



## FOLLOW-UP OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT PLAN OF ACTION

### NATIONAL REPORT

The World Food Summit (WFS) Plan of Action under Commitment Seven (Objective 7.3) called upon governments in partnership with all actors of civil society, in coordination with relevant international institutions and, in conformity with ECOSOC Resolution 1996/36 on the follow-up to the major international UN conferences and summits, *inter-alia*, to:

- Report to the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) on national, sub-regional and regional implementation of the WFS Plan of Action, drawing upon a food insecurity and vulnerability information and mapping systems, once established, as an analytical aid.
- Monitor through the CFS the national, sub-regional, regional and international implementation of the WFS Plan of Action, using reports from national governments, reports on UN agency follow-up and inter-agency coordination, and information from other relevant international institutions.

This Report documents the country progress in the implementation of the WFS Plan of Action. It consists of two sections. Sections I and II constitute the substantive parts of the Report on progress made, policies adopted and actions taken. In particular, Section II deals with programmes and measures taken by the country for each of the seven Commitments under the Plan of Action.

In order to facilitate the completion of the report, the Secretariat has prepared a set of Guidelines which are enclosed herewith.

Country:	FIJI
Date of Report:	30 March, 2006

*Institution or committee responsible for reporting*

**Ministry of Agriculture, Sugar & Land Resettlement**

*Focal Point*

Name	<b>Mr. Sakiusa Tubuna</b>
Position	<b>Chief Economist ( Ministry of Agriculture, Sugar &amp; Land Resettlement)</b>
Telephone	<b>3384-233</b>
Fax	<b>3398-048</b>
E-mail	<b>stubuna@connect.com.fj</b>

## **Table of Contents**

Section I: Priority Food Security Issues and Progress towards the World Food Summit Goal	3
Section II: Follow up of the WFS Plan of Action	5
Commitments	5
Statistical Annex	11

***Section I: Priority Food Security Issues and Progress Towards the World Food Summit Goal***

**The state of the country's food security situation, in terms of food availability, stability of supplies and access to food and the progress in reaching the hunger reduction targets are described below:**

In Fiji, there is a reasonable adequacy of overall food supply, mainly stemming from a strong traditional subsistence base, which by large remains intact. An increase in agricultural production was achieved in the past four years (15% growth in root crops production and 5% in vegetable production). Dairy production also increased slightly by 5% over the period 2001 – 2005. Traditional crops are grown throughout Fiji and represent a “hidden strength” of the economy although they account for only around 40 percent of energy requirements. Local farmers produce an impressive quantity and range of traditional food crops including a wide range of root crops, coconuts, traditional rice varieties, leafy vegetables and other traditional Indian vegetables and fruits. The nation's food security is dependent on the continuation of subsistence farming and its on going transformation to semi-commercial farming of crops. Such producers are very important providers of foods to local markets and family household consumption. A significant volume of the production of traditional crops is surplus to subsistence requirements and sold in local markets. Although domestic food supply has been able to expand, there is a concern that major foods of high nutritional value in the market places is losing ground to imported foods and National Food Balance Sheets show an increasing reliance on imported food.

Although there has been a general increase in food production in the last ten years, food production for subsistence is declining in relative importance in the national food system as commercialisation of the major food crops such as dalo, cassava, fishing and other vegetables, takes precedence. Both Fijian and Indian communities have experienced an overall reduction in the quantity and quality of food crops produced for household consumption, as land often used previously for food gardens has been put to cash cropping. The vulnerability of Fiji to natural disasters, environmental degradation and the difficulties in achieving the economies of scale in domestic markets, is collectively responsible for a degree of instability in the local food supply. In addition to problems of smallness, Fiji is relatively isolated and operates under land tenure system that constraints investment and hence productivity. The high cost of local root crops compared with imported processed cereals, has resulted in a tendency in the population to spend more on cheap and convenient imported foods including canned foods, potatoes and rice. The decrease in demand has had an equal effect on the supply of food locally.

Some of the issues confronting food security in Fiji are the changing dietary patterns in favor of a less nutritious diet, increased number of “urban poor” vulnerable to poverty and food insecurity and to a lesser extent, natural and environmental disasters.

Inaccess to food is mainly an urban poverty problem and the 1996 Poverty Report found that 25 percent of the population lived below the poverty line. Other factors contributing to food access in Fiji are:

- The displacement of tenant farmers and loss of jobs in the garment industry in recent years have accentuated the problems of food access.
- Little investment directed at small or subsistence farmers to induce them to produce more good quality food at more competitive prices.
- Poor storability of locally grown crops such as dalo and cassava.
- High cost of locally produced food
- Emphasis on exported commodities, which not only marginalized food crops areas but also led to shift of food crop cultivated areas to distant areas in villages

The Programmes of the Ministry of Agriculture, Sugar and Land resettlement are aimed at revitalising the agriculture sector and ensuring food and income security for all. Food Security has been at the forefront of the Governments agriculture policy, where the emphasis has been placed at providing adequate food at household level. There has been significant development assistance given to smallholder farmers and the promotion of food security and self-sufficiency in diary, rice, beef, pig and poultry. This has also been coupled with significant improvements in the establishment of an Agriculture Marketing Authority and programmes such as the Rural Farming Assistance Scheme, Rural and Outer Island (ROI) that benefits farming groups and enhances agricultural production and household livelihoods. These will be discussed further in the following sections.

**Evaluation studies (such as impact assessment, comparison between results and objectives) of programmes or projects related to the WFS Plan of Action are attached to this report and listed below:**

To date there have been no evaluation studies conducted with specific relevance to the WFS Plan of Action

**Information on external assistance programmes, including a description of their impact on hunger reduction and lessons learned, is given below:**

FAO continues to be the major donor with regards to assistance toward Food Security initiatives in Fiji, mainly through the MASLR and its Regional /National Programme for Food Security in the Pacific Islands Countries". The assistance exists in various modes, particularly through the Technical Cooperation Programmes ( both Regional and National), South-South Cooperation and Trust Fund Projects. There has been a steady increase in the number of TCP Projects being implemented annually and the impact of the assistance has been both direct and indirect on the rate of hunger reduction. The Telefood Special Facility is directed at improving food security at the community level and many rural farmers and families have benefited from increased crop and animal production for household and community food security.

Government of Italy, through collaboration with FAO has delivered assistance through the Regional Programme for Food Security in the Pacific Islands, which commenced implementation in 2004.

South South Cooperation - The SSC Cooperation is a modality through which FAO is able to facilitate the mobilisation and sharing of technical expertise among developing countries. The SSC technicians have been instrumental in implementing various TCP Projects nationally, and their expertise in the various fields has been highly commended and well received by their peers in MASLR. Farmers have benefited from the various field demonstrations and the delivery of expertise is already benefiting small holder rice farmers, poultry and duck farmers in the various Project areas around Fiji. These gains in improved technical skills and information are most certainly being transferred to the household and communities at large and contribute toward the alleviation of hunger for amongst many families in Fiji.

The Asian development Bank has also assisted Food Security Programmes of the Ministry of Agriculture, Sugar & Land Resettlement (MASLR), by funding the Alternative Livelihoods Programme (ALP) and the Rural and Outer Island Development (ROI) Programme currently being implemented. The programmes are currently being implemented and no studies have yet been made to assess their impact on food security.

## ***Section II: Follow up of the WFS Plan of Action***

***(for completion of Section II of the report please refer to paragraph 6 of the Guidelines)***

This section describes the actions taken under all of the seven Commitments adopted at the World Food Summit. Information is included on policies pursued and/or action programmes implemented, demonstrating, where possible, their impact in terms of contributing to overall social and economic development, poverty alleviation and hunger reduction.

The full text of the WFS Plan of Action is available online at the FAO internet site [http://www.fao.org/monitoringprogress/summit\\_en.html](http://www.fao.org/monitoringprogress/summit_en.html), under the section “Key documents, Rome Declaration on World Food Security”.

### ***a) Commitments***

- One      We will ensure an enabling political, social, and economic environment designed to create the best conditions for the eradication of poverty and for durable peace, based on full and equal participation of women and men, which is most conducive to achieving sustainable food security for all.
  
- Two      We will implement policies aimed at eradicating poverty and inequality and improving physical and economic access by all, at all times, to sufficient, nutritionally adequate and safe food and its effective utilization.
  
- Three     We will pursue participatory and sustainable food, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and rural development policies and practices in high and low potential areas, which are essential to adequate and reliable food supplies at the household, national, regional and global levels, and combat pests, drought and desertification, considering the multifunctional character of agriculture.
  
- Four      We will strive to ensure that food, agricultural trade and overall trade policies are conducive to fostering food security for all through a fair and market-oriented world trade system.
  
- Five      We will endeavour to prevent and be prepared for natural disasters and man-made emergencies and to meet transitory and emergency food requirements in ways that encourage recovery, rehabilitation, development and a capacity to satisfy future needs.
  
- Six       We will promote optimal allocation and use of public and private investments to foster human resources, sustainable food, agriculture, fisheries and forestry systems, and rural development, in high and low potential areas.
  
- Seven     We will implement, monitor, and follow-up this Plan of Action at all levels in cooperation with the international community.

**Summary list of the most important programmes contributing to the WFS Plan of Action:**

Programme	Year Initiated	Duration	Total Budget (\$ FJ)	Status
National Food Nutrition Centre (NFNC) - Education of the public on Food Security and nutrition via Health Centres, Nursing Centres and Hospitals through school visits, ante- and post-natal care, Maternal Child Health (MCH) Clinics and the Baby Friendly Initiative.	On-going	On-going		
NFNC – Celebration of World Food Day celebrations is organised annually ( FAO funding)	On-going	On-going		
Ministry of Health – Food Security is promoted through divisional dieticians and nurses working with Women’s Interest Officers to promote backyard gardening.	2003	On-going		
NCHP “Eat Better for less” campaign focussing on healthy and local foods was launched in 2005	2005	On-going		
MASLR implements FAO food security related projects, such as the TCP National and Regional Projects and also Telefood Projects through funding from FAO and the Italian Government.	On-going	On-going		
MASLR also implements community based Projects encouraging families to plant supplementary food eg. Makoi Garden Project initiated by NFNC	2004	Completed		
Project to support atoll food production was run in Lau and Yasawa Islands (2002-2003, funded by FAO)	2003	Completed		
MASLR-run Alternative Livelihood Programme aims to generate sustainable off-farm employment and self-employment for people in rural areas, particularly those in the cane-belt areas. The programme targets rural farmers that have left their sugar cane farms and the poor rural. Activities such as Agricultural diversification, Off-farm livelihood schemes and Establishment of small businesses are included in this programme.	2006	2011		On-going

MASLR - Tutu Training Programme provides non-formal education to the people of the Northern Division who were made homeless due to the expiry of their land leases. The Programme supports training programs relating to farm management other skilled work. The program aims to give these poor farmers and rural dwellers an opportunity to reclaim their livelihoods through alternative crops and employment opportunities	2005	2011	338,000 annually	On-going
Rural and Outer Islands Project (ROI) addresses the livelihood needs of the rural and outer islands of the Fiji Group, in a manner similar to that of the Alternative Livelihoods Programme. THE program will seek to improve income earning opportunities to reduce economic disparities in these areas. The immediate purpose of ROI is to increase opportunities for market access and enable beneficiaries to exploit these opportunities eg. Agribusiness and also to identify opportunities for private sector collaboration with island communities.	2005	2011	300,000 annually	
MASLR subsidises seed and planting materials for rural farmers	On-going			On-going
The Ministry of Education (MoE) has included food and nutrition in curriculums of its teacher training institutions around the country. Specific nutrition education was introduced to the Lautoka Teachers College in 2005	2004			On-going
School gardens are being promoted by the MoE to create awareness on FS	On-going			On-going
Department of Cooperatives & Small Business prioritise the marketing aspects of agricultural produce eg. Strengthens the local honey industry through capacity building activities for small holder farmers.	2004			On-going
Department of Cooperatives & Small Business also encourages local produce through the National Small Business Awards (including Agriculture Produce & Food processing)	2003			On-going

**The policies, strategies and initiatives implemented, and their outcomes, are described below.**

Although there appears to be no specific policy or objectives specifically on food security, various national policies and strategies directly and indirectly enhance the realisation of food security goals, by at least supporting the needed changes. The Ministry of Agriculture, Sugar and Land Resettlement (MASLR), the Ministry of Health (MoH), the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the National Food and Nutrition Centre (NFNC) are the major stakeholders for the implementation of food security-related policies and activities. These Government Departments implement policies and strategies that simultaneously address food security and nutrition concerns. Some of these policies are described below:

- Ministry of Health's policy in relation to Primary Health Services is to provide preventative and primary health care, clinic and rehabilitative facilities with adequate manpower resources to meet national needs. Community Health programmes with a nutrition component, e.g. Maternal and Child Health, immunization, family planning, school health services etc.
- The Mission Statement of the Ministry of Agriculture, Sugar and Land Resettlement is "A vibrant business focused agriculture sector providing food and income security for all".
- The Policies and strategies for Rural Development include effective social services in rural areas, particularly health, education and basic needs.
- The Policies of the Education Ministry are consistent with the integration of food and nutrition into the school curriculum.
- The "Women in Development" policy targets the improvement in the health and nutrition of the family.

The Fiji National Report (2004) on the achievement of Millennium Development Goals lists amongst its key performance indicators toward ensuring food and income security for rural and outer island dwellers:

- increase in production of traditional food crops,
- an improved rural marketing network by 2003
- increase in number of persons employed in cash work (including small holder agriculture) and cottage industries and the availability of micro-finance facilities and business advisory services.

The Fiji Plan of Action for Nutrition (FPAN) initiative is also another document that has food security as its cornerstone and was developed by the National Food and Nutrition Committee in 1997 and endorsed by Cabinet a year later. The FPAN was designed to be multi-sectoral in nature and involving relevant stakeholders in efforts towards "improving the nutritional status and health of Fiji's population". One of the eight themes of FPAN is the promotion and improvement of household security. The recent review of the FPAN by Thow 2005, details the concerted efforts of NFNC, FAO and MASLR in promoting food security at a national level.

*Family Food Production* has been promoted by NFNC, MoE and FAO Telefood Projects, and to some extent by MASLR extension officers and Women Interests' officers. Dietitians also help through their work in Health Centres and hospitals, and the FSM dietetics course offers an optional unit that covers agricultural and food security issues.

*Provision of information* relating to food and nutrition with a particular reference to food security is primarily done by the NFNC, with the assistance from a variety of other ministries and organisations for dissemination (e.g. MoE, NGOs).

*Community based food enterprises* are primarily supported by the Department of Regional Development, MASLR and the Department of Cooperatives. The Department of Regional



Development also helps improve marketing infrastructure through the financing of roads, setting up of retail or marketing centres through their Self Help Scheme. MASLR supports community-based food enterprises by providing access to all produce inputs ( eg planting material, tractors,seeds, fertilisers) at a reduced price – farmers pay a third of the cost. In addition MASLR extension staff work with the Department of Cooperatives staff to support the setting up of cooperatives and have researched two rural marketing centres in Sigatoka that are run by cooperatives. The Dept. Cooperatives also provides assistance with registration and establishment of cooperatives by, as well as providng training to interested farmers in basic business skills.

*Farm Diversification* to encourage farmers to plant supplementary crops is part of of MASLR's food security projects. Household food preparation, processing and preservation are being promoted by the NGO, Friend ( Forum for Integrated Entrepreneurship and Development).



**Food Security and Related Indicators**

No.	Indicator Name	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
1																
2																
3																
4																
5																
6																
7																
8																
9																

[add more indicators/rows if needed]

### Metadata

No.	Measurement Unit	Definition	Statistical Methodology	Source
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
9				

--	--	--	--	--

[add more indicators/rows if needed]