



HON. VATIMI T.T.K. RAYALU
Minister for Agriculture and Waterways

Written Response– 182/2024

Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Written question 182/2024

Can the Minister inform Parliament: -

- (a) The number of farmers that were assisted in the dalo and yaqona farming programmes in the 2023-2024 Financial Year;*
 - (b) The allocation breakdown in terms of Provinces; and*
 - (c) The expected return on investment from each farmer.*
-

- **Hon. Speaker;**
- **Hon. Prime Minister;**
- **Hon. Deputy Prime Ministers;**
- **Hon. Leader of Opposition;**
- **Hon. Cabinet Ministers;**
- **Hon. Members of Parliament;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Mr. Speaker Sir, I express my gratitude to the Hon. Naisa Tuinaceva for the inquiry addressed to me in my capacity as the Minister for Agriculture and Waterways.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I write in response to the important inquiries concerning the:

- (a) The number of farmers that were assisted in the dalo and yaqona farming programmes in the 2023-2024 Financial Year;*
- (b) The allocation breakdown in terms of Provinces; and*
- (c) The expected return on investment from each farmer.*

Mr. Speaker Sir, in 2023, the Total Value of National Domestic Export was estimated to be F\$1.3 billion in which:

- 69.4% (F\$934.2 million) was the total share of **All Agriculture Commodities** to the National Trade including Forest products, sugar products and fisheries products, this was an increase of 0.7% as compared to 2022 (F\$927.5 million);
- 25.5% (F\$343.4 million) was the total share for **Only Crop & Livestock Commodities (fresh, chilled and value-added products)** – this was an increase of 9.2% as compared to 2022 (F\$314.5 million); and
- 10.7% (F\$144.7 million) was the total share for **ONLY fresh and chilled crop and livestock produce** – this was an increase of 17.3% as compared to 2022 (F\$123.3 million).

In 2023, Yaqona and Dalo continue to be in the top 5 agricultural export commodities:

- **Dalo:** In 2023, the export value was approximately F\$39.8 million (0.03% share to the National Trade) in which 5,608.2 metric tonnes of Dalo produce were exported - this was an increase of 19.2% compared to the previous year.
- **Yaqona/Kava:** In 2023, the export value was approximately F\$38.1 million (0.02% share to the National Trade) in which 501 metric tonnes of Kava produce were exported – this was an increase of 0.6% compared to the previous year.

The main export destinations for the two (2) agricultural commodities, i.e. Yaqona/Kava and Dalo include Australia, New Zealand, the USA, and other Pacific Island Countries.

a) The number of farmers that were assisted in the Dalo and Yaqona farming programmes in the 2023-2024 financial year?

- **Yaqona/Kava Farming Program**

In the 2023-2024 financial year, under the Yaqona Farming Program, 257 individual farmers and 5 farming clusters groups were assisted through the provision of planting materials, pounding machines, construction of farmhouses, drying facilities, and nurseries.

Details of farmers assisted under the Yaqona Farming Program are attached in **Annex 1**.

- **Dalo Farming Program**

In the 2023-2024 financial year, under the Dalo Farming Program, 674 individual farmers and 3 farmer cluster groups were assisted through the provision of planting materials, agro-inputs, infrastructure development, Land clearing, Land Preparation, Technical Advisory services and training.

Details of farmers assisted and supported under the Dalo Farming Program are attached in **Annex 2**.

b) The allocation breakdown in terms of provinces?

- **Yaqona/Kava Farming Program**

In the 2023-2024 financial year, \$500,000 was allocated for the Yaqona Farming Program. To ensure the further development of Fiji's Kava industry, the program focused on the following strategic areas:

- Provided direct assistance to proficient Yaqona cultivators by supplying clean planting materials to guarantee the success of the large scale plantations;
- Strengthened the current Yaqona growing areas to boost production through the nursery support;
- Provided infrastructural support to ensure proper drying and storage of Yaqona to meet export standards; and
- Improved the quality of Kava production through timely technical support services.

Activities funded under the Yaqona/Kava Farming Programme include the following:

- Procurement of Planting Material - \$190,000.00;
- Pounding Machines-\$40,000.00;
- Drying Facilities- \$38,000.00;
- Farm-House - \$80,000.00;
- Nursery Establishment - \$32,000.00; and
- Monitoring and Support - \$120,000.00.

- **Dalo Farming Program**

In the 2023-2024 financial year, \$450,000 was allocated for the Dalo Farming Program. To ensure that Fiji's Dalo industry remains successful, the project focused on the following strategic areas:

- To increase Dalo production from 54,751 (baseline – year 2021) tonnes to 60000 tonnes by 2024; and
- Dalo farming aims to achieve SDP 4, which focuses on the establishment and enhancement of Commercial Agriculture.

Activities funded under the Dalo Farming Programme included the procurement of planting materials, agro-input, infrastructure development, Land clearing, Land Preparation, Technical Advisory services, and Implementation and Support services.

The Dalo Farming program is a crucial program implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways where it supported the roles of men and women in the Dalo farming.

Through the program, it could be observed that Dalo farming is a collective household member activity where men, women, girls and boys are all involved in the farming process.

The process is that women and girls are involved in Dalo suckers sorting, selection, and making bundles during harvesting. The Dalo land preparation, land cultivation, harvesting, and transporting are done by men and boys. The Dalo planting and weeding are often carried out collectively, i.e. men, women, girls, and boys all participate.

A detailed breakdown per geographical division and assistance provided are attached in **Annexes 1 and 2**.

c) The expected return on investment from each farmer?

- **Yaqona/Kava Farming Program**

With the support provided to farmers under the Yaqona/Kava Farming Programme, the following are estimated to be the projected benefits and return of investment:

- Economic benefits include an increase in income received by farmers;
- Environment benefits through best farming practices adopted via intercropping and integrated farming systems with agro-forestry systems has been practiced; and
- Social benefits for farmers include infrastructural development - house improvements (renovations), footpath, improvements on water systems, purchase of vehicle etc.

Furthermore, the projected Return of Investment for this programme indicates that for **every dollar (\$1) invested** by the government, there is an **anticipated return of \$25**, thereby demonstrating the programme's viability.

- **Dalo Farming Program**

The investment allocated to farmers through the Dalo Farming Programme was anticipated to yield the following projected benefits or returns on investment:

- Increase in the sales of dalo suckers for suppliers. For instance, 20 dalo planting material (suckers) suppliers will benefit from the sale of 250,000 dalo suckers;
- Farmers can meet their social obligations - income, education and health, social and religious obligations;
- Economic benefits for farmers include infrastructural development, especially on house improvements (renovations), footpaths, improvements in water systems, etc.;
- Increase in export revenue where potential and available arable land will be developed for agriculture purposes – Dalo farming;
- Environmental benefits through best farming practices adopted via intercropping and integrated farming systems with agro-forestry trees will be practiced; and
- The project encouraged full conservation practices through Sustainable Land Management to reduce soil erosion and land degradation.

The Return of Investment for this programme forecasted that for every **\$1** the government spends on this programme, a **return of \$5** only to proof the viability of the programme.

ANNEX 1:

YAQONA/KAVA FARMING PROGRAMME

Division	Province	No. of farmers assisted	Type of Assistance	Qty.	Value of Assistance [\$]	ROI [\$]
Eastern	Kadavu	42	cuttings	48,351	\$ 24,175.50	\$ 604,387.50
		42				
	Lau	2[Cluster]	cuttings	3000	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 37,500.00
		1	Farm House	1	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 75,000.00
		1 & 2 cluster				\$ -
	Lomaiviti	15	cuttings	31750	\$ 24,125.00	\$ 603,125.00
		1 Cluster	Yaqona Pounding Machine	1 set	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 200,000.00

Division	Province	No. of farmers assisted	Type of Assistance	Qty.	Value of Assistance [\\$]	ROI [\\$]
		15 & 1 cluster				
West	Ba	1	Yaqona Potted Seedlings	400	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
		1				\$ -
	Ra	7	Yaqona Potted Seedlings	1250	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 125,000.00
		7				\$ -
Central	Naitasiri	1	Farm House	1	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 75,000.00
		1	Nursery	1		\$ -
		11	Yaqona Cuttings	18000	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 225,000.00
		6	Potted Seedlings	2306	\$ 9,000.00	

Division	Province	No. of farmers assisted	Type of Assistance	Qty.	Value of Assistance [\$]	ROI [\$]
						\$ 225,000.00
		19				\$ -
	Serua	3	Cuttings	2560	\$ 1,280.00	\$ 32,000.00
		1	Potted Seedlings	156	\$ 624.00	\$ 15,600.00
		4				\$ -
	Namosi	3	Cuttings	3012	\$ 1,506.00	\$ 37,650.00
		1	Yaqona Pounding Machine	1 set	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 200,000.00
		4				\$ -

Division	Province	No. of farmers assisted	Type of Assistance	Qty.	Value of Assistance [\\$]	ROI [\\$]
	Rewa	1 Cooperative - Raviravi/Beqa]	Cuttings	1816	\$ 2,724.00	\$ 68,100.00
		1 Cluster	Potted Seedlings	1769	\$ 7,076.00	\$ 176,900.00
	Tailevu	21	Cuttings	19934	\$ 9,967.00	\$ 249,175.00
		5	Potted Seedlings	4182	\$ 16,728.00	\$ 418,200.00
		1 cluster	1 drier	1 set	\$ 1,192.00	\$ 29,800.00
		26 & 1 cluster group				\$ -

Division	Province	No. of farmers assisted	Type of Assistance	Qty.	Value of Assistance [\$]	ROI [\$]
North	Macuata	41	Cuttings	31546	\$ 22,082.20	\$ 552,055.00
		5	Farm House	3 sets	\$ 6,775.11	\$ 169,377.75
		3	solar light	3	\$ 1,885.50	\$ 47,137.50
		1	Pounding Machine	1	\$ 4,600.00	\$ 115,000.00
		50				\$ -
	Cakaudrove	19	Cuttings	32277	\$ 16,138.50	\$ 403,462.50
		1	Farm House	1	\$ 3,190.94	\$ 79,773.50
		20				\$ -

Division	Province	No. of farmers assisted	Type of Assistance	Qty.	Value of Assistance [\$]	ROI [\$]
	Bua	57	Cuttings	68300	\$ 28,650.00	\$ 716,250.00
		7	Farm House	7	\$	-
		1	Drying Facility	1	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 125,000.00
		65			\$	-
		5 clusters			\$	-
		257 Individual			\$	-
					\$ 226,219.75	\$ 5,655,493.75

ANNEX 2:

DALO FARMING PROGRAMME

Division	Province	No. of farmers assisted	Type of Assistance	Qty.	Value of Assistance [\$]	ROI [\$]
Eastern	Lomaiviti	10	Dalo suckers	13805	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
	Sub-total	10		13805	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
West	Ba	1	Dalo suckers	2500	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,250.00
	NN	30	Farmers Training	1	\$ 540.00	\$ 2,700.00
	Ra	2	Dalo suckers	7000	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 7,000.00
	Sub total	33		9501	\$ 2,190.00	\$ 10,950.00
Central	Naitasiri	47	Dalo suckers	38108	\$ 11,432.40	\$ 57,162.00
		1	Land Prep	1	\$ 4,300.00	\$ 21,500.00
		45	Agro input	129	\$ 10,836.00	\$ 54,180.00
	Sub total	93		38238	\$ 26,568.40	\$ 132,842.00
	Serua	31	Dalo suckers	40110	\$ 28,171.50	\$ 140,857.50

Division	Province	No. of farmers assisted	Type of Assistance	Qty.	Value of Assistance [\$]	ROI [\$]
		1	Land Prep	1	\$ 2,594.00	\$ 12,970.00
	Sub total	32		40111	\$ 30,765.50	\$ 153,827.50
	Namosi	26	dalo Suckers	23500	\$ 7,050.00	\$ 35,250.00
		1	Land Prep	1	\$ 2,594.00	\$ 12,970.00
	Sub total	27		23501	\$ 9,644.00	\$ 48,220.00
	Rewa	41	Dalo suckers	75650	\$ 11,347.50	\$ 56,737.50
		1	Dalo Nursery	1	\$ 1,228.40	\$ 6,142.00
		41	Agro input	96	\$ 7,896.00	\$ 39,480.00
		1	Land Prep	1	\$ 4,300.00	\$ 21,500.00
	Sub total	84		202972	\$ 105,590.90	\$ 527,954.50
	Tailevu	2	land prep	2	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
		11	Dalo Suckers	20600	\$ 4,120.00	\$ 20,600.00
		32	Agro input	32	\$ 2,688.00	\$ 13,440.00

Division	Province	No. of farmers assisted	Type of Assistance	Qty.	Value of Assistance [\$]	ROI [\$]
		2	Land Prep	2	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
	Sub total	47		20636	\$ 22,808.00	\$ 114,040.00
North	Cakaudrove	90	Dalo training	2	\$ 1,485.00	\$ 7,425.00
		23	Agro input	23	\$ 9,988.35	\$ 49,941.75
		4	Dalo nursery	4	\$ 5,314.78	\$ 26,573.90
		1	Dalo Irrigation	1	\$ 3,010.00	\$ 15,050.00
		4	Dalo Suckers	22000	\$ 15,400.00	\$ 77,000.00
		2	Land prep	2	\$ 12,870.00	\$ 64,350.00
	Sub total	124		22032	\$ 48,068.13	\$ 240,340.65
	Bua	90	Dalo training	1	\$ 1,350.00	\$ 6,750.00
		7	Land Prep	7	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
		68	Agro input	291	\$ 21,538.70	\$ 107,693.50
		15	Land Prep	15	\$ 16,800.00	\$ 84,000.00

Division	Province	No. of farmers assisted	Type of Assistance	Qty.	Value of Assistance [\$]	ROI [\$]
		2	Dalo Nursery	2	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
	Sub total	182		316	\$ 56,688.70	\$ 283,443.50
	Macuata	21	Dalo suckers	12500	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
		21	Agro input	21	\$ 2,371.75	\$ 11,858.75
	Sub total	42		12521	\$ 12,371.75	\$ 61,858.75
	Total	674			\$ 322,695.38	\$ 1,613,476.90