



Minister for Agriculture and Waterways Vatimi Rayalu and Chinese Ambassador Zhou Jian with the international delegations at Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa. Photo: Waisea Nasokia

INTERNATIONAL FORUM

# China-Fiji Strengthens Food Security

This is for the benefit of our nation and world and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.

WASEA NASOKIA NADI

There is a great need to promote climate-resilient agriculture. One that is not only environmentally friendly, but adaptive to cli-

mate change, to allow the continuous growth of Fiji's agriculture sector.

Minister for Agriculture and Waterways Vatimi Rayalu made those remarks at the Sofitel 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 Rayalu believes a strong collaboration between the Government of China and Fiji will strengthen Fiji's commitment to improving food and

nutrition security.

"This is for the benefit of our nation and world and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030," he said.

**Fiji has benefitted from Juncao and worked closely with the following stakeholders:**

- Three technical Institutions - West (Votualevu College) and Central (Navuso Agricultural Technical Institute and the Force Training Group)
- Five women's groups - four in the Central Division, i.e. (Naitasiri women's group, Ravodrau cluster;

Lomaivua women's cluster, and the Tailevu South Group), and West i.e. (Nasavu 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, UNDESA for providing us with the opportunity to carry out this workshop for the Regional and International participants," he said.

China's Ambassador to Fiji Zhou Jian, said Juncao technology was a picture of China and other developing countries' common efforts to achieve rejuvenation.

"It provides confidence for developing countries to eradicate poverty, as well as China's wisdom for global poverty reduction. This is widely welcomed by the international community," he said.

He added the story of Juncao technology was a story of people getting rid of poverty, a story of China contributing to the world, and a story of mankind exploring the new path of modernisation.

"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.



Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection permanent secretary Eseta Nadakuitavuki (seated third from left), with participants during the inception workshop on February 21, 2024. Photo: DEPTFO News

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 2021.

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 cultur-

al 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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