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ECOSYSTEM BASED CLIMATE ADAPTATION PROJECT (ECAP)

Community's Story

Official Newsletter of Ecosystem-Based Climate Adaptation Project

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Basic Beekeeping Training

Bee farming is a nature-based solution helping reduce the vulnerability of communities and buffer the impacts of climate change. The bees act as a mechanism to fasten the trees pollination and vegetation growth while improving the local ecosystem.

The beekeeping training has been completed in 8 communities (Vatukuca, Vanuavou, Bagata, Nacodreudreu and Nakasa villages in Cakaudrove; Navakasali, Nakawakawa, Saolo, Banikea and Kavula villages in Bua) and trained 210 women and youth groups.

It has also established Cooperatives that have applied to the Department of Cooperative to register their Cooperative business for honey production and carbon sale.

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Community's Story

Nakawakawa Village, Wainunu District in Bua Province

Mrs Lusisa Vuniwaitui is a representative of the Women's group in Nakawakawa Village and a beekeeping training participant. She said that the beekeeping training together with handover of beekeeping equipments and PPEs will not only benefit the women's group but the community as a whole. Mrs Vuniwaitui mentioned that her village has a lot of health-related issues such as stroke, cardiovascular diseases and diabetes and further explained that the concept of beekeeping farming will improve the lives of the villagers.

"Honey has been renowned as the best remedy for healing cuts and sores for diabetic person. Now that we have the chance to extract our own honey, it's a lifesaver".

The village of Nakawakawa is eager to grow their apiary farm as they have made extra beehive stand to increase their bee boxes to at least 20 or 40 more double boxes to generate income.



Photo by LLEE :- (Top Right)Official Handover of PPE and Tools to the Youth and Women's club of Bagata Village; (Top left):- Participants Group photo in Saolo Village (Bottom Left) - Mrs Lusisa Vuniwaitui of Nakawakawa.



Vanuavou Village, Vaturova District In Cakaudrove Province

Vanuavou village obtained their first bee boxes in the early weeks of June. This is their first time ever to be engaged in beekeeping. The Youths and Women's groups are solemnly responsible for the apiary site. Both groups were intrigued by the training facilitated by Fiji Beekeeping Association trainer Mr. Saimone Tuinaqase. Participants said they only knew of one product that a farmer can extract from a beehive, which is honey, but after the training had learnt 8 other products - well beyond their expectation. Mrs Luisa Dibale, the Women's club representative, stated that the learning materials, such as the beekeeping notes supplied during the training, is very useful information. The assistant Turaga ni koro Mr. Fabino stated that the bee farming will be an important source of income for the community. Their aim is to expand the beehives to commercialize the sale of honey and wax. With the certificates obtained during the training, they are planning to apply for the financial grant offered by the Fiji government to expand their beekeeping business.



Saolo Village, Wainunu District In Bua Province

For the village of Saolo, the beekeeping farming is much more than enhancing resilience in the village. Beekeeping training in Saolo village was conducted for the first time, with handover of full sets of beekeeping equipment and PPEs. The trained participants will look after the apiary site, and thanked Live & Learn Fiji and European Union for the opportunity.

"The beekeeping farming is the beginning of our new business for the Women's and Youth groups of Saolo village," Mr Joeli Brown said. "The income generated from the sale of honey and wax will assist in procuring new fibre boat to assist men and women for fishing".

Another participant, Mr. Jale Petero, added that the youth in the village needed to take advantage of the assistance to help boost their business. He went on saying that that "We thank the mataqali (landowning Unit) members and Live & Learn for giving us the opportunity. It is a big responsibility for us youths but we are ready to take on the challenge".

The beekeeping farming has been part of their community development plan to improve sustainability in the village. It has created an opportunity for youths to develop and strengthen their skills, and abilities to be resilient in this climate change era.



Photo by LLE :

Top left - Participant of Vanuavou holding a frame of bees (Top right) Mrs Luisa Dibale of Vanuavou village reading her beekeeping notes in the first session of training

First Top right - Participants of Nacodreudreu amazed at the brooded frame, (Second top right)- Participants of Kavula inspecting the hives (Third top right)- Joeli Brown & Jale Petero of Saolo Village (bottom right):- Participants of Saolo village frame inspection.

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