

ECOSYSTEMS - BASED CLIMATE ADAPTATION PROJECT (ECAP)

Community's Story

Official Newsletter of Ecosystem-Based Climate Adaptation Project

Disclaimer :

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Honey Harvesting in Nakasa Village

The beekeeping intervention is aimed to build local socio-economic resilience in targeted communities. It is nature-based solution that also aims to restore natural ecosystem using local adaptive resources to buffer climate change.

The Mataqali Waiwai Cooperative LTD is the first of the 18 cooperatives under the Ecosystems-based Climate Adaptation Project (ECAP) to receive practical training on honey harvesting. The practical exercise was conducted at Nakasa Village on the 11th of August, 2022. The Mataqali Waiwai Cooperative was supplied with four double beehive boxes with colonies from which four frames were used as samples for honey harvesting.

The main purpose of providing hands on experience to the targeted groups is to equip them with the skills and techniques to carry out the task on their own in the coming future. This approach ensures that the youth and women from the Waiwai clan to take ownership of their apiary business to drive replication of rainforest honey production.

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Photo : (1) Honey frames removed from the beehive box
(2) Combing of wax from honey combs

Nakasa Youth Club

Mr. Ilaitia is an advisor for the youth club in Nakasa village, Wailevu West, Cakaudrove. He was one of the cooperative members that have received their beekeeping personal protective equipment's and tools in March, 2022. He expressed his gratitude to Live and Learn Environmental Education Fiji and European Union for providing the opportunity for the youths and women of Mataqali Waiwai Cooperative. He highlighted that the youth club is focusing on (i) increasing bee boxes and (ii) investing on their children's education. The youths have planned that the income generated from the sale of honey will be aimed to purchase more bee boxes and replicate for mass honey production. A portion of the income will be invested to the youth members who currently in primary, high school and University.

The income will assist these youth members in the purchasing of their school materials including sandals, bags and uniform.

Mr. Ilaitia and his youth members believe that education is a pillar in having a resilient community. In his interview he mentioned,

"We believe that investing in our kids' education will lead paths towards good health, empowerment, and employment"



Mr. Ilaitia an advisor for Youth Club in Nakasa Village

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Nakasa Women's Club - Senidakua Women's Club

Mrs Kula Leweniqila is a resident of Nakasa village, who is part of Senidakua womens club. She shared her experience of women living in Nakasa village. She said *"there are an abundance of local resources in the village that can be utilised for income generating that would enhance village resilience and alleviate poverty, however, there are little awareness and trainings of how to make use these resources"*.

The implementation of beekeeping has created an opportunity for the women of Nakasa Village to enhance their sources of income. After the replication of bee boxes, the youth will donate 2 boxes to the women's club to assist with the needs of the club. The women of Senidakua Women's club have plans to sell a bottle of honey at \$15.00 per bottle (1 liter). While a portion of the income will be kept for beekeeping maintenance and replication, a portion will be directed to women's handy craft ideas for income generation that would also complement their beekeeping business. The handy craft ideas include housing ornaments and decoration, cloth printing (*kesakesa*) and sewing. The income generated from the sale of honey will allow women to buy paints and sewing materials to start off their small business enterprise . The women are also planning to use the income to purchase diesel and kerosene tanks for cooking and fishing boats. Since there is no petrol station close to the community, the villagers can purchase the fuel from the women's club.



Photo : (4) Mrs Kula Leweniqila during her interview (5) Pure honey after straining and ready for storage (6) Removal of frames from the beehive boxes (7) Straining process (8) Transfer of honey from storage container to filter bottle (9) Transfer of honey from filter to bottle sale (10) Honey bottle ready for sale

HEAD OFFICE

52 Imthurn Road,
Domain
Private Mail Bag, Suva.

NORTHERN OFFICE

LOT 4, Naiyaca Sub
Division
Labasa, Fiji

PROJECT MANAGER

Tel: (679) 3315868
Email : subesh.prasad@livelearn.org

SENIOR PROJECT OFFICER

Tel: (679) 8818855
Email : penisemani.rakanace@livelearn.org