

Partners in Community Development Fiji

Working to empower communities by assisting them to make informed decisions for their future development

RA KAKA
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IN THIS ISSUE

- [1] PCDF HELPS NAYAWA WOMEN RE-OPEN SHOP
- [2] NRM COMPLETES SURVEY
- [3] CROSS LEARNING AN EYE OPENER
- [3] 4CA WINS UN AWARD
- [4] BLUEPRINT FOR BECHE-DE-MER.
- [5] FARMER NOW EARNS CLOSE TO \$1,000
- [6] FARMER NOW THE VILLAGE MONEY LENDER
- [7] FARMERS NOW ABLE TO TAKE LOAN

PCDF HELPS NAYAWA WOMEN RE-OPEN SHOP



By Paradise Tabucala

"...there is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women..."

These are the famous words of former General Secretary to the United Nations, Kofi Annan speaking on empowering women and this is true for the women of Nayawa Village in Sigatoka.

Through their diligence and persistence the women of the village through the help of a project funded by Australian Foundation for the People of Asia and the Pacific (AFAP) and implemented in Fiji by Partners in Community Development Fiji (PCDF) Organization have been able to reopen their own co-operative shop after a lapse of two years and have their saving



Women of Nayawa Village

increase from less than \$100 to over \$2,000.

In 2013, PCDF through its Strengthening Community Leadership for inclusive Participation in reducing vulnerability to Climatic Change in Fiji Project undertook business training for the women of Nayawa and also funded the re-opening of the shop by purchasing over \$2,000 worth of groceries.

The business training was done for the women of Nayawa Village last

continued on page 2...

RA KAKA

Kaka is Kadavu for parrot. Kadavu Province is the home of the beautiful shining parrot, 'prosopeia splendens', an endemic species. The Kaka is a messenger not only on land but also on sea - it serves as a communicator for God's living creatures.



...continued from page 1

year thanks to the help from the Centre for Appropriate Technology and Development (CATD).

Chairwoman of the Nayawa Women's Committee, Arieta Kunabuli says the shop had been closed for nearly two years and the women were not able to support their families. At the moment, the shop is proving to be a steady source of income for the women's group with an average of \$80 worth of sales made in a day from a village of about 75 households.

Paulini Siganisucu who is a single mother says that the shop is her lifeline. She currently earns allowance for running the shop along with Naomi Lalabalavu who is also a single parent.

'When it (the shop) opened in July of last year, there was only \$80.00 in our bank account but when I checked last week, we had \$2, 334. This is a very big achievement for the shop as the two of us had no knowledge at all on how to handle finances. We only knew how to Dinau, take money from customers and give them the groceries. But now, we can stock take, write out orders, enter inventories and even enter financial ledgers. I am confident to say that in future I can open my own shop all thanks to the financial literacy training.'

Apart from the general running of the shop, the women also rent out space in their shop to other women who come and sell homemade buns, small handicraft

and even grog and farm produce. These women pay \$2.00 a day and this money goes to a special tin which is then used for general duties like hiring a grass cutter.

The project is funded by the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) and collaboratively managed by PCDF and the Australian Foundation for the Peoples of Asia and the Pacific Limited (AFAP). PCDF is a strategic partner of AFAP with whom they share a long term commitment to implementing development projects in Fiji. Both PCDF and AFAP are also active members of the Foundation for the South Pacific International (FSPI) network. ■

NRM Completes Baseline Survey



By Paradise Tabucala

After months of painstaking survey and analysis, PCDF has finally completed its baseline survey of 25 villages in 4 districts.

The survey was undertaken by volunteers and project officers from two projects namely the "Sustainable response to Food Security in remote rural Fiji" and the "Community based marine management and climate change impact preparedness."

The survey covered issues from Health and sanitation, household and shelter, climate change adaptation, Disaster Risk management, health and nutrition, livelihoods and Governance & Social factors. The aim of the survey done by PCDF is to understand clearly what the communities are like



Peni Seru with the women of Naicabecabe Village in the district of Moturiki.

and the areas where we could assist especially in terms of climate change. For example, in Naigani village in Batiki, it was found that there were no mangroves and the island was vulnerable in terms of disasters. This is one area where PCDF would be able to focus their work.

PCDF is the local implementing arm for the "Sustainable response to Food Security in remote rural

Fiji" Project which is an Australian Aid initiative which is regionally co-ordinated by the Fiji Community Development Program, as well as the "Community based marine management and climate change impact preparedness." which is funded by Bread for the World, a globally active relief and development agency of the Protestant Churches in Germany. ■

4CA Project



Cross learning an eye opener

By Paradise Tabucala

A team of eleven representatives from six villages in Ra went on a two day cross learning experience to Serua and Yanuca Islands as part of the Child Centred Climate Change Adaptation (4CA) Fiji Program learning exercise.

The 11 reps were from the 6 villages where the 4CA project is being implemented in Ra namely – Nayavuire, Navunivi, Narikoso, Nakorovou, Nasau, and Veidrala villages. The team consisted mainly of the turaga-nikoros and the individual reps from the Village Disaster Committee.

On Day One, the team was taken to Serua Island where they were able to see first hand the damaging effects of the waves on the island. Serua village is in the middle of two small hills and due to the continuing effects of climate change; the village guide shows the area where the sea wall used to be but is now ineffective.

Day two saw the Ra team head to Yanuca island. A rocky terrain



Representatives from the villages in the Ra Province.

island and saw firsthand how the villagers of Yanuca island worked to ensure that their children had a place to call home in the future.

...climate change is affecting Fiji as a whole...

The youth reps from Ra spoke of how the 4CA Project has seen them take climate change seriously and also about the various adaptation methods currently being implemented in their villages such as mangrove planting and the set up of the Disaster Committee.

Yanuca and Serua Island are sites for another PCDF project which is aimed at sustainability of marine resources and also on climate change adaptation.

4CA participant, Josaia Moce says that for him, the experience was an eye opener and he got to see that climate change is affecting Fiji as a whole and also learnt new means of ensuring longevity and also viability of the village for future generations.

4CA project is funded by the Australian Agency for International Development (Australian Aid) through PLAN International Australia (PIA) to implement the 4CA Project in Ra. The 4CA project is managed regionally by FSPI. ■

4CA Wins UN Award

The Child Centered Climate Change Adaptation (4CA) program been awarded the inaugural UN PILAR award.

The 4CA project is implemented in 6 Pacific countries - Fiji, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Kiribati. It is coordinated in Fiji by the Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific and implemented by the Partners in Community Development Fiji. ■

The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) Sub-Regional Office awarded the PILAR to 4CA last month, recognising the exemplary action taken by the Project to build community and national resilience through disaster risk reduction measures.

6 villages in Ra namely Nasau village, Nayavuire, Narikoso, Navuniivi, Nakorovou and Veidrala were the pilot project sites for Fiji. ■



Suresh Pokharel the Program Manager - Disaster Risk Reduction (Plan International - Australia) with Roshni Chand and Amit of FSPI - the regional partners in the 4CA program.

ACIAR Project



After 170 years Pacific artisanal fisheries now have a comprehensive guide on how to prepare the sea cucumber for sale.

By *Paradise Tabucala*

A brand new guidebook to processing sea cucumbers developed by project partners Southern Cross University and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community has been launched and translated into the Fiji, Tonga and Kiribati languages.

Sea cucumber can fetch high prices if processed correctly and up till now, many Pacific fishers lacked the know-how to properly prepare their harvest which resulted in poor and variable returns. Senior Research Officer, Steven Purcell says the research being done in Fiji by Partners in Community Development (PCDF) is targeting its main efforts in this area and is working with Pacific fishers to

Na vakarautaki ni sasalu ni waitui me ivoli:

Na ivola me ra vakayagataka na dauqoli ena Pasifika



teach them the best ways to cut, salt, dry and store sea cucumbers using their own village resources. Purcell says the project aims to improve livelihoods of village fishers in the Pacific as sea cucumbers have been hand-collected and exported from the Pacific Islands since the 1840s. Once processed to a dried product known as 'beche-de-mer' in the food world, they are particularly

Blueprint for brilliant beche-de-mer.



popular in China, used as a key luxury ingredient of festive dishes.

More than 4000 copies have been printed and will soon be distributed through village-based workshops in the ACIAR project.

The research is also hoping to have benefits to fishery sustainability, as sea cucumber numbers are threatened by overfishing. By encouraging more time spent in value-adding of their product, and higher sale prices, fishers may have less need, or less time, to go fishing. Whether or not that happens will be determined through analyses of the survey data.

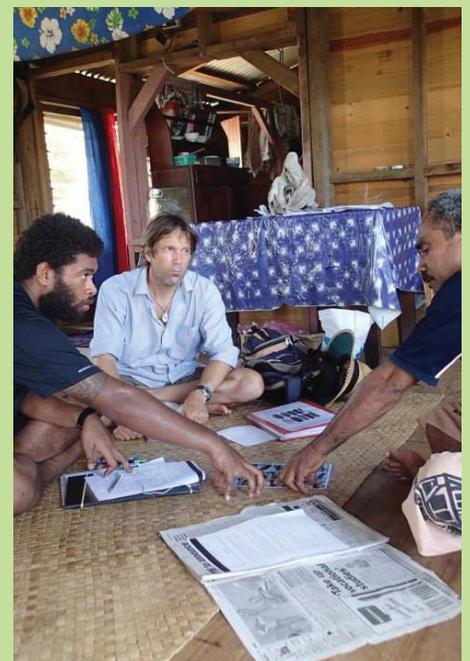
Baseline survey completed.

The survey is part of the project undertaken by Southern Cross University and funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research and implemented in Fiji by Partners in Community Development Fiji (PCDF).

PCDF Projects officers have been conducting the surveys which started in February this year in Ra and have so far interviewed over 150 fishers. The surveys look at the fisher's main source of income, the amount of times they go out fishing, the sea cucumber stock and how the fishers are

selling their produce whether they sell it fresh or they process it themselves and whether they are satisfied with the income they get from selling sea cucumber.

The next step for the research team is to investigate the impacts of their interventions on the livelihoods of the fisher folk. 'Before-and-after' socio-economic surveys will test whether the new improved methods and teachings have benefited fishers and their families.



PHVA Program



Farmer now earns close to \$1,000 selling tomatoes

By Paradise Tabucala

The Partnership in High Value Agriculture (PHVA) project in Nadarivatu has had a huge impact on the lives of the 200 farmers taking part in the Project. The project is currently being implemented by Partners in Community Development Fiji with staff stationed in the highlands to assist and monitor the farmers.

The Project which was launched in August last year sees farmers planting and then selling vegetables like tomatoes, capsicum and even celery during the off season period. This has seen farmers earning money they never dreamed of before and their standard of living vastly improved.

The PHVA project is based in an area of 3 highland Districts which lie on the border of the Provinces of Navosa, Ba and Naitasiri. The communities in these target areas are full time smallholder farmers and there is a high level of poverty. However participants are seeing a huge improvement in their lives.

Ilaisa Rokovisa a forty year old farmer of Naga Village, is living proof of this as he was once a casual laborer for the Public Works Department earning around \$140 a week and now earns over \$400 weekly just from selling off season tomatoes.

Rokovisa is the assistant group leader of Group 1 under the PHVA project. The farmers have been divided into 7 groups for better



monitoring and assistance.

Speaking to PCDF, Rokovisa says that there was a point in time where he would worry as he did not know where to get the next meal from. He would also have to search for means to feed his four children. He adds this is all a thing of the past now for him.

"I have four children, the youngest in kindergarten with the eldest in Class 8. Before, I would not know where to get money to pay for their fees, books and even the hostel fees but now, I have paid for the year. All thanks to the PHVA project, I now earn over \$1,000 a month from selling off season tomatoes. The Project also enlightened me a lot; I have undergone business training on how to budget, also taught how to use farming equipment and farming husbandry methods."

Rokovisa says in the beginning the concept of changing to new farming was hard as his father had been a Yaqona farmer and he was brought up around yaqona however he says he does not regret the decision to join the PHVA pilot project.

"I resigned from PWD as it was a struggle for me and then when I came back to the village, I was lost. I did not know what to do.

Then the PHVA project came into Nadarivatu and I am very happy for it."

Rokovisa proudly showed the PCDF team around the village and it was heartening to see 11 houses in the village with Sky Pacific dishes and ask anyone about the Super 15 and they will give you the latest updates. He also took us to his house and where he showed us his new 45" flat screen TV, new twin tub washing machine and deep freezer which he bought last month.

With the near future looking good for him, Rokovisa says that before the end of the year, he would like to buy farm tools for himself as well as buy a pair of bullocks.

The rationale for the PHVA project is that smallholder farmers have good resource potential and the ability to produce marketable surpluses that would increase their incomes and reduce poverty, but they are not often able to maximize this potential.

The PHVA Project is funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and is implemented in Fiji by Partners in Community Development Fiji (PCDF) and the Fijian Government through the Department of Agriculture plays an advisory role.

From a struggling yaqona farmer to a village money lender.

By Paradise Tabucala

This is what the Partnership in High Value Agriculture Project has done for 54 year old Josefa Nagatu and his wife Karalaini who live in Naga Village in Nadarivatu.

The Partnership in High Value Agriculture (PHVA) project in Nadarivatu which was launched in August last year sees farmers planting and selling vegetables like tomatoes, capsicum and even celery during the off season period. This has seen farmers earning money they never dreamed of before and their standard of living vastly improved.

The PHVA Project is funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and is implemented in Fiji by Partners in Community Development Fiji (PCDF) and the Fijian Government through the Department of Agriculture plays an advisory role. Karalaini clearly recounts the time when they had to look around for money to buy sugar and other basic food items.

"We are third generation yaqona farmers and my husband was adamant to remain one. In October our sugar was running low and my husband said to harvest our grog which was not yet ready but we heard about the PHVA project and my sons and I convinced my husband to try it out. Our first harvest in the second week of December last year saw us harvest two gallons and one bucket of tomatoes, this saw us rake in over \$150. This was more than enough for our sugar and basic necessities. So from January to March this year, we have harvested 9 crates of tomatoes and have made over \$9,000. "

Josefa says the income from the PHVA project in Nadarivatu has made a huge difference in their lives. He leads the PCDF team to their residence just a few metres downill from the Naga Village Community Hall. His wife Karalaini



Josefa Nagatu and his wife Karalaini at home in Naga Village, Nadarivatu.

points to their corrugated iron house.

"When you plant yaqona, you have to wait three to four years but with PHVA crops, it is just three months. That house is the fruit of the tomatoes and planting offseason vegetables all thanks to the PHVA project. With the \$9,000 we got in the past 3 months we have bought our TV, paid for my son's educational expenses at Fiji National University and also bought the things needed to build our new house."

...the past 3 months we have bought our TV, paid for my son's educational expenses ... and also bought the things needed to build our new house...

When Karalaini married Josefa back in the 80s, they lived in a traditional bure up until last year. So for over 30 years, Karalaini has had to struggle – carting

water to her bure and raising three boys. Now she lives in her own corrugated iron house with Sky Pacific channels, a TV, and speaker system, adding that they have started helping others as well.

"Other villagers have been planting tomatoes for over 13 years but they are not having the returns we are having. Thanks to the training from the PHVA project, we have been able to save and realize our dreams. Now people come to us to loan money. So you would call us village money lenders."

The rationale for the PHVA project is that smallholder farmers have good resource potential and the ability to produce marketable surpluses that would increase their incomes and reduce poverty, but they are not often able to maximize this potential.

The farmers have undergone farm business training such as budgeting as well as agriculture husbandry and how to better use their resources and farming tools. PCDF has one project officer stationed in Nadarivatu and he is assisted by three volunteers from the surrounding villages.

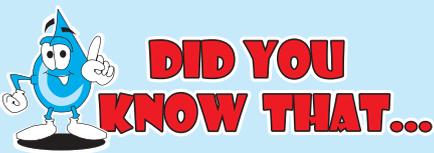


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STUDIES SHOW THAT:

- 1.1 BILLION PEOPLE IN THE WORLD DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO SAFE WATER, THIS IS ROUGHLY ONE SIXTH OF THE WORLDS POPULATION

- 2.6 BILLION PEOPLE DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO ADEQUATE SANITATION; THAT IS TWO FIFTHS OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION



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PHVA farmers now able to take loan.



BSP has invested over \$1 million directly to local communities via projects...

Community Projects

[Find out more](#)

Twenty five farmers taking part in the Partnership in High Value Agriculture (PHVA) pilot project in Nadarivatu are now able to take small loans from the Bank of the South Pacific (BSP) after a memorandum of understanding was signed this week.

The PHVA project is funded by the International Fund for Agriculture – a branch of the UNDP and is being piloted in Nadarivatu. Under the agreement, the farmers will be able to take loans from BSP based on the following understanding that the farmers provide 25% which can either be in monetary form or labour while BSP provides 50% and the main donors IFAD through PCDF provides the remaining 25% of the value of the loan.

BSP country manager Kevin McCarthy says the bank is happy to be a part of such an endeavor which looks at improving the livelihood of farmers in rural areas adding that the project will eventually be deployed to three districts across three provinces in Savatu in Ba, Nadrau in Navosa

and Naboubuca and these farmers will eventually have access to this loan facility.

BSP was chosen to implement the pilot credit scheme as it was a leading commercial bank in Fiji and the region and that it was BSP management that proposed the pilot credit scheme and another important factor was that BSP had a greater presence in rural areas than the other commercial banks and runs a mobile banking service to increase its penetration in areas not well served by branches

Currently there are over 200 farmers enrolled in the PHVA pilot project in Nadarivatu and have undergone training such as financial literacy, plant husbandry and how to better use their resources for off season planting.

The PHVA Project is funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). It is implemented in Fiji by Partners in Community Development Fiji (PCDF) and the Fijian Government through the Department of Agriculture, which plays an advisory role.