



Pacific R2R Programme Workshop

Most Significant Change

The GEF Pacific STAR R2R Project - FIJI



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Mindset Change



Sekaia with stakeholders mangrove nursery project

I am the district representative for 6 villages in the district of Namara, Tailevu in Fiji. I'm the focal point for all the ridge to reef activities in the district where I coordinate with respective village leaders and stakeholders. More specifically, for this project, I work with Institute of Applied Science [IAS] from University of the South Pacific [USP] to implement the Fiji R2R activities in the pilot sites which includes Nakalawaca and Nakorolevu villages where we undertook the natural resources management and climate change adaptation initiative.

Before the activity started, community members in the pilot sites were more concentrated on natural resources utilization. All the villages in my district depend on marine resources for daily consumption and livelihood opportunities. They lack knowledge of natural resource conservation as no awareness is done at village level. There was so much emphasis on economic opportunities that we tend to forget about how we can sustain our natural resources for the benefit of our future generation.

When USP IAS as an implementing partner for UNDP and government agencies such as Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Forestry implemented the initiative, I was glad that they did an awareness programme to the village members which had keen interest from youth and women's groups. Through the participatory approach by the facilitators, members of the village were able to establish a mangrove nursery for the first time as a practical action from their learnings.

After the implementation and the management of the mangrove nursery, village members in the 2 pilot sites were able to change their mindset and were proactive in natural resource management where they carried on and coordinated with USP-IAS to plant coconut seedlings. Through such positive actions, the initiative has strengthened communal work, self-help, diligence and cooperation amongst the villages members which has also resulted in institutional strengthening for youth groups and women's groups.

The initiative has motivated and empowered the other 4 villages in my district who have now declared their interest to carry out the same activity. I have consulted the village leaders and for the first time this year the district will all come together to celebrate the 'Yaubula Day' – Natural Resources Management day on 17 July and it will be a great time to discuss scaling up and how we can have a greater impact on the ridge to reef initiative in the respective communities in our district.



Mangrove nursery after 6 months



Youth and Women Participation mangrove nursery