



Food processing

Processing centres (Fiji)

Problem addressed

Post-harvest losses, which may average 20-30 percent for some commodities, are considerable because of the lack of food processing units and lack of market for C grade agriculture commodities. This shortfall of income for poor farmers and villagers is an opportunity to be leveraged to contribute to poverty alleviation.



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Solution

The Centres process chips from cassava, vudi (plantain) and kumala (sweet potato) and supply them to supermarkets and service stations. The food processing unit also serves as a training facility for teenaged girls, where they learn various cooking/food processing techniques, various handicrafts and other income-generating skills.

Innovations and features

The Nabulini Processing Centre has improved the compliance and healthiness of the food products. The processing technique separates oils from the chips prior to packaging, reducing the level of fat and making them healthier products.

For the Home of Hope Processing Centre, the permanent employees of the organization have the responsibility of ensuring that the Centre is operational and continues to produce the products for its market. They provide training to benefit the residents of the Home, who learn skills and may eventually become raw material suppliers.



Evidence and viability

- For Nabulini village, the leading or eldest clan has taken responsibility for the Centre and formed a Cooperative, whereby it purchases cassava, plantain and sweet potatoes from the farmers and processes it in the Centre.
- Training has been provided to both Centres to process the commodities and sell into approved markets.
- Gradually, sales are being expanded to more markets. Income is being generated for the organizing committee of the Cooperative and for the training centre staff.
- The cooperative and the training centre are developing awareness of customer demand in order to increase sales and improve products that have less demand.
- The processing activities of the Centres directly contribute to reducing post-harvest losses.

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