China-Fiji Strengthens Food Security

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WAISEA NASOMIA

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There is a great need to promote climate-resilient agriculture. One that is not only environmentally friendly but adaptive to climate change, to allow the continuous growth of Fiji’s agriculture sector.

Minister for Agriculture and Watersways Vakainta Rayaqia made those remarks at the Sofi Fiji Resort and Spa on Denarau on Tuesday. This was during the International Forum on Applications of the Juncao Technology and its Contribution to Alleviating Poverty, Promoting Productive Employment and Protecting the Environment.

Mr Rayaqia believes a strong collaboration between the Government of China and Fiji will strengthen Fiji’s commitment to improving food and nutrition security.

“China has benefited from Juncao and worked closely with the following stakeholders:

- Three Technical Institutions
  - West (Vorandeu College) and Central (Nausoro Agricultural Technical Institute and the FPR-CYF Training Group)
  - The women’s groups - four in the Central Division, i.e. (Naisaiviti women’s group, Ranadiuia cluster, Lomaiviti women’s cluster; and the Tailevu South Group, and West L. (Nausoro Women’s Group)
  - Three Vulnerable Groups.
  - Nine registered businesses.

“My sincere appreciation and gratitude go to the government of the People’s Republic of China, UN Sustainable Development Goals, and International Cooperation Agency for providing us with the opportunity to carry out this workshop for the Regional and International participants,” said China’s Ambassador to Fiji Zhou Jun, who said Juncao technology was a picture of China and other developing countries’ common efforts to achieve rejuvenation.

China is willing to make joint efforts with other countries to provide new opportunities for world development with new achievements in Chinese modernisation,” he said.

Inception Workshop Initiative will identify, quantify child poverty

A new approach to identify and address the needs of children was introduced to policymakers in Fiji through an inception workshop on Monday.

The National Multi-Dimensional Overlapping Deprivation Analysis (N-MODA) is a new initiative from UNICEF Pacific and the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection.

It will assist in identifying and quantifying multidimensional child poverty.

N-MODA is a flexible methodology that will bring a new perspective to policymakers in understanding child poverty in Fiji with respect to the cultural and social context of the country.

It will provide evidence to inform government policies and programmes including critical social services affecting children and their families, particularly those most vulnerable.

“Understanding the nature of child poverty and child deprivation is critical to address the needs of children, this in turn will assist to develop suitable programmes and policies,” said the Minister for Women Children and Social Protection, Lynda Tabuya.

“We are grateful to UNICEF for this partnership at such an important time.”

The Inception workshop saw Government and non-government partners gather for a day to define multidimensional child poverty for Fiji by discussing and identifying the dimensions, indicators, thresholds, and age groups that are most relevant to the country context.

The analysis that will follow at the workshop will use data from the Fiji Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) which was carried out by the Fiji Bureau of Statistics with support from UNICEF in 2011.

N-MODA will enable policy makers to determine and address child deprivations and identify those suffering multiple and overlapping deprivations, as a basis to develop, adjust, or streamline policies and programmes.

“Over the past few weeks, we have noted several concerns related to children published in the media and addressing them requires a deep understanding of the cultural and social context.”

“N-MODA gives all stakeholders an opportunity to take into account the country context in defining and measuring multidimensional child poverty for Fiji so that the evidence informs policies and programmes,” said UNICEF Pacific Representative Jonathan Veitch.

The N-MODA initiative is a collaboration between UNICEF and the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection. The final research findings based on the methodology defined at the workshop are expected to be launched later this year.

Source: DEPTFO News

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