



**Press Release
10 April 2010**

PARTNERS IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FIJI

RESERVOIR COMPLETION

Mainstreaming of Rural Development Innovation (MORDI), based at the PCDF in Suva, has just completed the Naviavia Reservoir Project in collaboration with villages from the Wailevu district in Vanua Levu. The project benefits over 200 villagers and a community school – it's only the third of its kind since 1950.

Sixty men and youths from Naviavia village and nearby settlements with help from external service provider, James Vonokula, donned their shovels and picks over eight long, hard weeks to build this much-needed reservoir located just 15 minutes walk from Keka village. Measuring an impressive 11 feet in depth and 12 feet long the reservoir will provide essential water for more than 200 people all year round.

The constant supply of water has been an increasing challenge as the villages in this area of Naviavia village and nearby settlements grow in size. Since 2007 they have grown by 93% and as a direct consequence the water provision issues are very severe.

Says Talica Anderson, MORDI's Training, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer: This project has been a physical challenge but every minute of hard work has paid off. Its great to see so many people of all ages working hard together for a common goal."

From the over-flow of this new reservoir, the community is now considering making six fish ponds. They are liaising with MORDI to help them supply the fish.

MORDI's previous water project in Nakorovou aimed and succeeded in doubling the capacity of their village and school water tank from 400 litres to 800 litres. The village has now increased its farming output as a direct result of the expansion.

One of the 28 MORDI Community Facilitators in the area, Sade Marika based in Naviavia, said: “We welcome the new initiatives simply because they solve ongoing problems which affect not only us but many other villages all over Fiji who know how it is. The reservoir means a great deal to the surrounding villages.”

Fellow villager, Valeria Senegar (pictured) shares the same sentiments about the new water project: “Water problems will be a thing of the past – we’ve endured so much for our water woes thanks to MORDI. We could not have asked for a better start to a new year.”



The MORDI Fiji program, funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), is in its third year of operation at PCDF. It has been a unique addition to the PCDF work-plan and it has proven itself to be innovative in the ways it deals with its communities.

Programme Project Sites:



MORDI aims to contribute to sustainable, improved livelihoods of vulnerable communities, (especially youth and women) living in remote rural areas of Pacific Island countries, in line with the Millennium Development Goals. This will be achieved through four key components: community empowerment; economic empowerment; learning, sharing and upscaling; and programme management.

Ends

Editor's Notes:

For further information, high resolution photos or interview contact: Iliapi Tuwai on 3300392 extension 101 or email admin@pcdf.org.fj.

About Partners in Community Development Fiji:

PCDF holds a 30 year legacy of providing valuable lessons, guidance and most importantly, inspiration for the future. PCDF aims to assist the people of Fiji in all aspects of development; environmental, infrastructural, governmental and social.

Goals:

- ✓ Protect our coral reefs
- ✓ Conserve our fresh water
- ✓ Promote good governance
- ✓ Reduce the stigma attached to mental health issues
- ✓ Support sustainable livelihood initiatives

Partners in Community Development Fiji is one of Fiji's longest established development NGO's and is completely reliant on voluntary donations to continue its work.

Mission Statement - Working in partnership with communities to empower and assist with informed decision making for their own future development.

Partners in Community Development Fiji

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