



A People's Post-COVID-19 dialogue series.

Bringing you ideas, innovations and talking solutions.

SEASON 1 REPORT



By Mereseini Tuivuniwai
Communications Consultant
Raising Pacific Voices Project
Oxfam in the Pacific

RESET Fiji is a eight episodes policy dialogue series initiated by:



This project has been funded by Oxfam's Raising Pacific Voices :



RAISING PACIFIC VOICES
REINFORCING PACIFIC CIVIL SOCIETY

Raising Pacific Voices (RPV) is a three-year pilot program supported by the European Union with 2.3 million euros (FJ\$5.46m) aimed at strengthening Pacific civil society organisations' effectiveness in shaping regional and international policy-making.

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

- ECONOMY -4
- AGRICULTURE -6
- OP-ED - 9
- ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE
CHANGE - 13
- OP-ED- 16
- INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY
- 21
- TOURISM- 24
- GENDER EQUALITY- 26
- EDUCATION -28
- RESET ON SOCIAL MEDIA -29
- AUDIENCE COMPOSITION-32
- INCLUSION - 33
- POLICY INFLUENCING - 35
- RESET & ITS PARTNERS -42
- PUBLIC OPINION -43



1.ECONOMY

The messages from the first panel were clear about what kind of economy is needed and what should be prioritised first in a reset: people, protection of wages, food security to ensure no malnutrition and real hunger, enhancing and scaling up Fiji's social safety nets, whilst providing relief through training and reskilling, and to support innovation and starts-up.

[Read more: Fiji Times](#)

2.AGRICULTURE

The panel provided a sobering analysis of the current state of agriculture in Fiji and removed any romanticised notions of what it would take for an agriculture reset. During its heyday, 20 - 30 years ago, Fiji research and development in agriculture was rated and considered world class. As pointed out by Wah Sing, 'unlike other industries agriculture cannot just be switched on. It is a product of biological and genetic processes and it takes time to develop'. Agriculture is a long-term game changer. [Read more: Fiji Times](#)

3.ENVIRONMENT

The panel provided an uncompromising assessment of Fiji's natural and built environment and the ongoing climate impacts within the context of the pandemic and beyond. 2020 is set to be the most critical year for both biodiversity and climate emergency.

[Read more: Fiji Times](#)

MOST TWEETED

"Agriculture industry- is an industry whereby you cannot fake it. The bible says" by their fruits thou shalt know them- and you cannot jump start agriculture by making some motivational speeches or public relations and so on"
 Wah Sing, Agriculturalist

"Soleselevaki is more than collaboration. The people who are collaborating are bound by an intrinsic value and they are also guided by an extrinsic value." Simione Sevudredre
 #RESETFiji





Moderator Stanley Simpson with panelists of our IEconomy episode: Prof. Vijay Naidu, Savenaca Narube, Sashi Kiran, Ram Bajekal, Dr Rohit Kishore

WHAT THE PANELISTS SAID?

"There is a need to reset and look at strengthening the resilience of public financing to be stronger to face shocks. People had lost their jobs while there were some that were on leave without pay or working on reduced hours.

Businesses had lost cash-flow, especially the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). There were many MSMEs that would fall and rise while there were others that might not rise again."

Former Reserve Bank of Fiji Governor, Savenaca Narube

"If you look at the other side, it has also magnified the kindness in human beings, the goodness in us and has brought that to the fore. We can see that in 'Barter for a Better Fiji'; we can see people offering goods and services to people in exchange for things; we can see the generosity, the Veilomani food bank initiative and a number of other initiatives towards assisting. The opportunity is to use these structures which are very strong in Fiji in order to reset our economy."

Ram Bajekal.

"I think that this is the time for us to look at traditional food preservation systems. We used to preserve breadfruit without the use of freezers, there was drying. There are a lot of techniques that still exist that need to come to the forefront and mainstream education for us to have food for natural disasters. But right now, to replace a lot of that which we think is a mainstay."

Sashi Kiran, Founder and CEO of FRIEND Fiji.

"I would like to see a budget which stimulates the economy, not so much in an expenditure-type thing, but in investment. I want to see a budget that hits where it matters. Which is the engine of growth? The business sector is the engine of growth. If business grows then the economy grows and the flow-on effect is there on everybody. I would like to see money going into the business sector where we are making revenue."

Rohit Kishore - Acting Dean at the Fiji National University.

RESETTING TOWARDS AN ECONOMY OF SOLIDARITY

by *Maureen Penijueli, Coordinator PANG*

The messages from the first panel were clear about what kind of economy is needed and what should be prioritised first in a reset: people, protection of wages, food security to ensure no malnutrition and real hunger, enhancing and scaling up Fiji's social safety nets, whilst providing relief through training and reskilling, and to support innovation and start-ups.

We also saw the emergence of key ideas around the need for basic income protection beyond the current proposals of cash injections from pension funds, a cashless society based on indigenous system of exchange (exchange of goods, services and skills), a debt holiday from commercial banks, hire purchase companies and utility providers for ordinary workers, enhancing indigenous systems of knowledge innovation.

Nearly all the panelists agreed that agriculture and in particular rural agriculture must become the priority for the government in its drive to diversify the economy. As one panellist noted, it is the role of government to provide the supporting infrastructure for the transition to a more diversified economy in the middle to long term.

Key policies such as import substitution, local infant industry protection, and requiring local content in investments (like minimum levels of local foods purchased for hotels) can start to help shift towards a more diversified economy.

We need out of the box thinking while challenging some of our long held basic assumptions. While the pandemic has brought unprecedented widespread financial and economic pain a defining feature of the economic shock has been the strength of the community reaction.

The strength of the human spirit to share and care, can be and is the basis for resilience across Fiji.

From bartering systems to customary land tenure systems, once again the resilience of traditional systems have acted as the fall-back safety which people have been able to rely upon once formal employment and remittances began to disappear.

An economy based in solidarity and support for communities. One key takeaway from the first Reset panel was the way that indigenous intelligence can point the way forward. An economy of solidarity starts with acknowledging that the role of an economy is to support people, it is a tool to help communities not an end in and of itself.

The policies and ideas that shape Fiji's economy can change, there is little stopping that. An economy that supports people, nourishes the environment, strengthens culture and increases everyone's happiness is possible and necessary in the wake of the global pandemic.

[Read more](#)

EPISODE 1: ECONOMY

POLLS

FACEBOOK VIEWERSHIP

Reach: 37.1K
Post Clicks: 6.3K
Reactions, Comments and Share:
1.4K

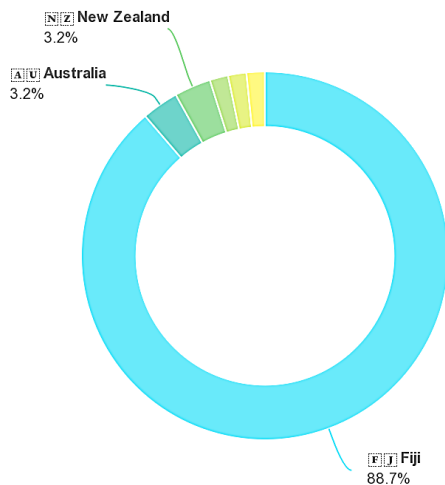
POLL PARTICIPATION

427 viewed the poll
62 completed the poll

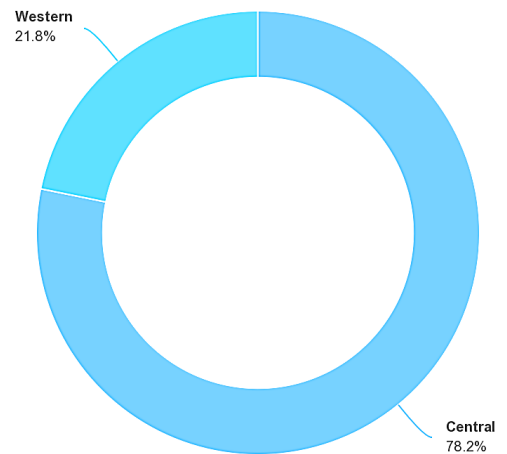
TWITTER ANALYTICS- JUNE

Profile Visits: 2,478
Tweet Impressions: 91K
New followers 275

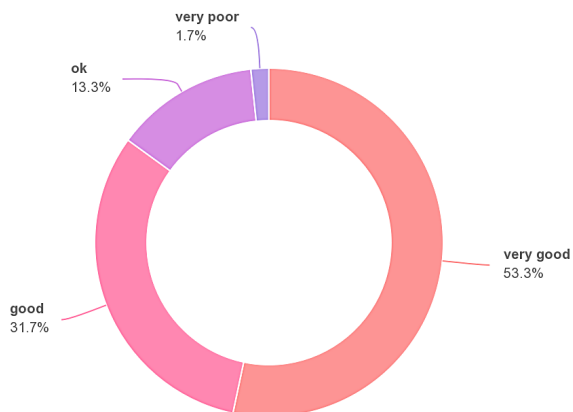
Participants countries



Participants locations in %country}



How would you rate the first episode of RESET Fiji which looked at Fiji's economy?



2. What topic/ideas/issues from RESET Fiji's panel discussions on Economy was of interest to you?

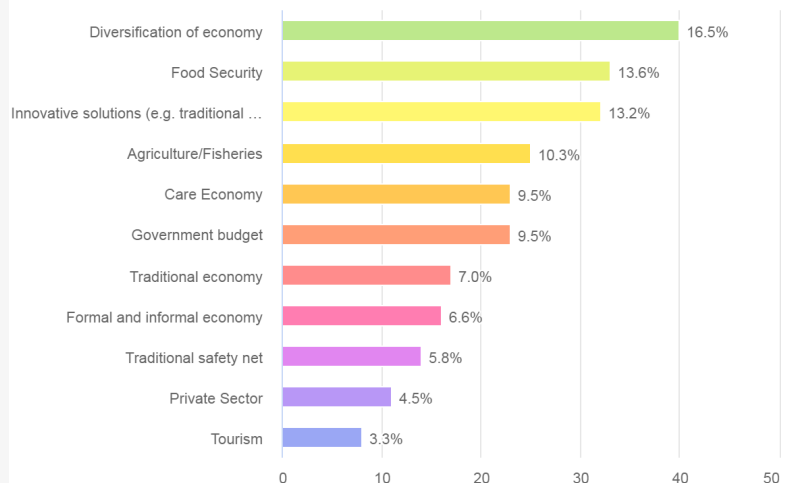




Photo Credits: Google image

AGRICULTURE, THE ROOTS OF OUR GROWTH?

by Maureen Penijueli, Coordinator PANG

The panel provided a sobering analysis of the current state of agriculture in Fiji and removed any romanticised notions of what it would take for an agriculture reset.

During its heyday, 20 — 30 years ago, Fiji's research and development in agriculture was rated and considered world class. Decades later, after neglect from successive governments, agriculture has been brought to its knees.

As pointed out by Wah Sing, "unlike other industries agriculture cannot just be switched on. It is a product of biological and genetic processes and it takes time to develop. Agriculture is a long-term game changer that needs to be supported by a "super billion-dollar budget".

The panelists brought home the significant challenges along with key messages as well as potential ideas and solutions for the immediate and medium term, but more significantly on how to begin the long road to resetting agriculture in Fiji.

One of the most immediate and significant economic impacts of COVID-19 has been the unemployment figures, more than 40,000 people have lost their jobs in Fiji.

Increasing numbers of people are going back to villages to farming, fishing while back-yard gardening has sprouted in urban and peri-urban centres to shore up food security and widen livelihood options.

Livai Tora, pointed out, this drift back to the land is bringing a new set of challenges and potential conflict.

Food security should not just be seen as being able to produce enough food for consumption, but also supporting people to be able to buy and preserve enough food to survive.

With so many novice farmers, back yard gardeners mostly run by women, showed that there is a need for resources on where people can go for basic help.

Growing for personal consumption can help buffer the impacts of COVID-19 but while the urban centres are critical markets for local produce and can provide livelihoods, they are susceptible to price volatility.

Increased produce means lower prices for farmers. Kyle Stice brought home the point on price volatility.

CONTINUED

For example, prior to the pandemic, the price of cucumbers per bag was at an all time high \$140 a bag. During the pandemic it dropped right down to \$10 and stabilised at \$40 at current market price.

Key staples such as cassava while enjoying good prices now is likely to drop in the next six months. A key solution promoted is the self-organising of farmers — "farmers helping farmers" to share knowledge, ideas, skills and innovations.

There are five established, "farmer to farmer" organisations in Fiji which can and do help build greater resilience and support structures covering backyard gardeners, to semi subsistence farmers, export producers, and creating a stronger base for an expanded agricultural sector.

Lavinia Komaitotoya highlighted that this also provides effective avenues to promote greater involvement of women in agriculture particularly in floriculture which has many flow on effects for nutrition and gender equity.

Agriculture is at the heart of discussions for diversifying Fiji's economy but with a balance between growing foods for a domestic or foreign market.

The decline in the tourism industry has hit domestic producers as hotels are a key consumer of locally grown products, all over the Pacific Islands.

At the same time Fiji and many Pacific Island countries have distinct advantages in agriculture due to the natural environments, climate and fertile soil, providing opportunities for not only large-scale produce but also niche markets.

Agricultural exporters also face many challenges. National airlines have been for too long set up to service the golden goose of tourist markets, the pandemic has brought home the fragility of our over dependency on tourism.

The critical issue of freight access and its cost for fresh produce was raised by panelists, highlighting the importance of national airlines to respond to the current economic situation and service the needs of their agricultural export producers who can buffer our economy in the interim.

Farmers in Fiji have been able to demonstrate that they can organise and increase the freight to market from just one freight flight per week, to one flight per day to three major destinations – Australia, NZ and US.

WHAT THE PANELISTS SAID?



Moderator Stanley Simpson with panelists of our Agriculture episode: Kyle Stice, Wah Sin Yee, Ratu Livai Tora, Lavenia Kaumaitotoya, Dr Andrew McGregor

AGRICULTURE, THE ROOTS OF OUR GROWTH?

continued from page 3

While seemingly small these freight flights are critical for recovery. Entry into markets was raised as a key challenge as many exports from Fiji and the Pacific face duty-free and quota-free market access, but aren't able to meet other barriers like quarantine standards. The continued decline of the Fiji sugar industry brings to the fore the challenges in diversifying an economy. Panelists spoke to the dying sugar industry, but also how many small towns in the "sugar-belt" are still reliant on it.

Moving out of sugar is difficult but some farmers are innovating and trying to connect with other niches sectors such as agro-tourism or move into high-value crops which then face export issues freight etc.

There was a strong consensus on the need for greater investment and government involvement in agriculture. Livai Tora called for a "super budget" of \$F1 billion for agriculture in Fiji.

We await the outcome of Fiji's agriculture census to guide research help innovation and inform policy. Further investment in extension services like people, seeds, pest management and market information would support new farmers and existing ones. Added to this is the need to ensure social access to productive resources as well as upholding the guardianship of the natural environment to ensure that it isn't over exploited.

Agriculture is an industry that needs long term planning backed by adequate funding and technical expertise. As Fiji attempts to diversify away from heavy reliance on dominant exports like sugar it is also having to adapt to the COVID-19 challenges that declining tourism and employment are adding to the mix.

The resilience of producers in Fiji and other Pacific Islands in the face of cyclones and other extreme weather events shows that such challenges can be met. For Fiji and many PICs, agriculture is a key part of any attempts to grow a more prosperous and equitable economy.

It requires deliberate planning, foresight, research, investment and the need to place people, communities and the environment at the centre of policy-making.

END

"in many ways agriculture unlike other industries #Agriculture cannot be switched on. It is a product of biological and genetic processes, resources and it takes time to develop"
Wah Sing, Agriculturalist.

"We have a tool called 'value chain analysis' that looks at, from the product all the way to the end consumer, and all the steps along the way. When you start to do that sort of analysis, you would see why we need exporters, why we need these middlemen, these market vendors, these intermediaries. So a key policy message should be support the private sector, support the market vendors, support the fresh produce traders. But educate the farmers as well to understand their piece of the pie and know how they can grow that piece of the pie to put money into their pockets."

Kyle Stice, Nadi Bay Herbs

"Today backyard farming is the new fashion. Get the #mothers involved, get the nutritional planting materials. You can be assured whatever the mother plants that will be on their menu & this is one simple way of fighting NCDs."

Lavenia Kaumaitotoya, Farmer

"Airfreight in Fiji is built around #tourism and access into the country for tourists, we need to relook at this to encourage growth of other industries like agriculture. Our national airline has to support #tourism but has to look at how to realistically support other industries, looking at freight capacities and freight rates."

Dr Andrew McGregor, Agricultural Economist

"Sugarcane industry is a dying industry. It wasn't economical even though it was big scale" now Mr Tora has turned to Agrotourism - merging agriculture & #tourism. As a farmer tapping into tourism - tourism industry has its own challenges.

Ratu Livai Tora, Commercial farmer

EPISODE 2: AGRICULTURE

POLLS

FACEBOOK VIEWERSHIP

Reach: 18.5K
Post Clicks: 2.4K
Reactions, Comments and Share:
588

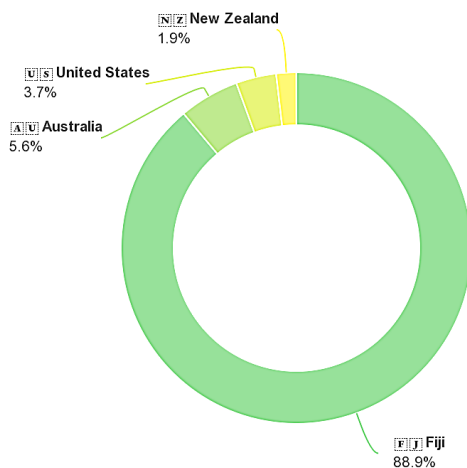
PARTICIPATION

282 viewed the poll
54 completed the poll

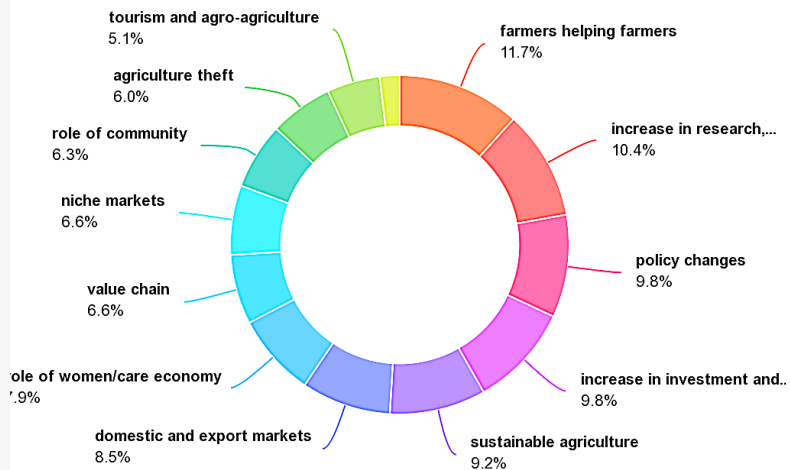
TWITTER ANALYTICS- JUNE

Profile Visits: 2,478
Tweet Impressions: 91K
New followers 275

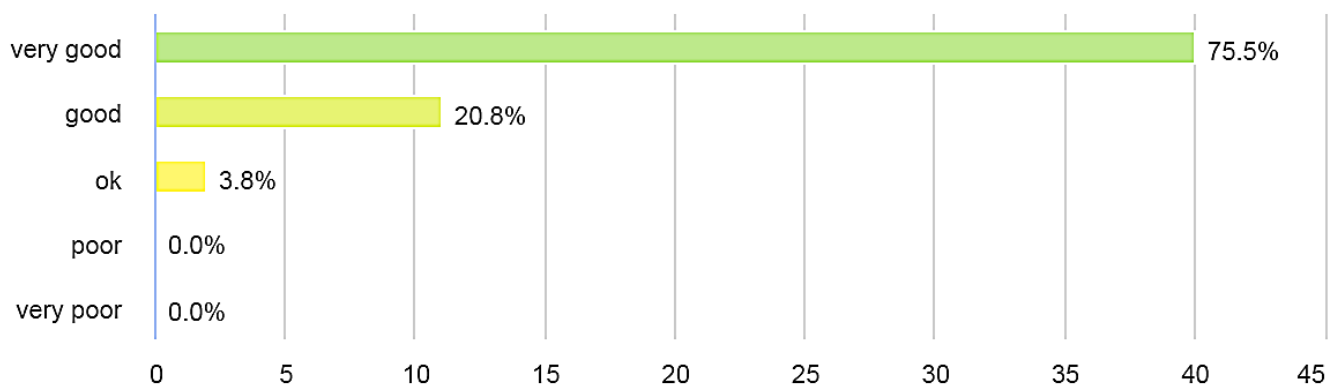
Participants countries



2. What topic/ideas from the panel discussions on Agriculture was of interest to you?



1. How would you rate the 2nd episode of RESET Fiji on Agriculture?



RESETTING A POST-COVID FIJI



CAN AGRICULTURE BE THE ANTINODE FOR FUTURE TOURISM SHOCKS?

BY RAM BAJEKAL

Fiji's tourism sector is in a coma where it is expected to remain till leisure travel resumes upon discovery of a vaccine, a cure or we find a way to live with the virus. Some luck and plenty of hard work from agencies involved in the "Bula Bubble" initiative may partially revive the sector sooner. Local tourism would help too. Regardless of all efforts to revive tourism, this unfortunate situation has shown the disproportionate 'share of burden' that the sector bears in keeping Fiji happy and growing.

Any hit on tourism, which accounts for nearly 40% of Fiji's GDP, directly impacts the overall economy and most importantly, the lives of its people.

OPINIONS:

RAM BAJEKAL - PAGE 9

DR. JALE SAMUWAI - PAGE 16

It is akin to the family's major breadwinner falling ill and being unable to earn. Now is the time to assess what needs be done to mitigate similar pain in the future and to widen our economy so other sectors can contribute to Fiji's growth and protect it against tourism shocks.

There are many contenders: agriculture (including dairy & livestock), forestry, fisheries, manufacturing, extractive industries such as water and mining as well as low-contact services such as IT-enabled-services, audio-visual productions, marine-engineering and port services among others.

Whichever sectors Fiji chooses to focus on they will need a competitive edge or advantage to ensure resilience. A competitive edge usually comes from superior processes or from locally sourced resources. A product manufactured with imported raw materials at its core runs the risk of high cost and can seldom boast uniqueness.

Fijian agriculture certainly has the potential to develop a competitive edge and provide Fiji a viable supplement to tourism in coming decades. We heard from the agriculture panel in MAI TV's "Reset Fiji" series that Fijian produce can be successfully exported and perhaps surprisingly, the export market is more stable than the domestic one. Fiji's global image of 'undiluted purity' offers a unique and robust marketing proposition.

Fiji's agriculture sector accounts for 9% of GDP and is a mix of commercial and subsistence farming. While subsistence farming plays an important role in sustaining families, for non-sugar agriculture to become another key pillar of the economy, it would require a significant transition into commercial farming.

"Fiji's global image of 'undiluted purity' offers a unique and robust marketing proposition."



Initiatives that help could be:

i. **Corporate farming:** to bring in economies of scale as well as new technologies and value-adding opportunities. This would also allow for high-value crops to be farmed. It would of course require supportive regulatory and taxation policies, including those on the use of water and land;

ii. **Food Technology Parks:** processing facilities in key growing areas, either state-owned to start with or through public-private-partnership. Besides providing processing infrastructure, such parks could also house experts in post-harvest management, food processing and marketing, allowing individual farmers or collectives to bring in their produce for value-addition through processing, packaging, branding and marketing. With farmers having control right up to marketing their produce, these centers could help transform traditional 'farmers' into 'agricultural entrepreneurs' which might help attract more youth into agriculture;

iii. **Wide and robust Cold Chain:** well-appointed cold chain facilities across the country would help in value-protection of fresh produce. With a robust cold chain, farmers don't have to distress-sell their produce simply because they are unable to preserve it. At the same time, such facilities can assist in consistently providing the market with products well beyond their growing season;

iv. **Technical (Extension) Services:** optimizing the number and location of extension service providers would greatly assist farmers in improving the quantity and quality of crops, while mitigating the risk of failure through timely advice on pest and disease control. With most people now possessing smart phones, Information Technology can be harnessed for tele-extension services, much like tele-medicine in many countries;

v. **Creation of Demand to stimulate Supply:** Fiji AgroMarketing (Agricultural Marketing Authority) needs to be vigorously mobilized and resourced to create a strong demand for Fijian produce and products both overseas and locally. Farmers often complain about a lack of consistent demand while buyers complain about inconsistent supply. This chick-and-egg

conundrum can only be solved if robust demand is created with recognition that occasional crop failures may occur due to natural calamities. Madagascar vanilla is a good example of how despite periodic crop failures, demand for this product never abates. Once demand is created, supply is sure to follow – this phenomenon is seen world over. Fiji AgroMarketing also needs to take the lead in creating supply linkages between farmers and Fiji's hospitality and food processing sectors;

vi. **Cashing in on the "Fiji-Pure" image:** Fiji's image of purity has immense value on anything that is ingested or used on the body. Fiji also has rich soils for organic cultivation. These potent factors can make Fijian fruits and vegetables very valuable. Fijian fruits like pawpaw, watermelon and pineapple are amongst the sweetest and have the potential to knock competing Asian fruits off Australian supermarket shelves. Fiji could also benefit from high-value horticulture of medicinal and aromatic plants which industry is estimated to be worth over USD 200 billion and growing. Fiji's 'purity' proposition would be a winner in this area;

vii. **Co-operative farming:** the Fijian ethos lends very naturally to cooperation. Despite previous adverse experiences, this is one area that has potential but needs to be worked on with perseverance. Small holdings do not provide adequate resilience to farmers as they are inevitably marginalized in the value chain. Farmer co-operatives can help them negotiate much better prices and also assist with other services like technical assistance, transport, storage and value addition;

viii. **Financing:** farmers frequently complain about lack of funding despite Reserve Bank's prescribed minimum lending by commercial banks to the agricultural sector. Banks on the other hand cite difficulty in rural reach and in finding risk-worthy farmers. India requires banks that don't meet the prescribed level to deposit the shortfall with a central agricultural bank that pays little or no interest on these deposits and in turn channels these to banks with deep rural reach that operate in the agricultural sector. Fiji Development Bank could play this role;

ix. **Land availability:** often a contentious subject, this could well be a stumbling block if not dealt by all interests with nation-building in mind; but this is a solvable issue.

This is just some of the impetus that agriculture could use to become a stronger pillar in Fiji's growth. Much more would be required, such as a robust R&D programme, quality education in agriculture, crop insurance, mechanization, irrigation, logistical infrastructure and climate change adaptation to name a few.

"This is just some of the impetus that agriculture could use to become a stronger pillar in Fiji's growth"

"Undoubtedly, agriculture with allied activities such as dairy, livestock and commercial forestry has the potential to become the 'local resource' needed to make Fijian manufactured products unique and competitive; it can help in import substitution; help combat non-communicable diseases; soothe people's fears around food security; and be a powerful vector for securing livelihoods, employment creation, inclusive growth, community development, poverty alleviation – and more!

Fiji's Ministry of Agriculture is not without its plans and charter for rapid development of agriculture in Fiji and has galvanized its team in this cause; but it has also discovered that Fiji, with half its population below 27 1/2 years has a mere 22% of total farmers below the age of 30. This paradox might just be the first puzzle that needs solving to make agriculture a stronger economic pillar.



Photo Credits: Google images



Ram Bajekal is the Managing Director for FMF Group of Companies. The views and opinions expressed in this article are his own.



A house destroyed from Cyclone Harold in Fiji Photo Credits: FIJI NDMO

CONTINUED..

Captain Jonathan Smith commented how the decrease in employment has seen a rise in people looking for food in the mudflats around Suva, putting further pressure on an area that is already struggling with pollution from land based activities including from the dumping of large amounts of rubbish into our waterways.

Jodi Smith warned that unless the local threats including over-exploitation are stopped or at least controlled the great sea reefs of Fiji, arguably Fiji's greatest living infrastructure which feeds, protects us from natural disasters and contributes 40 per cent to GDP is on track to be destroyed within 20-30 years.

Crucial to the conversation about the environment is how people fit in to it and how our actions impact it.

In Fiji, over 50 per cent of the population lives in urban or periurban areas, of this, 20 per cent live in informal settlements in other words one in every five Fijians live in these settlements.

COVID-19 has exposed the necessity for planning and organisation to ensure that people can meet their needs like shelter, fresh water and sanitation, and that the same preparedness and planning must be undertaken regarding living within and sustaining the natural environment.

The intersection of the built environment and pressure on the natural environment is embodied in the Suva to Nausori corridor.

This area hosts one quarter of Fiji's population and has the potential to provide significant food security for its residents, however, ongoing pollution and poor waste management is undermining this.

The solutions are available here in Fiji with our own people Ms Nalumatua explained as she called for local elections so that our communities are governed by people with real links and ties to the communities.

Meeting the needs of people must be done within the capacity of the ecological systems. Several panelists discussed that this involves bringing people into the conversation and focussing on sustainable development.

The panel had proposals regarding ensuring affordable housing, decentralised systems of waste management, greater investment and innovation in sustainable solutions that must include marginalised voices, especially women.

All the panelists raised the importance of the greater role of women in providing solutions, given the scope of their role in coastal fisheries, feeding families and understanding of regenerative cycles.

END

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE SYSTEMS

by Maureen Penijueli, Coordinator PANG

LAST week, Reset Fiji focused on the environment and climate systems. The panel provided an uncompromising assessment of Fiji's natural and built environment and the ongoing climate impacts within the context of the pandemic and beyond.

This is set to be the most critical year for both biodiversity and climate emergency. Most scientists already agree that the world is facing unprecedented environmental crises. On June 18, the world was warned by the International Energy Agency chief that we had only six months to avert runaway climate change, while scientists warn of an age of extinction – we are losing species at a rate 1000 times greater than any other time in human history.

Both the UN and WHO, warned that the pandemic is linked to the destruction of nature, in particular forests and the trade in wildlife resulting in the jump of diseases from wild animals to humans.

Amid these warnings, Tropical Cyclone Harold - a Category 5 cyclone that hit Fiji, Vanuatu and Tonga - is a reminder that any reset post-pandemic Fiji must account for these supra-natural events as the new norm while striving to develop a sustainable, equitable and prosperous country not just for this generation but for generations to come.

Our biological systems are under significant threat from a highly extractive economic system that places profit before life.

The over-exploitation and degradation of the environment presents problems that cannot be solved by simple announcements or policy changes argued Dr Jale Samuwai.

The failings of the economic system – both with its increasing inequality within and between nations and driving climate change – have come about from the inability to heed the biological systems that sustain life.

Discussions on resetting must concentrate on how the economic system can be reset to support the environment and prevent climate emergency. Dr Sangeeta Manghubhai pointed out that our experience shows that natural disasters and economic disruptions result in increased pressure on natural resources, “a crisis within a crisis” as countries look for opportunities for economic growth.

The pandemic has already had an unprecedented impact on coastal fisheries as increasing unemployment has meant people have turned to the natural environment for food security and livelihoods.



Moderator Stanley Simpson with panelists of our Environment & Climate Change episode: Dr Jale Samuwai, Mere Naulumatua, Dr Sangeeta Magubhai, Jodi Smith and Johnathan Smith

IN THE NEWS RESET FIJI: ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE TOP DIALOGUE

by Fiji Sun

Captain Jonathan Smith says that Fiji has to follow the island of Palau to learn to keep the environment, and ocean clean. Captain Smith said that his eyes were blown wide open on a work trip to Palau.

"You stand on the wall and a big container ship comes along, you look down, and you can actually see some fish and everything about 10 to 50m down," he said. Captain Smith, who is also the operations manager of the Dive Center Fiji, said in Fiji, if you looked into the water, all that could be seen was pollution.

The solution for both climate change and pandemic lie within us and is embedded in the practices, values and relationship in our communities. This was the message of Jale Samuwai, who is the first islander, who holds a doctorate in climate change.

"We have to appreciate and realise that the solutions that Fiji is seeking to address both climate change and the pandemic lies within," he said. "It is embedded in the practices, the values and the relationship that have so long been the glue of our communities."

He is a son of Bua Province from Cogea Village, with maternal ties to Cakaudrove.

Director of the Wildlife Conservation Society, Sangeeta Mangubhai, said that there was a need to build and invest in a resilient coastal fisheries sector, not just fishing but the supply and value chain as well. "To be resilient means keeping our fisheries healthy, so that they can withstand shocks like cyclones, economic disruptions, and can continue to provide us food and livelihoods," Ms Mangubhai said.

She is a specialist in designing and monitoring programmes to understand impacts of disturbances on coral reef communities, and the return of investment of conservation strategies.

The president of the newly formed Fiji Planners Association, Mere Naulumatua, said local governments for each municipality with councils needed to be brought back into the system. She said that the local governments were the ordinary citizens' first line of contact with the Government.

"During the lockdown of Lautoka City, one could not help, but notice how the Lautoka Ratepayers Association mobilised itself to help the disadvantaged. Council was relegated to distributing health messages and ensuring people followed the law. There was a major disconnect between ratepayers and local government," she said.

"I wonder if Nasinu Town was put on lockdown, could it survive on its own? Could Suva survive without Nasinu?"

Local governments were abolished in 2016 that have left municipalities to be run by special administration committees.

[Source: Fiji Sun](#)

WHAT THE PANELISTS SAID:

"To be resilient, means keeping our fisheries healthy, so that they can withstand shocks like cyclones, economic disruptions, and can continue to be provide us food, and livelihoods.

I am not just talking about fishing, but all along the supply or value chain."

**Dr Sangeeta Magubhai, Director
Wildlife Conservation Society**

"We have to appreciate and realise that the solutions that Fiji is seeking to address both climate change & the pandemic lies 'within'. It is embedded in the practices, the values and the relationship that have for so long have been the glue of our communities."

**Dr Jale Samuwai, Climate Finance
Advisor**

"It's not so much reset as it is action- it's time for business to act with govt's support; we need more #PPPs developed by people who know how to do business; we need to educate more girls to enter business – we need to come up with smart future-proof businesses"

Jodi Smith, Matanataki

"Lets bring back Local Government for each municipality and have councils run themselves from the bottom up. Use technology, such as a private blockchain to ensure records and transactions are tamper proof."

Mere Naulumatua, Urban Planner

"its not too late to fix, to press that reset button, its not to late to fix our environment! We can repair what we damage! Look after your own personal environment and educate others accordingly- a clean & healthy environment will supply you with an abundance of food - we need to be personally responsible!

**Jonathan Smith Captain/Commercial
Diver**

EPISODE 3: ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

POLLS

FACEBOOK VIEWERSHIP

Reach: 12.9K
Post Clicks: 1.9K
Reactions, Comments and Share:
899

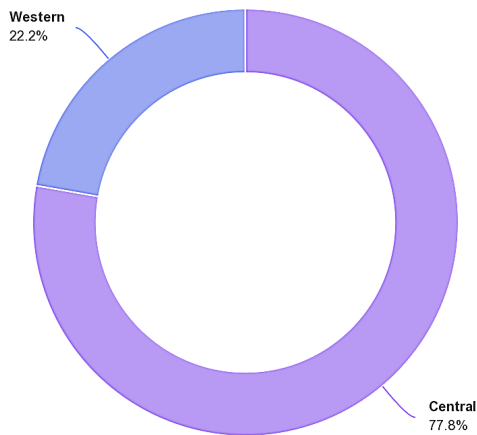
PARTICIPATION

112 viewed the poll
17 completed the poll

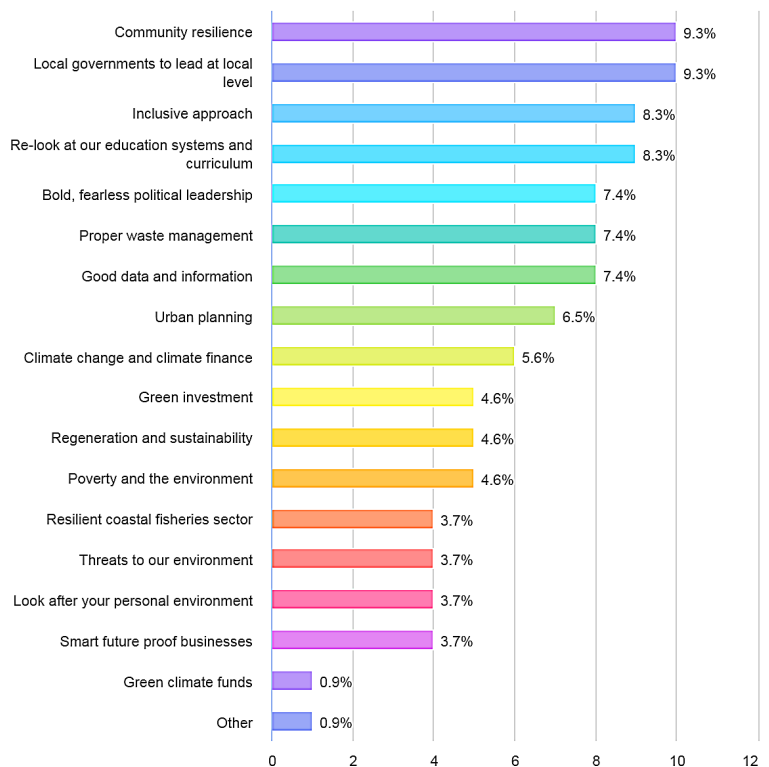
TWITTER ANALYTICS- JULY

Profile Visits: 2,225
Tweet Impressions: 122K
New followers: 200

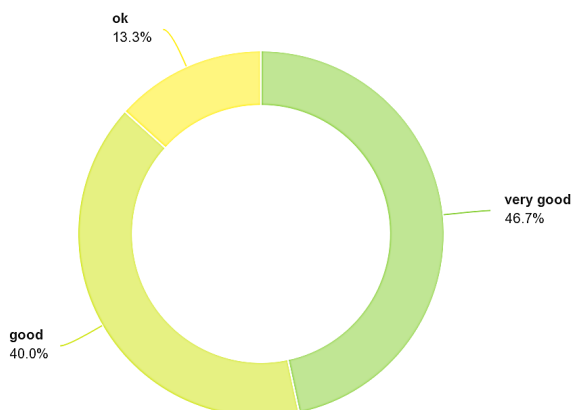
Participants locations in %country



2. What topic/ideas/issues from the panel discussions on Environment & Climate Change was of interest to you? (You can select more than one)



How would you rate the 2nd episode of RESET Fiji which looked at Environment & Climate Change?



CHANGING THE DIAL ON SOLUTIONS



THINK SYSTEM CHANGE NOT CLIMATE CHANGE:

BY DR JALE SAMUWAI

A lot of ink has been spilled over the connection between Covid19 and climate change and the development trajectory of our country. There is a clear recognition by our leaders that the climate crisis still very much looms at the background when Covid 19 hopefully passes, and that we must continuously prepare for that future uncertainty. However, shifting the dial of the current development discourse to climate change is difficult given the real pain and struggles that most of us are going through due to the economic consequences brought by the pandemic. It is therefore important that the conversation about the solutions of the two disasters must be carried out in a manner that is attuned and sensitive to the situations around us but it must at the same time address the core issues of the problems we are facing, no matter how difficult that conversation might be.

Covid 19 for all its devastating health, economic and social impacts, has provided us with a unique opportunity to really reflect on our national discourse with

climate change questions, solutions to its impacts and development in general. Climate change as re-affirmed by Covid-19 is not merely an environmental problem, it is the consequence of a broken and flawed development system that we have considered normal for too long. The conversation on climate change and Covid-19 is therefore not two separate and distinct conversations, it is in fact at its core a conversation about development itself.

Development as eloquently put by Dr. Tacisius Tabukaulaka –is basically a set of ideas that creates an image of what we want to become. The prevalent ideas that currently drive our development thinking are grounded in neoliberal economic ideologies. For Fiji and the majority of the Pacific countries, our development system is part of our colonial heritage, and this is evident in the extractive type of economic policies that have historically driven our development. Our existing development system promotes capitalistic thinking that sidelines the wellbeing of communities and the environment, and prioritises the need of big corporations and large-scale extraction of natural resources as the ideal pathway for achieving a better future for all. It is an established ideology that also promotes cut throat competition, rewards and incentivises individualism rather than the cordial and mutual cooperation of all. At the core of this development thinking is an extractive ideology that promotes and sustains the interest of the privileged few rather than those who have little.

"For Fiji and the majority of the Pacific countries, our development system is part of our colonial heritage, and this is evident in the extractive type of economic policies that have historically driven our development."



If our conversation on finding a real solution to our development problems, including that of climate change, is to have some credible resonance, the conversation needs to therefore be centred squarely on system change. Anything less would be a tragedy. System change is a conversation about people and behaviours. Human beings are part and parcel of the overall system and are at the end of the day responsible for operationalising the ideologies of the system through their decision making processes and action through behaviours.

There is a growing yearning from communities for change, real change on how the development system in our country operates. We have talked enough of big change concepts such as transformational changes, paradigm shift, agility, reinvigoration and all sorts of high level change concepts, because very little has really changed, when we look around the poor are still poor, the vulnerable are still vulnerable, the marginalised are still marginalised – and now with Covid-19, there is a true danger that those that are already in this difficult situation will be pushed to the extreme and that more people will be pushed towards this vulnerable and at risk category as job losses continue to sky rocket.

So what does Fiji need to do?

We need to fundamentally shift our governance structures, our decision making processes, our risk appetite and the way that we work to embrace the type of change that we need.

And for this to happen....

We need bold and fearless political leadership that is committed to a radical overhaul of these systems and institutions that are meant to protect and uphold the public good. Our leaders, just like they made unpopular but bold national decisions that defies economic logic to protect the safety and wellbeing of our people during the Covid-19 crisis, must also show the same level of courage in making difficult decisions relating to climate change.

We need leaders to move away from viewing everything from an economic perspective, and make national development decisions because it is the right thing to do for holistic human and planetary well-being. They must have the courage to say no to lucrative development opportunities such those in the extractive industries and make a stand to champion only development projects that place the well-being of all Fijians and the environment at its core.

We need radical inclusion. Voice is critical in this process. Fiji needs to re-evaluate how it has been framing its development questions like whose voices we listen to, who should be sitting at the decision table, but who is missing from critical decisions that influence the quality of life for all our citizens? How do we authentically articulate ourselves as a nation?

If we were to apply such a critique right now in Fiji in terms of critical forums that is determinative of general wellbeing, it is those rural remote women, the persons with disabilities, indigenous people, the youth, LGBTQI communities and faith-based organisations who are always missing, all whose voices are either muted or distorted.

It is high time we stop talking about people who experience vulnerability and the marginalisation in societies, and instead listen to them. We must do better in listening if this renewed discussion of system change is to have meaning and be carried forward into real action.

Radical inclusion will allow us to recognise that when we bring those voices that we have devalued and not paid attention to for so long in to the core of our development solution formulation, 'common sense' solutions for our development problems, including that of climate change, will begin to surface.

Fiji, I believe, doesn't need big ideas to solve most of our obvious development problems - what we need is common sense ideas gained from the practical experiences of our local people.

The final issue that I believe is critical in changing the system is the need to radically reimagine our current education systems. Like our existing governance system in our country, our education systems mirrors that of the overarching, entrenched neoliberal model. Our education system still prioritizes competition and individualism, elevates the philosophy of consumerism and materialistic wealth and marginalises our own traditional knowledge and practices as archaic and backwards. We need to therefore re-look at our curriculums, re-look at the question of what we are teaching our children. Re-look at the kind of leaders that we want our children to be.

Covid-19 has shown us that our back-up and safety net is our community. Our ability to be resilient in the face of great uncertainties lies in our existing relationships with each other and our values. There is an urgent need for us as Fijians to relearn our local and indigenous values and principles and for these to be embedded in the core of our education systems

"Covid-19 has shown us that our back-up and safety net is our community. Our ability to be resilient in the face of great uncertainties lies in our existing relationships with each other and our values."

"A famous itaukei idiom resonates for me here, *"ni dau loveci ga na kau ni se gone"*-meaning you can only change people's behaviour and thinking when they are young. I think that this is where we need to start this process of changing the system for the long term. For the system to tectonically shift towards a fair future for all to be real and sustainable, it needs to be organically driven by the people. At the end of the day, the key to changing the system lies with you and me, if we want to change the systems we must first change our individual behaviour for the better in terms of our relationship with each other and the environment.



Photo Credits: Google images



Dr Jale Samuwai is a Climate Finance Advisor with Oxfam in the Pacific. The views and opinions expressed in this article are his own.



4. INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

5. TOURISM

6. GENDER EQUALITY

Great innovations come when there is great crisis or when we're faced with complex problems. The pandemic and climate emergency creates that need. This Reset Fiji episode discussed the role of innovation, technology and knowledge in shaping and progressing Fiji in a post-pandemic world. Read more: [Pacnews](#)

Tourism, central to Fiji's economy for decades, has felt the full brunt of COVID-19 with many nations closing their borders to tourists. This Reset Fiji episode took a deep dive into the upheaval in the tourism industry as the impacts reverberate across Fiji and the Pacific. Read more: [Fiji Times](#)

Violence against women and children has increased significantly during lockdowns, with 527 case calls to the Ministry of Women's helpline. Yet despite the bleak news, the pandemic is a unique window for us to address our social ills, unearth, redesign and rebuild our social fabric. Read more on what the panel discussed: [Fiji Sun](#)

TOP MENTIONS

MAI TV: earned 255 engagements

"... first thing we've got to do is realize we've got a lot of #donor funding that doesn't do much for our country and our people. We're getting Band-aid #solutions because researchers & people are going after that grant to pay themselves."

- Justin Hunter on @ResetFiji #fijinews

LICE MAVONO: earned 210 engagements

The first ever discussion about the #economy to captivate me from start to finish and I think it was because it was so outside of the box! @ResetFiji brings civil society, academia and the media together. combination tonight was truly a #BOOM! Next week @MaiTVFiji #Agriculture.

TOP MEDIA TWEET

earned 4,426 impressions

"Our education system does not encourage creativity, it is completely in my view, totally lacking." Larry Thomas, Playwright/ Writer/ Documentary Film-maker





Photo Credits: Google image

CONTINUED..

Another key point that was raised was the need for infrastructure to assist and encourage innovation, while retaining talent in Fiji particularly in the technology field and establish Fiji as the ICT hub of the Pacific. Over 35 percent of people in the field of technology migrate every year for better opportunities and better remuneration, the same for the construction industry. From including bamboo into the building code to fostering an ecosystem to support new technological applications, there are key roles for government and community to facilitate new innovations.

As Kenneth Katafono raised, the key to innovation is people and the need to invest in the young people and institutions to be able to think bigger while not being scared to come up with new ideas. This also reflects comments by Mukesh Lodhia who stated that technology is only an enabler and that it only works with the participation of people.

Having people centred innovation was a common theme among panellists. Many spoke of ensuring that the product suits the needs of the people requiring it, a design perspective of 'user focused design'. While this was not only important in ensuring that there is an uptake in new technologies like cloud computing or apps but also ensuring that all people are included in design decisions. This applies especially to including women and other marginalised groups in design and innovation discussions to ensure that they are fit for purpose but also support those who need it most in ways they need it most.

In this technological age any discussion of innovation must include the issue of data capture and privacy. As Ronal Singh pointed out, the rights that Fijian's have to privacy whilst explicit in the Constitution are being eroded with the sharing of data both willingly and unwillingly. Mr Singh argued that if information is power then the giving away of data must be understood as an act of giving away that power. This includes having a clear understanding of what data is collected, how it is collected, how it will be used in the future and who has the control of decisions made about how that data is shared. A central feature of data collection is trust. All of these questions need to be answered before any decisions are made regarding the sharing of one's personal data.

END

NEW TECHNOLOGIES, ANCIENT SOLUTIONS

by Maureen Penijueli, Coordinator PANG

Great innovations come when there is great crisis or when we're faced with complex problems. The pandemic and climate emergency creates that need. This episode discussed the role of innovation, technology and knowledge in shaping and progressing Fiji in a post-pandemic world.

Central to these discussions are the ways that traditional systems of knowledge and their innovation in current settings still offers tremendous basis for how new technologies and thinking can shore up resilience. As Simione Sevudredre, highlighted, resilience is already 'preloaded into Fiji's traditions', there is a need to draw from the past and these traditions, but it must be done in a community spirit to look after everyone.

In Fiji the concept of 'Solesolevaki' has gained significant prominence during the pandemic. As described by Sevudredre, Solesolevaki is more nuanced than is currently understood which means to work together or collaborate for a greater good, using an example from Beqa Island more famously known for its fire walking rather than its old technology of fishing nets. The people who are collaborating are bound by an intrinsic value and they're also guided by an extrinsic value. It is more than just teamwork, it is something that is valued by the people, identified by the people as a tradition but is reapplied and contemporised for the benefit of the community.

When discussing innovation, it is important to realise that innovation isn't just about new ideas or new technology, traditional systems are constantly innovating and evolving, refining their knowledge in response to the circumstances. This was also seen last week with the comments from the Naitasiri Women in Dairy Cooperative and extended beyond the adoption of new technologies for calf rearing, mushroom farming and the use of M-Paisa but more significantly to the way that these women are innovating cultural, social and economic norms regarding the expected roles that women have, especially in male dominated industries like dairy whilst making it a viable business model.

Further to this is the discussion of how new technologies and ideas can build on these traditional values and systems. Masi Latianara, an architect with a great passion for social housing, raised the issue of how to properly house Fiji's population in climate resilient housing and proposed a feasible solution in the adoption of bamboo construction into the national building code. Mr Latianara argued that the use of materials like bamboo creates a more environmentally sustainable solution that is cheaper, is climatically suited to be grown within Fiji, and is a material that is not unfamiliar with traditional knowledge.



Moderator Stanley Simpson with panelists of our Innovation & Technology episode: Mukesh Lodhia, Masi Latianara, Ronal Singh, Kenneth Katafano, Simone Sevuiredre, Seruwaia Kabukabu

WHAT THE PANELISTS SAID:

"Soleselevaki is more than collaboration. The people who are collaborating are bound by an intrinsic value and they are also guided by an extrinsic value."

Simione Sevuiredre, Ministry of itaukei Affairs

"The building code should cater for other construction technologies that are affordable, proven & appropriate for Fiji. The traditional Fijian bure has come through centuries of social & climatic testing. We should learn from this technology."

Masi Latiniara, Habitat for Humanity Fiji

"If we treat data as new gold, the way banks treat your money so should these data banks be protecting your information. There has to be rules and regulations as with monetary banks."

Ronal Singh, Partner- Munro Leys

"COVID-19 has presented opportunities to 'reset' or reimagine some of these key sectors and where we can use technology to position ourselves in the global market and how we can leverage data."

Kenneth Katafano, Founder TraSeable Solutions

"Technology is a great enabler and it enables us to do beautiful things but the very important part is the participation by you."

Mukesh Lodhia, ACTON

"Resilience is already preloaded into our traditions and values. Draw from our past, recreate and move ahead."

Simione Sevuiredre - Ministry of itaukei Affairs

"Bamboo is a proven technology that competes structurally with timber and steel, and can be available in Fiji at a fraction of the cost of the technology that the Building Code is prescribing."

Masi Latiniara, Director of Habitat for Humanity Fiji

New Technologies, Ancient Solutions

Continued from pg 9

People's personal data and rights to it are important but there is much room for innovation regarding the way that collective data and knowledge is addressed. Whilst social media companies and governments may have access to personal data, some of which is happily given to access that service, the issue of ownership of collective data and its ability to map populations remains highly controversial. Just as personal data is owned by the individual, there is also an urgent need to ensure that group data is owned by the group of individuals. This collective data contains vast amounts of power in the way that it can be used to predict behaviour and thus make policy and funding decisions without consulting people.

Further to this is the issue of how to address the control of collectivised knowledges like those held by communities. As Mr Sevuiredre mentioned, intellectual property legislation is inadequate for traditional knowledges as it takes collectively owned knowledge and individualises it to assign the rights to that property and therefore benefits. This is already happening in Fiji (and across the Pacific) where collective knowledge is digitalised and mass produced into medicines, art or fashion designs. Establishing ways to protect these knowledges and ensuring that the benefits are shared with the community who own them is an ongoing challenge for the western intellectual property systems which are largely dominant.

Last week's panel highlighted how innovation is an ongoing action. It requires support and a conducive environment to be encouraged and shaped by those who are using it. Fiji and the Pacific are faced with yet more challenges with COVID19 and will come up with many innovative ways to deal with this. We have already seen this in the ways that communities are responding to the hardships that the pandemic has confronted them with by creating new networks of support and livelihood creation.

The panellists provided clear examples of the technological expertise that already exists in Fiji but also the in-built innovation and knowledges that exist in traditional systems. While it is easy to portray these as a battle between 'old' and 'new' technologies the reality is that they are in fact heavily intertwined and both carry immense value to the communities. Innovation in the Pacific starts with knowledge and systems built on generations of knowledge, a foundation that has proven itself resilient in the face of continual challenges like colonisation, natural disasters and economic downturns.

END

EPISODE 4: TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATIONS

POLLS

FACEBOOK VIEWERSHIP

Reach: 11.9K
Post Clicks: 1.5K
Reactions, Comments and Share:
254

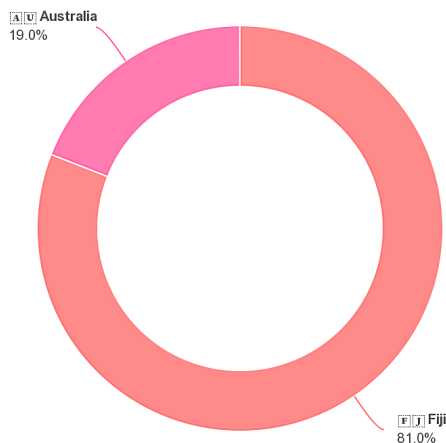
PARTICIPATION

110 viewed the poll
21 completed the poll

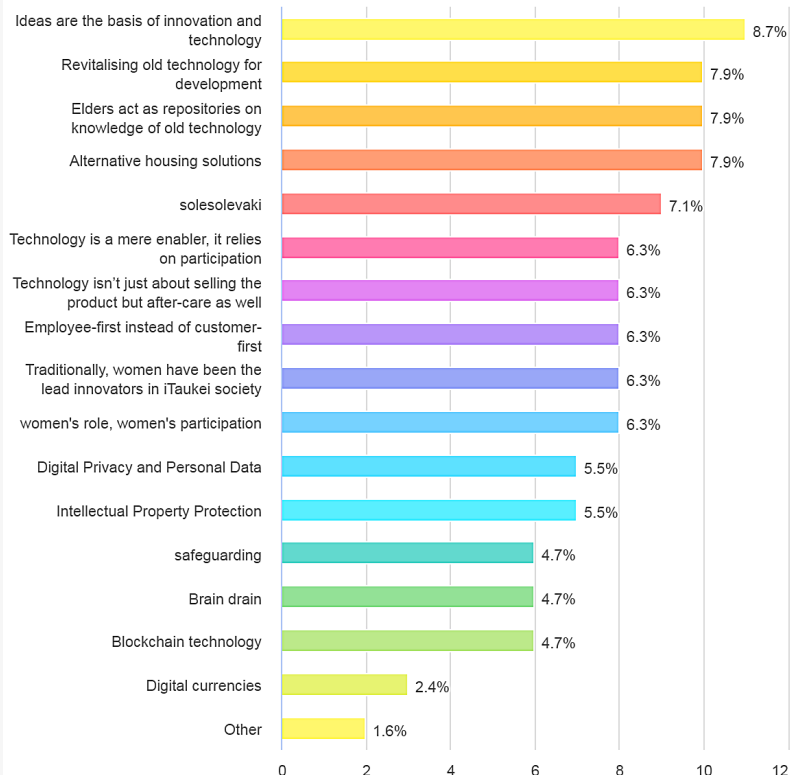
TWITTER ANALYTICS- JULY

Profile Visits: 2,225
Tweet Impressions: 122K
New followers: 200

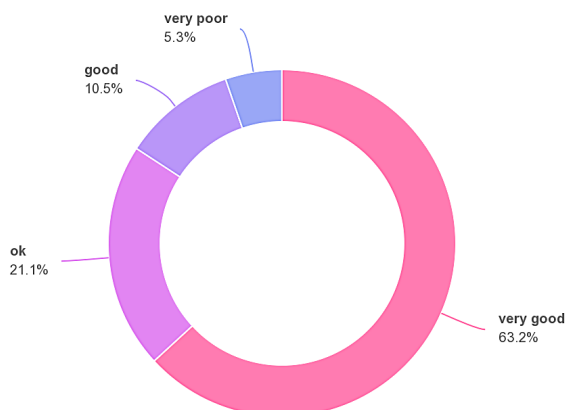
Participants countries



2. What topic/ideas/issues from the panel discussions on Technology and Innovation was of interest to you?



How would you rate the 4th episode of RESET Fiji which looked at Technology and Innovation?





Moderator Stanley Simpson with panelists of our Tourism episode: Fantasha Lockington, Dr Stephen Pratt, James Sowane, Justin Hunter, Danny Jason

RESET TOURISM IN THE AGE OF PANDEMICS

by Maureen Penijueli, Coordinator PANG

Tourism plays a critical role in the economy of Fiji. COVID-19 is a major shake-up for the tourism sector. In 2016 tourism contributed 16 per cent to Fiji's GDP, employing both directly and indirectly over 150,000 people with women making up 35 per cent of the workforce. Today tourism represents 46 per cent of GDP. With most tourists coming to Fiji from Australia and New Zealand to holiday, it is easy to see why the industry is facing its biggest challenge yet, with 93 per cent of businesses reporting a significant decline in sales and revenue from the Tourism Sector.

James Sowane noted that, the entire industry will have to establish and implement new protocols for dealing with the global pandemic.

This provides many challenges for Fijian hospitality, which is "people-focused" and is known for its friendliness. From the moment a traveller steps onto the plane and onto our shores, from the transport that picks them up from the airport, to the restaurants where they eat, or the handicrafts or tour trips that they do to villages, all will need to have protocols in place to ensure the safety of our visitors, our communities and the survival of the industry.

But this is not just something for the tourism industry the entire population must be engaged in promoting and enacting protocols that discourage the spread of the virus. A single outbreak could end future opportunities for tourism pathways with other countries.

Fantasha Lockington highlighted that protecting the environment is central to the longevity of Fiji's tourist industry. She pointed out the pro-active role of tourism as an environmental protector by for instance, developing their own waste management or renewable energy systems but also as a watch dog for any environmental damage.

As the climate changes and ocean temperatures rise, there will be a need to adjust. Justin Hunter discussed how localising decision-making systems, like the "Blue-town" concept, can help ensure that communities can control how the local environment is sustained and respond to a changing climate.

This includes deciding about what they need to preserve the environment and allowing communities to; "go after donor funding because we know where it should go, we should not leave it in the hands of other people, we've got to take ownership" and avoid the "Band-Aid solutions of others".

Danny Jason spoke about the need for many tourists to have a uniquely 'Fijian' experience, staying in traditional accommodations and undertaking activities like planting, harvesting, preparing and cooking Fijian crops.

The unique experience resonates with both foreign and domestic tourists allowing people to disengage from the digital world and, "engage with the communities, learn and take back these experiences that are life skills we survive on".

The COVID-19 pandemic has put tourism in Fiji and the Pacific in a tenuous position. It is forcing the industry to change, adapt and evolve.

The panel was unanimous this is an opportunity for Fiji tourism to ensure a post-pandemic tourism market that strengthens and supports the protection and conservation of the environment whilst supporting local communities sustainably. [Read more](#)

WHAT THE PANELISTS SAID:

This one probably has been the biggest one that the industry has come across, and you're right, it was a shock; but it 'was', it is not a #shock anymore because the industry has already picked itself up and is fighting & things will change."

**Fantasha Lockington, CEO
FHTA_Fiji**

"Our industry is a people based industry, it is all about people. People travel to our destinations to consume our business & services so there is a lot of #touchpoints and therefore a lot of protocols to be implemented at this touch points"

James Sowane, Pacific Destinations

"You don't waste a crisis. There is going to be opportunities- we get stronger, we get better, we get smarter. We give the maximum benefits to our people. We got to keep our head up"

Justin Hunter, J.Hunter Pearls

"There is no magic wand, we shouldn't be waiting, we've waited enough and universities, industry and government can use this time now to better explore these opportunities and sustainable solutions."

**Professor Stephen Pratt, Head of
School of Tourism, USP**

"It took me two years to run around for approvals; - I hope in the future that it is made easier for #startups and we value these #smallbusinesses like we value investors."

**Danny Jason, Owner/Founder, Namosi
Eco Retreat**

"Be informed. Be aware. We will get through this! There will never be an end to challenges but we should remain resilient at all levels."

James Sowane, Pacific Destinations

"I think the first thing we've got to do is realize that we've got a lot of donor funding that doesn't do much for our people. We're getting Band-aid solutions because researchers and people are going after that grant to pay themselves-we've got to take ownership!"

Justin Hunter, J Hunter Pearls

EPISODE 5: TOURISM

POLLS

FACEBOOK VIEWERSHIP

Reach: 14.6K
Post Clicks: 1.7K
Reactions, Comments and Share:
297

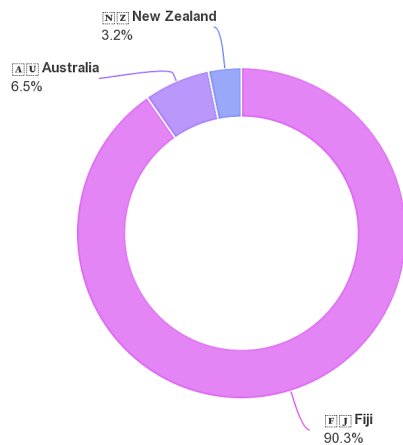
PARTICIPATION

214 viewed the poll
31 completed the poll

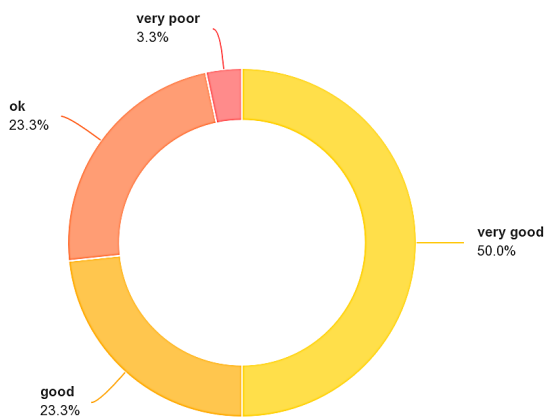
TWITTER ANALYTICS- JULY

Profile Visits: 2,225
Tweet Impressions: 122K
New followers: 200

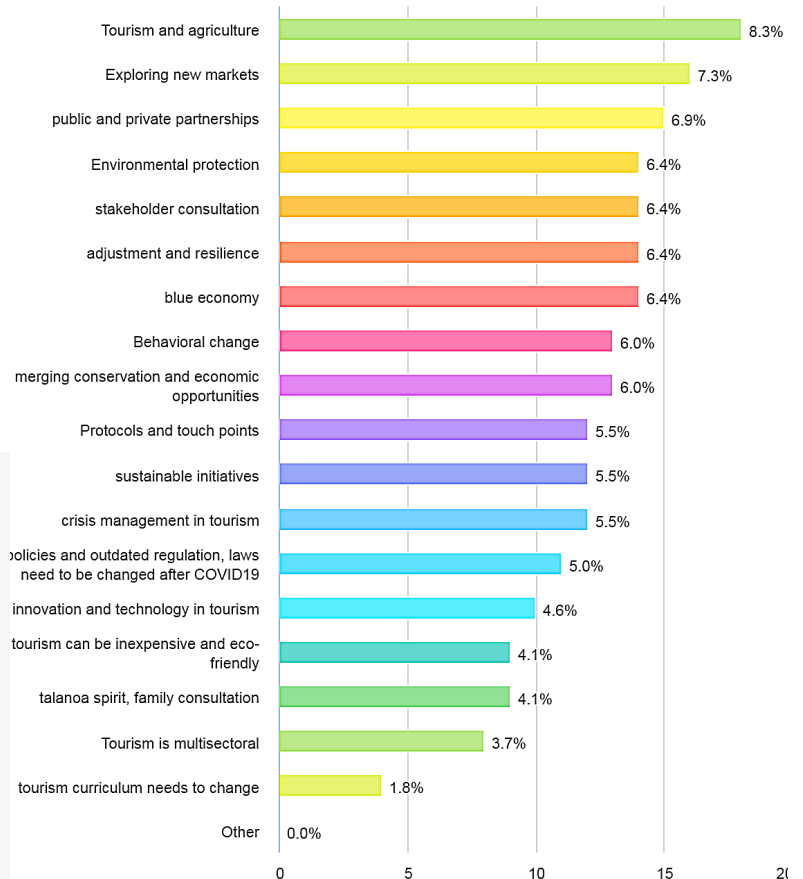
Participants countries



How would you rate the 5th episode of RESET Fiji which looked at Tourism?



2. What topic/ideas/issues from the panel discussions on Tourism was of interest to you?





Moderator Stanley Simpson with panelists of our Gender Equality episode: Kameli Batiweti, Nalini Singh, Kim Beddoes, Semi Lotawa

IN THE NEWS: "WHEN WOMEN LEAD AND THRIVE, THE ENTIRE VANUA WILL THRIVE"

by *Fiji Sun*

When women lead and thrive, the entire vanua will thrive, says Rise Beyond the Reef co-founder Semi Lotawa. He was speaking on the issue of Gender Equality on Mai TV's Reset Fiji last night, where he said in order to shift gender dynamics in Fijian communities post COVID-19, tools were needed to leverage the change.

He said it was important for men to champion those transformational changes to shift dynamics of harmful norms. "A workshop alone doesn't change dynamics. There are many platforms to stand on and for us we have chosen economic development for women," Mr Lotawa said.

"Dynamics needs to change because it gets to the hearts of women to meet their needs, manifest their vision and encourage their voice and choice." This, he said, was long term work because trust needed to be built.

Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation chief executive officer, Kameli Batiweti, said studies had shown that companies that didn't engage women as leaders became less productive and less innovative. "It is also interesting to note that in universities in Fiji, a lot of graduates are women, yet less women are participating in the workforce in the country," he said. "Companies that disregard women are doing it at their own cost."

Business owner Kim Beddoes said it was important for business owners to receive the right support and empathy in order to survive during the pandemic, creating employment opportunities for its employees.

"To be empowered, women and girls need employment, we the businesses need support so that when we can survive," she said.

"When we survive with the right support, we provide employment and support for these women in the country."

Fiji Women's Crisis Centre coordinator Shamima Ali said 64 per cent of women in Fiji had experienced physical, sexual and emotional violence at the hands of their intimate partner. She said there was a need for everyone to adopt the feminist human rights approach and strategies.

Fiji Women Rights Movement executive director, Nalini Singh, said to ensure that COVID-19 recovery efforts were responsive and effective, it was important that issues were addressed by listening with intent.

Source: [Fiji Sun](#)

WHAT THE PANELISTS SAID:

"There is no time to waste! Women's rights organisations have been working with multiple stakeholders in response to the crisis."

Nalini Singh, Executive Director, Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM)

"In order to shift gender dynamics in communities, you need tools to leverage change- a workshop alone does not change dynamics."

Semi Lotawa, Co-founder, Rise Beyond the Reef

"COVID19 preventative measures- create environments' conducive to gender based violence: survivors were locked in with their perpetrators; -it gives the perpetrator a lot of time and a lot of space to perpetrate"

Shamima Ali, Coordinator, Fiji Women's Crisis Centre

"It is amazing to see in the Universities in Fiji, most of the graduates are #women yet less women are participating in our workforce in our country."

Kameli Batiweti, CEO, Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation

"When women lead, it's with #empathy, and it is empathy that is going to get us through this situation." This is the time for women leaders to step up and shine.

Kim Beddoes, Managing Director, Party and Events Fiji

"The Pacific is over-crowded with reports and studies conducted by persons outside of communities; if we understand existing tables and listen to them, we can strengthen the existing currencies, abundance and acknowledge..."

Semi Lotawa, Co-founder, Rise Beyond the Reef

"We saw an increase in calls of about 200% from March to April."

Shamima Ali, Coordinator, Fiji Women's Crisis Centre

EPISODE 6: GENDER

POLLS

FACEBOOK VIEWERSHIP

Reach: 10.6K
Post Clicks: 1.6K
Reactions, Comments and Share:
235

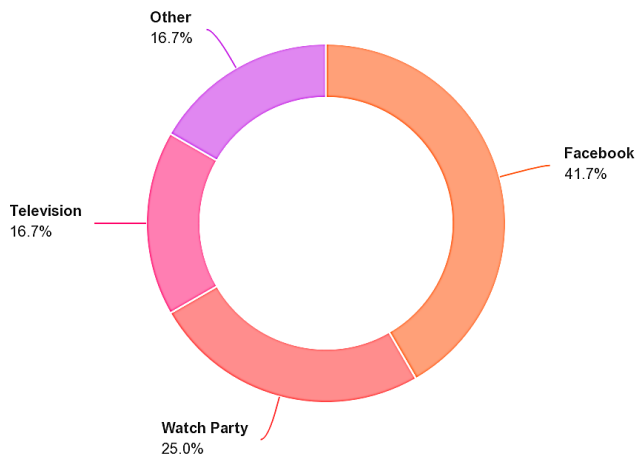
PARTICIPATION

79 viewed the poll
12 completed the poll

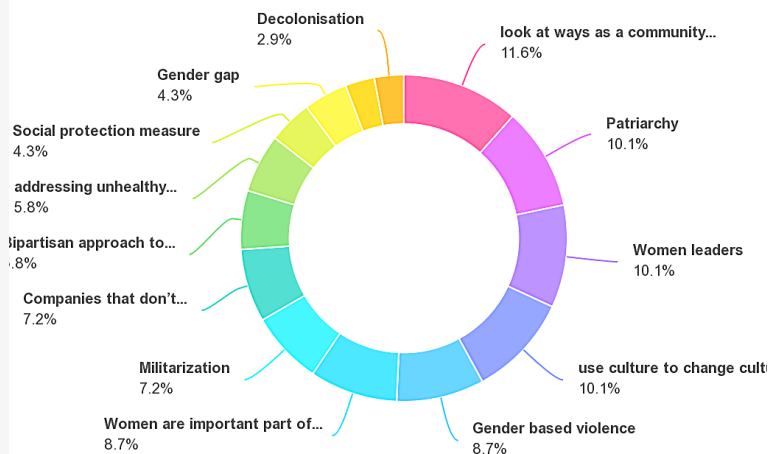
TWITTER ANALYTICS- JULY

Profile Visits: 2,225
Tweet Impressions: 122K
New followers: 200

Where did you watch the 6th episode of RESET Fiji which looked at Gender Equality?



3. What topic/ideas/issues from the panel on Gender Equality was of interest to you?



2. How would you rate the 6th episode of RESET Fiji which looked at Gender Equality?

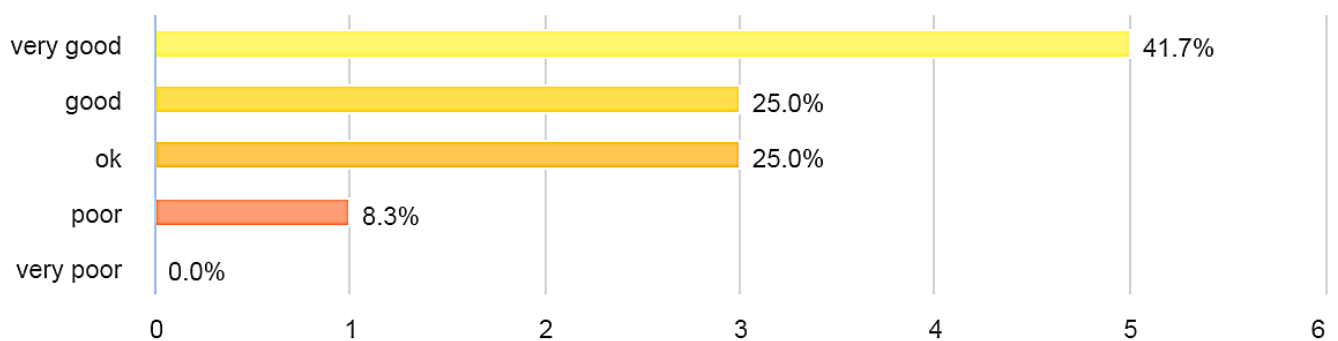




Photo Credit: Google image

CONTINUED..

A senior lecture with the University of the South Pacific, Neelesh Goundar said the Government needs to relook at ways to harness the community-stake partnership in the school system.

Mr Goundar said with 35 per cent of the population currently unemployed, help must be for the children in those households to succeed in schools.

“One of the things that the schools are currently doing is to provide meals to children who are attending these schools come from households where at least someone has lost a job, their income has gone down,” Mr Goundar said.

The founder of Fiji Rugby Academy, Sereimaia Bai, commended the work of all teachers who were able to teach successfully despite an outdated education system.

“We should be very thankful to all the teachers of Fiji because we have produced some of the professors, pilots, not only employed here in Fiji, but overseas as well,” Mr Bai said.

He said the unemployment rate in Fiji led him to start a rugby academy.

“In 2018, Fiji recorded about 15,000 unemployed youths, this is the reason for me to start a Rugby Academy. If it is an academy, it is where you develop potential and elite rugby players, I always call it, it is an environment,” Mr Bai said.

The national president Fiji Early Childhood Teachers Association said there was a need to move beyond traditional boundaries in teaching and learning with young children.

Ufemia Camaitoga said: “Let’s take learning to the homes. And I am talking about the home-based education care model.”

END

Source: [Fiji Sun](#)

IN THE NEWS: FOCUS ON RESETTING THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

by *Fiji Sun*

The impact of COVID-19 has become a defining moment for Fiji’s formal education system, with the lockdown and closure of schools, universities and learning institutions for three months.

This forced educators across the country to transition to a world of virtual learning. The reopening of schools with stringent protocols and health standards has created challenges for a conducive learning environment.

With such challenges, RESET Fiji’s seventh episode focused on education. The five panellists participated in robust and innovative discussions on how to reset the formal education system.

A renowned local playwright, writer, director and documentary filmmaker said the current education system in Fiji did not encourage creativity.

“We have a system where children actually learn in fear, they are told that it is either right or wrong, black or white, good or bad, there is nothing in between,” Mr Thomas said.

He said teachers were too busy fulfilling administrative duties to have the time to be able to nurture students.

“Our education system, in my view, comes down to economics, what profession, what jobs that you can do, but that will earn you income, and often you go to traditional professions of teachers, doctors, lawyers, accountants and we do not look at the creative industry.”

The deputy Principal of International School Suva said: “We are talking about nation-building, we are talking about the benefit to a nation, when we talk about education, it is much more than the result on a piece of paper, it is actually about the future of the country. I would suggest we address and we have the opportunity to reset, look at the curriculum, document and resources that we use.

“With the hearts of the fathers and sons, I think we are talking about two different generations. One generation who is responsible turns and considers the need for the second generation, the upcoming generation. Then we can see the real progress and real healing in the nation,” he said.

Mr Hatch has been a teacher, assistant and deputy principal in New Zealand and Fijian schools for the past 32 years.



Moderator Stanley Simpson with panelists of our Education episode: Dr Neelesh Gounder, Larry Thomas, Seremaia Bai, Hector Hatch, Ufemia Camaitoga

WHAT THE PANELISTS SAID:

"I think we have a system where children actually learn in fear; they're told that it is either right or wrong, black or white, good or bad; there is no in-between."

Larry Thomas, Playwright/ Writer/ Documentary Film-maker

"One of the most innovative things to happen in Fiji is the #community partnership: 99% of the schools in Fiji are currently owned by community and religious based organisations."

Dr. Neelesh Gounder, Senior Lecturer USP/ Chairman of the TISI Sangam Education Board

"When I think of education, it is much more than just a result on a piece of paper, it is about the future of a country." #nation_building. As a Fijian citizen and an international educator, I am obliged to look carefully at the delivery and the makeup."

Hector Hatch, Educator

"If you are a rugby player in retirement and you don't have any academic qualifications, you will struggle,"

Seremaia Bai, Former Fiji National 15's player/Founder Rugby Academy Fiji

"We need to really move beyond traditional boundaries in teaching and learning with young children." creativity arts shift in mindset attitudes

Ufemia Camaitoga, Author/ Early childhood educator

"I dropped out of school at the age of 14, so I failed the system or the #system failed me. Even though I didn't go through the education system, life was my lesson."

Seremaia Bai, Former Fiji National 15's player/Founder Rugby Academy Fiji

Using 'resources around us' to increase the quality of our education: "we need to trust ourselves as Fijians, because we are #navigators; these inquisitions and the attitudes and skills are the things we need to nurture."

Hector Hatch, Educator/Current DP for ISS Suva

"We inherited an education system from the colonial times and very little has been done to overhaul that education system."

Larry Thomas

RESET FIJI ON SOCIAL MEDIA



RESET EPISODES:

1. Economy <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YFW548GBKc&t=91s>
2. Agriculture <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDThziHVN00&t=101s>
3. Environment & Climate Change <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zwCSdejiEzQ&t=14s>
4. Innovation & Technology <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8jgn3SUCShY&t=15s>
5. Tourism <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c2yxpz6rLc4>
6. Gender Equality <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q2JOCBsbIJ0>
7. Education <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-YtABZeoV2w>



Click on the images to access RESET Facebook and Twitter pages

Facebook:

Page Followers: 4,995

Page Likes: 4,520

Twitter:

588 Followers

101K Tweet Impressions



RESET SEASON 1 Final Survey: Click on this link to take this POLL

EPISODE 7: EDUCATION

POLLS

FACEBOOK VIEWERSHIP

Reach: 15.5K
Post Clicks: 2.6K
Reactions, Comments and Share:
255

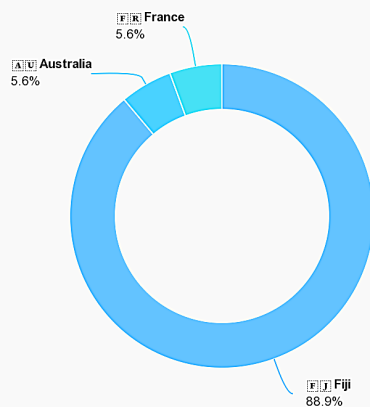
PARTICIPATION

203 viewed the poll
18 completed the poll

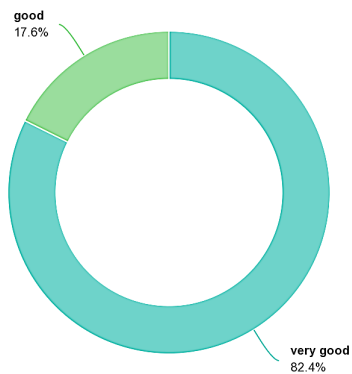
TWITTER ANALYTICS- JULY

Profile Visits: 2,225
Tweet Impressions: 122K
New followers: 200

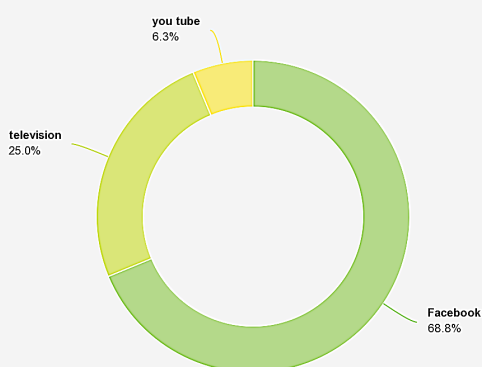
Participants countries



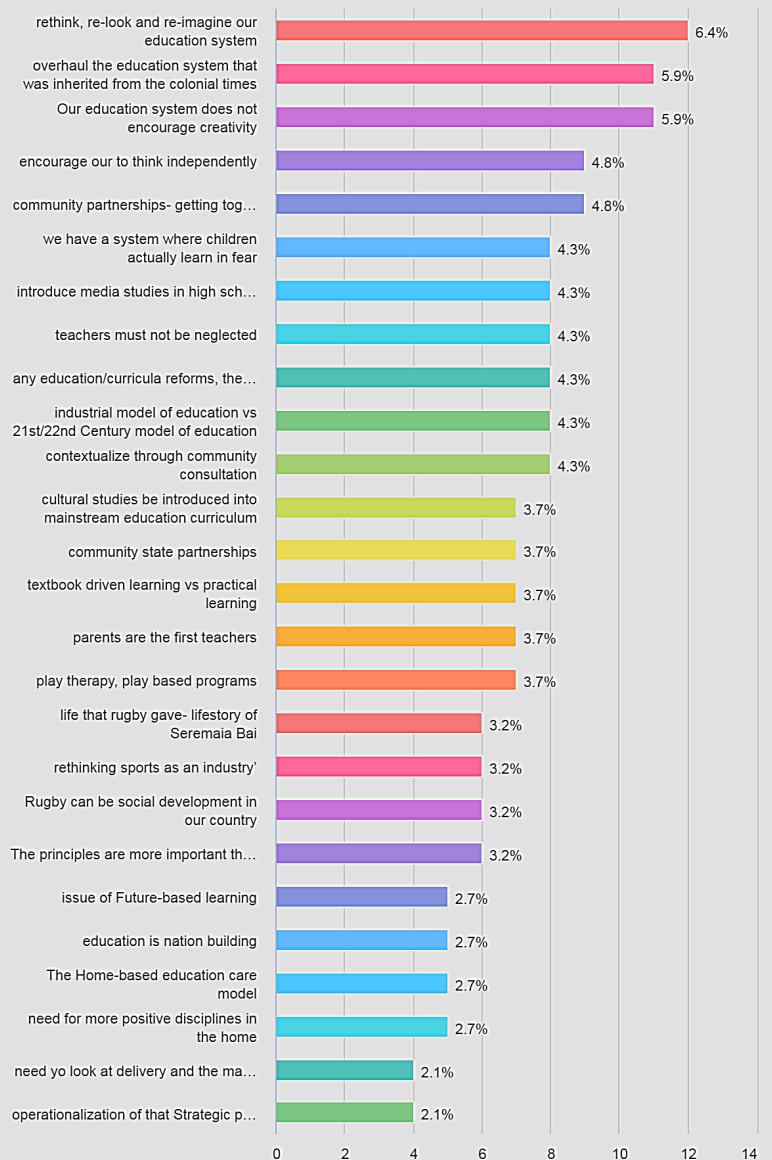
How would you rate the 7th episode of RESET Fiji which looked at Education?



3. Where did you watch this episode?



2. What topic/ideas/issues from the panel discussions on Education was of interest to you?





Moderator Stanley Simpson with panelists of our Season Finale. Front row: (L-R) Lavinia Kaumaitotoya, Wah Sing Yee, Sashi Kiran, Jodi Smith, Mere Naulumatua. Back row (L-R) James Sowane, Ram Bajekal, Kenneth Katafono, Simi Sevudredre, Masi Latianara

WHAT THE PANELISTS SAID:

"Sometimes you are too busy competing and trying to kill each other rather than co-operating and helping to boost the nation as a whole."

-Ram Bajekal

"Food security in schools: "People around the schools have abundance of local foods but we are not turning the cassava, the fish and the coconut into a meal."

Sashi Kiran, FRIEND

"The resilience of our nation lies in our environment, our good climate and our connection to the land."

Wah Sing Yee

"We must remain positive and in a state of preparedness. We have to allow people to adjust- they must reach their ground zero also and reset!"

James Sowane, Pacific Destinations

"In this pandemic, most people are moving back to the villages. When they go back, they need to assimilate themselves back into their society's and not bring the attitudes from the city back into the villages."

Lavinia Kaumaitotoya,

"What we see is the families in the income bracket that we focus on which is under twenty thousand, they are always in a state of emergency when it comes to housing because of the cost of building."

Masi Latianara, @HabitatFiji/Bamboo Association Fiji

"There is certainly opportunity for innovations in the #waste sector so we can do construction work and operations of sanitary landfills and material recovery facilities."

Jodi Smith, Matanataka

"The power of #community! In this vulnerable state, it has become evident that #communityinclusion is the basis of all this."

Mere Naulumatua, Urban Planner

"If we believe that knowledge is power, then data is really important."

Kenneth Katafono, TraSeable Solutions Fiji

The cultural value system *solesolevaki* is an intransitive verb, it is working in collaboration, usually in plantations, house construction but it is more than collaboration and working together; it is held together by invisible glue called *veiwakani* or kinship."

Simi Sevudredre

IN THE NEWS: PANEL HIGHLIGHTS PEOPLE POWER AND OPTIMISM

by Fiji Sun

The Lautoka City Council has given Friend Fiji a two-acre plot to plant vegetables that will benefit Fijian families, who find themselves in difficult situations, during this pandemic.

The farm is being managed by the Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) Church, which is working closely with the Non-Government Organisation.

Founder and director of Friend Fiji, Sashi Kiran, in a robust panel discussions of the final season of Mai TV's RESET Fiji, said the farm allowed people to walk into the farm and harvest vegetables.

Friend Fiji is in discussion with other municipal councils to adopt the same idea in other areas in the country.

Technology

Founder and Managing Director of TraSeable Solutions, Kenneth Katafono, says technology has played a big part during this pandemic.

"We started building traceable farms, agricultural platform, which essentially is supposed to be a one stop shop for anyone interested in agriculture or anyone involved in the agricultural value chain," he said.

He said the TraSeable Solutions app was also available on Google Play Store. "People can utilise the app, which is like a digital market place, allowing people to buy and sell."

Power of community

President of Fiji Planners Association, Mere Naulumatua, said there was a major disconnect between the local government and the ratepayers. Ms Naulumatua said it was time for people to relearn their respective roles and responsibilities and understand what it meant to live in an urban area.

She also highlighted the lack of interest from communities during public consultations.

"Rarely do citizens, take that opportunity to make a comment, so citizens lose out on that important decision-making process," she said.

Source: [Fiji Sun](#)

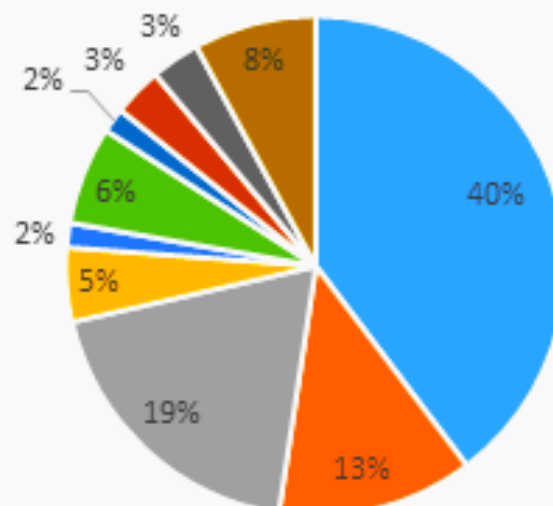
RESET SEASON 1

AUDIENCE COMPOSITION

Episodes 1-8



Audience Composition for Episodes 1-8



- NGOs/CBOs
- Private Sector
- Financial Service Provider/Commercial Bank
- International Organisations
- CROP
- Media
- Public Sector
- Development Agency
- Embassies/Diplomatic Corp
- Tertiary Institutes

INCLUSION

Including persons with disability in RESET Fiji



INTERVIEW WITH KRISHNEER SEN:

Deaf Consultancy Pacific
Deaf Association Fiji



Pic above: Krishneer with Tomasi from the Deaf Association pictured here with Mr. Seremaia Bai, who was a panellist on RESET's Education episode.

Pic on the right: Ms Melita Delaibau, Fiji Association of the Deaf discusses with Semi Lotawa of Rise Beyond the Reef after the Gender panel discussions.

SIGN MATTERS

Krishneer Sen - Deaf Consultancy Pacific

Tell us your experience?

My experience in working with Oxfam Pacific and Pacific Network Globalisation was wonderful and inclusive. The Deaf participants really enjoyed learning many new things. They have mentioned that they never thought of new ways of resetting their lives with something they have in their home villages.

What did you think of RESET Fiji?

The programme was innovative with many solutions. Very beneficial for those who want to reset back to their own ways of living. The programme was inclusive of persons with disabilities. The environment was accessible for everyone



LOOKING AHEAD:

I enjoyed the conversations and dialogue very much and so glad that the moderator allowed us, Persons with disabilities to have questions for the panelists. The question we posed has made the panelists aware about the importance of inclusivity.

It is an effective platform for anyone who wants to ask open questions as this ensures better transparency and accountability. I would like to suggest including sign language interpreters on TV inset for better exposure to the deaf viewers.

The RESET Fiji partners would like to thank Deaf Consultancy Pacific, Deaf Association in Fiji and Pacific Disability Forum for being part of the show. We value your participation and engagement throughout the RESET Fiji shows. Special gratitude to the hardworking interpreters: Tofia, Makereta, Gael, Kalisi, Agnes and Krishneer.



Krishneer Sen posing a question to the panellists.

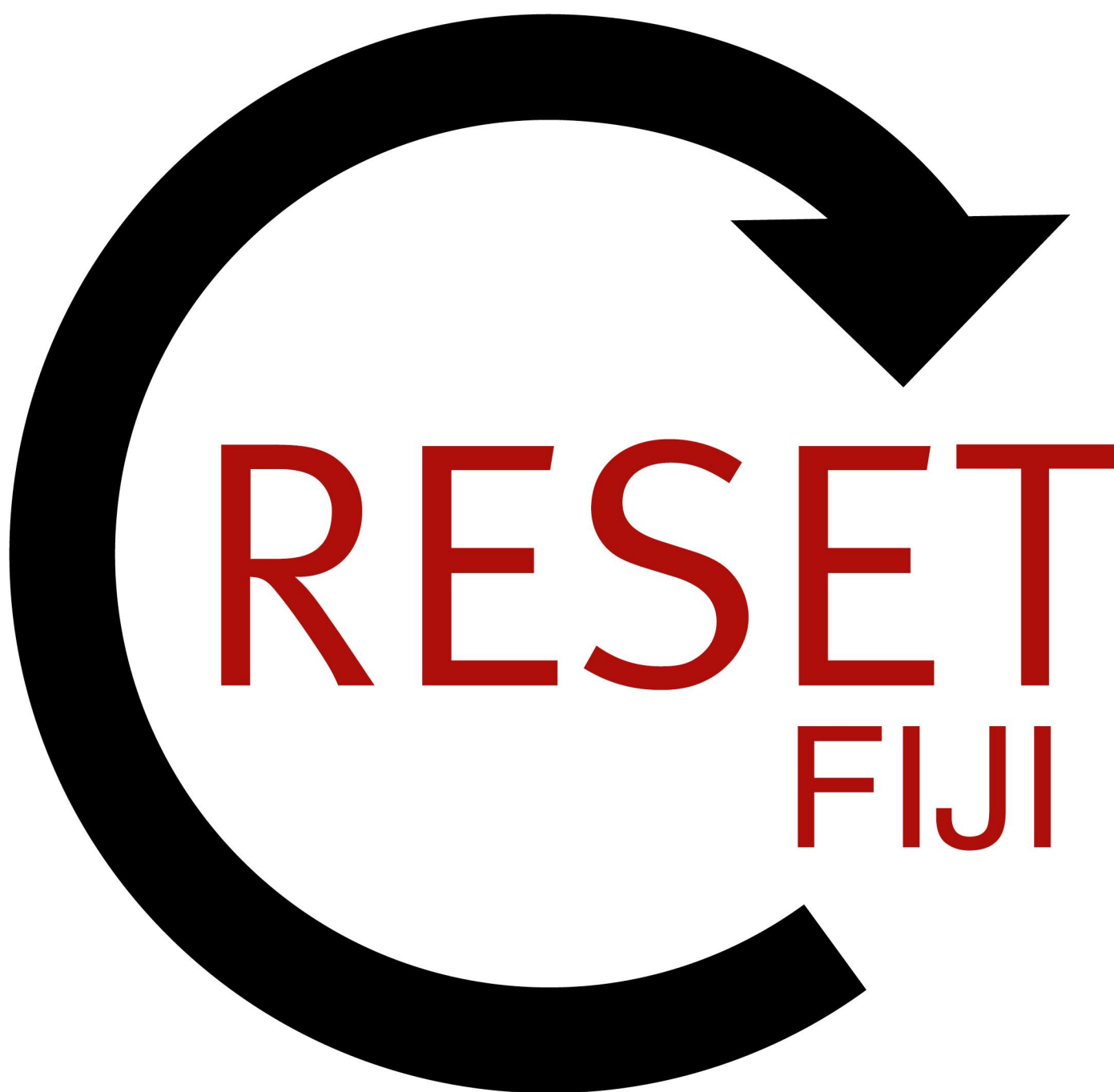


Ms Melita Delaibau, Fiji Association of the Deaf discusses with Semi Lotawa of Rise Beyond the Reef after the Gender panel discussions.

POLICY INFLUENCING

INFLUENCE POLICIES TO EFFECT LEGISLATIVE
CHANGES THROUGH THE RESET FIJI DIALOGUE SERIES

Peer to Peer” knowledge sharing mechanism for CSOs



POLICY INFLUENCING

We capture discussions of our RESET Season 1 Panelists as they discuss innovations on policies and legislations to reset the economy post pandemic.



PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

"The role of government is so important in such a crisis like this and we must do something. three things: the first is what we could do immediately. We talk about the structure of the economy and what-not but that takes time to address. I think the first thing we do is ease the suffering of the people, that must be the first one. Secondly, the immediate issues that we have when we don't have income or taxation that flows in, is what? That is what you can control - your expenses. Look at it very seriously as you have never looked at your expenses before. That applies to the government and, I'm sure, to us as well. The third is, look for additional revenue, it's hard at this time, but it must be there. Government must have additional sources of revenue. And lastly, reset your debt. Take this opportunity in the world community now to reset our international debt. That, to me, is our immediate response. What, in the next twelve months, can we do? We must reset! In this context that we are talking about, we need to reset our public financial management. To me, that is what created this mess before the crisis. Look at strengthening the resilience of our public financial management, to be stronger, to face shocks similar to this. For the medium term of one to two years, we reset the economy. Diversification has been mentioned, we must do that. We need to make our economy more resilient so that we don't depend on only one or two commodities. Focus on the distribution of the benefits of growth; distribute it more evenly. Narrow that diversity in income, the disparity in income between the poor and the rich, and of course, reduce poverty."

*Savenaca Narube, Former Governor, Reserve Bank of Fiji
Episode 1: Economy*

TAX RELIEF, SUBSIDIES , ETC

"In terms of the structural things that are a bit more long term. If I were to look at another short term thing, people need relief right now but so do businesses. I think that small to medium enterprises need that even more than the larger ones, not that the larger ones don't because some of them are in bad shape. This relief, I think there is something the government can do and probably there are limitations to what can be done in terms of tax relief, subsidies, grants, tax deferrals, loans and whatever. What can businesses do on their own? I am looking at a lot of businesses and the tourism sector which has been so badly impacted. I also read the other day about the tourism sector saying, "We will treat the locals just like we treat other guests," or there is a plea for that. That should never happen. It basically means that we are not catering to what we have in our bays and that is something that needs to be done. We have been through many crises before, I think the difference in this one is that it is a "triple whammy" because it hits at the sectors of health, income economy and education."

*Ram Bajekal, Managing Director, FMF Food Ltd, Chartered Accountant, Fulbright Scholar
Episode 1: Economy*



BUDGET- FISCAL POLICY

"The main drive is this budget which should be with the fiscal policy to take us out of this. As I have said, we have done relief. We know that there is quite a significant debt in Fiji, but that debt is around all over if you look at other countries. I would like to see a budget which stimulates the economy, not so much in an expenditure-type thing, but in investment. I want to see a budget that hits where it matters. Which is the engine of growth? The business sector is the engine of growth. If business grows then the economy grows and the flow-on effect is there on everybody. All employees big and small survive. Businesses are in crisis right now, they are not selling products. It is very simple, if you can't sell your products, you have to lay off staff and then you look at your profit margin. I would like to see money going into the business sector where we are making revenue. Revenue export driven budget. Really getting into those sectors and assisting them to drive economic growth by again, restarting the businesses, assisting them to do that, export oriented."

*Dr Rohit Kishore, Acting Dean, College of Business, Fiji National University
Episode 1: Economy*

POLICY INFLUENCING

We capture discussions of our RESET Season 1 Panelists as they discuss innovations on policies and legislations to reset the economy post pandemic.



INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE

"I realized that a lot of policy makers extoll the virtue of agriculture, the nobility of farming, and yet they themselves invest very little in agriculture and neither do they want their children to go into farming. The question is: Why is that? The title of this discussion is "RESET Fiji", we are trying to reset agriculture; but in many ways, agriculture, unlike other industries, cannot be simply 'switched on.' You cannot, if it's not working like a computer, press the reset button. It is a product of biological and genetic processes, resources and it takes time to develop. Once it is let to run down, once farms are let to run down and a generation of people go off the land, it is probably very hard and taking a lot of resources to get the farms back on."

Wah Sing Yee, Agriculturalist/Businessman
Episode 2: Agriculture

AGRICULTURE EXPORTS

"But the reality is we only have less than a million people, and we have a huge resource of rich soils so we are going to be able to produce more than our domestic markets can consume. Therefore, Livelihood opportunities are going to rest with being able to grow access and send it overseas. If you look at the current stat, it's agriculture exports- fresh produce exports, that are the main contributor to foreign exchange coming back into the country. Those foreign currency are going down to the pockets of rural farmers. I just wanted to stress how important agricultural exports are; and how important it is that partnerships with National Airlines., partnerships with policy makers, take into consideration how valuable this sector can be to putting money into the hands or rural people so that they can buy some of the essentials that they need, It's great that we can grow some things but we still have to have some money to buy the things that you need. That is a critical point that I wanted to thank Andrew for making and thanks for having us on."

Kyle Stice, Nadi Bay Herbs
Episode 2: Agriculture

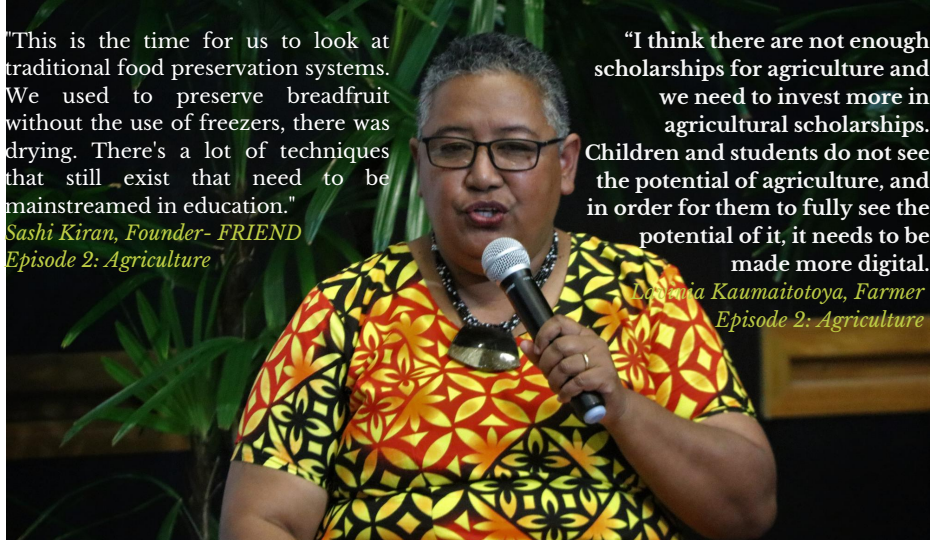


MAINSTREAMING AGRICULTURE IN EDUCATION



"This is the time for us to look at traditional food preservation systems. We used to preserve breadfruit without the use of freezers, there was drying. There's a lot of techniques that still exist that need to be mainstreamed in education."

Sashi Kiran, Founder- FRIEND
Episode 2: Agriculture



"I think there are not enough scholarships for agriculture and we need to invest more in agricultural scholarships. Children and students do not see the potential of agriculture, and in order for them to fully see the potential of it, it needs to be made more digital."

Deborah Kaumaitotoya, Farmer
Episode 2: Agriculture

POLICY INFLUENCING

We capture discussions of our RESET Season 1 Panelists as they discuss innovations on policies and legislations to reset the economy post pandemic.



RIGHT TO PRIVACY LEGISLATION

"this is why the right to privacy in the constitution is very important that we understand why it operates. While it says that you have a right to privacy, section 24 also states that the only way that your legal right is put aside is a law. As I said, in the 656 pieces, there is no specific piece of legislation which says that these rights have been, or the state can look outside these rights that you have. At the moment, there is no law that compels you to give your rights away so you have a right to privacy. But it is a valid concern and to overcome that concern it is only right that the government passes a legislation because what it will do is protect your information, one, and it would give specifics as to how your information will be used, how it will be given to third parties, who will have access to it, in what way will the state treat this information that women and children have provided. When we talk about the state at the moment, all we are hearing about is, "Trust us." Mukesh talked about, because it is used overseas by these international organisations and therefore we should be at ease or comfortable; now what comes to mind as most of you would have heard the Cambridge Analytical scandal where 50 million accounts were hacked by one company just to get their basic information. Those are the things if we want to resolve that now so that we don't go through that, there is a specific need for the legislation to be passed."

Ronald Singh, Munroe Leys

Episode 4: Innovation & Technology

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

"The problem with the intellectual property as far as the indigenous communities are concerned, intellectual property looks at the individual. Our indigenous traditional knowledge is collectively owned so there is no fit yet with the existing international or even laws that safeguard and protect what is owned collectively. I mentioned this, there has been cases in the past that has come under our radar where for example, a particular herbal medicine was concocted and given to someone and that someone turned it a pharmaceutical drug overseas, but it was given out of goodness of heart here. Then there is knowledge and data, we are talking about data, I talked about the knowledge of the fishing net but now it has come to my mind that there has been data extraction here in Fiji from collectively owned data and traditional knowledge which have been digitized and mass produced. I will not name the enterprises, but it is here in Suva, it is in Nadi and it has been made mass produced outside Fiji, because there is nothing existing yet as far as ----- collectively owned knowledge. When we look into the future and the current, not only with COVID 19, protection of the environment, there are practices in traditional knowledge that are very environment friendly, but there is nothing to protect so knowledge is extracted out and that is the concern"

Semi Sevudrere, Ministry of iTAUKEI Affairs

Episode 4: Innovation & Technology



PUBLIC & PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

"there are certainly lots and lots of opportunities out there for us to work together in terms of public and private partnerships and one very key one that would make sure that we're looking at it as a whole for the whole of Fiji is benefit and it is also an opportunity is looking at the environment. Currently tourism is the only industry paying ECAL the environmental climate adaptation levy and it is 10%, if you are going to charge the 10% for instance and you want to at the same time implement behavioral changes across the country for everyone to take an interest in the environment, protecting it, looking after it and looking out for a long term benefit for the whole country and future generations, then to push that behavioral change, why don't we work towards looking for more incentives to make these behavioral changes come faster"

Fantasha Lockington, CEO, Fiji Hotels and Tourism Association

Episode 5: Tourism

POLICY INFLUENCING

We capture discussions of our RESET Season 1 Panelists as they discuss innovations on policies and legislations to reset the economy post pandemic.



POLICY ALIGNMENT & PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

The public sector should just realign as you know we are all realigning our purpose. The issue they are responsible for various sectors whatever industry now is the time, now is the time for them to sit and re-assess what is their function and who are their stakeholders, are they engaging with their stakeholders, if not then they have failed. So this is the time to encourage more engagement come out into the field and I'm sorry to say this in public but we have been requesting meetings with a certain statutory authority that relates directly to our business with LTA since July last year, we have met the minister before and they have not come back to us, they have not actually responded to us. So, they are making policies in isolation and now with the changes that COVID is bringing the gap is going to continue to widen if they do not engage!

*James Sowane, Pacific Desinations
Episode 5: Tourism*

POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

"The idea to look at our economic and governance systems and institutions- while some may argue to be long term in nature- we should nevertheless unpack it and fix it now because it will fundamentally dictate the type of development trajectory towards the future we want. We need to therefore fundamentally shift our governance structures, our decision making process, our risk appetite and the way that we work to embrace the kind of changes that we hope to see- for this to happen bold political leadership is critical. We need bold political leadership that is committed to a radical overhaul of these systems and institutions that are meant to protect and uphold the public good. Our leaders must have the courage to make bold national decisions even though it might make no economic sense. We need leaders to move away from viewing everything from an economic perspective, and make the decisions because it is the right thing to do."

*Dr Jale Samuwai, Climate Finance Specialist
Episode 3: Environment & Climate Change*



LOCAL GOVERNMENTS & MUNICIPALITIES

"Local governments for each municipality with councils needed to be brought back into the system. Local governments are the ordinary citizens' first line of contact with the Government." During the lockdown of Lautoka City, one could not help, but notice how the Lautoka Ratepayers Association mobilised itself to help the disadvantaged. Council was relegated to distributing health messages and ensuring people followed the law. There was a major disconnect between ratepayers and local government," she said. "I wonder if Nasinu Town was put on lockdown, could it survive on its own? Could Suva survive without Nasinu?"

*Mere Naulumatua, Urban Planner
Episode 3: Environment & Climate Change*

POLICY INFLUENCING

We capture discussions of our RESET Season 1 Panelists as they discuss innovations on policies and legislations to reset the economy post pandemic.



EDUCATION SYSTEM

"I think we have to rethink, relook and reimagine our education system. We have to make it a little bit more enabling and exciting for students to want to learn. We inherited an education system from the colonial times and very little has been done to overhaul that education system. Some of our leaders, our academics, our intellectuals have come through that system very well and a system that served us very well but we haven't, I don't think look at that system and adapted it for the current time. I think it's a system that is quite out dated and doesn't accommodate what we going through right now. I think we have a system where children actually learn in fear. They are told that it's either right or wrong, black or white, good or bad, there is nothing in between and I think this fear is also part of our cultural upbringing that is inculcated when growing up and of course this extends to the school system where we were taught by teachers who are good but they are also part of this cultural traditions and ways of learning. Our education system really in my view comes down to economics. What professions, what jobs that you can do that can earn you an income and often we go to the traditional professions- teachers, doctors, lawyers, accountants so forth. And we don't look at the creative industry, our education system does not encourage creativity, it's completely in my view lacking."

*Larry Thomas, Playwright/ Writer/ Documentary Film-maker
Episode 7: Education*

COMMUNITY & STATE PARTNERSHIPS

"So I just want to highlight that we have existing education system in terms of ownership and access to education which is rooted in our communities and there is a lot of communities' spirit and strength has gone in to the existing schools and the way schools are managed and run. It's important for the state to continue with these community state partnership but also strength the relationship that is currently there in terms of managing and operating these schools. While the school management don't have a lot of say in curriculum development or curriculum reforms the ministry of education plays a key role but is important that they do consult parents, teachers unions, teachers and school managements cause at the end of the day curriculums cannot be implemented if you don't have a school. Curriculum is actually implemented in the classroom, so it is important to consult the teachers as well as the school managements."

*Dr. Neelesh Gounder, Senior Lecturer USP/Chairman of the TISI Sangam Education Board
Episode 7: Education*



EXISTING NATIONAL COUNCILS, NATIONAL STANDARDS & CURRICULUM FRAMEWORKS

For years, Early Childhood and Education have been harping on this. They been listening to us not enough to turn the system around. We have the national kindergarten curriculum frame work guideline "Na noda mata ni civa" and that was written by the local people or Fiji people for the children of Fiji so what is that, that we want – visually document and also what that we would like children of Fiji to be like? And it's clear, happy, and healthy and all that working with other people, lifelong learning so that's where they will be but the other thing that caught my attention from last week is, again the consultation. I know there is a consultation now to setup the national standard for a national diploma in early childhood but who have they consulted? It's just bringing people at the last minute to probably endorse the document but I think we need to remember this is for the children of Fiji, the future of Fiji so it is not my document, it is not their document, it is everyone's document so we really need to consult widely and I'm glad that this is coming out strong in this platform and may I just add, we need champions for early childhood care and education at village level at district level and we do have a national council for early childhood and development this is comprising of all the sectors I hope that that will bring to full the cries or the voices, amplify the voices of the citizens of Fiji.

*Ufemia Camaitoga, Author/ Early childhood educator
Episode 7: Education*

POLICY INFLUENCING

We capture discussions of our RESET Season 1 Panelists as they discuss innovations on policies and legislations to reset the economy post pandemic.



INVESTMENT POLICY & SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

- "My Solution: link investment policy to sustainability policy; gear all new investment towards regeneration; support regenerative businesses of all sizes across target sectors (waste, agriculture, fisheries, tourism, renewable energy) to get in front of investors and channel donor money to support investment readiness; the mantra should be: "money invested needs to generate financial and environmental returns" – this includes bonds, public spending, private investment. It's not so much reset as it is action.... we have some good policy and the GoF has done an incredible job of establishing Fiji as a climate change leader on the world stage, but now it's time for business to act with government's support; we need more PPPs developed by people who know how to do business; we need to educate more girls to enter business – we innately understand cycles – and we need to make it easy for them to get there; and we need to come up with smart future-proof businesses that will still be providing value and regeneration locally and internationally in 160 years."

*Jodi Smith, Founder -Matanataki
Episode 3: Environment & Climate Change*

RESILIENT COASTAL FISHERIES SECTOR

"Build and invest in a RESILIENT coastal fisheries sector. We need to reset the way we use fisheries resources and manage the sector. Maintaining good fisheries management practices – this is not the time to lift restrictions that are put in place to protect those with long-term investments in the sector. Fish can continue to provide vital nutrition and income for the duration of the crisis but more care than ever needs to be taken to ensure that fish habitats are not destroyed and they are able to reproduce and reach sizes at which they can breed and be harvested.1) When it comes to our fisheries, we need to not think of our fisheries in a silo, disconnected from habitats and the larger ecosystem, nor disconnected from development activities. Actions have consequences, and so doing things like cutting mangroves for development, have serious consequences for our fisheries."

*Dr. Sangeeta Magubhai, Director WCS Fiji
Episode 3: Environment & Climate Change*



ROLE OF MINISTRY & WORKING WITH PRIVATE SECTOR TO BOOST THE SECTOR

"The other issue, I guess we need to be talking about, is what is the role of government and how does good agricultural policy affect the development of the agricultural sector? If we look back through the many, many years from the pre-session time, the colonial days and post-independence on policies on import substitution and export --- strategies, a lot of subsidies going on, these are the... and the actual role of the Ministry of Agriculture, what are their roles and how they can work with the private sector in developing and boosting the sector. These are four important issues that I think we need to address and we have to find out the binding constraints."

*Wah Sing Yee, Agriculturalist/Businessman
Episode 2: Agriculture*

ABOUT RESET FIJI

RESET Fiji is a policy dialogue series initiated by Pacific Network on Globalisation (PANG) in collaboration with Mai TV, the University of the South Pacific (USP), and Oxfam in the Pacific that opens discussions on the impact of #COVID19 on Fiji's economy and society and possible ways forward.

RESET Fiji, a public policy dialogue TV series was held in 8 consecutive weeks in the month of June through to the first week of August totaling 8 episodes. It was a great success that invigorated an economy of ideas, innovations and solutions. It required Fijian citizens to look internally to build from their greatest assets: their people, a clean healthy environment, their cultures and stories of leadership in times of unprecedented calamity to shape a response. The RESET series drove ownership and created a platform where its citizens discussed, owned and steered discussions and solutions to shape a post-COVID19 world. This project has been funded by Oxfam's Raising Pacific Voices. Raising Pacific Voices (RPV) is a three-year pilot program supported by the European Union with 2.3 million euros (FJ\$5.46m) aimed at strengthening Pacific civil society organisations' effectiveness in shaping regional and international policy-making.



Collaborators of the RESET Fiji Dialogue Series:

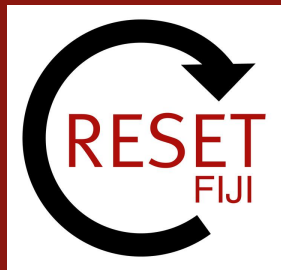


This project has been funded by Oxfam's Raising Pacific Voices :



RAISING PACIFIC VOICES
REINFORCING PACIFIC CIVIL SOCIETY





PUBLIC OPINION:

OUR TOP PICKS

via social media



CONTENT

"Accessibility to great content!
The real conversation! Thank you
Reset Fiji"

Vina Dilikuwai

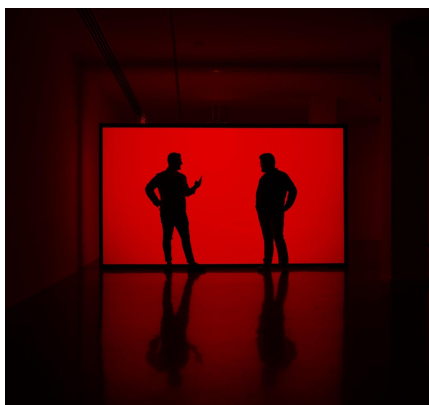
"Great informative discussions
and excellent panelists. My
question is where to from here
Reset? Will the ideas translate
into action and a Reset reality?"

Lilyviwa Wong

"Watched it, loved it and shared.
Maybe, Part 2, panel being actual
grassroots people(industrywise) to
talk about what we are actually
facing. #SME #Tourism #Hawkers
#InformalIndustry

Then part 3 with PM and
AG/MEconomy. #balanced

Josh Matakatolu



DIALOGUE

"Fiji needs more open
dialogue about ways forward
at this time! The RESET
sessions have been wonderful
in terms of innovative ideas
and policy suggestions!"

Vijay Naidu

"Brilliant dialogue on the
tourism front. Let's hope
government is taking notes
on this."

Josaia Naulumatua Rayawa

Just one woman again? Will
this be the trend for the rest
of the series @pangmedia
@oxfampacific
@UniSouthPacific ?

Kris Prasad @angry_kpra



INFLUENCING

"Great thought provoking
discussions on gender inequality
in Fiji. Vinaka RESET FIJI - really
appreciate the points that the
panel are raising."

Vika Waradi

"I am loving the RESET Fiji
program, I am a fan. Its also
giving us direction on the topic
solesolevaki that we host every
Saturday."

Dr Tarisi Sorovi

Vinaka reset Fiji - now if you can
put that 'governance structures,
our decision making process, our
risk appetite and the way that
we work' into layman's terms to
be understood by everyone, it
would move things a step higher

... Vinaka

Samson Verma