



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

5th Pacific Soil Partnership Meeting

12-13 April 2022

National updates on soil: *Fiji*

Presented by Ami Sharma



Main activities implemented under Pillar 1



1. Re-alignment of Agricultural policies on Fertilizer subsidy to farmers.
 - ✓ Ministry of Agriculture has removed subsidy on selected fertilizers.
 - ✓ Promoting carbon coated urea and straight or single fertilizers
 - ✓ Promoting organic or biological based organic fertilizers.

2. Farming practices
 - ✓ Massive awareness and training on inclusion of Agro- forestry (NFT) in existing farming systems(maritime area)
 - ✓ Use of soil test results to make necessary amendments, including Ag Lime and fertilizers.
 - ✓ Introduction of soil testing kits at farm levels.
 - ✓ Crop rotation and fallowing
 - ✓ Use of cover-crop such as mucuna beans and legumes to fix nitrogen and other nutrients.
 - ✓ Issuance of Soil Health Card to all registered farmers. This includes door to door service using mobile lab. This includes full participation of farmers from soil sampling to sample testing





Main activities implemented under Pillar 2

1. Nationwide training and awareness to farmers and extension officers on good farming systems in collaborations with research partners – ACIAR, CSIRO, SPC and MOA.
 - ✓ Training includes; soil sampling, indicators of healthy soil at farmer level, nutrient deficiencies, symptoms and fertilizer uses.
 - ✓ Soil testing Demonstration (pH, EC, Macronutrients) and interpretation.
 - ✓ Researchers, Extension and Farmers involved in awareness training.

Soil Health Card

The form is titled 'SOIL HEALTH CARD' and includes the following sections:

- Farmer Information:** Name, Address, Phone Number, Email, and Farm Details (Crop, Area, etc.).
- Soil Test Results:** A table with columns for Parameter, Test Value, Unit, and Rating. Parameters include pH, EC, Organic Carbon, Available Nitrogen, Available Phosphorus, Available Potassium, Available Sulphur, Available Zinc, Available Boron, Available Iron, Available Manganese, and Available Copper.
- Soil Sampling Details:** Soil ID Number, Locality ID, Date of Collection, Soil Depth (cm), and GPS Location (Latitude/Longitude).
- Soil Test Results Table:**

S No.	Parameter	Test Value	Unit	Rating
1	pH			
2	EC			
3	Organic Carbon			
4	Available Nitrogen			
5	Available Phosphorus			
6	Available Potassium			
7	Available Sulphur			
8	Available Zinc			
9	Available Boron			
10	Available Iron			
11	Available Manganese			
12	Available Copper			
- Fertilizer Recommendations for Reference Field (with Organic Matter):**

S No.	Crop & Field	Reference Field	Fertilizer Contribution - 1 for N:P:K	Fertilizer Contribution - 2 for N:P:K
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
- General Recommendations:** Organic Matter (t/ha), Sulphur (kg/ha), and Lime (t/ha).

Logos at the bottom include '2015 International Year of Soils', 'SOIL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP', and 'GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP'.



Main activities implemented under Pillar 3



Soil Research and Development

A collaborative research was undertaken between CSIRO and MOA Fiji through ACIAR funding, Project Title:

Soil management in Pacific Islands:

Investigating nutrient cycling and development of the soils portal.

The aim of the project is to ensure that soil knowledge is enhanced and provides a reliable foundation for sustainable intensification of agricultural systems.

The specific objectives of the project are;

- ✓ Identify past and current barriers and impact pathways.
- ✓ Quantify nutrient cycling in island

Agricultural and production systems and undertake field trials to highlight the importance of budgeting for soil fertility management and increasing yield.

- ✓ Identify problems with current soil

sampling, testing and interpretation protocols and develop soil-type specific protocols

- ✓ Develop the Pacific Soil Portal to enable sustainable soil management in the farming systems of the region.

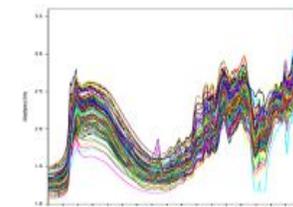
Trial sites - Taveuni, Fiji Islands

Phase	Site location	GPS Coordinates
1	Qila	-16.7431 179.9167
	Qarawalu	-16.9531 179.9258
2	Qila	-16.7431 179.9167
	Qarawalu	-16.9531 179.9258
3	Mua	-16.7431 179.9099
	Mua	-16.7431 179.9099

MIR findings so far

- A week long training was conducted by Scientists from CSIRO on MIR to selected MoA staffs..
- Total number of samples analyzed in MIR - 447
Breakdown as follows:

• Tonga	48 samples
• Taveuni	127 samples
• Levuka	142 samples
• Viti Levu- Koronivia	82 samples
• Viti Levu - Sigatoka	48 samples



Main activities implemented under Pillar 5



Participation in the laboratory proficiency program - ASPAC

- ✓ Fiji Agricultural laboratory is a member of ASPAC
- ✓ Fully participating in the proficiency testing for Soil and Plants
- ✓ Govt is paying the membership
- ✓ 70 -80% proficiency rating.
- ✓ Established in-house reference samples and QC chart for Soils and Plants.
- ✓ Conducting P
- ✓ hysio- Chemical parameters.



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