



Agriculture

Protected cropping system (Fiji)

Problem addressed

At present, vegetable production in the Pacific Islands does not match local demand in terms of consistency in volumes and quality, with vegetable imports supplying the high-value hospitality and food service markets. If this demand was met by local producers, income from high value vegetable production would improve the livelihoods of producers and their communities.



Solution

A greenhouse development package supports sustainable income-generation for local farmers. Capacity building on greenhouse technical management, basic finances and marketing opportunities is offered which gives farmers confidence to make the initial investments required to purchase the water tank, dripping system and other materials.

Innovations and features

Extreme weather conditions often lead to complete crop failure or low marketable yields. Greenhouses provide controlled environmental conditions to support year-round production.

Budgets can be easily estimated given the size of the plastic house and the number of plants.

A four-level maturity model evaluates the financial self-reliance of farmers. The first two levels ensure that farmers gain the skills and resources to operate the protected cropping system, while the following two levels focus on a financial assessment to create sustainable income-generation.



Evidence and viability

- One farmer out of four has graduated from level four, meaning the farmer is self-reliant.
- The Ministry has provided support to scale the system to the full island.
- Vegetable farmers can easily start a protected cropping system.
- Endorsed by the Pacific Community (SPC).

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