



PARTNERS IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FIJI

EMPOWERED VILLAGERS RUN WITH MORDI MISSION A STORY FROM NAKOROVOU

“To Empower”. If one was to sum up our mission in two words, it would be just that: “To Empower”. Hence, it was to our delight that we found just how much empowerment a little training and guidance can do for the village of Nakorovou in Vanua Levu.

The MORDI team recently visited Nakorovou (Kubulau district) to co-facilitate a Business Training workshop for Kubulau participants. The training was a partnership between PCDF and the Centre for Appropriate Technology and Development (CATD). It was during this time that Eliseo Salatubalevu, MORDI’s Nakorovou Community Facilitator (CF), stepped forward to tell his story.

Salatubalevu, who also serves as the village Headman, recently worked with his community to develop Nakorovou’s management plan. Salatubalevu has been a MORDI CF since 2007. Every year MORDI hosts a number of Capacity Building workshops that are designed to provide CF’s with skills that will assist them in guiding their communities towards securing sustainable, improved livelihoods.

“During the CF training I also learnt the importance of always consulting the members of my community on matters that affect the entire community. So we all worked together on our management plan,” stated Salatubalevu.

Soon after the plan was completed representatives from the Lands and Survey Department, which included the Permanent Secretary, visited Nakorovou. Upon their visit, they were presented with the management plan.

“The Permanent Secretary and his team were so pleased with what they saw that they agreed to support us [the community]. “The department surveyors have already come to assess the sites for our planned projects.” added Salatubalevu.

Two projects that have been identified in the plan are dalo and prawn farming. The sites for these two projects have already been assessed by the surveyors, who have since gone back to estimate how much assistance the department will be able to provide for the projects.

“We’ve also asked the department to have a look at the school bridge, which we hope to improve for the safety of the students.” said Salatubalevu.

For MORDI, this story is a positive indication that communities such as Nakorovou have been well equipped to harness direct assistance for their projects. They no longer need to rely on MORDI for support – an indication that our objectives are being met.

PCDF has many goals and objectives, visions and missions but one particular saying rings true, that we want to “work ourselves out of a job.” Ultimately, transferring skills to communities so eventually they can work for themselves. This story from Nakorovou is an indication that those goals is being met regularly.

Iliapi Tuwai, MORDI Fiji’s Project Coordinator, says: “Life changing environmental, economic or social events can cause individuals as well as whole communities to fall to their knees. It is these more vulnerable communities, especially youth and women, living in remote rural areas of Pacific Island countries, who we aim to help.”

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.

“We are unique in the way we have built strong partnerships with larger, established institutes such as FIT who are playing an integral role in training. Our core method of training and empowering the communities from within is known as the ‘bottom up’ approach. The community facilitators are chosen by and live in the communities which they help, it is this ‘bottom up’ approach to community development which MORDI prides itself on – helping communities to help themselves is proving to be really productive.” said Iliapi.

The MORDI Fiji program has 28 Community Facilitators in three districts working with 28 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.



Eliseo Salatubalevu (centre) and two others at a project site

Ends

Editor's Notes:

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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.

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