



RA WOMEN EMPOWERED THROUGH FLORICULTURE



Women participants of the 3 day Empowering Workshop in Ra.

Twenty-three women of the Ra Province through the Women in Agriculture program attended a three-day empowering workshop last week.

Ministry of Agriculture Permanent Secretary, Mr Ritesh Dass said rural women played a pivotal role in society and training was essential.

"Women of Ra and women in general are leading agents to the development of families and are engaged in various agricultural activities including marketing," he

said.

"The Ministry of Agriculture stands to support and develop the potential of women in the rural sector and their contribution towards the sector," he said.

Mr. Dass said the 'Women Empowerment and Floriculture Training' was a programme of the Ministry that focused on empowering women.

He said the training would also further develop the women participants' knowledge and talent to generate revenue to support their respective families' livelihood," he said.

He said, in addition, the workshop would also assist in developing Floriculture and florists in the Ra province.

Training participant, Mrs Sisilia Banuve of Navolau No.1 said the training changed her views on flowers.

Speaking in itaukei, she expressed her gratitude to

the Ministry of Agriculture for recognizing areas that needed development especially for women.

She said the women were only aware of the usual agricultural activities that generated income and it was new knowledge to them that flowers could also generate income.

She said the new knowledge from the workshop had also introduced her to other varieties of flowers available.

In addition, Mrs Banuve said the training also taught her how to be creative and come up with different techniques of designs and floral arrangements.

She has always enjoyed planting flowers and the training would now motivate her to plant more.

The three-day training included the women participants visiting the Naitutu Floriculture Women Group in Tailevu to exchange ideas and establish a network.

Disaster Plans and Preparations



The Ministry of Agriculture is advising farmers to take the necessary precautionary measures as the country has now entered into the 2020/2021 cyclone season. With the Fiji Meteorological Services predicting that one to three tropical cyclones are likely to cross Fiji's Exclusive Economic Zone during this cyclone season, farmers are urged to take heed of issued advisories and must plan to secure their property, stock and life.

The forecasters indicate that one severe tropical cyclone could affect Fiji during the season from 1st November 2020 to April 30th 2021. The 2020-21 season's cyclone outlook has been influenced by a La-Niña event which is currently underway in the tropical Pacific. With a La-Niña event established in the tropical Pacific, there is an increased risk of flooding across the Fiji Group during this November to April period.

The Ministry is urging farmers who reside in flood prone areas to move their animals, machineries and farm implements to higher grounds and to secure their livestock sheds in the event of an approaching cyclone. It is advisable for farmers to also monitor their crops which are on flood prone areas to avoid losses during flooding. Planting materials can be moved to higher grounds which can be used after the flood has receded.

Farmers are also advised to be wary of culverts and other waterways created by floods and keep family members and animals away from them.

