



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

ENHANCING LOCAL RICE PRODUCTION IN FIJI

Rice has been cultivated for many decades in Fiji, and is a major source of food for its population. However, the country's rice industry has increasingly weakened over these years, as the rice area and production has declined, while rice yield growth has been stagnant or marginal. As a result, the country has had to import more than 80 percent of the total rice demanded annually. Against this background, the Government of Fiji has committed to revitalizing the rice industry and ensuring the reduction of rice imports by 2020. The project aimed to strengthen the capacity of related government departments, staff and farmers, and to provide knowledge and skills to increase the production and productivity of rice crops in Fiji.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project greatly strengthened the capacities of Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) staff through its numerous training activities. It also trained and developed a pool of local extension officers as Master Trainers, who will be able to train rice farmers across the country on Integrated Rice Crop Management. This involves optimizing resources use in rice production, while minimizing production costs, and achieving sustainable growth of the sector in an ecofriendly way. The project empowered and upskilled rice farmers through activities built around participatory action and Farmers Field Schools (FFS) with pilot demonstration trials. The selected farmers were involved in all stages of the project, ensuring both project ownership and sustainability, as the technology, techniques and practices that were introduced will continue to be employed, and transferred to greater numbers of rural rice farmers.

IMPACT

As a result of following the improved technologies introduced during the project, farmers are now able to enhance agricultural productivity, with increased yields and reduced costs of production. The release of high-yielding rice varieties, input subsidies and land improvements in rice-growing areas also contributed to increasing rice production. In addition, the Training of Trainers (ToT) programme promoted the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices, reducing the use of insecticides during trial plots. This not only reduced production costs, but also had positive impacts on the environment.

KEY FACTS

Contribution

USD 333 000

Duration

October 2014 – September 2017

Resource Partners

FAO

Partners

Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)

Beneficiaries

Rice farmers and MoA staff



ACTIVITIES

- Field trial sites identified at Dreketi Irrigation project, and land prepared for demonstration plots by ToT participants.
- Rice seeds needed for ToT and FFS demonstration plots identified and procured, as well as fertilizers and pesticides.
- Season-long ToT programme implemented for 25 extension staff members.
- 20 FFS on all aspects of rice crop management supported, of which 15 FFS were implemented during the normal production season, and five FFS during off-season. The FFS were facilitated by the trained rice extension officers.
- More than 225 farmers trained on improved rice production technologies on the FFS sites.
- Participatory trials on agro-ecosystem analysis, soil sampling, land preparation, nursery management, transplanting, weed control, fertilizer application, pest monitoring, seed production techniques including isolation, and rouging, harvesting and post-harvest operation were guided by the ToT participants.
- Field day held in Dreketi ToT sites, attended by approximately 130 FFS members and farmers from different localities.
- The following extension materials were developed: facilitators' guide book for FFS; rice technical manual for extension officers; production guidelines for rice brochure; and survey questionnaire template for rice survey in Fiji.



Project Code

TCP/FIJ/3502

Project Title

First Season-Long Training of Trainers (ToT) on Integrated Rice Crop Management under the National Rice Revitalization Programme of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)

Contacts

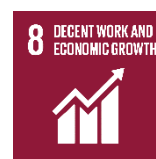
FAO Office in Fiji

FAO-FJ@fao.org

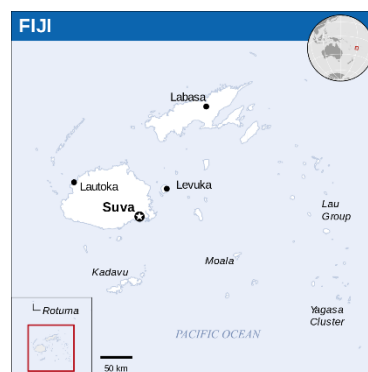
SAP-SRC@fao.org

Viliami Fakava (Lead Technical Officer)

Viliami.Fakava@fao.org



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



CA4503EN

Resource Mobilization Division
Marketing, Outreach and Reporting Unit
Reporting@fao.org