



The University of Fiji Commences Training Under USAID Pacific American Fund Project

The University of Fiji’s “Development of Entrepreneurial Skills Post Covid-19 Through Rural Aquaculture” project team conducted its first of a series of trainings for members of the Sai Mother’s Club in Mallau, Rakiraki on Wednesday 11th May, 2022.

The project, funded by the USAID Pacific American Fund (PAF) and implemented by the University of Fiji, aims to upgrade existing aquaculture facilities to revive aquaculture farming of Tilapia. Through the University’s community engagement initiatives, the Sai Mother’s Club is one of the two communities identified as beneficiaries under the project. The second community identified is Vitawa village, situated in the Ra province.

The training module, delivered by Project Manager Ms Rosabelle Hennings, focused on key aspects of pond preparation for the farming of Tilapia. Participants as well as project stakeholders from the Pacific Islands Development Forum Secretariat (PIDF) and Ministry of Fisheries (MoF) engaged in discussions about common barriers encountered during this initial phase as well as common best practices of proper pond preparation as a first step towards ensuring and sustaining high productivity.

The President of the Sai Mother’s Club, Ms Aleshmin Dharshan said that the members were extremely keen on Tilapia farming and other aquaculture ventures such as prawn culturing but lacked the technical knowledge required to independently prepare their pond. The unavailability of funds to revive the ponds after tropical cyclone Winston was another challenge that was faced, said Ms Aleshmin Dharshan.

The training consists of 5 modules which will be conducted upon the completion of each stage of the culturing process.

The University of Fiji’ Strategic Plan 2022-2026 supports such initiatives under the strategic goal 5.4 – which focuses on Community Engagement and where Environmental and Social Responsibilities draws attention to our commitment to social and environmental responsibilities in teaching, research, operations, community outreach and sub-strategic plans.



Pictured: 1st from left - Ms Rosabelle Hennings (Project Manager), 2nd from left - Ms Silvia Vakaseleyasi (Ministry of Fisheries), 5th from Left - Ms Arpana Pratap (PIDF) with members of the Sai Mother’s Club at Mallau Rakiraki.