



MOST AGRICULTURE LAND UNDER TRADITIONAL OWNERSHIP

More than half of the entire land in Fiji, or 54.1 per cent of the total agricultural land (194,768.6 ha) is under traditional ownership, i.e. Mataqali, Tokatoka, Yavusa, or Kovukovu.

This is one of the key findings of the 2020 Fiji Agriculture Census Volume 1 Report.

The report stated following traditional ownership, 23.7 per cent was under Native Lease, 13.9 per cent under Freehold, 6 per cent under State lease, and 2.1 per cent under an informal arrangement.

"Only a minuscule proportion, 0.2% of the area is operated without any legal arrangement or other such arrangements."

The highest proportion, 65 per cent of households, have agricultural land that is less than 1 hectare, followed by 21 per cent with land area

between 1 to 3 hectares, 6.2 per cent between 3 to 5 hectares, 4.4 per cent between 5 to 10 hectares, 2 per cent between 10 to 20 hectares, and 0.9 per cent between 20 to 50 hectares.

The Census Report highlights the remaining two size categories namely 50 to 100 hectares, and 100 hectares or more account for less than 0.5 per cent of households each.

In terms of households that have agriculture land, the Census Report states that households with up to 5 hectares of agriculture land account for more than 92.2 per cent of total agricultural households in the country.

In relation to farm land by the number of years used, the Report stated, the highest proportion of 73.1 per cent of operated farming was under use of the current farmer for more than eight years, while the

lowest proportion of 11.7 per cent was utilized for four to eight years.

"The operated area under the use of the current farmer for a period of up to 4 years accounts for 15.2%, 2 to 4 years for 7.6%, more than 4 years to 8 years for 11.7% and more than 8 years for 73.1%."

With respect to the total area of farm land by land-use type (hectare), the Report stated, during the agriculture census reference year, 22.8 per cent of the operated area is occupied by temporary crops, 6.4 per cent was fallow for one year or more, 14.3 per cent was under permanent crops with no pastures, 17.5 per cent under permanent crops with pastures, 10.3 per cent under temporary meadows and pastures, 14 per cent under permanent meadows and pastures, and 14.8 per cent under uses other than those described.



Land under agriculture production.

DOGOTUKI FARMERS UTILIZE SUBSIDIZED TRACTOR RATE

Approximately seven hectares of land belonging to 13 farmers and a school in the Tikina o' Dogotuki in the Macuata Province were assisted with land preparation, courtesy of the Ministry of Agriculture.

These 13 farmers along with Duavata Secondary School, paid the subsidized tractor service fee of \$28/hour, and were serviced by the Ministry's Labasa Crop Extension team in August, ensuring their land was prepared and ready for the cultivation of assorted vegetables and crops.

The tractor assistance comes under the Farm Mechanization program which focuses on improving efficiency and effectiveness of

Agricultural Farm Mechanization to all categories of farmers by providing the necessary farm machines, equipment, tools and resources to increase agricultural production, reduce cost of production and increase farmers' income.

The intervention supports the policy intention of the Government through the Ministry of Agriculture in modernizing agriculture, hence making it more reliable and sustainable in coping with the changes in the business environment now and in the future.

It further embraces the sector with new technology on mechanized farming systems that will positively impact farm productivity.



Land preparation in Dogotuki.

COMMERCIAL FARMERS EQUITY PACKAGE



OVERVIEW

Commercial farmers and agro-processors can apply for equity assistance when applying for FDB commercial agriculture loan. The programme targets farmers/ producers/ processors who want to invest and grow their agricultural venture.

in case of unforeseen circumstances (eg. Natural disaster, pandemic, etc)

HOW DO I APPLY FOR THIS PROGRAMME?

- Online form will be advertised on the MoA website and social media.

WHAT SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS ARE REQUIRED?

- Identification Card (Joint Card)

TARGET BENEFICIARIES

9 categories of packages, where MoA would make an equity contribution of 20% towards loan package from FDB.

Categories	Equity Contribution per Farmer	Borrowing Entitlement	Target Beneficiary
Category 1	\$1,600 - \$2,500	\$8,000- \$12,500	6
Category 2	\$2500- \$5,000	\$12,501 - \$ 25,000	5
Category 3	\$5,000- \$10,000	\$25,000- \$50,000	4
Category 4	\$10,000- \$15,000	\$50,001 - \$75,000	3
Category 5	\$15,000- \$20,000	\$75,001 - \$100,000	3
Category 6	\$20,000 - \$25,000	\$100,001 - \$125,000	3
Category 7	\$25,000- \$30,000	\$125,001 - \$150,000	2
Category 8	\$30,000- \$40,000	\$150,001 - \$ 200,000	2
Category 9	\$40,000- \$50,000	\$ 200,001 - \$ 250,000	2

LOAN PURPOSE

Equity assistance will be provided for loan applications targeting:

- Farm mechanization;
- Agriculture Infrastructure Support; and
- Agro-processing equipment and infrastructure.

Exclusions: Land development, stock and planting materials.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Farmer/ Producers/ Processors who:
 - Have Demonstrated ability to repay loan.
 - Should be in commercial farming with at least five (5) year experience
 - Demonstrated existence of other sources of income that could be used in repayment of loan

- Birth Certificate
- Vaccination Card
- Land tenure documents
- Business Registration
- Bank statement
- Evidence of other source of income
- Business Plan (including on farm report/CASH Flow projections)
- Additional collateral security for loans over \$100,000
- Full details of other commercial borrowing (if any)
- Confirmed market - MOU in place
- Valuation of properties
- Approved copies of EIA/EMP/DMP reports

APPLICATION TIMELINE

1st September - 15th September 2021