

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

Written Question Response

Monday 28th April 2025

(Written question 26/2025) Can the Minister inform Parliament on the following: –

- a) how many projects will be undertaken by the Ministry of Waterways in the current financial year;
- b) how many projects are funded locally and those by donor agencies per Division; and
- c) what are the current updates of each project.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways is actively engaged in numerous projects to enhance the waterways, improve drainage and irrigation, and mitigate flooding and climate-related risks.

The 2024/2025 financial year, the Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways has been implementing 9 work programs nationwide worth FJD16.65 million and four donor projects worth FJD480,000. The total budget is worth FJD17,131,000.00 (Annex 1).

These are categorized as follows:

- i. The Drainage and Flood Protection Program includes eight riverbank stabilization projects, which are to benefit the general public at the following locations:
 - 1. Sawani Village, Naitasiri \$280,000.00.
 - 2. Matainoco Village Rewa \$300,000.00.
 - 3. Naivilaca Village, Rewa \$350,000.00.
 - 4. Bualomanikoro Village, Bua \$80,000.00.
 - 5. Waciwaci Village, Lakeba \$250,000.00.
 - 6. Yavusania Village, Nadi \$200,000.00.
 - 7. Naviyago Village, Lautoka \$280,000.00.
 - 8. Mavua Village, Nadroga/Navosa \$50,000.00.
 - 9. Navakaka Village, Cakaudrove \$270,000.00.
- **ii.** The Coastal Protection Program comprises nine projects to benefit those living in:
 - 1. Ovea Village, Tailevu \$650,000.00.
 - 2. Nasilai Village, Tailevu \$50,000.00.
 - 3. Lakeba Hospital, Lakeba-Lau \$281,620.00.
 - 4. Nawaisomo Village, Bega \$241,022.75.
 - **5.** Navolau 1 Village, Ra \$200,000.00.
 - 6. Somosomo Village, Taveuni \$30,000.00.
 - **7.** Marou Village, Yasawa \$50,000.00.
 - **8.** Ketei Village, Totoya Lau -\$250,000.00.
 - 9. Navunievu Village, Bua \$70,000.00.

The Watershed Management Program, the Ministry has commenced the construction of the Qalinabulu Creek Flood Retention Dam in the Upper Ba River Catchment worth \$350,000.00.

Complementing this, the River Dredging Program is nearing completion of three kilometers of the Ba River Mouth Channel worth \$6,508,745.00, with 373,000 cubic meters of silt removed to mitigate flooding.

The Irrigation Support for Farm Development Program, 15 irrigation kits have been distributed worth \$138,000.00 to farmers in the Western, Central, and Eastern Divisions to combat drought.

Additionally, a Gravity-fed Irrigation Dam has been completed at Vola Settlement, Cakaudrove, worth \$69,000.00.

The Maintenance of Rice Irrigation Schemes Program has serviced seven out of eight existing schemes:

- 1. Navua Rice Scheme \$21,428.57.
- 2. Dreketi Rice Scheme \$21,428.57.
- 3. Nasarawaqa Rice Scheme \$21,428.57.
- 4. Korokadi Rice Scheme \$21,428.57.
- 5. Droca Scheme \$21,428.57.
- 6. Bua Scheme \$21,428.57.
- 7. Vunivau Rice Scheme \$21,428.57.

The Maintenance of Drainage Systems (Non-Municipal) Program falls under the purview of the re-established Drainage Boards.

The Central Division Drainage Board has completed works at the:

- Korovisilou Village, Serua Province \$39,600.00.
- Military Ground, Bayview Heights \$11,500.00.
- Dreketi, Rewa \$42,228.00.
- Namara, Tailevu \$13,476.00.
- Serua \$1,380.00.
- Matainavuso Creek, Tailevu \$29,670.00.
- Sauniwaga, Rewa \$23,000.00.
- Koronivia \$18,975.00.

The Northern Division Drainage Board is currently working on the:

- Flood gate installations at Novoalau, Malau, Korovatu, Nagigi, Wailevu, and Soasoa - \$94,500.00.
- Desilting works at Vuniyalayala, Waikisi, Sarava, Kelikoso, Bocalevu, Qelewaqa, Belego, Nabua Area 2, Droca Area 2, Korotari Area 2, Korokadi Areas 1 & 2, Valelawa Area 1, Dreketi Stage 2, Nasarawaqa, and Dreketi Irrigation - \$232, 150.00.
- Earth-bund seawall upkeep at Wailevu, Tiri, Soaosa, Nagigi, and Naleba
 \$7,000.00.

The Western Division Drainage Board is conducting drainage improvements at the:

- Raviravi, Navatu, and Togalevu (Ba) \$50,337.00.
- Solovi, Nadi \$35,088.00.
- Nabuna, Toko, and Balata (Tavua) \$60,078.00.

- Caboni, Rakiraki \$10,350.00.
- Drasa and Naviyago (Lautoka) \$67,803.00
- Lomawai Scheme (Sigatoka) \$47,633.00.

As a result of delays in the tender process for machinery hire contracts in the Northern, Central, and Eastern Divisions, the Drainage for Rural Residential and Drainage for Farmlands Programs were exclusively implemented in the Western Division this year. These contracts are expected to commence smoothly next financial year.

The Rural Residential Program covers:

- Sigatoka: Vunikavika Settlement, Naqalimare, Rakirakilevu -\$13,147.00.
- Nadi: Nasau, Wailoko \$12,075.00.
- Lautoka: Buabua \$7,081.00.
- Ba: Togalevu, Sigave, Mataniqara, Votua \$16,272.00.
- **Tavua:** Vanuakoula, Tavualevu, Nabuna, Balata, Nasivi, Natawa, Korovou \$61,978.00.
- Rakiraki: Namara, Matawailevu \$70,035.00.

The Farmlands Program includes:

- **Sigatoka:** Naqalimare Village, Tonuve, Nadrala, Muka, Ciri, Jubeirata, Waibogi Settlement \$64,497.00.
- Nadi: Naisoso, Naboutini, Nawaicoba \$32,602.00.
- Lautoka: Buabua \$3,519.00.
- **Ba:** Busabusa, Varoko \$12,420.00.

- **Tavua:** Vanuakoula, Mataniwai, Nabuna \$41,601.00.
- Rakiraki: Rarapatu, Rukuruku, Qalau, Penang, Waimicia, Malau, Colasi, Volivoli - \$70,495.00.

These initiatives are vital to addressing both immediate and long-term challenges in water management and agricultural productivity.

Funding for the current financial year includes:

- a. 97.19% of projects (126 total) which were locally financed \$16,650,000.00; and
- b. 2.80% (4 projects), which were donor-supported (KIWA initiative and Soqosoqo Vaka Marama) \$480,000.00.

These include:

- i. Nature-based seawalls:
 - a. Navolau No. 1 Village; and
 - b. Somosomo (Kiwa Initiative Program).
- ii. River Bank protection works:
 - a. Yavusania Village, and
 - b. Marou Village Coastal Protection project (Soqosoqo Vakamarama ni Yasana o Ba).

The Ministry is finalizing a USD 5.2 million grant agreement with SPC *(Annex 2)* through the Adaptation Fund Project for the "Strengthening the Adaptive

Capacity of Coastal Communities of Fiji to Climate Change through Nature-Based Seawalls". This will fund 14 Nature-based Seawalls at:

a. Nadroga/Navosa Province: - Tagaqe Village and Nabila Village.

 b. Ra Province: - Nayavuira Village, Nayavutoka Village, and Saioko Village.

c. **Macuata Province: -** Qaranivai Village, Soqobiau Village, Visoqo Village, and Namama Village.

d. **Cakaudrove Province:** Saqani Village, Sese Village, Tawake Village, and Loa Village.

e. Lomaiviti Province: Nabuna Village, Koro Island.

The Ministry is dedicated to maintaining transparency and efficiency, ensuring that all project updates are accessible to the public via our official portal.

Additionally, regular progress reports are provided to Parliament, and I invite Honorable Members to visit the project sites to witness first hand the developments carried out.

VTTKR

Thank You.

Annex 1: Waterways Division Projects 2024-2025 Fiscal Year

Programme	▼ Division •	Projects	▼ Status ▼	Remarks	Fiji Government -	Donor Agencies 🔻
Maintenance of Irrigation Schemes	Central	Navua	Complete	100% completed	yes	
Maintenance of Irrigation Schemes	North	Dreketi	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Irrigation Schemes	North	Nasarawaqa	In Progress	90% complete	yes	
Maintenance of Irrigation Schemes	North	Korokadi	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Irrigation Schemes	North	Droca	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Irrigation Schemes	North	Bua	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Irrigation Schemes	North	Vunivau Bua	In Progress	80% complete	yes	
Maintenance of Irrigation Schemes	North	Naruwai	Pending	Ready to mobilize	yes	
Drainage and Flood Protection	Central	Sawani Riverbank Protection Works	Complete	Under Defects Liability Period	yes	
Drainage and Flood Protection	Central	Naivilaca Riverbank Protection (boat landing)	Complete	Under Defects Liability Period	yes	
Drainage and Flood Protection	Eastern	Waciwaci village Drain Improvement Works	Complete		yes	
Drainage and Flood Protection	Central	Matainoco Riverbank Protection Works	In Progress	To be completed in June 2025.	yes	
Drainage and Flood Protection	North	Navakaka Flood Protection Works	In Progress	Under Vetting at SGs Office	yes	
Drainage and Flood Protection	Western	Naviyago Riverbank Protection Works	In Progress	Under Vetting at SGs Office	yes	
Drainage and Flood Protection	Western	Yavusania Riverbank Protection Works	Complete			Soqosoqo vaka Marama, Ba
Drainage and Flood Protection	Western	Mavua Boulder Revetment	In Progress	10% complete - Boulder Stockpiling done	yes	
Drainage and Flood Protection	North	Bualomanikoro Village Riverbank Protection works	Complete		yes	
Watershed Management	Western	Qalinabulu Creek Flood Retention Dam, Ba River Catchment	In Progress	10% complete	yes	
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	Central	Drainage Improvement works at Korovisilou Village Serua Province	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	Central	Drainage Improvements works at Military Ground-Bayview heights	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	Central	Purchase of 10 coil rubber gate seal for Flood Gate	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	Central	Drainage Improvements - Dreketi Rewa	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	Central	Drainage Improvements - Pradeep Chand Tailevu	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	Central	Drainage Improvement work-Serua	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	Central	Drainage Improvements - Matai na vuso creek, Tailevu	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	Central	Drainage Improvements - Korovisilou Vilage, Serua	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	Central	Drainage Improvements - Sauniwaqa,Rewa Province	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	Central	Drainage Improvement-Koronivia, Rewa Province	Complete		yes	

Programme	Division	Projects	▼ Status ▼	Remarks -	Fiji Government -	Donor Agencies -
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	Western	Drainager improvement works in Navatu, Ba	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	Western	Drainage improvements works at nabuna Drainage scheme, Tavua	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	Western	Supply of 20n coils Music Rubber Floodgate seals	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	Western	Drainage improvement works in Toko, Tavua	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	Western	Drainage improvement works in Caboni Draiange scheme	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	Western	Drainage improvement works in Solovi 2	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	Western	Drainage improvement Works at Drasa/ Naviyago Drainage scheme	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	Western	Drainage improvement carried out in Drasa	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	Western	Payment of supply of 4 pieces of stop boards (2 pieces of upstream and 2 pieces down stream	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	Western	Drainage improvement of Raviravi Drainage scheme	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	Western	Drainage improvement in Togalevu, Ba	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	Western	Drainage improvement in Balata, Tavua	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	Western	Bhimas Digging Work Limited	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	Western	Drainage improvements works in Solovi 1	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	North	Payment of fabrication of new flood gate and flap gate Novoalau & Malau	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	North	Payment of fabrication of new flood gate and flap gate Korovatu & Nagigi	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	North	Payment of fabrication of new flood gate and flap gate Wailevu & Soasoa	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	North	Payment for desilting of drainage at Vuniyalayala/Waikisi/Sarava	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	North	Payment for desilting of drainage at Kelikoso/Bocalevu/Qelewaqa	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	North	Payment of grass slashing for the following saewall at Wailevu Tiri/Soaosa7Labasa	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	North	Payment for desilting of drainage at Belego & Nabua Area 2	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	North	Payment for desilting of drainage at Droca Area 2	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	North	Payment for desilting of drainage at Korotari Area 2	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	North	Payment for desilting of drainage at Korokadi Area 1 & Area 2	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	North	Boom spraying of Wailevu/Soasoa/Nagigi/Naleba Seawall	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	North	Payment of desilting of drainage at Valelawa Area1/Dreketi Stage 2	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	North	Payment of desilting of drainage at Nasarawaqa	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	North	Payment for desilting of drainage at Dreketi Irrigation	Complete		yes	
Maintenance of Drainage Systems for Non-Municipal Areas	North	Purchase of 5 coil rubber gate seal for flood & flap gate	Complete		yes	
Coastal Erosion Protection Works	Central	Ovea Village Boulder Revetment	Complete		yes	

Programme	Division	Projects	▼ Status ▼	Remarks	Fiji Government -	Donor Agencies 🔻
Coastal Erosion Protection Works	Eastern	Lakeba Hospital Boulder Revetment	Complete		yes	
Coastal Erosion Protection Works	Central	Nawaisomo Village, Beqa Wave Breaker	In Progress	60% complete	yes	
Coastal Erosion Protection Works	Western	Navolau 1 Village NbS Seawall	Complete	97% complete		KIWA Intiative
Coastal Erosion Protection Works	North	Somosomo Village NbS Seawall	In Progress	30% complete		KIWA Intiative
Coastal Erosion Protection Works	Eastern	Ketei Village Boulder Revetment and Drainage Improvement works	In Progress	90% complete	yes	
Coastal Erosion Protection Works	Central	Nasilai Village Nbs Seawall	In Progress	20% Complete	yes	
Coastal Erosion Protection Works	Western	Marou Village Boulder Revetment	In Progress	Ready to mobilise		Soqosoqo vaka Marama, Ba
Coastal Erosion Protection Works	North	Navunievu Coastal Protection Works	Complete		yes	
Irrigation Support for Farm Development	Western	Distribution of 5 Irrigation Kits	Complete		yes	
Irrigation Support for Farm Development	Central	Distribution of 5 Irrigation Kits	Complete		yes	
Irrigation Support for Farm Development	Northern	Construction of Gravity Fed Irrigation Dam at Vola Settlement	Complete		yes	
Irrigation Support for Farm Development	Eastern	Distribution of 10 Irrigation Kits	Complete		yes	
Outsourcing - Dredging of Major Rivers & Creeks	Western	Ba river Dredging	In progress	90% complete	yes	
Drainage for Farmlands	Western	Naqalimare Village	Complete		yes	
Drainage for Farmlands	Western	Tonuve	Complete		yes	
Drainage for Farmlands	Western	Nadrala	Complete		yes	
Drainage for Farmlands	Western	Muka	Complete		yes	
Drainage for Farmlands	Western	Ciri	Complete		yes	
Drainage for Farmlands	Western	Juberata	Complete		yes	
Drainage for Farmlands	Western	Waibogi Farming Committee	In progress	80% Complete	yes	
Drainage for Farmlands	Western	Waibogi Settlement	Complete		yes	
Drainage for Farmlands	Western	Nasoso Nadi	Complete		yes	
Drainage for Farmlands	Western	Naboutini	Complete		yes	
Drainage for Farmlands	Western	Nawaicoba	Complete		yes	
Drainage for Farmlands	Western	Buabua Lautoka	Complete		yes	
Drainage for Farmlands	Western	Busabusa	Complete		yes	
Drainage for Farmlands	Western	Varoko	Complete		yes	
Drainage for Farmlands	Western	Vanuakoula	Complete		yes	
Drainage for Farmlands	Western	Mataniwai Main Drain	Complete		yes	
Drainage for Farmlands	Western	Nabuna	Complete		yes	

Programme	Division	Projects	v	Status	v	Remarks	Fiji Government -	Donor Agencies 🔻
Drainage for Farmlands	Western	Rarapatu	C	omplete			yes	
Drainage for Farmlands	Western	Rukuruku	C	omplete			yes	
Drainage for Farmlands	Western	Gallau	C	omplete			yes	
Drainage for Farmlands	Western	Penang Rakiraki	C	omplete			yes	
Drainage for Farmlands	Western	Waimicia	C	omplete			yes	
Drainage for Farmlands	Western	Mallau/ Colasi	C	omplete			yes	
Drainage for Farmlands	Western	Volivoli	C	omplete			yes	
Drainage for Rural Residentials	Western	Vunikavika Sigatoka	C	omplete			yes	
Drainage for Rural Residentials	Western	Naqalimare Village	C	omplete			yes	
Drainage for Rural Residentials	Western	Rakirakilevu	C	omplete			yes	
Drainage for Rural Residentials	Western	Nasau	C	omplete			yes	
Drainage for Rural Residentials	Western	Wailoko Nadi	C	omplete			yes	
Drainage for Rural Residentials	Western	Togalevu	C	omplete			yes	
Drainage for Rural Residentials	Western	Sigave Ba	C	omplete			yes	
Drainage for Rural Residentials	Western	Mataniqara Ba	C	omplete			yes	
Drainage for Rural Residentials	Western	Votua & Togalevu	li	n Progress		Ready to mobilise	yes	
Drainage for Rural Residentials	Western	Votua Ba	C	omplete			yes	
Drainage for Rural Residentials	Western	Nabuna Tavua	C	omplete			yes	
Drainage for Rural Residentials	Western	Balata Tavua	C	omplete			yes	
Drainage for Rural Residentials	Western	Nasivi River	li	n Progress		Ready to mobilise	yes	
Drainage for Rural Residentials	Western	Natawa	C	omplete			yes	
Drainage for Rural Residentials	Western	Korovou	li	n Progress		80% complete	yes	
Drainage for Rural Residentials	Western	Namara Rakiraki	C	omplete			yes	
Drainage for Rural Residentials	Western	Rakirakilevu Sigatoka	C	omplete			yes	
Drainage for Rural Residentials	Western	Matawailevu Rakiraki	C	omplete			yes	

Annex 2: Adaptation Fund Project Funding between MoAW & SPC

SPC requirements	Applicant's proposa	1					
Description of the	action and activities						
Title of the action:	Strengthening the Change through Nat		Coastal Communities in Fiji to Climate				
Location of the action:	Fiji						
Sector:	Coastal protection						
Detail of the activities to be mplemented: The overall project goal is to increase the climate resilience of vulnerable or communities in Fiji through the adoption of Nature Based Seawalls (NbS) or protection approaches for adaptation. The project will achieve this through project-specific Objectives: Create an enabling environment for the scaling-up and rolling on NbS coastal protection approaches across Fiji. Construct NbSs in 14 climate vulnerable coastal communities enhance community resilience and increase extension structions approaches.							
	Project structure, ac	tivities and budget are	broken down in the table below.				
	Project Outcomes	Expected Concrete Outputs	Expected activities				
	Outcome 1: Strengthened awareness and	Output 1.1: Strengthened capacity to	Activity 1.1.1: Awareness raising and community engagement consultation across all sites				
	knowledge of resilient coastal management and NbS for coastal	capture lessons and disseminate knowledge related to nature- based seawall	Activity 1.1.2: Institutional strengthening of extension structures				
	protection	benefits	Activity 1.1.3: Strengthen data collection and storage principles to enhance data use for improved learning				
		Output 2.1: Nature-based	Activity 2.1.1. Conduct baseline technical surveys and refine context specific NbS seawall specifications and management plans.				
	coastal communities, livelihoods and infrastructure	seawalls established for long-term climate resilience	Activity 2.1.2. Construction of NbS seawalls at target sites.				
	through NbS	· comence	Activity 2.1.3. Training of trainers for seawalls construction, operation and				

	Society Organisation representation. In addition, SPC as the Implementing Entity to the Adaptation Fund and selected technical partners (identified at inception) will be included in the PSC as observers. The Project Management Unit (PMU) will act as the Secretariat for the PSC. The PSC will provide implementation guidance, strategic support and financial and procedural oversight to the project. Specifically, it will: - provide strategic guidance and implementation oversight of the Project through review of progress and evaluation reports and provision of recommendations to the PMU for improved implementation. - provide guidance and direction on cross-cutting issues which require consensus from the various stakeholders involved in the Project. - ensure that institutional strengthening through the activities is consistent with the Project's overall objective as well as national policies and strategies; - facilitate full cooperation of various stakeholders under their jurisdictions to provide access and support to the Project team in carrying out their tasks; - represent the interests of civil society and communities derived through bilateral dialogues; - approve the project's administrative, financial, accounting and operations manual; - approve the project's Annual Work Program and Budgets (AWPB);
Other	[Please insert any relevant details about the project for which the applicant is seeking SPC funding, e.g. implementation methods, partner projects, replicability, regional and international issues, innovation, etc.]
Value and timelin	
Approximate Value of the action:	USD 5,260,611
Total duration of action:	5 years
Implementation Schedule	Activity 1.1.1 – Continuos throughout Project Activity Activity 1.1.2 – years 1-3 to ensure that capacity building is established early in the project Activity 1.1.3 – Years 2-5 to ensure all data is collected appropriately over the course of the project after initial startup period (year 1) Activity 2.1.1 – Years 2-5, sea walls will be constructed in these years of the project and are dependent on the relevant technical inputs from the Activity Activity 2.1.2 – Years 2-5, construction will occur across all these years. Activity 2.1.3 – Years 2-5 training of trainers will run in parallel with construction of the seawalls.