



MINISTRY OF WATERWAYS

Press Release

318 TOORAK ROAD, BALI TOWER, SUVA

P O BOX 1292, SUVA

Phone: (679) 3383155 Fax: (679) 338354 Email: waterwaysfiji@gmail.com

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Water Tanks to help Increase in farm productivity

Accessing water for the Agricultural purpose during drought will be a thing of the past for the farmers in the Western division.

This followed the handing of water tanks to nine farmers in the western division from the Ministry of Waterways to help their farming activities during drought.

While handing over the water tanks to the farmers in the western division, the Minister for Waterway, Environment and Agriculture Hon. Dr. Mahendra Reddy said crop and livestock farming will be ease during drought.

Minister Reddy said that farmers will be able to produce more and increase farm productivity as these water tanks provide a means of provision for water through sustainable irrigation systems for farmers to use during dry seasons.

He further added that these would help farmers to prepare them to meet demands for local markets as well as for export soon after the borders reopen after COVID19.

He said that all farmers around the country will be supported through the Ministry of Waterways to combat drought highlighting that land size should not limit farm production with farmers intensifying their activities.

“The Ministry of Waterways through the Irrigation Support for Farm Development Programme aims to provide supplement irrigation to farmers that will help them to improve the productivity of niche market crops,” he said.

Dr. Reddy further reiterated that farmers should make use of this government initiative to improve their livelihood and reduce the vulnerability and risk of crop damage during droughts and prolonged dry periods.

The Ministry of Waterways has assisted a total of nine farmers from Tavua, Nadi and Sigatoka with a 5300 liters water tank and aims to assist more farmers in coming days.

Kaliova Ravuovou a 55 year old vegetable farmer Kabisi village in Sigatoka thanked the Ministry of Waterways for assisting them with water tanks.

He said that accessing water during the drought has been an obstacle to them as farm production decreased rapidly.

“During the drought we used to cart water from the river either by horse or sometimes we use man power to carry to the farms. But now with this water tank, we will be able to store water and use in farms during drought,”

“During drought our yields are badly affected which also affects our household income as we heavily rely on farming as a source of income for our family,” he said