



Fiji



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique

PACIFIC COMMUNITY, LAND RESOURCES DIVISION IN THE PACIFIC Overview of Current and Future Support



LRD
Land
Resources
Division

POPULATION
(2020)
894,961

POPULATION
GROWTH (2020)
+0.41%

GDP PER CAPITA
(USD) 2020
6,152

FIJI – LRD Cooperation Summary



OBJECTIVE 1: Land, agriculture, forestry and genetic resources are sustainable managed/conserved

- The GRIN-Global genebank information system was installed to trial its compatibility with CePaCT's documentation systems. The new system will have a website where users can access information on crops that are available from the CePaCT genebank.
- There has been a noticeable progress on the Fiji – Tonga seeds exchange. In March 2021 Fiji seeds were shipped to Tonga and to establish a foundation for conservation and domestication of native sandalwood in Fiji and Tonga.
- At end of December 2020, a total of 2,241 accessions of 18 crops were conserved at CePaCT. A total of 67% of the accessions originated from the Pacific, representing diversity from 16 Pacific Island Countries and territories, including Fiji with a total of 188 accessions of 15 crops (Giant taro, banana, breadfruit, cassava, giant swamp taro, ginger, pandanus, pineapple, sandalwood, sweet potato, vanilla, xanthosoma, taro, yam, coconut).
- In 2020, a total of 94 accessions (2301 plant samples) of banana, breadfruit, cassava, giant swamp taro, sweet potato and taro sourced from CePaCT collections were distributed to four countries including Fiji. Fiji distributions were carried out in quarter 2, mainly in response to Tropical Cyclone Harold and COVID-19-related requests.
- Upgrading work on the virgin coconut oil (VCO) processing facility was completed in Rabi. Coconut tree planting commenced with 3,000 seedlings planted in Rabi from 10 – 19 March 2021. The current plan calls for 10 planted hectares in Rabi.
- A total of 38 Nadroumai women group members received 4,000 dalo suckers supplied by the ACIAR Agro forestry project. These were planted in their agroforestry farms, with an additional 2,000 dalo suckers sent to individual farms. An additional 50 youths were involved in the hands-on field training.
- The development of the draft code of practice for wood processing was completed in Feb 2021 and is awaiting the Ministry of Forestry for further consultation. The overall aim is to improve the efficiency and environmental soundness of wood processing, in addition to worker safety.
- In Fiji, site selection was carried out for the Ba and Labasa catchments for increased adoption of sustainable land management (SLM) practices. SLM awareness training was also provided in Navakuru, Suweni, Matalolo, Satulaki, Koromakawa, Waikisi, Vunimoli, Korowiri and Lawaki in the Labasa catchment. The number of hectares (ha) covered by integrated natural resource management practices is as follows: Waidina catchment: 15 ha (cumulative: 141 ha); Labasa catchment: 30.5 ha (cumulative: 107 ha); Tunuloa catchment: 30 ha (cumulative: 72 ha); Ba catchment: 1 ha (cumulative: 126 ha).
- At Korobua, training in natural resource management was conducted for youth and women (11 women participated).

- A total of 30 women were involved in purchasing seedlings from the Nadroumai Women's Club.
- In the Ba catchment, the Tokoni Village Women's Group (30 women; 20% of which were youth) established a small nursery of native tree species and an agroforestry demonstration farm. Women made up 40% of participants in PLUP training conducted in the Ba catchment. A total of 24 people participated in nursery training at Tikina Navatusila (40% were women from Tokoni, Mare and Nanoko).
- In the Waidina catchment, Narukunibua women were involved in reforestation activities (8 of 22 participants were women).
- Participatory land use planning was conducted in the Labasa catchment.
- Training on extraction and culture of coconut zygotic embryos was provided for 11 staff (10 men, 1 woman) from the Taveuni Research and Development Centre in November 2020. Participants gained skills in isolation and sterilisation procedures for coconut embryos.
- Two regional workshops were held by PROTEGE (coconut and forests/ agroforestry). These workshops made it possible to develop two regional action plans (one for the coconut sector and one for forestry and agroforestry).
- Nine coconut accessions were collected from Taveuni, Fiji, for research on optimisation of conservation and mass propagation protocols, in collaboration with the University of Queensland, Australia; seven accessions of the same cultivars that were collected earlier will also be used in the research.



OBJECTIVE 2: Enhanced ability to meet local and international market requirements for agricultural and forest products

- COVID-19 delayed work on the diversification of livelihoods and value chains. However, the work is expected to be on track as the situation normalises. The gender and value-chain assessment toolkit is being developed.
- The gender and value-chain assessment training module for agricultural products is being developed. A financial training module, the Participatory Guarantee System and the Pacific Organic Standard are being revised.
- A training of trainers on the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) and Pacific Organic Standard (POS)

was provided on 09 March. The training focused on training the team traveling to Rotuma Island to train others in Organic agriculture and the Pacific Organic Standard and Participatory Guarantee Systems, with the aim that Rotuma will commit to becoming organic in the near future.

- A PGS introductory training for Organic Rotuma-for PGS Organic Certification was conducted with the participation of 40 males and 14 females. Another PGS introductory training was conducted on 31 March 2021 for QVS Old Boys Mushroom Group for PGS Organic certification with the participation of five males.
- The LRD team is currently engaging a video production company to film biosecurity training videos on biosecurity operating procedures for pre-border, border and post-border risk assessments.
- Ongoing technical advice and support is being provided remotely to farmers on request. Organic farming practices were promoted through weekly posts and the Quarter 3 newsletter, as well as through POETCom's (Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community) website and social media platforms.
- A workshop on the regional International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is scheduled from 31 August – 3 September 2021.



OBJECTIVE 3: Access to diverse and nutritious agriculture and forestry resources resilient to impact of climate change and disasters

- Preparation work for a fertilizer trial at the Wainigata Research Station in Savusavu has been completed, with access to the trials plot site cleared and grafting of selected clones ongoing. Due to the Tropical Cyclone Harold, all seedlings were supplied by the Naduruloulou Research station in Nausori.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Forestry staff trialled a climate smart app in Rotuma.
- In supporting Fiji National Forest Inventory, the LRD team completed 15 plots, including 7 in Labasa and 8 in the Tunuloa catchments, with support from REDD+II. The Ridge to Reef project continued with plot establishment in the Ba, Waidina and Vunivua catchments.
- In support of the reforestation programme on Ministry of Agriculture national pilot site, 4 hectares of mixed native species were planted at the Draubuta, Emalu site in Sigatoka.

- A Natural Resource Management (NRM) training was conducted to Nadroumai women's club. Due to the current COVID emergency and tropical storms Yasa and Ana, further trainings have been postponed to quarter 3, 2021.
- A total of 175 plantlets - 95 banana and 80 cassava - were distributed to the Fijian Government through the Ministry of Agriculture. In addition to this, a new sweet potato variety and new TLB (Taro Leaf Blight) crosses are currently undergoing evaluation.
- An assessment of the seed production programme in Sigatoka and Legalega Research Station, with targeted support collated to strengthen the seed unit can also benefit the whole region.
- LRD has developed models for crop variety development and seed production, dissemination of seeds and planting material, and Quality Declared Seeds/Quality Declared Planting Materials for sustainable seed systems in the Pacific that benefitted Fiji.
- An economic analysis of growing capsicum and tomato in the off season under a protected cropping system showed higher returns compared with field growing. The results provide an important decision tool for governments and farmers. As a result,
- Fiji's Ministry of Agriculture and selected farmers in Sigatoka and Tavua are adopting protected cropping structures. In addition, UNDP has expressed interest in scaling up use of protected structures in Fiji. Economic analysis of protected cropping is being incorporated in a new manual currently being finalised.
- The design of the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) database was finalised. The database is now operational, with Fiji entering data using the KoBo

Toolbox. A refresher training in using the toolbox was conducted for the Plant Protection Team from Fiji's Ministry of Agriculture and a revised template was field tested.

- SPC continues to provide ongoing training support for farmers using protected cropping systems in Sigatoka, and for renovation of these systems after Tropical Cyclone Harold. Field trials and data collection has resumed in order to evaluate protected cropping and open field planting to offset crop damage sustained during Harold.
- The Plant Health Team, in partnership with country plant doctors, collated and analysed plant health clinic (PHC) data and results collected via WhatsApp in Fiji. Analysis of PHC data was completed for Fiji. PHC results are compiled to support mapping of pests and disease trends and distributions in selected localities and data will be incorporated in the pest database.
- A Plant Health Clinic manual was finalised and published in 2020. This manual is used to support extension services in pest and disease surveillance and diagnostics at the farmer field level.
- The coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) training manual was finalised and published to guide regional efforts in combating CRB.
- A draft protected cropping field manual is being developed in collaboration with Fiji's Ministry of Agriculture. The manual will provide a tool that governments and farmers can use to support scale-up of protected cropping systems.
- A training on Climate-Smart app methodology was carried out with Fiji Ministry of Agriculture staff and the University of the South Pacific.



Objective 4: Regional and national policies, programmes and services in agriculture and forestry are gender responsive, socially inclusive, and promote and protect cultural heritage and human rights.

- The Fiji National Organic Policy is in its final validation phase and drafting of the cabinet submission is complete. The consultation workshop for this project was done in February 2021.
- The Genebank Policy under development will benefit the region, including Fiji, and is expected to be further developed in the fourth quarter of the year.
- The regional seed systems roadmap is currently being reviewed and edited for the implementation by the Pacific Seeds for Life programme which benefits the region including Fiji.
- Under the PHAMA plus project, the AHP framework has been drafted and currently under review and this will benefit the region, including Fiji.










Objective 5: Integrated farming systems and services strengthened

- An African Swine Fever (ASF) awareness and training was conducted for the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji and Stakeholders in Quarter 1, 2021
- The soil sampling protocol is now being prepared for printing as a field booklet for distribution.
- The USP-SAFT (School of Agriculture Food and Technology) is currently developing soil correlation studies.
- Soil Dr Programme guidelines that will provide an outline of how to address capacity building needs in soil management will be completed in June.
- A protected cropping farmers manual is at its field-testing stages and will roll out to protected cropping farms in a wider area in Fiji. The manual will promote off-season planting of vegetables, linking protected cropping to health and nutrition.
- Building capacity in Pests and Disease description such as diagnoses of insects, fungus, bacteria and unknown substances, as well as management for national Plant Health Clinic champions, is on-going through the Centre of Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI).
- LRD successfully facilitated the level 3 certification of the Plant Health Lab in coordination with the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji and the National Fire Authority of Fiji.
- The WhatsApp Fiji Plant Doctor network review is in progress and Plant Health Clinic and Plant Doctor Network data has been updated in the database.
- An online training on pest diagnosis and management was conducted for four project countries, including Fiji.
- A Plant Health Clinic Training for farmers in Sigatoka valley was conducted in collaboration with Fiji Ministry of Agriculture.

LRD Priorities for Partnership with Fiji

| Fiji STRATEGIC ACTIONS | SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL | LRD PRIORITIES |
|---|---|---|
| Build modern agriculture in Fiji as an organized system of producing, processing, and marketing crops, livestock, and aquaculture products |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable management of forests and landscapes to provide for our future • Restoration of our ecosystems to safeguard our children through sustainable practices and systems |
| Develop integrated production, processing, energy, and a transport infrastructure support system for agriculture |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International biosecurity laboratories for conservation and distribution of genetic resources and insects • Understanding of the regional environment and contexts that helps in developing Pacific solutions for Pacific problems |
| Improve delivery of agriculture support services |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellence in agriculture and forestry research and development in the Pacific • Convening power and ability that improves country visibility • Ability to mobilise technical resources |
| Enhance capabilities to generate funds and secure investment through foreign investment, public private partnerships, and other innovative business arrangements. |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert technical knowledge built over time in atoll agriculture, genetic resources, forestry and land use management and policies, biosecurity and value chain work • Pacific Innovation Hub for agriculture and forestry |
| Improve project implementation and policy formulation capability within the MOA and its partner institutions |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to collaborate on cross cutting regional problems (Climate change, food systems, pest and disease incursions) • Access and linkages to international networks that support Pacific development |

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