



**HON. VATIMI T.T.K RAYALU**  
**Minister for Agriculture and Waterways**

Date: 21<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Venue: Parliamentary Complex, Suva

---

**Written Question 169/2023**

Hon. Sachida Nand to ask the Minister for Agriculture and Waterways –  
Can the Minister update Parliament on the following; -

- (a) how many farmers have been assisted by the Ministry on a cost sharing basis in the last financial year;
  - (b) provide a breakdown on cost sharing in each commodity and division;  
and
  - (c) how many farmers are expected to be assisted by the Ministry on a cost sharing basis this financial year.
- 

The Ministry implemented cost sharing programmes to facilitate the transition of the sector from previous level of production to fully fledged commercial production system by improving access to means of implementation.

This evolution will boost foreign exchange earnings further promoting the expansion of commercial agriculture in the country.

For the 2022-2023 financial year, the assistance provided directly to farmers will increase food production and levels of food security thus create market opportunities and improve livelihood, respectively.

The support provided was divided into two categories to facilitate equal opportunities to farmers based on their level of production and progress.

- i. For individuals who have never received MoA assistance before and;
- ii. For those who have been assisted in the past and have progressed well.

In the cost sharing arrangement, each party contributes a portion of the total cost, which includes direct costs like materials, labor, agro inputs and indirect costs such as administration and salaries.

Cost sharing is an effective way to cushion financial burdens and risks among multiple stakeholders, fostering collaboration on shared responsibility for achieving the primary goals, which is production in this context.

*(a) how many farmers have been assisted by the Ministry on a cost sharing basis in the last financial year;*

During the 2022-2023 financial year, the Ministry had 16 cost sharing programmes and have assisted more than **989** farmers as illustrated in the table below.

No.	Program	Total no. of farmers assisted
1	Poultry & Poultry Extension Program	142
2	Animal Waste Management Programme	23
3	Sheep Extension Program	131
4	Beef Extension Program	37
5	Goat Extension Program	138
6	Dairy Extension Program	45
7	Dairy Development Program	232
8	Apiculture	1
9	Small Farming Equipment	129
10	Agro Processor Infrastructure Support	15
11	Commercial Yaqona Farming Equipment	34
12	Purchase of Digger	5
13	Purchase of Rice Harvester	9
14	Purchase of Tractor	25
15	Commercial Farmers Equity Package	8
16	Land Preparation Facility	15
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>989</b>

*(b) provide a breakdown on cost sharing in each commodity and division;*

Tabulated below is the breakdown of the cost sharing programs in each activity and division.

No	Program	Activities (which includes commodity)	No. of Farmers Assisted	Division	MOA Contribution	Farmers Contribution
1	Poultry Extension	Poultry Shed Initiative	81	West-33 North-30 Central-16 Eastern-2	Up to \$2,500 worth of Shed Material	Labour and Construction
		Broiler Package Initiative	10	West-3 North-2 Central-3 Eastern-2	Up to \$3500 worth of package (shed material, chicks, feed & feed equipment)	Labour and Construction
		Layer Package Initiative	5	West-1 North-1 Central-2 Eastern-1	Up to \$3,550 worth of package (chicks, feed, A-frame cage and feeder/drinker)	Labour and Construction
2	Pig Extension Program	Pig Pan Initiative	23	West-7 North-5 Central-4 Eastern-7	Up to \$6,000 worth of Shed Material, Water Tank	Labour and Construction
3	Animal Waste Management Programme	Biogas Digesters	23	West-6 North-5 Central 7 Eastern-4	Up to \$4,500 worth of portable biogas digester	Labour, water, animal manure and set up of base site for installation and area of security
4	Sheep Extension Program	Sheep Fencing kit	101	West-61 North-37 Central-2 Eastern-1	Up to \$2,500 worth of fencing Material	Labour and Construction
		Sheep Shed	30	West-15 North-10 Central-3 Eastern-2	Up to \$6,000 worth of materials	Flooring, Labour and Construction



5	Beef Extension Program	Stockyard	10	West-4 North-2 Central 3 Eastern 1	Up to \$7,500 worth of material	Labour and Construction
		Fencing Kit	27	West-13 North-6 Central 7 Eastern 1	Up to \$1,500 worth of materials	Labour and Construction
6	Goat Extension Program	Goat Fencing kit	90	West-58 North-26 Central-5 Eastern 1	Up to \$2,500 worth of fencing Material	Labour and Construction
		Goat Shed	26	West-8 North-15 Central 2 Eastern 1	Up to \$9,000 worth of materials	Labour and Construction
		Goat Rearing	22	West-16 North-5 Central 1	Up to \$10,300 worth of shed and fencing materials	Labour and Construction
7	Apiculture	Honey Processing Equipment	1	West-1	\$47,290.95	Labour and construction of infrastructure
8	Dairy Extension Programme	Dairy Shed Construction	25	West-6 North-2 Central-17	\$250,000	Labour and infrastructure construction
		National Certificate in Dairy Level 2	20	West-2 Central-19	\$16,000	Farmers to attend training sessions
9	Small Farming Equipment	Purchase of power tillers, hand rotavator, yaqona pounding machine & dryer	129	18 central, 17 Western, 24 North, 3 Eastern	Ministry provides 2/3 of the total cost	Farmer provides 1/3 of the total cost.
10	Agro Processor Infrastructure Support	Infrastructure development, Machinery Equipment	11	4 central, 2 Western, 5 North,	The Ministry provides assistance up to maximum \$10,000	Farmer will provide 1/3 of the total.
11	Commercial Yaqona Farming Equipment	Infrastructure and Equipment	34	Central 9, Eastern 11, North 11, West-3	The Ministry provides assistance up to \$5,000	Farmer will provide \$1,200, labour cost and pounding shed.

12	Purchase of Digger	Provision of Digger	5	Central-3 West-2	The Ministry contributes 2/3 of the cost- \$83,333.35	The Cooperatives provides 1/3 of the cost- \$41,666.65
13	Purchase of Rice Harvester	Provision of Rice Harvester	9	North-8 West-1	The Ministry contributes 2/3 of the cost- \$33,266.67	The Cooperatives provides 1/3 of the cost- \$16,633.33
14	Purchase of Tractor	Provision of Tractor	25	West-11 North-5 Central-9	The Ministry contributes 2/3 of the cost- \$31,080	The Cooperatives provides 1/3 of the cost- \$15,540
15	Commercial Farmers Equity Package	Provision of equity payment to Fiji Development Bank	8	Central-1 North-3 West-4	The Ministry assist farmers applicants through different categories ranging from 1 to 8 with their equity package	The farmer will be submitting payments to FDB
16	Land Preparation Facility	Clearing of land	15	7 central, 3 Western, 5 North	Ministry provides 9/10 of the total cost	Farmer will provide 1/10 of the cost

Source: Crop Development & Extension Services Division and the Animal Health Division.

Furthermore, the Ministry has also implemented cost sharing activities with Fiji Dairy Cooperative Limited through the Dairy Development Grant. Activities includes:

- Milk Cartage small holder Farms
- Calf Feed Support
- Calf Milk Replacer
- Dairy Mesh Support
- Pasture/ Fodder seeds

Breakdown of cost sharing activity is attached as **Annex 1**.

*c).how many farmers are expected to be assisted by the Ministry on a cost sharing basis this financial year?*

Thirdly, in the 2023 -2024 financial year, the Ministry will assist more than **846** farmers on cost sharing programmes. This programs includes:

**Crop Extension Division:**

Program	Number of farmers assisted																																	
Small Farming Equipment	72																																	
Farm Mechanisation	44																																	
Fertiliser Subsidy	300																																	
Outsourcing	<p>The farmer will need to pay 50% on the hiring of machines including digger, tractor and bulldozer, therefore a maximum of 20hrs for digger works and 10 hours for tractor works through the hourly rate tabulated below.</p> <table><tr><th>No</th><th>Tractor HP</th><th>Hourly Rate</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>45 HP – 64 HP</td><td>\$ 60.00</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>65 HP- 75HP</td><td>\$ 75.00</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>&gt;75HP</td><td>\$ 80.00</td></tr><tr><td colspan="3">Digger</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>6ton-7.5ton</td><td>\$80</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>8ton-10ton</td><td>\$100</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>&gt;10ton</td><td>\$120</td></tr><tr><td colspan="3">Bulldozer</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>D4</td><td>\$120</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>D6</td><td>\$170</td></tr></table>	No	Tractor HP	Hourly Rate	1	45 HP – 64 HP	\$ 60.00	2	65 HP- 75HP	\$ 75.00	3	>75HP	\$ 80.00	Digger			4	6ton-7.5ton	\$80	5	8ton-10ton	\$100	6	>10ton	\$120	Bulldozer			7	D4	\$120	8	D6	\$170
No	Tractor HP	Hourly Rate																																
1	45 HP – 64 HP	\$ 60.00																																
2	65 HP- 75HP	\$ 75.00																																
3	>75HP	\$ 80.00																																
Digger																																		
4	6ton-7.5ton	\$80																																
5	8ton-10ton	\$100																																
6	>10ton	\$120																																
Bulldozer																																		
7	D4	\$120																																
8	D6	\$170																																
Land Preparation	111 farmers will be assisted through the land preparation programme. Through the criteria of the programme, farmers will need to pay 1/10 <sup>th</sup> of the total cost.																																	

**Animal Health & Production Division:**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Number of farmers assisted</b>
Poultry Extension	29
Pig Extension	11
Animal Waste management program	24
Sheep Extension Program	32
Beef Extension Program	48
Goat Extension Program	39
Dairy Extension Program	115
Apiculture	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>246</b>

<b><u>Program</u></b>	<b>Number of farmers assisted</b>
Commercial Agriculture Development Programme. (Exporters & Agro Processors)	13
Commercial Farmers Equity Package	3

To ensure that all farmers get access to these cost sharing assistance, the Ministry will be publishing Expression of Interest (EOI) forms and will be shared to respective Agriculture geographical office. Each program will have its criteria and package of assistance.

**ANNEX 1: Fiji Cooperative Dairy Company Limited.**

<b>FIJI COOPERATIVE DAIRY COMPANY LIMITED - DAIRY DEVELOPMENT GRANT \$1,200,000 VIP [2022-2023]</b>		
<b>Utilization 2022</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
<b>Project Activities</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>	Year
<b>VAT payment</b>		
Payment to FRCS	\$92,460.53	Paid FRCS
Total	\$92,460.53	
<b>Milk Cartage small holder Farms</b>		
Farmers \$0.04 contribution	\$144,000.00	Farmers contribution in cartage reimburse to farmers
FCDCL contribution to contractors	\$583,078.68	Government paid cart of farm gate milk
Total	\$727,078.68	total expenditure by government on cartage
<b>Calf Feed Support</b>		
Calf feed Grower	\$35,870.00	3000 bags Support to farmers 1/3 paid by government
Total	\$35,870.00	paid by farmers
<b>Calf Milk Replacer</b>		
CMR	\$128,400.00	\$150 per bag paid by government \$85 paid by farmers 856 bags subsidy to farmers
Total	\$128,400.00	

<b>Dairy Mesh Support</b>		
Dairy Mesh	\$63,600.00	6000 (farmer dairy mesh subsidy (1/3 by government & 2/3 by the farmers
Total	\$63,600.00	
<b>Pasture/ Fodder seeds</b>		
Seeds	\$32,390.79	1/3 by government and 2/3 by the farmers
Total	\$32,390.79	
Dairy Advisory Officers		
Four officers	\$80,200.00	full government paid FCDCL: to cater other operational expenses and safety
Total	\$80,200.00	
Infrastructure Improvement	\$40,000.00	upgrade feed loading area
Total	\$40,000.00	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$1,200,000.00</b>	

**VTTKR**

-----End-----