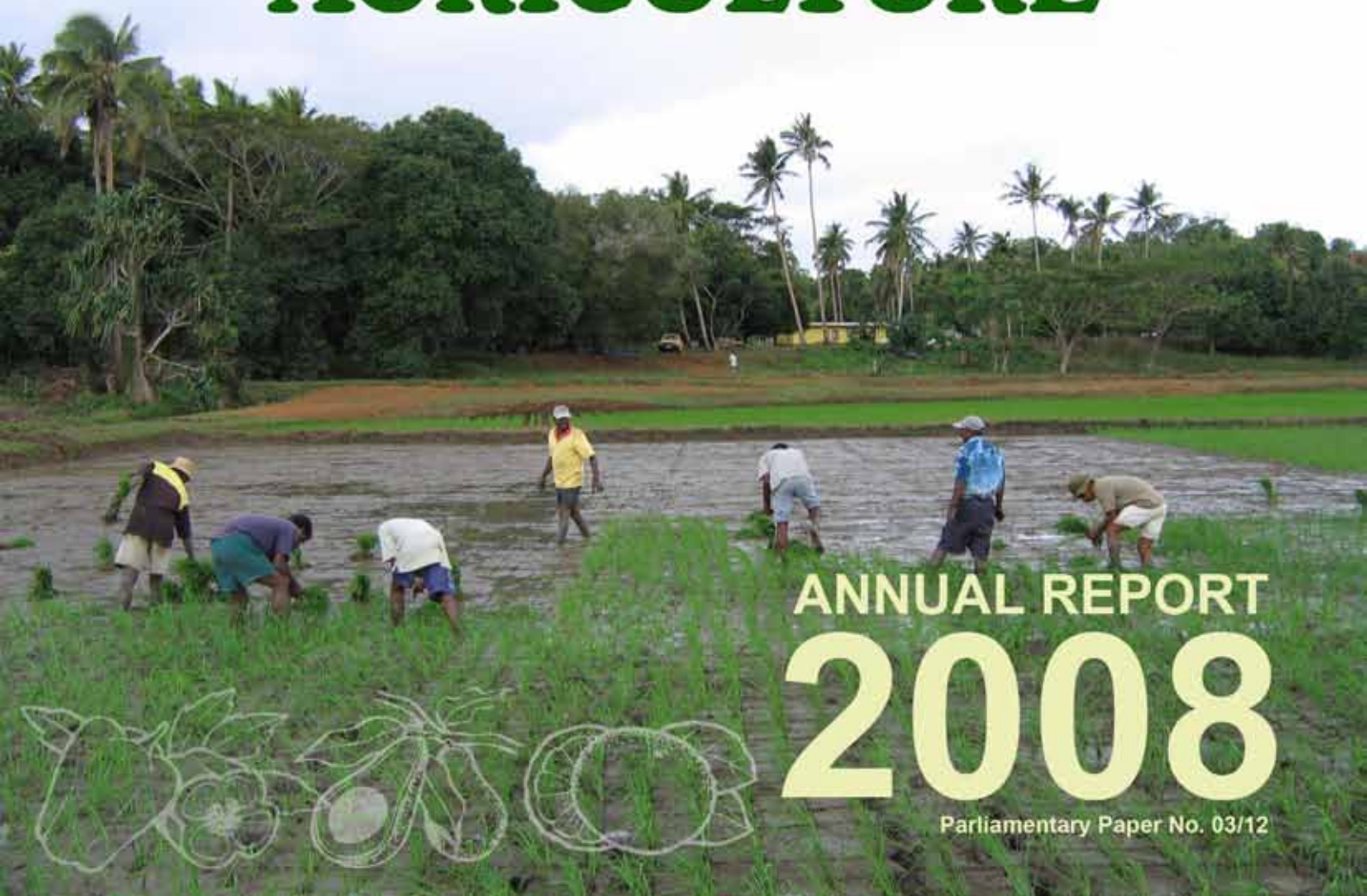




MINISTRY OF PRIMARY INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE



ANNUAL REPORT
2008

Parliamentary Paper No. 03/12



Foreword

The preamble of developing a roadmap in taking Fiji Forward in agriculture is centred on quick economic recovery and the achievement of three of the eight Millennium Development Goals which are;

- Poverty alleviation;
- Food and Income Security for all; and
- Having Sustainable Natural Resources.

The relative contribution of the agriculture sector remained unchanged from 1999-2004, but this disguises some large shifts within the sector. The contribution of sugar began to fall after 1999; by 2004 production had declined by 16 percent from the 1999 level, although it is still of major importance to the economy.

The major shift in agriculture is the increasing role of cash crops and livestock. This represents a diversification towards a more commercial agriculture as some farmers move out of sugar and other farmers develop from subsistence only farming models to increased commercial production. This requires support to develop the necessary farming skills, including farm business management skills.

Eighty percent of farmers are operating at subsistence level. Under the economic recovery program that had been put in place, the Ministry hopes to reduce this percentage gap in uplifting their standards to semi-commercial and commercial levels. These are challenging tasks and will depend heavily on the concerted drive and effort by all employees and stakeholders alike.

In view of the approach that had been taken, it is imperative to take stock of what had been done and to seriously look at the important commodities and the activities which need to be revamped. In this trying time in the ministry it is prudent to specifically take stock of all the resources available to us, to dispense to our clients thus improving our performance.

Therefore, this 2008 Annual report highlights our outputs in achieving the Millennium Development Goals of poverty alleviation, food and income security and management of sustainable resource.

I now present to you the Ministry's 2008 Annual Report

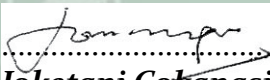

Jeketani Cokanasiga
Minister

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VISION

“A vibrant business focused Agriculture Sector providing food and security for all”

MISSION

To excel in the provision of Customer and Market Driven Services in the Agriculture Sector.

CORE ROLES OF EACH DIVISION

Human Resource Finance & Information Division:

1. To formulate and review current organizational structure and implementation of public service reforms (Civil Service, Financial and Public Service Reforms).
2. To implement the best practices in managing human resources and effective delivery of service.
3. To promote and enhance the upholding of public Service Values and Code of Conduct.
4. Develop and maintain a professional and highly qualified workforce.
5. To formulate and develop a Human Resource Plan framework for the Ministry.
6. To implement an effective Training Program relevant to the Ministry's function.
7. To ensure good governance in the administration and deployment of Financial and other resources.
8. To collate an effective Asset Management System for the Ministry.
9. To ensure a healthy and safe working environment for all staffs in the Ministry.
10. To provide agricultural information to farmers, staff, Ministry stakeholders and members of the public.
11. To provide publicity for the Ministry activities and services using the mass media (Newspaper, Radio, TV, Internet, etc.)
12. To improve Ministry image by responding quickly to negative media publicity and complaints or queries about Ministry activities and services.

Economic Planning and Statistics Division:

1. To formulate the agricultural sectors development policies in an appropriate Strategy and subsequent program activities in accordance with the government strategic plan.
2. To conduct marketing research on market opportunities and facilitate the private sector marketing of agriculture produce, both locally and abroad.
3. To assess the impact of international trade regimes on the agriculture sector.
4. To establish and enhance effective and sustainable linkages with external organizations, including Global Donor Agencies at Bilateral, Plurilateral and multilateral levels.
5. To collate, compile and analyze agricultural statistics to assist in the formulation of policies.
6. To analyze policy options and assessing its impact on the agricultural sector.
7. To assist in the identification, preparation, monitoring and evaluation of all agricultural projects in Fiji.
8. To coordinate the Ministry's annual budget emphasis on the capital expenditure on quarterly basis.
9. To coordinate and facilitate the training of staff in marketing, project planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and report writing. ▸

Land & Water Resource Management Division:

1. Mitigate flood risks which may result in damage to agricultural crops, livestock, property and human lives.
2. Provision of efficient and effective drainage to maximize agricultural land utilization.
3. Increase crop yield and enhance food security with timely and efficient irrigation services.
4. Formulation of for water resource development and management to mitigate drought impacts and support alternative livelihood and national adaptation strategy.
5. Enforcement of regulatory services in compliance with relevant legislations for delivery of efficient services.
6. Provision of efficient and sound engineering advice to increase agricultural productivity.
7. Effective coastal engineering services to protect the erosion of country's foreshore and provide security to population located along the coastline.
8. Reliable construction and maintenance services to the relevant Divisions of the Ministry.
9. Proficient Secretariat services to support engineering programmes.

Land Resource Planning Division:

1. Capacity building for farmers and Agriculture officials in the areas of farm business planning and farm business advisory services.
2. Farm Management Training for Crop & Livestock.
3. Updating Farm Management Manual.
4. Preparation of farm business plan.
5. Facilitate Farming Assistance Scheme (Resettlement of Expired Land Leased Farmers).
6. To assist indigenous replacement farmers and exited ALTA tenants to establish themselves in commercial farming and to maintain and improve cane production and or exportable non-cane commodities.
7. To sustain the development of the sugar and other agro-based industries.
8. To create employment for indigenous landowners and ex-ALTA tenants.
9. To create a new generation of young farmers who could be motivated and assisted through this grant.
10. To promote sustainable land use practices with major emphasis on land conservation and land degradation issues.

Crop Research Division:

1. Complement and support the Department of Agriculture, through innovation of new technologies and its transfer to suit the need of farmers, the clients and the stakeholders for the enhancement of the agriculture sector.
2. Facilitate Scientific, Technical and Professional Support Services for Agriculture development.
3. Conservation and management of plant genetic resources.
4. Development of adaptable and affordable technologies.
5. Facilitate Pest and Disease Management.
6. Provision of analytical, diagnostic and regulatory services.
7. Product development and value addition and provision of technical support services and appropriate information dissemination to stakeholders.
8. Focused through four major disciplines including Agronomy, Horticulture, Crop Protection, and Analytical Chemistry.

Quarantine Division:

1. Protect Fiji against the entry and spread of regulated Pests and Disease affecting Plants, Animals and the Environment.
2. Facilitate Import Risk Analysis.
3. Facilitate Pre border clearance
4. Facilitate Border Inspection.
5. Facilitate Post Border.
6. Create awareness to the general public and stakeholders on quarantine.
7. Facilitate awareness training.
8. Facilitate Exports of Animals and Plants and its produce in accordance with the Biosecurity requirements of importing country.
9. Facilitate Pest Risk Analysis.
10. Facilitate Market Access protocol.
11. Policy and Support Services.
12. Facilitate legal support.
13. Advisory and Development.



Animal Health & Production Division

BEEF

A total of 7,754 cattle were slaughtered through registered slaughterhouses in 2008. This was a drop of 4.7% compared to the 1,958 tonnes in 2007. However, it should be noted that about 40.7% of these animals were productive females and some were in calf at the time of slaughter.

Import of beef increased by 67.5% from the 1,118 tonnes in 2007 to 3,442 tonnes in 2008. This was due to the demand of quality meat in the tourism sector. Per-capita consumption increased to 10.2kg compared to 5.3kg in 2007.

DAIRY

A total of 10,341,063 liters of milk was supplied to Rewa Co-operative Dairy Company (RCDC) in 2008. This was a drop of 25.6% from the targeted 14 million liters. The non-RCDC suppliers produced 1,989,559 liters. Imported raw milk and other dairy products increased from 1,885 Tonnes Milk Fat Equivalent (TMFE) in 2007 to 3,461 TMFE in 2008.

SHEEP

In 2008 there was a total of 14,747 sheep in the country. There were 288 commercial and small holder farmers and 102 hobby farmers. The Government research stations had 2,692 sheep. Local mutton production increased by 45% from 26.9 tonnes in 2007 to 33.3 tonnes in 2008. Fiji imported 9,092 tonnes boneless meat in 2008 compared to 3,217 tonnes in 2007.

GOAT

The goat industry had an estimated annual growth rate of 2% and is private sector driven with very little funding from the government. It is probably the most sustainable income generating livestock commodity in the sugarcane areas. In 2008, there were 420 farms with a total herd of 283,438 goats. During the year, there was an introduction of 66 heads of Boer goats to a farm in the Northern Division to improve the genetics of the local stock.

POULTRY

In 2008, a total of 9,213,760 broiler birds were slaughtered through the registered slaughterhouses producing 11,970 tonnes of broiler meat. This was a drop of 10% in numbers from the 10,267,400 birds slaughtered in 2007 and 24% drop in total meat produced compared to 15,940 tonnes in 2007.

PIGS

A total of 16,693 pigs were slaughtered at registered slaughterhouses producing 920 tonnes of pork meat. This was a drop of 5.7% in the number of pigs compared to 17,710 pigs slaughtered in 2007 and a drop of 5.4% in total meat produced compared to 973 tonnes produced in 2007.

HONEY

In 2008 there were 1,016 bee farms with 12,812 hives which produced 595.12 tonnes of honey compared to 846 farms with 10,605 hives in 2007. Honey production increased by 16.9% compared to 494 tonnes in 2007. During the year 54 tonnes of honey was imported - an increase of 30% from the 37.77 tonnes imported in 2007.

BEEF

Overview

Following a period of strong growth in the early 1970's and mid 1980's, the number of beef cattle slaughtered at the registered slaughterhouses continued to decline from 17,949 heads of cattle in 1971 to 7,754 heads in 2008; the lowest in the last 38 years. There was a slight increase in 2004, 2005, and 2006 by 0.5%, 1.0% and 3.1% respectively; however this modest increases were not sustainable and continued to decline.

Production

Slaughter of cattle through registered abattoirs in 2008 was 7,754 - a decrease of 3% from 7995 cattle slaughtered in 2007. The average carcass weight in 2008 was slightly lower than 2007 (Table 1). Cattle slaughtered at Vuda and Nasinu abattoirs accounted for 7,754 heads and 424 heads were slaughtered in rural abattoirs in the Northern Division. In 2008, a total of 3,157 female cattle were slaughtered, an increase of 1,065 or 33.7% compared to 2,092 female cattle slaughtered in 2007. It was of great concern to note that about 40.7% of these animals were still productive and some were in-calf at the time of the slaughter.

Table 1: Local Production and Import Figures (2006 – 2008)

Year	No. killed	Carcass Beef (t)	Av. Carcass wt (kg)	Veal (t)	Total BB Eq (t)	Fresh BB Eq (t)	Canned BB Eq (t)	Tot BB Eq (t)	Tot Beef Consumption BB Eq (t)	% Local	Per Capita Consumption (kg)
2006	9087	2252	247	0	1,486	3,664	11	3,675	5,161	29	6.1
2007	7995	1958	245	0.79	1,293	1,118	0	1,118	2,411	54	2.9
2008	7754	1870	241	0	1,234	3,442	0	3,442	4,676	26	10.2

Sources: FMIB, MPI Quarantine, Bureau of Statistics

Note : Official population estimate at the end of 2007: 827,900

Per capita consumption is calculated from Fiji's total population, however approximately 45% do not consume beef.

Imports, Exports and Self Sufficiency

A total of 3,442 tonnes of beef was imported in 2008. This was 2,324 tonnes or 67.5% more than the 1,118 tonnes imported in 2007. The imports were mainly from New Zealand and Australia and were for canning purposes only. In 2008, about 630 tonnes of corned beef valued at \$3,780,000.00 was re-exported to the Pacific islands including Kiribati, Wallis & Futuna, Tonga, Vanuatu and Western Samoa. This was a decrease of 595 tonnes or 5.5% compared to 1225 tonnes valued at about \$5million re-exported in 2007. Per capita Consumption of beef in 2008 was 10.1kg compared to 5.1kg in 2007. Self sufficiency level decreased by 52% compared to 2007.

Constraints

The industry continuously faced the following constraints:

1. Physical Resources

This included land factors such as tenure, topography, remoteness from markets and business centres and roads. Beef farming is confined to remote marginal areas as good agricultural lands close to market centres are used for industrial purposes, hotel development, and other agricultural activities.

2. Financial Resources

High initial investment costs in setting up beef farms and long production cycle makes return on investment slow. Marketing through middlemen, although convenient, exploited farmers and gave them unfair deals. Farmers were often forced to make unplanned sales when in financial problems. Low investments from financing institutions like Fiji Development Bank and the government funding for the industry including government stations also affected urgent rehabilitation programmes. This also contributed to lower than expected improvement of the farms.

3. Human Resources

Human resource development has not been well directed in the last decade. There was very little impact of technical trainings resulting in low production.

4. National Policy

This included some of the drawn up policies that were required to increase revenue from an area or an enterprise. The government policies on increasing revenue from tourism may force cattle production into the interior of the larger islands because the coastlines will be developed into tourism and other commercial industries.

Government Involvement and Other Assistance

The Animal Health and Production Division through its Extension, Health and Regulatory and Research Units supported the industry in the following areas during 2008:-

- (i) Free Extension advice provided to farmers by livestock officers throughout the country.
- (ii) Training to transfer benefits of improved technology to farmers.
- (iii) Better breeding animals provided to farmers from government herds and from Yaqara on one-third two-third basis.
- (iv) Artificial Insemination (AI) services were available free and pasture seeds and vegetative planting materials of improved fodder species were available from government research stations.
- (v) Government also subsidized pasture improvement, stockyard construction, farm road upgrading and fencing through its Beef Capital Programme.

Future Potential and Direction

There is great potential for beef production in Fiji as there is a strong local market. However, there is need to have a firm policy on female cattle slaughter and backyard and underweight slaughtering. There is also a need to anchor large foreign investors to drive the industry to self-sufficiency, excellence and export and improve the quality of beef in the country.

With Yaqara likely to be retained by the government, there is a need to revamp the government stations to supply breeding and store animals of the existing breeds to small-holder beef farmers.

Encouraging crop farmers to keep a few beef cattle will increase the viability of the crop farms, increase cattle throughput in abattoirs and beef production.

DAIRY

Overview

Dairy production in Fiji is broadly classified into two major categories:

- (1) Formal sector comprising farmers in the Central Division that supply milk and cream to Rewa Co-operative Dairy Company (RCDC) and ;
- (2) Informal sector comprising fresh milk vendors who supply urban dwellers and those farmers engaged in small cottage industries such as ghee, yoghurt, ice block production etc. These types of farms are spread throughout the country.

In 2008, there were 236 registered dairy farms in Fiji compared to 285 farms in 2007 - a drop of 17.2%. Decrease in the number was due to the long standing unresolved land lease issue. Eighty (80) percent of these farms were in Central Division, 15% in Western Division and 5% in Northern Division. Two hundred and twenty six (226) of these farms supplied milk to RCDC.

Production

A total of 10,341,063 million liters of milk was supplied to RCDC in 2008. This was a drop of 25.6% from the target of 14 million litres for the year. This also indicated a decrease of 32.73 TMFE or 792,492 litres representing a drop of 6.7% over the 2007 production. This was largely due to negative growth from the bulk suppliers who are facing land tenure problems. The non-RCDC suppliers

produced 547.64 TMFE in 2008; a slight increase of 2.48 TMFE or 60,048 litres of milk compared to 2007.

Constraint

In the next three years, 12 leases will expire on three large farms.

Table 2: Local Dairy Production 2006 - 2008

Year	RCDC Suppliers	Non-RCDC Suppliers	TOTAL
2006	491.06	545.16	1,036.22
2007	458.33	547.64	1005.97
2008	426.87		

Tonnes Milk Fat Equivalent (TMFE) - 10,341,063- RCDC, 1,989,559- Non RCDC

Imported Dairy Products

A total of 3,461.5 TMFE of various dairy products were imported during 2008. This was about 1,576.2 TMFE or 65.75% more than the imports in 2007. The major increase was in imports of butter by 94.5% compared to the quantity imported in 2007. This was followed by curd and cheese (90.5%) and condensed evaporated milk (73.8%) respectively. There was 2.1 TMFE import of skim milk in 2008 compared to none for 2007. Subsequently the imports of fresh milk, ghee and cream increased significantly in 2008 when compared to the imports in 2007. The self-sufficiency level based on milk supplied to RCDC and non-factory production increased to 35%.

Table 3: Dairy Product Imports [2006 –2008 (TMFE '000)]

YEAR	Total Factory	Total Non-Factory	Total Imports	Total Consumption	% Local	Per Capita Consumption (Kg)
2006	489.20	545.01	24422.59	25456.8	4.1	29.83
2007	458.33	547.64	1885.34	2891.31	35	3.49
2008			3,461.5			

Source: MPI Quarantine, Bureau of Statistics

Note : Official population estimate at the end of 2006: 827,900

Constraints

1. The expiring land leases was a major constraint to increasing milk production on bulk milk producers who were reluctant to further invest or carry out improvement on their dairy farms.
2. High rainfall, poor drainage, soil type and topography in the major dairying area still remained a major constraint to pasture production and grazing animal management. This led to weedy pastures with below average production both in quantity and quality.
3. Poor dairy infrastructure including farm access road and distance of farms from chilling centers often lead to milking problem, poor milk quality and hygiene.
4. Lack of supporting policies of lending institutions such as the FDB and inadequate provisions of RCDC Revolving funds for smallholders to access funds for farm development.
5. Inconsistent supply and the changing prices of supplementary feeds affect their usage and finally the milk production.

Government Involvement and Other Assistance

Government will continue to assist farmers through the Dairy Capital Development Programme in herd improvement, artificial breeding, supply of genetically improved bulls, provision of grass and legume seeds for pasture improvement, veterinary services, general extension services, farmer training and improvement of dairy infrastructure such as farm access roads, milking and calf sheds.

Future Potential and Direction

There is a huge potential for dairy in Fiji. The local market demand is in excess of 80 million litres of milk annually and with increasing tourist arrival this demand can be even higher.

The challenge to the industry is to design systems that would not only maintain the present level of production but to increase it further. Re-parcelling of larger properties into smaller-holdings and creation of efficient smallholder dairy producers would be the way forward. However, one or two large producers such as Dairy Farm Fiji (DFF) are needed to drive the industry.

Shifting dairying to the West and possibly to the Northern Division has been an area of interest for the long term since the area is geographically suitable for dairying. New technologies are needed to improve efficiencies of production as well as processing of milk and milk products.

SHEEP

Overview

The Sheep Industry recovered tremendously during the year through the impact of the Import Substitution Program (ISP). This is in spite of the delay in the release of funds which was the major reason for the heavy culling of breeding ewes at Nawaicoba. Local mutton production increased by 45% or 26.9 tonnes compared to 33.3 tonnes in 2007. Total sheep stock on private farms increased by 20% or 2,498 compared to 9,507 sheep in 2007. This is attributed to the sudden increase in new sheep farms and improvement in overall sheep management, handling and infrastructure development.

Maintenance and development of the three existing sheep stations (Nawaicoba, Batiri, and Mua) received \$100,000 through the Import Substitution Program.

About 15 Private sheep farmers (North – 9 farmers - \$87,833.46, West - 5 farmers - \$17,691.10 & Central/East – 1 farmer - \$20,000) received \$125,524 through ISP for the procurement of breeding stock, fencing materials; construction of sheep shed and water reticulation.

The major highlight for 2008 was the establishment of Private Sheep Breeding and Multiplication Centre in the Central Division to meet the increasing demand of breeding stock in the Central, Eastern and the Outer Islands. Tiko Eastgate received \$20,000 through ISP with which he constructed two sheep sheds, two km fencing/subdivision, established one ha fodder legume nurseries and improved the water supply system on his 100 acres farm. Mr. Eastgate will be able to supply 1000 stock within five years. The Reproductive Performance at the three sheep stations was very high where lambing was 117% and 90% with private sheep producers.

The total number of private sheep farms increased by 27% or 97 farms and the National Flock numbers increased by 13% or 1855 from 12,842 in 2007 to 14,697 in 2008. Local sheep producers supplied 1 – 3% or 65 tonnes of the local demand.

Production

Table 4: Local Production and Imports 2006 – 2008 (tonnes)

Year	Local			Import		Total		
	No. Killed	Carcass wt (t)	B/less (t)	Carcass (t)	B/less (t)	B/Less (t)	% Local	Per Capita Consumption (Kg)
2006	2147	50.1	22.1	8,760	3,503	3,525.5	0.6	4.1
2007	1723	33.3	14.7	13,351	5,875	5,889.1	0.2	7.1
2008	2494	60.2	26.5	13,018	9,092	9,118.5	0.30	10.7

Source: MAFF Quarantine, Bureau of Statistics

Note : Official population at the end of 2008: 827,900

BBE conversion

Carcass 0:44.1

Canned 1:3

In 2008, 13,018.1 tonnes of sheep meat was imported with the value of \$78.1 million (\$6000/tonne).

A total of 26.5 tonnes of local sheep meat was produced in 2008. This was 11.8 tonnes or 33.5% more than the production achieved in 2007. The self-sufficiency level increased to 0.30% in 2008 when compared to 0.2% in the previous year. Per capita consumption of sheep meat was estimated at 10.7kg per head, an increase of 33% or 3.6 kg compared to 7.1kg in 2007.

Imports

In 2008 a total of 9,092 tonnes of boneless sheep meat valued at F\$68 million was imported from New Zealand. This was 3,217 tonnes or 35.38% more than the 5,875 tonnes imported in 2007.

There has been no import of corned mutton into Fiji in the last two years because the demand was met by the local canneries.

Table 5: Sheep Extension – No. of Farms and Sheep Population

Division	2006		2007		2008	
	No. of Farms	No. of Stock	No. of Farms	No. of Stock	No. of Farms	No. of Stock
Northern	116	4284	116	4383	116	6341
Western	118	5140	118	3724	137	4638
Central Eastern	32	1372	35	1400	35	1026
TOTAL	266	10796	269	9507	288	2005

Source: AH&P Divisional Reports December 31st, 2008

Sales of Stock to Farmers

In 2008, 39 breeding rams, 410 breeding ewes, 534 fatteners and 59 culled stocks were sold to farmers as breeding and fattening stocks from government sheep stations. These accounted for 12.06 tonnes sold at a total value of \$56,994. A total of 48.14 tonnes of local sheep meat was sold from private farm during the year with estimated revenue of \$288,840 (\$6/kg live weight). About 95% of the stock sales were conducted in the festive months of November and December.

Government Stations

At the end of 2008, total stock on the three (3) government stations was 2,692 which was 5.5% or 150 less animals compared to 2007. The production parameters on government in 2008 were lambing 125%, conception 95.5%, weaning 90% and mortality 9.7%.

Sheep Extension

All sheep farmers were provided with specialist extension and disease investigation services by the livestock officers and the Veterinary Pathology Laboratory. Training programmes were conducted in the year aimed at improving sheep husbandry practices with particular emphasis on internal parasite control and the proper management of ewes/lamb at lambing.

Constraints

1. Expiring land leases was a constraint to improvement on farms and their expansion. Some of the sheep farms had huge potential for expanding the industry.
2. Two of the three government stations are located in the drier areas. Drought was a regular occurrence and the need for supplementary feed which was sometimes not available.
3. Wild dog attacks also hindered development on some farms.
4. High cost of anthelmintic and drugs was a hindrance in maintaining regular drenching program and the health of the sheep flock.
5. The uncertainty of Batiri and the specific date of relocation affected productivity at Batiri in

the beginning of the year.

6. Poor infrastructures mainly stockyard and fences at the Mua station in Taveuni affected the breeding programme.

Government Involvement and Other Assistance

Financial support for maintaining the three sheep stations was provided by Government through the Import Substitution Program. Two sheep stations were located in the drier areas of Fiji and there was a need for supplementary feeding during the drier months while the third was located in the intermediate zone. Government continued to provide extension and disease investigation services to farmers through Livestock extension officers and the Veterinary Pathology Laboratory.

Future Potential and Direction

The potential for the growth of the industry appears good with large volumes of imported sheep meat coming into the country every year. Demand for locally produced lean mutton continued to grow with consumers willing to pay premium price. The major advantage of sheep farming was that it could be integrated into a variety of farming systems, crops and livestock, thus helps to maintain its popularity with the farming community.

The special breed of sheep coupled with its disease free status of most deadly diseases of livestock; there is a huge potential in export of live animals. There has been interest for live animals by foreign countries and some live breeding animals have been exported to Pacific countries. The sheep industry had reached a stage where there was a need to broaden the genetic base of the local breed in order to continue to supply genetically superior breeding animals to local farmers as well as for export. This required the introduction of new blood lines from overseas to maintain the genetic stock of the Fiji Fantastic Sheep.

GOAT

Overview

The goat industry was estimated to have an annual growth rate of about 2%. The industry was driven by private sector with very less funding from the government. It was one of the most sustainable income generating commodities in the sugar cane areas. Western and Northern Divisions had favourable climate for goat production and together they account for about 90% of the total goat population. Traditionally, Indo Fijian farmers kept goats but over the recent years, more I-Taukei farmers were raising goats and enjoying the lucrative goat market. This had caused the increase in demand for financial assistance to goat farming. The government research station at Nacocolevu, Sigatoka (used for multiplication of replacement breeding stock) could barely meet the demand to supply goats due to reduced budget. Goat breed improvement had not been done for the last 15 years, and hence the national herd needs an urgent introduction of new lines of breeds so that the demand for goat meat could be addressed. Goat meat was retailed at \$12/kg and was the most expensive local meat apart from duck meat.

Production

Table 6: Goat Production and Imports (2006-2008)

YEAR	LOCAL					IMPORTS	TOTAL		
	No. Killed	Total wt (t)	Average wt (Kg)	Other Killed (t)	TOTAL (t)	Imports (t)	Total Consumption (t)	% Local	Per Capita Consumption (Kg)
2006	1276	15.3	12.0	931	946.3	19.0	965.3	98	1.13
2007	1233	19.4	15.7	950	969.4	35.0	1,004.4	97	1.2
2008	1,334	14.0	10.5	969	983	25.0	1,008	98	1.2

For every one goat killed through slaughterhouse an estimated 15 killed outside

Source: MPI Meat Inspection Service, MPI Extension Service Estimate, MPI Quarantine Service, Bureau of Statistics,

Note : Official population estimate at the end of 2007: 827,900

A total of 1,334 goats were slaughtered at the two registered slaughterhouses equating to 14,044 tonnes of Chevron meat. This represented an increase of 7.5% in number or 101 heads compared to 2007.

The average carcass weight for 2008 was 10.5kg a drop of 5.2kg or 49.5% compared to 2007. The estimated kill outside the slaughterhouses was 969 tonnes in 2008, an increase of 19 tonnes or 2% compared to the 2007.

Table 7: Distribution of Goat Farms and Population (2008)

Division	No. of Farms	Goat Population
Central/Eastern	66	33,235
Western	179	161,054
Northern	175	89,149
TOTAL	420	283,438

For 2008, there were a total of 420 farms with a total herd of 277,880 goats. Western and Northern Divisions had about 56.8% and 31.4% of the total goat population respectively. The Central/Eastern had 33,235 or 11.7% of the population. In addition there were 326 goats at Nacocolevu Station.

Imports

A total of 25 tonnes of goat meat were imported. This was 16 tonnes or 40% less than the imports in 2007. The self-sufficiency level was 98% and per capita consumption remained static at 1.2 kg compared to 2007.

Constraints

There is an urgent need to upgrade infrastructures at the goat breeding station in Nacocolevu, Sigatoka so that it could discharge its objectives efficiently. There were visible signs of inferior quality stock from in-breeding in the flock which could pose a potential threat to the industry. This needed prompt strategic decision in the introduction of new blood lines to improve the genetic component of the breeding herd.

Government Involvement and Other Assistance

The extension service provided by Animal Health and Production Division emphasized herd management and parasite control. It also focused on better nutrition through concentrate supplementary feeding and pasture improvement. The government maintained and supplied breeders from research stations to farmers to up-grade their stock.

Future Potential and Direction

Goat meat is consumed by all communities in Fiji though it still remained a delicacy among the Indo Fijian community. With increasing urbanization and income level, the demand for goat meat is expected to increase further. Introduction of new blood lines in the breeding herd at Sigatoka Research Station and also injection of more funds for the operations, maintenance and research will ensure availability of good quality breeding stocks to farmers to improve production efficiency on farms. Goat research in various management systems from breeding, feeding, health and hygiene would greatly assist in herd improvement and farm production.

POULTRY

Overview

The total value of Poultry Industry was about F\$80million. The local Poultry Industry was divided

into the formal and informal sectors. The major players in the formal broiler meat production were Goodman Fielder and Rooster Chicken with 60% and 40% of the market respectively. The edible egg market was controlled by Ram Sami & Sons which had 65% of the market. Reddy's and Imam Ali Halal controlled the formal duck sector with 5% and 20% of the market share respectively. The vertical integrated production system adopted by the formal poultry producers made them very competitive. Their pricing structure and marketing systems were well organized.

Production

In 2008, a total of 9,213,760 broiler birds were slaughtered through the registered slaughter houses producing 11,970 tonnes of meat. The per capita consumption was 18.75kg in 2008; a decrease of 3.17kg or 14.46% compared to 2007. The number of the layer farms remained same for the year. The production of edible eggs declined in 2008 when compared to 2007. This was generally due to the aging layers and unavailability of replacement.

Table 8: Day Old Chick Production and Imports (2005 - 2008)

Year	Local					Net Im-ports	Total		Percent Local	
	No. of Breeder Farms	Layers		Broilers		Layers ('000 doz)	Lay-ers	Broilers	Layers	Broilers
		No. of day olds ('000 doz)	Avg. Price (\$)	No. of day olds ('000doz)	Avg. Price (\$)					
2005	2	290.00	3.50	9,643.00	1.70	7.50	297.50	9,643.00	97.40	100
2006	2	384.00	3.50	9,595.00	1.70	10.35	394.35	9,595.00	97.38	100
2007	2	323.00	3.70	9,675.00	1.70	12.45	335.45	9,675.00	97.50	100
2008	3	12205	3.70	12,848.45	1.70	-	12205	12,848.45	97.85	100

Source: Local Hatcheries, MPI, Quarantine and Bureau of Statistics

The number of breeder farms had been increased since Pacific Feeds Ltd opened its third hatchery with the capacity of 10,000 eggs. There was a significant increase of 11,882.1 ('000 dozens) in number of local layer day-olds hatched from 323.0 ('000 dozens) in 2007 to 12,205.1 ('000 dozens) in 2008. There was a slight increase in the importation of day old layers. This was mainly for genetic improvement of the parent stock on the breeder farms. The local production dominated the production of both the layer and broiler day olds; 97.85% and 100% respectively.

PIG PRODUCTION

Overview

The Government's deregulation policy influenced the Pig Industry. The industry was required to improve efficiency of production in all areas from animal husbandry to marketing of products. The market of pork and pork products was sensitive to tourist arrivals in the country.

For 2008, a total of 16,693 pigs were slaughtered at registered slaughterhouse producing 920 tonnes of pork meat. This was a drop of 5.7% or 1017 pigs compared to 2007. In 2008, about four tonnes of pork meat was exported to other Islands in the South Pacific countries. The total value of pig Industry was about F\$16.6 million. The average weight of pigs slaughtered was 55.10kg.

Production

Table 9: Local Production and Imports (2006 – 2008)

YEAR	LOCAL			IMPORT	Total Consumption (t)	% Local	Per Capita Consumption (Kg)
2006	16,500	56.24	928	117	1,045	88.80	1.22
2007	17,710	54.94	973	182	1,155	84.24	1.40
2008	16,693						

Source: FMIB, MPI Quarantine, Bureau of Statistics

Note : Official population estimate at the end of 2007: 827,900

Farm gate live weight prices ranged from \$5.50- \$10/\$20 per kg depending on locality and class of animal. FMIB price depended on dress weight i.e. 50kg or less cost \$5.50kg and \$4.50kg if weight was more than 50kg the price for culled animals was \$3.50kg

Imports

A total of 233 tonnes pork was imported in 2008. It consisted of fresh meat, boneless and processed such as bacon, ham, loin, salami, Hog sausage from New Zealand and Australia valued at \$F2.097 million. Self-sufficiency was at 80% and the per capita consumption of 1.36kg for the year with a total of 1,155 tonnes consumed in the country. Butchers were selling at \$8.99 to \$16.71 kg depending on the different cuts processed e.g. Loin meat, shoulder. Pig farmers benefited from the farm gate sales with prices ranging from \$100 to \$1000 for culled sows/boars.

Research and Development

The Koronivia Research Station pig section continued to support the pig industry through the supply of superior breeding stock to farmers, production and supply of fresh boar semen for artificial insemination on farms and training for farmers.

To maintain and improve its gene pool, the station imported Duroc and Landrace semen from Australia. This was also to complement the breeding programme using live animals imported from Australia in 2005. During the year a total of 358 animals were sold to farmers in Central, Western, Northern and Eastern Division from KRS piggery valued at \$37,204.70.

Constraints

In the commercial production system, feed accounted for 70-80% of the total production. Semi-commercial and backyard farms used household and farm wastes to supplement feeds but the growth rates of pigs were low, making these feeds uneconomical. The unavailability of adequate funds and transport for operations at KRS and for extension duties affected production.

Government Involvement and Other Stakeholders

Government continued to support the industry through the provision of technical advisory services to pig producers and other stakeholders. Great effort had been directed to smallholders to improve their management and husbandry practices through farm visits, trainings/workshops and demonstrations to educate farmers to improve farm efficiencies, reduce mortalities and maintain minimal disease incidences. Government provided fattening and breeding stocks at subsidized costs from Koronivia Research Station.

Future Potential and Direction

The local pig industry has a great potential for increased production. However, in the deregulation environment, the industry needs to consolidate further and increase the efficiencies of production and marketing. This will reduce the cost of production and make pork meat more affordable to consumers against other competitive meats in the market.

Introduction of improved pig breeds through live animal's sale and artificial insemination will be the future direction to bring about hybrid vigour with the local pig herds. The local pig industry has a potential to increase its productivity provided the local pork consumption is increased through a reduction in the end product price. The Koronivia Piggery needs to lead the industry in breed, housing, feed, mortality and litter size. An 8 meter Bio-digester was constructed and in use at the KRS piggery. The use of Bio-digesters will continuously be pursued as a means of waste management and disposal.

HONEY

Overview

In 2008 the Apiculture Industry recorded a development rate of around 40% in terms of farm numbers, hive numbers, honey production and employment compared to 2007. The industry had a vigorous and aggressive growth over years as it had phased out from the cottage level to the commercial level. Imports of honey for 2008 increased to 54 tonnes or 11.4% compared to 2007.

Table 10: Local Production and Importers in Tonnes [2006-2008]

Years	No. of Farm	No. of Hives	Total Production (t)	Av. Prod. Per Hive (Kg)	Net Imports (t)	Total Consumption (t)	% Local	Per Capita Consumption (Kg)
2006	700	9,566	298	31.15	30.00	328.00	90.86	0.38
2007	846	10,605	494	46.58	37.77	531.77	92.89	0.64
2008	1,016	12,812	595.12	47.84	54			

Source: MPI Quarantine, Bureau of Statistics.

Note: Official population estimate at the end of 2008:827,900

Table 11: Honey Production and Distribution in 2008

DIVISION	NO. OF FARMERS		NO. OF HIVES		PRODUCTION (t)		VALUE (\$)	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
Western	483	524	5789	7772	254	385.43	2,540,000	3854300
Central	156	202	1863	1968	96	100.67	960,000	1006700
Northern	163	227	2442	2511	115	63.31	1,150,000	633100
Eastern	44	58	511	561	29	45.13	290,000	451300
TOTAL	846	1016	10,605	12812	494	595.12	4,940,000	5,951,200

Table 2 Shows geographical distribution & Production

Note: Average Production/Hive/Year = 47.84Kg

The number of farmers engaged in the industry increased by 16.7% or 170 compared to 2007. Western Division recorded the highest number of farmers engaged in honey production, 524 farms with 7,772 hives producing a total of 385.43 tonnes of honey for 2008.

Table 12: Imports

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Local Production (t)	100	130	212	298	494	595.12
Import (t)	0.66	1.8	0.83	30	8.62	54

Imports of honey also increased by 84% from 8.62 tonnes in 2007 to 54 tonnes in 2008.

Extension Services

Over the years, many honey producers have shifted from subsistence to commercial farming. During the year almost all were commercial honey producers. A total of 18 training workshops were conducted throughout the country including outer islands by the Apiculture Section. Ten training

programs were conducted by the private sector. Some awareness programmes were also conducted in Viti Levu and Vanua Levu and on islands of Beqa, Kadavu and Ovalau. The training programs which included refresher courses for existing stakeholders were conducted at various training centres. Field bee disease surveys and laboratory analysis were concluded that Fiji had no dangerous bee diseases as found previously in the hive colonies. Surveillance continued in order to protect the local industry from outbreak of endemic bee diseases such as American Foul Brood (AFB) and exotic pests and diseases such as Varroa Mites, Internal Mites, European Foul Brood and Chalk Brood.

Constraints

To maintain the momentum, more trained technical staff were needed to service the industry and development of marketing strategies that would allow processing of infrastructures and value adding for increased local consumption of honey and exports.

With rapid expansion of the industry, lack of good quality genetic material could lead to in-breeding and reduction of honey production in future. Hence, there is urgent need to introduce new gene pool in the current bee population.

Government Involvement and Other Assistance

Government had supported the Apiculture Industry by providing advisory services, disease control and surveillance and training to farmers. It had also brought about competition in the supply of beekeeping equipments and materials by encouraging local production of these equipments and materials. As a result, the prices for these products have dropped by 45-50% when compared to those imported from overseas. Government had also assisted smallholder bee farmers in obtaining loans from the financial institution. It had also helped small producers in processing and marketing of honey through AMA, Food Processors and Global Traders.

Future and Potential and Direction

Over the years the industry has done well. The local production is increasing so is the import. There is need to put policies in place to safeguard the industry from cheap imports. The industry needs to gear itself towards tourist and other hospitality markets and there is need for value adding and production of different honey products such as bee wax and royal jelly for tourists and overseas markets. A well-established queen breeding centre, with required laboratory facilities for scientific analysis of bee disease and bee related products together with central honey collection centre for remote and other islands needs to be explored in future.

PART II

WORK OF THE DIVISION

COMMERCIAL UNDERTAKING

Overview

The Commercial Undertaking (CUT) is the commercial arm of the Animal Health and Production Division. It operated on a revolving fund of \$80,000. CUT bought pine posts, fencing materials and livestock from farms and retailed them to the farmers at reasonable price with handling charge of 5% for service costs. It also had a cattle truck which farmers could hire for the transportation of their livestock.

Table 13: CUT Sales

Commodities	2006		2007		2008	
	Nos.	\$	Nos.	\$	Nos.	\$
Cattle	30	17,34600	106	21,951.12	15	4,129.71
Goat	1	73.20	-	-	-	-
Sheep	-	-	-	-	2	250.70
Pigs	592	54,665	387	31,896.53	57	39,402.08
Fencing Wire			971	79,926.20	2,098	145,132.00
Pine Post	1,418	112,726	4,665	68,520.18	5,107	68,056.88
Milk	-	-	-	-	-	14,457.00
Egg	-	-	-	-	-	9,456.33
Duck	-	-	-	-	-	100.80
Total	-	-	-	-	-	280,985.50

The Vatuwaqa station was the central dispatching centre for livestock and fencing materials to farmers and other interested clients. It also accommodated culled livestock, which were sold to the general public. Other centres for livestock and fencing materials are Koronivia, Waidradra, Nacocolevu, Lawaqa, Seaqaqa/Batiri, Nawaicoba, Nabouwalu, Labasa, Dreketi and Savusavu.

Constraints

At Vatuwaqa centre, grazing area is small and unable to handle large numbers at peak period. Also the cattle race is very old and unable to cater for growing demand.

Future Potential and Direction

The land area allocated at different government livestock stations needs development to carry more breeders and store animals for sale to farmers. CUT also used about 40ha grazing land with fence and paddocks subdivided at Naboro to ease the burden experienced at Vatuwaqa.

VETERINARY FIELD SERVICES

Overview

The veterinary field services were supervised by the Senior Agriculture Officers (Northern, Western and Central/Eastern) and covered a wide range of functions ranged from clinical services, disease eradication programme, disease investigation and control, drug sales, castrations, branding, registrations and licensing, impounding, dog control, and meat inspection

Table 14: Clinical Services (2006 – 2008)

YEAR	ITEM	WESTERN	CENTRAL	NORTHERN	TOTAL
2006	No. of Cases	3,180	429	281	3,980
	Revenue \$	31,320.00	3,582.03	2,578.83	37,480.86
2007	No. of Cases	2,935	603	275	3,815
	Revenue \$	29,097.00	5,431.99	2,642.43	37,171.42
2008	No of Cases	2,340	701		
	Revenue \$	22,504.17	9,943.08		

Table 15: Castration of Bull and Stallions

YEAR	ITEM	WESTERN	CENTRAL	NORTHERN	TOTAL
2006	No. of Cases	447	27	194	668
	Revenue \$	3,238.00	170.50	726.79	\$4,135.29
2007	No. of Cases	2,350	59	160	2,569
	Revenue \$	2,350.00	366.64	1,363.14	\$4,079.78
2008	No of Cases	362	701		1063
	Revenue \$	2,162.67	9,943.08		\$12,105.75

Castration was generally done during mustering and TB testing. This was an on-going activity for extension, which was handled by the BTEC Team. A total of 1063 castrations were done in 2008 with an income of \$12,105.75.

Table 16: Bovine Tuberculosis

	West	Central/ Eastern	North	TOTAL 2008	2007	2006	2005
No. Tested	3,859	32,199	468	36,785	39,806	28,910	9,350
No. of Reactors	1	220	0	221	188	189	64

A total of 36,785 cattle were tested in 2008. This was 27,435 cattle more than the total number tested in 2007. The major reason for the low number of cattle tested in 2007 was delay in the arrival of tuberculin from overseas. The number of TB reactors recorded was 221 in 2008 compared to 188 in 2007 with an increase by 15% or 33 reactor animals. The increase in number was attributed to the long lay-off period in some areas after the last test. All the TB reactors were from Tailevu Province due to high number of infected farms especially the bulk milk suppliers. The current incidence rate had increased slightly from 0.65% in 2007 to 0.68% in 2008. The national target set was at 0.05%. This meant more vigorous and complete testing of all cattle if the national target was to be achieved.

Constraints

Brucellosis and TB Campaign were seriously affected by lack of suitable vehicle for staff mobility, farmers continued to harbour suspected animals to avoid losing them as reactors. They also moved animals from one farm to another without the consent of livestock officers, increasing risk to non infected animals.

Removal of the TB reactor cattle was not an easy task since almost all butchers refused to buy these carcasses. The canneries could not take those cattle for canning because Fiji was yet to scientifically prove that it was free from BSE or Mad-cow disease.

VETERINARY REGULATORY SERVICES

Branding

There was a legal requirement for owners of more than four cattle to have a registered brand. During the year 276 brands were registered generating revenue of \$729.33.

Table 17: Branding and Registration

YEAR	ITEM	WESTERN	CENTRAL	NORTHERN	TOTAL
2006	No. of Cases	116	61	26	203
	Revenue \$	306.00	161.31	68.66	\$535.97
2007	No. of Cases	364	71	35	470
	Revenue \$	364.32	188.16	92.40	\$644.88
2008	No of Cases	125.00	151		276
	Revenue \$	330.00	399.33		\$729.33

Table 18: Meat Inspection Services

YEAR	ITEM	WESTERN	CENTRAL	NORTHERN	TOTAL
2006	No. of Cases	6,267	19,096	435	25,798
	Revenue \$	6,542.75	20,031.70	900.45	27,474.90
2007	No. of Cases	6,012	20,685	152	26,849
	Revenue \$	6,214.00	21,926.28	314.64	28,454.92
2008	No of Cases				
	Revenue \$	\$6,426.42			

Dog Control - Dog Poisoning

This was a very expensive exercise for the rural areas whereas in the urban areas it had some impact in controlling stray animals. All animals caught were re-homed by the communities in the respective divisions. During the year, 12 dog poisoning campaigns were conducted in the West where 792 baits were laid and 235 dogs and 42 cats were killed.

Table 19: Dog Licensing

YEAR	ITEM	WESTERN	CENTRAL	NORTHERN	TOTAL
2006	No. of Cases	287	126	34	447
	Revenue \$	3,788.40	1,701.00	448.80	5,938.20
2007	No. of Cases	437	325	40	802
	Revenue \$	5,768.40	3,805.30	528.00	10,101.70
2008	No. of Cases	262	87	25	374
	Revenue \$	3,458.40	1,109.70	337.50	4,905.60

It is a legal requirement that all dogs over 6 months of age to be licensed. During 2008, 374 licenses were issued with a total of \$4,905.60 of revenue collected.

Constraints

The Dog Poisoning Campaign was banned in urban areas but was still available to farmers in rural areas. The Municipal Councils had complained about high cost and ineffective means of dog control using dog traps.

VETERINARY PATHOLOGY LABORATORY

The Veterinary Pathology Laboratory continued to support the field staff through investigations and diagnoses of livestock diseases during the year.

Diseases Diagnosed

During the year the following diseases were diagnosed at the laboratory:

Cattle

1. Septic pneumonia
2. Enterotoxaemia/Tetanus

Sheep

1. Generalized septicaemia

Poultry

1. Inclusion Body Hepatitis Virus
2. Mareks disease
3. Malnutrition
4. Coli septicemia
5. Heat Stress
6. Deaths due to management problem

Pigs

1. Heat stress
2. Parasitic infestation
3. Sudden death

Pisces

1. Trauma

Goats

1. Haemonchosis

Mastitis

There were 67 cases and a total of 407 samples analyzed for the year. The samples were analyzed for somatic cell counts, Methylene blue test, Total plate count, Coliform counts, white-side tests Antibiotic residue tests (CMT), and bacterial isolation and sensitivity tests. The bacteria isolated from milk cultures were Streptococcus agalactiae, Corynebacterium sp, Staphylococcus sp, and E. coli and Bacillus sp. The bacterial isolates were further tested for antibiotic sensitivity using various antibiotic discs such as Penicillin, Cloxacillin/Obrenin, Streptomycin, Cephalaxin, Spectinomycin, Tetracycline and Oxytetracycline.

Tuberculosis

A total of 51 cases and 346 samples were received in 2008. The samples were analyzed for Mycobacterium spp and all the samples tested had been positive for Mycobacterium spp. About 95% cultures showed growths on Lowenstein Jenstein media (T.B. media). The ready prepared media was purchased from overseas suppliers.

Apiculture Disease Diagnosis

In 2008 a total of 208 samples were analyzed out of 20 cases received from the Central, Northern and Western Divisions. The samples were analyzed parasitologically for external and internal parasites in bees. A total of 148 samples out of 208 received were analyzed for external and internal parasites such as Tropilaelaps, Varroa mites and tracheal mites and protozoa (Nosema sp). All tests came out negative for all parasites tested.

A total of 208 samples from the 148 hives were tested bacteriologically for American foul brood disease [AFB], European Foul Brood disease [EFB] and Chalk brood disease. All the samples tested came out negative for all diseases.

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy [BSE - Mad Cow Disease screening]

Histology BSE screening was done at 25% of the samples collected from the abattoir. The samples for BSE was collected from cattle age of 3 years old and over. Insufficient surveillance had been occurring /conducted to date and samples were only obtained from Nasinu FMIB.



Livestock Research

Livestock research was carried out from two government research stations. These are Koronivia Research Station (KRS) in the Central Division and Sigatoka Research Station (SRS) in the Western Division. KRS concentrates on research in dairy, pig and wetland pasture production whereas SRS carries out research activities on beef, goat and dry land pasture production.

Crop Extension Division



Role of Extension Division

The role of the Extension Division is to directly assist farmers especially in the transitioning of subsistence to commercial standard through the promotion of appropriate technologies for adoption. It is also responsible for training, preparation of their farm programmes to assist in boosting of production especially the export commodities.

Function

The major function of the Division is to provide quality advisory services to stakeholders

IMPORT SUBSTITUTION

Overview

The Ministry is committed to the cultivation of identified crops that will substitute imported commodities. The main emphasis is to boost production through the enhancement of producing locally in order to reduce the current import bills.

Projected ISP commodities included yams and vegetables notably; carrots, capsicum, lettuce.

Assorted Vegetables

A total of 20ha was targeted under the Import Substitution Program out of which 22ha was achieved by forty (40) farmers.

The impact of DDA Programme resulted both to the increased in planting area and production.

Table 20: Vegetable Production (mt) – 2008

DIVISION		PRODUCTION (mt)				
		QRT 1	QRT 2	QRT 3	QRT 4	TOTAL
Western	Target	40	15	45	100	200
	Achievement	10	30	100	76	216
Number of Farmers	Target					30
	Achievement					20

Source: Extension Division Report 2008

The total production of assorted vegetables for the year was 216mt. The selling price was \$500/mt.

Yams

A total of 10ha was targeted under the Import Substitution Program out of which 27ha was achieved by 110 farmers. The increased in planting area and production mainly due to the provision of seeds and impact of the DDA Program. A total of 214mt of yams were produced at the price of \$1 to \$2/kg.

Table 21: Yam Production (mt) – 2008

DIVISION		PRODUCTION (mt)				
		QRT 1	QRT 2	QRT 3	QRT 4	TOTAL
Western	Target	0	0	75	0	75
	Achievement	0	49.9	108	0	157.90
Central	Target	0	0	75	0	75
	Achievement	0	42.2	14	0	56.2
Number of Farmers	Target					20
	Achievement					192

Source: Extension Division Report 2008

The total production of yams for the year was 214.1mt. The selling price was \$1000 to \$2000/mt.

EXPORT PROMOTION

Overview

The Ministry is committed to the enhancement of exporting opportunities by promoting and ensuring

the cultivation of identified crops entirely to cater for exports.
Projected EPP commodities included Dalo mix, Tausala, Pawpaw and Ginger.

Dalo Mix

A total of 48.6ha was targeted under the Export Promotion Program out of which 71.72ha was achieved by 115 farmers. The impact of DDA Programme including the demand from the export markets resulted both to the increased in planting area and production.

Table 22: Dalo Mix Production (mt) – 2008

DIVISION		PRODUCTION (mt)				
		QRT 1	QRT 2	QRT 3	QRT 4	TOTAL
Central	Target	100.2	100.8	100.8	100.8	402.6
	Achievement	310.6	295.2	775.2	160.4	1541.40
Number of Farmers	Target					99
	Achievement					91

Source: Extension Division Report 2008

The total production of dalo mix for the year was 1541.4mt. The selling price was \$800/mt.

Tausala

A total of 206.2ha was targeted under the Export Promotion Program out of which 205ha was achieved by 998 farmers. The impact of DDA Programme including the demand from the export markets resulted both to the increased in planting area and production.

Table 23: Tausala Production (mt) – 2008

DIVISION		PRODUCTION (mt)				
		QRT 1	QRT 2	QRT 3	QRT 4	TOTAL
Central	Target	33	33	33	33	131
	Achievement	106	98	258	43	505
Western	Target	56	56	56	56	224
	Achievement	185	222	130	185	722
Northern	Target	180	246	180	288	894
	Achievement	0	197	340	27	564
Eastern	Target	114	114	114	114	456
	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Farmers	Target					354
	Achievement					916

Source: Extension Division Report 2008

The total production of Tausala for the year was 1791mt. The selling price was \$1000/mt.

Pawpaw

A total of 67ha was targeted under the Export Promotion Program out of which 62.3ha was achieved by 93 farmers. The impact of DDA Programme including the demand from the export markets resulted both to the increased in planting area and production. Pawpaw planting continued to be focused in the western division because of the favorable weather condition and adaptability.

Table 24: Pawpaw Production (mt) – 2008

DIVISION		PRODUCTION (mt)				
		QRT 1	QRT 2	QRT 3	QRT 4	TOTAL
Western	Target	180	180	180	180	720
	Achievement	120	310.80	335.7	338	1104.50
Central	Target	18	19	19	19	75
	Achievement	0	37	1.4	20	58.40
Number of Farmers	Target					104
	Achievement					74

Source: Extension Division Report 2008

The total production of Pawpaw for the year was 1162.90mt. The selling price was \$1000/mt at farm gate. Over achievement was also due to the increase in harvesting after the recovery of crop from Cyclone Gene and new area going into production.

Ginger

A total of 31ha was targeted under the Export Promotion Program out of which 11.5ha was achieved by 46 farmers. Ginger planting continued to be focused on the Central division. The shortfall in planting recorded mainly due the unavailability of treated planting materials, high cost of agro inputs and poor quota distribution.

Table 25: Ginger Production (mt) – 2008

DIVISION		PRODUCTION (mt)				
		QRT 1	QRT 2	QRT 3	QRT 4	TOTAL
Central	Target	620	0	0	0	620
	Achievement	0	588	0	0	588
Number of Farmers	Target					46
	Achievement					7

Source: Extension Division Report 2008

The total production of Ginger for the year was 588mt at the price of \$700/mt.

RURAL AND OUTER ISLAND PROGRAM

Overview

The Ministry is committed to the enhancement of income generating opportunities to farmers within the outer island and rural areas through the implementation of ROI program.

Projected ROI commodities included Assorted Vegetables, Cassava, Kura and Yaqona.

Assorted Vegetables

A total of 97.01ha was targeted under the ROI Program out of which 198ha was achieved by 197farmers. The impact of DDA Programme through the provision of seed materials and agro inputs resulted both to the increased in planting area and production.

Table 26: Assorted Vegetables Production (mt) – 2008

DIVISION		PRODUCTION (mt)				
		QRT 1	QRT 2	QRT 3	QRT 4	TOTAL
Central	Target	15	50	49	30.2	144.2
	Achievement	75.7	75.8	42.96	44.80	239.26
Western	Target	108	108	108	108	432
	Achievement	51	76.5	526.5	665	1319
Northern	Target	29	38	38	38.4	143.40
	Achievement	18	10.6	69	31	128.60
Number of Farmers	Target					427
	Achievement					621

Source: Extension Division Report 2008

The total production of Assorted Vegetables for the year was 1686.86mt at the price of \$850/mt.

Cassava

A total of 400ha was targeted under the ROI Program out of which 452ha was achieved by 751 farmers. The impact of DDA Programme through the provision of seed materials and agro inputs resulted both to the increased in planting area and production.

Table 27: Cassava Production (mt) – 2008

DIVISION		PRODUCTION (mt)				
		QRT 1	QRT 2	QRT 3	QRT 4	TOTAL
Central	Target	718	721	720	721	2880
	Achievement	618.6	829	599.3	970	3016.90
Western	Target	480	480	480	480	1920
	Achievement	0	347	300	412	1059
Number of Farmers	Target					418
	Achievement					417

Source: Extension Division Report 2008

The total production of Cassava for the year was 4075.9mt at the price of \$400/mt.

Kura

A total of 5ha was targeted under the ROI Program out of which 6ha was achieved by 30 farmers. The impact of DDA Programme resulted both to the increased in planting area and production.

Table 28: Kura Production (mt) – 2008

DIVISION		PRODUCTION (mt)				
		QRT 1	QRT 2	QRT 3	QRT 4	TOTAL
Central	Target	9	9	9	9	36
	Achievement	10	0	7	9	26
Western	Target	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	110
	Achievement	81.10	69.20	29	14.20	193.50
Eastern	Target	9	9	9	9	36
	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Farmers	Target					24
	Achievement					32

Source: Extension Division Report 2008

The total production of Kura for the year was 219.5mt at the price of \$475/mt.

Yaqona

A total of 0.6ha was targeted to be maintained in the Eastern division under the ROI Program out of which 6ha was achieved by 30 farmers. The impact of DDA Programme resulted both to the increased in planting area and production.

Table 29: Yaqona Production (mt) – 2008

DIVISION		PRODUCTION (mt)				
		QRT 1	QRT 2	QRT 3	QRT 4	TOTAL
Central	Target	4.1	4.4	4.9	4.6	18
	Achievement	6	5.8	9.4	9.2	30.40
Western	Target	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	10
	Achievement	10	10	18	20	58
Eastern	Target	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	14
	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0
Northern	Target	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	18
	Achievement	2.2	4.8	4.8	6.7	18.50
Number of Farmers	Target					140
	Achievement					415

Source: Extension Division Report 2008

The total production of Yaqona for the year was 106.90mt at the price of \$25,000.00/mt.

FOOD SECURITY

Overview

The Crop Extension Division continues to promote the importance of producing local crops, fruits and vegetables to address the need for Food Security in Fiji. A number of crops are classified under the Food Security Category including Vegetables, Dalo, Dalo ni tana, Via, Kumala, Rice, Duruka, Banana, Vudi, Cocoa, Citrus, Vanilla, Voivoi and Floriculture.

Land & Water Resource Management Division

1.0 Overview

The Land and Water Resource Management Division's primary responsibility towards meeting the Ministry's corporate and strategic goals was to facilitate sustainable use of agricultural land and water resources through effective engineering services.

To facilitate these objectives the Division's activities focussed on the following deliverables:

- a) Flood Protection
 - Disaster mitigation activities reduced vulnerability and risk of flooding in Nadi and Labasa.
- b) Watershed Management
 - Construction of check dams reduced the impact of flooding in Nadi
 - Water resource development for irrigation and drought mitigation
- c) Land Drainage
 - Drainage infrastructure improvement and maintenance works in the Central, Northern and Western Divisions.
- d) Irrigation Service
 - Irrigation infrastructure development and maintenance works in irrigation schemes in the Central and Northern Division.

2.0 Performance Overview

Under the Flood Protection programs, the river dredging works were undertaken in the Nadi, Qawa and Labasa River. In the Rewa River, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) could not proceed due to the poor response to the tender for environmental consultants. The Nadi River bank protection works at Narewa Village was also undertaken late in the 4th quarter due to delays in approval from the Tender Board.

Government's assistance of the Drainage Subsidy works to meet the operation and infrastructure maintenance works in sugar and non sugar sectors were undertaken under the three Drainage Boards with major improvements to the drainage networks and rehabilitation of structures. Under the irrigation program, the planned activities were not fully implemented due to the delay in the award of the contract. The award was made on the 19th September. The construction of the check dam in Nadi under the Watershed Management did not proceed following the appeal against the Public Works Tender Boards decision to award the contract to a bid two times more than the Engineer's estimates. The Division's total capital provision amounted to \$7.6million, expenditure commitment 95%.

3.0 Performance Measures

3.1 Land Drainage – Drainage Subsidy

Government made provisions in the 2008 budget to abolish the drainage levy to assist all farmers and assume responsibility for drainage works by the three (3) Drainage Boards (Central Division Drainage Board, Western Division Drainage Board and Labasa Drainage Board).

3.1.1 Central Division Drainage Board - Non Sugar Drainage

The Central Division Drainage Board was responsible for maintenance and improvement of forty (40) schemes within the drainage area under its jurisdiction. A total of 13,000 hectares of land had been improved for non sugar crop cultivation. Under the Drainage Subsidy, the Board received a grant of \$583,000 for operation and drainage maintenance works.

Table 30: Works undertaken were as follows:

Performance Indicators	Performance Target 2008	Actual Performance in 2008
• Drain weeding	• 120km	• 94.6km
• Drain desilting	• 220 km	• 214.4km
• Desilt outlet waterway	• 6.4km	• 1.65km
• New drain excavation	• 2,500m ³	• 3,347m ³
• New flap gate	• 2 no.	• 2 no.
• New floodgate door	• 4 sets	• 3 sets
• Floodgate door mtce	• 10 no.	• 8 no.
• Culvert crossing	• 2 no.	• 2 no.
• Floodgate structure rehabilitation	• 2 no.	• 1 no.
• Purchase rubber seals	• Purchase	• Purchased

Note: scope of works revised to meet budgetary provisions due to contract rates higher than tender estimates

3.1.2 Western Division Drainage Board - Sugar Drainage

The Western Division comprises 40 sugar drainage schemes where some 12,400 hectares of land had been improved for cultivation producing 300,000 tonnes of sugar annually.

Under the Drainage Subsidy, the Board received a grant of \$863,000 for operation and drainage maintenance works.

Table 31

Performance Indicators	Performance Target 2008	Actual Performance in 2008
• Drain desilting	• 268 km	• 268.1 km
• Seawall maintenance	• 4 places	• 2 places
• New culvert crossing	• 5 no.	• 3 no.
• Culvert upgrade	• 5 no.	• Deleted
• Floodgate door mtce	• 13 sets	• 2 sets
• Spillway repair	• 5 no.	• 6 no.
• Purchase rubber seals	• Purchase	• Purchased

Note: scope of works revised to meet budgetary provisions due to contract rates higher than tender estimates

3.1.3 Labasa Drainage Board - Sugar Drainage

The Labasa Drainage Board was responsible for maintenance and improvement of twelve (12) schemes within the drainage area under its jurisdiction. A total of 3,800 hectares of land had been improved for cultivation producing 100,000 tonnes of sugar annually.

Under the Drainage Subsidy, the Board received a grant of \$554,000 for operation and drainage maintenance works.

Table 32: Works undertaken were as follows:

Performance Indicators	Performance Target 2008	Actual Performance in 2008
• Drain desilting	• 138km	• 150.18km
• Trash rack repairs	• 42 no.	• 20 no.
• Boulder protection	• 1,580m ³	• 1,468m ³
• New culvert crossing	• 7 no.	• 4 no.
• New flap gate	• 1 no.	• 1 no.
• Floodgate door maintenance	• 12 no.	• 12 no.
• Flap gate door repair	• 2 no.	• 2 no.
• Seawall upgrade	• 1 no.	• 1 no.
• New spillway	• 125m ³	• 49.96m ³
• Stone pitching		

Note: scope of works revised to meet budgetary provisions due to contract rates higher than tender estimates

All schemes in the drainage area are in operation and performing satisfactorily.

3.2 Table 33: Flood Protection

Activities carried out included river dredging, river bank protection and hydrological monitoring of rivers.

Performance Indicators	Performance Target 2008	Actual Performance in 2008
• Nadi River Mouth Dredging	• 1.8km	• 1.8km
• Qawa River Mouth Dredging	• 365,000 m ³	• 365,000m ³
• Labasa River Dredging	• 150,000 m ³	• 164,000m ³
• Rewa River Dredging	• 150,000 m ³	• 17,742m ³
• EIA	• EIA Report	• No tender response
• Dredge maintenance	• Slipway Mtce	• Completed Dec
• Nadi River bank protection	• 200m	• 30m
• Hydrological monitoring /	• Rewa/Qawa/Nadi/Ba/Labasa	• Rewa/Qawa/Nadi/Ba/Labasa

Constraints

- 6 weeks downtime for repairs and maintenance to dredge hydraulic system requiring external expertise
- Debris preventing dredge to operate effectively
- Aging dredge equipment frequent mechanical stoppages
- Slipways delayed due to wet weather and mechanical works
- Rewa River EIA tendered three(3) times
- Nadi River bank protection commenced 4th quarter, delays in approval from Major Tender Board

3.3 Watershed Management

Program activities involve feasibility studies and reconnaissance survey of affected watersheds, civil construction works to regulate flood flow in the river systems, and water resource development for agriculture production.

Table 34: Flood Management Activities 2008

Performance Indicators	Performance Target 2008	Actual Performance in 2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of check dam Water resource development Investigation Ba water shed Labasa watershed Nadi watershed Rakiraki 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mulomulo Nasua irrigation 2 sites 3 sites 4 sites 1 site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to explanatory note Irrigation system installed 2 sites 3 sites 4 sites 1 site

Explanatory Note

- Works tendered in August for construction.
- Public Works Tender Board (PWTD) approval received on 12th November,
- Contract price awarded two(2) times more than Engineer's estimate
- Appeal decision of Tender Board – contract award rescinded

3.4 Irrigation Services

The activities undertaken involved the maintenance of irrigation infrastructure in the Central and Northern Division. To support rice, vegetables and other agricultural crops.

Table 35: Irrigation Services 2008

Performance Indicators	Performance Target 2008	Actual Performance in 2008
Northern Division <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canal desilting Canal upgrading Sluice gate mtce New sluice gate Floodgate door mtce Spoil disposal Boulder protection Canal bund repairs New culvert crossing Canal access gravelling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 67km 23,400m² 22 no. 10 no. 6 no. 3,110m³ 550m³ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 84.4km 23,400m² 22 no. Deleted 6 no. 4,100m³ 270m³ 300m³ 2 no. 250m³
Central Division <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drain desilting Gravelling seawall Floodgate door mtce Canal weeding Clay fill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 23.0 km 5,60m³ 2 no. 12km 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19.7km 560m³ 2 no. 22km 154m³

Explanatory Note

- Scope of works reduced in Central Division to meet increased scope of work for Northern Division rice schemes
- PWTB Award received in late September, thus scheduled works not fully completed.

3.5 Technical Advisory and Support Services

The Division continued to render engineering and technical advisory services to other Divisions of the Ministry and stakeholders.

These included the following:

- Handing over of new Quarantine building following final inspection of building defects works.
- Prepared drawing and cost estimates for AH&P Veterinary Pathology Laboratory and two storey office building lower level extension for the construction of 3 rooms and toilets.
- Nursery plant shed for Extension Division.
- Supplied drawing for garage and office, workshops, staff quarters and fertilizer shed to Ethanol Project team.
- Prepared tender for Yalavou farm Road in Sigatoka.
- Pipe water supply from Vunicibicibi to Dreketi Station.
- Called tenders and supervised Belego and Vuinadi drainage works in Cakaudrove.
- Coastal protection works for Mali village.
- Fresh water supply from Dreketi pond to Fisheries fresh water prawn ponds.
- Diversified vegetable demo farm irrigation.
- Proposed water supply system at Kedra Cocoa Station.
- Desilt 6km drains at Koronivia Research Station.
- Navua and Deuba rivers flood mitigation measures to reduce flooding hazard.
- Technical assistance provided to the Drainage Boards on monitoring the implementation of works.
- Technical assistance provided to Research Assistant (Pacific Centre for Environment & Sustainable Development and Project Co-ordinator (Institute of Applied Science, USP) for river bank protection construction at Buretu Village Tailevu.
- A total of 46 applications for land divisions and rezoning from Town & Country Planning addressed with comments pertaining to engineering implications and recommendations to protect prime agricultural land from development.

4.0 Finance

The Division's approved capital budget amounted to \$7.6million. The capital expenditure is summarised below.

Table 36: Finance

Program/Activity	Approved Provision \$	Released Provision \$	Actual Expenditure \$	Expenditure
1. Irrigation Services	Commitment %	194,000	185,943	93
2. Land Drainage & Flood Protection – Rehab	5,000,000	4,850,001	4,906,976	98
3. Watershed Management	400,000	388,000	94,734	24
4. Drainage Subsidy	2,000,000	1,999,400	1,998,096	100
5. Divisional Total	7,600,000	7,431,401	7,185,749	95

Explanatory Note

- 3% of the approved provision was retained by the Ministry
- Watershed management low due to withdrawal of tender for check dam construction awarded by Public Works tender Board.

5.0 Personnel

The detail on the Division's personnel status for last five (5) years is tabulated below.

Table 37: Staff Establishment from 2004 – 2008

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Established Staff	86	86	75	75	75
Government Wage Earners	186	193	198	191	191
Total	272	279	273	266	266

There were 75 approved staff establishment in 2008. 71 post were fully funded, and 4 unfunded. The government wage earners establishment comprised of 191 posts, of which 96 were project posts. The Division had a total of seven expatriates. The expatriate engineers comprised of two Principal Engineers recruited from Burma, and five Senior Engineers, three recruited from Burma and two from the Philippines. Their contract was for a term of three years and will expire in 2010. During the period one expatriate Senior Engineer, two Senior Technical Assistant's and three government wage earners resigned.

Three government wage earners services was terminated, one for discipline, two project workers service for adverse police records. One Clerical Officer and Assistant Storeman probationary appointments expired and recommendations for confirmation of appointment was submitted to the management.

Under the Director of Land Resources Planning and Development restructure, one Principal Engineer, one Senior Surveyor, one Technical Officer Higher Grade, two Technical Officers and one Technical Assistant were relocated to the Division. In 2008 the Division had 18 vacant posts.

6.0 Training

Three [3] officers were on overseas study in engineering discipline, one in Australia and Malaysia under FAB Scholarship and one in China under Chinese Government scholarship.

Staff studying in Australia returned, but had to complete studies.

During the 2008, one [1] Technical Assistant attended Post Graduate Diploma in Integrated Water Resource Management [IWRM] offered by USP. The course was on part time basis for 18 months. One [1] Technical Assistant completed Diploma in Civil Engineering at FIT. One [1] wage earner was awarded FAB scholarship on full time study doing Diploma in Civil Engineering at FIT. One (1) Clerical Officer pursued BA in Accounting on part time basis at USP.

7.0 Other Works

To meet the challenges of climate change, sea level rise and the flooding problems, the Division through assistance from regional agencies had been assured of funds from the Global Environment facility (GEF) did the following projects.

Nadi River Basin Integrated Flood Risk Management

The project objective was to integrate land and water management planning using an integrated flood risk management approach to improve flood preparedness and management within the Nadi Basin. The project will raise awareness to flooding issues and will help local communities and other stakeholders to improve their resilience to flooding through an improved understanding of the river network and floodplain interactions. The project will be over a 5year period commencing from 2009.

Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project (PACC)

The project objectives were to review the drainage criteria established 20 years ago towards enhancing current and future designs of drainage and sea defence through a better understanding of current and future changes in climate. The project will be implemented over a three (3) year period commencing in 2009. This would improve the drainage networks established in the Central Division which would then be adopted in other areas.

Watershed Management

The Division through the watershed management program would continue to pursue the strategy of constructing check dams as a means to reduce the impact of flooding. Other measures to address localised flooding in developed areas such as Nadi, Ba and Labasa township to be addressed through engaging specialist engineering consultants due to the limited engineering resources and technology for such complex civil engineering works.

8.0 Constraints

- The major constraint faced by the Division was the loss of qualified local engineering/technical discipline staff through resignation and retirement. Delay in filling professional and technical posts has hindered the service delivery.
- Frequent breakdown to aging vehicles hindered providing the necessary and timely services to the functional sections of the Division.
- Aging dredgers, associated vessels and other equipment resulted in downtime and shortfall in achievements.
- Construction works delayed due to lengthy consultation process with resource owners, unavailability of support services from MRD staff to carry out geo-technical survey and fisheries staff for resource inventory for social-economic survey.
- Late approvals from the Tender Boards.
- Poor response to EIA Tender. It was advertised three (3) times.

Economic Planning & Statistics Division

Administration & Finance

Staff

The Division had twenty two (22) established staff and two (2) wage earners, and on occasions employed project staff to facilitate government or regional funded projects, such as the Agriculture Census, the ACIAR project and the Tikina Profile. Apart from the Chief Economist, the posting distribution included four (4) Principal Economic Planning Officers, eight (8) Senior Economic Planning Officers, seven (7) Economic Planning Officers, three (3) Senior Agriculture Assistants, and two (2) wage earners. An Administrative Officer (Projects) was paid under the Rural & Outer Island (ROI) project.

5.2 Vehicles

The Division had five vehicles: the registration numbers were as follows: GM 100, GL 863, GN 780 and GN 762. FAO vehicle – CI 772.

5.3 Finance

Table 38: Summary of Capital Budget

Seg	Narration	Approved Provision (\$)
1	Established Staff [25]	563,200
2	Unestablished staff [3]	27,000
3	Travel & Communication	15,600
4	Vehicle Fuel , Maintenance & operation	26,900
5	Purchases of goods & Services	9,600
6	Special Expenditure: Census Project	1,500,000
8	Capital Grants and Transfer: ROI	2,000,000
	SUBTOTAL	4,142,300
	VAT	92,800
	GRAND TOTAL	4,235,100

Budget and Projects Section

Highlights

The Budgets and Projects section was responsible for the co-ordination of the Ministry's 24 Capital Projects amounting to \$20 million.

Preparation of 2009 PSIP proposals

Capital projects

The Section appraised thirty (30) capital projects and submitted to the Ministry of Finance & National Planning (MFNP) under Public Sector Investment Programs (PSIP).

These included 5 major Demand Driven programs; Sigatoka Valley Improvement Program (SVIP), Import Substitution Program (ISP), Export Promotion Program (EPP), Rural and Outer Island (ROI) Program and Dairy Industry Support (DIS) Program totaled to \$7.5 million.

With the assistance of the 5 program coordinators, funds were made available for effective implementation of these programs.

Financially these programs recorded 85-95 percent achievement against the total fund released. The section continued its core function in the preparation, vetting and submission of Requisitions to Incur Expenditure (RIE's) and Quarterly Reports for Line-Divisions for the release of funds from MFNP. It also facilitated the evaluation and preparation of the annual Public Sector Investment Programs (PSIP) for the year 2009 and reviews of Quarterly Performance Progress Report submitted to the MFNP. The section also:

- Attended meetings and seminars with stakeholders and other ministries.
- Prepared briefs and reports for management on capital projects and other agricultural related issues.

Other activities included the monitoring of projects that encompassed farm visits and meetings with stakeholders.

Table 39: Ministry of Primary Industries & Sugar 2008 Capital Budget Provisions

#	P	A	S		APPROVED
				Administration	2008
1	1	1	6	Tutu Training Program	250,000
2	1	1	6	CIDA Operating Grant	-
3	1	1	10	Grant to CIDA	1,000,000
4	1	1	6	AMA Operating Grant	-
5	1	1	10	Grant to AMA	1,000,000
				Sub-total	2,250,000
				Economic Planning & Statistics Division	
6	1	2	7	Fiji Agrtrade	-
7	1	2	7	Agricultural Census Program	200,000
8	1	2	9	Tikina Based Survey Profile	-
9	1	2	9	Vanua Levu Subsidy Freight	-
10	1	2	9	Agricultural Awareness Program	-
11	1	2	10	Farming Assistance Scheme	-
12	1	2	10	Rural & Outer Island Development	2,500,000
				Sub-total	2,700,000
				Information Services	
13	1	4	9	Upgrading of Information Section	
				Sub-total	-
				Quarantine Division	
14	1	6	9	Upgrading of Quarantine Facilities - HTFA Rotuma	-
15	1	6	9	Bilateral Quarantine Agreement (BQA)	150,000
16	1	6	9	Quarantine Awareness Program	25,000
17	1	6	9	Vehicle Purchase	-
18	1	6	9	Monitoring Surveillance	150,000
				Sub-total	325,000
				Extension Division	
19	2	2	8	Agriculture Extension Services	100,000
20	2	2	8	Rice Development	-
21	2	2	8	Sigatoka Valley Improvement Project	1,000,000
22	2	2	8	Flatland Crop Diversification & Lakena Dev.	-
23	2	2	8	Research & Dev - Export Promotion	2,000,000
24	2	2	8	Research & Dev - Import Substitution	1,300,000
				Sub-total	4,400,000
				Research Division	

25	2	3	8	Fruit Research & Plant Protection	-
26	2	3	8	Vegetable Research & Plant Protection	-
27	2	3	8	Sustainable Land Management	-
28	2	3	8	National Plant Biodiversity	-
29	2	3	8	Agricultural Chemistry Lab	-
30	2	3	8	Yaqona Die Back Disease Research	-
				Sub-total	-
				Sugar Industry Support Program	
31	2	4	10	Sugar Development	
				Sub-total	-
				Land & Water Resource Mgt	
32	2	4	8	Sugar Development Drainage Development	-
33	2	5	8	Maint of Completed Irrigation Services	200,000
34	5	1	8	Land Drainage & Flood Protection	5,000,000
35	5	1	8	Watershed Management Project	400,000
36	5	1	10	Drainage Subsidy under D&I activity	2,000,000
				Sub-total	7,600,000
				Animal Health & Production	
37	3	2	6	Dairy Industry Support	750,000
38	3	2	6	Small-holder Apiculture Development	-
39	3	2	8	BTEC	100,000
40	3	2	8	Beef Diversification Program	-
41	3	2	8	Sheep Diversification Program	-
42	3	2	8	Livestock Feed Technology	100,000
43	3	2	8	Veterinary Pathology Lab Upgrading	100,000
44	3	2	8	Agricultural Research Services	150,000
45	3	2	8	Goat Breeding Improvement Program	-
46	3	2	10	Subsidy for Farm Gate Price of Milk to RCDC	-
				Sub-total	1,200,000
				Fiji College of Agriculture	
47	4	1	8	Upgrading of FCA	200,000
				Sub-total	200,000
				Land Resource Planning & Development	
48	6	1	9	Infrastructure Development	100,000
49	6	1	10	Resettlement of Displaced Tenants	1,000,000
				Sub-total	1,100,000
				GRANT TOTAL	19,775,000

Table 40: Summary by Segments

	Narration	Approved 2008
Operational	Seg 6 Operating Grant	1,000,000
	Seg 7 Special Expenditure	200,000
	Total (R) (Seg 6-7) VEP	1,200,000
Capital	Seg 8 Capital Construction	10,650,000
	Seg 9 Capital Purchase	425,000
	Seg 10 Capital Grants	7,500,000
	Total Capital (Seg 8-10)VEP	18,575,000
	Grand Total (Seg 6-10) VEP	19,775,000

Fiji AgTrade

World Trade Organization (WTO)

- Received revised WTO TPR Government report with no re-curing queries on Agriculture policies.
- Economic Partnership Agreement and other Plurilateral and Bilateral Agreements (EPA/PICTA/PACER)
- One TDC meeting was attended where EPA updates were deliberated.
- Reports compiled and stored.

Codex

- Facilitated 3 National Codex Committee meeting.
- Facilitated attendance of Codex Contact Point on Codex Committee on Fruits and Vegetables (Mexico).
- Attended one regional formulation for kava and noni (Kura) standard for submission to CCNASWP in November.

Trade Development Committee (TDC)

- Attended 4 Trade Development Committee meeting.

Trade Facilitation Committee (TFC)

- Attended 2 Trade Facilitation Committee meeting.

National Export Strategy (NES)

- Solicit submission of stakeholder proposals to meet NES request.
- Awaiting coordinators (Commerce) instruction for further work.

Publication and Public awareness

- Fiji TV aired three segments in Talk Business program on FAO/PITIC NZ Import Protocol.

Market Survey

- 13 weekly market surveys were done in major municipalities.
- Facilitated SPC and ACIAR data acquisition requests.
- Conducted meeting with data collectors in the Central and Western Division.
- International Price Monitoring
- Market Information received from Public Ledger, Sydney & US were analyzed and disseminated to stakeholders.

Bilateral Quarantine Agreement (BQA)

- Attended 2 BQA sub-committee meetings.
- Attended 2 BQA protocol preparations for Papaya, breadfruit and Mango to the US market.
- Agriculture Statistics & Census Project

Highlights:

- Collected and collated data on production volumes, prices, values, exports and imports of agricultural products. Disseminated information within the Ministry, other Ministries/ Departments, statutory organizations, NGOs, to the private sectors and other stakeholders.
- Source of information to international institutions such as the UNDP/ FAO and IMF. 'Quick response' data requests were also made available to the private sectors, NGOs, and regional organizations.
- Worked in conjunction with the Fiji Bureau of Statistics, National Planning Office and the Reserve Bank of Fiji to re-calculate the GDP of the primary sector.
- Processed over 100 data requests from different stakeholders.
- MIS reports were prepared on a quarterly basis which was used as a tool for the quarterly Macroeconomic forecasting with RBF, National Planning and Fiji Islands Bureau of Statistics.

2008 PROJECT ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS

Last year, the project had an approved provision of \$200,000 to kick start the preparation for the census. Below is an outline of all the activities undertaken by the project.

Multiple Sample Frame Construction [MSF]: (January – August)

i) Area Sample Frame Construction [ASF]

- Updated the 1991 frame using the latest version of the topographical maps from Lands Department.
- Inventory List of all the updated frame was prepared.
- Scanned 98% of 1994 Contact Aerial photo. Remaining [40 prints] were missing from Land Use Section. * Activity to be completed by Jan 09.
- Completed the Geo-Referencing activities for all the scanned 1994 contact aerial prints. * Remaining activities to be completed in Jan 09.
- Overlayed the digital version of the 2007 Population Census Enumeration Areas Boundaries on to the digitized Census Area Frame.
- Overlayed the digital version of topographical maps on to the digitized Census Area Frame.

List Sample Frame Construction [LSF] March - June

- Updated the LSF Database of all Major Agriculture Holdings existing in the country [by commodity]. * This database will be further updated in 2009 during the actual field data collection activities.

Evaluation of the previous Agriculture Censuses Methodologies (January - March)

The project supervisors together with the FAO Technical Assistance undertook an evaluation of census methodologies of all the previous three census documentation during the planning stages of the project.

C) Pilot Census Program: (September – December)

As part of the project activities, a pilot census program was conducted by the project team basically to test the applicability of the methodology, scope, concepts and their operational definitions including data collection instruments (questionnaires, manuals etc), field processing and data analysis procedures. The exercise was conducted by census project staff and Land Use section including the

Fiji Islands Bureau of Statistics. Below are the activities undertaken as part of this program.

- Conducted one week training program for the enumerators at KRS in September.
- Conducted two-four weeks of data collection around the country which focused on six major commodities namely dairy, beef, ginger, coconut, rice and sugarcane. Due to lack of resources [vehicle] and heavy commitments within EP&S in the last quarter of 2007, the pilot census program was re-scheduled and was completed in December.
- Data processing activities had to be re-scheduled to 2009 due to the late response by PSC in terms of approval for the engagement of FIBOS System Analysts in the development of the database. * Activity to be completed in Jan 09.

D) FAO Technical Assistance Mission, FAO Project Proposal & Cabinet Paper

In recognition to our urgent need for good quality and timely food and agriculture information, FAO through its facility program approved two separate technical missions to the Ministry in 2007 and 2008. A six weeks mission was undertaken in August 2007 which focused on the pre-preparation of the project including a one day Agriculture Census Planning Workshop. The outcome of the workshop set the platform for the project in terms of drawing up a work plan, funding request [PSIP] as well as undertaking series of meetings with ministry management, Land Use section including key stakeholders of the project like FIBOS, MOFNP, Lands Department and other regional and international organizations like SOPAC & EU.

The second six weeks technical mission started in July 2008 basically reviewing the preparatory activities undertaken from the last quarter of 2007. During this mission, series of discussions continued with the management of the ministry regarding funding proposals for the completion of this project. Two formal funding proposals were submitted:

- Funding proposal under the FAO Technical Cooperation program for Technical Assistance and other benefits.
- A Cabinet Memorandum soliciting government support for the implementation and completion of the project.

Cabinet approved funding of \$1.7M from 2009 budget for the project while FAO showed its support by providing \$FJ 0.6M in ensuring the successful completion of the long overdue project.

9.0 Policy Analysis

A total of 26 cabinet papers had been submitted during the year. Cabinet papers submitted that was tabled in Cabinet were as follows:

Table 41: Cabinet Memorandum – 2008

NO.	Title	CD N0:	CM Date
1	Lomaivuna Agricultural Scheme	11	15/01/08
2	Drainage Act (Amendment) Promulgation 2007	12	15/01/08
3	Farming Assistance Scheme	13	15/01/08
4	Rural and Outer Island (ROI) Update	35	05/02/08
5	Sigatoka valley Development Program	36	05/02/08
6	Framework for the Import Substitution Program (ISP)	53	12/02/08
7	Framework for the Export Promotion Program (EPP)	54	12/02/08
8	National Dredging Program – Dredge Charter Hire	75	26/02/08
9	Framework for the Dairy Industry Support Program (DIS)	76	26/02/08
10	Accession to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)	77	26/02/08

11	Review of the Agriculture Ministry	104	11/03/08
12	Lomaivuna Agricultural Scheme (Resubmission)	122	25/03/08
13	Framework for the Cottage Industry Development Program	142	08/04/08
14	Membership of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID)	143	08/04/08
15	Wairiki Port Facility Project	185	06/05/08
16	A Proposal to Establish a Revolving Fund for the Operations of the Fiji Prison Service Farms	237	17/06/08
17	High-Level Conference on World Food Security: The Challenges of Climate Change & Bioenergy	249	17/06/08
18	An Update on the Dredge Charter Hire – National Dredging Program	340	28/07/08
19	Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare (UDAW)		28/07/08
20	Establishment of An Ethanol Production Facility Using Cassava as the Raw Material	352	12/08/08
21	Update on the Suspension of the Importation of Potatoes, Tomatoes and Capsicum from New Zealand on 1st July, 2008		26/08/08
22	FSC Head Office Complex and Development of Cuvu Beachfront Freehold Land (6)		26/08/08
24	Proposed Biosecurity Promulgation	441	07/10/08
25	Sugar Cane Growers Fund Annual Report For the Year Ended 31 December, 2007		21/10/08
26	Sugar Industry Tribunal Annual Report For the Year Ended 31 December, 2007		02/12/08

FAO Project

Regional Programme for Food Security in the Pacific Island Countries (RPFS)

Under Component one of the Programme – supporting National Activities geared to enhancing production, income generation and import substitution while promoting an improved nutritional status of the population – In Fiji, the RPFS supported 3 national projects which were implemented in Fiji as part of extension phase of the RPFS. Projects approved under the RPFS were:

- Rice Revitalization projects [FJD \$131,147];
- Milk and Beef projects [FJD \$154,098]; and
- Chicken and duck/poultry [FJD \$96,360].

Rice Revitalization Projects – FAO/ITA/FIJ/01

The Project aimed to revitalize the Rice Industry and increase local production. 1,825 hectares of land was planted with rice; 150 farmers assisted in agro-inputs; Rice seed distributed to 1,500 farmers; 180 farmers was trained in all aspect of rice farming; 212 rice irrigation farmers were assisted with the use of rice machines.

Further assistance to this project was expected to be provided during the 6 years expansion programme of RPFS, Project GTFS/RAS/198/ITA.

Milk and Beef projects –FAO/ITA/FIJ/02

The Project aimed at improving incomes of small holder farmers through increased milk production. The main activities included:

- procuring and distributing agro-inputs to 50 farmers;

- improvement in fence line to 13.5km and 22 fodder banks;
- land preparation and drainage works for 10 farms; improvement of Bull and heifers provision;
- trained 76 farmers
- The project resulted in increase of smallholder milk production from 3 to 6 liters/cow/day.

Further assistance to this project is expected to be provided during the 6 years expansion programme of RPFS, Project GTFS/RAS/198/ITA.

Chicken and Duck/Poultry – FAO/ITA/FIJ/03

The Project aimed to improve small holder Poultry Production in the informal sector through improved skills and husbandry practices of the farmers. The main activities included: 50 farmers assisted by distributing stock and inputs; construction of poultry units; four (4) trainings were conducted for staff and farmers; and extension visits and field days were also conducted.

9.2 Future Direction of EP&S

In 2008, the Economic Planning and Statistics Division focused on its effort in ensuring that the four (4) strategic objectives of the government were mainstreamed as core responsibility of the Ministry through provision of appropriate policy advice, provision of marketing information, effective, and projects formulation and evaluation, collection of reliable agricultural statistics and ensuring that the agricultural sector significantly benefits from extensive collaboration with International Agencies and Institutions.

Linking Farmers to markets, export market research and development, strengthening of the Divisions statistical capabilities through capacities building and effective monitoring of Capital Projects.



Fiji Quarantine & Inspection Services

OVERVIEW

Agriculture Quarantine and Inspection Services ensures Fiji's safety from exotic pests and diseases of plants and animals which are dangerous to agricultural, horticultural, forestry and livestock industries. It also ensures exports of quality produce which are free of diseases to other countries. Fiji is relatively free from harmful and serious pests and diseases known in other parts of the world and this has only been possible through stringent import quarantine requirements and cautious and strict quarantine surveillance.

Fiji Quarantine and Inspection Services operated within the provisions of the following laws: Plant Quarantine Act & Regulations, Animal Importation Act & Regulations, and Fruit Export Marketing Act & Regulations.

The open door trade policy set up by the World Trade Organization (WTO) stressed the importance for Fiji to establish appropriate levels of protection at the same time facilitate trade of agricultural nature and its products.

Although 2008 had been a challenging year, the border operation maintained a high standard of security to create a safe pathway and keep Fiji free of any exotic pests and diseases.

In order to enhance trade facilitation, a Task force had been formed consisted of Extension, Research and Quarantine to evaluate ways to improve production and market access for our agricultural products. A series of meetings took place and plans are progressing steadily to amass all information available that will contribute to higher productivity and easier access to our buyers.

A major capital project, the construction of the Nadi Quarantine Office complex was completed at a total cost of about \$0.5million. The complex was designed with new features to meet the present and future needs of the Division to enhance its service delivery.

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

With limited number of staff and low budget allocation, the Division managed to achieve almost all targets. Outlined below are some of its major highlights for the year:

- Formulation of the new Biosecurity Bill and wider consultation with stakeholders throughout the country took place towards the end of the year.
- Formulation of the Biosecurity Information Facility (BIF) Manual reached its final stages towards the end of 2008; the document would be finalized and adopted by mid 2009.
- The Division was working towards securing the services of extra sixteen (16) staff at Nadi Airport. Operational staff have been rotated at a minor level within the two divisions (i.e. internal rotation) but external rotations needed to be implemented which involved the transfer of officers from one division to the other.
- A number of officers had attended in-service training as part of capacity building programme both locally and abroad and some of these were as follows:

STAFF REPORT

In 2008, 12 officers were on acting appointments while seven officers were transferred within the Division. Two Technical Assistants resigned from service and one Agriculture Officer retired.

Four officers went on study leave to Samoa, Japan and Taiwan

FINANCE REPORT

Budget

The Approved Budget for the year represented a decrease in the Capital Programme on the Monitoring & Surveillance. There was also a drop in its Quarantine Awareness in which the Department catered for its Public Awareness Programs.

Revenue

These were mainly collected for services provided to the public and stakeholders, such as License to Export, Fumigation and Inspection Fees of Imported goods and food items etc. Total revenue collected in 2008 was \$361127.61

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Five officers from the Central Division attended a 3 weeks Pest Identification workshop sponsored by New Zealand Biosecurity; two officers attended a seminar on Avian Influenza at Raffles Trade winds, one officer attended a workshop on ERP for Avian Influenza organize by SPC & AH&P and one officer attended e- marketing workshop for Asian Productivity Organization at USP.
- 12 germplasm of taro, 30 germplasm of sweet potato and 160 tubers of banana tissue culture of different varieties and from various countries were inspected at SPC CePaCt and transferred to Koronivia Research Station.
- Giant African snails were intercepted on empty containers at Suva Kings Wharf. Officers placed snail bait around the wharf area to eradicate the pests.
- The outbreak of which resulted in banning the importation of potatoes, capsicum and tomatoes from NZ, The ban was lifted on the after an official visit by Director Q and PRO Plant Protection to New Zealand.
- Two officers attended PCE organized by SPC.
- A Pathway for cut plants was developed to allow cut plants from Taro Beetle infested area (Suva) to Non- Taro Beetle area, Laucala Island.
- One officer attended a workshop on ERP at SPC and Weed Survey at the Central and Western Division.
- A survey on Erythrina Gall Wasp was conducted.
- Two officers attended a 4 days GIS workshop on Fruit fly Surveillance organized by SPC & Plant Protection.
- Extension Officer from Rabi was attached in Savusavu Quarantine for 1 week.
- Extension officer form Bua was attached in Suva Kings Wharf.
- One container Potatoes were re-exported to NZ due to non compliance.
- Three officers attended the X-Ray training course. X-Ray operation was reviewed and the officers were then rotated weekly at the mail centre.
- Officers at the Suva Port were trained how to do heavy machinery inspection conducted by NZ Biosecurity.
- There was a new protocol drafted on the transfer of planting material from Viti Levu to Laucala Island. This was to eliminate the chances of taro beetle been accidentally introduced to non beetle area i.e. Laucala Island. Quarantine officers were involved in the treatments and escorting of plant material from the nurseries to the jetty for transportation by barge.
- Officers in the division attended a workshop on vessel boarding procedures conducted by NZMAF Biosecurity
- Also the officers attended training on fumigation conducted by NZMAF Biosecurity
- 10 officers from the division attended training by NZMAF on Pest Identification Workshop

VECHICLES

Most of the vehicles assigned for the Division have been in constant need of repair. There were 13 vehicles of which only seven were in working condition.

7.0 MONITORING AND SURVEILLANCE

7.1 BORDER INSPECTION

Conveyance Clearance

4728 aircrafts were cleared at both the airports. 4572 were passenger flights, 25 freighters, 101 private 1987 vessels cleared at all ports. 415 were cargo vessels, 1049 fishing vessels, 61 tankers, 32 cruise liners, 315 yachts, 11 research vessels, 3 tugs, 95 sugar vessels and 6 fertilizer/woodchips vessels.

Passenger Profiling and Baggage Screening

A total of 612,877 passenger and crew were cleared at both airports. 95,300 were returning residence cleared at Nadi Airport. 78,198 passenger and crew were cleared from all ports. This included all passenger and crew in transit and disembarking. 60,537 bags were checked after going through the x-ray machine at Nadi while 9,300 bags went through manual checking at Nausori Airport.

Garbage and Amnesty Bin Disposal

195 cubic meters and 6.12 tonnes of garbage were incinerated at Suva and Lautoka wharfs respectively. 428 tonnes of garbage incinerated at Nadi Airport.

Parcel/Mail Screening

7329 parcel/mail were screened of which 7,183 parcel released after inspection and 146 held for quarantine. [63 released after verification and 83 were confiscated] at Nadi Post Office.

29,766 mails/parcel were screened of which 28,656 parcel/mail were released after screening and 1,110 hold for quarantine. [610 were released after inspection, 206 released after verification and treatment, 15 reshipped, 15 detained for further verification and 264 confiscated] at Suva Post Office. Of the 206 released 199 were inspected for outer post office.

Import Cargo Discharge Inspection

28,281 FCL/LCL containers, 7,538 empty containers and 3,405 units of vehicle/machineries were inspected during discharged from vessels at Suva and Lautoka wharfs.

Clearance

1,946,164 tonnes of produce, 8,518 tonnes animal meat and other animal products, 26,072 tonnes of dairy products, 1,168 tonnes marine meat and marine products and 38,039.8 cubic meters of forest products were cleared. In live animals and other accessories, 3,246,502 day old chicks, 100 ducklings, 261,636 hatching eggs, 234 tubes of pig semen, 40 live dogs/cats and 60 goats were cleared. 170 FCL containers of personal effects were also inspected and released from Suva stations.

Illegal Importation

Interception (confiscated)

The following items were intercepted, confiscated and destroyed by incineration due to breaching of Fiji Quarantine Regulations:

- Honey from Korea, Japan and India
- Chicken feathers, onions and rice from Solomon Islands
- Assorted plants and animal by products from China
- Assorted plants and animal products from USA
- Ghee, dried bean seeds and chick peas from India
- Live plants with soil from Korea
- Milk, fruits and vegetables from Australia

- Mixed spices and plants from various countries
- Live ducks and live chickens on board fishing vessels

Cargo Treatment for Non compliance

The following items needed treatment before released to consignee (fumigated or cleaning and washing with high pressure hose)

- 857 empty containers
- 591 FCL cargo
- 451 units machineries and vehicles

Table 42: Re – export

ITEM	NO OF PKGS	COUNTRY(RE-EXPORT)
Grapes	1 FCL	USA
Tallow	3 FCL	NZ
Canned meat	336 cases	USA
Pulses	1 Pallet	NZ
Rice	80 ctns	Australia
Red Kidney Beans	80 bags (2000kg)	Australia
Kava	2 FCL	Vanuatu
Raw Peanuts	344 bags (8,600kg)	China

The above has been re-exported for non compliance under the Plant Quarantine Act 1982.

7.2 IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS

Import Permit

- 66 import permit issued for non plant products
- 1668 import permits for plant products
- Animal and animal product permits issued from Animal Health & Production Division
- Forest product permit issued from Forestry Department
- Marine product permit issued from Fisheries Department

7.3 POST ENTRY QUARANTINE

Animal Quarantine

A total of 50 animals were screened at the Post Entry Quarantine Station. 46 animals were released after completion of Quarantine period with one to be released in January, 2009. Four (4) dogs were euthanized for non compliance to the Animal Quarantine Act 1985.

Plant Quarantine

- 200 Bromelia plants were treated and released while 12.5 kg mushroom was destroyed.
- 300 taro plants and 224 varieties of rice seeds still under observation also.
- 1 tray of Kikuyel grass was destroyed.

Constraints:

- The need for a new Soil pasteurizer. Has not been operational for the past several years and there was a trial on rice using unsterilized soil. The need to have this equipments available was urgent should a trial of national importance is needed.
- Painting of office building and repairs. The office building is in urgent need of repairs and painting
- Upgrading of dog kennel. The building needed painting and the mosquito nettings repaired

so that the animals were not exposed to mosquitoes

- Repair of incinerator was also urgent to incinerate dead animals, diseased plants, etc.
- The need to revise the present charges to the present day costing. The costs of quarantine charges of animals were uneconomical compared to the charges incurred.
- Under utilization of the PEQ facilities has led to the deterioration of the facilities and was used as a reason to quarantine outside the PEQ. There was a need to encourage the general public through awareness programs to utilize the available post entry facilities to improve plant and animal genetics for beautification and economical and social purposes.

IMPORT PRODUCE REPORTS

1,946,164 tonnes of fresh produce was imported for the year 2008. The graph below will illustrate the amount of imports from various countries. (Fig. 1)



ANIMALS, ANIMAL MEAT and BY PRODUCT IMPORTS

Animal Import Permit

Import Permit for animal and animal products were issued from the Animal Health & Production Division.

234 tubes of pig semen imported from Australia

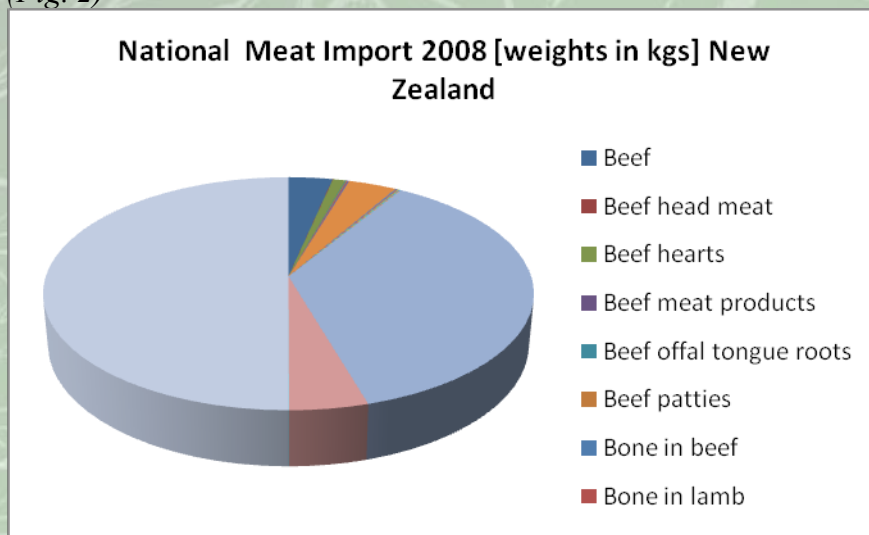
Poultry

3,246,502 day old chicks, 261636 hatching eggs and 100 ducklings imported during the year along with 312.2.

Animal Meat Import

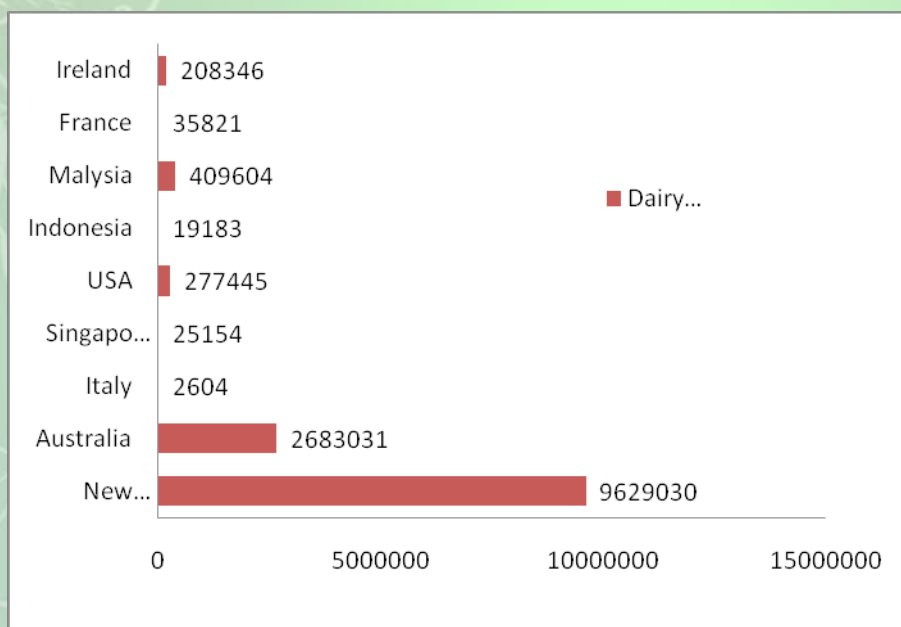
31284 tonnes of fresh meat, 5390 tonnes of meat processed product and 261 tonnes poultry product were imported in 2008. The graph below shows the breakdown of imports.

(Fig. 2)



Dairy Products

260,721 tonnes of dairy products were imported during the year. The graph below shows the breakdown of imports. (Fig 3)



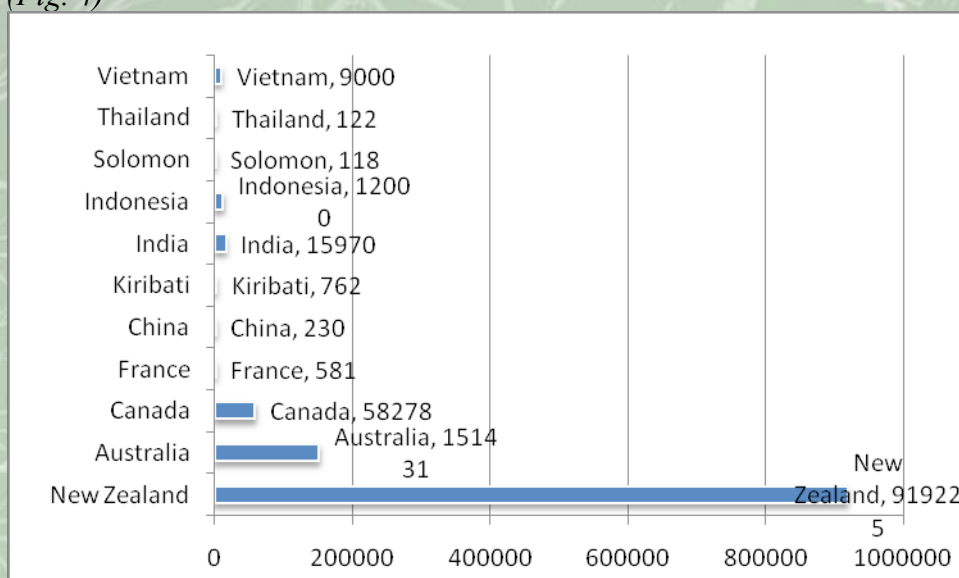
MARINE PRODUCTS

Import Permit issued by Fisheries Department

1,168 tonnes of marine and marine products were imported during the year. The graph below shows the breakdown of imports.

(move forward)

(Fig. 4)



FOREST PRODUCTS

Import Permit issued by Forestry Department

38039.8 meters of forest product were imported during the year.

8.0 BILATERAL QUARANTINE AGREEMENT

Export License

- Export license were renewed annually and most exporters renewed their license in the first quarter.
- 83 commercial export licenses were issued during the year.

Pack House Inspection and Audit

- Pack house inspection and audit were carried out during produce inspection and exporters were informed accordingly if there is any defect to be rectified.

Produce Inspection/Certification

- Each inspection done would be given one Phytosanitary Certificate i.e. one inspection for one consignment was given one Phytosanitary certificate.
- Phytosanitary certificates were given after inspection was done and met the necessary requirements from importing countries.
- Inspectors also checked on the pack house conditions while doing produce inspection and necessary correction measures were in place for the exporters to rectify.

COMMODITY PATHWAY

Grower Registration

503 Growers were registered for eggplant, pawpaw, chilies, breadfruit and mango export to New Zealand and Australia. This was a critical activity in the commodity pathway because it assisted inspectors in the post harvest operation to ensure stakeholders along the system effectively implemented pest risk management measures in the components they would engage in to export good quality produce.

Performance Assessment of Exporters and Growers on BQA Commodity System

The target of this activity was to ensure that commodity passed by quarantine inspectors while conducting inspection and transfer achieved 95% and above exportable quality. It was an understanding that the produce was properly cleaned, inspected by exporters quality controllers prior to the engagement of

an inspector. Those that did not achieve the 95% target indicated that there was no inspection done at the pack house and that allowed HTFA workers to inspect for them and in such cases would allow the inspectors to reject the consignment if it did not reach the required phytosanitary standard.

Commodity Performance

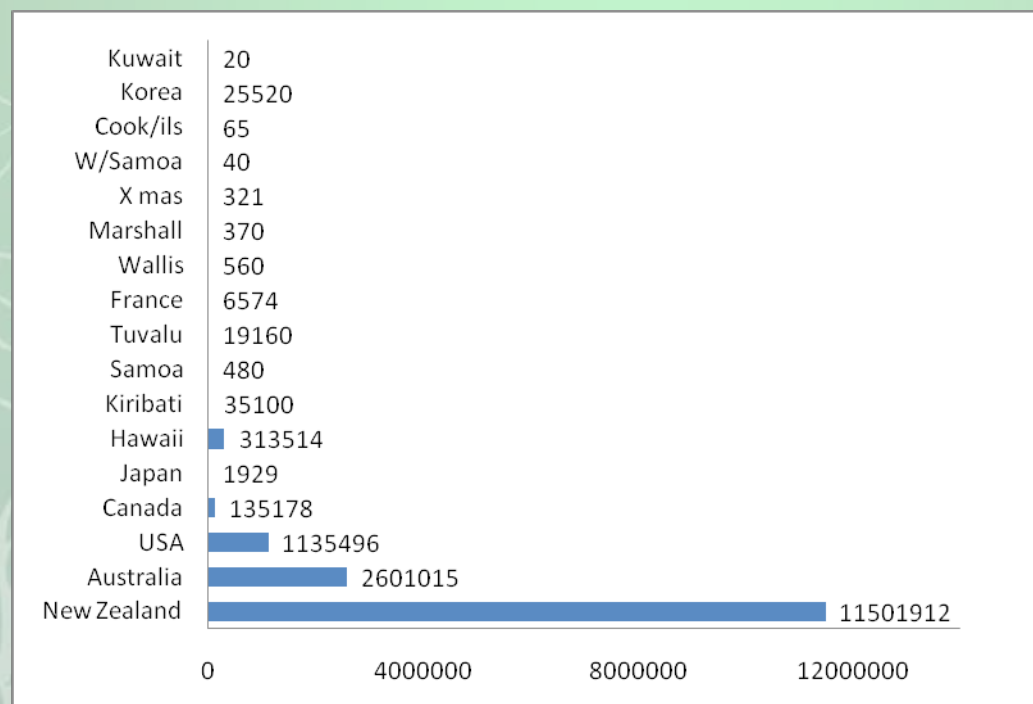
- Overall performance of the BQA commodities during the year showed some problems which caused the performance of the three commodities eggplant, pawpaw and mangoes not to achieve the target requirement in terms of maintaining the phytosanitary status of the commodities as well as the quality.
- Overall percentage of exportable quantity of 94% indicated that there was a need to improve facilitation from farms [growers] to exporters prior to any approval for transfer to HTFA unit.
- There were some non conformance found which were addressed to the growers and exporters thus minimized percentage of rejects while received at the HTFA chamber
- PLD update at the HTFA are
 - Blossom end blight in eggplant
 - Rotting in eggplant
 - Weathering white spot in pawpaw
 - Brown spot on eggplant
 - Caterpillar and mealy bug on eggplant

Fruit Fly Surveillance

- Improvements needed to be in place for trap collections because it would have been easier for identification when specimen were still fresh.
- Identification, data entries and analysis were carried out by Plant Protection Unit at Koronivia Research Station.

EXPORT PRODUCE REPORTS (Fig. 5)

19,456 tonnes of exports were done during the year. The graph below shows the breakdown of exports.



FOREST PRODUCT EXPORTS

37423.68 cubic meters of forest products were exported during the year.

Export License was issued by Forestry Department, treatment mostly fumigation was supervised by

Quarantine officers and also certification for export by Quarantine.

CONSTRAINTS

Western:

- Communication network was not connected. Networking would ensure better and efficient linkage within Ministry and stakeholders to improve service delivery.
- Fumigation Chamber was not repaired and hiring of private fumigator to do fumigation was expensive.
- Delay in the issuance of Departmental Warrant affected the operation.
- Shortage of manpower at all times. Nadi needed an increase in staff to carry out the operation effectively and efficiently. This would have reduced overtime.

Central & Eastern:

Suva Wharf

- Walkie-talkie [RT] was essential at the wharf for communication between officers to carry out duties at various localities.
- Direct line at the wharf was a key component since the operation was 24hours communication with stakeholders and staff after normal working hours was required for effective and efficient delivery of quarantine service.
- There was an urgent need for a computer at the front counter for daily entry of import data for border control activities.
- The frequent breakdown of vehicle delayed the quarantine activities.

ii) EXPORT UNIT

Needed more office space and office furniture.

- Front counter office needed urgent painting
- Lack of awareness to stakeholders on quarantine requirements (Military lifts to Sinai & Iraq)
- Lack of correspondence on non- compliance of export commodity from trading countries.
- Lack of equipments to carry out export inspections and treatments.
- Lack of public awareness on quarantine requirements and procedures (Rotuma passengers)

iii) POST OFFICE

- A telephone extension needed to contact senior officers for urgent quarantine issues.
- A computer needed for data recording.
- Parcels for outer Post Office (Levuka) were not screened.
- EMS parcel were not screened at the mail centre (issue have been raised with Nadi Office as it is the first port of entry)
- Lack of quarantine awareness to Diplomats on mail parcels.

POST ENTRY QUARANTINE/NAUSORI AIRPORT

- Lack of staff for airport duty

DHL FREIGHT STATION

- A computer for data entry

CARPENTERS / W&G AIRFREIGHT

- No office space for officers
- Availability of a computer for data entry

SAVUSAVU PORT

- Needed telephone, fax and photocopier
- Needed a computer and internet service
- Needed a proper incinerator
- Needed a vehicle to carry out fruit fly surveillance and other post border activities.
- Unavailability of fruit fly traps and lures to service and change the fruit fly traps.



Fiji College of Agriculture

1. OVERVIEW

The Fiji College of Agriculture (FCA) completed another academic year with the graduation of thirty one (31) students in 2008.

In February 2008, another 50 new intake were enrolled into the DTA I program. This is the annual intake number that is currently determined by the capacity of the present teaching facility as well as the single course that is offered at the college which is the Diploma in Tropical Agriculture.

The fifty students intake were chosen from four hundred and seventy one (471) students that were interviewed after receiving a total application of eight hundred (800). This showed the interest for furthering education and training in Agriculture of potential students. The total roll at FCA for 2008 was 122 students.

Curriculum

Eight (8) years have lapsed since the implementation of the current curriculum and the college is of the view that another review has to be implemented soon. A priority of the college is to provide relevant up to date teaching and the review must be conducted soon.

Development

The FCA Capital Budget for 2008 although minimal, enabled the college to replace its old bus and purchase a new twin cab. It is anticipated that in the near future major overhaul will soon see a face-lift that will reflect the college importance for the development of the nation.

2. PERSONNEL

In 2008 the College employed 18 wage earners and 20 established staff.

Staff Training (2008)

One (1) staff is currently on training. He is doing a PhD Science (Animal Genetics and Breeding). He should be completing his studies in June 2012, in University of New England, Australia. There was also short term training for 1 staff in Japan in the crops discipline. One staff resigned to join the Fiji Meat and Industry Board.

3. PHYSICAL RESOURCES

FCA Farm

The college farm again has been a core component of FCA training. Since the training is the main objective of the farm, making profit is not very critical. However, the college also encourages the sales of farm produce after fulfilling our kitchen requirement and revenue generated goes back to the government coffers. Prices of farm produce must be revisited and recorded so fair and firm decisions can be made about the crop farm.

Quarters

There are four prefab quarters and these are currently occupied by:

- | | | |
|------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| i) | Field man (1) - | based at crop farm |
| ii] | Cook (1) - | based behind the kitchen |
| iii] | Stockman (2) - | based at livestock farm |

Vehicle

The college has a fleet of nine (9) vehicles. These include;

- two tractors
- two light goods (both currently in the garage)
- 2 twin cabs
- a 64-seater bus (Hino)
- a 3 ton truck for ration and feed and
- a mini van

Most of the college vehicles have been declared as write-offs and needed to be replaced. Some of them are still in use with crippling effect on mobility and the college programs.

Repairs and maintenance proves to be one of the biggest spending item in 2008 but allocation for these purposes unfortunately do not match the requirement and this has always been a critical issue for FCA.

4. FINANCE AND BUDGET ALLOCATION

Total Approved Budget - 2008

Operational - \$449,702

Capital - \$200,000

(i) Operation Budget Breakdown

- Unestablished wages	-	\$146,177
- Travel Expenses	-	\$ 8,000
- Subsistence	-	\$ 8,000
- Telecommunications	-	\$ 6,600
- Vehicle Fuel	-	\$ 4,000
- Photocopier Repair	-	\$ 400
- Maintenance Farm Road	-	\$ 600
- Books/Periodicals/Publications	-	\$ 5,800
- Ration	-	\$150,000
- Farm Expenses	-	\$28,200
- School Material/Equipment	-	\$22,700
- Incidental	-	\$5,500
- Travel/Students	-	\$1,900
- Medical costs for students	-	\$600
- Field Allowance for students	-	\$3,800
- Value Added Tax	-	\$57,425

Total	\$449,702
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(ii) Capital Budget Activities

The college was allocated \$200,000 for its Capital Expenditure which was used for purchase of 63 seater Hino bus and Mitsubishi twin cab.

5. Present Issues for Future Development

One of the hidden strength of the college for the future lies in the competency of its staff. At present that is the core issue of the development at the college and it will always be high on the college's agenda. The long term aim in our staff development program is to see that all academic staff attains a Masters degree or better still higher qualifications in their respective fields.

Community Outreach

Early this year the college has started with one of the staff who graduated in Masters of Animal Science involved with community outreach. Farmers are coming directly to him for advice and through his visitation he has also involved students who are keen to learn in the field. That is only possible because of the staff's expertise and competency.

Expatriate Staff

In 2008 the college has the continuing service of JICA volunteer, who assisted in the teaching of Crop Science until July. Later in the year two KOICA volunteers joined the college. One was an expert with Crops and another in Engineering. The volunteer attachments currently experienced by CAFF indicate the shortage in skills that currently have to be satisfied by overseas volunteers. It is envisaged that the college will be able to have its own local crop of skilled staff to address these areas of need.

Resource Upgrade

Upgrading of physical resources at FCA is always high in the agenda and the college will continue to pursue avenues in which facilities can be upgraded and new ones constructed. The college continues to benefit from PWD repairs and maintenance programme seeing the complete renovation of all its buildings this year.

Student extracurricular activities are limited due to the limited recreational facilities. The college immediately needs student facilities such as:

- a common room,
- a multipurpose gymnasium
- a cafeteria
- a Gymnasium and sports equipment

These are some of the facilities that are appropriate and highly essential for an institution such as Fiji College of Agriculture.

Other issues that have been highlighted that need redress include;

- autonomous status for the college
- expanding the horizon of the college
- vocational training
- fee structure and other related issues



Overview

The Land Resource Planning and Development Division (LRPD) is made up of four major Sections in:

- Human Resource and Finance
- Farming Assistance Scheme(FAS) & Land Resettlement
- Sustainable Land Management (SLM).
- Infrastructure Development (Engineering& Survey)

The Division operated under the one-stop shop concept, hence the four major units above is further divided into:

- Administration and Finance
- Farm Management
- Surveying
- Valuation
- Land Use and Sustainable Land Management
- Infrastructure Development
- Land Resettlement

Human Resources & Finance

Overview

Corporate Services comprised the Administrative and Finance Sections that controlled all administration activities, management of personnel and finance, and the progressive recruitment of the Division of Land Resources Planning & Development.

Staff Structure & Establishment

PSC approved 46 in-line salary earners and 13 wage earners. The Division comprised four (4) major functional groups as stated below:-

- | | | |
|--|---|----------|
| • Administration & Finance | = | 23 posts |
| • Sustainable Land Management | = | 18 posts |
| • Infrastructure Development
(Engineering & Survey) | = | 8 posts |
| • Farming Assistance & Land Resettlement | = | 10 posts |

[FAS & RF1]

- 50 Officers were based in Nabua
- 6 Officers were based in the North
- 3 Officers were based in the West

Table 43: Vacant Posts 2008

NO.	POST	TOTAL NO.	VACANT AS AT 31/10/07	ADVERTS	CURRENT STATUS
1.	Senior Research Officer (West) SC02	3 posts	1	1	Awaiting interview from applicants
2.	PAO (FM) AO (FM) (PR03)	1 6 posts 1	3	No 1	To be advertised 1 post under process at PSC

Appointments

Five officers were on acting appointment during the year, three were on temporary appointments and two were on probationary appointments.

Study Leave

One officer was granted four (4) and a half (1/2) years scholarship to pursue BA in Survey at Otago University.

Transfer

In 2008, 9 officers were transferred within the department; two officers were transferred out of the Department of Agriculture and one officer transferred from EP & S.

Relocation of Office

Our office was relocated from Lotus Building, Nabua to PD Patel Building, Raojibhai Patel Street, Suva on 29th July 2008.

Due to lack of office space at P.D. Patel Building, some section were to relocated as follows:-

Table 44

1.	Admin/Finance	P.D. Patel
2.	Farm Management/FAS	Cakobau House, Nausori
3.	Land Use Section	KRS

Asset Management

Introduction

Asset management involved the proper recording, management and maintenance of all Departmental assets.

CONSTRAINTS

Board of Survey

The Supplies and Services regulation states that Board of Surveys (BOS) should be carried out at least once in a year. The last BOS for the Department was conducted on

the 16th of August 2004 for our Nabua Office. BOS remained to be done – however the quarterly survey was done in October 2007. The reports were submitted to Finance through Inspection Section HQ and so far no approval to write-off has been received.

This delay has affected the performance and services the Department provided to the public despite numerous verbal/written requests and resubmissions. This has in turn affected our ability to replace these written-off.

Storage Facility

The delay from Finance for the approval to write-off has created other problems since there was not enough room to store these items while awaiting approval for disposal. The write off items were left at the Lakena Stores. The items were placed in open rooms which were accessible to all staff.

Recording of Assets

Some Sections in the department have their own purchase; for recording purposes these procurements were not entered since the assets went directly to the officer handling the purchasing without any records being given to the Storeman for reference.

VEHICLES

LRPD had fourteen (14) vehicles designated to the respective divisions as follows:-

- Suva - 2
- KRS - 4
- Lautoka - 3
- Labasa - 4
- Nausori - 1

The total funds utilized on vehicle expenses for the year:-

- Total cost of fuel and oil - \$18,602.00
- Total cost for maintenance & services - \$29,882.30
- GN 434 –used by the Military Taskforce Team since December 2006.

A. FARM MANAGEMENT & FAS SECTION

1.0 NEW FAS APPLICATIONS

During the year total of 131 new FAS applications registrations were done and number declined compared to the previous years. All farmers that seek FAS assistance at the office were advised that a provision of \$1 million has been allocated for 2008, however FAS would require an additional \$3 million to cover only 2006 pending applications. The year 2008 passed on very quietly as similar to last year because of the non-release of funds.

Summary of New FAS application Year 2008

Table 45: New FAS applications received:

Categories	West		North		Central	
	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
Replacement	20	\$200,000	1	\$10,000	41	\$410,000
Resettlement	0	0	0			
Renewal	52	\$295,355	4	\$9525	8	\$4,500
RRL	0		0			
New Farm Purchase	1	\$10,000	3	\$30,000.00	1	\$10,000
Total	73	\$505,355	8	\$49,525.00	50	\$424,500

Source: LRPD Annual Report 2008

Note: Total number of cases is 131 with a total value required stands at \$979,380-00

Total FAS Application Awaiting Approval

Summarized below is the total number of FAS applications processed and awaiting for approval. This totaled 435 cases with a value of \$3,253,238.17

Table 46: Summary of FAS applications awaiting approval:

NATIONAL SUMMARY						
SUBMISSIONS 2008						
	Western		Northern		Central	
	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
Replacement	112	\$1,120,000.00	20	\$200,000.00	39	\$390,000.00
Lease Renewals	160	\$927,170.70	57	\$236,658.23	8	\$34,653.43
Rural Residential Leases	7	\$39,382.51	1	\$2,786.00	1	\$2605.30
Purchase of New Farms	9	\$90,000.00	15	\$150,000.00	3	\$30,000.00
Resettlement	0	\$0.00	3	\$30,000.00	0	\$0.00
TOTAL	288	\$2,176,553.21	96	\$619,444.23	51	\$457,240.73
Grand Total (No. of Applications)	435					

Table 47: Ethnicity Summary of FAS Applications

SUMMARY BY RACE						
	Fijians		Indians		Total	
	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
Replacement	171	\$1,170,000.00			171	\$1,170,000.00
Lease Renewals			225	\$1,198,464.36	225	\$1,198,464.36
Rural Residential Leases			9	\$44,773.81	9	\$44,773.81
Purchase of New Farms			27	\$270,000.00	27	\$270,000.00
Resettlement			3	\$30,000.00	3	\$30,000.00
TOTAL	171	\$1,170,000.00	264	\$1,543,238.17	435	\$3,235,238.17

Source : LRPD Annual Report 2008

PAYMENT OF FAS APPLICATIONS

Partially Paid Approved Cases

A total of 364 cases/files were received in the last 7 years that had been partially paid due to the redirecting of the initial budget for Civil Servant's COLA payments and reduction of the Capital Expenditure. The numbers have been brought forward to 2008 as the applications have been approved and awaiting the payment of the balance.

Table 48: Summary of Partially Paid Cases

Division	Case File	Amount
i) Western	201	\$1,521,279.39
ii) Northern	51	\$315,154.32
iii) Central	112	\$594,053.42
Total	364	\$ 2,430,487.13

These will be closed temporarily.

Financial Commitments to Date

The Section needed a total of \$5.8m to fully finance the total cases that have been received, verified, and awaiting approval since 2001 to 2008. The break down was as follow:-

Summary

Total Number of Applications Processed:

• Total Application Received	-	5805
• Total approved to date	-	4,079
• Total pending approval	-	1726
• Less Closed files [incomplete]	-	1223
• Complete files for Approval	-	435
• Pending Files for Verifications	-	68

Resettlement of Ex Alta Tenants At Navovo, Nadroga

The Estate Unit of the Section looked after the Resettlement of evicted Ex ALTA tenants at Navovo, Cuvu, Nadroga. However, during the year, a total of 16 farmers were identified to be resettled at Navovo. Their Farming Assistance funds to establish their new lots have been deposited with FDB, Sigatoka.

Allocation of Lots at the Resettlement Areas

The Sections has a total of 7 estates under its jurisdiction and manage the distributions of the lots to the interested party especially the ex-ALTA farmers. Out of the Total 218 lots from the 7 estates, 133 lots have been occupied and there is a balance of 69 lots available for resettlement. Details are as follows:-

Table 49: List of Farmers that are willing to be resettled at various Subdivisions:

Location	Total Lots Available	Total Lots Issued	Balance Lots to be Allocated
Batinikia/Busa S/D Navua	36	35	1
Raiwaqa S/D Stage Dp8038 Navua	23	23	-
Raiwaqa S/D Stage II Dp 9070 Navua	16	15	1

Navovo S/D Nadroga, Navosa	51	16	19 [as 7 lots set aside for a new school]
Navudi Stage 1	18	14	4
Navudi Stage Ii & Iii Dreketi Macuata	42	26	16
Vunicibicibi Dreketi Macuata	32	4	28
Total Lots	218	133	69

Lomaivuna Land Leases

A total of 115 farmers at Lomaivuna that Cabinet in its Decision 123 of 25/03/08 had agreed to assist in the renewal of their leases to the tune of \$460,000. A total of 32 cases have met the FAS guideline and have been assisted with the balance of 83 still to meet the FAS guideline.

Valuation

The section targets the servicing of farmers in the Tailevu, Macuata and Serua/ Namosi areas. Significant analysis was undertaken on the registry search and valuation of property to professional standard especially for expired land leases. The section has also analysed the land resettlement issues and awaiting the approval of the National Committee to proceed with title documentation. Titles for Serua/Namosi farmers have been forwarded to the lands Department on a case by cases basis for approval.

Provision of Quality and Timely Advise to Farmers

FAS Advisory Service to Farmers

The section targeted the servicing of 3 farmers per week; the number was not achieved during the year due to the non availability of project funding.

Awareness and Training

Farm Management and Farming Assistance Awareness meetings were not conducted during the year due to the unavailability of funding but assisted other division with trainings information and materials.

Other Farm Management Work

During the year the Farm Management through Director Extension and EP&S conducted a Farm Management Training with Extension staff and assist them with the preparation of their Rural Outer Island Project Proposals (ROI). A total of 20 projects and 10 Business plan was formulated by the sections for existing new farmers seeking lease extension, extra funding through Commercial Bank and the Fiji Development Bank.

Constraints

Constraints to the implementation of FAS are as follows;

- Lack of powers to stop further payments for non performers.
- Slow disbursement of funds
- There are a number of replacement cases that have been terminated by NLTB due to nonpayment of lease rentals.
- Staffing problems
- Insufficient Budget allocation
- Poor allocation of transport vehicles
- Insufficient Technical Staff/ Project Staff
- Urgently need two (2) new replacement Computers with Printers

- Insufficient OHS equipments(safety boots, verification bags, overalls)

Recommendations

Recommendations for consideration for the overall improvement of the FAS programmed and to ensure that the Section achieves its targeted output on the issues mentioned above are as follows;

Staffing

Farm Management positions were vacant and held on temporary acting/relieving basis needs to be filled to ensure accountability of personnel to the decision making processes and undertake the rigorous demands of FAS, its desired output, and other Farm Management work. FAS will lose out in the longer-term as trained staff will leave once another employment opportunity arises; this will create a drawback as new staff will need to be engaged and trained for the job.

FAS Finances

Late release of FAS finances has led to the late processing of cases. Efficient and Effectiveness of this unit can be properly measure with the early release of funding.

Transportation

FAS need to be allocated a vehicle to assist in the staff mobility especially for monitoring purposes. As in most of cases, the work program of section is affected with unavailability of transportation and thus led to the delays in the project implementation process.

LAND RESETTLEMENT PROJECT

The key role of the LAND RESETTLEMENT PROJECT was to implement government policy on the Development of Agricultural Subdivision Estates for the resettlement of displaced Ex-ALTA tenants. The initial stages of the program were first established by the SVT government in 1998 with the formation of the Land Development and Resettlement Unit (LDRU).

The government was faced with a phenomenal crisis with the mass expiry of the Agricultural Landlord and Tenant Act (ALTA) leases beginning from 1997 with no immediate legislative resolution available. In its urgency to find a political solution to the land crisis the government introduced this scheme initially intended as a short term measure. This led to the resettlement of displaced tenants who opted for this program after they were not granted new leases on the expiry of the ALTA term. A total of seven large Agricultural Estates were purchased between 1998 and 2000 at the cost of \$4,392,890.00. This amounted to 1,284 Hectares comprising 218 Lots i.e. 181 Agricultural lots, 36 Agricultural/Residential lots and 1 Commercial. The Land Resettlement program since 1998 has sustained many changes and amendments including the addition of new sets of criteria, but its basic functional role and objective on Land Resettlement still exists. This was achieved in spite of the relocation of sections within the Department in July 2008 from its original Nabua Office to new office locations within Suva and Nausori.

There were Three (3) Principal Components to this report;

- (1) Land Resettlement
- (2) Infrastructure Development
- (3) Lease Registration And Contracts

There is a total of Seven (7) large Agricultural Subdivision Estates developed for the resettlement of displaced farmers. The contents of the report lays out the development performance using statistics/data to show the Development Cost elements, Occupancy Rate, Lease Rentals, Registration of Lease Contracts etc for the individual resettlement sites The key elements of responsibility by the Civil Engineering section, Surveying and Valuation is contained and laid out in the Infrastructure

Development Work Plans (IDWP). The description and objectives of the Land Resettlement program is also stipulated in the Division Corporate Plan. The evaluation and assessment of performance have been tabulated and submitted in previous Quarterly Update Schedules and past Annual Reports. The report will also identify limitations which have inhibited the performance of certain areas and make recommendations to improve the outcome of these tasks.

Land Resettlement

The core aspect of this part of the Department's program was to advance the government's policy on the resettlement of displaced Ex-ALTA tenants whose leases have expired and not renewed. Major proportions of these leases were along the sugar cane belt areas and on Native Land. The legislation under the Agriculture Landlord and Tenant Act (ALTA) made no provision for the Renewal of leases upon EXPIRY. This had dire social implications and direct economic consequences to the agriculture sector for which the country would ultimately have to bear as a result of the mass displacement of farmers and the loss of their basic livelihood. This necessitated some relief measures such as the FARMING ASSISTANCE SCHEME to ease the crisis whilst a political solution was being. This project was pursued in two phases

Phase I by the Infrastructure and Development Section briefly involved the:-

1. Development of the Estates Infrastructure.
2. Budget submission (Infrastructure Development)
3. Surveying and Drafting.
4. Valuation of Properties.
5. Processing of Applications for Resettlement
6. Registration of Leases

Phase II by Farm Mgt/Estates Section:-

1. FAS Budget preparation and submission
2. Processing of FAS applications
3. Submission of screened applications for approval and funding
4. Secretariat of the Farming Assistance Scheme
5. Physical Resettlement and Relocation of Farmers to the Site.
6. Monitoring and Evaluation

- FOR NORTHERN DIVISION - Navudi stages I, II and III were last updated in 2006. However Project staffs which have been responsible for the physical implementation of the resettlement of displaced farmers in the Division including the FAS have been terminated.
- If we are to SUSTAIN, MAINTAIN the MOMENTUM and ENSURE the EFFECTIVENESS of the program further in the Northern Division ,management will need to critically allocate resources including the reinstatement of project/temporary staff,
- The Subdivision Survey Plans for Navudi stages II and III has not been completed. This has been ongoing for the last 6 years and have seriously affected the Resettlement Program as far as this Estate is concerned
- For Navovo Cuvu, Nadroga –The issue of the expiry and renewal of the DEVELOPMENT LEASE is still being negotiated with NLTB. The Government's Leasehold over Navovo expires in 31st December 2008.
- For Vunibicibi Dreketi, Macuata – Progress on Land Resettlement is quite slow. One of the factors is due to its isolated location and the lack of will to ensure that funds are approved for the Northern Division.

Infrastructure Development

Infrastructure Development is one of the major components of the Resettlement Program.

ENGINEERING SECTION

The section facilitates the development of infrastructure in the Seven (7) purchased properties and One (1) Development Native Lease, with responsibility for drawing up the tender documents for the construction of roads, drainage, water reticulation and electricity. Construction of all infrastructure had been completed since 2005. Maintenance Works is on going to ensure the structures remain operational. However for 2008 there were no maintenance works carried out due to budgetary constraints and the relocation of the section to LWRM in July.

SURVEY SECTION

The section is tasked for doing the initial scheme plans for Town and Country Planning approval and submitting the cadastral subdivision survey plans for registration. It is from here that the total numbers of agriculture lots within the estates are defined.

VALUATION SECTION

The section is responsible for analyzing the property market and the cost of the Subdivision Estates so as to ascertain the Annual Lease Rentals, Premiums, Registration Fees; Development Cost per Lot... etc for our Estates. The Registered Valuer also carries out valuations for the Ministry and farmers wanting loans from financial institutions. A total of 8 Valuations were carried out in 2008.

Valuation of Real Properties

A total of Eight (8) Property Valuations were carried out for 2008. Out of this Six (6) were undertaken for the COMMITTEE on the DAIRY TASK FORCE. These were extensively large dairy properties with its lease terms due to expire. Industry stakeholders were concerned at the impact the non renewal of leases will have on the dairy industry particularly to the leaseholder farmer It needed to undertake a impact analysis to quantify the PROPERTY VALUES involved.

In valuation practice the form and scope of a valuation report will depend intricately upon the purpose of the valuation and the requirements of those for whom the valuation is made. In carrying out valuations for the Ministry the reports may comprise:-

1. Merely a certificate of Valuation
2. A comprehensive and detailed Valuation report.
3. A property project survey together with a valuation or brief analysis or opinion
4. A summary opinion compounded with expert evidence.

Market Rentals, Premiums & Development Costs-GOVERNMENT ESTATES

Before this is determined, one needs to carry out a cadastral inspection of the properties. The on the ground view of the terrain and physical landscape is intended to provide a proper perspective of the entire locality before a comprehensive analysis is undertaken on the following:-

- (i) Infrastructure – Costs of Improvements
- (ii) Property Market – For each lot
- (iii) Physical landscape and terrain
- (iv) Apportion of Freehold values into leasehold Interests – lease offer letters

Prior to 2008 a total of 74 Property Rentals, Premiums, Development Costs for Navudi II & III and Vunicibicibi have been completed. None were carried out for 2008 as no application was received. The UCV of the subdivisions ranges from around \$2,000.00 to \$4,500.00/acre for 3rd arable and around \$8000.00 for 2nd and relatively flat to slightly sloping land.

Fees and Costs

- (a) Is aligned with government rates with the stamp duty fees formula calculated on the basis of the Annual Rent payable.

- (b) Documentation and Registration fees is chargeable for preparation and registration of leases.

Survey Fees

Based on the precedence formula for Raiwaqa S/D Stage (I) and Navudi S/D (I). The total fees are based on the boundary redefinition of the properties. Total Survey (Redefinition) amounts to \$139,513.00.

Development Costs

- (a) The purpose of the development costs is to ensure that the farmers are committed to the land. Total Development costs to the period ending 2008 amounts to \$4,392,890.00.
- (b) This is stipulated as a “Special Clause” under the terms and conditions of the lease contract, which is payable if the lease, is transferred within 10 years.

Terms and Conditions of the Contract

Are the standard ones issued by Government on Agricultural Leases with the inclusion of the Special Clause.

Unimproved Capital Value (UCV)

- (a) Is defined under ALTA.
- (b) Land is for the purpose for which it is let and not for what it could be used for.
- (c) Land Classifications based on the 1997 Schedule of Values allowing for adjustments. Total Values (UCV) for Raiwaqa I and II amounts to \$219,297 and Vunicibicibi, Macuata is \$85,147.00. However, Total Government Estates (UCV) amounted to \$762,773.00.

Lease Rental

- (a) Statutory assessed at 6% of UCV
- (b) Reassessable every 5 years

A total of \$46,935.00 Annual Rental is expected from the Government Estates.

Lease Registration

In 2008, a further 14 PROPERTIES were issued with REGISTERED LEASE TITLES out of the 29 that were on the verge of being registered. This task involved preparation of the documents, drawing up site plans, creating new Lands Department case files with separate numbering systems per farm lot etc. Once individual files were completed these were then forwarded to the Department of Lands for Registration. The farmers of Batinikia S/D and Raiwaqa S/D STG1 have greater security to the land and access to financial lending institutions. There was a positive growth and the realization of increased agriculture productivity and development within the District of Navua. As of year ending 2008 a total of 20 case files await Lands Departments Registration of Lease Documents.

A total of 14 LEASES were REGISTERED IN 2008. This brought to 46 lease contracts being issued to the period ending 31/12/2008.

The lease Documents stipulated the terms and conditions of the lease:-

- Lease is issued by the Director of Lands
- Under ALTA – a term of 30 years
- Rent based on 6% of UCV
- Reviewed every 5 years
- Special Condition: Should the tenant want to sell or transfer the property within 10 years, the Director of Lands will require the tenant to pay all the development cost for the lot as a condition of the Director of Lands giving his consent to the sale” except where the Sale is to the immediate family member.

Major Problems of the Program

Serious consideration must be given to the sustainability of this program if it is to produce the objectives in the immediate and long term future. As long as land security under the ALTA LEGISLATION remains unresolved and farmers continue to be displaced then the policy reasons to sustain this project should continue. However to ensure greater efficiency and better output results; Senior Management should seriously consider the following recommendations;

- Urgently resolve the SUBDIVISION SURVEY PLANS FOR NAVUDI STAGES II & III Dreketi, Macuata , which 6yrs after the SCHEME PLAN was approved, the CADASTRAL PLANS are still NOT REGISTERED.
- Displaced farmers who were originally resettled in NAVUDI and ASSISTED by the FAS have now deserted the property because NO LEASES could be issued due to the prolonged matter above which borders on SERIOUS AND PROFOUND NEGLIGENCE.
- RETAINING the INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT SECTION to carry out important maintenance works otherwise the existing multi million dollar ROADS, WATER TANKS, WATER PIPES, DRAINS, etc will become so severely depreciated and depleted, rendering the structures useless.
- Examine the possibility of reviewing the criteria to allow for the inclusion of Land less Farmers.

LAND USE SECTION

Introduction

The year's activities started off slowly due to office relocation. Activities for the year have focused on achieving the goals of the section towards the conservation and improvement of Fiji's land and water resources. Some of the highlights for the year were the Review of the Land Conservation and Improvement Act (LCIA), signing ceremony at the UNDP office of the medium-size project (msp) on SLM, the implementation of the Government of Venezuela Grant project, msp inception and participatory land use planning workshop.

The section acquired funds from the United Nation to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) to be able to widen the section's work in combating land degradation in Fiji. The Section embarked on a four year project on Capacity Building and Mainstreaming of SLM in Fiji. On March 14 2008, representatives from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Fiji signed this Medium size project document. The project brought about awareness and educated land users in Fiji on better management technologies through research, technology transfer, capacity building, generation and compilation of reliable data. The project will be implemented in partnership with UNDP-GEF, the Ministry of Agriculture and various national stakeholders. The total project cost is US\$1,197,477 and will be co-financed by GEF (US\$475,000) and the Fiji Government.

The US\$90,000 Government of Venezuela Grant project aims to promote sustainable land use practices in Fiji with major emphasis on land conservation.

The Section organised workshops during the year that brought together relevant stakeholders and agencies (NGO's and government) to discuss and share experiences for an integrated approach towards land and water management. A LCIA consultation workshop was held on 22-23 January 2008 to discuss the proposed amendments and regulations. The MSP inception workshop held on June 19 was to update relevant stakeholders and agencies (NGOs and government) on the goals and objectives of the project and to also discuss project work plans.

The participatory land use planning workshop held in October brought together various sectors and

disciplines involved in land use planning and natural resource management to exchange experiences and lessons aiming at outlining guidelines on participatory land use planning in Fiji.

There were a lot of community training and awareness programmes on sustainable land management around the country. These programmes were jointly carried out by Land Use Section, the Extension Division and the Research Division of the Ministry. The section also participated in promoting SLM during national environmental events and shows (World Food Day celebration, Fiji Day and USP Open Day).

Apart of projects, the section continuously provided land use services to all clients in producing land use maps, soils, land use capability maps and reports and proving recommendations on Town and Country Planning subdivisions and providing advisory services on wise land use management practices and imparting knowledge on the adverse effects of unsustainable land resource management.

The Section's GIS unit continued to assist clients in supplying professional mapping services. Networking with other GIS Users and producers allowed for an exchange in information which is an integral part of keeping abreast with new technologies and information available on GIS upgrades

Preparatory work for the agriculture census programme started this year and the section was involved in the area sampling frame and carrying out pilot survey.

The achievements this year resulted from the hard work of Land use divisional officers and partners and as projects continue, it is hoped that these partnerships are strengthened and produce even more valuable outcomes.

Roles of the Section

The Land Use Section is responsible for and committed to the implementation of the LAND CONSERVATION AND IMPROVEMENT ACT (LCIA) for the conservation and improvement of Fiji's land and water resources to ensure sustainable socio-economic and environmental development and management. The section provides scientific, technical, research and advisory services to:

- Ensure that the land is sustainably used according to its capabilities.
- Implement the provisions of the Land Conservation and Improvement Act of 1953.
- Conducts applied research, development, and validation of farming systems packages.
- Disseminates appropriate sustainable land management technologies.
- Develop and manage the Geographical Information Systems.
- Consolidates land resources information and its management.
- Build capacity and mainstreaming of SLM in Fiji
- Combat land degradation in Fiji through the promotion of SLM
- Disseminate information on sustainable land management.
- Regional and international collaborations, cooperation and consultations

ACTIVITIES

Land Conservation and Improvement Act (LCIA)

A final stakeholder consultation workshop was held from 22nd to 23rd January at the Trade winds Convention Centre at Lami to review the LCIA. The LCIA was reviewed to address current land management concerns and needs and to promote the implementation of sustainable land management in Fiji. The review also looks at the assessment of the functions of the Land Conservation Board.

The outcome of the workshop was a draft on the new Land and Water Resources Management Act (the amended LCIA) and regulation.

Land care Secretariat Services

The section is the secretariat to the National Land Care Steering Committee and also acting Chairman. The committee was set to address the long standing concern of poor communication and collaboration between government and nongovernmental organizations (NGO's) with understaffed government agencies not fully utilizing the grassroots outreach capacity of NGO's. Two meetings were conducted during the year in June and September and in its meeting in June the committee have endorsed the MSP on SLM work plan to be its work plan for the next four years.

Geographical Information System (GIS)

The GIS unit has been facilitating requests from various stakeholders within Agriculture, other Institutions, farmers, students and land owners on professional mapping services. The unit has become the key service provider for clients within and outside the ministry and is one of the few resource management GIS information providers in Fiji. During the year the demand for information has increased tremendously and there is a need to continuously verify and upgrade our databases.

The following maps were provided during the year:-

1. Soils database converted to LUC classes
2. Land Use Data (soils and present land use) for the Rewa Catchment
3. Assist FCA students in soil survey practical class
4. Cassava Biofuel- Identification of land classes below 20 degrees slopes for cassava for mechanized cassava plantations for ethanol production
5. NLC map for mataqali Lekutu, Koro island requested by Emosi, FCA
6. Soils information for soils and pasture sampling locations requested by Alafua student
7. Present land use for Ono Levu
8. Assist in secondary students projects

Other LUC and Soils Information Requests:-

- 20 LUC maps derived from the soils database.
- Soils, hydrology, vegetation, etc. information for 20 groups of LP300 course students projects
- Assist LU staff on information needs
- TCP requests

Production of Agricultural Census Pilot Surveys Sampling Sites

- Identification of sites
- Selection of Aerial Photographs
- High resolution scanning and registration of photos
- Demarcation of segments (100 ha)
- Production of photos and topographic maps of the localities.

Naceva Tikina PLUP Surveys

- Provision of all existing information
- Demarcation of tikina boundary on topo maps & aerial photos
- Photo selection, scanning and registration
- Production of enlargements and an index
- Digitizing of land use boundaries

Maps for Birdlife Fiji

- Natewa & Tunuloa tikina Important Bird Areas (IBA) & NLC

WWF maps

- Coastal change detection for Nadroga

Rewa Dairy LUC maps

- Possible dairy expansion areas in the tikina are along King's Road in Ra & Tailevu provinces.

Maintenance of IT infrastructure.

- ITC approvals and services
- Virus updates

Participatory Land Use Planning

A participatory land use planning workshop was held on 21st and 22nd October at the Forum Secretariat Conference room. The workshop brings together various sectors and disciplines involved in land use planning and natural resource management to exchange experiences and lessons. Participatory instruments identified from the different experiences would form the basis for the development of a generic set of participatory planning guidelines. The main workshop objectives were:

1. To exchange information on participatory and integrated approaches towards land use planning and natural resource management
2. To outline a set of guidelines on participatory land use planning

Ultimately, the workshop aims to contribute towards the mainstreaming of participatory processes in land use planning and natural resource management in Fiji.

Participatory Land Use Planning Survey

A participatory land use planning survey was carried out in Naceva district in Kadavu from 6th -18th November with the aim of developing a participatory land use plan for Naceva District. This involves a survey on current land uses, land use capability, soils and socio-economic. The objectives of the survey are:

1. To empower the people of Tikina Naceva to make wise decisions on the sustainable use of their land resources.
2. To develop a Participatory Land Use Plan for the Tikina Naceva.
3. To improve the living standard of the Tikina Naceva

Capacity Building on Sustainable Land Management

Land Use Section together with the Research, A/H & P, Farm Management Section and Extension Division of MAPI, other ministries jointly carry out Educational, Awareness and Training on Land Degradation, Land use and Land management. Disseminating information on sustainable developments and transferring of low cost sustainable land Management technologies for sloping land to farmers as well as for educational institutions (primary, secondary & tertiary).

The section continuously assist students from various institution and schools (Solevu Secondary, Bua College, All Saints, Nadogo Secondary, Nabua Fijian school, Nasinu college, Suva Grammar, Lelean) in the dissemination of Sustainable Land Management information/Modern and Traditional Agriculture for their school projects.

Awareness materials on sustainable land management, agro-forestry, soil erosion and conservation were compiled, updated and printed and display boards updated for the Fiji Day celebration on 9th October, World Food Day celebration held on 16th October, and USP Open Day on 17th October 2008.

Nursery

At present there are 322 citrus seedlings in the nursery at Sigatoka Research Station. The nursery

needs further maintenance and repairs to cater for more seedlings Nursery at Koronivia Research Station is currently stocked with calliandra plants, fruit trees (citrus, kavika) and coconuts. There are two nurseries in the North located at Seqaqa Research Station stocked with 200 calliandra seedlings and at the Prison compound stocked with planting materials for their model farm. Nurseries are continuously maintained to cater for planting materials required for conservation work.

Land Use Planning

Town and Country Planning (TCP) Requests

In order to ensure the protection of good arable lands, the Section provides recommendations to TCP on proposed land subdivisions. These recommendations are given to ensure the protection of good arable land on these proposed subdivisions and lots.

There had been an increase in the rezoning of agricultural leases for residential and industrial subdivision in the Western division, especially in the Ba region. The Director Town and & Country Planning requested for the Ministry's comments on 106 applications for various purposes on proposed land sub-division.

Land use capability (LUC)

In order to promote proper land use planning and sustainable agricultural developments, the section carries out land capability classification studies of requested areas to assist clients in farm planning. Soil surveys, characterization and mapping are also carried out on a request basis. The Land Use Planning unit received 65 requests on Land capacity classification studies of requested areas.

United Nation Convention To Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

The Land Use section is the National Focal Point for UNCCD in Fiji. As a party to UNCCD, The Government has benefited from financial arrangements through the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The Section submitted two proposals for GEF funding. In 2007, the government of Venezuela provided a US \$2million Grant for the Pacific region to the UNCCD for combating land degradation. Fiji submitted a US\$90,000 project proposal on combating land degradation through the promotion of SLM practice and the project was approved by UNCCD Secretariat. Medium Size Project (MSP)- Capacity Building and Mainstreaming of Sustainable Land Management in Fiji Signing of MSP Document.

On 14th March 2008, representatives from UNDP and the Fiji Government met at the UNDP Conference room for the signing ceremony of the MSP document. The project received its final approval to commence with the implementation of activities. The aim of the project is to bring about awareness and educate land users in Fiji on better land use management technologies through research, technology transfer, capacity building, generation and compilation of reliable data. The project will provide support for sustainable land management technologies to minimize land degradation problems; stabilize the rural community socially, economically and environmentally. It will collect, acquire and generate good quality land resources based information for sound decision making. The project will create awareness on relevant legislations. As well as initiating practical on-farm sustainable land management technologies, national land use planning will be an integral part of this project. The project will be implemented in partnership with UNDP-GEF, the Ministry of Agriculture and various national stakeholders. The total project cost is US\$1,197,477, will be co-financed between GEF (US\$475,000) and the Government.

MSP Inception Workshop

The project work plan and budget was reviewed after the signing of the project document in March 2008. The first activity under this project is an Inception workshop which was held at the LRPD conference room on June 18-19th. This workshop was organized by Land Use section and UNDP and the aim was to assist all stakeholders to understand the goals and objectives and clarifying

technical and managerial aspects of the project. During the workshop, there were discussions on project administration and financial management procedures. After discussions with all stakeholders, the project work plan and plan of operation were refined. The project log frame and work plan was also presented to the National Land care Steering Committee. The outcome of the workshop is an inception report and the document is now with UNDP.

Venezuela Grant

The Land Use section after submitting its proposal was approved US \$90,000 to commence with activities to combating land degradation in Fiji through the promotion of sustainable land management practices. This is a national project to be carried out on representative community sites around the country. Major activities include:

- Establishment of pilot & demonstration farms which will be used as the pilot site for local farmers to learn the skill to manage their land and soil. It can be used also as the training base for school students for plant and soil sciences.
- Establish and maintain rural community managed nurseries.
- Establish woodlots for rural communities.
- On-site training of farmers on SLM technology and Nursery Management.

The first installment of project funds amounting US\$54,000 (60% of total budget) were disbursed in October 2007. A Departmental Warrant was issued to the Department on 5th March 2008. The project commenced with the Project Coordinator receiving project proposals from divisional officers detailing activities and costs. Proposals were required to ensure that the activities fall within the scope the project. To date five sites had been approved and project activities have been implemented. Activities carried out involves the establishment of pilot and demonstration farms, establishment and management of rural community managed nurseries and on-site training of farmers on SLM technology and nursery management. The overall objective of these projects is to promote land use practices with major emphasis on land conservation and land conservation. The five current project sites are located at the three divisions one in the Western (Vavinaqiri), three in the Central/Eastern (Navunikabi, Naiyala & Namoli settlement, Ovalau) and one in the Northern division (Koromakawa). An update of these activities is described below

Project Sites

Site 1: Vavinaqiri, Nadroga

Land rehabilitation and sustainable livelihood through SLM promotions in the rural settlement of Vavinaqiri.

Background

Vavinaqiri settlement is located in the Western division in the province of Nadroga. Flat land is very scarce in the catchment and this has resulted in the expansion of agriculture onto marginal sloping lands with unsustainable practices. Constraints to land development in this area include limited choice of crops due to steep slopes, poor soil fertility and the unavailability of seedlings and planting materials. The project is aimed at promoting sustainable land management practices in this community. Activities will include the establishment of pilot and demonstration farms with SLM technologies, establishment of nursery, woodlots and training of farmers on SLM and nursery management. Given below is an update of activities carried out since the commencement of the project.

Establishment of demonstration farm

Vavinaqiri is located in one of the prominent cane belt areas in the Western division, however, the community has shown interest in vegetable farming and these have been the target for the project as an alternative source of livelihood for farmers in the area. The community has started harvesting their vegetables such as capsicum, tomatoes, chillies and egg plant. These were being sold at the Nadi

market and at farm gate with income gained being deposited into their community project account

Establishment of community nursery

A nursery has been established in the community to cater for planting materials for the community. These has enabled a continuous supply of vegetable planting materials allowing farmers to establish individual vegetable farms and incorporating land conservation measures such as vetiver and pineapple hedgerows on steep slopes. The availability of planting materials has assisted in the adoption of conservation measures in this community.

On-site training of farmers on SLM technology and Nursery Management.

Farmers in the community received hands-on training on establishment of demonstration farms and nursery management. The trainings and awareness programmes were jointly carried out by Land Use section and Extension division of the Ministry of Agriculture. The aim of the trainings is to disseminate information and knowledge on sustainable land management and skills in the establishment of sustainable land management technologies.

Site 2: Navunikabi, Namosi

Combating Land Degradation in Navunikabi through the Promotion of Sustainable Land Management Practices.

Background

Navunikabi village is located in the province of Namosi. The topography is a combination of steep to very steep mountainous land. Shortage of flat land has forced people to farm on steeper slopes. Shifting cultivation and deforestation is commonly practiced in search of good arable land. Erosion features can be seen on some steep lands and this is evident especially on deforested sites. People of Navunikabi are mostly subsistence farmers growing a variety of vegetables, crops and fruits. Farmers in the area apply very few conservation methods. Advice on farming is a service that is desired by many of the farmers in Navunikabi. Extension Officers rarely visit this area and many farmers are not aware of the new technologies available for farming improvements. The objectives of the project are:

- To established sustainable land management demonstration farms.
- To provide awareness and training to rural communities on Sloping Agricultural Land Technology.
- To reduce deforestation through the provision of woodlots and
- To assist in the provision of planting material for land conservation

Establishment of demonstration farm

A demonstration farm has been established in Navunikabi incorporating hedgerows of vetiver grass, pineapples and agroforestry leguminous tree species (calliandra) across the slope to minimize soil erosion and improve soil fertility. Other agroforestry species (erythrina) has been as fencing materials which also contributes to improve soil fertility. The farm demonstrates use of soil conservation measures and intercropping of short term crops (taro), fruits (pineapple) and vegetables (tomatoes) with long term crops (yaqona-piper methysticum).

Establishment of community nursery

A community nursery has been established in Navunikabi to cater for planting materials (vegetables and vetiver grass). This enables a source of planting materials for soil conservation and vegetables to the community and also to the students of Navunikabi primary school.

On-site training of farmers on SLM technology and Nursery Management.

An awareness and training programme was carried out in Navunikabi community on sustainable land management and nursery management. This was jointly carried out by Land use section, extension

division and research division of the Ministry of Agriculture. The communities were trained on the establishment of sustainable land management technologies and nursery management. Communities were trained to maintain their own nurseries in their localities.

Site 3: Naiyala High School, Wainibuka, Tailevu

Combating land Degradation in Wainibuka, Tailevu through the Promotion of Sustainable Land Management Practices in Naiyala High School.

Background

The Naiyala High school is community owned and managed by people from 10 villages. The school also offers agriculture science course up to sixth form and this project would give an opportunity for both the community and agriculture students to gain hands on training and also create awareness on sustainable land management. Naiyala does not have any source of planting materials. Establishment of nursery will ensure a continuous supply of planting materials required for incorporation in land and soil conservation.

The topography is gentle to steep slopes. Whatever little flatland there is was manmade and has been taken up by the school buildings, teachers quarters and playground. School farming is forced onto steep slopes. Naiyala is a boarding school where bulk of what is eaten comes from the school farm and this is mainly root crops and vegetables

Establishment of demonstration farm

There are 5000 tausala (dalo) suckers planted on the demo plot and are growing well and healthy. The project site is being fenced using barbed wire and pine posts and is maintained by the students and the school committee. With the establishment of 5000 dalo suckers, the team also established 2 hedgerows of vertiver grass horizontally across the slope. Due to the rolling and steep slopes found on the site, it is important to put into place soil conservation measures to ensure topsoil stability of the site.

Establishment of nursery

A nursery has been established in Naiyala High School to cater for planting materials (vegetables and vertiver grass). This enables a source of planting materials for soil conservation and vegetables to the community and also to the students of Naiyala High school.

On-site training of farmers on SLM technology and Nursery Management.

A Hand on Training was conducted for the students of Naiyala High School and students were introduced to Nursery management skills. This is a part of their practical classes and they were keen to know and understand the importance of seeds raising and general nursery skills. They were introduced to the potting of seedlings and mixtures of potting soil with fertilizers such as peat moss and NPK. They were taught on the timing of watering of seeds and during this vegetable off season, plants will rely heavily on water in order to grow well. And the period of seedling transplanting which must be taken very seriously where concentration must on the preparation of land of transplanting.

Site 4: Namoli settlement, Ovalau

Promotion of Sustainable Land Management for agricultural expansion on sloping lands on Ovalau and Moturiki.

Background

The increase in demand of vegetables in Ovalau due to the increase in population and development in the old capital is a great challenge for the farmers on the island. The demand that must be met on the daily basis is something not only a concern of the business ventures in Levuka but also the population

of Ovalau at large. According to the previous Land Use Classification & Capability survey of Ovalau, we found that less than 10% of their land is prime arable land. Therefore, 90% of the land is steep and are not recommended for agriculture purposes due to its mountainous terrain and rugged land form features with visible rocks. Hence the education of farmers to use Sustainable Land

Management Technology on their sloping agricultural land is important.

The project site is located on one of the consistent and progressive vegetable supplier in Ovalau. The farmer's name is Petero Yavala and he lives with his 7 children and they are his sole labor for their family farm. The reason for selecting Mr. Yavala is that his farm is found along the main road and is easily access by other farmers and its suitability for SLM technology demonstration and nursery management.

Establishment of demonstration farm

There are two double hedgerows of vertiver grass that has been established on the project site with 1 row of calliandra paralleling planted with vertiver across the slope. The land needs a lot of nitrogen fixation plants in order to renew its nutrients and the visibility of soap stones on the upper slopes is noted. 140 pawpaw seedlings have been planted on the lower slope close to the nursery; this is the first time for the farmer, Mr. Yavala to grow pawpaw on his farm and will also be the first pawpaw supplier throughout the island of Ovalau or the Lomaiviti province at large. 10 calliandra and 3 rows of vertiver have been planted outside the nursery for distribution purposes to other farmers on the island.

Establishment of nursery

The nursery contains potting seedlings that were done by the participants during the two days hands on Training in corporation with agroforestry species such as calliandra. The nursery will be managed by the farmer but raised seedlings will be distributed to other interested farmers once it is ready. And at present, all the flat lands in the project site are fully occupied with vegetables and the farmer is yet to prepare land for the transplanting of the existing raised seedlings.

Hence, the extension officers in Levuka are liaising with nearby farmers and schools to use the seedlings for their backyard gardening. Since the Teitei Competition organized by the Ministry is currently underway it is timing for the students to use the seedlings.

On-site training of farmers on SLM technology and Nursery Management.

An awareness and training programme was carried out in Namoli settlement on sustainable land management and nursery management. This was jointly carried out by Land use section, extension division and research division of the Ministry of Agriculture. The communities were trained on the establishment of sustainable land management technologies and nursery management. Communities were trained to maintain their own nurseries in their localities.

Site 5: Koromakawa, Cakaudrove

Background

The Koromakawa community is almost 100 percent semi-subsistence farmers. The community decided to set aside two days in a week (Mondays and Wednesdays) for project work. On average at least six men were always available on those days.

Establishment of demonstration farm

There were about 1000 taro/dalo suckers planted on the demonstration site with one thousands yet to be planted. The community established vertiver hedgerows with double and single lines and established double rows of pineapple as contours. Vudi (banana) were incorporated and planted at 9m

apart with local fruit trees such as pawpaw planted at the base of the slope with the nursery for easy access to piped water.

Establishment of community nursery

A rural community nursery was established using local resources. At present, they have raised vertiver grass and calliandra and taro/dalo suckers in the nursery to distribute to the community. Overall, the community of Koromakawa had undergone major rehabilitation in their social lives and obligation in the past 6 years. This project boosted their morale and will uplift their living standard in the future.

OTHER PROJECTS

CRISP programme- Integrated Watershed and Coastal Management in Fiji

Funded by the Institute for Research and Development (IRD) in Noumea, the programme focuses on Integrated Watershed and Coastal Management to improve Coral reef and improve Marine Protected Areas management. The proposed site for Fiji is in the North Coast of Viti Levu; from Tavua to Viti Levu Bay (Nanukuloa), including Tikina of Rakiraki, the Nakauvadra Range and the Yaqara Basin. The project is carried out in partnership with the Conservation International, Ministry of Agriculture-Land Use Section, Forestry department, USP and SOPAC. The project aims to bring different stakeholders together to gather data and develop tools and guidelines on Integrated Watershed and Coastal Management. The project will respond to specific requests expressed by the Government on the proposed site to fill some gaps and strengthen capacity and existing initiatives.

The inputs of Land Use section in this project were:

- a) Remote sensing analysis and mapping of the land cover and land use specifically to update land cover map, updating of land use map
- b) Mapping sensitivity-Mapping of Watersheds and sensitivity to erosion
- c) Quantification with Universal Soil Loss Equation (USLE) model
- d) Specialization with GIS
- e) Comparison between watersheds

National Agricultural Census

The Ministry has started preparatory works for the National Agricultural Census to be conducted in 2009. The census project aims to improve the flow of reliable and timely information on the agricultural sector and strengthening the on-going agricultural statistics system within the Ministry for decisions on improving agricultural production.

The Land Use component in this project will involve:

- Sorting out of the 1994 aerial photographs
- Scanning of aerial photographs
- Registration of aerial photographs
- Preparation of present land use maps
- Digitizing of Areal Sampling Frame (ASF)

Preparatory work started this year and involved several meetings with EP&S staff on the project work plan, staff appointments, workshops and arrangements on project staff and equipments.

A week workshop was conducted in September at the KRS to train EP&S enumerators and Land Use staff on the steps and process in carrying out the national agriculture census survey. This was followed by field surveys in the Central and Western Division to test the survey method using aerial photo enlargements and questionnaire.

Human Resource Finance & Information Division

Overview

The Human Resource Finance & Information Division is responsible for the overall delivery of appropriate information, management of personnel, finance and all administration activities of the Department of Agriculture.

Staff Establishment

The staff establishment consisted of a total of 1,240 staff members where 703 (57%) are permanent establishment and 537 (43%) are Government Wage Earners (GWE). Further details and breakdown are shown in Table below. A total of 130 staff members were acting on temporarily basis where officials were on study, leave without pay or long service leave and permanent vacancies in 2008.

Table 50: Number of Staff in the Department of Agriculture in 2008

Divisions	Established Positions	GWE Positions	No. of Acting Appointment
Human Resource & Finance	61	11	7
Economic Planning & Statistics	25	3	11
Research	93	157	20
Information & Communication	16	1	5
Land & Water Resource Management	75	150	17
Quarantine	66	7	8
Extension	197	124	29
Animal Health & Production	125	69	28
Land Resource Planning & Development	45	15	5
Total	703	537	130

Table 51: Staff Establishment 2008

Volunteers	129
Retirement s	31
Termination	1
Death	5
Promotions	9
Contract Overseas	5
Resignation	28

Table 52: Leave used in 2008

DIVISION	ANNUAL LEAVE	SICK LEAVE	BEREAVEMENT LEAVE	LWOP
HRF&I	445 days	182 days	82 days	1
LWRM	106.5 days	104 days	29 days	0
Extension	345 days	282 days	98 days	1
Research	195 days	181 days	75 days	0
LRPD	135 days	102days	42 days	0
AH&P	262 days	91 days	74 days	0

Late Arrival

Table 53: Summary of late arrival is shown below:

Division	Mins of Late Arrival
HRF&I	7652 mins
EP&S	892 mins
LWRM	8546 mins
Extension	9569 mins
Research	6548 mins
LRPD	5684 mins
AH&P	9456mins

Quarters

There were 77 Institutional quarters in various parts of the country for staff accommodation. This number did not include Forestry Quarters.

Vehicles

The Ministry maintained a total fleet of 177 vehicles of various types and models. Of these 177 vehicles, a total of 17 were recommended for write off.

Incoming Mail

Table 54: Summary of the total inward correspondence received at Registry

Year	Total Correspondence											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2008	13	230	112	256	260	156	321	205	298	312	270	209

Outward Mail

Table 55: Summary of Posted Mail

Year	Local	Overseas	Registered
2008	576	39	1

Table 56: Summary of Inward Registered Mail

Year	Nadi	Nadi Airport	LTK	Dreketi	Savusa-vu	Tavua	Wai-yevo	Others	Total
2008		20	50	6	14	17	10	12	133

Table 57: Summary of ACR Status

2008	Admin, Finance & Information	Extension	Land & Water Resource Management	Animal Health & Production	Quarantine	LRPD	EP&S	Research
Total# Staff	60	150	45	76	50	30	20	75
ACR Received	16	25	32	31	7	6	9	45
Out-standing	44	95	13	45	43	24	11	30

Training

Training was divided into two main categories. Long and short term training including meetings, conferences, seminars, etc. Statistics for each category are stated below.

Table 58: Overseas Training Summary

No.	Division	Gender		Ethnic Analysis		Others
		Male	Female	Fijian	Indian	
1	LRPD	4	2	5		1
2	LWRM	1			1	
3	Research	14	8	16	6	
4	Headquarters	11	2	6	1	6
5	Quarantine	3		1		2
6	AH&P	17	8	10	14	1
7	Extension	5	1	5	1	
8	EP&S	18	1	14	4	1

Table 59: Local Training Summary

No.	Division	Gender		Ethnic Analysis		Others
		Male	Female	Fijian	Indian	
1	LRPD	-	-	-	-	-
2	LWRM	4	2	4	2	
3	Research	6	10	8	8	2
4	Headquarters	2	2	4		
5	Quarantine		2	2		
6	AH&P	4	2	2	3	1
7	Extension	11	14	18	10	1
8	EP&S	-	-	-	-	-

Table 60: Academic Training Summary

No.	Division	Cert	Dip	Degree	PG Cert	PG Dip	Masters	PhD	Gender		Ethnic Analysis		
									M	F	F	I	O
1	LRPD			2					1	1	2		
2	LWRM		1	2					3		3		
3	Research			4			3	1	6	2	7	1	
4	Headquarters		1	1						2	2		
5	Quarantine			1		1	1	2	4	1	5		
6	AH&P			3		1	2		5	1	5	1	
7	Extension						1		1		1		
8	EP&S						1		1		1		
	Total		2	13		2	8	3	21	7	26	2	

Table 61: Service Examination Processed

No	Exam	No Passed	Division	Gender Distribution		Ethnic Distribution			Level		
				M	F	F	I	O	S/E	M/M	O
1	H1		HR&F Extension Quarantine LWRM		1 1 1 1	1 1 1	1				5 1 1 1
2	H2		HR&F		2	2	4				4
3	S										
4	U										
5	E										

Table 62: In House Training Attendance by Division.

No.	Div	Induction	Basic Management	OHS	Personal Dev.	Leadership & Change	Employee Relation	Defensive Driving	Customer Service.
1	Research	8				6		7	
2	AH&P	1				3			
3	Extension	2				2		1	
4	Quarantine	1						1	
5	LRPD	1							
6	LWRM					1			
7	FCA								
8	EP&S								
9	Corporate Services	3				2		2	

FINANCE

The Accounts Section in HQ has adjusted to the Financial Management Information System (FMIS) which was implemented in 2007 at the Department of Agriculture.

The system produced monthly TMA, expenditure and commitment, revenue reports, etc. Purchase Orders including vouchers and cheques were generated from the System. The processing of salary and wages were interfaced in the new system.

Table 63: Budget Allocation by Divisions 2008

Program	Approved Provision	Revised Provision	Operating Budget	Capital Budget	Vat	Total Commitment	% Utilization
HRF&I	4,024,800	4,024,800	2,924,100	1,000,000	100,700	3,887,895	97%
EP&S	3,320,800	3,320,800	2,450,000	839,000	31,800	3,167,952	95%
Research	3,380,700	3,380,700	3,355,400	0	25,300	3,083,040	91%
Information	281,900	281,900	277,700	0	4,200	244,523	87%
LWRM	10,832,900	10,832,900	990,000	7,400,000	675,000	8,191,249	76%
Quarantine	2,162,100	2,162,100	1,783,900	325,000	53,200	2,140,905	99%
Extension	10,096,150	10,096,150	5,052,600	4,549,900	493,650	9,072,393	90%
AH&P	4,228,000	4,228,000	3,694,600	450,000	83,400	3,580,984	85%
Land Resettlement	2,700,900	2,700,900	1,636,300	1,000,000	64,600	2,114,172	78%
FCA	1,144,500	1,144,500	886,200	200,000	58,300	1,000,729	87%
TOTAL	42,172,750	42,172,750	23,050,800	15,763,900	1,590,150	36,483,842	87%

The introduction of FMIS has brought about internal controls which was lacking in the old manual system of Accounting. The main disadvantage was the occasional breakdown of the system encountered and the delaying process because the Govnet system is very slow.

Table 64 : Arrears of Revenue 2008

Description	Total Arrears	3 Months	6 Months	9 Months	1Yr & Over	2 - 5 Years	Over 5 Years
Meat Inspection	\$2,700.35	0.00	2,700.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Quarantine Fees	\$35,197.44	1,600.20	9,440.24	12,575.00	7,077.00	1,005.00	3,500.00
Research Analysis Test	\$1,304.71	1,304.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sale of Sheep	\$4,900.00	0.00	0.00	4,900.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cocoa Development	\$3,390,719.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,390,719.84
Batiri Pineapples	\$707.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	707.16
Land Development	\$4,236.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,236.66
Revolving Fund Account	\$393,924.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	393,924.53
F C A School Fees	\$3,120.00	0.00	0.00	3,120.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lending Fund Account	\$16,445.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16,445.66
Water	\$228.31	228.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Electricity	\$407.94	407.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Legalega Research Station	\$10,304.59	4,500.00	3,660.00	2,144.59	0.00	0.00	0.00
Irrigation & Commercial	\$114,720.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	114,720.42
	\$3,978,917.61	8,041.16	15,800.59	22,739.59	7,077.00	1,005.00	3,924,254.27

Arrears of Revenue

Table 54 shows the arrears of revenue indicating that about \$3.92m had been overdue for more than six years.

Records had shown that the Quarantine and Animal Health & Production Division (Meat Inspection & Commercial Undertaking Units) have continuously recorded arrears of revenue and had shown the negligence and failure of officers to collect Government Revenue promptly. Appropriate procedures as per approved instructions may have not been followed.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION SECTION

VISION

A well informed agricultural sector

MISSION

To foster a productive and well informed agricultural sector through effective dissemination of timely and relevant information to our clients

CORE ROLES

The core roles of the Section are:

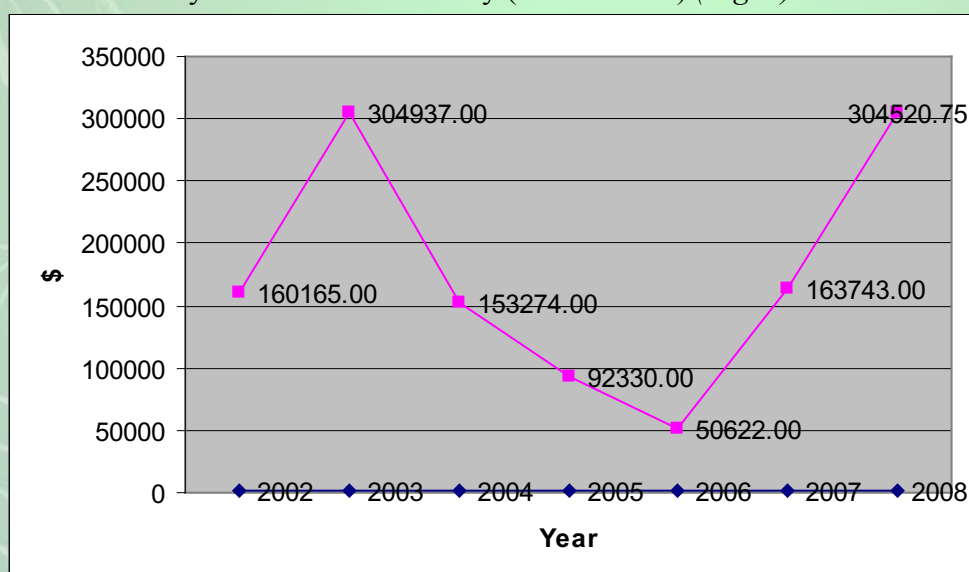
- I) To provide agricultural information to farmers, staff, Ministry stakeholders and members of the public
- II) To provide publicity for the Ministry activities and services using the mass media (Newspaper, Radio, TV, Internet etc).
- III) To improve Ministry image by responding quickly to negative media publicity and complaints or queries about Ministry activities and services.

OVERVIEW

From a humble beginning in 1946, the Information & Communication Section has come along way from disseminating information through radio programmes only to using more sophisticated technologies and media channels (TV/DVD, Newspaper and Internet).

HIGHLIGHTS

Media Publicity Trend for the Ministry (2002 – 2008) (*Fig. 6*)



There was a 186% increase (from \$163,743.00 to \$304,520.75) in the value of publicity of the Department of Agriculture in the mass media (Newspaper, TV and Radio) in 2008 compared to 2007. This year's achievement almost equalled the Section's all-time record of \$304,973.00 that was achieved in 2003.

Newspaper publicity value went up from \$117,343.68 in 2007 to \$193,870.75 in 2008 - an increase of 65.2 %. The big mover however, was radio and TV publicity value that skyrocketed by 301 % from \$36,640.00 in 2007 to \$110,650 in 2008.

This value did not include the weekly (Hindi -5 & Fijian – 5) Agricultural Radio programmes that were aired with Government sponsorship through the Fiji Broadcasting Corporation Limited's radio

stations. It also did not include hits on Internet publicity through the Ministry's Website.

The high achievement was attributed to the excellent staff morale, good team work and partnership between the Section and the major Divisions of the Department and support of some of the Department's key stakeholders. The Section's aim to surpass its all time record is now a sure possibility.

People's Charter Awareness

The Section participated in creating awareness on the People's Charter through its Hindi and Fijian Agricultural Radio Programmes using Awareness Materials and interviews or radio talks with TASS Reps. The Section's Acting Senior Information Officer and one of its Technician were also released to be part of the Ministry's Team that participated in Awareness programmes for Ministry officers Fiji-wide and teachers in the Nadroga/Navosa areas.

Establishment of the Agriculture Help Desk

In July, the Section assisted in the Establishment of the Ministry's Agriculture Desk that was launched at the Fiji College of Agriculture. The Help Desk was an initiative of the Permanent Secretary to improve the Ministry image in facilitating client requests at a three days turnaround time.

Plant Five A Day Publicity

The Ministry's publicity on "Plant Five A Day" made it into Australia's ABC News which is a rare achievement for the Section.

Ministerial Publicity

One of the Section's officers was part of all the Interim Minister's Tour party who provided all coverage of the Minister's tour.

Senior Management Support

The Section wished to acknowledge the Permanent Secretary excellent support to the Section that boosted staff morale and also contributed to better staff and section performances. This support was also extended by Heads of Division by means of vehicles, fuel and materials for publicity

Some fine examples of this excellent support and partnership include the launching of the Fiji Farmer Magazine – an initiative between the Section and the Ministry's Extension Division, the opening of the Burebasaga Milk Collection Centre and the launching of the Ministry Help Desk.

ADMINISTRATION

Staff Situation

The Section has a total strength of 16 officers of which 12 are technical officers and four are support staff.

Table 65: Staff Situation

Post	No	Name	EDP/FNPF	Remarks
PAO	1			Vacant with Mr. Kamlesh Prakash acting on the post. The post was advertised during the year but remains to be filled
SAO	1	Kamlesh Prakash	41513	
IO	2	Nacanieli Takele	45800	Acted SAO during the year. Substantive post is IO (Radio)

		Vacant		IO (Press/Publication). AIO Vinesh acted on the post before he resigned to join SPC
AIO	1	Vinesh Prasad	61420	Resigned during the year. Post is now Vacant
IA	5	Mere Nakota	60002	Acted as IO (Radio)
		Riteshni L Singh	58998	Acted as AIO before going on maternity leave
		Kuini Waqasavou	90033	Acted as AIO from when Ms Singh went on maternity leave
		Josevata Raibevu	58998	Fijian Broadcaster
		Jone Buatoka	90123	Graphic Artist
		Monika Mala	YE 647	Temporarily held against Mere Nakota
TA	2	Dekeseni Gagalia	63335	
		Josefa Uluilakeba	61429	
Typist	2	Litiana Gavidi	60251	
		Ronita Devi	64259	
Messenger	1	Sevanaia Koroi	NY 846	
Driver	1	Jainendra Prasad		

Promotions & Appointments

There were no promotions or new appointments during the year apart from extensions on acting and temporary relieving positions.

During the year, the Section lost an IA post due to the 10% reduction and an officer who was appointed as a temporarily had her services terminated.

Table 66: Staff Training

Name	EDP	Course	Date	Remarks
Nacanieli Takele	45800	Leadership & Change	14 -16 May 2008	CTD, Suva
Vinesh Prasad	61420	“	“	“
Jainendra Prasad		Defensive Driving	April 24, 2008	CTD, Suva
Monika Mala	YE 647	Exporting Agri Food Products	12 – 14 May	TPAF, Narere
Nacanieli Takele	45800	People’s Charter Awareness	September 2008	CTD, Suva
All Staff		People’s Charter	October, 2008	MPI, Raiwaqa

Staff Attendance & Leave

Late Arrivals

In total, late arrivals for 2008 was 8311 minutes which is approximately 138 hours or 17 man days

Staff of the Month/Year

This is an initiative that has been going on for a number of years for the Section as recognition of improved and quality staff performance. Every month, a staff is rewarded for excellent performance

with the presentation of a Certificate and a staff tea party. Whichever staffs receives the most Staff of the Month Awards in the year, receives the Staff of the Year Award. TA Josefa Uluilakeba was the Staff of the Year for his outstanding contribution

Vehicle

The Section has only one Vehicle, a Mitsubishi Pajero 4 wheel drive that was purchased in 1998. Constant repairs have kept the vehicle in pretty good shape considering its age. Tabulated below is the vehicle consumption for 2008.

Table 67

Month	Mileage (Km)	Fuel (L)	Maintenance (\$)
January	1419	223.0	101.32
February	1846	138.00	-
March	1109	107.00	95.88
April	1472	133.00	342.14
May	984	213.00	97.88
June	1587	167.00	-
July	169	29.00	81.90
August	2579	388.00	497.80
September	1692	370.00	5.75
October	2966	240.00	-
November	2283	222.00	30.30
December	1864	202.00	-

Financial Statement

Still to be received

SECTION ACHIEVEMENTS 2008

Press & Publication Unit

Overview

The Press and Publication Unit is the flagship of the Information Communication Section public relations efforts especially in urban and peri-urban areas. This is where most of the policy and decision makers of government live and are often influenced by what they read in newspapers.

The main function of the unit is to gather information from stakeholders, farmers and officers of the Ministry and package it before disseminating the information to members of the public through media. The total amount of newspaper publicity for the year was \$193,870.75, - an increase of 65.2 % compared to \$117,343.68 in 2007.

This huge increase was mainly due to the concerted effort by the staff of the Unit in collaboration with excellent support from the Ministry's Senior Management and Heads of Divisions. It was also due to the dedication of our staff to lift the image of the Ministry.

The Section supplied feature articles to the Island Life magazine of Fiji Sun that was well covered by the newspaper and another factor for the huge increase in publicity value. Supplement on Backyard gardening was also given good publicity by the Fiji Sun and Daily Post. In addition, the Section released weekly press articles to the news media that were picked up by the three daily newspapers.

Similarly the production of Invitation cards for major events and the Fiji Farmer Launching was a highlight of publication unit together with producing the newsletter partly in colour from the usual black and white publication.

Equipment

Table 68: Unit Equipment & Distribution (Staff Computers Table/Chair)

Name	Equipment	Status
K. Waqasavou	Laptop	Ok
R. Singh	Publication PC	Ok
M. Mala	Press PC	Ok
J. Buatoka	Designing PC	Ok

Media Releases

A total of 342 stories including English Press feature, Press release, Market Watch stories, Media responses and the vernacular translations were produced this year compared to 195 stories in 2007 which was a 75.38% increase. The reasons for this huge increase were due to increased number of tours funded by Office of the Minister, Permanent Secretary and the major Functional Divisions (Extension, AH&P, LWRM etc). Apart from the normal stories released, the Press Unit attended to 41 negative publicities in the media through responses from respective HOD's. Majority of the responses were received on time from HOD's and were released to the Media. These responses were made to provide a better image of the Ministry. Target for Hindi translation was not met due to the termination of the appointment of temporary relieving officer under the 10% civil service reduction. However some Market Watch stories and Fiji farmer stories were translated that contributed towards the number of Hindi releases.

Table 69: Comparison of Target Vs Actual for 2008.

Type of story	Target	Actual Released
Press Feature	80	82
Press release	Not Targeted	105
Response	Not Targeted	41
Hindi Translation	52	38 (no Hindi translations done in third quarter)
Fijian Translation	52	40

*Table 70: Showing monetary values from different newspaper in 2008
(Press Releases, Features, Supplement and Market Watch)*

Newspaper	Value (2008)	Value (2007)	Diff	% Diff
Fiji Times	46,723.45	31,132.65	15,590.80	33
Fiji Sun	54,727.30	28,042.44	26,684.86	49
Daily Post	76,105.60	40,460.24	35,645.36	47
Volasiga	11,070.40	15,397.86	(4,327.46)	-39
Shanti Dut	4,524.00	2,310.49	2,213.51	49
Nai Lalakai	720.00	0	720.00	100
Total	\$193,870.75	\$117,343.68		

For the second year in a row, Daily Post newspaper had dedicated more publicity to agriculture than any other newspaper. In 2007, their publicity value was \$40,460 compared to \$76,105 in 2008. Fiji Sun is second – up from \$28,042 in 2007 to \$54,727 in 2008. Fiji Times which used to lead in this area three years ago is in third spot as far as publicity of agricultural sector in 2008 is concerned. This is clearly shown in Figure 1 below. Out of 342 stories released last year almost 90% of it appeared in the three local dailies.

Figure 7: Media Coverage

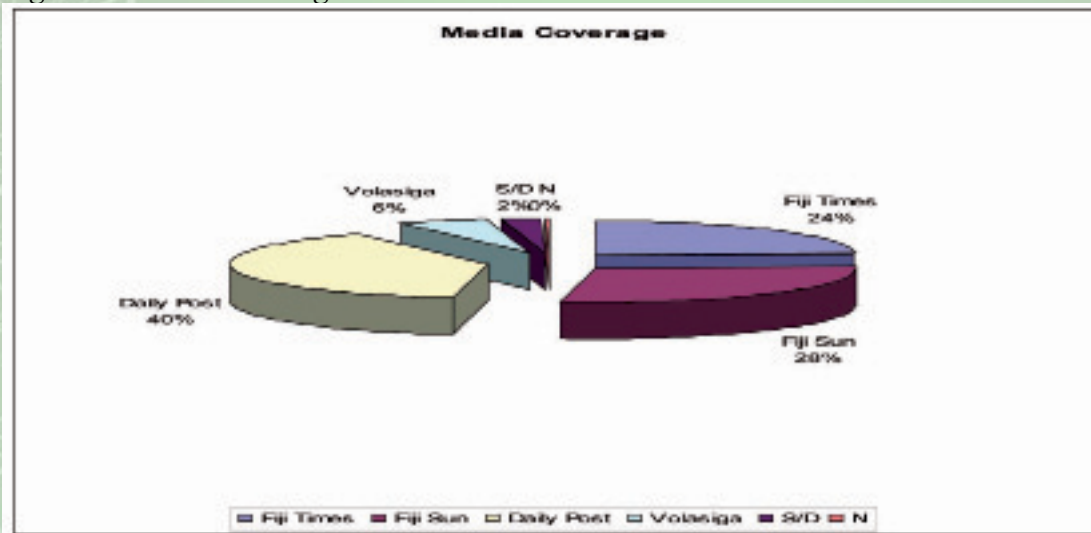


Fig 8: Share of Feature Publicity (%) by Geographical Divisions - 2008

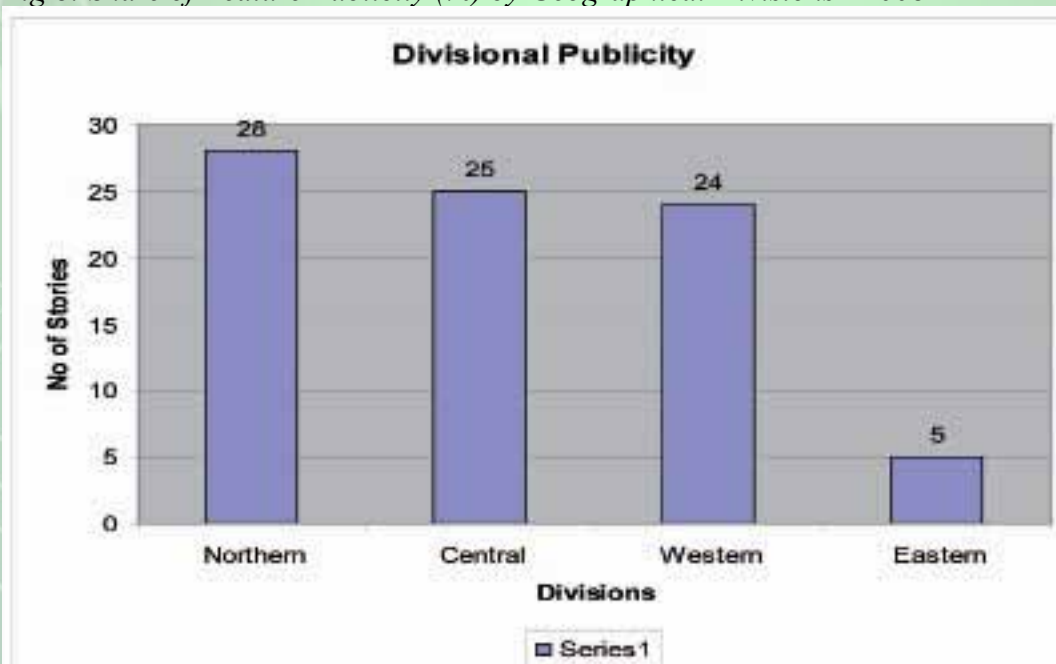
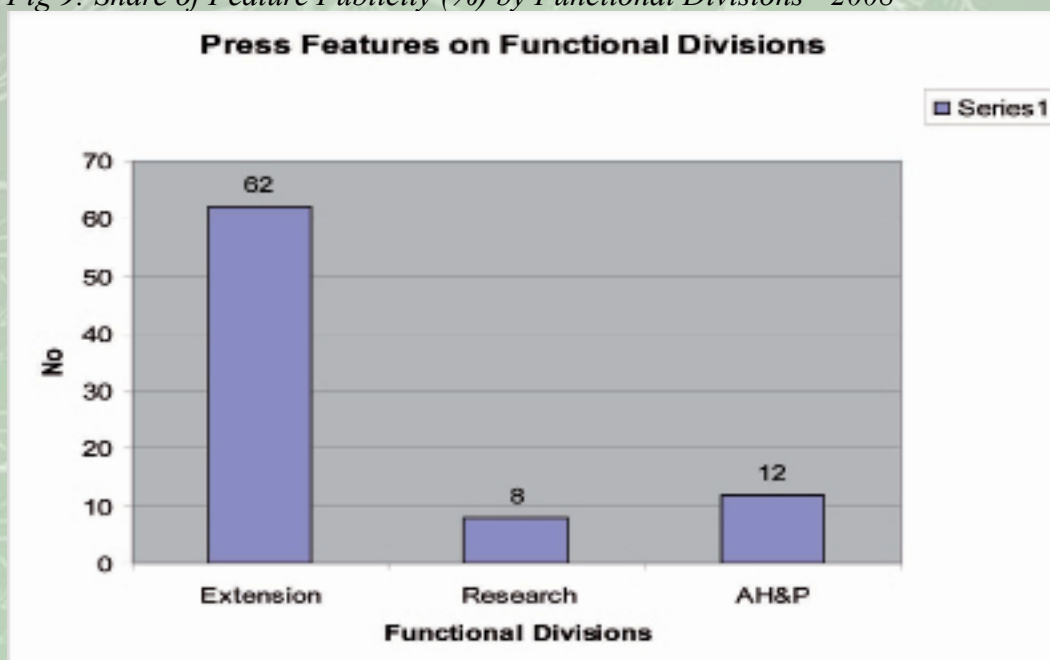
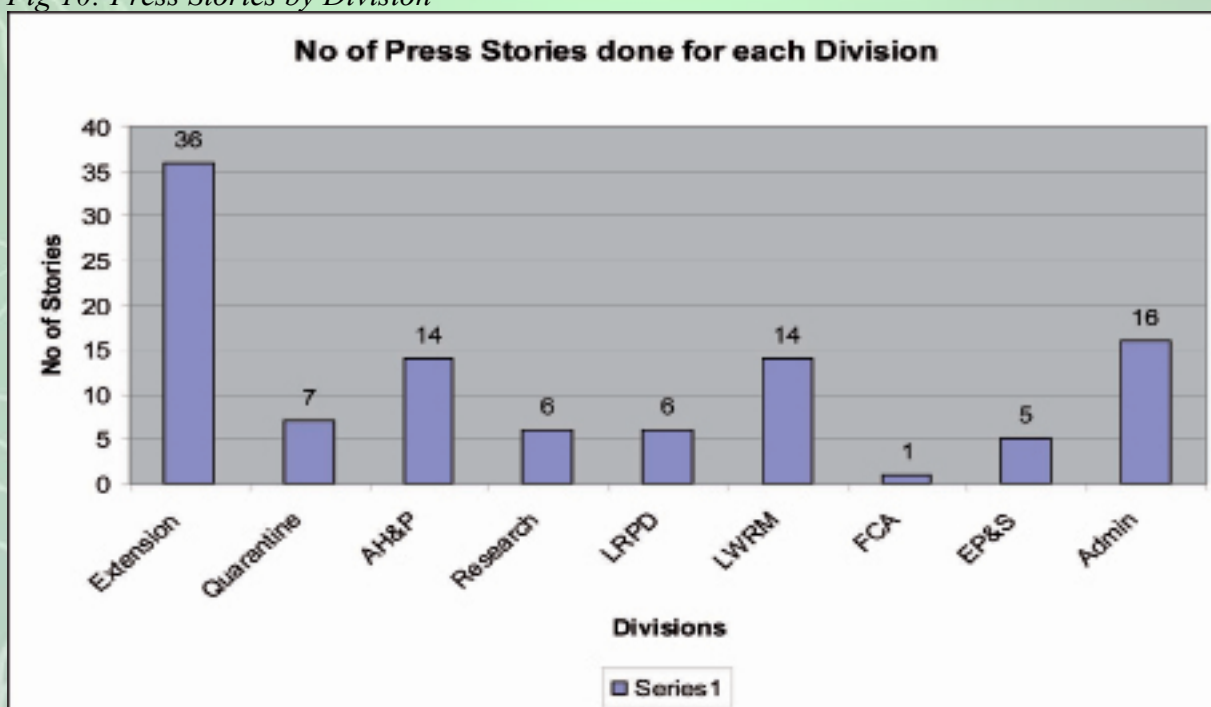


Fig 9: Share of Feature Publicity (%) by Functional Divisions - 2008



The graph above shows that Extension Division leads in the coverage of feature stories due mainly to the fact that farmers are the focus of such stories.

Fig 10: Press Stories by Division



Extension Division leads in publicity followed by AH& P. FCA received the least publicity as most of its publicity is on Student Graduation at the end of the year.

Gender and Ethnic Coverage by Press stories

Although the difference is not much, more coverage was given to Indigenous Fijian farmers then Indo Fijian farmers. As expected, more coverage was given to men involved in agriculture than women. But with better collaboration with the Extension & AH&P divisions, more focus can be given to activities with involvement of women in agriculture.

Table 71: Percentage of Publicity for Ethnic Communities

Ethnicity	No.	Percentage coverage
Fijian	34	41.46
Indian	33	40.24
Others	15	18.29

Fig 11: Distribution of Publicity by Ethnicity

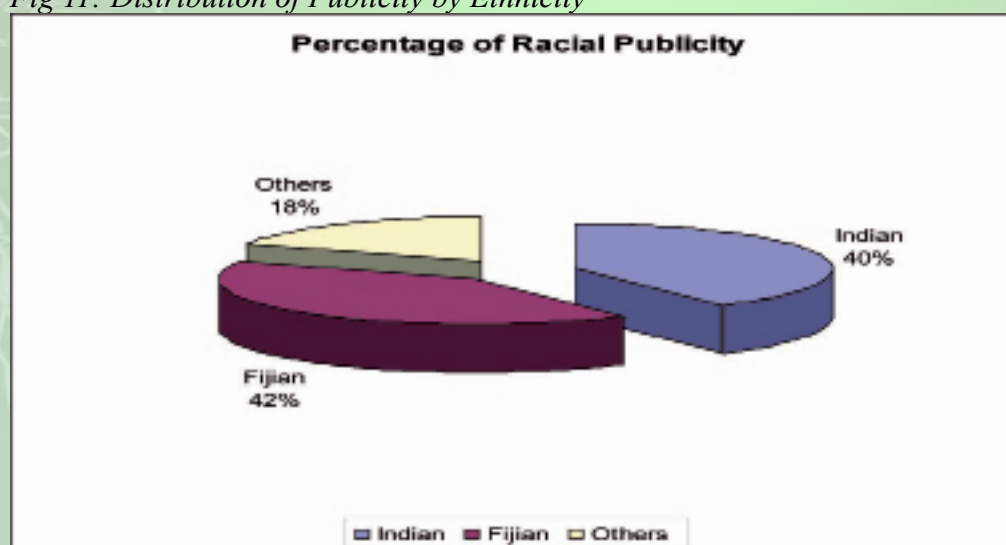


Table 72: Percentage of Gender Publicity

Gender	No	Percentage Coverage
Male	71	86.58
Female	11	13.41

Challenges

There were only two full time writers in the Section and three part time writers. The challenge is for other staffs, especially Radio Unit staff to also contribute press stories.

Publication Unit

The major highlight of the Unit was the achievement of all the targeted activities for the year. The Unit produces publications such as

- Market Watch
- Newsletter
- Technical Bulletin
- Farmers Leaflets
- News today
- Fiji Farmer

In addition, the Unit also proof reads and prints the Ministry's Annual Reports, designs certificates for various training by other Divisions of the Ministry and produces staff Identification Cards.

Table 73: Publications produced during 2008 & 2007 against Target

Publication	2007 Target	2007 Achievement	2008 Target	2008 Achievement
News Today	241	241	260	255
Marketwatch	16	16	18	18
Farmers Leaflet	5	29	8	8
Technical Bulletin	8	8	8	8
Newsletter	6	6	6	6
Fiji Farmer Magazine	0	0	8	8
Posters	-	-	0	2

All the publications were uploaded to the Ministry Website (www.agriculture.com.fj) which has become a new tool for the dissemination of agriculture information.

Other Publications

Overview

Publications such as certificates, Business cards, programs, invitation cards, posters, scanning (for emailing) are mostly requested by other Divisions when there is a training or workshop locally and overseas.

Activities and Achievements

Table 74: Requests for Publications during the year.

Publications	No. Requested	No. Given
Crop Farmers Guide	572	162
Farmers Leaflets	5124	2924
Annual Reports	-	13
Posters	-	121

Requests on publication have been coming for Farmers Leaflets and Crop Farmers Guide. Only some requests were fulfilled while others were given in smaller numbers because there were not enough copies in the Section. Crop Farmers Guide had a wide demand both locally and overseas. Requests which were made from overseas were advised to download from the website while locally some copies were given. All Crop Farmers Guide booklets have been distributed but there were standing requests for more copies, indicating the popularity of this publication with farmers, staff and stakeholders. List of other Publications are on Appendix 1

Constraints

The Section was unable to do small jobs for colour printings because it did not have a coloured printer.

Future Direction

Production of publication works will be done more efficiently and effectively if a colour printer is purchased for printing of certificates and programs. ID card arrangements will be made to find all requirements and costs to print it in the office instead of the giving to the outside Companies. Arrangement will also be made for printing of Newsletter in colour using cheaper papers in the Section.

RADIO UNIT

Overview:

The radio programme resumed on 7th of January 2008 after the New Year Celebration. During the year, 70% of our programmes were aired representing a shortfall of 30% over the target. This shortfall has been mainly due to unavailability of IA Hindi Broadcaster.

There was no Hindi Programmes from end of March 2008, when IA Hindi appointment was not extended, even though there was a written request to Management for the appointment of IA Hindi.

The total monetary value of agricultural news aired on our Local Radio and TV Stations is \$ 110,650.00 (Refer Table: 12)

Activities and Achievements

During the year, 347 radio programmes were aired against a target of 498 representing a shortfall of 151 programmes or 30%. This shortfall was mainly due to the non-renewal of IA Hindi appointment after March 31st.

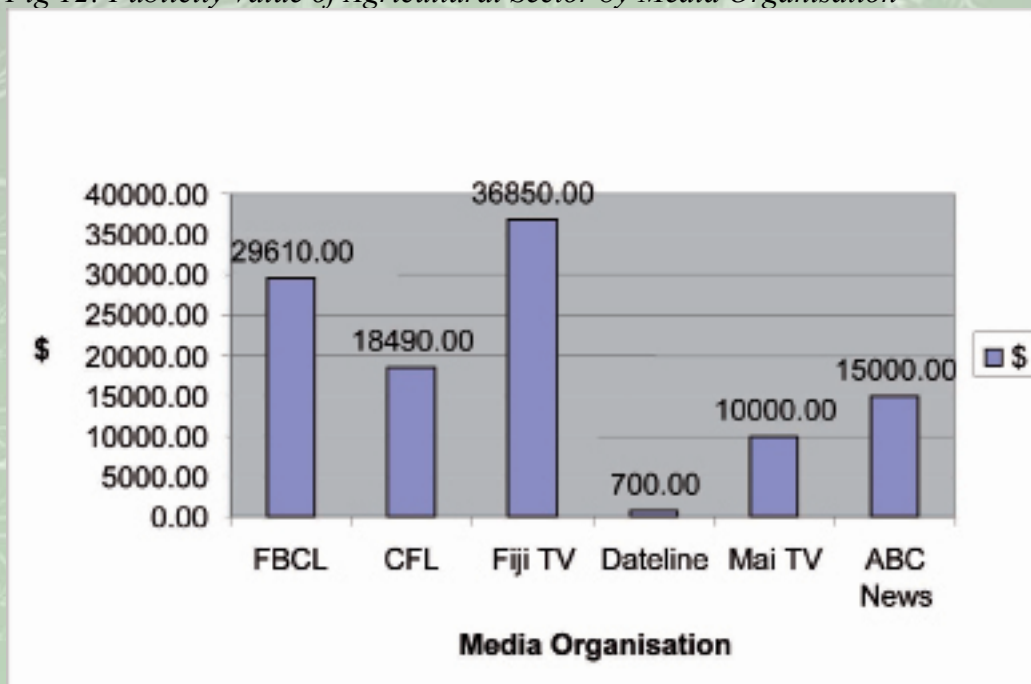
Table 75: 2008 Achievements compared to 2007 Achievements

	2007		2008	
Radio Unit	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
Issues covered	626	678	750	532
No. of programme	500	485	498	347

Issues covered

A total of 532 issues were covered during the year against a target of 750, representing a shortfall of 29 percent. Although we did not achieve some of the issues that has been targeted but we have included some of the issues that were request by the Management that include the role of the Ministry on the rising prices of goods and the role of the National Council For Building a Better Fiji.

Fig 12: Publicity Value of Agricultural Sector by Media Organisation



Fiji TV leads by the mere fact that TV time is much more expensive than radio time but on the whole, it was a very good year for the Unit in terms of media coverage (Refer to Appendix 3). Radio and TV publicity value skyrocketed by 301 % from \$36,640.00 in 2007 to \$110,650 in 2008. It was huge achievement complimented by the fact that the “Plant Five a Day Campaign” even made it into the ABC News.

This value in Radio and TV publicity did not include the weekly (Hindi -5 & Fijian – 5) Agricultural Radio programmes that were aired with Government sponsorship through the Fiji Broadcasting Corporation Limited’s radio stations. It also did not include hits on Internet publicity through the Ministry’s Website. FBC competed powerfully in its coverage of the agriculture news and the company’s interest in publicising agriculture news should be noted.

Table 76: Issues covered

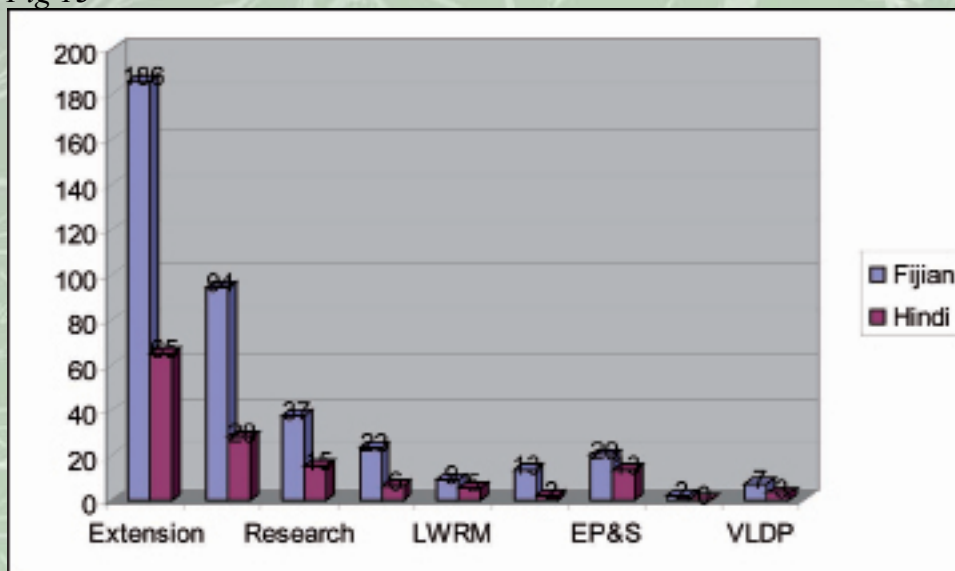
Programme		Fijian		Hindi
Activities	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
No. of programme	249	241	249	106
No. of issues covered	375	391	375	141
EXTENSION:				
Rice Industry	10	27	10	10
Vegetable Industry	25	59	25	28
Root Crops	30	68	30	17
Fruit Crops Industry	15	15	15	10
Rural Outer Island Project	14	14	14	0
Nadarivatu	5	3	5	0
AH & P:				
Dairy	27	38	27	13
Honey Industry	17	2	17	6

Beef Industry	9	27	9	1
Sheep Industry	27	16	27	4
Pig Industry	7	3	7	0
Goat	9	5	9	3
Poultry Industry	7	3	7	1
RESEARCH:				
Fruit Research & Plant Protection	13	14	13	6
Vegetable Research	19	12	19	6
Root Crops Research	19	10	19	2
Cereals Research	4	1	4	1
LRPD:				
Land care Concept	16	22	16	5
Affirmative Action	5	0	5	1
DSAP	4	1	4	0
LWRM:				
Drainage	7	5	7	3
Irrigation	7	0	7	1
Riverbank/Seawalls	7	1	7	1
Dredging	8	3	8	4
QUARANTINE:				
BQA	18	7	18	2
Border Security	7	6	7	0
EP & S:				
Marketing	10	14	10	11
Trade Issues	3	5	3	2
Demand Driven	3	1	3	0
FCA:	2	2	2	0
Graduation	2	2	2	0
Vanua Levu Dev Project:	21	7	21	3

Publicity by Division

Most of the Ministry publicity through the government sponsored radio programs were carried by the Fijian Program and this is understandable when the Hindi Program was without a broadcaster for most of the year.

Fig 13



Interviews

Out of the 417 interviews (refer to Appendix 2), 113 were farmers, 282 were staff and 15 were stakeholders. Of the 113 farmer interviews, 84 were Fijian and 29 were Indo Fijians; 107 were male and only 6 female.

Fig 14: Distribution of Radio Interviews

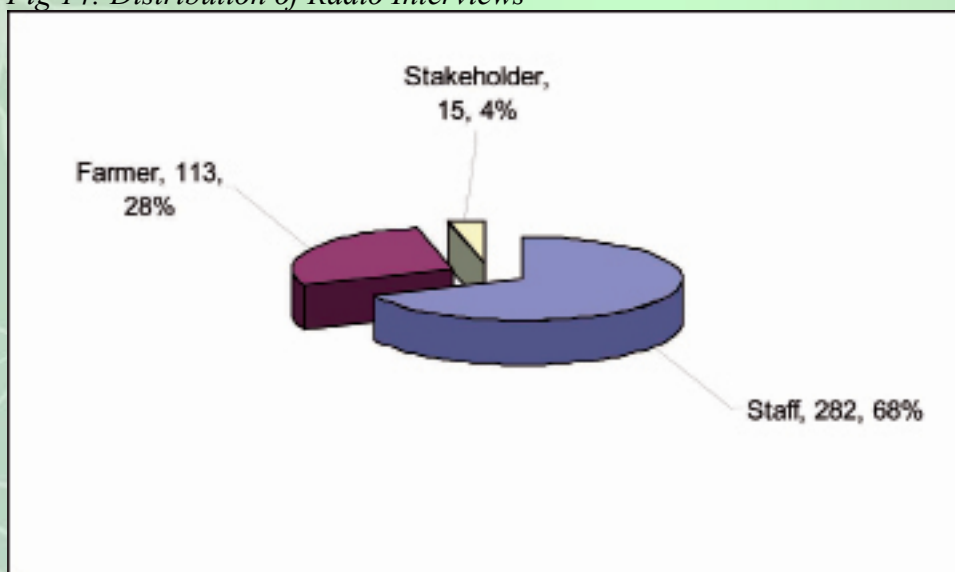
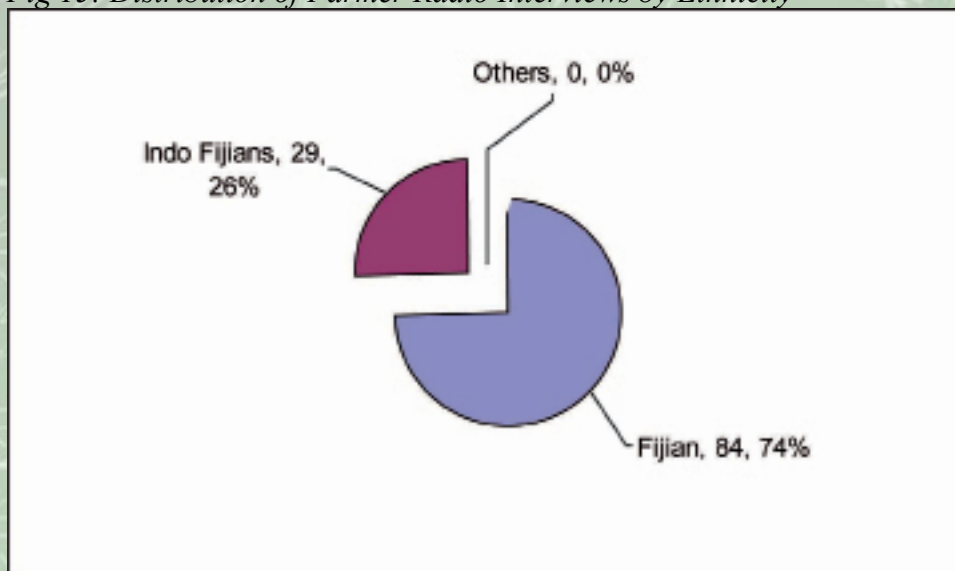


Fig 15: Distribution of Farmer Radio Interviews by Ethnicity



Public Address System:

Only fifteen requests were received and attended during the year.

Constraints:

1. No confirmed Information Assistant to produce the Hindi Radio Programmes. The Section stopped producing Hindi programs due to this problem. Officer is to produce five fifteen minutes programmes and five mornings spots a week and assists in the Hindi translation for the Shanti Dut (a weekly newspaper in Hindi language).
2. Consistent technical problems associated with the radio studio machines that resulted in recording problems
3. Studio did not have telephone recording facilities to record staff reporting from the field or from stations.

Future Direction:

1. A confirmed Hindi producer and presenter to produce Hindi programs
2. Improved maintenance of studio and field recording equipment and machines to reduce down time and recording problems
3. Telephone recording facilities or mobile net to enable field/station reporting to be recorded in our studio.
4. Upgrading

MINISTRY HELP DESK REPORT

Introduction

Customer Help Desk is a service provided by the Ministry to assist customers requiring information on agriculture related issues. It was launched by the Interim Minister for Primary Industries Mr. Jocketani Cokanasiga at the Fiji College of Agriculture on Friday July 4th, 2008.

The aim of Help Desk is to respond quickly (within three working days) to customer queries or request for services. It provides a direct link between Ministry customers and decision makers with the aim to improve turnaround time for service delivery and customer satisfaction. It provides a single point of contact to clients seeking assistance from the Ministry. When a customer makes an enquiry to the Help Desk, all details about the customer and his/her requests are recorded in a form. The filled

form is faxed or emailed to the appropriate Heads of Departments to respond within the specified time limit and the response is either provided directly to the customer by the HOD concerned (with a copy of his/her response to the Help Desk) or to the Help Desk who will then forward it to the Customer.

Achievement

During the six months of operation, the Help Desk received 59 requests from various types of clients. The Help Desk responded to all queries within three working days deadlines and in most cases within an hour or 24 hours, while some were responded after three working days as the person responsible was away from office on official duties.

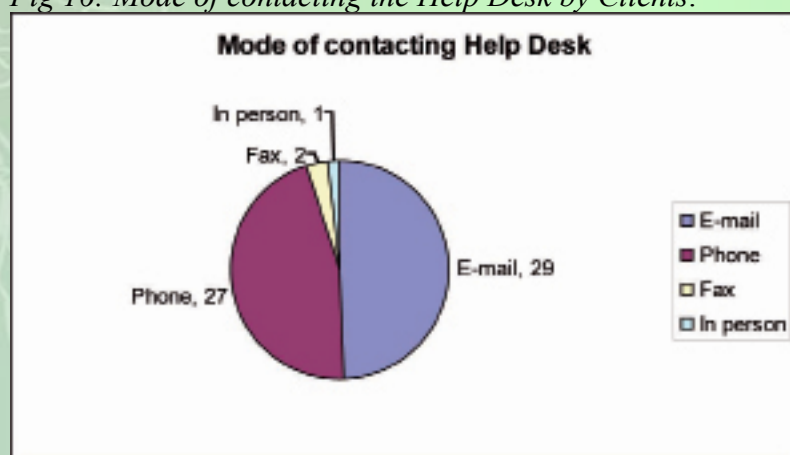
Clients Using the Help Desk

During the six month users of the Help Desk were mostly farmers, stakeholders, students and staff.

Table 77: Mode of Contacting Help Desk

E-mail	Phone	Fax	Postal	In person	Total
29	27	2	-	1	59

Fig 16: Mode of contacting the Help Desk by Clients.



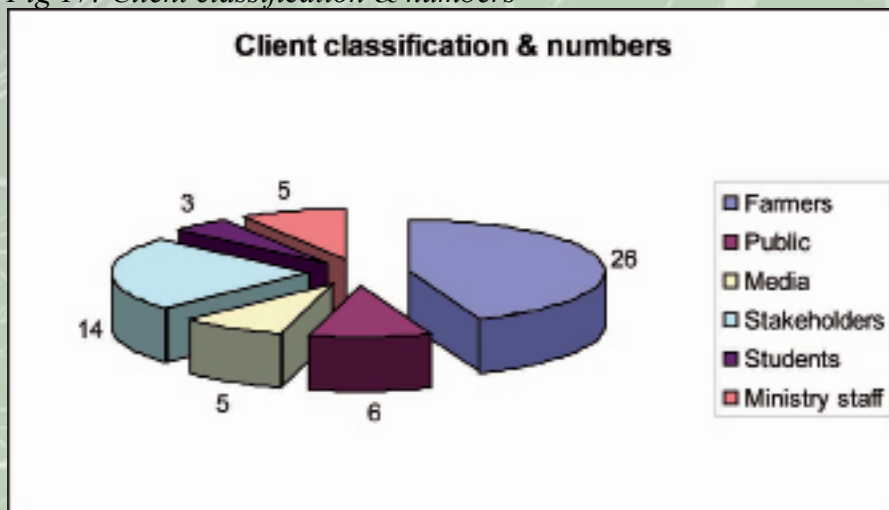
Most clients of Help Desk were the farmers and stakeholders such as exporters, students and the general public.

Table 78: Client Classification and Numbers

Farmers	Public	Media	Stakeholders	Students	Ministry staff	Total
26	6	5	14	3	5	59

(Move forward)

Fig 17: Client classification & numbers



Clients found it easy and quick to contact the Help Desk through email and telephone

Types of Requests by Clients

75% of the clients contacted help desk for agricultural information while 25% contacted on staff related issues. Clients using help desk service were not only localized to Fiji Citizens, there were also requests from overseas clients especially from Australia and New Zealand.

Table 79: Summary of client requests

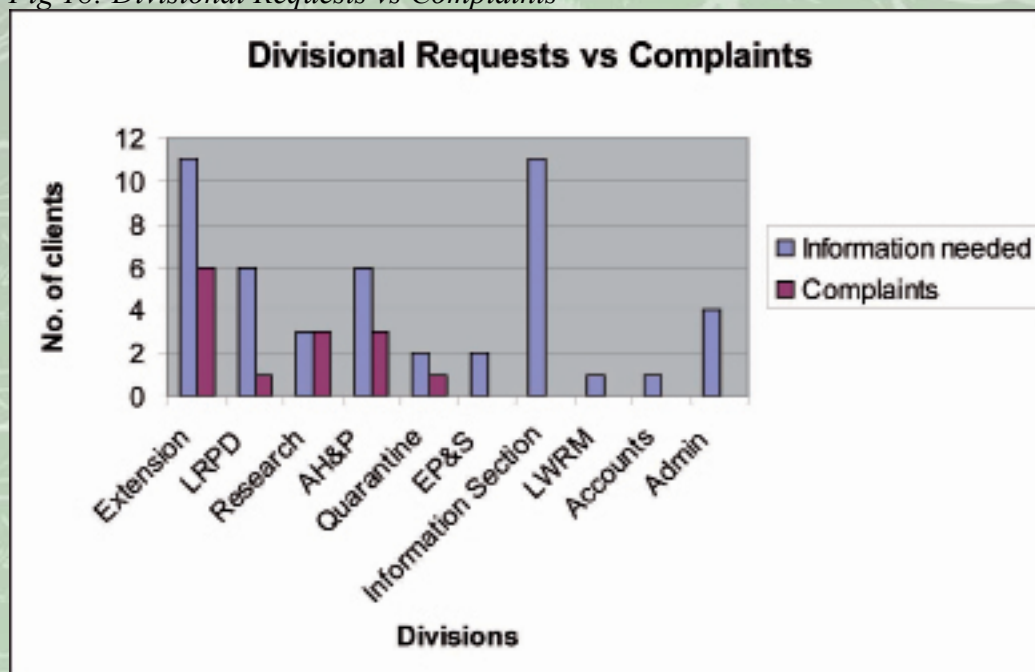
Complaints	Information assistance	Total
15	44	59

Table 80: Requests/Complaints on Divisions of MPI

Divisions	Complaints	Information needed	Total
Extension	6	11	17
LRPD	1	6	7
Research	3	3	6
AH&P	3	6	9
Quarantine	1	2	3
EP&S	-	2	2
Information Section	-	11	11
LWRM	-	1	1
Accounts	-	1	1
Admin	-	4	4

(Move forward)

Fig 18: Divisional Requests vs Complaints



Ministry Responses

Out of 59 requests, 55 were assisted within the same day or in 3 working days and only 4 took longer because HOD's could not respond as they were either out of office, on leave or on official tours.

Table 81: Help Desk Response Time

No	Client	Address	Date requested	Response time
1.	Dorine Narayan	Fiji Times	07/07/08	No response from D/Research
2.	Simione Mateni	MOI	08/07/08	3 hours
3.	Hirday	FMIB	08/07/08	Immediate response
4.	Waqa	Naulu	08/07/08	Immediate response
5.	Toni	Nadroga	09/07/08	Immediate response
6.	Atelaite	Min. of Tourism	09/07/08	Immediate response
7.	Ronald	Viti FM	09/07/08	No follow up in email or fax
8.	Amrit Nath	EP&S	09/07/08	50 minutes
9.	Yee Wah Sing	Suva	16/07/08	5 minutes
10.	Mereseini Marau	Fiji Times	16/07/08	1 hrs 37 minutes
11.	Henry Hassler	ACIAR, Australia	17/07/08	4 minutes
12.	Anare Macedru	Naulu	18/07/08	2 hrs 40 minutes
13.	Ralph Fryer	Australia	18/07/08	3 days
14.	Mikaele Gukibau	Lami	18/07/08	2 and half hours
15.	Joeli Ratuki	Kasavu, Naitasiri	18/07/08	4 minutes
16.	Nandika Chand	Fiji Sun	18/07/08	1 hour

17.	Jai Narayan	KRS	18/07/08	2 days
18.	Praneel Kumar	praneel_kumar@hotmail.com	18/07/08	5 hours 5 minutes
19.	Nandika Chand	Fiji Sun	28/07/08	4 days
20.	Radha Krishan	Sigatoka	02/08/08	3 days
21.	Ritinesh Singh	New Zealand	05/08/08	3 days
22.	Ioane Malaki	USP Alafua Campus	20/08/08	1 day
23.	Tevita Natasiwai	MPI Staff	21/08/08	5 minutes
24.	Jimaima Keteca	FIT Student	25/08/08	38 minutes
25.	Fereti Turaga	Kadavu	02/09/08	3 days
26.	Karam C. Bidesi	Nausori	07/09/08	No response
27.	M. Driubalavu	Director NSAAC	09/09/08	15 minutes
28.	Ron Grosvenor	Queensland Australia	17/09/08	3 days
29.	Savitri Narayan	Bucaisau sector	17/09/08	5 days
30.	Nabab Hussain	Lautoka	17/09/08	5 days
31.	Jone Ratuvuki	Agriculture Census	18/09/08	5 minutes
32.	Hari Dayal Sharma	Nukuloa Ba	19/09/08	4 days
33.	Apenisa Sece	Rakiraki	22/09/08	1 hour
34.	Hemant Kumar	Ucuiwai, Nadi	24/09/08	1 day
35.	Timoci Vakaboro	LRPD, Labasa	29/09/08	2 hours
36.	Claude Fong Toy	Suva	02/10/08	5min
37.	Datch Ram	Nadera	07/10/08	10 min
38.	Claude Fong Toy	Suva	08/10/08	2 weeks
39.	Sada Swamy	Rakiraki	22/10/08	8 days
40.	Rohit Kumar	Sigatoka	30/10/08	1 day
41.	Rakesh	Nadi Airport	31/10/08	1 hour
42.	Alivereti Korovulavula		31/10/08	No response
43.	Sada Swamy	Rakiraki	05/11/08	No response from D/Research
44.	Tevita Natasiwai	Census, MPI	05/11/08	1 day
45.	Mesake	Suva	10/11/08	1 day
46.	Saula	Vunisea	11/11/08	2 days
47.	Parma Nand	Navua	18/11/08	2 days
48.	Maggie Lakeba	Delainavesi	19/11/08	2 days
49.	Karam C. Bidesi	Nausori	20/11/08	1 hour
50.	Dron Prasad	Navua	21/11/08	4 days
51.	Umesh Prakash	Kadavu	21/11/08	5 days
52.	Vilikesa Naivalucava	Suva	21/11/08	7 minutes

53.	Pauliasi Tuilau	MPI Staff	10/12/08	3 days
54.	Mukesh Chand	Navua	11/12/08	6 days (Officer could not send on time due to fax machine problem at Navua Office)
55.	Vinesh Prasad	SPC Nabua	18/12/08	3 days
56.	Savitri Narayan	FSC Labasa	19/12/08	4 hours
57.	Laisani Koroiwasa	Nausori	22/12/08	2 days
58.	Hari Dayal Sharma	Ba	22/12/08	8 minutes
59.	Hari Dayal Sharma	Ba	23/12/08	7 minutes

**Please refer to the Log sheet attached for details.*

Constraints

While some HOD's are prompt in responding, others are not so prompt. The Help Desk has three working days deadline. In case of the media, they would like the same day response so that the response makes it into their paper. Later than that, then they will note in the articles that the Ministry has been contacted and did not respond. This defeats the whole purpose of the Help Desk. HOD's should be advised that they are obliged to respond except in cases where there are very good reasons why they should not respond and these should be noted with the reasons.

Future Directions

The Help Desk will successfully provide its services to the clients if the HOD's responded on time and advice the Help Desk accordingly.

Conclusion

The clients who were assisted on time and with the right information were very grateful to the ministry's effort of establishing a Client Care Centre. Clients found it easy to contact the Help Desk and get response direct from the HOD's rather than coming through one staff and not getting the information as required.

A major contribution was made to the betterment of the client care services was that the Help Desk officer was sent for a three days training on Customer Care which provided a great learning skills on handling customers requests.

Appendix 1: List of other publications done in 2008

Year Planner:

Designed electronic copy for each staff in the Information Section

Reports:

Design layout and print copies for filing and management use;

1. Info. Quarterly reports
2. Info. Half Yearly Reports
3. MPI Annual Report 2007
4. ACP Report (to be finalized)

5. 2005/2006 Annual Reports (to be finalized)

Programs & Invitations:

Layout and Designing of programs for special events and funerals;

1. Chinese Delegation Visit (50 copies coloured)
2. TTM/SRS Field Day (TTM printed it)
3. Rice Day Celebrations (supplied paper to Navua Office for printing)
4. J. Kumar funeral (printed 200 colour and 200 black)
5. CCC Launching (printed 150 black on colour paper)
6. Extension Awards/Launching of Fiji Farmer Newsletter (Extension printed program.)
7. FCA Graduation (printed 15 copies, FCA photocopied the rest)
8. ACP Workshop (printed 20 copies)
9. Paravet Training (printed 80 copies black on colour paper)
10. Diwali Invitation cards (10 copies)

Certificates:

Layout design and print Certificates as per request in colour;

1. Info. Staff of the month (Jan – Dec) (total of 6 certificates were printed on glossy paper)
2. Info. Staff of the Year 2008 (1 copy printed in colour)
3. Agri Show in Bua (200 copies printed by Quality Prints funded by Ext.)
4. Leadership & Change (printed 20 copies)
5. Cert. of Appreciation for LWRM Staff (2 certificates. printed)
6. Induction Course (printed 25 copies)
7. Rice Day Celebrations (printed 50 copies)

Leaflets:

1. African Tulip (printed 1000 copies)
2. Mango Leaflet (updated)
3. Sheep Leaflet (updated)
4. Wetland/Dryland Rice Leaflet (printed 2 sets of 1000 copies x 3 language)
5. CCC Leaflets (printed 1000 copies)
6. TTM Leaflet (printed 1000 copies)
7. TTM Pawpaw Leaflet (printed 2000 copies)
8. Dalo Leaflet (updated)

Business Cards:

The Section printed 300 copies of business cards for its staff.

Newsletter:

1. Ministry Newsletter- 6 Issues designed, printed 600 copies each Issue. Last issue all pages full colour.
2. Fiji Farmer Newsletter – Designed and Printed 1000 copies x 3 language x 8 issues.

Letterheads:

1. Marketwatch – printed 1000 copies of Header
2. Tech Bulletin – printed 500 copies of Header
3. Crime Prevention – designed and emailed copy to SAO.

Posters:

1. African Tulip (printed 2 sets of 500)
2. Pasture (printing to be confirmed by Director AH&P)
3. TTM Posters (printed 12 copies of A1 size, print/laminate)
4. CCC Posters (printed 1000 copies)

ID Card:

Designed Ministry's ID Card.

OVERVIEW

The Research Division had no capital funding for the year but the success of the activities outlined in the business plan was dependant on funding that was provided by the Ministry's other funded projects like Import Substitution, Export Promotion, Rural Outer Island Project and donor agencies like ACIAR and SPC etc.

During the year, research focus was prominently on export, import substitution and food security. Activities on Tropical Fruit, Assorted Vegetable, Pulses, Cereals, Root Crops, Rice, Conservation and Maintenance of National Plant Biodiversity, Crop Protection, Pesticide Registration, provision of Technical Advisory and Support Services, and Nursery Stock were done. Three projects were funded by ACIAR which includes IPM on Brassica, Bio-control of Mikania and Management of soil-borne ginger diseases.

MAJOR ISSUES IN 2008

Some of the inadequacies that the Division was faced with during the year were:

- Reliance on old, depleted vehicles and un-operational pool of machineries to carry out research activities.
- Late dispatch of funds for some activities, limited and/or unavailability of funds for other activities which in total affected the performance of the Division.

PERFORMANCE AND ACTIVITIES

The year proved to be a successful one in terms of achieving anticipated outputs despite numerous stumbling blocks such as late arrival and/or unavailability of funds for adverse weather conditions, old and defunct machineries, obsolete vehicles and shortage of staff.

During the year, the agronomic studies of root crops, tree crops, yaqona, vanilla and rice were carried out. Crop improvement which focused on introduction and evaluation of plant genetic resources as well as conservation and management of introduced and local plant genetic resources and providing general research services to the agricultural sector were also undertaken. In addition, adaptable and affordable technologies and prototypes for general crop production in the country were developed.

Different varieties of English cabbage, Water melon, Tomatoes, Capsicum, Chillies, Okra, Cucumber, Long bean, Eggplant and Maize were introduced and evaluated during the year. Outstanding yields of Tomato (29.6t/ha), Eggplant (24.7t/ha) and Chilli (9.2 t/ha) were obtained. However these varieties need further evaluation. A part of this activity was the establishment of demo plots in Nadarivatu to determine the best variety to be grown in the locality.

Domestication of Ota had been an on-going activity with demonstration plots established at the National Food and Nutrition Center and SPC for public awareness and promotion.

Fertilizer trials were conducted on the three major exportable vegetables, eggplant, okra and chili to determine the specific fertilizer rate for each crop.

Training on vegetable production was provided for farmers in Vavinaqiri (Nadroga), Natokalau (Ovalau) and Navunikabi (Namosi) in a collaborative activity with Land Use Section.

Funding for seed production was provided through SVIP and as required under the Bilateral Quarantine Agreement, some seeds were produced and supplied to farmers.

The following activities were conducted at Legalega Research Station and only three were funded through SVIP:

- Production of foundation seed of pawpaw
- Production of pawpaw seedlings for commercial growers
- Organic pawpaw trial to determine the best application rate for Alroc fertilizer (NPK Supablend)
- A fertilizer trial on NPK
- Nursery seedling production of grafted citrus and indigenous fruits
- Conservation and maintenance of citrus and indigenous fruits in field germplasm
- Evaluation of banana varieties for disease resistance.

Research was conducted on several pests and their control measures including use of chemicals and biological control.

The laboratory received 16,998 samples (10,740 in 2007, 8,717 in 2006, and 11,868 in 2005) and conducted a total of 45,150 tests. About 20.5% of the tests performed were associated with research and development in agriculture and 79.5% for other purposes.

OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE

The Research Division continues to strive to better its service delivery by strengthening its staff establishment and advancing on their capabilities through trainings, improving working conditions, upgrading research facilities and enhance networking with regional and international institutions as well as our stakeholders so that we are abreast with new findings and technologies.

AGENCY OVERVIEW: VISION, MISSION AND OUTPUT

Vision

“Appropriate technologies available to facilitate agricultural production and trade”

Mission

“To be committed in the provision of appropriate technologies and quality services responsive to clients needs”.

SERVICE (OUTPUTS)

The Research Division has the mandate to complement and support the Ministry of Agriculture and Primary Industries through the development of new technologies and its transfer to suit the need of farmers, the clients and the stakeholders for the enhancement of the agricultural sector through applied research. The scientific, technical and professional support services are an integral part of this Division.

The main thrust of research is on agronomy of crop development excluding sugar and on providing services to the agricultural sector. The agronomy of crop development includes:

- Crop improvement – introduction and evaluation of plant genetic resources, the conservation and management of plant genetic resources
- Crop Production – development of adaptable and affordable technologies; and
- Appropriate information dissemination to stakeholders are the core functions of the Division.

The other services of the Division include:

- Crop Protection;
 - * Plant Pathology and Nematology
 - * Entomology (including IPM, Chemical and Biological control)
 - * Weed Science (including biological control)
- Agricultural Engineering;
- Analytical, diagnostic and regulatory services;
 - * Soil, Plant, Feed, Food, Forensic and product development
 - * Seed gene bank and Seed Testing
 - * Pesticide registration
- Production and supply of certified seed and plant materials.

The Agronomy and the Horticulture Sections form the core units to devise and develop technologies while the Chemistry and the Plant Protection Section provide technical, scientific support and regulatory mechanism of the Division. In addition the administration and management section of the Division provide internal support and governance for the smooth production of deliverables.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Division comprises 96 scientific and administrative staff with 157 field workers, all of whom are distributed at eight Research Stations in different agro-ecological zones of the country.

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

Seven staff are away on study leave both at the University of the South Pacific and universities abroad.

During the year, about 13 staff were trained at different institutions overseas in relation to the work that they do and 4 attended conferences and meetings.

The Centre for Training & Development in its yearly program, conducted short term courses where 19 of the staff attended to these.

During the year, the different stations accommodated approximately 40 school visits and about 30 tertiary students were attached to the different sections to gain hands-on experience.

FINANCES

Budget Performance

The Division operated with an annual budget on Policy and Administration (30-1-3) of \$0.712m and Crop Research (30-2-3) of \$2.7m. There was no Capital Project approved by MOFNP, which prompted the Division to source funds from elsewhere to implement projects and programmes.

Three projects namely Integrated Pest management on Brassica Crops, Biological Control of *Mikania micrantha* (Milea-minute) and Management of Soil-Borne Diseases of ginger were funded through ACIAR.

Collaborative programmes with SPC on Taro Beetle, Rhinoceros Beetle and Stick Insects were also undertaken, for which funds have been provided directly through SPC. Extension Division also provided funds for Rice seed and Dalo planting material production.

State Revenue

During the year, the revenue collected by the Division amounted to \$120,755.02

Revenue Collected

The revenue collected by the Division included sales of farm produce, sale of farm manure, analytical and post entry quarantine fees charged to private organizations and water bills from all the research stations. The summaries of revenue collected by the Division are listed below.

Table 82: Revenue Collected from Various Sources.

Sources								Total (\$)
	SRS	KRS	TCC	NRS	DRS	LRS	SqRS	
Analysis Fees		7,637.88						7,637.88
Farm Produce	10,198.76	12,357.98		2,080.32	529.10	304.59	5,366.42	30,837.17
Quarantine Fees		13,203.25						13,203.25
Livestock Produce		47,122.72	8,776.84				11,687.50	67,587.06
Water Bills							393.03	393.03
Electricity Bills			600.53					600.53
Telephone								
Hire of Irrigation								
Rest House			496.10					496.10
Total	10,198.76	80,321.83	9,873.47	2,080.32	529.10	304.59	17,446.95	120,755.02

VEHICLES, MACHINERY AND PLANTS

The Division had a total of 40 vehicles and 26 tractors including other machineries distributed among the eight Research Stations throughout the country, of which most are obsolete and expensive to maintain. Most of the vehicles, machineries and tractors in the Division had been purchased under overseas funded research projects in the past decade and to date have not been replaced with new ones. Some vehicles have been boarded with no replacement which included a Hino truck and D3 Bulldozer. The Division is in great need of good vehicles to undertake on-farm research work.

BUILDINGS

The Division has a total of 249 buildings, which includes office and laboratories, farm sheds, storage rooms, workshops, nurseries, glasshouses and institutional & prefab quarters. Public Works Department maintains the Office buildings and the institutional quarters. Most of these buildings were built in 1950's and required urgent repairs and maintenance. This year, PWD undertook repair works on institutional quarters and office buildings at Koronivia and Sigatoka Research Stations. The entire roof of the Chemistry building was also replaced after complaints of leakage.

LAND

The Division had a total of 1,329 ha of landmass to develop and design its findings over the eight (8) Research Stations distributed in the two main islands to give a maximum coverage of the different agroecological zones prevalent in Fiji, and constituting major soil types of the country. Table 83 highlights the different land types and the areas at each respective research station.

Table 83: Land at Different Research Stations

Station	Land Type (Ha)			Total Land Area (Ha)	Lease term
	Crown	Native	Freehold		
Koronivia	28.3	177.7	-	206	99
Sigatoka	-	327	-	327	30
Legalega	-	55	-	55	99
Seaqaqa	-	104	-	104	20
Wainigata	-	116	-	116	99
Naduruloulou	-	99	-	99	99
Dobuilevu	13	25.1	-	38.1	99
Taveuni	-	-	384	384	
Total	41.3	903.8	384	1,329.1	

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

During the year, various research activities were undertaken and the significant achievements and highlights are presented below under each commodity.

COCONUT

Coconut activities for 2008 were concentrated mainly on the conservation and evaluation of coconut germplasm; collection and maintenance of the coconut genetic resources reserved including the conservation and sowing of seed nuts at the TCC centre. Multiplication of new varieties of Niu Wai, Niu Yabia, Niu ni Toga, Uto Gau and Niu Yalewa were undertaken, four cultivars germplasm (Fiji tall, Rennel tall, Rotuma tall, Lakeba tall), four dwarf varieties (Malayan green, Malayan red dwarf, Malayan yellow dwarf, nui leka dwarf), nine traditional tall varieties (niu magimagi, niu drau, niu wai, niu kitu, niu ni toga, niu yabia, uto gau, stripe, niu yalewa) were also collected. A total of 21,080 seed nuts and 5,420 seedlings were produced at the Taveuni Coconut Centre.

Releasing of virus-infected beetles in the field and placing *Metarhizium anisopilae* ground traps were the two major biological control methods used for controlling rhinoceros beetle. With the assistance of the SPC and Coconut Industry Development Authority, 84 pheromone (Ethyl-4-Methyl Octanoate) traps were placed in different sites around the country. Most of the traps were placed in Macuata, Cakudrove and around Viti Levu. The number of ground traps that were built this year was for Cakaudrove 3, Macuata 4, Ba 16, Serua/Namosi 5, Rewa 3 and Ra 6. A total of 285 adult beetles were reared in the laboratory out of which 235 were inoculated with the *Oryctes baculovirus* and released at various sites around the country.

In recent years the population of the coconut stick insect infestations has become severe and it has reached serious levels on the island of Taveuni and parts of Vanua Levu. The survey revealed that the most affected areas in Taveuni were Salialevu Estate, Tartes Estate farm and at Wai. In Savusavu, the main affected areas were Wailevu, Nagigi, and Buca Bay. Other areas around Savusavu had lower population than the mentioned sites. Biological control is the only effective, sustainable and cost effective methods to control stick insect population in the field. The use of *Paranastatus verticalis* as egg parasites has proven itself in the past to kill up to 80% of stick insect eggs in Fiji. A total of 3,290 fresh eggs collected were reared in the lab and were exposed to the parasitoids in the lab to multiply the parasitoid population. The number of parasitoids released was as 4,950 in Taveuni, 450 Cakaudrove, 400 Macuata, 300 Ra, 1,339 Serua/Namosi, 2,775 Tailevu, 1,650 Sigatoka, 200 Lau and 1,975 in Rewa.

ROOT CROPS

The Root Crops included dalo, kumala, cassava, yam, tivoli, suran and dalo-ni-tana. Major emphasis

was concentrated on dalo with lesser extent to others. Seven varieties (Wararasa, Vulaono, Blue bar, Hawaii, Vavai, Taiwan, Maleka dina) of dalo were evaluated with Taiwan variety under wetland condition.

The germplasm collection and conservation of dalo, cassava, kawai, kumala, yam and tivoli were maintained in the field. The germplasm collection consisted of 85 varieties of dalo with 13 elite lines, 22 cassava, 19 kawai, 7 kumala with 30 elite lines, 45 yams and 1 tivoli.

Recommended yam varieties of 21 tonnes were supplied to farmers in the Ra, Tailevu, Naitasiri and Rewa province. Two varieties of cassava (Beqa, PNG) were planted in bulk to provide planting materials to farmers, schools and interested group. Three dalo varieties (maleka dina, vulaono, wararasa) were also planted in bulk for demand in supply.

To ease the workload in the farming process, 4 farm tools equipment have also been designed and developed to assist in farm preparation and in harvesting of certain commodities. The tools developed consisted of 1 manure spreader, 1 cassava harvester, 1 taro planter and 1 papaya harvester device.

Fiji have also been given access to Taro leaf blight resistant cultivars and with collaboration with SPC, 5 of these resistant cultivars were transferred to Koronivia Research Station Tissue culture lab. These cultivars have been cultivated at Post Entry Quarantine and once released; it will further be cross bred with local varieties.

Impacts of taro beetle on taro farms are really of a national concern in a sense that it has affected the production, supply and quality of the commodity. Precautionary measures have been established in many affected areas of which one is the effectiveness of selected insecticides on taro beetles. Trials were established and 3 insecticide chemicals (diazon, bifenthrin, suncloprid) were used. Results showed that 2ml/L of diazon, 1.25ml/L of bifenthrin/suncloprid should be used for dipping to effectively killed taro beetles.

Taro beetle awareness training was also conducted in various locations mainly in the Nadroga and Navosa Province. The training was conducted theoretically and practically with field demonstrations. Taro beetle survey was conducted in the upper valley of Navosa and lower Sigatoka valley with results indicating the absence of taro beetle in Navosa but present in the lower Sigatoka valley.

YAQONA (kava)

Yaqona research activities undertaken concentrated mainly on the conservation and assessment of 13 varieties. These 13 varieties and accessions of 44 vials were conserved and well maintained in the tissue culture laboratory.

GINGER

Ginger research activities this year concentrated mainly on conservation of plant genetic resources through field gene bank and tissue culture. A total of 8 accessions of ginger were maintained in the field and 2 accessions of local cultivars were duplicated through tissue culture. The 8 accessions of ginger were TC1, TC4, TC5, TC39, local red, local white and Jamaican variety. Bulking of planting materials was also carried out to supplement the need of planting material by some farmers due to the lack of quality planting materials resulting from a change in emphasis to immature ginger harvesting increase in production of immature ginger and lesser to mature ginger by farmers.

A major focus of activity carried out in 2008 was to study the epidemiology of *Pythium myriotylum*/ *foz* and nematode *Radopholus similis*. Pathogenicity experiments were established and maintained, survey were also conducted on 19 ginger farms in Waibau, Veikoba, Lomaivuna, Maumi, Nadi, Navua and Seaqaqa Research Station. Out of these surveyed farms, 3 farms in Veikoba areas were recorded

with the presence of *Radopholus*.

A collaborative research project (4 years) on Improved Farming Systems for managing soil-borne pathogens of Ginger in Fiji started during the year with funding support from ACIAR and scientists from QDPI and Biological Crop Protection, Australia. Major focus of the project was to find farming systems that can restore the chemical, physical and biological fertility of the soil, and at the same time reduce inoculum density and manage resident microbial antagonists that modulate the state of disease suppression in soils by various rotational practices, as well as through the use of mulches and organic amendments (i.e., rice hulls, sugarcane trash and mill mud). The introduction of a minimum tillage system for mechanized ginger production is a novel approach that warranted testing because of its role in conserving organic matter.

RICE

The main focus of the Rice research has been on the evaluation of the 126 introduced varieties from IRRI; these varieties are with the PEQ and the Plant Protection for exotic pests and disease evaluation. Seven (7) introduced varieties from India (JGL, Vasumati, Rasi, Vibhav, IR62036, Tulasi, and CS9010) would be started in first quarter of 2009 and are stored in cool storage at KRS with 9 other varieties. Production of rice seeds and planting material in 2008 was 25.4 tons and will be distributed to farmers and interested groups. Three (3) field demonstrations have also been carried out in the central division and established in the main rice growing areas.

Star variety was mainly used in the demonstration because of its promising characteristics which are: its improved and high yielding variety, mature within 90 – 120 days, good quality seed produced, cultivated 3 times in a year, can produce 3.5 – 5 tons yield per hectare and is not lodging at ripening stage.

PLANT BIODIVERSITY

The conservation and maintenance of the plant biodiversity continued to be one of the main activities of the Research Division. Crops of different varieties like root crops, spices, fruits, vegetables, pulses, coconut, tree crops etc. were maintained at the eight (8) Research stations. A total of 96 Dalo, 124 Yam, 29 kumala, 1 suran, 1 tivoli, 2 dalo-ni-tana, 19 kawai, 27 cassava, 5 ginger, 28 banana, 27 citrus, 5 pineapple, 47 mango, 7 coconut, 30 rice, 30 assorted vegetables, 2 urd, 13 mung, 4 peanut, 136 cowpea and 80 pigeon pea cultivars were conserved and maintained in field germplasm or in cool storage respectively. Six (6) crops, (dalo, cassava, yam, kava, ginger and vanilla) of different varieties were micro propagated and conserved through tissue culture lab at Koronivia Research Station. These genetic resources are duplicated and maintained. The clean planting materials were multiplied for supply, utilization and for further research work.

The Research Division continued to participate in Regional networks on the conservation and utilization of Plant Genetic Resources; these include the Pacific Agricultural Plant Genetic Resources Network (PAPGREN), Pacific Tissue Culture Network (PTCN) and Pacific Crop Improvement Programme (PACIP). These are regional co-operation that enables Pacific Island Countries (PICs) to share information and work towards a regional approach on the conservation and utilization of Plant Genetic Resources with the support of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). Three purity and 403 germination tests were carried on seed samples received from members of the public.

VEGETABLES & CEREALS

The introduction and evaluation of exotic vegetables and cereal varieties remains as the major activity at Sigatka Research Station. Different varieties of English cabbage, Water melon, Tomatoes, Capsicum, Chillies, Okra, Cucumber, Long Bean, Eggplant and Maize were introduced and evaluated during the year. Outstanding yields of Tomatoes (29.6t/ha, Eggplant (24.7t/ha) and Chilli (9.2 t/ha) were obtained and this determine the best variety to be grown in the locality. Domestication of Ota

has been an on-going activity of the section with demonstration plots established as the National Food & Nutrition Centre and SPC, for public awareness and promotion.

Fertilizer trials were conducted on the three major exportable vegetables, eggplant, okra and chilli to determine the specific fertilizer rate for each crop.

Training on vegetable production was provided for farmers in Vavinaqiri (Nadroga), Natokalau (Ovalau) and Navunikabi (Namosi) in a collaborative activity with the Land Use Section.

Funding for seed production was provided through SVIP and we have managed to produce some seeds to farmers as required under the Bilateral Quarantine Agreement.

One staff of the section is on study leave in China and one attended an international training on Organic Farming in Japan. Sectional staff also receive various local trainings in relation to their fields of work.

The section attended and displayed information and its technologies during the Environment Week in Lawaqa and we participated in the SRS/TTM Field Day, which was held at Nacocolevu.

We accommodated 25 school visits and students were briefed about the activities undertaken by the Section while regular consultation and advice were given to stakeholders.

Collaborative Research Project funded by Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) is being carried out with the University of Queensland and SPC to facilitate the adoption and uptake of integrated pest management (IPM) as a component of sustainable agricultural management systems for Brassica crops. The objective of this project is to determine the role of major natural enemies in the management of Brassica crop pests. Phase planting of English cabbage at Legalega Research Station (LRS), Sigatoka Research Station (SRS) and at Koronivia Research Station (KRS) was continued during the year.

The pest populations on these plots were monitored on weekly basis. Results showed that Diamond Black Moth (DBM) continues to be the major pest followed by Large Cabbage Moth (LCM). The natural enemies *Cotesia plutellae* and *Oomyzus sokolowskii* were found to give 23% and 95% control respectively. A two week workshop on Farmer Field School methodologies for 25 extension officers around Fiji was also conducted. Insecticide screening, application technical of farmers practice, IPM practice trial together with Exclusion Trial was carried out to gauge the effect of chemicals used and methods adopted. This project will be continued till 2010. Maize seeds introduced from CIMMYT were evaluated in three different locations and new varieties of sorghum and broomcorn introduced from ICRISTAT, India were also evaluated at Sigatoka Research Station. Displays of vegetables and production technologies during Vegetables field day at Mahen's Export, Bilalevu and World Food Day celebrations in Ba were also undertaken.

PULSES

Research activities under the pulse programme undertaken at LRS were on pigeon pea, cowpea, mung bean, peanuts and soybean. Activities for 2008 comprised of varietal evaluation, and maintenance of pulse crop to achieve pure lines of crop cultivars and renewal of pulse genetic resources for availability of viable crop seeds and seed production. Six pigeon pea, 6 mung and 14 peanut varieties were evaluated for good yield potentials. The new pigeon pea variety ICP11488 obtained significantly higher yield (3.8t/ha) to the local variety. Arkansan was still superior to the introduced mung varieties. The introduced peanuts varieties (ICGU97262 & ICGU95248) obtained significantly higher yields than to the Local Spanish. A total of 286 kg and 1,094 kg of assorted pulse seeds were produced as foundation and mass seeds production for distribution.

Crop diversification program was also undertaken in the selected sugarcane belts in Nadi to demonstrate production of economic pulses and vegetables as intercrops for supplementary income and food security. A successful field day was organized on the farm which was attended by farmers, exporters, MAFF, FSC and ROC staff.

PAWPAW

The main objective on pawpaw research was to produce homogenous and high quality seeds for establishment of mother plants and seedling production for commercial growers. A total of 82,420 seedlings was produced and supplied to farmers mostly to the SVIP project, 16,667 seedlings supplied to the cyclone gene rehabilitation orders and little portion was supplied to the back yard farmers for food security.

Lack of funding has limited organic production of pawpaw which was the focus of pawpaw research. Pawpaw Fertilizer Trial involved application of various fertilizers and difference in yields. Observations made were the early flowering at 3 months and fruits set were noted in some of the treatments.

PINEAPPLE

A total of 43,750 pineapple plantlets were supplied to farmers in Vanua Levu and Taveuni, 66.77% of the target (200,000) was achieved which total up to 133,530 plantlets produced during the year. The number of plantlets supplied to farmers increase by 61.5 % compared to 2007. This reflects an increase in the area cultivated for pineapple production as well as increase in the number of farmers.

On-going activity on conservation, maintenance and evaluation of five (5) different varieties of pineapple, namely Smooth Cayenne, Ripley Queen, Veimama, Maroon and Grey continued at Seaqaqa Research Station (SQRS). An organic pineapple fertilizer trial has been established at SQRS using locally available organic manures (mill mud, sheep manure) incorporated with ALROC fertilizers. The trial was to determine the best organic fertilizer or combination that is economical and that will give a higher return in pineapple production. Results from the trial showed an increase in fruit weight, crown weight, fruit circumference and brix of pineapple treated with organic manure + ALROC than those that were treated with ALROC alone.

CITRUS

A total of 27 Citrus varieties were maintained at SQRS and 26 varieties at SRS. The production of grafted and budded seedlings was undertaken at Seaqaqa and Sigatoka. The citrus varieties grafted at Sigatoka included Meyer Lemon, Seedless Lime, West Indian Lime, Washington Navel Orange, Late Valencia Orange, Emperor Mandarin, Satsuma Mandarin, Page Mandarin, Grapefruits Minneola Tangelo and Kumquat. A total of 415 grafted citrus were supplied to farmers. A total of 335 assorted varieties and 1,900 citrus root stocks were conserved and maintained.

BREADFRUIT

Techniques to develop dwarf plants for ease of harvesting and different propagation techniques for rapid multiplication of planting materials for replanting continued this year. A new site for a single Breadfruit variety Bale Kana was established at SRS. A total of 10 breadfruit varieties have been collected and maintained at Legalega. A total of 124 seedlings of Uto Dina, and Bale Kana has been produced and supplied to the farmers.

Fourteen (14) collections of breadfruit were made and 54 plants planted in the breadfruit orchard. The collection of breadfruit varieties included uto vula, uto buco, uto dina, uto large, balekana, balekana Samoa, and uto sai. The breadfruit orchard was well maintained.

BANANA

The research on banana was focused on the evaluation of FIAH varieties for yield and disease resistance in the germplasm plots. Seven (7) FIAH varieties, 3 other varieties namely Cavendish dwarf, lady finger, and veimama, and 6 vudi varieties (green tall, long finger green, qamudre, blue java, damu loa, joe vudi) were planted along in the evaluation trial that was established and maintained. A request was made to SPC to tissue culture and virus index the planting material to bunchy top virus from spreading. The site had been selected and waiting for disease free trial planting material.

MANGO

The research focused on mango this year was less due to limited funds provided. However, the 69 mango varieties consisting of 47 exotic and 22 local were maintained at LRS. All necessary tree and orchard maintenance work was carried out during the year. Production of homogenous mango seedlings for farmers was undertaken at Legalega and SQRS. The five (5) recommended varieties, Tommy Atkins, Mapulehu, Kensington, Edward, and Mexican Kent, were propagated through grafting on local rootstocks. Seedlings of a number of other exotic and local lines with promising performance were also produced for interested gardeners. A total of 84 seedlings were sold during the year.

INDIGENOUS FRUITS

This year, focus was largely on collection, conservation and management of the existing indigenous fruit germplasm plots at SRS, LRS and SQRS due to limited funds. Indigenous fruits consisted of 5 bread fruits, 5 kavika, 1 large wi, 3 avacado, 3 ivi, 2 vatu kana and 1 tarawau. A total of 35 fruits has been established which include Avocado Pear, Breadfruit, Bullocks Heart, Bilimbi, Black Sapote, Beyer Fruit, Custard Apple, Cashew apple nut, Carambola, Dawa, Guava, Ivi, Pomogranet, Jack fruit, Rambutan, Kavika, Rose apple, Kura, Sapodilla, Litchi, Star apple, Loquat, Soursop, Langset, Sikeci, Longan, Tarawau, Mangosteen, Tavola, Macademia Nut, Vutukana, Nut Meg, Wi, Passionfruit and Yagai nut. The seeds were collected from this and supplied to interested farmers.

AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION

This year's activities concentrated on designing and fabrication of finger weeder's for wet land rice. Other activities such as purchase and repair work on irrigation pump at Koronivia were undertaken. Assistance was also rendered in the project evaluation of FIT final year Diploma in Agricultural Engineering students. The performance evaluation of Agrindo TRG 1A walking tractors was completed and recommendation made.

FRUIT FLIES

Research conducted on fruit flies has generated much data on the export potential of crop commodities. This includes the use of quarantine treatments such as High temperature Forced Air (HTFA) and Non Host Status Test (HST). Commodities of which HTFA was used included 3 varieties of egg plant (chahat, long purple, and round) sun rise papaya, mangoes and breadfruit. Under HST, 3 varieties of chilies (hot rod, red fire, birds eye), pineapples and squash had been approved.

During the year, healthy colonies of two fruit fly species were mass produced in laboratory; *Bactocera passiflorae* (30,000) and *Bactocera xanthodes* (25,000) at any one time to test host. Pineapple was tested and found to be non-host to both species. Also mature fruits around Fiji and Rotuma were collected to determine host status. Fruit fly activity was also carried out in Rotuma with fruits collected to determine the host status and the fly species in order to facilitate the movement of fresh fruits to mainland Viti Levu.

There were 152 fruit fly trap sites spread over 17 islands in the Fiji Group. These provided information such as the species of fruit flies present, their distributions and seasonal abundances. This network of traps along with host fruit surveys is an early warning system should there be an incursion of an

exotic fruit fly species. There was no detection of exotic species of fruit fly on the two main islands.

WEED CONTROL

The biological control of Mile-a-minute (*Mikania micrantha*) commenced in Fiji in July 2006 funded by ACIAR. The overall objective of the project is to introduce biological control agents to suppress the growth and presence of mikania in order to minimize their impacts on food security and incomes. The major activities involved importation, rearing and monitoring of the Mikania biological control agents *Actinote thalia pyrrha* and a fungus (*Puccinia spegazzini*) in the biological control quarantine laboratory.

During the year Mikania growth was monitored at four (4) selected sites in Taveuni, Nadi, Levuka and Koronivia and distribution mapped out. Host specificity test for 35 local economic plants started against *Actinote thalia* and will continue. Jerusalem thorn (*Acacia concinna*) is a thorny shrub forming wide expanse impenetrable tangled masses up to 6m in height. This shrub can prevent farming on infested land, prevent access to grazing areas and forests, can cause injury to people and smother other useful trees. A collaborative programme between MPI & SPC started in 2003 to develop methods in eradicating.

Jerusalem thorn from infested sites in Fiji. Two (2) control methods, found to be very effective against Jerusalem thorn. These include the physical method of slashing and burning and chemical control method of painting of newly cut stumps with Glyphosate (360g/ Glyphosate Isopropylamine) salt and spraying of re-growths with fluroxypyr (strane-200) herbicides. More than 80% eradication has been recorded at the sites tested.

Fireworks (*Clerodendrum quadriloculare*) believed to be brought into Fiji as ornamental plant commonly cultivated for its foliage and showy leaves. It produces large amounts of seeds and has a high suckering ability which sprouts prolifically making it undesirable tree to cultivate for ornamental. Herbicide trials has been set to control this ornamental plant using glyphosate with different ratio, 1:1mix, 1:2mix, 1:3 mix 1:4 mix, 1:5 mix and farmers practice of slashing and burning. This herbicide trial is still being assessed on a weekly basis.

Control of broom weed population was also conducted after 7,355 bio control beetles were released into the field, monitoring was done to see the establishment and the effect of the beetle on the plant population, results showed that bio control beetle suppressed the growth of broom weed population from 30 to 70 %.

Experiments on the use of herbicides were conducted to determine the most suitable chemical treatment for the control of African tulip. Results showed that glyphosate, 2 4-D + Dicamba and Tordon were the best herbicides to use. Demonstrations and workshops were carried out in the provinces of Cakaudrove, Macuata, Tailevu and Ba where farmers and extension officers were trained on the correct method of herbicides application.

SPECIALIST AND SUPPORT SERVICES

This section records the activities of the specialist services and is directly involved in support work in major agricultural programme. The achievements of these activities were:

CHEMISTRY LABORATORY

The Chemistry Laboratory provides analytical services to the Ministry, other government departments, private industries and the public throughout the country. These services include soil, foliar, animal feed, pure food analyses, forensic, water and general chemical analyses, product development, some advisory services, training and cooperation with other laboratories. The laboratory is also engaged in international programs as Australasia Soil and Plant Analysis Council (ASPAC) through the South

Pacific Agricultural Chemistry Network (SPACNET).

During the year the laboratory received 16,998 samples and conducted a total of 45,150 tests of which 20.5% of the tests performed were associated with research and development in agriculture and 79.5% for other purposes. The food analysis consisted of various food samples brought by the Health Department in processed or fresh forms to check for cases of adulteration. Forensic activity consisted of mainly analysis of Marijuana plants, blood, urine and stomach contents for toxicology and alcohol levels.

Upgrading of Chemistry Laboratory

The laboratory this year has procured water tanks and pumps and installed to increase the water pressure in the laboratory for analytical work. Safety showers and fire hoses were also purchased and installed to comply with the laboratory safety procedures. The rest of the funds were diverted to repair the entire roof of the laboratory building which was leaking. Interior of the lab has also be upgraded and painted. Purchase of analytical balance, chemicals, glassware, gases, safety wear, and stationary as well as some basic equipment was also undertaken.

PLANT PROTECTION

The Plant Protection Section continued to provide technical advisory and support services by undertaking investigations on pests (insects, diseases, nematodes and weeds) affecting agricultural production through laboratory diagnosis as well as making field investigations on request and subsequently advising clients on control methodologies. Parts of research activities carried out by Plant Protection on various crop commodities have already been highlighted under each commodity. This part comprises the regulatory, diagnostic and advisory services provided by the section.

Entomology

A total of 29 samples of insects specimen and crops commodities damaged by pests were received from farmers, private sector and extension officers. The section also provided identification services to farmers, pest control operators and general public with control measures. A total of 24 farm visits were made upon complaints received by Farmers, Extension Officers and Exporters, field situation observations conducted, samples were collected, problems diagnosed and appropriate advice given.

Plant Pathology

A total of 110 samples of plant specimens including root crops, fruit trees, vegetables and ornamentals were received for diagnosis and appropriate control measures. There were 13 field visits to assess the field situation, samples collected to obtain better understanding of the problem.

Weed Science

The Weed Science unit identified 60 weeds and other plant specimens and also provided weed control information to agricultural officers, farmers and students. Twelve (12) complaints were attended and appropriate advice given on control methods.

Pesticide Registration

Pesticide registration is a regulatory function assigned with Plant Protection Section to implement Pesticide Act and its regulation in proper management of pesticide. In 2008, a total of twenty (20) applications were received for registration. The applications were scrutinized and promising products were tested for their efficacy against target pests. Sixteen (16) pesticides products (3 weedicides, 11 insecticides, 2 household pesticides) were given full registration for their sale and use in Fiji. The illegal importation and sale of pesticides was also monitored upholding the Pesticides Act and Regulations.

Post Entry Quarantine

Regular visits (twice a week) were made by Entomology and Plant Pathology scientists to check imported germplasm grown in PEQ for sign and symptoms of diseases and insects that could have come by the germplasm. This included the 124 rice seed varieties obtained from Philippines in 2007 which have been planted and monitored in the PEQ house. Advice was given on appropriate action to manage those that showed symptoms, plants found free of pests and diseases were released to clients.

Import Permit – Plant and Plant Product Introduction

A total of 37 applications for Import Permit were received and technical advice provided. To minimize introduction of exotic pests and diseases through imported plants, plant products, appropriate measures and activities were endorsed in the permit.

FUTURE DIRECTION

The future activities which are on on-going in nature would focus on Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) which includes crop improvement programme including Introduction, evaluation, collection, conservation and management and production of seeds and planting materials; Crop Production Practices including farming systems, cultivation practices, post harvest technology and value addition; Crop Protection consisting of pest and disease management, harmonize international standards and guidelines for trade facilitation and integrated pest management (IPM) strategies; Regulatory services involving pesticides registration, analytical and diagnostic services; Information Dissemination through publications, trainings, displays, demonstrations and field days.

Studies on new emerging crops such as chick peas, blue peas, lentils, sweet sorghum, sweet corn, millets would be undertaken. Tissue culture activities will be enhanced to produce disease free plant materials of ginger, vanilla, yaqona, banana, kumala and dalo including the resistant Taro leaf blight varieties.

Consolidated Financial Report 2008



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ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE SECTOR THROUGH QUALITY AUDIT SERVICES

File: 532

22 September 2009

Mr. Joketani Cokanasiga
The Minister
Ministry of Primary Industries
Private Mail Bag
SUVA

Dear Mr. Cokanasiga

Audited Financial Statement of the Department of Agriculture For the Year Ended 31 December 2008

The audited financial statements of the Department of Agriculture for the year ended 31 December 2008 together with my audit report on them are enclosed.

Particulars of the errors and omissions arising from the audit have been forwarded to the Permanent Secretary for Agriculture for his necessary actions.

Yours sincerely

Tevita Bolanavanua
ACTING AUDITOR GENERAL

cc Mr. Mason Smith, Permanent Secretary for Primary Industries

Encl.



1st Floor, Ratu Sukuna House,
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ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE SECTOR THROUGH QUALITY AUDIT SERVICES

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To The Minister for Primary Industries

Scope

I have audited the special purpose financial statements which have been prepared under the cash basis of accounting, and notes thereon of the Department of Agriculture for the year ended 31 December 2008, as set on pages 6 to 20. The financial statements comprise the following:

- a) A Statement of Revenue and Expenditure;
- b) Statement of Output Costs;
- c) A Profit and Loss Statement for each trading and Manufacturing activity;
- d) An Appropriation Statement;
- e) A statement of losses;
- f) A trust account statement of receipts and payments.

The Department is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements and the information contained therein. I have conducted an independent audit of these financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to the Minister.

My audit was conducted in accordance with the Fiji Standards on Auditing to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatements. My audit procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements and evaluation of accounting policies. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly and in accordance with government policies as stated in Note 2, the Audit Act and the Financial Management Act, so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the financial performance of the Department of Agriculture for the year ended 31 December 2008.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Qualification

- The Department of Agriculture did not consolidate its financial statements together with the Departments of Fisheries and Forests as required under Schedule 3 of the 2009 Appropriation Promulgation 2008.
- The Ministry of Primary Industries is required to submit thirty two Statements of Output Costs as required under the Budget Estimates 2008, however the Department of Agriculture has separately submitted eighteen statements.

Furthermore the amounts in the Statement of Output Costs have been estimated as the facility to allow the measurement and accounting of these costs has yet to be integrated in the Financial Management Information System (FMIS) of government. It is not possible therefore to determine the accuracy of the expenditures incurred by the Department under each output.

- The Trading and Manufacturing Account *Accumulated Surplus* of \$2,559,456.93 and *Surplus* of \$2,098,107.49 shown in the Balance Sheet could not be substantiated as supporting documents could not be provided.

Qualified Audit Opinion

In my opinion, except for the matters referred to in the qualification paragraph, the financial statements present fairly, in accordance with the accounting policies stated in Note 2, the financial performance of the Department of Agriculture for the year ended 31 December 2008.

T. Bola

Tevita Bolanavanua
ACTING AUDITOR GENERAL

Suva, Fiji
22 September 2009

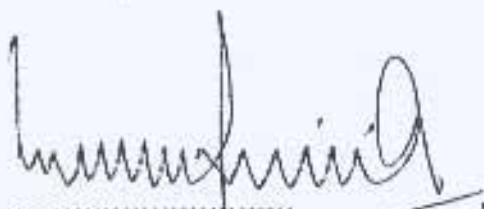


DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGENCY FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008


Management Certificate

We certify that the financial statements:

- (a) fairly reflect the financial performance of the Department of Agriculture for 2008; and
- (b) have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Management Act 2004, the Finance Instructions and the Finance Circular 16/2006.


.....
Mr. Mason Smith
Permanent Secretary

Date: 21 Sep 2009.


.....
Mr. Malai Matakitoga
Principal Accountant
Date: 21/9/09

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGENCY FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for 2008

Revenue	Notes	2008 \$	2007 \$
Agricultural produce & inspection fees	3 (a)	410,881	374,997
Interest – Public Officers & Ministers		0	65
Miscellaneous fees and Receipts		47	940
Light due port & harbour		0	459
Stamp duty		0	14
Fees		0	104
Water charges		1,436	2,693
License	3 (b)	14,300	16,801
Royalties Timber		0	409
Meat inspection		30,491	34,464
Veterinary and animal quarantine		19,279	20,889
Valuation Fees for Private Property		0	5
Sale of sheep & wool		40,386	30,115
Agriculture commercial undertaking		4,699	335
FCA		14,685	22,686
Fumigation and quarantine		7,818	7,290
Rest house		3,573	2,660
Hire of plant and vehicle		23,140	9,822
Rental for land		0	211
Rental for quarters		8,536	10,095
Rental for building		2,927	2,445
Registration		2,484	1,039
Hire of Vessels and Furts		4,961	0
Commission		8,976	1,234
Sales Cash		502	0
Sale of Farm Product		50,656	39,440
Sale of Surplus Farm Products		838	909
Miscellaneous Revenue		120,726	20,120
Refunds		0	30
Rural Electrification		0	102
PAYE		0	-7,268
Overpayment Recoveries in Previous Years (OPR)		57,005	53,818
Value Added Tax		73,250	128,975
Agricultural Landlord and Tenant		4,422	1,335
Total revenue	4(a)	906,118	777,133

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGENCY FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

EXPENDITURE	Notes	2008 \$	2007 \$
Operating			
Established Staff		12,214,621	13,524,519
Government Wage Earners		4,527,485	4,974,016
Travel & Communications		445,946	537,050
Maintenance & Operations		1,529,691	1,484,766
Purchase of Goods & Services		330,388	340,374
Operating Grants & Transfers		1,379,599	897,509
Special Expenditure		372,188	234,625
Total Operating Expenditure		20,800,116	21,992,958
Capital			
Capital Construction		8,210,605	4,694,209
Capital Purchase		313,595	360,069
Capital Grants & Transfers		7,116,311	2,655,367
Total Capital Expenditure		15,640,511	7,729,645
Value Added Tax		1,506,730	3,223,846
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	4 (b)	37,947,359	32,946,449