



NWC Research and Extension NEWS

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NWC Scoops Prize Award at 2016 Fiji Business in Excellence Awards

NATURE'S Way Cooperative Fiji Limited is a step away from achieving the highest quality in business excellence accreditation in the country. Since 2010, NWC has been applying the Fiji Excellence in Business Awards (FBEA) framework to better improve its services to members.

Since then, it has picked up several awards along the way including the Commitment to Business Excellence through Quality Management (2010) and the Achievement in Business Excellence through Quality Management (2011, 2015).

However, this year Nature's Way Cooperative (Fiji) Ltd scooped the Fiji Business Excellence Prize Award which recognises businesses that have improved performance demonstrated across most criteria areas including aspects of performance most important to the organisation.

Company CEO Michael Brown said the company's recognitions over the past six years were proof of their continuous improvements and commitment to its members.

"We have about 300 members, all of whom are farmers and 25 of which are registered exporters," he said.

"With the FBEA framework we are able to implement business excellence within our organisation so that we are able to deliver the best quality service for our members and also ensure that we are exporting quality fresh produce to Australia and New Zealand.

"The framework also measures the quality of our management and its performances and it gives us feedback on the areas that we can improve.

"So really the award has resulted in a significant improvement in how we carry out our business operations by adopting quality business excellence practices."



*NWC Management with
Acting President - Chief
Justice Anthony Gates
during the awards
ceremony for the Fiji
Business Excellence
Awards (FBEA) 2016.*

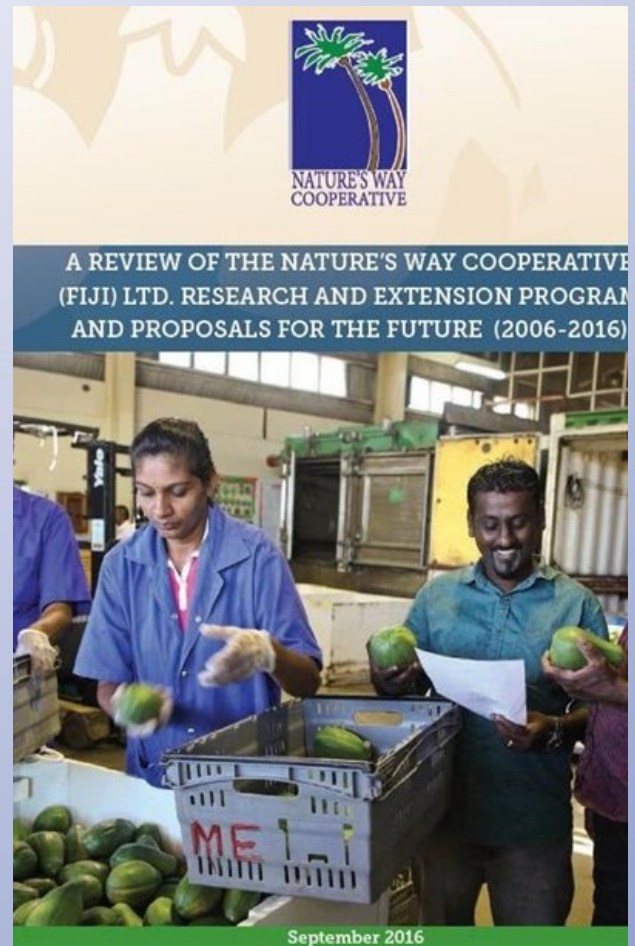
Nature's Way Cooperative releases its Research and Extension Program Strategic Review for 2006 - 2016

Nature's Way Cooperative (NWC), has recently released a report entitled "Review of the Nature's Way Cooperative (Fiji) Ltd. Research and Extension Program and proposals for the future (2006 – 2016)". This report covers ten years of research and extension work supporting Fiji's fresh produce export sector and gives valuable insight into the opportunities and challenges for farmer organisations involved in research and extension.

This review was commissioned by the NWC management and board and supported by the Pacific Island Farmers Organisation Network (PIFON) through the EU funded SPC PAPP project. The review is intended as a management tool and for the information of NWC's 300 members who make up the cooperative. NWC remains a leading example in the Pacific region of the important contribution a farmer organisation can make to agricultural research and extension when it works in an appropriate partnership with government and private sector.

The report will be highlighted during an 'Information Session' to be held in conjunction with the NWC Website Launch on 16.11.16 at the NWC facility. This event will be attended by NWC farmer and exporter members along with other key stakeholders. The Assistant Minister for Agriculture will officiate the event.

To download a copy of this review report www.nwcfiji.com



Nature's Way Cooperative Participates in Pacific Breadfruit Roundtable

The Pacific Breadfruit Roundtable was a two-day consultative meeting held in Nuku'alofa, Tonga from September 15th - 16th, 2016. The event was attended by 50 participants from seven Pacific Island countries including farmers, farmer organisation representatives, research organisations, government partners and aid agencies. This event, a first of its kind for the region, was organized by the Pacific Island Farmers Organisation Network (PIFON) with co-funding from the EU-SPC PAPP (Pacific Agricultural Partnership Program) and IFAD/SDC funded MTCP II project.

The objective of this roundtable was to bring together partners who are actively involved in breadfruit research and development in the Pacific to share experiences, get updated and work to synergize regional Breadfruit activities. Discussions on the context for breadfruit development in the region as well as PIFON's Pacific Breadfruit and Seed Supply Programme (PBSP) were the focus subjects. The roundtable also included four technical sessions including: Breadfruit Varieties and Propagation, Breadfruit Production Systems, Fresh Exports of Breadfruit and Breadfruit Processing. A key outcome from the roundtable meeting were detailed national workplans for each of the seven countries represented along with a series of inter-regional technical partnerships being established. PIFON is now seeking additional funding for its PBSP to help support the national activities identified. Proceedings from this roundtable will be released by PIFON in due course.

Fresh Exports Discussed at Fiji—NZ Trade Forum

The inaugural Fresh Produce Trade Forum (FPTF) was held in Auckland, New Zealand on 19th to 20th October 2016. The theme of the forum was ***“Together We Can” – A Partnership Platform to Increase Fiji’s Fresh Produce Exports***. Fiji’s Minister for Agriculture, Honourable Inia Seruiratu, was the Chief Guest and officially opened the FPTF. A total of 35 participants attended the FPRT which was facilitated by the Fiji High Commission in New Zealand. The objectives of the FPRT were to: provide a meeting space where stakeholders within the Fiji – New Zealand agriculture supply value chain can dialogue, identify challenges experienced and offer solutions, with the aim of increasing Fiji’s fresh produce exports to New Zealand; and provide networking opportunities amongst various stakeholders. The approach used during the FPTF included panel discussions, workshop sessions and business networking sessions. Among the participants was NWC CEO, Michael Brown who presented to the forum a range of issues affecting fresh produce exports with an emphasis on HTFA commodities.

Farmers and Exporters Benefit from NWC/NZ Aid Disaster Rehabilitation Assistance

NWC has been working in partnership with NZ Aid, Fiji Ministry of Agriculture and other partners to assist the fresh export industry rehabilitate after the devastation from TC Winston and the April 2016 Floods. The rehabilitation program includes three components: Export stimulus scheme - \$350,000 (funded by NZ Aid), Export farm rehab scheme - \$105,000 (funded NZ Aid) and NWC Seed producer support scheme and rehab - \$20,000 (funded by NWC). The combination of components is based on NWC’s experience in implementing natural disaster rehab programs since 2009.

For the export stimulus scheme, seven exporters are working on an equal export rebate allocation of \$50,000 each, to be utilized within six months. To date all seven exporters have begun utilizing their allocation with a total of \$118,632 spent as at 15.11.16. The NWC Disaster Rehab and Preparedness committee will soon be meeting to determine re-allocation of funds between these exporters.

For the export farm rehab scheme a partnership approach is being utilized where the eight participating exporters are facilitating the supply of seedlings and agro-inputs to their supplying farmers. To date, a total of \$79,746 has been distributed in the form of agro-inputs and seedlings to approximately 150 farmer members.

The export stimulus is pushing exporters to find produce which is pushing farmers to plant produce. The farmers seem to have an increased confidence in their exporter through this rehab partnership approach.



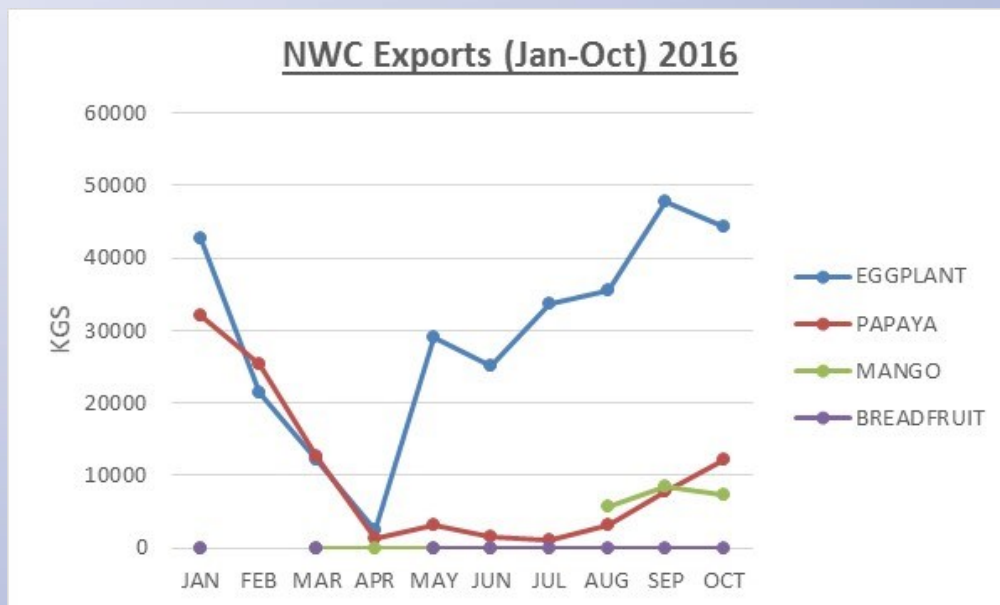
Maqere Exports from Tavua sourcing eggplant from a supplier in the Sigatoka Valley. Maqere exports has been working with NWC to supply seedlings and agro-inputs to its leading suppliers after TC Winston and the April 2016 Floods.



Export Update



Source: NWC



Source: NWC

NWC Research and Extension Partnership Committee:

