



# Agriculture NEWSLETTER



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## Japan provides Agriculture means to purchase much needed excavator and dump trucks for North



Minister for Agriculture Hon. Dr. Mahendra Reddy and Japanese Ambassador to Fiji, H.E Kawakami Fumihiro together with senior officials at the official Grant signing ceremony

Farmers in the Northern Division will soon receive much needed assistance in developing their farm roads, thanks to the assistance provided by the Japanese Government to the Ministry of Agriculture on 18 March.

The Japanese Government signed over a Grant contract with the Minister of Agriculture, Waterways and Environment, the Hon. Dr. Mahendra Reddy that would enable the Ministry to procure an Excavator and two dump trucks valued at almost \$USD189k to develop farm roads in Vanua Levu.

"Your Excellency, as you aware, our agriculture system in Fiji is such that in the rural and maritime areas, the farmers' stay in the villages, but their farms are far away. A lot of these places, the farm roads are old and require maintenance, or there's no farm roads, just tracks," the Minister explained.

"As we leverage and grow agriculture, we need to ensure that people have good access to their farms; are able to take machinery to their farms; or are able to bring large amounts of produce from the farm to their house or to the market."

Minister Reddy said it was for this reason that developing proper farm roads was now a critical component of Fiji's commercial agriculture development strategy.

"Your Excellency, this assistance may seem small to you, but it is a substantial amount of investment that will assist us in creating access to the farm, and from the farm to the market," he said.

He thanked the Japanese Government for their timely assistance that would assist

the 3,000 farmers in Cakaudrove, Bua, and Macuata in developing their farm roads over the next few years.

Japan's Ambassador to Fiji, H.E Kawakami Fumihiro said the \$USD188,780k to be provided to the Ministry to purchase a new excavator and two tip trucks was done through their Grass Roots Grant Assistance.

"The heavy machineries, which will be provided to the Ministry, are expected to effectively enhance agricultural earthmoving works and construction of farm access roads.

"This is in line with the Ministry's objective of creating better agricultural infrastructure and land development in the northern division," His Excellency said.

"We sincerely hope that, the Ministry as well as other stakeholders, farmers will be able to add value to their agricultural yield, as a livelihoods income-generating source, and lead themselves towards prosperity."

His Excellency also highlighted his country's recent assistance to the North, where the Embassy of Japan handed over new equipment for disaster preparedness, response and resilience in July, 2019.

In February of this year as well, he said, Japan disbursed its Stand-by loan to Fiji, worth approximately \$FJD55m through Japan International Cooperation Agency, to assist in the recovery from TC's Yasa and Ana.

"We sincerely hope that our assistance contributes to the recovery from such disasters as well as to the revitalization of the Fijian economy, especially in the northern division," the Ambassador said.

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# First Tranche Payment of Cash for Cultivation Rolled Out



*Farmers at Nailaga during the handing over of the first tranche payment of Cash for Cultivation programme*

A total of 116 farmers in the Western Division on 17 March received their first tranche payment as part of the 'Cash for Cultivation' programme in an effort to strengthen the food security and recovery of TC Yasa and TC Ana affected areas.

52 farmers from Ba received their cash assistance from the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Fiji and the Ministry of Agriculture as part of the Strengthening Early Recovery for Food Security and Livelihoods (SERFSAL) project funded by the New Zealand Aid Programme, while the remaining number of farmers received theirs separately in Rakiraki, Tavua and Sigatoka.

Speaking at the handing over at Nailaga in Ba, Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment Hon. Dr. Mahendra Reddy said that though the Cash for Cultivation programme was part of the immediate recovery efforts after the devastation caused by TC Yasa and TC Ana, it was also one which was geared towards incentivizing farmers to produce more local produce.

"The purpose of this is to motivate you to secure your household with respect to food security, whether you are planting cassava, vegetables or dalo, and the other is that when you receive this cash assistance, you help

to sustain and boost the rural economy as we work towards expanding the agriculture sector.

"This programme is going to incentivize farmers and get them to be ready, so that when borders open, we're not going to reduce our exports and push our vegetables to the local market, but we're going to continue working and increase our exports and at the same time meet the demands from the tourism sector, be it (demand for) dalo, rourou, moca or cabbage or whatever," said Hon. Reddy.

"We want the demand for vegetables, fresh produce, or root crops that comes from the local sector, whether it is from the tourism or the service industry, it should be fulfilled by us," he added.

ADRA Fiji Country Director Iliapi Tuwai said that while the project focuses on immediate recovery for food security and livelihoods for the most vulnerable in the affected communities in the Northern Division, the Cash for Cultivation programme was also extended to the Central and Western Division for farmers affected by TC Ana.

Mr Tuwai said 15 communities across Macuata, Cakaudrove and Bua provinces would still benefit from this project. The activities have been designed to empower communities to take ownership of their own

recovery.

The project will see the provision of agricultural kits and Cash for Cultivation to farmers or farming clusters for additional agricultural inputs and to help regenerate farmer income earning capacities on short-term crops and help provide for their food security.

"Finally, the project will offer livelihood, disaster risk reduction and sustainable land management training, climate change adaptation and good agricultural practices, Mr. Tuwai added.

Meanwhile for 59-year-old Koroboya villager and cassava farmer Setefano Laqere who is one of the beneficiaries, said he was fortunate to have been selected, as he had plans to restore his farm following damages he sustained following TC Ana.

"I come from a place that is surrounded by rugged terrain, this kind of assistance is very hard to come by and I am very thankful that I have been chosen to be part of the Cash for Cultivation programme.

"Life in our area is very, very hard because our farms are situated on terrain surrounded by rocks, but we continue to farm because that's our livelihood. I have to keep farming because this is the only source of income my family relies on, I've sent my children to school all through farming and I am very fortunate to be part of the programme, I will not let it go to waste," said Mr. Laqere.

79 year-old Bishun Dutt, who has been visually impaired for the past 12 years, has extended his appreciation to the NZ Aid Programme for their financial support while thanking ADRA Fiji and the Ministry of Agriculture for identifying him as one of the beneficiaries.

"I'm thankful that this cash assistance will add on to what we already have in our vegetable farms. We suffered a great loss from the TC Ana flooding and this will definitely help us recover."

Echoing similar sentiments was single mother, farmer and market vendor Ms Salanieta Tuta, whose husband had passed away last year, said the Cash for Cultivation programme was a timely initiative as it would help her to fend for her three girls.

"I am so thankful to ADRA Fiji, the Ministry of Agriculture and their staff for choosing me to be a part of the programme, I have already prepared my land and it has also been planted with cassava and vegetables which I sell myself and I am very happy today because I am going to show that even, after my husband who was a part time carpenter passed away, I can look after my family," said an emotional Ms. Tuta.

The Cash for Cultivation programme will continue to be implemented throughout the country and will see farmers receiving \$200 to help them prepare 1 acre of land for cultivation.



# Bavu Village successfully pilots 'We Rice Up' programme, harvests one tonne for home consumption



Prime Minister, Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama during the official launch of the Communal Rice Programme called 'We Rice Up' at Bavu village.

April 1st, 2021 will be the day the 58 households of Bavu Village, Nadroga will never forget after they successfully reaped the first fruits of their labor through their communal rice harvest that was officially recognized by Prime Minister Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama.

The Prime Minister was at Bavu Village to officially launch the Communal Rice Programme called 'We Rice Up'. Each of the 58 households received 9kg of rice for their home consumption from the rice they had grown in their one-acre piece of land at the end of October last year.

Mrs Siteri Leware, 54, wife of the village headman of Bavu, who spoke in i-taukei said they faced a lot of difficulties during COVID-19 after villagers who worked in the tourism industry lost their source of income after they were laid off.

In addition, she said, they also relied on the land and returned to full time farming and backyard gardening when they were encouraged to make use of the land. Again, they also faced challenges with the weather in terms of the TC Yasa and TC Ana that destroyed the vegetables and root crops they

had planted.

Mrs Leware expressed her gratitude to the Ministry of Agriculture for the initiative and providing the much needed assistance that led to the success of the project.

She said they were very happy to see the results of their hard work paying off with their inaugural rice harvest.

Bavu Women's Club President, Mrs Timaima Ralolokula, 37, expressed similar sentiments and added the project was an eye opener for them.

She said in i-taukei that after the project they now had a choice, instead of cassava they could have rice.

She was thankful that it only took three months to harvest such a huge amount of rice for their home consumption and that they also had a market to also sell it to.

Mrs Ralolokula said both the men and women of Bavu Village worked side by side throughout the process from planting to drying, and milling it.

She was also grateful to the Ministry of Agriculture for its support and hoped its Budget would be increased so that villages

like theirs could benefit from its capital programmes.

Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment, Hon. Dr. Mahendra Reddy said like the success of Bavu Village, he also wanted all villages in Fiji to participate in the 'We Rice Up' Programme.

"You can allocate five acres, six acres, seven acres, or ten acres of land. We want you to grow your rice for your own consumption, we are not asking you to sell it.

"You grow it, we buy it, Fiji Rice will buy it," he told the Bavu villagers.

He said villages only needed to identify the land, prepare it which the Ministry would assist with as well and provide the rice seeds too.

Villages, he added, were to cultivate the land and after one hundred days, the rice would be ready.

"We will bring the harvester to harvest it for you. You can dry it, and we will bring the small portable rice mill to mill the rice," Dr Reddy said.



## Assistant Minister hands over rice seeds to Ministry after harvest



*Assistant Minister Hon. Viam Pillay (2nd from left) with MoA Officials during the handing over of rice seeds in Ba.*

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment, Hon. Viam Pillay handed 50 bags of rice seeds to the Ministry of Agriculture following harvesting at his farm in Ba during the Rice Field Day.

“The total harvest was 55 bags and out of that, 50 bags will go back to the Ministry of Agriculture to be given out to farmers, for seed distribution,” he said.

“This will help farmers grow rice.”

Hon. Pillay expressed his gratitude to line Minister, the Hon. Dr. Mahendra Reddy, Fiji Rice Limited Chairman, Mr Raj Sharma, and EU Deputy Head of Delegation for the Pacific, Dr. Erja Askola for attending the special occasion.

He explained that while he used to encourage farmers to plant rice, it occurred to him that he should also be doing the same.

He said rice used to be planted in the area together with sugarcane but farmers stopped due to the high cost of labour to manually harvest it.

He also thanked the Ministry of Agriculture for providing the rice seeds that enabled him to plant.

Further, Hon Pillay’s message to farmers was not to let their land become idle.

“Whenever I have time and I’m here at home, I make sure I plant,” he says.

Hon Pillay’s 15acre farm boasts an orchard containing various fruit trees including dragon fruit, guava, pineapple, and lime.

He plans to form a rice cluster for neighboring areas in an effort to encourage farmers to plant and expand the industry to reduce reliance on imports.

Minister Reddy called Hon. Pillay a ‘model

farmer, a model sugarcane farmer, and a model social worker’.

“He has been doing charity work for a very long time. He has provided water to communities that have been struggling to get drinking water in the interior of Ba, Tavua, and Lautoka.

“He is now a model farmer in rice production and it is an honor and pleasure for us to use his farm, his farm management skills to motivate and incentivize you all to get into rice farming,” Dr. Reddy said.

The Minister said rice was one of the easiest crops to grow and encouraged farmers to grow it instead of buying it.

He urged farmers to allocate at least one acre of land depending on the number of households to grow rice and the Ministry of Agriculture would provide support.



# Western farmers encouraged to establish fruit orchards



*A farmer touring Faizal Khan's Fruit Orchard*

Farmers must view their role like any other business, and in addition practice inter-cropping to be self-sufficient.

Those were the words of encouragement from the Provincial Administrator Nadroga Navosa, Ms Ruth Atu while officiating at an organized field day for farmers at Faizal Khan's Orchard farm in Vatukarasa, Nadroga in March.

The field day was held to motivate farmers in the western division to establish fruit orchards on their farms. The exercise is also part of the five initiatives of the Ministry of Agriculture to increase the establishment of Fruit Tree Orchards to farmers. Fruit Trees contain high nutritional value.

"There is a need to develop Fiji's fruit industry to include more locally grown fruits in our diets so it is vital that you set up fruit orchards on your farms for food security and nutritional aspects and the western division has the potential for orchard cultivation," she said.

Farmers were informed that under

agriculture, they played a significant role in the process of economic development of a country.

"It sustains and drives the economy, the backbone of everything and apart from providing food and other raw materials, it also provides employment opportunities."

She said aside from seasonal fruit, having fruit tree orchards assisted to reduce the import bill of fruits, improve farmer's livelihoods and the health of Fiji's general population, and adds to the supply of local fruit.

She said it was important to plant fruit orchards as a commercial crop and also think of developing value adding products from it.

With the current pandemic situation, farmers were encouraged to advance and develop farming as a business and for food security.

"We must no longer stay in the knowledge that it is a way of life but go beyond where you look at it as an

important lucrative business," she said.

Further, farmers were enlightened on record-keeping, creating linkages to market, introduced to dragon fruit and a new variety green pearl guava orchard farm.

Women farmer participant Ms Kelera Nasita said the field day was an introduction to new farming areas.

"Some of us are subsistence farmers with the interest to venture into newly introduced fruits for food and nutritional security," she said.

"Meeting with other farmers enables us to share experiences and learn from them. There is available land with the potential to cultivate fruit orchards, apart from the traditional ones to feed the local market."

The Faizal Khan Orchard farm is the first orchard farm in Fiji established under the initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture.



# Agriculture leads the way in TC Yasa & Ana Response



*A damaged farm in the Northern Division*

The senior management of the Ministry of Agriculture expressed appreciation to its officers who sacrificed their time with families to conduct damage assessments in Vanua Levu and the Eastern Division after TC Yasa and Ana.

In speaking to the officers of the Ministry during a one-day workshop on lessons learnt from TC's Yasa and Ana on 24 March, Permanent Secretary for Agriculture, Mr Ritesh Dass said there were moments of great pride in leading the team.

"In my view, the greatest achievement of this period was to witness our potential when we come together and work towards a common goal.

"Data from Statistics, seeds from Research, Extension teams deployed across the affected areas working closely with affected farmers, vets and livestock officers addressing the needs of stricken animals, pests and disease control, communication and messaging, logistics of mobilizing our teams and vehicles, Finance for ensuring the operations functioned smoothly and in line with our procedures."

The Permanent Secretary said each division with its specific mandate and expertise contributed to a joint purpose and there were many 'firsts' for the Ministry.

"It was the first time we used digital data collection as part of impact assessment, first time we had the statistics team firmly driving

our evidence based response and recovery activities, first time we collaborated so closely with the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and other clusters, first time we used meteorological and agriculture census baseline data to generate an Initial Damage Assessment (IDA)," he said.

The second area he acknowledged, was when he presented to the Emergency Committee every morning on the needs and response, he was proud that it was firmly grounded in evidence.

He explained the IDA Report was completed in three days, 19,000 household interviews were conducted for the Detailed Damage Assessment (DDA), the kobotoolbox was trialed for the first time which led to the NDMO adopting it, a comprehensive Detailed Damage Assessment report was produced, a recovery framework was prepared and a \$10m rehabilitation plan designed, coordinating and implementing the Ministry's cluster partners down to locality level for rehabilitation contributions, and record and ability to map all assistance provided.

Mr. Dass said the final key area of recognition was "the incredible dedication of our MoA staff".

"Many of you had to sacrifice Christmas and New Years with your families to support our operations in the North.

"Conditions were tough, no showers and difficult sleeping arrangements, but it was heartening to see the enthusiasm and dedication of the MoA teams," he said.

He said at the end of the workshop he hoped four outcomes would be achieved; 1) a recognition of what the Ministry did well and to celebrate it; 2) an understanding of where the Ministry faced challenges; 3) a series of recommendations to improve preparedness and response and 4) updated SOPs and guidelines to assist us in effectively managing our disaster response in the future.





# Bacterium Culture for soil fertility now in Central and Western Divisions



*Agronomist, Dr Tekini Nakidakida explains how the Bacterium Culture works, while Agriculture officers in the background install the tank for Nayavu Agriculture Station in Tailevu*

The move towards restoring soil fertility through the Ministry of Agriculture's initiative of developing, distributing, and installing Bacterium Culture reservoirs at its stations is progressing well.

Agronomist, Dr. Tekini Nakidakida who is leading the distribution of the organic initiative says almost all of the Agriculture stations in the Central and Western Divisions have received and installed their 500litre tanks.

"In line with our ambition to promote organic agricultural practices at farm levels in Fiji, we are working on distributing the Bacterium Culture to all our Agriculture stations throughout Fiji, for easy access for farmers," he said.

He explained the Bacterium Culture was made from *Lactobacillus* bacteria extracted from raw milk, obtained from the Ministry's dairy farm, using rice wash water and then fed with molasses for bacteria to feed on during storage. The mixture, he said, could be stored for two or three months, after which its viability would start to decrease.

"We are looking to enrich soils of used and idle lands through application of organics

because whatever chemical fertilizer we are using now will contribute to unsustainable agricultural practices when abused. Sometimes we are using double doses of fertilisers, insecticides, weedicides and it kills micro-organisms in the soil," he said.

Dr. Nakidakida said sometimes farmers wanted to hasten the process of weed control by mixing a cocktail of weedicides that in turn reduces micro-organisms population in the soil.

This is where the Bacterium Culture comes in to enhance microbial activity in the soil, he says.

"What we are trying to do now is restore micro-organisms to the soil and let them thrive and multiply and gradually reduce our consumption of chemical fertilizers.

"A healthy soil produces a healthy plant which repels pests and diseases, so you apply less insecticide, less weedicide, and it will grow faster suppressing the weeds," Dr. Nakidakida said.

Permanent Secretary for Agriculture, Mr. Ritesh Dass said the main objective of the Organic Initiative was to reduce the consumption of synthetic or chemical

fertilizers in Fiji.

"Our cultivated soils are degraded due to continuous application of fertilizers which reduces the population of soil micro-organisms.

"Farmers encroach into forest lands in search of rich nutritious soil resulting in deforestation," he said.

He said if Fiji restored degraded agriculture land, we would be able to sustain production, reduce the volume of fertilizer applied, reduce costs of production, have healthy crops and food and save our ecosystem for the future.

The Ministry is conducting training and awareness on the use of the bottled bacteria and how it enhances composting contributing to the restoration of soil carbon, soil health and soil fertility.

Farmers need to bring their storage containers if they want to collect their Bacterium Culture free of charge from any agriculture station in the Central and Western Divisions. Arrangements are taking place to also distribute this product to the North as well.



# Biosecurity and Agriculture Frontliners Undergo Awareness Training on African Swine Fever



*Participants at the BQA Training.*

Understanding the risks associated with the possible incursion of African Swine Fever (ASF) in Fiji is critical in mitigating the impact the disease will have on the swine industry should it reach our shores.

This was the objective of an Awareness and Emergency Preparedness training which was conducted for the Ministry of Agriculture and Biosecurity officers who serve within the Central Division, to better prepare them tackle ASF in the event that it reaches Fiji.

This is a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Agriculture, in partnership with the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji and the Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access Program (“PHAMA Plus”) in a bid to equip officers from these institutions to handle ASF.

Biosecurity Authority of Fiji Acting Chief Executive Officer Surend Pratap encouraged the training participants to improve their knowledge on ASF during the 4-day training.

“African Swine Fever is a devastating disease in the global swine industry where it can wipe out the whole swine industry,” he said.

“This Transboundary Animal Disease (“TAD”) can be spread by live or dead pigs, domestic or wild, and pork products,” said Mr. Pratap.

“ASF is rapidly spreading around the world and it is now a threat to Pacific Island countries after being introduced to Papua New Guinea last year.”

He said the training would better deliver animal health and biosecurity-related services

needed in preparedness and prevention of African Swine Fever incursion in Fiji.

“It is in the Pacific region now and we are vigilant on ASF not coming to Fiji, and you are the relevant officers who will see that it is contained, managed, eradicated, and regulated in the event of such an emergency,” he said.

Principal Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture Dr. Anand Deo said that to enhance pig production in Fiji, there was continuous awareness from agriculture officers to commercial, semi-commercial, and subsistence pig farmers.

The training includes Pathway risk analysis and capacity to respond, physical and human resources, and advocacy and awareness of African Swine Fever.



# Dairy expansion vital to boost milk production



Dairy Cluster Farming Group in Naitasiri with MoA Officials.

Seven new cluster dairy farmers in Waidina, Naitasiri were established in the last few weeks as part of the Ministry of Agriculture's efforts to not only boost milk production to meet market demand but also to improve the livelihoods of dairy farmers.

Permanent Secretary for Agriculture, Mr. Ritesh Dass said the new cluster farmers were set up under the Ministry's Dairy Industry Support program aimed at also assisting to reduce the national import bill.

"The program was designed to help raise and improve the Fiji Dairy Industry contribution, to increase the overall local milk

production and also improve the rural income earning capacities of farmers in Fiji," he said.

The DIS program has been targeting potential areas with farmers from Waidina, Naitasiri; Sigatoka; and Nayavu, Wainibuka to branch into dairy.

"There is definitely an interest in this program that will benefit farmers in providing a market that will provide a consistent income," Mr. Dass said.

"The new cluster farmers group recently formed in Waidina are crop farmers interested in diversifying into the dairy sector to boost the industry and encourage upscaled production

from farmers," he said. The Program focuses on providing new dairy sheds for farmers, fencing, water tanks and fodder establishment.

"The assistance is geared to prepare them for a sustainable production and supply of milk, which is in addition to the Central dairy farmers who supply over 60 per cent of the total milk supply," the Permanent Secretary said.

Farmers of the new Waidina Dairy Cluster were trained on infrastructure improvement, record keeping, dairy management practices, milk hygiene, with the provision of the market, and nutritional and pasture improvement.

In addition to training, farmers visited the Koronivia Livestock Unit and dairy farmers in Tailevu.

Gusuisavu farmer, Mr. Naibuka Inakula thanked the Ministry for creating pathways for farmers with livestock.

"We are accustomed to the old ways of farming, and dairy farming was not something that we thought about taking up in Waidina," he said.

"There is a huge opportunity in taking up dairy farming and the impact it will create to our livelihoods and its contribution to the economy. Therefore, it is vital that we are trained to deliver quality products because we are newly established," Mr. Naibuka said.

The number of dairy farms in Fiji increased from 987 in 2015 to 1,130 in 2019. The total quantity of milk exported in 2019 was 23,104 ltrs, worth a total value of \$236,768.

## Officers trained on Market Pathway

Seventeen (17) Crop Extension and Bilateral Quarantine Agreement (BQA) Officers were reminded of their responsibilities to farmers on requirements that need to be met to export fresh commodities to New Zealand (NZ), as per the requirements of the Bilateral Quarantine Agreement between Fiji and New Zealand.

At the closing of a three days training, Senior Agriculture Officer Ba, Solomon Naisau said as BQA officers, their contribution was vital to the agriculture sector.

"Officers play a huge role in ensuring Fiji maintains its position in the competitive agricultural export market during this global COVID-19 pandemic.

"Fiji's reputation as an exporter of high-quality, clean agricultural produce depends largely on its ability to be free from pests and diseases," said Mr. Naisau.

The Ministry of Agriculture provides an allocation of \$150k for agricultural commodities under the Fiji-NZ BQA to meet the requirements to export breadfruits, papaya, mangoes and eggplants and chillies, amongst others.

He urged the officers to utilize their



SAO Ba (Sitting: 2nd from left) with Participants after the BQA Training.

agriculture network to create BQA pathways and the linkages with its key stakeholders.

"Do not look at yourselves as project officers but as personnel called by God to that position to boost the agriculture sector in Fiji, boost BQA commodities as well as the export market to further meet the growing demand."

Mr. Naisau encouraged the officers in the Western Division to be confident and practice the lessons learnt from the training whether it be conducting farmer registrations, providing advice on quality crop management techniques, crop harvesting, fruit grading and fruit inspection.

This approach, was undertaken, he said, to maintain continuous production, supply and quality control to reduce the rejection rate of the export product.

Mr. Naisau also welcomed the newly appointed BQA officers and advised them to collaborate with existing staff.

"Expanding agriculture is expanding BQA and the export market. Your work targets the export production, understand the pathways and utilize what you have learnt, if you are stuck, seek advice from other officers," he said.



# PHOTO GALLERY



*Participants during a recent BQA Training.*



*Bacterium Culture stocked in a Tank for farmers in Wainibuka*



*Livestock Extension Officer - Mr. Noa Koroi advising farmers on livestock feed techniques*



*Senior Agriculture Officials witness the demonstration of a combined rice harvester in the west.*



*Agriculture Officer Mr Joseph Smith conducting Farmer Training on Farming as a Business in Taillevu.*



*Senior MoA officials attend a joint Zoom Meeting with Korean Diplomats at the Ministry's main conference room*



*Meat Inspection Officers at work in the Abattoir in Nakasi*



*Agriculture celebrates International Women's Day*