



MINISTRY OF WATERWAYS

Press Release

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50 Farmers and 65 Households Have Benefited from Drainage works

Farming communities in the Northern Division will now not have to worry about flooding during the rainy season that destroys their farming activities.

This after the completion of drainage works from the Ministry of Waterways, which will benefit close to 50 farmers and close to 65 households in the settlement of Batinikama, Doguru, and Wavuwavu, in Labasa.

The Minister for Waterways, Agriculture and Environment Hon. Dr. Mahendra Reddy said that this has been done with the ongoing program which the Ministry of Waterways has to assist rural farmers and the farming community.

He said this will directly improve the farming activities in the settlements and will further enhance rice and livestock production.

Dr. Reddy further added that this will allow farmers to invest massively in their farms considering the current situation in the country as most formal sectors have been at a halt due to the COVID19 outbreak.

“Not only farmers will benefit from the excess production, but this will also allow them to sell and make a profit. Farmers will also contribute towards the national economy,” he said.

Minister Reddy said that the Ministry of Waterways has been assisting farmers around the country where Northern division has been a primary focus area where major agricultural activity such as rice and livestock takes place.

Meanwhile, a rice farmer from the Doguru settlement Mr. Babu. D. Singh said rice has been a major crop they had been producing which previously has shown a decline in production due to poor drainage.

“The drains around the farms were all silted and due to this, the farm used to get flooded. This would make the land boggy and later left unutilized.

“Because of this, many farmers have turned away from farming because the area is mostly flat which gets flooded easily during the rainy season,” he said.

Mr. Singh further acknowledged the work done by the Ministry of Waterways that will allow farmers to make full utilization of their farms and make a profit from that.

Meanwhile, close to 19000 meters of drainage works have been undertaken in those three farming communities that will enhance agricultural production mainly rice and livestock. This will also let farmers prepare their farms for the rainy season.