



MINISTRY OF WATERWAYS

Press Release

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Muanidevo farmers receive timely assistance Post TC Yasa

Conducting emergency drainage works, distributing seeds, planting materials, providing free mobile veterinary clinics and kick starting the rice rehabilitation program are the services the Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways have immediately mobilized in Vanua Levu.

Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment, the Hon. Dr Mahendra Reddy in addressing close to 200 hundred farmers at Muanidevo in Dreketi on New Year's Eve said these were the actions his aligned Ministries were undertaking to restore agricultural activity in the Northern Division.

"We will ensure that we will do all the emergency drainage work to allow the water to move out quickly so that farmers here can quickly restart their agricultural activity and get production going," he said.

The Minister said it was necessary to clear out the drains as most were filled with silt, soil or debris during TC Yasa.

In addition, he said all floodgates structures that had been damaged as well during the recent tropical cyclone would be repaired soon, to avoid further flooding.

President for the Fiji Rice Farmers Association, Mr Yadh Ram acknowledged the timely assistance from both Ministries in an effort to bring about some sense of normalcy to the farming community in the Muanidevo area.

"We thank the Government, and the Ministry of Agriculture in particular, for the swift assistance for farmers here, such as the land preparation program for the rice farmers," Mr Ram said.

"This will allow farmers to take immediate action and start their farming again, thanks to the drainage assistance by the Ministry of Waterways," he said

Teams from the Ministry of Agriculture have been on the ground from last week distributing vegetable seeds and planting materials to agricultural households to address food security and nutritional needs.

"In addition, our team of qualified veterinarians who are Bee, Sheep and Goat specialists are now on the ground now and will visit this Settlement to attend to livestock who are injured or sick free of charge," the Hon. Dr Reddy said.

The Minister had said the rice rehabilitation program that included land preparation work would be active for ten weeks.