishment of new coconut plantation.
- Value addition is another way forward to meet local and international demand for high value Fiji Cocoa, Virgin Coconut oil and Coconut water.

b) What was the impact of the training conducted to the farmers and was there any validation conducted by the Ministry?

- A total of 14 farmers training, 4 field schools conducted, 6 awareness and consultation meetings organized attended by 840 farmers to adopt researched based information and appropriate technology to increase agricultural production hence improve livelihood for farming households.
- Validation of training involves skills and knowledge audit through bi-annual quarterly monitoring and evaluation on the outcome and output of training, field days and awareness.
- Results based assessment shown that 60% of farmers trained adopt technology during the training.

22 Outcome 3.1: Reduction of Disaster Risks and Strengthen Preparedness

- a) Can the Ministry please clarify which indigenous crops are these and where were they established?

The intention of the programme is to support and strengthen disaster preparedness in rural communities. The program supports indigenous commodities which includes Yams, Tivoli, Kawai, Dalo ni tana, Dalo dina, Via , Kumala , Banana, Vudi , Breadfruit and vegetable seeds that were procured and distributed across the four (4) geo divisions.

- b) What type of awareness were conducted on disaster response and preparedness?

- Community outreach and awareness on disaster preparedness
- Joint training with other line government agencies and non-government organization
- Mass media
- Agriculture shows

- c) If the Ministry can clarify all the activities listed in a table form based on the data provided? (Area coverage, who were the participants, who benefitted from the 37 programs and the 113 food security awareness).

- A total of 15 types of crops were procured and distributed to the four (4) geo divisions
- A total of 585 farmers directly benefited from this exercise

23 Outcome 3.3 – Sustainable Management of Natural Resources through Sustainable Land Practices:

- a) From the 202 farm plants compiled, any activities or survey done and how were the lands being utilized?

The Ministry will continue to support farmers through provision of farm plans for 3-5-year term as pre-requisite to new lease application.

Processes involved were

- Farm Visit and farm audit Survey
- Resource inventory, Personal/famer information, constraints and challenges
- Better Farm Plan which incorporated performance enterprise budget and cash inflow. However, upon approval by FDB, Land were utilized based on the cost of machines received by farmers. In most cases, most loan approval were not reported to MOA for monitoring.

- b) Can the Ministry please provide details on the 125.67 ha developed under Flat land Development Programs?

The program was mainly concentrated in the Central Division and purposely this is to increase productive area that either cannot be utilized because of high water table through infrastructure

development, drainage excavation, procurement of culverts, Land preparation, procurement and supply of planting materials.

c) What is the progress on the productive utilization of the above?

Physical Activities	Program	No. of Farmers	Farmers Location	Division
Farmers Link to Tourism	DDA Program (FSP & SVDP)	102	Sigatoka & Nadi	Western
Farmers Assisted under Dalo	Dalo Development Program	51	Naitasiri, Tailevu, Serua/Namوسي, Taveuni, Cakaudrove Mainland & Part of Bua	Central & Northern
Farmers assisted under Ginger	Ginger Development Program	483	Naitasiri (Lower Naitasiri, Mid-Naitasiri & Upper Naitasiri), Tailevu (Tailevu South & North), Serua/Namوسي & Rewa Province (Toga, Dreketi & Suva)	Central
Farmers assisted under Yaqona	Yaqona Development Program	85	Cakaudrove, Bua, Kadavu & Lomaiviti	Northern & Eastern

Farms Visited	BQA	251	Sigatoka, Nadi, Lautoka, Ba & Ra	Western
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There were 56 farmers who were direct beneficiaries of the program with increase land for cultivation to sustain food and income security and improved livelihood

24 Outcome 4.1 Increasing Commercial Production;

The Ministry to please tabulate the data provided for easy reading and effective decision making. Preferable the tabulated data to include the following;

- a) Farmers location by Divisions

List of Registered Commercial and Semi-commercial Farmers.

- b) Types of assistance and benefit expected

Type of assistance	Benefit expected
Supply of Assorted Vegetable seeds & Agro Inputs	102 Farmers are link to Tourism that increase the Standard of Living & Income security
Supply of Dalo suckers, Land Preparation & Agro Inputs	A total 51 Farmers benefitted from the program which resulted in increase the dalo yield for domestic and export market.
Ginger seeds, Land Preparation & Agro Inputs	483 farmers benefitted for the assistance and increase the yield per unit area. Increase the Ginger export production
Yaqona Cuttings & Agro Inputs	85 farmers were assisted under yaqona program which increase income security for 85 farmers.

- c) The overall implication to production levels of each crop

- Dalo Production increases from 49,271mt in 2018 to 51,509 in 2019
- Ginger Production decreases from 9,893.60 in 2018 to 9,398.10 in 2019 mainly due to the change in price.
- Yaqona Production increase from 10,481mt in 2018 to 11,738.70mt in 2019 due to the increase in harvesting after the 2016 TC Winston Rehabilitation.

- d) Can the Ministry please explain their monitoring system in place? How effective it is?

- The Ministry has the Monitoring Unit in place that monitors the entire Program within the Ministry and produce bi annual reports. Recently the Ministry invested in Training of Trainers on Monitoring and Evaluation conducted by M&E and Consultants from European Union to train Monitoring and Evaluation champions who will be closely monitoring the various programs in the Ministry from their respective divisions.

e) Can the Ministry please provide the list all the BQA certified areas?

The list of all the BQA certified areas are as follows:

- Nadroga/Navosa Province
- Ba Province
- Ra Province-Saivou, part of Nakorotubu and part of Rakiraki Area

25 Outcome 5.2: Strengthen Institutional Linkages and Quality Data Collection;

a) Can the Ministry please explain on the training provided to the 20 officers who attended the Rice Training in China?

Staff training is one of the key indicators to improve service delivery. Rice Production and Management Training held in China was a collaboration between the Chinese government and Fiji to increase capacity of staff on new technology and improved varieties.

b) How effective was the Rice training to the Ministry?

- Enhance technical knowledge and skills of 20 officers on the new Rice technology and its management

c) What efforts were undertaken by the Ministry to improve data collection and quality?

- Capacity building
- Continuous collaboration with Research in regards to field demonstrations and information sharing
- Farmers Field School (1) conducted at Central Division
- Ministry has a Statistic unit that work closely with Fiji Bureau of Stats
- Carry out National Agriculture Census every 10 years
- Ministry launched its Viti Agriculture Hub to improve its National farmer`s database

d) How successful are the backyard programs and are there any plans in the Ministry to continue it?

Backyard gardening is an important approach for the Ministry to support small urban and rural families, who do not have access to land but were supported to have access to food and nutrition security and income security within the vicinity of their backyard. The Ministry will continue to support the backyard program through supply of planting materials and capacity building under its Agriculture Extension Service Program and continue to work with NGOs to support backyard farming initiative.

PAGE 19 - ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION DIVISION

26 Outcome 1.1: Maintaining Food Security through the Provision of Extension and Research Services both for Livestock and Crops

- a) What is the current status of Brucellosis and Tuberculosis (TB) in all the regions throughout Fiji? How is milk and beef production affected by TB and Brucellosis and any efforts undertaken by the Ministry to address the issues?

Division	Total Farms tested	Total Herd Recording	Total TB Tested	Total TB Positive	Total Bruce tested	Total Bruce Positive
Central	336	19,789	17,721	145	11,873	0
Western	145	4085	3701	6	2382	0
Northern	117	3,963	3,704	71	1977	0
Eastern	14	168	166	0	156	0
Total	612	28,005	25,292	222	16,394	0

- In 2018 there were 1445 TB positive reactors identified and as of April 2023 the number of TB reactors identified has drastically decreased to 158 cattle identified as TB positive.
- In 2018 – Number of Brucellosis positive cattle identified was 16. As of 2022, only 2 cattle were identified positive for Brucellosis in the Western Division.

How has TB & Brucellosis affected Milk & Dairy Production?

- There has been decrease in Milk production from 11,767 tonnes (2018) to 11,399 tonnes (2021).
- This is mainly due to the removal of productive female cattle which has been identified as TB/ Brucellosis reactors.
- Genetic improvement in dairy and beef has been affected due to movement restrictions which have led to in-breeding.

Efforts Made by the Ministry

- The Ministry is compensating farmers at \$4.00/kg for TB/Bruce identified reactors and has increased the Budget from 1 million to 2.8 million for the BTEC program to conduct more TB & Bruce test in all respective divisions. To add on, the Ministry is carrying out Artificial Insemination through imported semen and Embryo transfer technology has been introduced to increase the gene pool. The ministry is closely working with the Bio-Security Authority of Fiji to control illegal movement of cattle to prevent the spread of TB & Brucellosis.
- The Ministry is supporting the Dairy industry through the Dairy Industry Support (DIS) project by providing assistance packages to farmers which includes calf shed materials, Milk collection cans & Farmer trainings to improve animal husbandry practices in order to minimize the risk of Mastitis in Milking cows.
- The Ministry is carrying out fencing training for both Beef & Dairy farmers to ensure farmers are able to erect proper fences which will minimize cattle movement & stray animal issues on farms.
- The ministry has assisted major Dairy Bulk suppliers through the Establishment of Tuberculosis Free farms project by providing fencing packages to create Bio Secured farms. The project also assisted farmers with calf shed materials to prevent calf mortality at infant stage.
- Beef farmers have been assisted in Beef Extension Project with fencing packages to create Bio secured farms to control movement and have conducted awareness sessions to enlighten farmers regarding the importance on TB testing.

- FCDCL has been provided with \$5m grant to provide price incentive for the farmers, milk cartage, nutrition improvement, cattle importation and improved extension advisory and veterinary services
- b) The issue of stray animals continues to be a major problem to most farmers, are there any policies/regulations in the Ministry to address this problem?

Yes, there are policies and regulations which Ministry is continuously using to address the stray animal issues. The legislation that comes under Stray animals is the Pounds Act, Dog Act and Trespass of Animals Act.

In an effort to curb this problem, Ministry continued to invest in the following area:

- Construction pounds around the country and it has increased from 18 pounds in 2018/2019 to 28 (West 12, Central – 9, North 7 in year 2022.23).
- The ministry had conducted 102 stray cattle awareness programs in 2018/2019 and to date 324 stray animals awareness in the three divisions have been completed.
- A total of 1250 stray animals were trapped in 2018/19 and so far 2,260 stray animals have been trapped.
- The Ministry also conducted stray dog trapping programs where by in 2018/2019 1147 stray dogs were trapped. From 2019/2020 to 2022/2023 a total of 2495 dogs were trapped. TNR (trap Neuter and Release) program was also introduced and a total of 1,906 trapped dogs were desexed and released or given for adoption.
- MOA is continuously conducting stray livestock control in rural areas and tracing back ownership of the animals through Brands and Animal IDs. From 2019/2020 till to date a total of 4,250 brands have been processed.
- Six Ministry staffs have been trained and issued with Gun License for shooting of stray and feral animals.
- So far 4 Firearms has been released by Police for shooting of Stray animals.
- The ministry has also purchased Tranquilizer dart gun to assist in Shooting of stray and wild livestock and dogs.
- The ministry has ventured into the shooting program in the farms where the stray animals are wild and cannot be trapped by means of portable race.
- Increased presence of MOA in community meeting to deliver community awareness on responsible animal ownership and animal welfare. At the end of the day, the root cause of stray animals are owners not taking responsibility to house and attend to their animals.
- Encouraging involvement of Police Force, Town Council and Community Health Inspectors to assist in resolving neighborhood disputes, to deal with waste and nuisance issues in the community and public in relation to straying animals.
- More stringent law enforcement as per legislations on full charges paid by the owners on the release of their impounded animals.
- The Ministry will be venturing into snap campaigns in the three divisions to control stray animals on roads and farms.

- c) How successful are the recent breeding programs (new genetics) for beef, dairy cows, goats and sheep?
- The national livestock nucleus are strategically reared on 8 livestock Government Research Stations in Fiji, these are; the Koronivia Research Station, the Sigatoka Research Station, the Waidradra Bull Station, the Dobuilevu Bull Station, the Nawaicoba Sheep Station, the Seaqaqa Sheep Station, the Batiri Sheep Station and the Mua Sheep Station.
 - The various livestock species are strategically bred on the Government Research Stations using biotechnology interventions such as embryo transfer, artificial insemination and controlled natural mating.
 - The livestock progenies produced from the breeding programmes are carefully selected based on good genetic attributes which are then sold to farmers for the improvement of genetics of livestock on their farms.
 - The breeds on the Government Research Stations are assessed and evaluated for adaptability, resiliency to the impacts of climate change and disease as well as on production levels before they are released to farms for breeding.
 - Livestock rearing, breeding, nutrition, health and husbandry practices are professionally carried out by the Ministry to ensure quality livestock are produced and supplied to farms.
 - For the cattle stations (KRS & SRS) the MOA&W achieved a success rate of 40% with embryo transfer technology with four consecutive transfers in four phases from 2017. The success rate on controlled natural mating/crossbreeding is 86% for dairy and 82% for beef stations. The success rate for artificial insemination on station is 39% with dairy to maintain the dairy breeds.
 - For sheep breeding programme, the stations recent success rate was 92% with controlled natural mating.
 - For goat breeding programme, the station achieved the success rate of 76% with controlled natural mating.
 - In the last financial year, the Ministry has supplied 6 Senepol, 5 Brown Swiss and 3 F1 Senepol crossed with local breeds of cattle to selected farms. Sixty eight improved breed of sheep were supplied from the Nawaicoba Research Station and 82 were supplied from the Seaqaqa Research Station to selected farms. Twenty six improved breed of goats were also supplied from the Sigatoka Research Station to selected farms for breeding.

- d) What are the Ministry's plans in the distribution of new breeds of beef, dairy cows, goats and sheep?
- With the existing livestock breeding plans, the Ministry intends to sell the improved livestock breeds to farms in the form of live animals and this programme is further supported through artificial insemination and controlled mating on those farms.
 - Under the current livestock breeding programmes for the current financial year, the Ministry anticipates to sell 80 bulls of improved breeds (Senepol & Brown Swiss) to selected farms in Fiji. The Ministry's breed improvement support programme through the provision of artificial insemination services will be targeted on beef and dairy farms in the current financial year. The Ministry intends to produce 2,000 semen straws locally from the improved cattle breeds in the Sigatoka Research Station which is intended to be inseminated in cows on selected farms in Fiji.
 - To support the pool of locally harvested semen, the Ministry will also be importing 160 Dairy, i.e. Jersey, Friesian and Kiwi Cross genetics and 160 Beef, i.e. Herford genetics of frozen semen straws from New Zealand to further improve the genetics on our farms in Fiji.
 - For the Sheep industry, the Ministry anticipates to supply 400 breeding stock (70% male and 30% female) to potential farms in Fiji. For the Goat industry, the Ministry intends to supply 100 breeding stock (80% male and 20% female) to potential farms in Fiji.

The current improved breeds that exist at our Research Stations are as follows:

- For dairy cattle, Kiwi Cross, Brown Swiss and Crossbred (F1) between Brown Swiss and the Kiwi Cross breed
- For beef cattle, Senepol, Wagyu, Drought Master, F1 Cross, i.e. Senepol crossed with the local breed and the local cattle
- For sheep, Fiji Fantastic breed, Dorper breed, F1, Fiji Fantastic crossed with the Dorper and F2 (1 crossed with Dorper

- For goats, Anglo Nubian, imported Boer, F1, ie. Anglo Nubian crossed with Boer, F2 (F1 crossed with Boer, Imported Anglo Nubian, Imported Saanen, Imported Toggenburg, Toggenburg cross and the local Indigenous goat

The key criteria that are set out by the Ministry for farms to receive improved breeds of livestock are as follows:

- The farms need to be free from disease
- The farm needs to have the required numbers of female livestock for breeding
- The farm needs to have sufficient land for expansion and to cater for the increase in number of livestock

The Ministry is promoting Commercial Agriculture as one of its priorities under its Strategic Development Plan and packages for assistance to farmers for farm development have been made available online to support the livestock sector, for fencing, pasture improvement and for infrastructure.

The livestock breeding activities under the Ministry are supported through our Capital Programmes for this financial year and funds allocated to those activities are as follows:

- Beef Breeding – \$1,000,000
- Livestock Rehabilitation (Cattle sector) - \$400,000
- Sheep Breeding - \$400,000
- Goat Breeding - \$215,000
- Pig Breeding - \$210,000
- Poultry Breeding - \$150,000
- Livestock Feed Technology - \$100,000 (Nutritional support)

To have adequate numbers of improved breeds of livestock in Fiji for our farmers, the Ministry has made a commitment to the following;

- To upgrade the Government owned nucleus stock through the embryo transfer technology in cattle and Artificial Insemination in sheep and goats;

- To operationalize the cattle breeding centre in the Sigatoka Research Station to supply cattle with improved genetics in the form of semen through straws; and
- To increase the number of breeding stock on the Government Stations so that adequate improved breeds of livestock are available for distribution to farms when needed.
- To improve nutrition through pasture development and supplementary feed formulations
- To control and eradicate endemic diseases in livestock in Fiji

Improving the genetic makeup of livestock breeds in Fiji remains a high priority for the Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways with improved breeds, better husbandry management and disease control. We aim to increase the volume of local meat and whole milk production and to reduce our import bill for those products. The Ministry will continue with its breeding programmes on the Research Stations and collaborate with its partners on adaptive research, and better coordinate with stakeholders and farmers on the ground with the aim to grow the livestock sector in Fiji.

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

- a) Can the Ministry state which particular activities in the Livestock sector that Women are more interested and actively participate in?

In the livestock sector, women play a crucial role and actively participate in various activities. Their involvement is essential for the overall development and sustainability of the sector. Mainly male performs livestock activities. Nevertheless, women register higher participation in feeding and managing poultry and delivery of livestock or its products. Higher involvement of women in poultry may be connected to the fact that this kind of activity is mainly developed close to the house and allows women to be active in this and take care of the household chores at the same. In addition, chicken is a more common alternative for feeding the family in comparison with bigger animals that are usually sold in the market or consumed only on special occasions. Here are some of the activities in the livestock sector that women are more interested in and actively engage with:

1. Animal Husbandry and Care:

Women often take charge of animal husbandry and care activities within the livestock sector. This includes feeding, watering, and providing shelter to animals. They are responsible for ensuring the well-being and health of the livestock by monitoring their nutrition, hygiene, and overall welfare. Women also play a significant role in maintaining records related to animal health.

2. Dairy Farming:

Dairy farming is an area where women have been traditionally involved for centuries. They actively participate in milking cows, processing milk into various dairy products such as butter, ghee, and yogurt, and marketing these products locally. Women's involvement in dairy farming extends to managing small-scale farms, clusters.

3. Poultry Rearing:

Poultry rearing is another area where women actively participate. They engage in activities such as raising chickens, ducks for meat or egg production, feeding and watering the birds, disease prevention and control measures, and marketing poultry products and also assist in constructing poultry houses. Women often manage small-scale poultry farms or backyard flocks, contributing to household nutrition and income generation.

4. Small Ruminant Production:

Women are also involved in small ruminant production, which includes rearing sheep and goats. They take care of these animals by providing proper nutrition, healthcare, and hygiene of housing facilities. Women are also involved in record-keeping. Additionally, they participate in value addition activities such as goat milk into marketable products such as soap.

5. Beekeeping:

Beekeeping is an activity that has gained popularity among women in recent years. Women engage in beekeeping for honey production, beeswax collection, and other hive products. They manage beehives, monitor the health of the colonies, and extract honey. Beekeeping not only provides a source of income but also contributes to pollination and biodiversity conservation.

The table shows the number and percentage distribution of members of agricultural household by livestock activities and gender.

Number and Percentage Distribution of Members of Agricultural Household by Livestock Activities and Gender					
No.	Livestock Activities	Gender		Percentage	
		Men	Women	Men	Women
1	Feeding and managing of Poultry	6631	2411	73.3%	26.7%
2	Delivery of livestock and its products	597	190	75.9%	24.1%
3	Managing of Bee Hives	155	36	81.2%	18.8%
4	Marketing	772	128	85.8%	14.2%
5	Buying of farming inputs or feeds	691	109	86.4%	13.6%
6	Feeding and managing of Pig	7184	1104	86.7%	13.3%
7	Feeding and shepherding of cattle, sheep and goats	13360	1598	89.3%	10.7%
8	Milking of Cows and Goats	3385	359	90.4%	9.6%

Source: 2020 Fiji Agriculture Census, Gender Analysis Report, Vol 3.

It is important to note that women's participation in the livestock sector varies across regions and cultures due to socio-economic factors and traditional gender roles. However, there is a growing

recognition of their contributions and efforts are being made to empower women in this sector through training programs, access to credit facilities, and policy support.

- b) How can women participate more in the Livestock Sector and what form of training/assistance is available to support such initiatives?

The livestock sector plays a crucial role in global food security, poverty reduction, and rural development. However, women's participation in this sector has historically been limited due to various social, cultural, and economic barriers. To address this issue and promote gender equality, efforts have been made to increase women's involvement in the livestock sector. This comprehensive response will explore the various forms of training and assistance available to support their initiatives.

Forms of training/assistance available to support women's participation:

1. Technical training: Technical training programs aim to enhance women's knowledge and skills in various aspects of livestock production, including animal husbandry, health management, fodder cultivation, and value addition. These programs equip women with the necessary expertise to engage in the sector effectively.

2. Extension services: Extension services play a vital role in disseminating information, providing technical advice, and facilitating linkages between women farmers and other stakeholders in the livestock sector. These services help bridge the knowledge gap and empower women with up-to-date information on best practices.

3. Supportive policies and legal frameworks: Governments play a significant role in promoting women's participation in the livestock sector by implementing supportive policies and legal frameworks. These include gender-responsive budgeting (Poultry and Apiculture), gender quotas in decision-making bodies, and gender in agriculture policy.

4. Networking and mentorship programs: Networking will be enhanced through encouraging participation of women in groups/clusters. It provides exchange of ideas, opportunities for women to connect with cluster members, share experiences, learn from successful role models, and access new markets or business opportunities such as farmer field days and agriculture shows.

5. Awareness campaigns and advocacy: Raising awareness about the importance of women's participation in the livestock sector is essential for challenging gender norms and promoting gender equality. Advocacy efforts can help change societal attitudes towards women's roles in agriculture and create an enabling environment for their active engagement. This is achieved through appointment of focal points in geo divisions targeting towards planning and implementation of activities of gender focused capital projects of the ministry.

28 Outcome 2.4 Poverty Alleviation Through Capacity Building of Farmers

- a) What sort of follow up activities and monitoring mechanism the Ministry has to be able to gauge the effectiveness of the training and capacity development programs it conducts to farmers?

Previously, the Ministries respective Technical officers used to follow up with the capacitated farmers on the good management practices adopted by the farmers. From 2020, the M&E team started conducting impact assessment of selected programmes of the Ministry including capacity building programmes. This assessment gauges the impact of the capacity building programmes using the OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) criteria and captured in their internal report which includes implementation challenges, lessons learnt and recommended strategies to improve implementation and provide evidence for decision making.

29 Outcome 3.1 Reduction of Disaster Risks and Strengthen and Preparedness

- a) Can the Ministry please provide an update on the status of TB and Brucellosis both in the Beef and the Dairy sector?
 - Beef – a total of 180/2845 farms are under infective stage with Bovine TB
 - Dairy – A total of 451/3338 dairy farms are under infective stage with Bovine TB
 - Brucellosis – Zero cases have recorded in 2023. Last Brucellosis case recorded was in 2022 with 2 positive cattle from the Western Division.

- b) How is the Ministry addressing issues related to Climate Change against Food Security demands?
 - The MOA&W continues to ensure that strategic breeding programmes for livestock breeds (Cattle, Sheep, Goat, Pig and Poultry) are conducted on government stations to maintain the quality of genetics in the national gene pool. The selection of breeds and breeding methodologies on government station takes into account for adaptability parameters such as tolerance to heat stress, faster growth rate and adaptive features to increasing temperatures.
 - The government stations are actively involved in genetic conservation of climate resilient breeds such as local cattle, goat, sheep, pigs and poultry. These breeds are conserved and further crossbred with improved breeds and are further supplied to farmers to maintain the continuity of the genetics on farm.
 - With the genetic improvement, the MOA&W is also involved with supplying of drought tolerant juncao fodder planting material for supplementary feeding options for farmers. The Animal Health & Production team is actively involved in demonstrating planting and processing of Juncao for livestock feed. Feed conservation techniques are also demonstrated to farmers on ensilaging, urea molasses block, and total mixed ration as drought season approach.
 - Feed preservation methods such ensilaging and urea molasses block production through field days are conducted with farmer nationally.
 - The Animal Health & Production Team in collaboration with Climate Change Division recently attended the New Zealand Agricultural Green House Gas Inventory Capability Building Workshop which intended to address two key main objectives:

- i. To strengthen countries capabilities in agricultural GHG reporting on Tier 2 inventories for livestock GHG emissions.
 - ii. To improve the agricultural Greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory technical training, information on New Zealand inventory reporting, and participate in a discussion with other international collaborators on developing further collaborative activities to combat effects of climate change.
- MOA&W also recently got registered with Greenhouse Research Alliance (GRA) on greenhouse gases as 67th member country in which the research support on adaptation and mitigation is anticipated with the technical collaborations with other international countries and organizations.
 - MOA&W have also secured an ACIAR partnership project on supporting greenhouse gas inventories and livestock data development in Fiji. This project aims:
 - Undertake an analysis of institutional arrangements and governance processes required for Tier 2 methods.
 - Undertake an analysis of Tier 2 data collection requirements and activity data storage.
 - Validate Tier 2 data collection methodology through use of a case study to collect and distribute data.
 - Review the IPCC's requirements for Tier 2 EFs and calculations to be incorporated into the national inventory calculations.
 - Design the experimental research to measure enteric methane emissions from dairy and beef cattle.
 - Field experiments measuring enteric CH₄ emissions from Fijian beef and dairy cattle.
 - Develop a country-specific Tier 2 Emission Factor.

30 Outcome 4.1 – Increasing Commercial Production

- a) Can the Ministry please provide trend for the last 3 years on the production level as well as the sufficiency rate for key livestock products?

Major Commodities	Items (Ton)	Data Source	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021(p)
Poultry (Broiler)	Production	MoA	33,071	35,499	34,188	25,368	25,715
	Export	FBoS	279	296	335	358	294
	Import	FBoS	2,362	4,126	4,539	3,367	3,579
	SSR		94	90	89	89	89
Pork	Production	MoA	1,459	1,425	1,752	1,232	1,167
	Export	FBoS	4	0.4	0.5	18.2	5
	Import	FBoS	423	362	188	51	41
	SSR		78	80	90	97	97
Beef	Production	MoA	4,207	3,587	2,794	2,507	3,989
	Export	FBoS	5	9	2	3	1

	Import	FBoS	2,139	3,493	2,693	3,308	1,932
	SSR		66	51	51	43	67
Egg	Production	MoA	8,143	9,148	11,329	8,156	8,901
	Export	FBoS	700	453	534	461	629
	Import	FBoS	186	186	73	40	49
	SSR		107	103	104	105	107
Milk	Production	MoA	12,982	11,767	10,767	12,393	11,399
	Export	FBoS	92	98	23	40	34
	Import	FBoS	10,659	12,807	10,288	8,586	9,725
	SSR		55	48	51	59	54

- b) What is the Ministry's plans on increasing production and reducing importation against a define timeline?

Ministry plans to increase production and reduce import of livestock commodities in the next 5 years by 15% accumulated at 3% per annum. Below are some of the key plans undertaken to boost production:

1. High yielding genetic improvement on farms – Over the years inbreeding has significantly contributed towards low yielding livestock produced from farm (Pigs, Beef, Dairy, Sheep, Goat, Bees, Poultry). Superior Genetics has been introduced to our nucleus farms (research stations) using biotechnology and distribution is in progress to qualifying farms. Genetics of improved breed will be disseminated on farms through distribution of improved breed or Artificial Insemination program and mass replication would progress. Climate resilient breeds is promoted on vulnerable areas to address adverse effects of climate change.
2. Improve livestock housing and infrastructure – The existing housing for livestock has been generally poor and needs improvement thus exposed to extreme weather conditions resulting in high mortality and underperforming livestock. MOA plans to assist potential farmers with infrastructure improvement such as Shed construction, fencing packages, road improvement, better holding facility (Stockyard, farrowing crates, cages).
3. Best farm management techniques, Innovations and Technology – Farmers will be trained continuously on the best management practices to improve the farm productivity by reducing farm operational cost and improving holding capacity on farms. Some of the adaptations are (farrowing crates, beef fattening scheme, intensive/semi intensive dairy, battery cages, biotechnology (AI and ET), Recording and mustering facility, Automated draughting scale for sheep, RFID tagging and recording, portable incubators, mini feed processors.
4. Capacity building of farmers – Knowledge and skills would be enhanced through trainings, demonstrations, field days and shows. MOA will be working with private institutions to deliver accredited trainings to farmers with detailed contents targeting youths and potential farmers.

5. Nutrition Improvement – Nutrition is a key element to increase production. Improved nutrition will lead to better development and growth rate enhancing in quality and quantity of meat and products. MOA plans to continuously implement nutrition improvement through promotion of improved pasture species (Signal, Seteria, Mulato II, and fodder species (Juncao). The problem is further addressed by the finding better and locally available feed sources and formulating ration on least cost diets. Feed preservation and conservation mechanisms such as silage, UMB, fodder bank establishment.
6. Strengthen market linkages through public private partnership and value addition

- c) Can the Ministry please explain whether it's relevant SDG's has been incorporated into all its operations? Suggest if Ministry can highlight briefly on activities related to SDGs 1, 2, 5, 13 and 15 and consider these in its future reports.

The Ministry have incorporated all SDG goals in the respective priorities of the Ministry. For instance, SDG 1 which focusses on No Poverty and SDG 5 on Gender Equality has been incorporated in Strategic Priority (SP) 2 of the Ministry which focusses on Increase farmer household income for sustainable livelihood inclusive of women and youth. SDG 13 is incorporated in the 3rd SP of the Ministry which focusses on Climate Smart Agriculture and SDG 15 is covered throughout SP 1 to 4.

Some major activities of the Ministry which specifically targets SDG 1, 5, 13 and 15 includes:

1. Introduction of new value added products for our women and youth
2. Linking of farmers to formal markets through Our Community Agriculture Programme
3. Piloting of Gender Responsive Programmes with Poultry Farming and Apiculture
4. Implementation of targeted Women and Youth Programmes such as Women in Agriculture
5. Launching of Gender in Agriculture and Youth in Agriculture Policies and drafting of the National Organic Policy
6. Targeted women and youth capacity building programmes
7. Increasing adoption of Sustainable Land Management and Climate Smart agriculture practices
8. Implementation of waste management programs
9. Introduction of resilient breeds
10. Conservation of local breeds
11. Animal genetic resources maintained

A national update of how Fiji has progressed in terms of the SDG is highlighted in the Voluntary National Review incorporating the tremendous effort in targeting the respective SDGs.

However, noting the recommendation, a brief will be included in future Annual Report on the SDG progress.

PAGE 25 AGRICULTURE RESEARCH DIVISION

31 Outcome 1.1 Maintaining Food Security through the Provision of Extension and Research Services both for Livestock and Crops;

a) Can the Ministry please elaborate further and be more specific on the issues/activities highlighted.

i. Two new dalo varieties tolerant to taro leaf blight (TLB) - (Tarova Loa, Tarova Damu) were released to prepare and counter any outbreak in Fiji. A new kumala variety (Golden Brown) was also released for commercial cultivation in Fiji.

ii. 14 adoptable technologies

1. Management of Coconut pest through virus inoculation in adult rhinoceros beetle, fungus and pheromone ground trap, parasitoid (bio-control agent) for flat moth, mealy bug and coconut scale, survey and mapping of infested areas;
2. Management of Taro beetle – survey and mapping of infested areas with farmer trainings conducted;
3. Management of Brassica crop pest – Bio-pesticide (Derris base, Neem base, Garlic and Chilli base, Bt, Soursop base) trials are ongoing;
4. **Management and control of Fruit Flies and vegetable production** (Fiji) - (3 lures (pheromone traps), 4 HTFA trial run, 10 new fruit fly trapping sites established in Vanua Levu and Taveuni)
5. Area wide management and control of Fruit Flies in Rotuma, (2 colonies maintained)
6. **Protein Bait Formulation** -1 facility established & maintained, 1 protein bait developed
7. **Study of Parasitic Nematode in 4 commodities** - (Identification of species for 4 crops (Ginger/Dalo/Banana/Tomatoes)
8. **Study of Anthracnose diseases in 5 commodities** - (Taratek and Benomyl Fungicide recommended, Identification of species for 5 crops (Mango/Papaya/Chilli/Banana/Yams).
9. **Management of Gummy Stem Blight disease (watermelon)** - (Benomyl Fungicide recommended)
10. **Biological control on Invasive weed species** - (1 lab rearing establish, 1 survey to determine status of weed, 1 site release of Bio control agent & 1 pilot study of *Pistia stratiotes* using insects)
11. **Mucuna Action research** - (3 mucuna management trial (weed suppression, effect of mucuna on earthworm/nematode population, soil fertility, crop production & seed production trial)
12. **Management of invasive plants** - (1 Wedelia eradication program at Farmers field. (Naitasiri/Tailevu), 15 herbarium collection, 3 seeds viability tests, 3 surveys for population density of African Tulips, 1 farm survey for usage of common herbicides (Glyphosate and Paraquat) in intensive commercial farming areas in Central division)

iii. Supply of Seed & Planting material

Root Crops: Root crops – dalo (trad/hybrids) - 8,000; Dalo ni Tana 1,000, dalo nursery (Tausala(50,000/jabeni & korosi(10,000) – 60,000; cassava – 50,000 cuttings; kumala – 50,000 cuttings; yams – 12,000kg; ginger – 4,000kg, Kawai – 3,000kg

Tree Crops: Coconut - 50,000 seed nuts, Cocoa - 10,000 seedlings (Amelanado); Budded cocoa- 1,500 seedlings, Grafted citrus – 1,000, Assorted fruit trees – 5,000 seedlings, Spices – 2,000 seedlings, Avocado – 1,000 seedlings

Rice: Rice – 70,000kg (KRS 40,000 & DAS 30,000)

Horticulture: Vegetable seeds – 140kg (Tomato 50kg; Eggplant 50kg; Chilli 40kg), Maize seeds – 4,000kg, Sweet corn – 100kg, Pulses 2400kg (cowpea 800kg; pigeon pea 600kg; peanut 800kg; urd 100kg; mungbean 100kg)

Fruits: Papaya seed – 5kg; seedlings 50,000, Pineapple plantlets – 250,000, Citrus – 4,000, Breadfruit – 1000, Mango – 1000, Indigenous/Exotic fruits – 5,000, Avacado – 1500, Guava 1500

- iv. Tested and recommended 1 Mechanized inter-row cultivator/weeder
- v. Conduct awareness activities with NGOs and stakeholders on food security and climate change adaptation and resilience problems
MOWCPA, MOH, MEAH, MoIT, MEW, MITT, MLMR, MRMNDMMS, BAF, AMA, MoYS, MoF, MOE, AG's office, HART, NFNC, NFMV, IUCN, CI, NT, NWC, FIAS, WWF, FNU, USP, SPC, TFNET, AVRDC, ICRISAT, NTC, ASPAC, PHAMA, MDF.
- vi. 1000 Number of nitrogen fixation trees (NFT) and 1200 fruit trees raised for Carbon sequestration. 10 Ha of agricultural land conserved with hedge rows and soil stabilizations.
- vii. 10 Lab machines/equipment purchased – Water purification system, Ovens, Centrifuge, Nitrogen distillation system, pH/Conductivity meter, Soil Particle-size Analyzer, Titration unit, automated, Grinding machine, Fat extraction unit, Fibre extraction unit.
- viii. 20,000 tests conducted on soil, plants, animal feed & food samples - 16,000 soil, plant, feed and other agriculture samples; 4,000 food tests; 1 pesticide survey conducted in Sigatoka to ascertain the levels of Pesticide Residue on selected fruits and vegetable.
- ix. Test reports on soil, plants, animal feed & food samples submitted to clients - 200 reports for soil, plant, feed and other agriculture samples; 100 reports for food, 1 pesticide survey report.
- x. 10 Lab Quality assurance program & Proficiency reports programs - 3 reports for soil; 3 reports for plant; 1 report for beverage; 1 report for meat; 1 report for lipids; 1 report for dairy.
- xi. Best Farm Practices Researched
 - Agronomy**
 1. Evaluation & selection of New Taro Clones for Screening for TLB
 2. Selection & evaluation of open pollinated Kumala & cassava
 3. On – farm demonstration local & improved high yielding varieties
 4. Commercial demonstration of mineral fertilizer for Ginger
 5. Yam mini sett & vine cutting technology
 6. Revising fertilizer application on Dalo Production
 7. Enhance Genetic improvement works to raise yield potential and other genetic traits (biotic and abiotic).
 8. Multi-location trial of high yield, semi dwarf short duration varieties of rice from India.
 9. Develop farming systems to improve rice farming.
 10. Cocoa Intercropping Trial
 11. Establish 2 cocoa bud wood garden at Bua and Ra

12. Replanting of selected tall coconut population in WRS.
 13. MGD at WRS and TRDC.
 14. Evaluation of Fiji Tall population at TRDC.
 15. Establish block of selected Fiji Tall (Lakeba) population progenies.
 16. Maintenance and rehabilitation of the seed garden.
 17. Evaluation & collection of Coconut Compact Dwarfs, Pink and Sweet Husks types
 18. Coconut leaf vermi-compost, coconut peat & husk incorporation technology
 19. Evaluation of Avocado propagation methods.
 20. Identify cocoa criollo types & continue characterization of 5 cocoa clones
 21. **Vegetables** - (crop improvement, farming system research, Foundation seed production, Organic vegetable production, climate adaptation research, collection, conservation of PGR)
 22. **Fruits** - (papaya, pineapple, breadfruit, mango, banana, avocado)
 23. **Pulses** - crop improvement, farming system research)
 24. **Potato** - crop improvement, farming system research)
 25. **Mushroom Research & Development** - (crop improvement, farming system research)
- xii. **Improvement of Research Service Delivery** - Upgrade of Garage Shed – KRS, Glass House Weeds – KRS, Repair of DR’s Quarters – KRS, Intallation of Security Lights – KRS, Renovation of Staff Quarters (1) – TRDC, Upgrade Bore Hole Facilities – DRS, Repair Farm Roads – SQRS, Upgrade Car Park Office Front – SQRS, Staff Quarters (new) – LRS, Potting shed – LRS, Upgrade storage facilities – DAS
- xiii. 12 fruit orchards around the country focusing in the west, central division on some of the main fruit crops like avocado - 4; citrus – 3; guava – 2; dragon fruit – 2; breadfruit – 1

- b) How has these new varieties, technologies (including mechanization) and infrastructure impacted agriculture production in Fiji.

The introduction of new varieties, technologies, and infrastructure has significantly improved agricultural production in Fiji by increasing yields, optimizing practices, enhancing post-harvest management, promoting information access, and contributing to employment and income generation in the sector.

32 Outcome 2.1 Support Agriculture Growth through Implementation of Commodity and Industry Program;

- a) Explain the BQA (Bilateral Quarantine Arrangement) areas and common issues faced that hinders productivity.

There are issues within the BQA pathway as players in the BQA are only registered farmers, exporters and suppliers supplying BQA fresh farm produce to NZ markets under the BQA Export Pathway. Even though the pathway is clear, but there are loopholes within the system that sometimes Fiji’s fresh produce is suspended from NZ due to lack of compliance. The compliance issues are the biggest concern from all players in the system e.g exporter buying produce from non – registered farmers, who don’t comply with the pathway leading to interception at HTFA facility or export destination.

- b) What are the main causes of the above and what further assistance may be needed from government to help the Ministry in addressing them and contribute further to increased production.

Main cause is the lack of compliance from farmers, exporters and lack of proper supervision by MOA and BAF. This can be addressed through proper training of exporters, farm managers, quality controllers and even MOA and BAF officers.

While trust is in the system, there is always a check system to monitor progress.

NZ MPI always do a traceback system to check compliance in the export pathways.

- c) Has the Ministry been able to establish any new quarantine protocols since this reporting period?

In 2018, MOA, BAF and NZMPI started transition plans from BQA system to an Export Plan that is more at national level, while BQA was done at a higher level government to government.

New export plan or export pathway for citrus was drafted, plan and negotiated by the 3 players, 4 workshops were held from 2018 – 19 leading to a draft export plan for citrus.

This was further enhanced after the covid 19 from 2021 – 22 when final draft was completed at GPH hotel in Suva and finally in Nov 2022, NZMPI finally approved the Fiji Export Pathways for Tahitian Lime and Meyer Lemon.

Under this agreement Fiji will export green citrus only as at this stage it is treated as non-host for fruit fly. Export of citrus to NZ has commenced with farmers from Bilalevu, Sigatoka in 2022.

NZ has approved a total of 42 commodities from Fiji to be exported using this arrangement.

33 Outcome 2.3 Ensuring Equal Access for Women and Youth in Agriculture;

- a) How can women participate more in the Agriculture Sector and what form of training/assistance is available to support such initiatives?

Under the Post-Harvest Losses program, women under various womens groups were trained on value addition of agriculture commodities available to them. These groups were trained to process available agriculture commodities into various products, package and label them for commercial sales.

A collaboration project between MOA and FAO identified groups of women and youth in Nabulini village, Verata village and Home of Hope in Tamavua. Nabulini village was trained on processing and packaging Cassava, Taro and Vudi chips, Verata womens group were trained on Frozen vacuum-packed river mussels while Home of Hope Youth were trained on Fruit Jams (Pineapple and Kamquat), Sauces (Tamarind and Chille Sauce) and Coconut chips.

Nabulini village was provided with a set of processing machines for chips. These included a Chips Slicer, Deep fryer, Dryer and other small equipment such as Sealer, Scale and packaging material such as cartons of Zip Lock standing pouches, labels, shelves as well as renovations done to their facility to ensure the Chips Processing facility was segregated for safety and hygiene purposes.

Likewise, Verata village, underwent minor renovations to accommodate river mussels processes with equipment such as Scale, Vacuum Packaging machine, cartons of vacuum packaging plastics, refrigerator and small cutlery items such as knives, spoons, basins and safety and hygiene items.

Home of Hope was facilitated with Chips Slicer, Cooking stove, Scale, Dehydrator and small items such as cartons of ziplock packaging materials, cartons of jam jars and safety and hygiene items.

Overall, these equipment, machinery and items were to enable them to begin production under supervision and proceed with supplies to available and interested markets. The Centres were supervised during their initial production runs and monitored over a period of time. Ministry of Trade and Ministry of Health officials were also available for business and health and safety inspections. Continuous monitoring and gradual improvements were put in plans to be implemented in phases.

34 Outcome 2.4 Poverty Alleviation through Capacity Building of Famers;

a) How is value-addition technology transferred to stakeholders and please list some of the products and success stories.

- Conduct capacity building for subsistence farmers to enhance farmers knowledge and skills.

- * Taro beetle- 4 (1- Ra, 1- Bua, 1 - Lomaiviti, 1 Kadavu)

- * 1 Mucuna Action Research

- * Management of Invasive Plants - 2 African tulip Awareness Demonstrations for proper treatment & disposal of African tulip remains of harvest for commercial use

- * Agronomy-2 (1 Rice and 1 Cocoa Production Training)

- * SLM Community Awareness facilitated with Extension Division - 3

- * Forest and Rural Fire Management Awareness - 2

- * Conduct hands-on trainings & awareness on establishment of nursery, management & maintenance – 2

- * Conduct Training on Use of Soil test kits to analyze samples and Soil respiration.

b) What further assistance is needed to take this to the next level?

Ongoing capacity building and training.

35 Outcome 5.1 Portfolio Leadership Policy Advice and Secretariat Support;

a) What forms of assistance did the Department receive from foreign partners during this period and if any are they still being continued to date?

b) Which specific areas are targeted under the MOUs signed and how will this contribute to the improved service delivery and output of the Department?

Ridge to Reef Project, funded by UNDP, led by the Ministry of Environment with implementing partners including the Ministries of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forest.

PAGE 28 LAND RESOURCES PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

36 Outcome 1.1 and Outcome 2.4

- a) Can the Ministry list some of the major challenges faced in terms of Sustainable Land Management practices and what further assistance is needed to rectify the situation?

Sustainable Land Management (SLM) is a long term Investment. It requires a lot of effort, commitment & continuous holistic support & approach to ensure that the whole concept is adopted at all land users level. SLM is not new to Fiji as it was adopted in 2012 to leverage and modernized our local tradition practices. Planting trees in a plantation, mulching, cover cropping, fallowing of used land and contour farming had been practice by our fore fathers but in a subsistence manner. However, with increase in population size, increase in competing land use on prime agriculture area for the national economy, inter-generational changes with preferential, the provided lease term, political pressure on economic recovery with market demand limits the adoption.

The regulatory environment such as national policies or governors structures aspect does affect SLM adoption at a large scale. E.g 1953 Land Conservation Improvement Act, reviewed and rename as Land & Water Resource Management Bill, 2016 is altered and still not enforce to police the use of our land resources. Hence land user's still have more choices of what to do with their land. Taveuni was a good example of lack of adoption – as monoculture system was adopted due to the need of meeting the lucrative market prices of Tausala Dalo but system halted due to increase land degradation, soil nutrient depletion that causes loss of productivity rate per unity area.

Yaqona planting thrives after Winston when the price rises up to \$120.00 per kg. So again farmers around Fiji turn to Yaqona planting meaning a lot of forest being cleared with monoculture system. Low capital project funding also limits the outreach program to all Fiji Wide. However, the Ministry is trying it's best to deliver and now in collaboration with donor funded agencies

Assistance need to further rectify the situation

- Improve in Land Tenure Security particularly on Agriculture Lease Land where SLM practices should be clearly included for farmer's adoptions.
- Enactment & enforcement of Land & Water Resource Management Bill
- Activating & Enforcing National Rural Land Use Policy
- Supporting trend disciplinary research of multi objective assessment for SLM and its 'barriers and enable condition of implementation.
- Mainstreaming SLM best practices into National Integrated Land User's planning strategies
- Intensifying farmers engagement through provision of continuous financial and physical support
- Development of proper monitoring system
- Topographical features of Fiji landscape is **70% of the total land mass** being steep to very steep and it is more than 50% of our rural population utilizing for their daily livelihoods.

- b) Does the Department conduct follow up monitoring to ensure best practices and Sustainability?

Yes, however limited financial support hinders the monitoring activity & coverage as it is to be conducted through individual farms auditing. It involves a lot of effort and requires inter agencies support to conduct farm re-auditing at various point of time to determine the changes & general direction of progress. It is an area that needs improvement for sustainability and adoption of practices with more collaborative effort and continuous holistic support at all land user's level. Meeting daily needs and wants is and will always be a priority to a land user, hence with more incentives provided and continuous aggressive awareness strategy will continually guide ways for monitoring and evaluation of adoption rate.

- c) Has the Ministry also explored into the use of traditional knowledge and skills on sustainability land use and Management practiced by our forefathers?

Yes. Part of the SLM practices is Vertiver technology. This was adopted from system used during Colonial Sugar Refinery(CSR) time on sugar cane planting area, in trying to improve soil health, minimizing soil loss & water run off on slope land and improving land productivity per capital area. In addition, the use of Nitrogen Fixation Trees species such as Drala, Vesi, Sesbania in plantation and fallowing land for more than 3 years was adopted from traditional practices and had been proven effective. Other practices such as mulching, intercropping, agroforestry & cover cropping had been adopted from tradition farming and had being tried to be implemented in large scale planting with an aim to balnce between productivity, biological and physical protection, management and conservation

- d) Can the Ministry provide an update on the success or otherwise of the agroforestry-based system as highlighted?

Taveuni is widely adopting the agroforestry system after continuous collaborative research work and now improving their productivity per capital area on Dalo. Kadavu Island – Nabukelevu area continuously planting NFT Drala species on their yaqona plantation, Vertiver grass technology being adopted not only by farmer, but also for river bank protection, soil stabilization, coastal erosion control & Ministry is now working with Ministry Forestry for Fruit Orchard planting with intercropping of roots crops & vegetables farming.

However there is still a lot of work required, but with provision of financial support, capacitating of staff, and enforcing policies and regulation would enhance the initiatives. SLM was adopted to support agriculture development in Fiji and with proper land use planning & continuous collaboration commitments, this can be adopted at all levels.

- e) List of acronyms in the LRPD 2018-2019 Annual Report.

- i. UNCCD – United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
- ii. ACIAR – Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research
- iii. SPC – Secretariat of Pacific Community
- iv. REDD+ - Reduce Emission, Deforestation and Degradation
- v. SEEP – Social Education Empowerment Programme
- vi. CB2/CCD – Capacity Building to Climate Division
- vii. FAO – Food Agriculture Organization
- viii. NFT – Nitrogen Fixation Trees
- ix. MOU – Memorandum of Understanding

- x. UNDP – United Nation Development Programme
- xi. SLM- Sustainable Land Management
- xii. LUC – Land Use Capability
- xiii. GPS- Geographical Positioning System
- xiv. GIS- Geographical Information System
- xv. LDN – Land Degradation Neutrality
- xvi. LRD – Land Resource Division
- xvii. NAP – National Action Plan (for combating land degradation in Fiji)
- xviii. NCD – Non- Communicable Diseases
- xix. ITTO – International Tropical Timber Organization

PAGE 37 HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE & INFORMATION

- a) Can the Ministry please explain whether all vacant positions has been filled and in line with the Open Merit Recruitment Selection?

The total establishment for the Ministry on this financial business year is as follow;

2018 MOA Staff Establishment				
No.	Staff Category	Total	Filled	Vacant
1	Established	578	464	114
2	GWE's	355	271	84
3	Project	178	106	72
4	Casuals	144	101	43
			942	313
MOA Total Staf No.		1255		

Some of the reasons for increase in vacancy;

- i. 2017 Job Evaluation Exercise spearheaded by Ministry of Civil Service completed and all technical positions in the Ministry that received a salary increase of 15% after evaluation were to be re-advertised. Considering the size of the Ministry, the recruitment and selection exercise continued the next financial year, i.e. 2018-2019.
- ii. The Pacific Australia Labour Mobility started to open opportunities and Government Wage Earners started to join the scheme in pursuit of greener pastures.
- iii. Lack of staff within the Post Processing Unit delayed the fast tracking of clearing on Ministry vacancies.
- iv. Commencement of the Ministry Restructure and more positions were hold by Senior Management to make way for the decentralization and establishment of new roles. Thus many staff had to carry additional/dual roles in the respective localities.
- v. Staff resigned and secured high paid jobs from other NGOs and SPC.
- vi. Due to low wage offer at GWE, Project and Casual Level, the Ministry was unable to attract more applicants to these vacancies, thus more group of people in this category opted other job opportunities.
- vii. Veterinary positions continued to create vacuum due to low salary offered in this level and lack of registered Vets applying for the role.

- b) Can the Ministry provide the Gender breakdown of women in Managerial positions and other job classifications within the Divisions?

Gender breakdown in Managerial positions

A total of Eighty Five (85) Managerial (from Band G and above) positions were occupied in the Ministry at the end of the financial year 2018/2019. The number increased to One Hundred and Eighteen (118) as of 31st August 2023. Tabulated below is the Gender distribution;

Gender	2019	2023
Female	24	41
Male	61	77
TOTAL	85	118

The increase of 33 Managerial positions filled as compared to 2019 was fairly distributed amongst both Gender. 17 Managerial positions for Female and 16 Managerial positions for Male. Recruitment and Selection process under OMRS Guideline demands gender representation in the selection panel only, nevertheless, the ministry ensured that appointments are in accordance with approved policies and procedures at all times. The ministry will continue to align recruitment and selection in accordance with approved policies and proven best practices in ensuring all positions including Managerial positions are filled within the financial year 2023/2024 with more consideration on succession planning, workforce planning including improving and upgrading of skills set in both technical and administration cadre. The face of Agriculture services in the new era in terms of gender representations/equality is improving steadily and majority of the male dominated fields are slowly occupied by female.

- c) What are the internal control measures the Ministry has in each Divisions?

Procurement: **(HOF)**

- In terms of deliveries the ministry has now put in place internal control where by payment will only be done when the finance team have receive delivery dockets signed by the farmer.
- Also the ministry has set up a procurement unit within the finance division which is one of its task to monitor procurement activities and also look into ways of improving procurement process of the ministry.

Revenue:

- The ministry has now set up a revenue unit in its headquarters who is one of its task is to do supervisory check to ensure that all the bank lodgments forms are checked and signed by the accounts supervisors both before and after lodgments.

- The revenue team headquarters head by an Assistant accountant also conduct surprise inspection to station with the assistance of the compliance team.

Payroll

- We are now conducting monthly reconciliation on payroll and this include the reconciliation of the :
 - ✓ Previous payroll to the current or what we term as payroll to payroll
 - ✓ Payroll to general ledger to make sure that whatever is paid in the payroll is charge to the correct allocation.
 - ✓ Pay roll deduction report reconciliation where we check to make sure that all whatever is to be deducted from officers in one pay is deducted and paid to the right authority.
- d) How the material misstatement has been addressed
 - The Ministry has develop a policy to standardize the measurement of its inventory of Cattles and Pigs in line with the accounting of biological assets using the fair value less cost to sell to address the misstatement report in inventory balance and the loss of livestock .
 - In regards to the misstatement mention in miscellaneous revenues the ministry has caution the cashiers and revenue collectors to be more vigilant with their work and any non- compliance warrant disciplinary action
 - Supervisory checks has been strengthen in the formation of a revenue unit in head quarters
 - The ministry is also strictly complying with the timelines given by the Ministry of finance for closing of accounts processes and procedures

e) What are some of the accounting policies the Ministry has?

1. Asset Management Lifecycle Management Plan Guidance

- This is still in draft form with the ministry of Finance and the main aim of the policy is to the determination of asset requirements based on an assessment of both service delivery objectives and the ability of the current assets to achieve these objectives, management and utilization of the asset in order to deliver services, maintenance activities and treatment of an asset that has either reached the end of useful life, is not required to fulfil service requirements or may be no longer fit for purpose for providing the required service.

2. Biological Assets Policy-

This is still in its draft stage with the Solicitor General Office. The key point of the policy is to guide government funding into the TMA either through cash or in kind to ensure it is accounted for in its Trading and Manufacturing account.

3. Asset Management Strategy-

The purpose of the Asset Management Strategy is to provide the organization, its key stakeholders and key suppliers with a medium to long term view of how it intends to manage its infrastructure assets, specifically taking into account the asset risk, cost and performance of the asset.

4. Procurement System and Processes-

One of the new thing in this is the for the ministry to have it internal tender process. Also for any procurement above \$15,000.00 will require to be advertised in the media and the procurement technical committee of each division will sit and make submission based on the requirements of the procurement.

5. Revenue System and Processes-

The main aim is to have proper management of Government revenue.

- f) What measures has been undertaken by the Ministry to improve its Audit Opinion from being qualified to Unqualified?
- The ministry is strengthen the internal controls policy by ensuring that monthly report reconciled properly and submitted on are timely manner.
 - The finance team from headquarters continuous to do quarterly spot check to stations and division within the ministry.
 - Ongoing training and review of our financial system and process.
 - For the information of the committee the ministry has been having unqualified reports from 2020 to 2022 (past three years)

.....END.....

Appendix 5

Verbatim Report

[VERBATIM REPORT]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE 2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

SUBMITTEE: **Ministry of Agriculture (Day One)**

VENUE: **Big Committee Room, Parliament**

DATE: **Tuesday, 19th September, 2023**

**VERBATIM REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES HELD IN THE BIG COMMITTEE ROOM (EAST WING),
PARLIAMENT PRECINCTS, GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS ON TUESDAY, 19TH
SEPTEMBER, 2023 AT 11.05 A.M.**

Interviewee/Submittee: Ministry of Agriculture

In Attendance:

1. Dr. Tekini Nakidakida – Acting Deputy Secretary
2. Mr. Sikeli Baleisuva – Head of Finance
3. Mr. Suruj Prasad – Principal Agriculture Officer (Economic, Planning and Statistics)
4. Mr. Soane Remudu – National Manager Crop Development and Extension Services
5. Mr. Vinesh Dayal – Officer-in-Charge of Livestock
6. Mr. Jale Vakatale – Human Resources Division
7. Mr. Vinesh Prasad – Senior Research Officer, Koronivia Research Station
8. Mr. Ami Chand Sharma – Principal Research Officer, Koronivia Research Station

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable Members and members of the media a very good morning to you and it is indeed a pleasure to welcome everyone to the Standing Committee on Natural Resources meeting, a special welcome to the team from the Ministry of Agriculture. I am indeed privileged to Chair this first submission meeting of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources. At the outset for information purposes pursuant to the Standing Orders of Parliament specifically Standing Order 111 where all Committee meetings are to be open to the public therefore this submission meeting is open to the public and the media as well. However, for any sensitive information concerning the submission that cannot be disclosed in public, this can be provided to the Committee either in private or in writing but do note that this will only be allowed in a few specific circumstances which include:

1. National security;
2. Third-party confidential information;
3. Personnel or human resources; and
4. Meeting whereby the Committee deliberates on all issues before it and develops its recommendations and reports.

I wish to remind the honourable Members and our invited submittees that all comments and questions asked are to be addressed through the Chair. Also be mindful that only the invited submittees will be allowed to ask any questions or give comments to the Committee.

This is a Parliamentary meeting and all information gathered is covered for under the Parliamentary Powers and Privileges Act and the Standing Orders of Parliament but please do take note that the Committee does not condone libel, slander or any allegations against any individual that is not present today to defend themselves.

In terms of other protocols of this Committee meeting, please be advised that whilst the meeting is in progress movement within the meeting room will be restricted. There should be minimal usage of mobile phones whereby answering of phones should be done outside this room and all mobile phones to be on silent mode. For housekeeping purposes, whenever you

want to speak please use the microphone for the benefit of the Hansard Reporters who are here with us.

(Introduction of Members of the Committee)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- With us this morning we have the representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture who have been requested to provide a submission on the Ministry of Agriculture Annual Report 2018-2019.

I now take this time to invite our submission guests to introduce themselves before we proceed with the submission and please note if there are questions by Members of the Committee, I will not allow us to interject but let us take questions at the end so that there is a flow in the submission by the Ministry of Agriculture. With those comments, I now invite the team from the Ministry of Agriculture to introduce themselves and then proceed with their presentation this morning.

(Introduction of representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture)

DR. T. NAKIDAKIDA.- Sir, present before you this morning are the representatives from all the Divisions of the Ministry of Agriculture. If you may allow us to go through the submission. Before that, I would like to apologise on behalf of the Ministry, the set of questions reached the Economic Planning Division early yesterday morning. So with the second last paragraph of the invitation which required us to submit a power point presentation, that was not possible as members of the Ministry stayed up late to try and put together answers to the 36 questions that were posed to the Ministry of Agriculture.

We would like to thank the Committee for inviting the Ministry to submit the answers to the questions knowing that natural resources is a key component for economic drive in Fiji's economy.

Agriculture is also a key component in unsustainable management when it is expanded. So, with the results or questions or whatever is answered, we hope that we will try and cover comprehensively what is prepared before us. The team can also pitch in to help answering any doubts or any need for clarification.

First of all, Mr. Chairman, on Page No. 12 of the Annual Report 2018-2019, it deals with the key figures on agriculture commodities. The activities and figures listed but there were no explanations. We thank the Committee for giving us an insight with regards to what we needed to come up with. We know that it has been some time since a report was compiled and there are lots of lessons to learn knowing the snapshots, while it gives a very beautiful picture, it does not clarify or specify the details at which the Committee can work on to have political interventions to drive the Ministry.

The Ministry of Agriculture received a total budget of \$96.8 million. It was one of the years when the highest budget was received by the Ministry which was an achievement in itself. It was an increase of 12 percent from the previous financial year. At the end of the financial year, 67 percent of the budget was utilised. With the 67 percent utilisation, there was an increase in agriculture GDP contribution from \$597 million to \$630 million in 2019. It was a growth of 5.5 percent. The growth was attributed to the key commodities which we know back then was the driver for the economy. The increase in kava price and bouncing back from

TC Winston, there was a surge in kava price and also we realised an increase in *dalo* production. The key commodities played a vital role in increasing the agriculture contribution to the GDP.

Agriculture Production – the gross volume of agriculture production including crops and livestock recorded 327.8 tonnes which was an increase of 4.4 percent as compared to the previous year. We could see that crop production increased by almost 6 percent mainly due to the increase of the commodities which I mentioned before; cassava, taro, vegetables, coconut and *yaqona*. It was not limited to those, all the commodities experienced an increase.

For livestock production, there was a decline in production output by 1.4 percent in 2019 except for broiler and layers which showed an increase for dairy and other meat, that was a recorded decrease.

Agriculture Trade in 2019, the country's earnings from agriculture exports. When we mention agriculture exports in the Bureau of Statistics, it includes fresh and chilled produce and those that are value added. But sometimes it is recorded only as agriculture primary production. It is very important to demarcate because once a produce is processed, it comes away from agriculture and goes into manufacturing. That is where some of the mis-recording or mis-representation can take place. There was an increase by 7.1 percent.

Positive growth was recorded for export of fresh and chilled accounting for 7.2 percent. For total domestic export earnings, there was also an increase by 11 percent. So Fiji recorded a continuous growth in export over the past consecutive years of 2017-2018 and recorded in 2018- 2019.

The top was fresh and chilled crops, our livestock were kava, taro, turmeric (came in recently) due to its vital role as herbal medicine or for health purposes and, we have a mix of chicken, we are self-sufficient in poultry, eggs, cassava and eggplant to name are few, with a combined share of 97 percent of the total value of fresh and chilled crop and livestock exports.

Mr. Chairman, the expenditures for crop and livestock imports in both forms of fresh and chilled had a total of FJ\$766 million in 2019 but this was a decline of 2.1 percent compared to the previous fiscal year of 2018. Most of the production volumes captured in the tables are recorded by fiscal year from January to December.

2) PAGE 13 – KEY CROP PERFORMANCE 2018-2019

Questions are available both for crops and livestock. Activities and figures were listed in the Report but there were no explanations provided just like Question No. 1. We were thinking that an annex would suffice to provide all those and present to the Committee.

3) Dalo Production

- b) Something that was poorly recorded in the Annual Report is the domestic consumption. We have recorded a lot of exports and a lot of sales, but domestic consumption is one of the important data that was highlighted by the Committee. We went back and tried to capture whatever is sold by the roadsides or whatever is consumed in every community. So, an estimate of 46,358 tonnes was anticipated for local consumption and it had an estimated value of \$92.7 million.

From that local consumption we see the significance of recording our consumption locally.

4) Page 13 - Cassava Production

So (a), (b), (c) and (d) in 2018 and 2019, a total volume of 76,030 tonnes of cassava was produced from the four geographical divisions of Fiji, dominated by the Central Division as illustrated on the slide. The ongoing Government investment, an increase in population of Fiji and market opportunities has boosted the increase of some of these commodities. When there is a market presented, it gives a boost to the primary production knowing that whatever is produced has a market to go to.

Fiji exported 1,141 tonnes of cassava to major destinations listed as New Zealand, Australia, United States of America, Canada and other Pacific Island countries. The value of domestic sales that is yet to be confirmed by the Ministry. It is an intensive exercise where we have to involve agriculture trade and try and capture every sales from municipal markets, roadside stalls and even from subsistence farming as well. We take note that the value of domestic consumption is huge that that it is worth recording for our planning.

5) Page 13 - Ginger Production

A total of 9,398 tonnes of ginger was produced in the 2018 - 2019 financial year, of which, more than 80 percent was cultivated and harvested from the Central Division. The Central Division remains the major player in ginger production because of the conducive climate and the soil. The ginger export breakdown for 2018 to 2019 are as follows:

Trade	Commodity	Value(FJD)		Volume	
		2018	2019	2018	2019 (kg)
Export	Fresh/ Green	\$2,204,452	\$1,203,815	375,745	185,941
	Processed Ginger	\$6,297,645	\$6,696,336	789,087	821,212

The table shows fresh and green ginger or baby ginger. Processed ginger was value added. Those are the destinations of our baby ginger and processed ginger markets:

- c) Provide details of ginger farmers in the Northern and Eastern Divisions (Maritime Islands) apart from Viti Levu?

We saw this as a very important question and we thank the Committee for bringing this up because sometimes it shows the gaps in reporting, knowing that the maritime islands are usually left out in most of the major reporting. The provision of ginger seeds to the Eastern Division, especially for Cicia and Gau, for are few farmers who were interested to produce organic ginger. While ginger production was good, the inconsistency of shipping schedules and shipping cost or freight cost was the major challenge. That does not only go for

ginger, but also in other commodities in the maritime islands when the shipping schedule is not on time, then whatever is harvested usually rots on the wharf or jetty. That is where interventions must be made for probably value adding.

- d) What is the Ministry doing to improve the development and marketing of ginger?

There were interventions provided. The provision of seed material, our ginger land preparation, those were the programmes in the Ministry of Agriculture Extension Division. The procurement of agro inputs, the procurement of ginger vets and thermometers and capacity building. Capacity building is very important because they might be given the seeds, they might be given the agro inputs, et cetera but if it is not done in the package of practice that it is supposed to be done, then all those investments are going to waste.

6) Page 13 - Pawpaw Production

- a) Does the Ministry have a record of local sales?

This is something that the Ministry did not capture at the time and noting from the local consumption of some of the commodities like cassava, this is a very important data to capture as well. It will help in planning and further interventions. I think it started two years later from this report when the AgTrade Team of the Ministry of Agriculture started moving out and in consultation with the hotels, not only for papaya but for all commodities that were going into the tourism sector.

- b) Are there any constraints in terms of cargo?

Yes, freight space is a major constraint in the export because passengers are given the priority to board first with their luggage and whatever space is left is given to the exports.

7) Page 13 - Yaqona Production

- a) What was the volume and value of local sales?

This is a very important figure because we know that local consumptions of kava surpasses exports. In 2019 Fiji exported 328 tonnes worth \$32.5 million. So, while the remaining 31 percent is shared by other countries such as New Zealand, Hawaii and other Pacific Islands, the recorded export value when we compare this to local consumption or local sales, there is a marked difference. We consume a lot more than what is exported.

- b) Does the export include processed yaqona products?

It does. There are some processing and marketing centres opened and packaging, value adding.

- c) The volume and value of imported yaqona, we also facilitate Vanuatu kava in the country.
- d) What financial assistance is available to the Ministry and other lending agencies to help the farmers in increasing production?

While we are sure of what is provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, what is provided by other lending agencies are not fully captured or fully understood. The Ministry provides farm plans/business plans to help the farmers secure financial support. From then on, there is no data captured regarding which farmer gets how much to drive which commodity.

8) Page 13 - Pineapple Production

Pineapple is an important commodity as well. One of the key commodities that drove the increase in GDP contribution of agriculture. So, a total of 7,158 tonnes of pineapple was produced in Fiji in 2019 which was an increase of 19 percent. We knew that pineapple production was predominated by Tailevu North and Seaqaqa in Vanua Levu. Recently it expanded to the Western Division where Ba took over as the main producer in Fiji right now.

- a) Does the Ministry have a record of local sales particularly the hotel industries?

There are some of the budgeted activities targeted to increase pineapple production. Supply of planting materials, agro-inputs, while that is recorded, our local sales again like other commodities are not fully captured.

Value Adding – the Ministry is working in collaboration with agro-processors because when there is flood in pineapple supply in the market, we do not want that to go to rot so we are supporting agro-processors to absorb the oversupply.

We also have value addition in pineapple to expand the self-life and also improve its exportability by using pineapple candy or whatever is produced by our Food Tech Unit in Koronivia. So, there were some very good examples of some of the produce that are researched in Koronivia and has been taken up by the private sector to a commercial level.

- 9) We were asked to provide a list of local producers. Again, honourable Members, the list of exporters will be included. These are all that are registered with Bio-Security Authority of Fiji and the Ministry of Agriculture. It is a very long list so we will provide that as an annex as well like the list of farmers from the top.

10) Have the Ministry explored export opportunities?

This is a continuous work for the Agriculture Trade Unit of the Economic Planning Division. They continue to tap into markets, explore market opportunities and they consult local producers, stakeholders and bilateral counterparts. A good example here would be ginger. We know that ginger production has been increasing in the past five years but the buyers remain the same. Only two buyers with the same quota for the past five years. So, our

Agriculture Trade Unit is working round the clock to get markets where this ginger can be absorbed.

PAGE 14 – KEY LIVESTOCK PERFORMANCE 2018-2019

We thank the Committee for the questions posed to the Ministry.

11) Pig Production

What was the production sufficiency volume?

So, for all livestock products in Fiji, poultry production is 335,499 tonnes. We can see the volume or the figures for 2018 and this can be compared to 2019. There were some decreases and increases based on various factors that influenced the livestock sector.

We know that self-sufficient ratio for poultry is very good in Fiji, it is around 90, for pork from 80 to 90 and beef, it is 51 and still remains the same.

Beef in Fiji remains a challenge due to various factors including diseases and also management or rearing systems.

So, egg and milk we see that there is self-sufficiency of eggs. Milk is the same as beef. The challenges or factors surrounding that production are the same.

- b) Can the Ministry provide details of the volume and cost of local consumption for pigs?

This is a very important data. What is recorded, I commended the team for what they found through the surveys. The volume is 1,752 tonnes, valued at \$21 million.

- c) The imported volume and export destinations. We imported 188 tonnes of pork in 2019 mainly from our neighbours (Australia and New Zealand) and we export pork to our neighbouring countries in the Pacific.

12) Dairy Production

The table illustrates the imported volume or products and the cost of dairy products, so from milk, butter cheese, cream right up to yoghurt. We know that dairy is a sector that needs huge investments since we are importing a lot. So in our import substitution programme, we will need to invest a lot in dairy since we have the potential or the resources. How we put those together is very important and data that is captured here, we hope that if compared to previous and post 2019 years, it can provide good information for planning.

13) Poultry Production

Like what is presented for dairy, we have the volume and the value. We can see that for imports, we are importing lots of chicken. That is why the value is around \$15 million and live chickens. The meat production in Fiji remains a

challenge which we have to manage and address. It is not only for beef, for small ruminants but also for any meat.

14) Goat Production

Is Fiji self-sufficient in goat production?

Fiji is 98 percent self-sufficient. Out of that 98 percent, only 20 percent ends up in the formal market. That means that 80 percent of that 98 percent is usually kept for local consumption. We can experience as it comes into some festive seasons, farmers hold on to their stock because they will only sell it during that time by the roadside or next to the bus stand in Nadi where we see this a lot. Provision of details on figures on the volume of those goat meat, there is a production data given on the top table and whatever we import is given on the table below. We see that the value of goat meat import is 44.7 percent of live goat.

15) Page 14 Beef Production

For beef production in Fiji, this is also something that the Ministry is working hard on to address.

The Ministry provide an explanation on why there was no figure given on the volume. We thank the Committee for the previous session where we know that we were recording live animals only. We knew that there were also, part of processed beef and other meat that were not recorded. Given the figure in the Annual Report, that under reporting can have very big repercussions on our interventions which are planned. We thank the Committee for raising that question.

Mr. Chairman, the beef production of 2,743 tonnes is provided in the Annual Report. Is Fiji self-sufficient? Fiji is not self-sufficient with beef. Almost all of the local beef do not make it to the hotels due to quality. Whatever is produced is either going into the formal market's butchers but there are a lot also that can be recorded for local consumption in the various communities. We know that for every funeral happening around Fiji in a Fijian community, there are three or four cattle slaughtered but all those are not recorded. So self-sufficiency is yet to be realised.

The export destination for beef products. These are according to the Bureau of Statistics, mainly used for catering at high seas, in the aeroplanes, our flights. Whatever corned beef we receive in Fiji and we export, that is something that also can be captured because it is going out of Fiji.

17) Page 14 Sheep Production

Fiji recorded 2 percent self-sufficiency. This reflects the high dependence on imported lamb. In 2018 to 2019 even though with the interventions existing in the Ministry of Agriculture, we are still very much dependent on imported lamb.

PAGE 16 – CROP EXTENSION DIVISION

18) **OUTCOME 1.1 MAINTAINING FOOD SECURITY THROUGH THE PROVISION OF EXTENSION AND RESEARCH SERVICES BOTH FOR LIVESTOCK AND CROPS**

- a) If the Ministry can clarify how many are new farmers and how many are existing farmers?

When we continue to record over the years, farmers in 2018 and 2019, I think something that must be captured, in order to give an insight of whether there is a growth or whether it is stagnant. Out of the 720 farmers assisted, 216 were registered new farmers and 504 were existing farmers. New farmers were recommended to be assisted after farmer consultations, field verifications and after confirming landownership. Any existing farmer can be assisted twice if the farmer had been identified through proven records that he or she has utilised the interventions provided to him or her earlier. We do not encourage double assistance if the assistance is not put into good use.

- b) How effective is the monitoring system?

We have a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) section of the Ministry, so in the implementation of these projects were carried out internally by locality officers. The first monitoring level is done by the locality officers then it comes up to the provisional level and then at the national level is done by the Monitoring and Evaluation Team. So, we have monthly reports, quarterly reports and half year reports which can be used as tracking documents for implemented projects.

- (c) How many of those selected are subsistence, semi-commercial and commercial farmers?

So the demarcation of those farmers, 288 were subsistence farmers and 300 were semi-commercial farmers and 132 were commercial farmers.

- (d) Apart from assisting farmers in their production, is the Ministry involved in facilitating market access?

The Ministry facilitates the market access through consultation, stakeholder meetings and also preparing market pathways, improving the infrastructure that is certified for exports and through the Agriculture Trade Unit there is also bilateral counterparts' consultation. The Ministry plays a vital role in facilitating access to market.

- (e) **Rice Programme** - what is the progress of rice farming given the forms of assistance through machinery, seedlings and demonstration plots?

The intervention through the Rice Programme had impacted production to increase from 1,121 hectares in 2018 to 1,229.5 hectares; an increase of 5 percent in production, where distribution of rice funding was also directed to the Western Division, even though the North was the main area for rice production.

- f) Impacting Fiji's import level, trade data indicated a decrease in import from those interventions in the rice programme. From 40,000 metric tonnes, our import reduced to 37,000 metric tonnes in 2019.

Local Fiji rice being sold in local municipal markets and supermarkets, we can see red rice and some farmers stick to the local varieties because of the taste, even though we are recommending these new varieties or hybrids, but there are taste preferences, which makes farmers stick to traditional varieties.

- g) Some of the identified challenges were the high cost of agro input and the mechanised farming system. Right now, we have labour who do not want to get into the swamp areas of paddy, so it becomes labour intensive for those who manage paddy rice. There is limited availability of the technologies and lack of proper infrastructure for rice mills and processing of rice. Saltwater intrusion in low lying areas, this is a major problem attributed to rising sea levels and also damaged flood gates causing intrusion of salt water. For the information of the Committee, it is easier to improve soil that is acidic, but soil that is basic like the ones affected by salinity, it is very hard to correct those damages.
- (h) Some of the suggested solutions. With the problems above, suggested solutions could be the supply of fertilizer, a subsidy programme/mechanisation. Since it is labour intensive, it needs mechanisation, establishment of co-operative. One farmer may produce 5 tonnes, a group of farmers can produce 50 tonnes. So, it is a co-operative concept, grouping farmers together.

Improvement of existing structures and drainage, we have various rice schemes that are around Fiji. If those infrastructures can be improved, I think it can raise our rice production as well and to improve data collection methods. While we are producing more and channelling more to our rice mills, supermarkets, consumption and our imports, data collection is very important in order to track our consumption rates, import of our local production, increases in production area and increases productivity which can all contribute to address the problems faced by rice.

- i) Can the Ministry please clarify the 5 processing that were constructed and the 5 drying sheds (location and purpose)?

The table will clarify what the commodity was, the first one is a coconut dryer facility. There are three in Macuata, and then a *yaqona* dryer facility and then we also have processing sheds. So a unit in Cakaudrove for *yaqona* pounding, Lomaviti there is one unit for *yaqona* drying and storage, there are two processing shed units in Taveuni for *yaqona*, dalo post-harvest shed and one unit in Tailevu for pineapple processing.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- DS, can I kindly ask you to pause for a minute. Honourable Members, it is my intention to allow the submittees to go until 12.15pm and I also have a question to the officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, would you be available again tomorrow?

DR. T. NAKIDAKIDA.- Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you, then that is half the problem solved. Honourable Members if you do concur, we will allow the Deputy Secretary and the team to continue till 12.15pm and we will conclude today's submission and then we will quickly discuss the programme so that they can go back with the visit programme and then we continue again tomorrow with the presentation, if that is alright with the officials from the Ministry?

HON. J.N. NAND.- Mr. Chairman, I support that.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I understand that honourable Vanawalu will be in the Western Division but he should be able to listen to our proceedings virtually, I am sure the honourable Members are enjoying this. Honourable Vanawalu, your comments please?

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you, let us proceed till 12.15pm.

DR. T. NAKIDAKIDA.- Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and honourable Members, for the understanding. The Ministry is a very complex Ministry that is affected by a lot of factors especially weather. To give us this time, it is highly appreciated.

19) OUTCOME 2.2 – MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE LINKAGES OF FARMERS TO MARKET FINANCIAL SERVICES AND TOURISM SECTOR

Can the Ministry please provide the list of Financial Institutions? I also touched on this from above on the lending institutions if it can be provided in a table by Divisions – livestock, crops or also Northern, Central Geographical Divisions.

So, linkages of farmers to financial institutions and tourism sector is recognised by the Ministry as an important activity to create awareness for better community of services rendered to sustain rural agriculture. This is to maintain through the attendance of *Tikina*/Provincial Council Meetings.

Community awareness at villages or community level at Agriculture Mini Shows. I think that paragraph talks about the links or the linkages of the farming projects to the various lending institutions. In those pocket meetings, cluster meetings or co-operative meetings, there is a bulk of information gathered that portrays how these are linked.

So, lending institutions and stakeholders usually showcase what they have at their disposal to support rural agriculture. They are usually invited to these meetings and farmers are made aware that this sort of support is available and how they can go about to access.

- b) Can the Ministry provide total funding given by lending institutions to each farmer and how were the funds being utilised?

As I have mentioned above, one of the Ministry's core role is to support farmers access financial support from lending institutions. What is recorded from then

on or what transpired out of that farm report whether the bank qualifies them for a loan, that is not fully recorded by the Ministry and it is something that has to be captured working with Fiji Development Bank and with other lending institutions so that we can track the full support provided to improve the farming programme.

20) OUTCOME 2.3 ENSURING EQUAL ACCESS FOR WOMEN AND YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE

Can the Ministry please provide different locations of women assisted under this Programme?

There are various programmes and a policy was developed and also there are various programmes that address women specifically. There is a policy developed for youth and there are also programmes that target youth directly.

The table shows the number of clusters around Fiji. These are women clusters and youths. So, if we see the table, a total of six clusters and 30 individuals during the 2018-2019 financial year.

- b) List of all those clusters that were established and there were trainings give to these. There is a huge list to which covers about three pages, so if we go up we will see the diverse locations of these clusters from the Central, Western and I hope there are some from the North. If we scroll all the way up, I think it continues the next page. There are 73 clusters and individuals from the four geographical divisions. With that, a follow-up programme is badly needed in order to assess the status of these groups whether they have developed from 2019 level, 2020 level to the 2023 level.

- c) What are the long-term plans for growth for cluster systems?

It is important to have some binding laws or documents because a cluster while it may be working, if someone can just cause or stir up trouble in a cluster, there is no document that binds him or her to be taken to task for something that will disrupt the cluster because we have experienced cases, interventions given to clusters, machines, seed materials and fertilisers. While it will start off well, at some point down the line, there will be one single farmer that wants to control the whole operation and he or she will be holding the cluster at ransom. So learning from those, we think that the way forward because of the binding agreements or legislations that the co-operative has.

Those are the characteristics of what the Ministry wants to follow in order to get these clusters registered, enter into a co-operative and also sustain in order to make them more productive. Some of them are just forming co-operatives in order to access grants but we are trying to change the mindset for them to form co-operatives to improve productivity and supply phases.

21) OUTCOME 2.4 – POVERTY ALLEVIATION THROUGH CAPACITY BUILDING FOR FARMERS

There were numerous training and capacity building carried out already in the various commodities that are existing in the Ministry of Agriculture. Almost each commodity has management practice that needs specific technical expertise explanations and hands-on training from cocoa, coconut, ginger right down to dairy as well. All those require specific handling.

b) What was the impact of the training?

That is something very important - how to measure the impact of training? It could be an increase in production volume, it could be an improvement in the socio-economic livelihood of the community. Out of a total 14 farmers training, 4 field schools conducted, 6 awareness and consultation meetings organised.

Appropriate technology was anticipated to improve livelihood for farming households. Sir, that anticipated measures will have to be realised in the 2020-2021 Annual Reports and also in the later reports.

Result Based Assessment showed that 60 percent of farmers trained and adopted the technology during the training. The adoption rate of new technologies and innovations is something that the Ministry also struggles with because of the versatile thinking of our farmers. Sometimes they are there to go along with the adoption when the project is running and when the project ceases, their adoption also ceased. It is something that we must build on and try and improve the mindset or thinking of farmers in order for them to be sustainable and not to be over reliant on project funding.

22) OUTCOME 3.1: REDUCTION OF DISASTER RISKS AND STRENGTHEN PREPAREDNESS.

a) Can the Ministry clarify which indigenous crops were established?

For disaster risk, we saw indigenous crops or traditional crops as more climate resilient crops. We understand this from the various surveys that while hybrids improve volume, it is the traditional crops that survive the test of climate. So *dalo ni tana, kawai, tivoli*, these are mostly our climate change crops that are currently used by the communities in order to bounce back quickly from any disaster.

b) Types of awareness conducted on disaster response and preparedness – community outreach and continuous resilience training or disaster adaptation awareness in order to build the resilience of communities. So that goes together with media and various demonstrations and agriculture shows.

c) If the Ministry can clarify activities listed in the table form based on the data provided?

The various types of crops procured and distributed in the four geographical divisions. A total of 15 crops, I think with the time provided to come back tomorrow, we can have those lists that I have mentioned before in the above

questions to be listed as annex – a list of crops as in Part C, the list of farmers from one of the questions above.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- On behalf of the Committee, I acknowledge the Deputy Secretary and his team for the presentation this morning, unless honourable Members have burning questions but I prefer, again I emphasis I prefer to leave the questions until tomorrow. But I just want to make two comments:

1. Please bear with us because this is the first presentation that you are making to this Committee and we want to understand the Ministry and the sector very well. I assure you that come the next report, it will be not as detailed as such; and
2. If you have problems, I do not know where this correspondence is lost along the chain because they just received our request yesterday for the presentation. But if that can be worked out with the Ministry, we have a degree of flexibility, but we want them to prepare well when they come to the Committees. So if the Ministry, because of their late receival of the report, would like to communicate that to us and ask for whatever reasons, let us know. I am pretty flexible on that. I intend to conclude with the visit report very briefly just for the Committee to discuss with the Ministry officials and then perhaps when they come tomorrow again, we will discuss this and maybe they can come with some of their own views and recommendations to the programme. I invite your comments, honourable Members.

HON. T.N. TUNABUNA.- Mr. Chairman, I wish to acknowledge the team from the Ministry of Agriculture for their presentation today knowing that the report is a 2018 to 2019 one, and it would have been reported in a different format according to what they were required to present in an MIS format, which may be different from what we would like to have in Parliament as a parliamentary report. We thank them for their input this morning. We are looking forward to going through the remaining years that we have so that when we come back in future deliberations, as we had discussed that we would like the general to view in the normal parliamentary channel. I think, you have made a right decision to have this one as a closed discussion simply because we would like them to come back on track on how we normally carry out this business. Because of the significance of this deliberation, we would be thankful if they can fast track the report that they have, so that in future deliberations the reports are current and reports bear the work that the current officers do have. I think that is the comment I have. I wish to acknowledge them for the response they have here with us.

HON. J.N. NAND.- Mr. Chairman, I really appreciate the very comprehensive report, but I request for tomorrow, if that can be summarised a bit, because the follow up supplementary questions and the questions would be coming up later on. If the presenter can summarise the presentation so that we can have enough time to ask questions and the supplementary questions. That is my take on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- This is available to us already or still with them?

SECRETARIAT.- The questions?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- No, their response.

SECRETARIAT.- It is with us, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Probably we can have a copy after this, that will be good. To the team from the Ministry of Agriculture, what the honourable Tunabuna was stating is, I have decided for today's deliberations, it is still an open one, but less the live coverage. Come the next one, we will have live coverage here. So do not panic.

(Discussions on Committee's site visit)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Once again I thank the honourable Members and our submittees and of course the secretariat as well for the arrangement of today's meeting.

Our meeting is adjourned until 10.30 a.m. and we see you at 10.45 a.m.

The Committee adjourned at 12.30 p.m.