



## **TUTU RURAL TRAINING CENTRE REHABILITATION**

August 27  
2021

This report states an ongoing report of TRTC development. As JK Rowling says 'there's always room for a story that can transport people to another place'. The rehabilitation speaks volume of the new development that has taken place to date

TRTC

### **TRTC Cyclone rehabilitation program**

Oceania farm has the opportunity to a share in the disaster relief fund that is funded by the Caritas NZ rehabilitation program. We have moved forward by utilising these funds with the focus of improving the good utilisation of the soil by mending it and also by using it for food consumption and taking care of our natural resources.

This year amidst the COVID 19 pandemic we have done the best we could with the resources available and the skills and experience that is attained by staff for the services to continue as usual. We have come forward with the idea of changing our eating habits by applying an ongoing healthy food system. We have made an effort for a continuous fight of NCD's with close monitoring of the healthy lifestyles which deals directly with what we plant and to the result of what we eat daily and also projecting money back in the training centre as a whole. In implementing this idea we have planted fruits of every kind and all kinds of roots crops as well as cash crops like yaqona, dalo and other assorted crops.

### **AGRO-FORESTRY DEPARTMENT**

Agroforestry is another key factor at the moment, taking into account the evaluation of lessons learnt from the previous year in the continuous cutting of trees. We have already done it but we want to put it as a priority for all staff members as well as the participants. So far we have planted 500 trees into vacant lands as well as existing farming areas for Oceania farm. These trees are Drala, Kaliandra, bainicagi, as well as mocemoce tree, among these trees nitrogen-fixing trees are some fruit trees as well.



## VEGETABLE DEPARTMENT

The vegetable department aims to improve healthy lifestyles and healthy eating habits as well as projecting money to the training centre as a whole. In executing this aim and need, we have mobilized our farm staff for a special day directed to the planting of assorted vegetables at the vegetable site. We have applied three methods, the first is direct planting, and the second method is raised bed planting, and the third method is planting in the offseason vegetable tunnel. We are installing a raised bed tunnel with galvanised pipes as structures; this is part of the cyclone rehabilitation program







## **FLORICULTURE/ ORNAMENTALS DEPARTMENT**

In our 2019 staff seminar themes, it says “mera vosa na senikau” let the flowers speak. The phrase is real for us in our working environment for oceania farm and other departments as we have planted assorted flowers like, Anthuriums, Orchids, Rose, Herbs, Lata, Euphobia, Fillers, Palms, Hibiscus, Dalolike flowers etc. we have planted all these flowers for beautification of TRTC and also selling to people who need flowers. This flower nursery has been upgraded and new model of nursery is been designed for future development of the floriculture industry.



## **DALO (Taro) PRODUCTION**

In our strategic plan, we have put more effort into our planting targets each month for Dalo. Thanks to PIFON and Caritas NZ for the support in the funding of our dalo tops for starting up a dalo nursery project to get more planting material in the future for Oceania farm's ongoing Dalo production as cash crops as well as food consumption. Part of this focus was to help the participants in their planting materials when they enter a new year of training in Tutu. At the moment we have on-site more than 20,000 mata available and ready for a new planting season. We also start to harvest our first mata from the nursery which we get 1, 500 in the first harvesting and still there is more in the field awaiting maturity. Our focus was to continue with these methods as an ongoing activity in the Oceania farm. On-site, we also have 3,500 dalo plants ready to be matured. In July we have planted 2,000 suckers and recently in August, we have planted 1,200 suckers. So approximately we have 6,700 suckers already planted on the field excluding the planting targets for the Dalo nursery project. The price of Dalo tends to fluctuate but at the moment sale of Dalo in Taveuni is at a stable price at \$2:50 / kg. We are



hoping by the end of the year we will be expecting a good market price. While we are more on Dalo as a cash crop we are continuing on intercropping system and replanting of nitrogen-fixing trees within the farm site.



*Taro nursery establishment, from  
buying tops to nursery establishment*



**Taro development**





## FRUIT TREES PRODUCTION

From 2020 to 2021 our main focus was to fill up all the areas here in Tutu with assorted fruits. So with the abundance of fruit trees in the nursery, we set up targets so that we can transfer all the fruit trees to be planted in the field. So now we have 2,000 fruit trees already planted within June to August this year 2021 and it seems we are progressing, but there is still a lot of work to be done to achieve our target. We have set up the fruit trees with the specified species for the development of orchard field. This is for easy access and easier picking and transportation. Mucuna beans planting continues to dominate the soil rehabilitation program. We are targeting the opening of the border as it will help the smooth running FDU with the number of fruits we will supply. Our fruit trees development goals are yet to be fully realised but we think we are going in the right direction at the moment from seeing the progress of weekly being achieved.





*Fruit trees development*

## **SOIL REGENERATION/ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS**

### **COMPOSTING & MAKING COMPOST TEA**

Part of soil regeneration is making of compost and also application of compost tea to all plants and cash crops on the ground. Compost tea makes a lot of difference here in Taveuni especially here in Tutu whereby we influence a lot of people to refrain from using chemicals but to plant more trees and mucuna beans and other nitrogen-fixing trees on the ground. Compost tea changes the life of a plant from a weak stage to a different life and growth. Most of the staff here in Tutu is making use of daily mixing of compost tea and we see that this is helpful to us as well as participants. We also do a lot of wood chipping every day to prepare for the needs of KYF vegetables for Married couples as well.





*Compost tea processing*



## **TUBER CROPS/YAMS PRODUCTIONS**

We have planted 300 yam plants this year. From June to July this year we have planted a total number of 250 vudi/plantain plants 100 banana plants, 700 dalo ni tana, and 250 cassava plants.



## YAQONA /KAVA PRODUCTIONS

Yaqona targets continued to be achieved with more planting methods done to improve the yield of Yaqona. Application of compost, as well as compost tea and planting of muccuna beans, helps a lot in boosting the life of the Yaqona. The existing number of yaqona on the ground at Sinai block is 2,600 at 3 yrs old, 5,000 at the bottom of teak orchid which is 3yrs old, coconut tree block is at 1,500 and from June to August 2021 we managed to plant 1,500, and the last block is the trial block for compost tea is 150 plants. This number is expected to rise in December when we plant the yaqona from the nursery. Along with yaqona farming targets is the implementation of the intercropping system and replanting trees. Yaqona nursery project runs well but because of the border being closed, selling produce is difficult so we just return this potted yaqona into the soil for planting.



*Yaqona Nursery and farm*



## **Road Development**

The roadings rehabilitation program continues to be a priority dimension of the TRTC rehabilitation program. With TRTC continues to step ahead with the minor road works awaiting the opening of the border for the final upgrading by the road work contractor. An update will be tabled in the next report