

Programme Title:	Engaging Youth in Fiji and Vanuatu in Organic Farming: A Farm to Table Chain Approach
Country:	Fiji

I. Joint Programme Information

Joint Programme Information

Programme title:

Engaging Youth in Fiji and Vanuatu in Organic Farming: A Farm to Table Chain Approach

Sectorial area of intervention and policy objectives

Inclusive economic growth for poverty eradication

 Create opportunities for decent jobs and secure livelihoods.

 Create better government policies and fair and accountable public institutions.

 Promote inclusive and sustainable business practices.

UN Lead Agency:

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UN Participating Organizations:

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Local Partners:

Fiji:

Ministry of Youth and Sports

Ministry of Agriculture

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POET Com)

Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises and Development (FRIEND)

Fiji National Youth Council

Fiji Hotel and Tourism Association

Vanuatu:

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Bio-security sectors

Ministry of Internal Affairs

Ministry of Youth

Farmers Support Association (FSA),

Vanuatu National Youth Council

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POET Com)

Report submitted by

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Reporting Period Ending:

Sunday, December 31, 2017

II. Contact Information

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Technical team contacts

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JP communications and advocacy focal point

JP private sector focal point

Agency contact points

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JP monitoring and evaluation focal point

JP knowledge management focal point

Contact 2

III. Financial information

Detailed Financial Report:

 [Copy of Fiji FTT SDGF Dec 2017.xlsx](#)

SDG-F Funds

UN Agency	Total approved funds	Total funds Transferred to date	Total funds committed to date	Total funds disbursed to date
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	500,000.00	296,390.00	558.00	273,033.00
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)				

Total	500,000.00	296,390.00	558.00	273,033.00
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Matching Funds

Total				
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IV. Beneficiaries

Total number of direct beneficiaries to date:

1050

Direct Beneficiaries – Breakdown

Beneficiary type - individual	Total	Female	Male	Comments
Farmers	630	158	472	Each farming h/hold consists of five (5) members and 25 per cent of total number are women
Entrepreneurs	1			FRIENDS - Organic Restaurant
Civil servants/government	2			Ministry of I Taukei Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture participated during some training activities.
Indigenous	1,050	262	788	All participants are from the indigenous farming communities
Children	120	30	90	This consist of three (3) children from each farming household.
Youth	300	75	225	This consist of two (2) youths from each farming household.
Other 1				
Total	1,050	262	788	

Beneficiary type - institutional	Total	Comments
SMEs	1.00	Westpac Banking conducted financial literacy training for the five farming communities through the rural banking program.
Cooperatives	1.00	The five farming communities underwent a capacity building program forming a cooperative structure.
Government/municipal organizations	2.00	Roko Tui Ra (Ministry of I Taukei Affairs)and Ministry of Agriculture
Private sector		
Community-based organizations	1	Wakatu on land use conservational matters.
NGOs	2	Loving Islands on promotional of organic issues and Ranadi as other option for providing short term organic training courses.
Total	7	

Indirect Beneficiaries – Breakdown

Beneficiary type - individual	Total	Female	Male	Comments
Farmers	900	225.00	675.00	This includes the whole population of the five PGS farming communities/villages
Entrepreneurs	5			Five village canteen/shops demonstrating cooperative model set up for the farming communities
Civil servants/government				
Indigenous	1,500	375.00	1,125.00	This includes the whole population of the five PGS farming communities/villages.

Children	165	41.00	124.00	This consist of three (3) children from each farming household.
Youth	435	109.00	326.00	This consist of two (2) youths from each farming household.
Total	1,500	375.00	1,125.00	

Beneficiary type - institutional	Total	Comments
SMEs	2.00	SPBD microfinance -providing small business loans to individuals Westpac - providing financial literacy training & opening of bank account to community
Cooperatives		
Government/municipal organizations	2.00	Ministry of I Taukei Affairs - Roko Tui Ra office and Ministry of Agriculture
Private sector	3	Joes Farm, Farm Boy and Agro Marketing (AMA) although operating from the project area as well by way of buying farm produce but not as consistent now as before.
Community-based organizations		
NGOs		Access Quality Education Programme (AQEP) through FRIEND in providing Income Generating Project (IGP) via bee keeping, school garden for three primary schools (Saivou District School, Tokaimalo District School and Barotu Primary School) and also renting of shed and cooking facilities.
Total	7	

Any other information regarding JP beneficiaries*:

Number of training workshops: 10

Number of people trained (disaggregated by sex), e.g. # people received financial assistance to set up a business (disaggregated by sex).

Training Topics Total Male Female

Introduction to Organic, Stages of Planting, Organic practices, Organic Standards, Certification Process & Marketing. 233 200 33

Food processing & Organic standard and Certification Training 21 16 5

Basic Organic Awareness Training 10 6 4

Peer Review Training 70 34 36

Cooperative structure & Value Chain Development Training 21 16 5

Value Chain Development & Post-Harvest Handling Training 52 25 27

Financial Literacy Training 21 10 11

Monitoring and Cooperative Structure Training 56 12 44

Model Farm Set Up Training 40 18 22

V. Joint Programme Progress

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Progress	Difficulties	Expected deliverables
<p>JP Output 1.1: Skills training in organic production, certification and processing creates employment for youth within the organic agriculture Farm-To-Table value chain</p>	<p>Quarter 2 Farmers were provided with financial literacy training followed by setting up of organic structures amongst the 5 PGS groups preparing them for purchasing trial runs by FRIENDS Follow up meeting was conducted with all the 5 different villages to gauge the status of organic farming and the how the different 5 PGS groups has been progressing through the structure and organic standard. Procurement of training materials including seeds and seedlings. Commencement of training on land preparation and planting Five (5) PGS groups established with continuous follow up, monitoring and mentoring of young farmers. Organic Restaurant opened on trial mode by FRIEND. Quarter 3 Farmer from the 5 PGS groups continues with trainings & meetings to strengthen the different peer groups and improves understanding organic standard together with the certification process. Commencement of Peer review training. Quarter 4 On-going Peer Review training with technical assistance provided by POETCom.17 farmers from the 5 PGS groups participated and FRIENDS to conduct peer review on their own for future PGS groups.</p>	<p>A major challenge is the conflicting Farmers' priorities especially soon after 5 category TC Winston. Many farmers have had to struggle after TC Winston and recent floods (early 2017) as well as landslides which created havoc for many. Most farms were completely destroyed and through this project, many had started from scratch. Trained farmers and youths continued to prioritize re-building of their homes over attending to their farms. As subsistence farmers, they are happy with feeding their families and providing for community and church obligations with minimal income. Meeting such obligations are also prioritized by these farmers. Youths have been attending most training through this project but very few are really practicing organic practices in their farms. Women were noted to be more active with farming activities from land preparation, planting harvesting and then selling.</p> <p>Diversifying into commercial farming and enhancing farm production to meet the value chain requirements might take a few more years of changing mindsets and attitudes. The other main challenges is the mobile network where most time phone network are available and very hard to get in touch with farmers.</p> <p>Another challenge that was noted through the supply chain process is that the farmers are not able to meet the supplies required by the organic restaurant. Based on the trial runs experience, lack or limited communication pose as another challenges as farmers are unable to confirm on the 'what, 'how many', 'where' relating to their produce.</p>	<p>Organic certification process including the 126 young farmers is still on-going.</p> <p>Five (5) PGS groups established with continuous follow up, monitoring and mentoring of young farmers in progress.</p> <p>More organic awareness training to be conducted but in different areas</p>

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Progress	Difficulties	Expected deliverables
<p>JP Output 1.2: Strengthened capacity of local organization to meet and sustain increased market demand for organic produce on a commercially viable basis</p>	<p>Quarter 2 Database developed internally by FRIENDS to monitor youth training and product. On-going process and dedicated staff identified to manage and update database. Farmers trained on basic farm record keeping as part of financial literacy training and evaluation system</p> <p>Quarter 3 Database is continuously updated and including the buying details from the trial runs Farmers were trained in financial literacy training and record keeping where they were given one logbook each to record details from their farm and supplies whenever they sell any produce from their farms. FRIENDS conducted 2 trial runs for as part of testing the supply chain process. This entailed buying organic produce from the 5 PGS groups in which 28 farmers participated. They have been supplying fresh organic produce to Tukuni, the first Organic Restaurant in Fiji and operated by FRIENDS</p> <p>Quarter 4 FRIENDS conducted 7 trial runs of organic supplies directly from the 5 PGS groups, supplying directly to the newly opened Organic restaurant</p>		<p>Internal improvements and on-going update of database with readily available information. More capacity building training including topic on 'farm businesses'.</p>
<p>JP Output 1.3: To ascertain information and communication needs of youth interested in engaging in organic agriculture</p>	<p>Quarter 2 Preliminary discussions with FRIENDS on required support for farmers and to facilitate commercial supply of organic produce. FRIEND launched its 'Organics Simplified' booklet displaying various methods for pest control and boosting crop health. The PGS guideline was launched at the same time on June 1, 2017 at the Holiday Inn, Suva. The booklet has an e-version and has been promoted widely through social media.</p> <p>Quarter 3 FRIEND has been continuously posting all the activities carried out under this project on social media that is twitter, Facebook, and Instagram for visibility of the project. FRIEND continues to develop extension materials for young farmers to assist them in organic farming like seasonal crop calendar which is still in the draft format at the moment.</p> <p>Quarter 4 Under the project, FRIEND contracted 'My Life Magazine' to promote the new Organic Restaurant, Tukuni. This includes designing of the prospectus, branding guidelines, menu designing & creating a social media page for Tukuni. A 2018 & 2019 crop calendar was developed, printed and distributed as part of project awareness and to promote visibility. 3 video recipes have been developed during this quarter Communication Plan, an output of the project is still being developed</p>		

Cross-cutting issues

How has the JP addressed during the reporting period (please provide concrete actions):

1) The **sustainability** of the JP work. (200 words)

In trying to establish links to value-added production and supply into Farm-to-Table organic value chain, the opening of the new organic restaurant (Tukuni) by FRIENDS is ideal for piloting the process. Organic menus were designed and showcased to the public even before the official opening and a storage freezer was procured through the project to be used for preservation of organic produce as part of the supply chain strategy. Farmers are now supplying organic produce to the restaurant but at a much smaller scale and generating minimum income by these farmers. Even though, no broker agreement has been established with hotels/restaurants, with increased production at farm level and strong commitment by all stakeholders, this can be achieved.

2) The promotion of **women's empowerment and gender equality**. (200 words)

Throughout the project, the women have been encouraged to participate in all the activities carried out under this project. One of the good outcomes we see is that women were more participated in most of the activities we carried out while the men were busy rebuilding their house that was damaged from post TC Winston.

Out of 96 farmers who participated in all the activities during this reporting period, 40 are women farmers and 56 male farmers so women are not restricted in any of the activities that we carried out in the communities.

Women involvement through this project include nursery management, on farm production, harvesting, selling, value addition and basic financial record keeping. They attended skills set training on these activities as organized through the project and most have mastered the supply chain process up to increasing their savings. They have been empowered through the project with opening of their bank accounts and income earned through sales of their produce gets deposited directly to their bank accounts. They have saved on transportation costs and unnecessary expenditures as they are operating from their own homes and communities. They are able to contribute constructively to the livelihood of their families through payment of school fees, food and other basic needs.

3) The engagement in **public-private partnerships**. (200 words)

FRIENDS still continue to consult with their Government counterparts on implementing of project activities and ensuring they are kept in the loop of things. Furthermore, village headmen and spokesperson who are the main focal points from the 5 PGS groups are consulted and informed of any training to be carried out. There is also an on-going consultations with other government ministries and departments in particular Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Health and Department of Environment.

Communication and Advocacy

Has the JP articulated an advocacy & communication actions that helps advance its policy objectives and development outcomes?:

No

Please describe communication activities developed as part of the JP. :

FRIEND has also launched its new restaurant named I Tukuni, which promotes the farm to table project linking the farmers directly to the market.

Through the project, FRIEND contracted My Life Magazine, a locally produced magazine, to handle all the marketing aspects of the restaurant including designing of the prospectus, branding guidelines, menu designing & creation of a social media page for Tukuni. FRIEND has been continuously posting all the activities carried out under this project on social media that is twitter, Facebook, and Instagram to promote visibility of the project. A 2018 & 2019-crop calendar has been produced and distributed to the Public. A local video producer has been assigned with developing organic recipes and the link to be shared publicly.

JP website URL:

www.friendfiji.com

JP website URL:

www.friendfiji.com

JP twitter handle:

[@www.twitter.com/friendfiji](https://www.twitter.com/friendfiji)

JP Facebook page:

www.tinyurl.com/friendfiji

JP Facebook page:

www.tinyurl.com/friendfiji

Other social media channels managed by joint programme (Instagram, Google+, You Tube...):

Channel 1:

www.tinyurl.com/FriendYouTube

One UN Coordination and Delivering as One

The SDG-F is based on the principles of effective development cooperation, inclusion and participation and One UN coordination.

Actions	Description
Managerial practices (financial, procurement, etc.) implemented jointly by the UN implementing agencies for SDG-F JPs	
Joint analytical work (studies, publications, etc.) undertaken jointly by UN implementing agencies for SDG-F JPs	
Joint activities undertaken jointly by UN implementing agencies for SDG-F JPs	Organic Youth Exchange Program supported under UNDPs 'Farm to Table' project and in partnerships with IFAD and CTA. Mapping process of best practices, creating video story boards, directing, filming and presentation by youth organic farmers from the Pacific region

Actions	Description
Other, please specify:	

National Ownership: Paris, Accra and Busan Commitments

The SDG-F strengthens the UN system’s ability to deliver results in an integrated and multi-dimensional manner by supporting the Joint Programme modality and by bringing together United Nations Agencies and national counterparts in a collective effort to ensure ownership and sustainability of results of JPs and advance towards the SDGs.

Partners	Involvement *	Type of involvement	Examples
Government (specify national/local)			
Private Sector			
Civil Society			
Academia			

* Implementation of activities and the delivery of outputs

Please briefly describe the current situation of the government, private sector and civil society on regards of ownership, align:

Government is very keen on growing organics nationally however still need the appropriate machinery to fully support and commit resources. Preliminary works and efforts put in place for the Fiji Organic Policy assisted by POETCom by way of supporting organics at national level. There is support by Ministry of Lands, Tourism, Trade and Ministry of Agriculture towards this initiative. The Fiji Organic Producers Association (FOPA) taking lead role in prioritizing technical issues that needs addressing. There is a strong show of support towards FOPA from interested stakeholders who want to be a member of the movement. FRIENDS is also having solid network on national level and able to advance this project based on commitment and previous experiences.

Please briefly provide an overall assessment of the governance and managerial structures :

The first Project Management Committee meeting was held in Vanuatu and attended by 8 representatives of the 4 implementing partners, FRIEND, FSA, POETCom and UNDP and aimed to offer insights into the project from various standpoints through;

- Reviewing of Project Activities and latest Results for each country
- Taking stock of what has been achieved and not achieved
- Assessment on what is feasible in terms of outcomes, indicators and targets
- Discussion on project plans in terms of next steps, resource needs and responsibilities.

VI. Joint Programme contribution to the SDGs

SDG #	JP Contribution
Goal 1	<p>Awareness trainings, community meetings & organic practices trainings involve the discussion of the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organic Agriculture increases farmer's yields over the long term • Higher yields + premium market prices = higher income. • Seeds can be saved
Goal 2	<p>The farmers and women that participate in the training were shown the income that each farmer can get from organic produce, encourage to first plant for home consumption and the side effect for using chemical pesticides.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organic farmers get higher incomes - higher incomes allow parents to send children to school • Better nourished and healthier children are more likely to stay in school • Studies suggest exposure to some pesticides pre-natal can lead to slower cognitive development
Goal 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organic Agriculture & certification schemes exposes women to more educational and skills & development opportunities • Participatory Guarantee Schemes build social capital; empower and ensure women are engaged in management and governance • Higher incomes for female headed households • More economic opportunities for women with value adding
Goal 6	<p>Organic Agriculture encourages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diverse production systems = diverse diets • Locally adapted varieties = high nutrition local greens and root crops • Revival of traditional crops and varieties • Organic Agriculture is more labour intensive = more physical activity
Goal 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organic Agriculture mitigates climate change through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reducing greenhouse gases, - Storing carbon in soil and plant biomass by building organic matter, - Minimizing energy consumption • Organic Agriculture also helps farmers to adapt to climate change because it: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prevents nutrient and water loss - Preserves seed and crop diversity, - Minimizes risk as a result of stable agro-ecosystems and yields • Organic Agriculture contributes to Biodiversity and genetic diversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing the number and variety of wild species found on farm - Maintaining healthy soils and soil fauna, such as earthworms - Encouraging the conservation and expansion of traditional, locally bred varieties • Organic Agriculture prevents soil erosion and land degradation through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improving soil fertility - Preventing wind and water erosion - Improving water infiltration and retention capacity

VII. Additional Information

Additional Comments:

Issues and highlighted and latest from the recent joint UNDP/SPC mission include;

1. Targets - discrepancies in reporting of data by the implementing partners in the 2 countries. PO-ETCOM confirmed Farmers Support Association in Vanuatu has been using the household ap-proach while FRIENDS uses individual farmer approach. It was agreed that data on targets to be re-reported using household

approach and POETCOM to revise figures for Fiji and submit revised report to UNDP

2. An overseas consultant has been engaged by FRIENDS to conduct a feasibility study on production of new items - organic soup packs and organic dry products. The consultant will also be looking at production volumes, value chain process and end user price.
3. In trying to enhance the supply chain process, FRIENDS is holding discussions with Morris Hedstrom (MH) on creation of an organic section for organic supplies at the supermarket however, delivery every 2 days is not viable at this stage. There is plans to conduct training on organics in Rewa where farmers can supply to MH. 'Taste of Fiji', a restaurant in Nadi is another potential res-taurant which is willing to tap into organic produces but not at the moment due to smaller scale production at the farm level. Hotels and other restaurants can be part of the supply chain in the long-term however it became quite clear that this is not subsistence farmers' forte.
4. A lesson learnt so far; in promoting sustainability through this project, more older farmers should also be encouraged to attend organic training as youths are moving all the time. At least the older generation can be trusted to pass down their knowledge and share their experiences

Some if the findings from the field visit include;

5. Lack of coordination/communication, poor networking between farmers and FRIENDS - information on type and quantity of harvested organic produce at farm level not filtered to FRIENDS on time. Difficult to confirm which farmers can supply what and the quantity before collection date.
6. Another challenge is due to subsistence farming in this piloted area, choosing to pursue monopolistic farming might not be viable as expected. Farmers are quite used to non-organic farming practices and they are learning to apply inter-cropping practices through this project as part of organic farming. An integrated fruit orchard can be an ideal example of good organic farming practices
7. To assist farmers in the same areas to bounce back from TC Winston, Government through Ministry of Agriculture provided them with free agricultural inputs and fertilisers. These same farmers were also the ones taking part in the organic training and became direct beneficiaries. Most of them have now gone back to their old ways of farming as adapting and applying organic farming methods seem too challenging.
8. Project's main target are Youths but noted during the Mission that very few are actually attending to organic farms. Majority of this target have either left their communities for greener pastures or simply attending to other prioritised activities such as rebuilding of their homes after TC Winston.
9. Women were noted to be the active participants in the supply chain process and some were interviewed while waiting for their organic produce to be collected by FRIENDS on the day. Organic produce which include rourou(taro leaves), ota (ferns), banana were harvested from the wild with cucumbers and egg plants the only produce harvested directly from the organic farms. Proceeds from these sales are deposited directly to their bank accounts
10. These same women also expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the project as they are reaping benefits through the supply chain process. They are saving on transportation costs, market time and other unnecessary spending during their market days. Money earned through the supply chain are directed to education expenses and daily livelihood for their families. A widow from Nativi community has been harvesting egg plants from her own organic farm and taking part during the trial runs. She had managed to save \$200 by Christmas.

Attachments
