



Etuate - The Young Ambitious Farmer



Etuate at his yaqona farm.

Growing up in a single parent family, Etuate Makata looked to the land for support and the land has not failed him.

The 22-year-old of Banikea village in the Tikina Lekutu is the youngest in a family of three sisters with the absence of a father, he shouldered the responsibility of being the only son in the family.

Etuate's father passed away when he was 10 years old, as a young boy and still in school he felt for his mother and thought to do something for the family

as an only son.

The idea of taking responsibility was stuck in his head till he reached Form 5 at the local school and decided to provide for his family.

"For us in rural areas as less developed as this we are often confined in the environment we are brought up in," he said.

"Our parents put food on the table, provide clothes for us, everything they do is through farming," said Etuate.

"At the rate I was going, I knew I won't

be able to secure a future for myself academically but that did not deter me from achieving my dream of paying my own fees and providing for my family," he said.

The circumstances Etuate faced from an early childhood fashioned him into a strong-willed youth having passion in farming to the extent of enrolling at the Agriculture school.

"In 2015 I started planting 300 yaqona plants with a target to pay for my fees," he said.

"I may have not enrolled at medical or flying school but I surely paid my tuition through to the Navuso Agriculture School, something I loved and have not regretted as I achieved it through farming," he said.

"A fellow villager who attended the same school inspired me and would return and share his experience in the Agriculture School," he said.

"As a young farmer and growing up in a farming community, this is the perfect definition of a tertiary to us, to broaden our knowledge on what will provide a future for us, the land."

Because of the love he has for his mother Ema Vakabu originally from Nakawakawa village in Wainunu, Bua, he paved his own future.

"Over the years I see her struggle to make ends meet and it pains me to see her suffering alone, so I promised that I will toil the land," he said.

Attending the Navuso Agriculture School meant leaving his comfort zone of Banikea across the ocean to Suva.

"The school is in Suva so I was away from the farm and my family who are miles away and it was my mother who was the caretaker of the replanted yaqona farm," he said.

"I replanted after the harvest before leaving for Muainase and was reluctant as I knew it will again be an additional burden to my mother but she kept insisting so I had to allow her to do so," said Etuate.

"The maintenance of the farm went till school holidays when I would return home and spend hours up on the farm," he said.

"As a young man I knew this is

an opportunity for me to expand my knowledge in agriculture is sufficient before I run the mile of my manhood," he said.

"At the agriculture school, they equipped me with the knowledge of farming as a business and all the ropes and concepts of being successful in agriculture."

From the lessons he had learned from the school, he is not only planting yaqona but also planting assorted vegetables with his mother for home consumption.

"Saving and investing again on the land is what I am doing right now and having a target set for each plant grown," he smiled.

The young lad who had experienced the turmoil of life and has 800 yaqona plants on the ground targets to build a home for his mother from the earnings of his yaqona farm.

"I am starting little by little but I will get there and I know I will, I have seen what farming can do and I am thankful."

"I would like to challenge those that are stuck with no or less money, to look to the land to help you, start with what you have, do not think you are too old to do something, and procrastination is a negative element to achieving greater things," he said.

"Make it happen and watch the amazing wonders the land can do to you but you must also have passion in doing it only then will you succeed."

Tomato Farming For Cash



Tomato

(*Zea mays. saccharata*)

TOMATO



Cropping Season:
May to October

Recommended varieties:
- Alton
- Redland

Summer taste
- Alafua Large

Seed Rate
300 grams/ha

Planting Time:
Main season in the cool months (May to October) Off season from November to April.

Spacing	Fertilizer/ Manure	Weed Control/ Management	Disease Control/Management	Insect Control/ Management	Harvest/Yield/ Food Value	Disaster Risk and Climate Change tips
Trellising Between rows: 0.75m to 1.0m Plants within rows 30 to 40cm for staked varieties. Open Field Between rows: 1.5m Plants within rows: 30cm For indeterminate varieties grown in open fields.	Soil analysis should be done before fertilizer application. Poultry Manure: 10 tonnes/ha Broadcast 2 - 3 weeks before planting. NPK: 13:13:21 apply 200kg/ha basal at planting Urea: 100kg/ha Side dress 2 & 4 weeks after transplanting.	Hand weed or hoe for small plots. Inter row cultivation when plants are still small. Practice mulching to control weeds and retain soil moisture.	Anthraxnose: Apply Benomyl at 15g/15L of water (Sold as Benlate). Spray at early flowering stage. Use Kocide at 15-20g/15L of water. Spray weekly, before and after harvest Or Manzate 30g/15L of water. Spray every 2 weeks Bacterial Wilt Avoid planting where solanaceous plants (Tomato,Eggplant, chillies and Capsicum) were previously planted. Dig, remove and destroy infected plant. Improve drainage. Use a two-year rotation and use resistant varieties. Stem Rot: Use a two-year rotation. Blossom End Rot: (Lack of Calcium in the soil) Apply Aglime or poultry manure to improve soil pH level Improve soil drainage.	Spider (Tomato) Mite: Apply Malathion at the rate of 30ml/15L of water. Practice proper field sanitation. Fruit worm or Fruit Borer: Steward at 5ml/10L of water. Or Delfin at 14g/15L of water. Green semi looper: Endosulfan at 10ml/15L of water or Suncis at 12ml/15L of water.	10 to 12 weeks after transplanting and picking continues for 5 weeks. Yield: 10 to 15 tonnes/ ha Food Value: Source of Potassium, Calcium, Sodium, Dietary fibre and Protein.	Quick source of food after disaster and good source of income.