

# **Aquaculture Development in Fiji Islands**

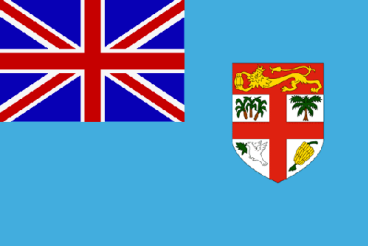
**Presentation during the ACP Ministers Responsible for Fisheries & Aquaculture  
18-21 September 2017  
Nassau  
Bahamas**

# World Map Location



# The Fiji Islands



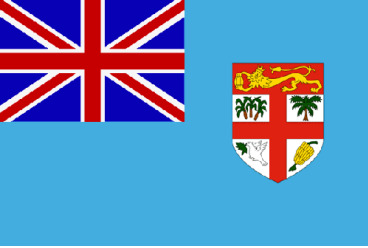


# Aquaculture Program



- Identified by the govt. as one of the key sectors for further development
- Very important in terms of export earning – pearl farming, seaweed farming
- Vital for food security, esp. for rural inland communities – tilapia and carp farming
- Crucial for improving livelihoods, generating income and import substitution – shrimp and prawn farming
- Restocking - giant clams & sandfish
- Adaptation to climate change



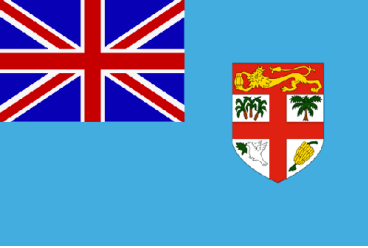


# Aquaculture Program



- Highly diverse aquaculture sector in terms of farmed aquatic species and farming systems.
- Strong impact on food and nutrition security and improved livelihoods.
- Growing sector.
- Strong interest from National and Foreign investors.
- Theoretical high aquatic animal health status.



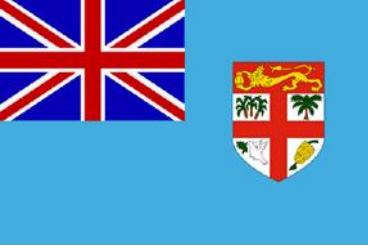


# Background



- Started in early 1950's with the culture of Tilapia (*mossambicus*) to be used as livestock feed
- In 1974, *Niloticus* Tilapia introduced from Israel to culture into ponds at Raviravi
- 1975 grass carps were introduced to be used as biological weed control in river systems. Successful carp breeding program was carried out between 1984 – 1989 with assistance from JICA
- Introduction of seaweed from Philippines in 1976
- Pearl farming trialed in mid 1960's, CDF program est. in 1998 and fully established farm by 2000 and est. industry now
- 1980 saw the introduction of giant river prawn (*M. rosenbergii*) from Hawaii and was successfully spawned
- 1997 was when the GIFT tilapia introduced
- 2008 when GFP Vietnamese strain was introduced, 2013 *P.vannamei* introduced



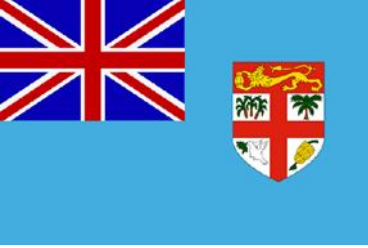


# Mari-culture



- Pearl industry well established – key export commodity of about 15-20 million dollars. World famous J.Hunter pearls.
- Supported by 8 farmers and over 30 spat collection sites - village based program.
- Seaweed farming consists of mainly communities along maritime islands in the Western and Eastern parts.
- Giant clam is bred at Makogai for re-stocking purposes.
- Live rock and coral culture done by private sector.





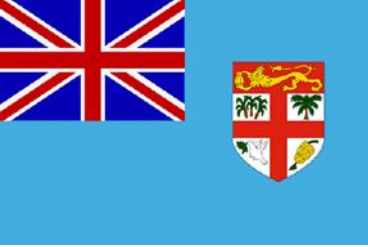
# Brackishwater Aquaculture Program



- **Government support - seed supply, research, training & FD activities**
- **Supports livelihood and import subs. Initiative by govt.**
- **Target species is white-legged shrimp or *Litopenaeus vannamei*, introduced from Thailand.**
- **Local species – *P. monodon***
- **Sandfish (*Holothuria scabra*) breeding program**
- **Private sector involvement in shrimp and some crab farming**
- **Community level milkfish farming**





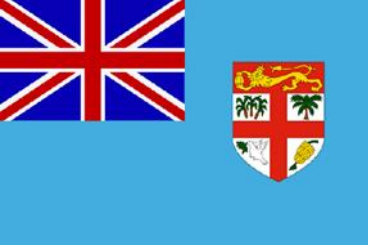


# Freshwater Aquaculture Program



- **Government Support – seed supply, research, training & FD activities**
- **Supports food security, livelihood and import subs. Initiative by govt.**
- **Consists of about 500 Tilapia and prawn farmers**
- **Breeding program involves GIFT tilapia, giant freshwater prawn, carps & ornamental fish**

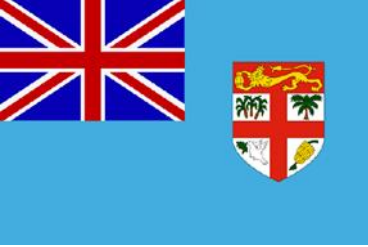




# Recent Key Developments

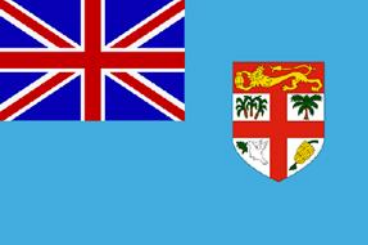


- **Aquaculture Bill 2016** – scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> hearing in Parliament. First ever legislative framework for the regulation of aquaculture and related activities.
- **National Fisheries Policy (Draft)** – guideline to fisheries development and management, highlighting the major areas where the government sees opportunities for growth.
- **Fiji Aquaculture strategy (Draft)** - a road map for the Ministry of Fisheries, aquaculture farmers, private-sector investors, development partners, funding agencies, and other stakeholders to help them identify the best types of interventions and investments to pursue in aquaculture.
- **National Aquatic Animal Health Strategy (NAAHS)** being developed in conjunction with FAO. National Workshop was convened on 24-27 January 2017.



# CHALLENGES

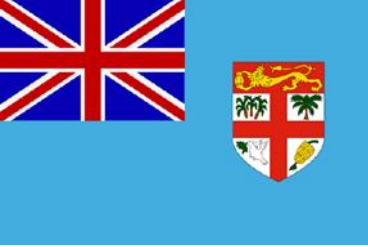
- **Recognition/visibility – traditionally dependent on capture fisheries**
- **Aging infrastructures**
- **Natural Disasters like floods/cyclones – Climate Change**
- **Lack of secure bankable property rights in marine environment – difficult to secure loans**
- **Lack of sufficient trained personnel/hatchery operators/nutritionists/farm manager**



# CHALLENGES



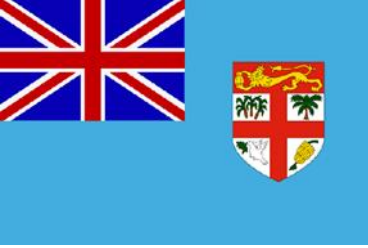
- **High cost of imported feed**
- **Rising cost of locally made feed**
- **Long distance to key export markets**
- **transportation is a problem (high costs), esp. from outer/maritime islands**
- **Security of tenure, esp. wet leases**
- **Aquatic Biosecurity – TAAD's, imports, etc**



# Regional Perspectives



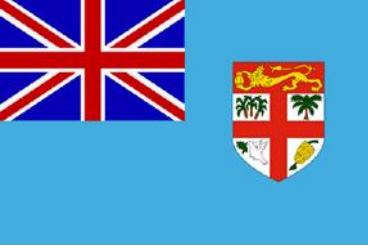
- **Aquaculture development in the Pacific has been slower than other regions, hence production comparatively small**
- **Pearl farming is well established – Tahiti, Cook Islands and Fiji**
- **Some countries are challenged by availability of resources – water, land, etc**
- **Most challenges mentioned are similar, if not same, to Fiji.**



# Way Forward



- Capacity building – training (technical & financial)
- Conducive environment for investors – legislation, bank loans, infrastructure, etc
- Industry/sector development plans
- Encourage private sector involvement, in aquaculture activities
- Developing species with potential – Marine finfishes
- Identification of new species for culturing and new methods (cage culture)
- Responsible management of aquatic biodiversity: use, access, exchange, improvement and conservation.
- Effective policies and plans.
- Better information, including characterization of aquatic resources at different levels.



**Vinaka.**

**That's Fijian for Thank you**