

MOAW INPUTS TO THE NATIONAL CEDAW REPORT



List of Issues	Assessment/comments on level of implementation	Lead Ministry	Support Ministry
1. Women's rights and gender equality in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery efforts			
<p>Please describe efforts made and mechanisms put in place to contend with the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and its long-term impact and ways to apply these in the State party's response to current and future crises, such as armed conflict, food insecurity and the energy crisis.</p>	<p>In ensuring food and nutrition security for all Fijians during and after COVID-19 Pandemic, the Ministry of Agriculture introduced the followings initiatives;</p> <p>1. Home Gardening and Farm Support Initiative:</p> <p>Ministry of Agriculture distributed more than 400,000 backyard farming seed packs and around 72,000 farm support seeds packs to 3,447 communities in the rural and urban sectors. This has led to influx of vegetables supply, increased access to healthy and nutritious foods and increased utilization of backyard land. Covid-19 pandemic had restricted movements of people, closure of businesses and markets, thus the need to establish and strengthen the concept of home gardening using backyard space and container farming system for provision of nutritional vegetables or food supply.</p> <p>The initiatives also covered settlements in the urban centers.</p> <p>2. Back to Rural Farming Initiative (B2R):</p> <p>The initiative supported Fijians who lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic and had returned to the rural area to focus on agriculture. Farm Support Kit Assistance was provided to reinforce their settlement support and to develop the agricultural entrepreneurship of the individuals in order to commence their farming activity. A total package of \$400.00 per individual, which consisted of \$250 worth of farming tools, directly delivered to the successful farmer, \$100 worth of planting materials and \$50.00 cash, for procurement of any other items needed.</p> <p>A total of 374 farmers were assisted, of which 79% male and 21% female.</p> <p>3. Green Link Operation:</p> <p>The Ministry of Agriculture, in collaboration with the Agricultural Marketing Authority of Fiji (AMA) ensured access to adequate food of acceptable quality and nutritional value for Fijians in the lock-down area during the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the Green Link Operation, the two institutions ensured uninterrupted supply of fresh produce to local markets. Total of 220 farmers who were market produce suppliers were assisted under this initiative of</p>	<p>Ministry of Health Ministry of Rural and Maritime/ NDMO Min. of Trade</p>	<p>All Govt Ministries</p>

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	<p>which 32% were female and 68% were male. These suppliers/farmers sold their produce at the boarder to AMA, middlemen and vendors for market supplies.</p> <p>Other interventions were implemented with other development partners through Food Security Cluster coordination.</p> <p>In summary, the breakdown of the Food and Nutrition Security Initiatives beneficiaries in response to Covid-19 Pandemic are as follows;</p> <p><i>Table 1: Summary of Beneficiaries</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="456 676 1249 836"> <thead> <tr> <th>Initiative</th> <th>Male</th> <th>Female</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Home Gardening Seeds</td> <td>2,068</td> <td>1,379</td> <td>3,447</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Back to Rural</td> <td>294</td> <td>80</td> <td>374</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Green Market Link</td> <td>149</td> <td>72</td> <td>220</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Initiative	Male	Female	Total	Home Gardening Seeds	2,068	1,379	3,447	Back to Rural	294	80	374	Green Market Link	149	72	220		
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<p>Please provide information on strategies taken to ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment are a fundamental requirement in addressing such crises and in elaborating adequate responses, such as policies, assistance programmes, recovery efforts and the consolidation of the rule of law.</p>	<p>a) Existing Strategy in the Ministry of Agriculture</p> <p>The 5 years Strategic Development Plan (SDP) of the Ministry of Agriculture set to achieve the national agriculture priorities in the period of 5 years (2019 – 2023) and establishes direct linkages with the National Development Plan and the SDG Framework.</p> <p>There are 5 Strategic Priorities in the SDP:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Improve food and nutrition security for all Fijians</i> 2. <i>Increase farmer household income for sustainable livelihoods</i> 3. <i>Increase adoption of sustainable resource management and climate smart agriculture</i> 4. <i>Establish and improve commercial agriculture</i> 5. <i>Improve quality public sector performance and service delivery.</i> 	<p>Ministry of Health Ministry of Rural and Maritime/ NDMO Min. of Trade</p>	<p>All Govt Ministries</p>																

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	<p>The SDP follows a “women in development approach”, actively seeking to increase the low rate of female farmers registered in the country. Despite gender aspects not being mainstreamed as an integral part of the SDP, differences in roles are acknowledged and aspects related to improving access to markets, technology and training are included as well.</p> <p>Strategic Priority 2 includes women and youth in agriculture, encouraging their participation in the crops and livestock sector. Three targets have been set for the four years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. increase in registered provincial women’s groups benefitting from crop and livestock programmes, ii. increase in number of women’s groups in all geographical divisions and iii. Support women in agriculture policy developed and support increased participation of women in the workforce and in the agriculture sector. <p>The Ministry is currently reviewing the current SDP and progressively formulating a new SDP for the next 5 years (2024 – 2028)</p> <p><u>SDP Achievements:</u></p> <p>The performance of SDP was explained by the fact that the Ministry has successfully implemented initiatives aimed at increasing the participation of women and youth in crop and livestock agriculture sector.</p> <p>As of 2022, the Ministry provided 247 Women Groups with voivoi, masi, nursery materials, planting materials and farming equipment. In the same vein, 37 Women and Youth Groups were provided with bee keeping materials, and sheds and other equipment through Agriculture Extension Service- Livestock.</p> <p>Other notable achievements included completion of a framework for contract farming, targeted support to youth and women groups through the piloting of Gender Responsive Budget and launching of the Women in Agriculture Policy.</p>		

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	<p>b) Existing Policies in the Ministry of Agriculture</p> <p><i>i. Policy for Gender in Agriculture</i></p> <p>The Policy for Gender in Agriculture in Fiji (2022- 2027) was developed as part of the Fijian Government’s commitment to progressively realize gender equality for all its citizens, including by having a specific gender action plan for each sector and its ministry.</p> <p>The policy lays out the principles and mindset by which agriculture-related ministries will be able to mainstream gender into all their programs and activities, whether capital or development-related.</p> <p>The vision of the policy is to address the gender gap for agriculture in Fiji. This means that in the future, every Fijian farmer or person working in agriculture, whether a man or a woman, should have equitable access to the resources and services that he or she needs to be productive, resilient and food secure.</p> <p>With this aspiration, the policy has, as its overall goal, institutionalizing a gender mainstreaming strategy, thus realizing better food and nutrition security, sustainable livelihoods, climate and disaster resilience, and successful commercial agriculture for women and men in Fiji. With this goal, agriculture related ministries can fully integrate gender considerations into their strategies and plans for the sector.</p> <p>The policy has four long-term objectives agreed by a multi-stakeholder consultative mechanism that will work towards achieving the vision and goal:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Equality of access by women and men to the economic resources required for productive and resilient agriculture and markets; 2. Equality of access by women and men to the information, technology and training needed for secure livelihoods and healthy diets; 3. Equality of representation and participation in decision-making by women and men, for informed future agriculture planning and resourcing; and 		

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	<p>4. Effective mainstreaming of gender perspectives in all programs through strengthened capacities, resources and commitment in the agriculture ministries.</p> <p>It has a five-year timeframe, of 2022-2027, after which the policy will be reviewed in terms of the relative success of agriculture ministries in mainstreaming gender into their delivery of policy and services to the sector.</p> <p>The implementation will be guided by via ministry-specific Action Plans, which are considered the Gender Mainstreaming Action Plans (GMAPs) for those sectors. Each Action Plan contains commitments to actions and targets and identification of budgetary resources to achieve each outcome of each objective, and is aligned to the strategic objectives of those ministries. The Action Plans of each ministry will be implemented through, and included in, their regular operational plans.</p> <p>The policy is designed to integrate well with the Fijian Government's existing initiatives, including Gender-responsive Planning and Budgeting (GRPB), led by the Ministry of the Economy, and the Gender Transformative Institutional Capacity Development Initiative, led by the National Machinery of Women (that is, the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation).</p> <p>ii. National Food and Nutrition Security Policy iii. Youth in Agriculture Policy</p> <p>3. Assistance Programmes in addressing crisis</p> <p>a. COVID- 19 Pandemic List of assistance programmes are Back to Rural Initiative, Home Gardening Initiative, Green Link Initiative, Farm Support Initiative</p> <p>b. Natural Disasters List of Programmes are Cash for Cultivation, Farm Care Support, Provision of Seeds and Planting Materials, Poultry Farming Assistance, Livestock Veterinary Services</p>		

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4. Visibility of the Convention			
<p>Please indicate what measures the State party has taken to raise awareness of the Convention, with particular emphasis on the concept of substantive equality, and to integrate the Convention into capacity-building activities for the judiciary, lawyers, law enforcement personnel, teaching personnel, social workers, medical personnel and other relevant professional groups.</p>	<p>Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways measures of raising awareness of the CEDAW</p> <p>a) Formulation and Implementation of Gender in Agriculture Policy</p> <p>Through the Gender in Agriculture policy, the Ministry of Agriculture is committed to elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and effective mainstreaming of gender perspectives through strengthened capacities in the Agriculture sector.</p> <p>The Gender in Agriculture policy was initially developed in 2017 and further revised in 2021 following the release and outcome of the 2020 Fiji Agriculture Census Reports. The Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with UN FAO FIRST reviewed the draft Gender in Agriculture policy, facilitated consultation and validation and proposed updates.</p> <p>New evidence that were indicated by the 2019 UN FAO/SPC Gender Assessment of Agriculture and Rural sector in Fiji and 2020 Fiji Agriculture Census (FAC) suggested a gender policy with a more clear rationale, brief background objectives, priority actions, targets where appropriate, governance arrangements and timing covering up to five years – 2022 to 2027.</p> <p>This policy therefore, was developed to promote and ensure, the adoption of a gender sensitive and responsive approach towards stimulating agriculture plans and programs. It will ensure that men and women have full access to and control of productive resources and facilities to meet both domestic and foreign demand.</p> <p>This Gender in Agriculture Policy underwent a consultative process that is guided by key stakeholder inputs across the food value chain at National, Regional and District levels. It encourages participation of both Government and non-Government actors, development partners and traditional authorities across the country.</p> <p>b) Gender Policy Training</p> <p>This year (2023) a training was organized by the Ministry in collaboration with ACIAR on the topic "<i>Understanding and Applying Fiji's Gender in Agriculture Policy</i>" for Livestock Officers across Fiji. This was the first Gender Mainstreaming Training conducted after the launching of the Policy. Total of 28 officers were participants of this training of which 15 (54%) male and 13 (46%) female</p>	<p>Min of Women All Govt Ministries</p>	<p>All Govt Ministries</p>

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5. National machinery for the advancement of women.																						
In the light of the Committee's previous recommendations (para. 16 (b)), please provide information on efforts made:																						
<p>(c) To implement a gender mainstreaming strategy throughout all government agencies;</p>	<p>a) Gender Responsive Budgeting</p> <p>MoAW is one of the selected Ministry for piloting Gender Responsive Budgeting. Through this, 2 programmes were selected in 2021/22. The processes were followed and adopted which resulted in the formation of Moa Gender Mainstreaming Action Group (GMAG) and successful implementation of the 2 selected programmes achieving equal distribution of assistance to farmers.</p> <p>Selected GRB Programmes are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021/22 financial year – Poultry Extension Programme & Vanilla Farming Programme • 2023/24 financial year – Apiculture Farming Programme, Coconut Farming Programme and Post-Harvest Loss Programme <p>The GMAG Committee meets every Quarter for review of workplan and monitoring update of the implemented programmes.</p> <p><i>Table 2: Summary of Beneficiaries for selected GRB Programmes</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="488 999 1402 1171"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Programme</th> <th colspan="3">2022/23FY</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Male</th> <th>Female</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Poultry Extension Programme- Day Old Chicks</td> <td>179</td> <td>410</td> <td>589</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Poultry Extension Programme – Poultry Shed</td> <td>3</td> <td>7</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vanilla Farming Programme (total of past 5 yrs)</td> <td>150</td> <td>350</td> <td>500</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Programme	2022/23FY			Male	Female	Total	Poultry Extension Programme- Day Old Chicks	179	410	589	Poultry Extension Programme – Poultry Shed	3	7	10	Vanilla Farming Programme (total of past 5 yrs)	150	350	500	DOW	All Govt Ministries
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8. Gender stereotypes																						
<p>In the light of the Committee's previous recommendations (para. 26), please provide information on steps taken to adopt a comprehensive strategy</p>	<p>The Ministry has adopted a strategy and number of policies to support the work of eliminating discriminatory stereotypes in the Agriculture Sector. This includes the followings;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formulation of Gender in Agriculture Policy 2. Establishment of Gender Mainstreaming Action Group 	All Govt Ministries	All Govt Ministries																			

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to eliminate discriminatory stereotypes regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and society, in cooperation with civil society organizations, in particular women's groups, community leaders, teachers and the media.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Strategic Development Plan 4. Adopting Quota System in allocating Agriculture Assistance - strengthening gender equity in order to achieve gender equality 5. Conduct Training and Awareness 																										
15. Employment																											
(b) To eliminate vertical and horizontal occupational segregation and achieve substantive equality in the labour market, including with regard to promotion opportunities;	<p>The tables below shows results of number of staff and farmers by sex as indicators of employment in the formal and informal sector of Agriculture</p> <p>Table 3: Number of Staff by Sex- 2022/23fy</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Indicators</th> <th>Male</th> <th>Female</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Number of MoA Staff</td> <td>566</td> <td>295</td> <td>861</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Percentage Distribution of Staff</td> <td>66%</td> <td>34%</td> <td>100%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Table 4: Number of Farmers by Sex</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sex</th> <th>Count</th> <th>%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Male</td> <td>71,424</td> <td>85.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Female</td> <td>11,971</td> <td>14.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>83,395</td> <td>100</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Indicators	Male	Female	Total	Number of MoA Staff	566	295	861	Percentage Distribution of Staff	66%	34%	100%	Sex	Count	%	Male	71,424	85.6	Female	11,971	14.4	Total	83,395	100	All Govt Ministries Ministry of Civil Service	All Govt Ministries
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(h) To criminalize and prevent sexual harassment in the workplace and ensure that it applies to all employers,	Employment Relations Act 2009	All Govt Ministries	All Govt Ministries																								

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including the armed forces, police and corrections service.			
19. Economic empowerment and economic and social benefits			
(a) To ensure that women are informed about their equal rights of access to financial credit, assets and bank accounts;	<p>MoAW has incorporated topics of financial literacy, financial banks processes, services and packages into the annual training, awareness and assistance program.</p> <p>Through collaboration with Agriculture Marketing Authority (AMA), an agreement was signed with few financial institutions to facilitate and ease farmers or clusters access to financial credit, assets and bank accounts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MoU with Bank of the South Pacific (BSP) was signed in 2020 to provide a digital-based banking solution to Fijian farmers (male and female). Under the agreement, BSP provides financial literacy training to the AMA contracted farmers at their regional locations and register farmers for SMS banking services so that farmers living in regions with poor network connectivity can receive payment on their mobile phones. • The Ministry of Agriculture, AMA and FNPF signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in making farmers and cluster members, the members of the FNPF's Voluntary Membership Scheme to provide social security for them. The MoU gained immense access with more farmers including women farmers that showed interest. Farmers can use their FNPF funds for short, medium and long term social security needs such as medical, education, and funeral for themselves, children, spouse, parents and siblings. They can also access funds for natural disaster assistance, housing assistance and old age income security through the Funds retirement products • MoU was signed by Ministry of Agriculture and Fiji Development Bank (FDB) in 2021 for promotion and expansion of commercial agriculture and encourage the use of banking services to farmers and agro-processors. Under this programme, the Government will provide financial stimulus in the form of equity to 30 commercial farmers and agro-processors in improving farm mechanization, agricultural infrastructure, and agro-processing infrastructure support and equipment. The Ministry will provide an incentive grant in the form of equity that would meet 20% of the total investment cost, while FDB will provide the other 80% financial solution. 	<p>MOW Min. of Finance Min of Trade Min of Agriculture MOJ Min of Youth & Sports</p>	<p>Ministry of Agriculture & Waterways</p>

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	<p><i>Table 5: Number of Farmers having Savings Account (Bank or any other Financial Institutions by Sex</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="456 331 1346 437"> <thead> <tr> <th>Indicators</th> <th>Male</th> <th>Female</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Count</td> <td>37,965</td> <td>4,786</td> <td>42,751</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Percentage</td> <td>53.8</td> <td>46.2</td> <td>100</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Source: 2020 Fiji Agriculture Census</p> <p><i>Table 6: Number of Farmers having Bank Accounts by Sex</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="456 568 1346 673"> <thead> <tr> <th>Indicators</th> <th>Male</th> <th>Female</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Count</td> <td>37,370</td> <td>4,707</td> <td>42,077</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Percentage</td> <td>88.8</td> <td>11.2</td> <td>100</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Source: 2020 Fiji Agriculture Census</p> <p><i>Table 7: Number of Farmers having savings account at Other Financial Institutions by Sex</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="456 810 1346 916"> <thead> <tr> <th>Indicators</th> <th>Male</th> <th>Female</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Count</td> <td>1,281</td> <td>149</td> <td>1,430</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Percentage</td> <td>90</td> <td>10</td> <td>100</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Source: 2020 Fiji Agriculture Census</p> <p>Other Financial Institutions includes FNPF, Unit Trust of Fiji, Fijian Holdings, RBF- Viti Bond, Kontiki Finance and others</p> <p><i>Table 8: Number of Farmers Benefitted from the MoU with FDB</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="456 1123 1346 1228"> <thead> <tr> <th>Financial Year</th> <th>Male</th> <th>Female</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2021/22</td> <td>9</td> <td>1</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022/23</td> <td>8</td> <td>0</td> <td>8</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Source: Project and Budget Database, MoA</p>	Indicators	Male	Female	Total	Count	37,965	4,786	42,751	Percentage	53.8	46.2	100	Indicators	Male	Female	Total	Count	37,370	4,707	42,077	Percentage	88.8	11.2	100	Indicators	Male	Female	Total	Count	1,281	149	1,430	Percentage	90	10	100	Financial Year	Male	Female	Total	2021/22	9	1	10	2022/23	8	0	8		
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<p>(a) To ensure that rural women have full access to social benefits and non-contributory social protection and to microfinance and microcredit at low interest rates;</p>	<p>The Government through the Ministry of Agriculture provides financial stimulus in the form of equity to 30 commercial farmers and agro-processors in improving farm mechanization, agricultural infrastructure, and agro-processing infrastructure support and equipment. The Ministry provides incentive grant in the form of equity that would meet 20% of the total investment cost, while FDB will provide the other 80% financial solution.</p> <p>This Package helps strengthen the food system, exports, create new market opportunities for farmers and processors, and help make supply chains more resilient to economic and natural shocks such as those caused by the pandemic and climate change. Farmers whose farm sizes are five acres and above and are registered entities as well as those who are producers and processors of crop and livestock commodities, can access loans from FDB up to \$250,000 with the Ministry providing an equity contribution of 20%.</p> <p><i>Refer to Table 8 for beneficiaries summary</i></p>	<p>Min of Finance Min of Trade Min of Agriculture Min of Itaukei Min if Rural Development MOW</p>	<p>Ministry of Agriculture</p>
<p>(b) To promote equal sharing of household and childcare responsibilities between women and men and promote ending the prioritization of men in terms of access to food;</p>	<p>To promote and increase women participation in the Agriculture Sector, the Government through the Ministry of Agriculture developed tailored made gender programmes or initiatives over the years. These are programmes such as,</p> <p>1. Women in Agriculture (WIA) Program</p> <p>The primary objective of this program is to promote women in agriculture through cottage activities such as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercializing floriculture for cut flowers and green foliage production • Strengthening traditional art through commercializing Voivoi and Masi production <p>The program covers the following activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting Materials (Floriculture, Voivoi and Masi) • Organic Agro inputs [Poultry manure and potting mix) • Infrastructure Development [Drying shed and Nurseries) • Commercial Farm Development • Small machines • Technical Advisory Services • Implementation & Support Services 	<p>Min of Itaukei Min of Agriculture MOW</p>	<p>Ministry of Agriculture</p>

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	<p>In the past 5 financial years (2019 – 2023), a total of 897 women were assisted under the Women in Agriculture Program.</p> <p>2. Coconut Farming Program The Coconut program is one of the program that address the situation where coconut farming is a collective household member activities where men, women, girls and boys are all involve in the process. The process is that where women and girls are involve in collecting coconut dry nuts , sorting out of dry nuts , scrapping of coconuts , coconut value adding, VCO fermentation and extraction along with packing and labelling while the coconut cutting and drying are done by men and boys.</p> <p>The program covers the following activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting material • Establishment of 10 Nurseries • Infrastructure Development (repair of existing driers) • VCO Support • Building and Maintenance of Coconut Drier and Processing sheds • Coconut Day • project staff • Implementation and Support <p>3. Vanilla Farming Program Fiji has a great opportunity to pounce on vanilla production in the agriculture sector as there is a huge global demand which cannot be met. Vanilla farming is often highly recommended for women because of the process of pollination. It is believed that women would work more efficiently and quicker in this aspect. There are model farms for vanilla in Fiji and as such the Ministry organizes a study tour in northern, central and western division to provide opportunity for other potential women groups to develop similar projects. Vanilla is a promising economic venture for women and Ministry also looked at providing more training opportunities to see more women becoming successful vanilla farmers.</p>		

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	<p>The program covers the following activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement of Planting Materials • Spices Development • Curing Materials & Accessories • Green House Materials • Implementation & Support <p>4. Post-Harvest Loss Program</p> <p>In a patriarchal society, men tend to farms, planting and harvesting while women concentrate on cooking and other domestic duties. Men make all decisions while women and youth are expected to follow suite. Part of this project intends to focus on women and youth, providing them with the technical knowledge to establish SMEs and have the opportunity to contribute to family income, society decision making and community improvements.</p> <p>This project also opens up opportunities for women and youth to undergo basic training, further educational trainings and classes, setup and get involved with in depth technical trainings of choice and also, diversify skills and talents and encourage other women to do so.</p> <p>It has been noted in the past years that majority of value adding training participants in this program are usually women.</p> <p>In 2019, MoAW conducted eight trainings, of which around 70% were women and 30% youth. In 2020, the laboratory conducted seven trainings for various groups and communities. About 70% participants were women and 40% youth. As the project is seen as cooking related or participation is in the kitchen, it is likely to attract more women and youth than men. Nabulini Processing Centre in Wainibuka hosts 70% women and 40% youth, while home of Hope Centre has about 80% women and 60% youth. Verata village Centre has 100% women participation. Overall, women are actively interested in training under this project, with around 30-40% youth, while men usually provide silent support in the background.</p>		

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	<p>From Nabulini and Home of Hope Centers, the women are actively involved in decision making of the work, and the interests into information, technical and financial resources and services have been all women. Overall, this project attracts women and youth, empowers and equips them with technical knowledge and experience and should more support of processing machinery provision be given, it would strengthen and elevate participation of women and youth in business, enabling them to start off their SMEs. The men usually tend to the farm, planting and harvesting as the usual practice in Fiji.</p> <p>5. Poultry Farming Program The programme supports the involvement of women in poultry farming, strategically targeting those aspects where they have been left behind and aiming to boost their capacities to bring them from subsistence to semi-commercial and commercial levels of activity.</p> <p>The program covers the following activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth and Women in Agriculture - assisting women and youth groups in agriculture to supply with Broiler package to help. Perhaps this is mainly to accommodate food security and supplement protein sources to individual household/farmer as well as to encourage increased production to attain fully self-sufficient. • Layer Bird & Feed Equipment - Purchase and supply of chicks and feed mainly to women and girls and youth to accommodate food security and supplement protein sources to individual household/farmer as well as to encourage increased production to attain fully self-sufficient. • Infrastructure Improvement- Provision of shed materials for extension and improvement on existing and new farms. • Free Range Day Old Chicks & Feed - To introduce resilient breed and to address nutrition and food security aspects to individual household/farmer as well as to encourage increased production to attain fully self-sufficient. • Broiler Day Old Chicks & Feed - To introduce resilient breed and to address nutrition and food security aspects to individual household/farmer as well as to encourage increased production to attain fully self-sufficient. 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity Building – Production improvement in poultry industry requires adaptation to the upcoming relevant technology in areas of feed, breeding, management and marketing. Up skilling of farmers and community with advanced technology and practices through training is very crucial. Thus, this program will facilitate training of the farmers/women groups/clusters in area basic poultry management. Through these training farmers will be more aware of the basic management practices to look after for the welfare of animals as well to increase production. <p>6. Apiculture Farming Program</p> <p>Fiji has a potential of producing 50,000 beehives, which would produce around 1,500 tons of honey with a return of around \$15m. Furthermore, Fiji compared to other countries has good climatic conditions for efficient and productive beekeeping except for some natural disasters and occasional bad weather conditions during the year.</p> <p>The local beekeeping sector is male dominated, however, beekeeping provides opportunities for both men and women in terms of livelihoods for example in Beekeeping equipment, Pollen, Beeswax, Bee food, Forage plants and Honey.</p> <p>Women have primary responsibility for cooking, cleaning, collecting water and firewood, and childcare. In comparison to men, women face higher disadvantages in particular in terms of mobility, access to productive assets, productive resources and access to market information with the result that they find it difficult to access and maintain profitable market niches and capture a larger slice of income for the household.</p> <p>As the beekeeping is a promoting business and generate cash, the males monopolized such activity till become a rooted tradition and women involvement in such activity is less Even if women become interested in learning and making business with beekeeping, the workload, little free time to either learn or practice beekeeping activities such as siting hives, apiary management, honey harvest, honey and bees processing. Training and providing start-up support to women is not enough. Gender awareness activities should be carried out to encourage women’s participation in this industry.</p> <p>Mostly women participated in transitional and modern beekeeping activities but their participation in traditional honey production system was less because of the cultural barrier in which women are unable to climb the trees to hang the beehives. The women participated in beekeeping activities like clearing the nearby spaces of the hives,</p>		

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	<p>cleaning of the hives with steam and marketing of the harvested honey. The practice creates additional job opportunity and source of income. The recent approach to beekeeping development in rural areas encourages involvement of women in the process of production and marketing of bee products.</p> <p>The overall objective of the project is to establish a strong and aggressive development of the apiculture industry with improved gene pool of honeybees in Fiji to ensure creation of rural employment for men, women and girls, improve rural living standards, expand apiculture Industry to a level of self-sufficiency, create opportunities for export of bee products, to effectively regulate and monitor ports of entry by assistance of the Bio security department, to improve quality standards of honey for export, to facilitate and organize marketing both locally and overseas with the Fiji beekeepers association, to produce more skill and competent staff and farmers and to reduce importation of bees wax by establishment of wax processing unit</p> <p>The program covers the following activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute Honey Filling Machine • Conduct 10 Apiculture Trainings for farmers and staff • Conduct Honey Product Development and raise awareness to farmers for adoption • Monitor existing apiculture farms to ensure sustainability of production <p><i>Table 9: Summary of Number Farmers by Sex assisted on Apiculture Farming Program in the past 3 financial years;</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="456 986 1330 1187"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Financial Years</th> <th colspan="3">Count of Beneficiaries</th> <th rowspan="2">Budget Allocation (FJD)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Male</th> <th>Female</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2019/20</td> <td>99</td> <td>16</td> <td>115</td> <td>200,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020/21</td> <td>33</td> <td>17</td> <td>50</td> <td>200,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021/22</td> <td>44</td> <td>4</td> <td>48</td> <td>120,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>7. Home Gardening Program <i>(Please refer to Table 1)</i></p>	Financial Years	Count of Beneficiaries			Budget Allocation (FJD)	Male	Female	Total	2019/20	99	16	115	200,000	2020/21	33	17	50	200,000	2021/22	44	4	48	120,000		
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2019/20	99	16	115	200,000																						
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(c) To amend legislation to ensure that all rural women	A) Access to Land Ownership	AG's Office Min. of Itaukei	Ministry of Agriculture																							

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<p>have equal access with men to land ownership and adequate water resources;</p>	<p>To increase farmer's access to land, Ministry provides assistance through Committee for Better Utilization of Land (CBUL) programme in collaboration with iTaukei Land Trust Board. A total of \$6.9 million (FJD) is allocated every year for this program.</p> <p>The Committee for Better Utilization of Land (CBUL) program was set up to ensure more land is accessible to all stakeholders for productive use and the landowners receive a fair and equitable return from leases over their land. CBUL started in 2008 with the purpose of promoting idle land for production use, especially for agricultural purposes under the Agricultural Landlord Tenant Act (ALTA when tenants were displaced upon the expiry of their leases.</p> <p>B) Access to Water Resources</p> <p>To ease water access to farms by farmers, the Ministry provide assistance on Irrigation Kits, Borehole, Drainage and Water Tanks.</p> <p><i>Table 10: Summary of Number Farmers by Sex assisted on Irrigation Kit and Borehole in the past 2 financial years;</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="456 794 1137 932"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Financial Years</th> <th colspan="3">Count of Beneficiaries</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Male</th> <th>Female</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2021/22</td> <td>26</td> <td>3</td> <td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022/23</td> <td>29</td> <td>1</td> <td>30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Financial Years	Count of Beneficiaries			Male	Female	Total	2021/22	26	3	29	2022/23	29	1	30	<p>MOW Min of Lands Min of Agriculture & Waterways Housing Authority MRMD Min of Multi Ethnic Affairs</p>	
Financial Years	Count of Beneficiaries																	
	Male	Female	Total															
2021/22	26	3	29															
2022/23	29	1	30															
21. Disaster risk reduction and climate change																		
<p>(a) To set up public funds to support families in the wake of disasters and create a system for the immediate supply of basic necessities, including water and sanitation, food and urgently needed medication, in case of emergency;</p>	<p>Fiji is vulnerable to floods and tropical cyclones, with significant impacts on the economy and population of the country. Climate change will continue to affect environmental conditions; temperature, rainfall, humidity, availability of water for irrigation and the distribution of pests affecting agricultural yields in Fiji.</p> <p>The 5 years MoA SDP has assisted the Ministry to improve its approach and institutional knowledge in mainstreaming climate resilience in Fiji's agriculture sector. This includes strengthening research and knowledge base for climate resilience, implementing targeted adaptation strategies and programs to help farmers adapt to climate extremes and developing an overarching Climate Resilient Agriculture (CRA) framework.</p>	<p>MRMD/NDMO MOW Min of Finance PMO/ Climate Change MOH Min of Infrastructure Min of Finance</p>	<p>Ministry of Agriculture</p>															

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	<p>The DRM and DRR activities are tailored-made into most of the agriculture development programmes.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agriculture Extension Programme for both crop and livestock sub-sectors. The program mainly focuses on raising DRM and DRR awareness and trainings to farmers and staff. It also assist in the farm rehabilitation activities at pre and post cyclones through the provision of planting materials and seeds. 2. Seed and Planting material production Programme 3. Livestock Breeding Programmes 4. Poultry Extension Programme 5. Farm Management Programme 6. Sustainable Land Management Programme <p>Farmers are encouraged to cultivate Yams and Tivoli as climate resilient commodities. Short term crops such as sweet potatoes, vegetables and poultry for livestock are always provided to farmers as food security commodities soon after any disaster.</p> <p>MoAW also conducts Baseline Surveys in Pre-Disaster periods and Initial Damage Assessment (IDA) Surveys and Detail Damage Assessment (DDA) Surveys at Post Disaster as basis of formulating rehabilitation plan to address specific affected target population and need.</p>	<p>Min of Agriculture & Waterways Min of Itaukei</p>	
22. Disadvantaged groups of women			
<p>Please provide information on measures taken by the State party to adopt legislation, temporary special measures and awareness-raising measures to combat intersecting forms of discrimination against disadvantaged groups of women, such as women with low income, women with</p>	<p>Refer to MoAW's response on Gender Stereotypes (8)</p>	<p>All Govt Min.</p>	<p>All Govt Ministries</p>

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disabilities, and lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women.			
23. Please also describe measures put in place to promote a positive image of women and girls with disabilities and to ensure that they have effective access to justice, political participation, education, employment and health care, including sexual and reproductive health-care services.	Refer to MoAW's response on Gender Stereotypes (8)	All Govt Ministries	All Govt Ministries