



Youths, Women Farmer Numbers Increase

AT the recent meeting of the FCLC Council, Jiu Daunivalu, FCLC CEO reported a significant increase in women and youth attending FCLC workshops, with more than 20% registered members being females.

She said that the FCLC youth membership attendance at trainings and workshops has also increased, to over 10%, with most being under 18, from villages, and have been engaged in farming practices, in one way or another.

“With the challenges of COVID 19 resulting in a downturn in the economy, women and youths are seeing business and entrepreneurial opportunities that farming presents, and they certainly understand how food security is essential to the well-being of their families. We are committed to adopting tried and tested practices to improve the potential of all our farmers,” said Mrs Daunivalu.

She said that FCLC training is targeted



The FCLC Council meeting plans the 2022 programme in support its member Associations.

towards its Associations to build important linkages with other actors in the value chain, from the farm to the consumer, so member farmers are accessing services and markets to boost their income generation, through increased productivity.

Mrs Daunivalu said that the Council meeting mapped out the 2022 FCLC Programme that will further support the Associations and their members in building their farming businesses on a sound foundation of commercial viability.

Sustainability, resilience workshop aim

MORE than 100 farmers, including women and youths, gathered at Naitutu Village, Namalata, Tailevu, to participate in the training workshop, “Organising Farmers through Collective Action of ‘Solesolevaki-Rural Millionaire’ Concept to Improve Entrepreneurship Skill and Agribusiness Relations for Inclusive Economic Growth & More Resilient Livelihoods for Farmers, Youths and Women. Organised by FCLC in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture

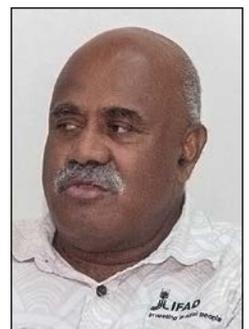
and supported by Farmer Organisations for Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific (FO4ACP), the workshop aimed to support the professionalising of farmers and their organisations or clusters and, through forging strong linkages with key value-chain supporters and enablers, strengthen their potential to achieve higher production yields, sustainable income, poverty alleviation, food and nutrition security, and resilient livelihoods.



Workshop participants, Government officials and FCLC staff at the Naitutu workshop.

New Appointment to Management Board

AT the recent meeting of the new Fiji Crop & Livestock Council Management Board held in Suva, FCLC took the opportunity to welcome new Management Board member, Mr Sakiusa Tubuna.



“We are indeed fortunate to be able to call on Mr Tubuna for his experience and expertise,” said FCLC CEO, Mrs Jiu Daunivalu.

“As the current Pacific Sub-Regional Coordinator, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAAD), with previous experience working in the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr Tubuna brings a wealth of knowledge and valuable insights to his additional role as a Board member of FCLC.”

From the Executive Chairman's Desk

LOOKING back at the comments by the Hon. Prime Minister at the 2013 launch of FCLC in Lautoka, he sets out our goals and the need for Government to work with the private sector.

After the problems Government experienced trying to operate in the commercial agricultural sector, he recognised the need to have greater and structured consultations with those in the business of agriculture. The goal was, and remains, to improve the standard of living in rural communities.

It is not for FCLC to criticise Government initiatives but to work

with them so that the best designs and outcomes can be achieved.

Part of our role is to point out where Government can assist the industry. We have had considerable success in this, particularly the removal of duty on agricultural inputs, contract farming initiatives, developing an agricultural insurance product, making professional representations to BAF and FCCC and the establishment of the Facilitation Committee for Agriculture, although this is currently on hold.

This has been achieved, not only with the support from

Government, but also support from our donors such as FAO, PIFON and the EU who see value in the FCLC and of course, the knowledge and experience of our Association heads and members. We have established MOU's with a number of agencies including FDB, PHAMA and BAF.

We have conducted extensive training courses for our farmers in conjunction with the Ministry, again combining our association experts with more formal training structures. We have also hosted visiting farmers from Samoa and Wallis and Futuna and New Caledonia. There is so much to



share.

However, we are well aware of the work ahead of us, to continue to build FCLC, to provide greater opportunities for our farmers, and to ultimately assure a healthy stronger agricultural industry.

Simon Cole

Ginger farmers and stakeholders upskilled

MORE than 50 Ginger farmers participated in a two-day training workshop organised by FCLC, supported by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Fiji Ginger Farmers Association, in coordination with the Fiji Development Bank.

The workshop, "Ginger Value Chain Coordinating Agricultural Climate Smart Innovation Platform & Best Practices in Value Chain Finance," was officially opened by the Ministry of Agriculture Permanent Secretary, Vinesh Kumar, and was supported /funded by the EU and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) under the FO4ACP Programme, through the Pacific Islands Farmers Organisation Network (PIFON). It included a field trip to a commercial ginger farm at Wainibuku, Naitasiri, to share best farming practices.



Ministry of Agriculture Permanent Secretary, Vinesh Kumar, (5th from left) with Ginger farmers and stakeholders at the Value Chain Workshop.

Survey of Covid-19 impact on farmers

MORE than a thousand Fijian farmers registered with FCLC have been contacted by the Council to participate in a farm survey to assess the impacts of COVID-19 on their livelihoods, and to update their profiles in the FCLC Farmers Database, using the Fiji-based mobile app, TraSeable Solutions, coordinated by PIFON. FCLC calls on all registered farmers to notify the Council if they have changed their contact phone numbers. The survey, which is still ongoing, is funded through the Farmers Organisations for Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific (FO4ACP) Programme, which is a Joint Partnership between the European Union



FCLC CEO, Jiu Daunivalu (left) and staff update farmer profiles.

(EU), the Organisation of African, Caribbean & Pacific States (ACP), the International Fund for

Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Pacific Island Farmers Organisation Network (PIFON).

Association AGMs Announced

The following AGMs are announced:

Fiji Dalo Farmers Association:
6th June, 2022, 10.00am,
Central Christian Centre Hall,
Nausori

Fiji Ginger Farmers Association:
7th June, 2022, 10.00am,
Central Christian Centre Hall,
Nausori

Fiji Grazing & Livestock Farmers Association:
8th June, 2022, 10.00am,
Central Christian Centre Hall,
Nausori

Coconuts and new Association highlighted

AS FCLC prioritises developing new farmers while upskilling existing growers who rely on coconut plantations for their livelihoods, the Council recently facilitated two workshops, structured into two modules, for more than 40 smallholder farmers from the Central Division, including women, women with disabilities and youths, and also included graduates who are not employed, and men and women previously employed in the hospitality and tourism sector.

The first module titled, Get More Value from Coconuts - for sustainability of income, health & nutrition, food security and livelihood of farming families in Fiji, was conducted in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), supported by EU and IFAD under the Farmers Organisation for ACP Countries (FO4ACP) Programme,

through the Pacific Islands Farmers Organisation (PIFON).

Mrs Jiu Daunivalu, FCLC CEO, said that the Council was pleased with the inclusiveness of the workshop, including the formation of a new, Fiji Niu Producer & By-Products Association (FNPBA), with Ms Litia Naitanui elected President. She is also President of Fiji Disabled Women (FDW) Rewa Branch and a VCO Production and By-Products Trainer.

FNPBA targets smallholder farmers, women and youths who rely on coconut trees to fully support or compliment other sources of income for their livelihoods,

Following the success of Module I Training, the same 40 farmers attended Module II - Get More Value from Coconuts - for sustainability of income, health & nutrition, food security and livelihood of farming families in Fiji -

supported by the Ministry of Agriculture, and held at the MOA Mua Agricultural Research Station in Taveuni.

"FCLC, in coordination with the MOA, have prioritised the overall development of coconut as part of a farming system, with rehabilitation of existing fields and plantations," said FCLC CEO, Mrs Jiu Daunivalu.

The Agricultural Research Station conducted the training on varieties and different uses of coconut trees, best planting practices, the benefits of coconuts, including Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO) production and best production practices, value-added VCO by-products, and the right tools to use.

FCLC plans to facilitate more of these workshops in the Eastern, Western, and Northern Divisions, in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture.



The first Coconut Training Module attracted more than 40 small holder farmers.



The participants learnt new skills at the second Coconut Training Module.

Spice Association AGM - a First!

The Fiji Spice Growers Association reached a milestone when it held its first Annual General Meeting.

Thirteen local Spice growers gathered at 10.00 am on the 18th of May this year, at the Central Christian Centre in Nausori, to participate in the meeting, and to ensure that their voices were heard in the selection of candidates, followed by the election of six office bearers for the Association.

The meeting concluded with the announcement that the next Spice Growers Association AGM is to be held on 6th June 2022.

Since the launch of FCLC, the Spice Growers Association is the first Farmer Association registered with the Council that has attained this significant achievement.

FCLC congratulates the Spice Growers Association and looks forward to seeing more Associations achieving this necessary legal requirement, as well as the registration of all of their members.



The Fiji Spice Growers Association at their milestone Annual General Meeting.

Training for Rice farmers

The “Planning and Implementing Contract Farming” training workshop, attended by 45 Rice farmers, including men and women, was held recently at the Ministry of Agriculture Research Centre, in Dreketi, Vanua Levu.

The workshop, opened by the Commissioner Northern, Mr Uraia Rainima, focused on the “resilient” value chain that connects rice farmers to a guaranteed market, access to financing and more readily available technical assistance, so they are able to move from subsistence to commercial farming, while processors are able to secure a consistent supply of

produce.

The workshop was funded by EU, IFAD, ACP under the F04ACP Programme, through the Pacific Islands Farmers Organisation Network (PIFON).

Farmers were also provided information about the Rice Mobility Package, officially launched by the President of the Republic of Fiji, His Excellency Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, in November last year. The Rice Mobility Package is the result of the Fiji Development Bank and Fiji Rice Limited entering into a Memorandum of Agreement that supports rice production through value chain financing.



FCLC CEO, Mrs Jiu Daunivalu, (seated left) and Commissioner North, Mr Uraia Rainima, (seated, 4th from left) with Rice farmers at the training workshop.

FCLC welcomes a new Farmer Association

ENSURING that we continue to strengthen and foster the Council’s relationship with all its Farmer Associations, the addition of the Viti Uvi Farmers Association is an affirmation of the importance of the Council in the commercial development of the non-sugar sector of the agriculture industry.

The Viti Uvi Farmers Association joins the other associations that comprise the Council, namely:

- ✓ Fiji Cocoa Farmers Association
- ✓ Fiji Coconut Farmers Association
- ✓ Fiji Dalo Farmers Association
- ✓ Fiji Agri-Exporters Association
- ✓ Fiji Fruits & Vegetables Farmers Association

- ✓ Fiji Ginger Farmers Association
- ✓ Fiji Grazing & Livestock Farmers Association
- ✓ Fiji Niu By-Products Farmers Association
- ✓ Fiji Mushroom Farmers Association
- ✓ Fiji Organic Farmers Association
- ✓ Fiji Pigs Farmers Association
- ✓ Fiji Queen Bee Farmers Association
- ✓ Fiji Rice Farmers Association
- ✓ Fiji Spice Farmers Association
- ✓ Fiji Tavioka Farmers Association
- ✓ Fiji Yaqona Farmers Association

There are a total of 2,017 farmers, of whom 1,522 are male and 497 female (data as at April 2022).

Farmers - are you registered with FCLC?

ALL crop and livestock farmers must get registered with Fiji Crop and Livestock Council to access support, training and upskilling, to empower every farmer with information and knowledge that compliment the traditional knowledge passed down from our forefathers.

The Fiji Crop & Livestock Council calls on all farmers who are not registered with FCLC to download and complete the registration form at the website: www.fclc.org.fj

The completed form can be delivered to:

FCLC Office,
Level 2 New Wing,
Hugh Robinson Complex,
Grantham Road, Raiwaqa

Alternatively the form can be emailed to info@fclc.org.fj

Rural and maritime farmers can call FCLC for assistance on mobile numbers: 2239900 (CEO) or 2239904 (Senior Receptionist). FCLC has successfully registered 2,017 farmers from all over Fiji, with 75% male and 25% female. With this, we have been able to securely register young people, who comprise 0.84% of the total database registration.

Contract Farming for Fiji Tavioka Farmers Association

FCLC CEO, Mrs Jiu Daunivalu, said that objectives of the Contract Farming Workshops provide important and necessary information and support to farmers in developing their agri-businesses.

“The workshops play a vital role in empowering farmers and their farmer organisations with the right knowledge and skills to effectively engage in farming, supply in compliance to market requirements, negotiate in their best interest and form strong linkages with the buyers, financiers and other key value chain actors, supporters and enablers,” said Mrs Daunivalu.

She said that the workshops enabled farmers and their organisations to access and/or apply technical skills and best practice to achieve sustainability of production, consistency in quality to the satisfaction of the buyers/exporters, and improvement in income, food security, and livelihood. It also supports the overall strengthening of the public-private-producer partnerships (4Ps) through the Contract Farming concept that guarantees a ‘win-win’ arrangement for the farmers.



Contract Farming Workshops empower farmers with knowledge and skills.