

<b>Programme Title:</b>	Engaging Youth in Fiji and Vanuatu in Organic Farming: A Farm to Table Chain Approach
<b>Country:</b>	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:**

Monday, May 1, 2017

## II. Contact Information

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## Technical team contacts

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JP communications and advocacy focal point

JP knowledge management focal point

JP private sector focal point

## Agency contact points

Contact 1

Contact 2

Contact 3

Contact 4

### III. Financial information

#### Detailed Financial Report:

 [Detailed Financial Info.pdf](#)

#### 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	160,169.00	41,000.00	149,111.00
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	500,000.00	306,679.00	0.00	306,679.00
<b>Total</b>	1,000,000.00	466,848.00	41,000.00	455,790.00

#### Matching Funds

Name of source	Total approved funds	Total funds Transferred to date	Total funds committed to date	Total funds disbursed to date
Pacific Agriculture Policy Project & IACT projects (EU)	180,000.00	110,404.00	0.00	110,404.00
<b>Total</b>	180,000.00	110,404.00	0.00	110,404.00

### IV. Beneficiaries

#### Total number of direct beneficiaries to date:

3

#### Direct Beneficiaries – Breakdown

Beneficiary type - individual	Total	Female	Male	Comments
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Farmers	132	97	35	56 farmers from last quarter underwent training on organic farming practices & monitoring structure. This was a combined training for Naraviravi, Nativi, Nabalabala & Vunisea. 19 of these farmers are youths, which is detailed, in the Youth beneficiary category below. Additional 76 new farmers from Matuku attended organic awareness meeting, filled organic interest registration form and attended organic awareness training. They were also part of the initial farm visit, mapping and risk assessment. 56 of these farmers are youths and detailed in the Youth beneficiary category below. This is captured under the National Ownership Section.
Entrepreneurs				
Civil servants/government	1		1	1 consultation meeting with the Roko Tui Ra on project update brief. This is ongoing process as usual.
Indigenous	132	97	35	Total farmers including youths underwent organic training during the reporting period
Children				
Youth	75	41	34	These are youth farmers trained on organic farming practices during this reporting period as described from above
Other 1				
<b>Total</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>105</b>	

<b>Beneficiary type - institutional</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Comments</b>
SMEs		
Cooperatives		
Government/municipal organizations		
Private sector		
Community-based organizations		
NGOs	2	2 staff from the SPC POETCom met with FRIENDS on project monitoring and updates
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	

## Indirect Beneficiaries – Breakdown

<b>Beneficiary type - individual</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Farmers				
Entrepreneurs				

Civil servants/government	4	2.00	2.00	Ra Provincial Council and MOA Extension Division provided with project data updates as ongoing
Indigenous	8		8.00	Eight village heads from the 8 villages (four from Ra and four from Matuku) involved ensured consistency in food security and income generating through self-employment skills as current.
Children				
Youth				
<b>Total</b>	12	2.00	10.00	

<b>Beneficiary type - institutional</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Comments</b>
SMEs		
Cooperatives		
Government/municipal organizations		
Private sector		
Community-based organizations		
NGOs	2	"WAKATU" a local NGO assist on sustainable forest management and good agriculture practice
<b>Total</b>	2	

## 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>Soon after the Organic Awareness Meeting and the Initial Organic Registration and Training, assessment was then done on groups and individuals readiness to undergo organic production training. Identification of skills set based on their current practices and the training manual was central to this activity.</p> <p>56 farmers out of the two hundred registered during the Organic Awareness Meeting underwent skills training on organic production from the above assessment. In addition, another 76 new farmers from Matuku also underwent the same process and registered during this reporting period.</p> <p>Also part of the activity is the risk assessment and the mapping of boundaries for the individuals and groups.</p> <p>All the above contribute to the certification process at the same time farmers started cultivating cash crops (vegetables) whilst some continue planting of niche crops like ota (fern family), dalo leaves (rourou), yams (uvi) due to traditional farming systems and crop suitability.</p>	<p>The project through FRIEND to continue to have an open door policy on farmers who might be interested to join later on depending on the innovation, skills and performance of the current registered farmers to influence their participation. Also on technical issues across the board for crop types, organic production methods, pest and disease controls, etc. which POETCOM will closely work with FRIENDS during the project.</p> <p>Farmers priorities is a factor to be considered too given targeted participants are from TC Winston affected areas. Many farmers have had to struggle after TC Winston and recent floods (early 2017) and landslides have created havoc for many. This destroys all their farms where FRIEND has to work with them in order to restart from scratch. Farms, which were ready for harvest during December and January, were destroyed by flash flood end of 2016. FRIENDS has to reach out through survey and have discussion with community members and organic farmers on level of damages caused by flood and also mitigate ways of recovery moving forward sustainably which is really a challenge.</p>	<p>100 young farmers are currently undergoing organic certification and fifty-six of them were mobilized under skills training on organic production. This number is expected to increase during the next quarter after mitigating on flood recovery modes. Organic farm demonstrations (promoting organic farm technologies like intercropping) and Good Agriculture Practices held with sustainable reforestation awareness due to soil erosion and other unsustainable farming practices.</p>

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Progress	Difficulties	Expected deliverables
JP Output 1.2: Strengthened capacity of local organization to meet and sustain increased market demand for organic produce on a commercially viable basis.	To continue engaging farmers through the value chain, they are encouraged to plant short-term crops and traditional ones like elaborated above. The project through FRIEND procured a freezer and this to assist in preserving quality of the crops addressing post-harvest issues under the cold chain strategy.	Further, major difficulty with implementing project because of heavy rain and flooding in the vegetable farming plains at Saivou District and bad road conditions is another limiting factor. To mitigate for the short term, FRIEND will buy what farmer's traditional crops like ota, rourou, uvi, cassava, to get things rolling	FRIENDS will be procuring a freezer for the truck to get the marketing aspects rolling, to start supply as well the Organic restaurant that should be opened soon.
JP Output 1.3: To ascertain information and communication needs of youth interested in engaging in organic agriculture	More than at any other time, soil health has become a significant concern because of its impacts on crop yields, income and the food and nutritional security of people. Climate change compounds the problem of natural resource degradation, crop health and farming efforts. To this end, the project through FRIENDS is currently producing the FRIENDS PGS Operational Guidelines and Pesticide Management Booklet to be launched next reporting period. In addition, other updated info and communication work, please refer to Communication and Advocacy Section below.		Visibility in terms of mass media outreach to be fully implemented by next quarter, to allow the project to allow some certifications achieved.

## 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)

Friend has presented organic monitoring structure with the all the leaders from the 3 communities that we are currently working in from beginning of the project implementation.

This structure will works well together with the peer review system.

This system is where the Vanua will be part of the monitoring of the project and all the details & updates of the project will be presented at the Bose Ni Koro & then to the Bose Ni Tikina then to the Provincial Office.

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



Throughout the project, the community leaders are reminded to include women in all the activities relation to the project. Community meetings were organized through the leaders with the reminders to include women in the invitations. Women participations are encouraged to engage in the project and capitalized on their existing knowledge and skills. During group discussion in trainings, women's group in each of the villages are asked to give their opinions on the project activities to ensure their voices are heard in the decision making process where they agree to the activities and they full participate.

Out of 200 farmers who have participated in awareness meetings, registered their interest through organic interest registration forms, attended farm visits and organic training from 2016-2017, we can confirm a 25% of women participation.

Project staff continuously trained to be mindful of equal opportunities for all the participants. Training in the field are facilitated to develop respect for skills and capacities of everyone.

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

The community entry part of this activity was carried out in 2 phases; meeting with the Ra provincial officers and meeting with community leaders and community at large where FRIEND is currently working in. In both these initial meetings FRIEND was presented by the directors of the organization an approach that ensure that no stone are left unturned in establishing rapport with the stakeholders.

The meeting with the Roko Tui Ra was held at the provincial council office and this enable FRIEND to discuss the project with the traditional custodians of the land and create awareness of the action and the specific communities involved. There are community representative to the office e.g. Mata Ni tikina whose main task is to mobilize the clans and land owners towards the necessary provincial task. The approval from Ra provincial office ensures these leaders commitments towards the project.

## Communication and Advocacy

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

Yes

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

The communications or program materials that FRIEND are working in progress now are activity brochure & booklets of good agriculture practices and training banners for visibility. FRIEND has also been publishing success stories and updates of all activities that has been carried out on the social media- Facebook and also through monthly FRIEND newsletter. at the beginning of the project implementation FRIEND has also done 1 media release on the launching of the project in a community that are currently part of the project.

### **JP website URL:**

[www.friendfiji.com](http://www.friendfiji.com)

### **JP website URL:**

[www.friendfiji.com](http://www.friendfiji.com)

### **JP twitter handle:**

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

### **JP Facebook page:**

[www.tinyurl.com/friendfiji](http://www.tinyurl.com/friendfiji)

## JP Facebook page:

[www.tinyurl.com/friendfiji](http://www.tinyurl.com/friendfiji)

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

## 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	
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)	Slightly involved	Policy-decision making Service Provision	The Ministry of Trade and Tourism in Fiji is working with POETCom to implement a national organic certification mark to help develop the local organic market benefiting young growers in the project.
Private Sector	Fairly involved	Other <b>Please specify:</b> buyers of product	Links to market are critical for project success. Examples of private sector buyers engaged to date are: - Mothibai Group in Fiji and distributors of FRIEND products - Bula Coffee in Fiji buy from PGS coffee growers
Civil Society	Fully involved	Policy-decision making Service Provision	The 2 national implementing partners FRIEND are civil society organizations. The JP is also engaging with Matuku council of Chiefs regarding joining the project.
Academia	Slightly involved		FRIEND has plans to work with the University of the South Pacific to trial organic pesticide with organic growers in year 2 of the project

\* Implementation of activities and the delivery of outputs

## VI. Joint Programme contribution to the SDGs

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

## VII. Additional Information

Attachments