

PACER PLUS AND TRADE OPPORTUNITY FOR FIJI ORGANIC PRODUCTS

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE: DEFINITIONS AND BACKGROUND.

- 1 ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IS ALL ABOUT PRODUCING QUALITY FOODS FOR THE PEOPLE.
- 2 ORGANIC PRACTICES IS PRODUCTION OF AGRICULTURE COMMODITIES THAT ADHERES TO REQUIRED ORGANIC STANDARDS RECOGNISED INTERNATIONALLY.
- 3 ORGANIC PRODUCTION IS THE PRODUCTION SYSTEM THAT IS MANAGED IN ACCORDANCE WITH A SET STANDARD BY INTEGRATING CULTURAL, BIOLOGICAL, ECOLOGICAL BALANCE AND CONSERVE BIODIVERSITY.
(source: National Organic Program – US Department of Agriculture)
- 4 YOUR ORGANIC PRACTISES WILL BE RECOGNISED ONLY IF CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED TO PROVE THAT YOU CONFORMED TO REQUIRED STANDARD AT ALL ACTIVITY LEVEL, FROM A THOROUGH INSPECTION BY A 3RD PARTY CERTIFICATION AGENCY : CONDUCTED ANNUALLY.
- 5 ORGANIC PRODUCTION IS ACKNOWLEDGED AS HAVING THE POTENTIAL TO CONTRIBUTE STRONGLY TO THE RETURN OF PEACE AND PLENTY.
- 6 DEVELOPMENT OF ORGANIC WILL CONTRIBUTE TO LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY; FARMER LIVELIHOOD, BY ENABLING FARMERS TO TRADE WITH ACCESS TO DOMESTIC AND EXPORT MARKETS AND BY REDUCING DEPENDENCE ON EXPENSIVE, IMPORTED PRODUCTION INPUTS; HUMAN HEALTH, BY PROVIDING HIGH QUALITY, CLEAN AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD; THE ENVIRONMENT, BY ENCOURAGING THE USE OF ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY MANAGEMENT PRACTISES; THE WELL-BEING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES BY PROMOTING THE ADOPTION OF ETHICAL LABOUR AND SOCIAL JUSTICE PRINCIPLES
- 7 ORGANIC PRINCIPLES: ORGANIC AGRICULTURE WHETHER IN FARMING, PROCESSING, DISTRIBUTION OR CONSUMPTION IS AIMED AT SUSTAINING

AND ENHANCING THE HEALTH OF ECOSYSTEMS AND ORGANISMS FROM THE SMALLEST LIVING ENTITY IN THE SOIL TO HUMAN BEINGS. IT IS GUIDED BY THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

HEALTH – OA SUSTAINS AND ENHANCES THE HEALTH OF THE SOILS, WHICH ENABLES THE PRODUCTION OF HEALTH PLANTS AND ANIMALS TO ENHANCE THE LIVES OF PEOPLE AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT;

ECOLOGY – OA IS BASED ON LIVING ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS AND CYCLES, WORK WITH THEM, EMULATES THEM AND HELPS TO SUSTAIN THEM;

FAIRNESS – OA BUILDS ON RELATIONSHIPS THAT ENSURE FAIRNESS WITH THAT ENSURE FAIRNESS WITH REGARDS TO THE COMMON ENVIRONMENT AND LIFE OPPORTUNITIES, THE KEY ROLE OF FARMERS AND RURAL COMMUNITIES ARE RECOGNISED AND BENEFITS SHARED EQUITABLY WITH THEM.

CARE – OA IS MANAGED IN A PRECAUTIONARY AND RESPONSIBLE MANNER TO PROTECT THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

CULTURE AND TRADITIONS - OA RECOGNISES THE VALUE OF CONTRIBUTION FROM TRADIITIONAL AGRICULTURE

9. ORGANIC AGRICULTURE AND PEOPLE’S WAY OF LIFE: RURAL SUBSISTENCE FARMING

ORGANIC PRACTICES	PEOPLE’S WAY OF LIFE	CONVENTIONAL FARMING
STRICTLY RESTRICTS CHEMICAL USE	CANNOT AFFORD CHEMICALS	CHEMICALS INCORPORATE INTO SOIL FOR HIGH YIELD
USE RESOURCES THAT ARE AVAILABLE – COMPOST, GREEN MANURE, CROP ROTATION TO RETAIN SOIL FERTILITY	CHARACTERISED WITH MIXED CROPPING – SUBSISTENCE FARMING, PLANT FOR FOOD SURPLUS SOLD TO SOURCE INCOME. DO NOT EXHAUST THE SOIL	PLANTING FOR COMMERCIAL OR SEMI COMMERCIAL FARMING CATEGORY. INPUT REQUIRED: FERTILISERS, PESTICIDES, INTENSIVE
CHARACTERISED WITH SMALL-SCALE FARMING	PREDOMINANTLY SMALL SCALE FARMING, LOW IN PRODUCTIVITY & BASED MAINLY ON FAMILY LABOUR WITH LITTLE ADOPTION OF MODERN	LARGE AREAS PLANTED WITH SINGLE CROPS AS MAIN INCOME CROP OTHERWISE. USES MACHINES AND

	TECHNOLOGY. PRODUCE MAINLY CONSUMED ON FARM, ALTHOUGH SOME ARE MARKETED.	EQUIPMENT.
SOIL STRUCTURE AND TEXTURE IS CARED FOR – NATURAL RESOURCES ARE CARED FOR.	MAY BE ILLITERATE TO SOIL TECHNOLOGY BUT TRADITIONAL PRACTICES HANDED DOWN OVER THE YEARS IS SUSTAINABLE FARMING	FREQUENT AND OVER-USE OF INPUT KILL SOIL ORGANISMS. DISTURBS SOIL STRUCTURE AND TEXTURE, DEPRIVES SOIL OFFRIENDLY LIVING ORGANISMS, AND SOIL FERTILITY.
TRUSTED BY CONSUMERS - END PRODUCT IS QUALITY FOOD FOR THE CONSUMER EVEN WHEN PROCESSED. BELIEVES IN BEING TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE	USE SIMPLE AGRICULTURE PRACTISE WITHOUT REALISING THAT IT ADHERES TO PRODUCTION OF HEALTHY FOODS. FARMING PRACTICE CONSERVES SOIL.	PRIORITY - “ HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I GET FROM THIS CROP. THAT IS WHY SYNTHETIC FERTILISERS AND PESTICIDES ARE USED
A NEW CONCEPT	HAS ALWAYS BEEN PRACTISED BY OUR PEOPLE BUT NOW REGARDED “DEFACTO” ORGANIC FARMING	ADOPTED FROM THE ‘GREEN REVOLUTION’
UPHOLDS OUR CULTURE	TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE RESULTS TO SUSTAINABLE FARMING.	MOST OFTEN MONEY TAKES PRECEDENT. AS LONG AS PRODUCTION VALUE IS HIGH
EVERY EFFORT IS MADE TO EDUCATE THOSE PRACTISING ORGANIC FARMING TO REALISE HEALTH OF SOIL IS IMPORTANT, CARE FOR ECOLOGY IS IMPORTANT AND SENSE OF	THERE IS NOT MUCH TO REPORT ON. FARMING INNOVATION IS VERY SIMPLE	OFTEN NO DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE PRACTISES CANNOT BE ANALYSED BUT USE OF CHEMICALS DEPRIVES FARMER OF MUCH NEEDED MONEY

<p>TRUSTWORTHINESS TO PRODUCE HEALTHY FOODS. THIS IS ETHICAL TRADE DOCEMENT ALL ACTIVITIES DAILY</p>		
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ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN FIJI

10. RECOGNISED ORGANICALLY CERTIFIED ENTERPRISES:

SPICES OF FIJI, WAINADOI – VANILLA AND SPICES
FREZCO - WILD NONI COLLECTIONS,
TAVEUNI -- VIRGIN COCONUT OIL
SIGATOKA – WILD COLLECTION FRUITS FOR FRUIT JUICE

11. NEW INTERESTS ON ORGANIC ARE SURFACING – VEGETABLE FARMING IN NADARIVATU AND NADALA, TARO FARMERS IN NAMOSI VIRGIN COCONUT OIL FROM CICIA IN LAU VANILLA IN NAGIGI

10. MAIN OBJECTIVE ON ORGANIC FARMING IS TO BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY
A MARKET OUTLET – NICHE MARKET FOR ORICES ON ORGANIC PRODUCTS
ARE VERY ATTRACTIVE

12. FIJI ORGANIC ASSOCIATION (FOA). HAS 33 MEMBERS WHO WORK VOLUNTARILY TO RAISE AWARENESS ON ORGANIC. A MEMBER OF THE PACIFIC ORGANIC MOVEMENT – PACIFIC ORGANIC AND ETHICAL TRADE COMMUNITY (POETCom) AND MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE MOVEMENT (IFOAM)

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE AND PACIFIC AGREEMENT ON CLOSER ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP (PACER)

13. THIS IS A FREE TRADE PROPOSAL FROM AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALND TO PARTNER WITH FORUM ISLAND COUNTRIES ON FREE TRADE BECAUSE

14. EFFECT OF THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

- THE TRADE AGREEMENT WILL BENEFIT BOTH PARTIES
- WILL HAVE ITS OWN SET OF POLICIES THAT LIBERATE TRADE
- FOREIGN INVESTORS WILL BE ACCOMODATED WITH VERY LITTLE RED TAPES AND VISE VERSA – A GOOD MOVE FOR IT IS NOT MUCH OF A FUSS
- CREATES EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
- INCREASES ECONOMY
- REDUCES POVERTY
- IMPACT – SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROWTH IN PARTNER COUNTRIES ESPECIALLY THE FICs

15. **NATHAN ASSOCIATES REPORT ON PACER – NEGATIVE IMPACT AND ITS IMPACT ON THE ORGANIC INDUSTRY IN FIJI**

- **PACER –Plus WILL LEAD TO BUSINESS CLOSURE AND JOB LOSS**
SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF OUR BUSINESS COMMUNITIES ARE:
 - ❖ DIFFICULT ACCESSIBILITY TO MARKET OUTLETS WHETHER FOR DOMESTIC OR OFFSHORE,
 - ❖ HIGH INPUT COST,
 - ❖ SMALL ECONOMY OF SCALE,
 - ❖ LACK OF HUMAN RESOURCES

IMPACT ON THE ORGANIC INDUSTRY: ORGANIC AGRICULTURE WITH REQUIRED STANDARDS IS NEW CONCEPT IN FIJI.

FOA IS STARTING TO GATHER INFORMATION TO DETERMINE EXTENT OF DEMANDS LOCALLY SO THAT WE CAN EDUCATE OUR STAKEHOLDERS TO FORM GROUPS AND APPLY FOR SMALL HOLDER GROUP ORGANIC CERTIFICATION.

IN THE MEANTIME THERE ARE ONLY A HANDFUL OF ORGANICALLY CERTIFIED FARMS AND PROSSESSING UNITS.THEY APPLY OFFSHORE FOR CERTIFICATION – AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND EUROPE.

ORGANIC STAKEHOLDERS THE SIMPLE SUBSISTENCE FARMERS MUST BE GUIDED AT ALL LEVELS OT ORGANIC PRODUCTION

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE PERSONAL REGARD ORGANIC AS EXTENSION PACKAGE NOT REALISNG IT IS OPPORTUNITY FOR NICHE MARKET WITH VALUE ADDED

FIJI DOES NOT HAVE ANY ORGANIC STANDARD EXCEPT POS RECENTLY ENDORSED BY IFOAM YET TO BE APPROVED BY AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND ORGANIC CERTIFICATION AGENCIES

FIJI DOES NOT HAVE THE EXPERTY TO GUIDE AND/OR INSPECT OUR ORGANIC FARMS ETC.

WE HAVE THE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE BUT LACK THE CONSOLIDATED BUSINESS ARM, NO FUNDS –ALL CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES ON VOLUNTARY BASES.

THERE IS NO TRADE LABEL TO IDENTIFY FIJI ORGANIC PRODUCT

OUR PACER PARTNERS (AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND)

THEY ARE VERY MUCH AHEAD WITH ORGANIC – PARTICIPATORY GUARANTEE SYSTEM, INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEM, ORGANIC STANDARDS CERTIFICATION AGENCIES ESTABLISHED WITH EXORBITANT CERTIFICATION COST ANNUALLY, QUARANTINE SECURITY,

WHAT CAN HAPPEN.

CERTIFICATION AGENCIES FROM THE TWO COUNTRIES ALREADY HAVE CLIENTS FROM FIJI. IF THEY ESTABLISH OFFICES IN FIJI WE WILL LOSE OUT ON EVERYTHING WE CANNOT TELL OUR STORY ON HOW THESE SIMPLE SUBSISTENCE FARMERS STRIVE TO MAKE A LIVING. OUR FARMERS WILL REMAIN POOR THEY CAN BENEFIT FROM THE FREE TRADE CONCEPT

○ PACER-Plus WILL STRIP PACIFIC GOVERNMENTS OF POLICY OPTIONS THEY COULD USE TO STIMULATE INDUSTRY AND EMPLOYMENT.

PACER-Plus IS LIKELY TO PREVENT PACIFIC GOVERNMENTS FROM MAKING A RANGE OF POLICY CHOICES THAT COULD BE USED TO STIMULATE INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND AGRICULTURE

I QUESTION MYSELF, IS THIS TRUE?

THE ORGANIC INDUSTRY IS INCREASING BENEFITTING EVEN THE POOR GLOBALLY, THERE IS BOLIVIA, EAST AFRICA OUR NEIGHBOURS VANUATU AND SAMOA. THEY HAVE REALISED THE ‘WONDERFUL’ MARGIN” THEY GET FROM ORGANIC PRODUCTS EXPORTED COMPARED TO CONVENTIONAL PRODUCTION. ORGANIC PRODUCTS FETCH A HIGHER PREMIUM TO CONVENTIONAL PRODUCTS

CERTIFIED ORGANIC PRODUCTION IS OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE NICHE MARKET OFFSHORE. FOR OUR AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION TO MARKET OUTLETS OFFSHORE.. I AM SURE ANY GOVERNMENT WILL GRAB THE OPPORTUNITY WHEN IT INVOLVES ECONOMIC GROWTH FROM THE SUBSISTENCE SECTOR WHICH MAKE UP ABOUT 70% OF FIJI’S FARMERS.

YET, THE CATCH IS THE POLICY OPTION. WILL THE GOVERNMENT SIT AND WATCH WHILE THIS GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO HELP OUR VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES, MOST OF WHOM LIVE IN RURAL AREAS PASS BY. THIS MAY BE THE ONLY WAY THAT RURAL PEOPLE CONTRIBUTE TO THE GOVERNMENT COFFER.

THIS MEANS THE NEW LOCAL INITIATIVES – ‘**GO ORGANICS**’ WILL NOT BE FAVOURED UNDER PACER PLUS. AND THE ORGANIC PRODUCERS, . USE THESE ARE SIMPLE FARMERS WITH MINIMUM RESOURCES –KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, FINANCE CANNOT BE ASSISTED FROM THE GOVERNMENT. NEW ESTABLISHMENT WOULD REQUIRE GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE .

WHEN A NEW INDUSTRY IS ESTABLISHED GOVERNMENT GRANTS FAVOUR LIKE DUTY TAX EXEMPTION. PACER PLUS DOES NOT ALLOW THAT. AND THE NEW INDUSTRY WILL NOT BE PROTECTED FROM FOREIGN COMPETITION

PACER PLUS WILL GIVE UNPRECEDENTED RIGHTS TO FOREIGN COMPANIES THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT, RESTRICTS THE ABILITY OF GOVERNMENT TO REGULATE THE ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN BUSINESSES INTERESTED IN INVESTING OR SUPPLYING SERVICES IN THEIR COUNTRIES.

THIS HAMMERS HOME ANY QUERRY THAT MAY DEVELOPED FOR THE GOVERNMENT.’[S HANDS WILL BE TIED

36. TO CONCLUDE THERE NEED TO BE MORE NEGOTIOAN ON THIS NEW TRADE AGREEMENT. WE WANT OUR PEOPLE TO LIVE A HEALTHY LIFE – WHERE FOOD IS IN ABUNDANCE, WEHERE NETWORK IS ESTABLISHED TO BUY AND SELL FARM PRODUCE THAT IS OF GOOD QUAITY AND WILL FETCH GOOD PREMIUN. WHERE OUR PEOPLE LOVE TO DO WHAT THEY DO FOR THEMSELVES AND FOR THEIR COUNTRY. WHERE ALL PEOPLE CONTRIBUTE EVEN IN A VERY SMALL WAY TO GOVERNMENT’S SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. I BELIEVE ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IS A MEANS OF ACHIEVEING THAT.