

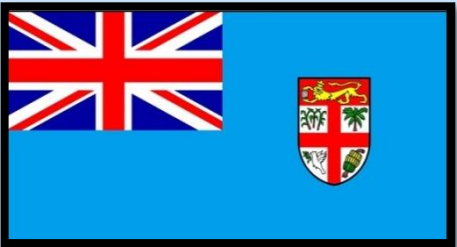
INNOVATIVE RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN FIJI

33rd CIRDAP Technical Committee Meeting

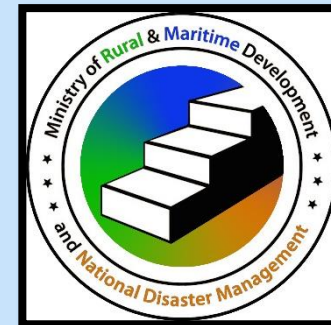
19th April, 2018

Tanoa International Hotel, Nadi

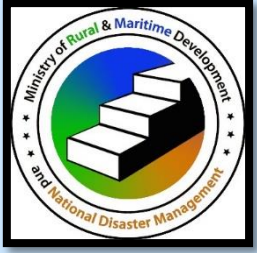
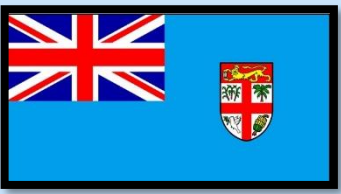
FIJI



OVERVIEW

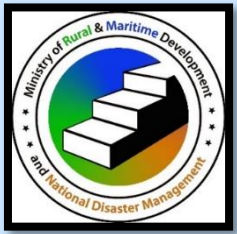
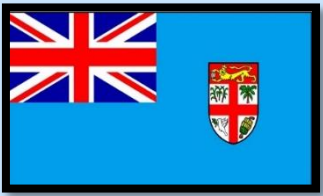


- Rural Development Context in Fiji
- Cause for Innovative Rural Development
- Underlying Issues
- Conclusion



Rural Development Context of Fiji

- Sustainable rural development challenged by:-
 - Distance from trade markets;
 - Domination of agricultural economy;
 - High reliance on official development assistance;
 - Capability of rural work force to contribute to economic and social changes that is part and parcel of development;
 - Environmental vulnerabilities.

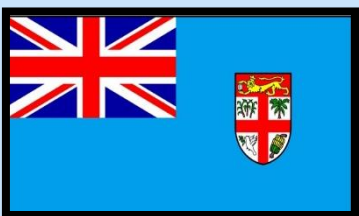


Cause for Innovative Rural Development

- Tremendous potential for Fiji's rural economy to contribute to national socio-economic development.
- Government falls victim to 'tunnel vision' inhibiting potential to create policies and programs that are responsive to local & current demands.
- Silo mentality: government, CSO's, private sector, & RURAL DWELLERS are not harmonizing efforts.
- Government needs to relook at the rural development environment to tease out these existing opportunities.

UNDERLYING ISSUES

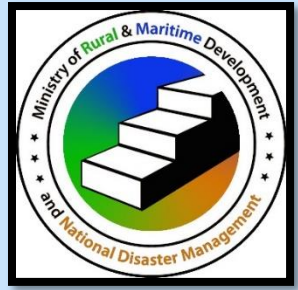
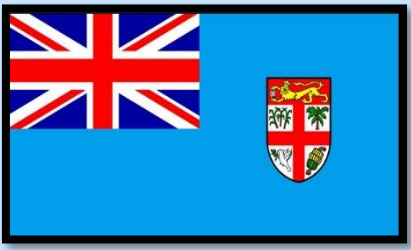
Rural to Urban Drift	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inevitable but irreversible trend.
Rural Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Push factor for rural - urban drift.
Accessibility & Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tyranny of distance.• Challenge for economic growth in maritime zones.
Human Capital Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Needs to be more demand driven.• Education and training that equips rural population with skills to support lifestyle changes - prevent urbanization.
Communal Living & the Subsistence Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Subsistence affluence inhibits motivation to develop at any cost and inhibits the growth of the domestic markets.
Resilient & Sustainable Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation practices are still widely considered as a cost rather than an investment.
Limited Involvement of Private Sector & CSO's	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited involvement and sharing of information duplicates efforts.• Opportunities go undetected.
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current rural development governance structure has had little to no reviews since 1970s.



Conclusion

- Innovation cannot happen overnight.
- Ministry of Rural Development must identify the processes and structures that can support and accelerate innovation.
- Multi-sectoral approach through stronger governance structures is vital.
- Governance structures must ensure rural development practices are innovative enough to counter the emerging trends.

END



Courage makes change
and innovation possible.
Courage is needed to
challenge conventional
thinking.