



Sugar Cane Growers Council

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MEDIA RELEASE



SCGC CEO, Vimal Dutt receives the “Empowering Cane Farmers and the Industry” Award on 16th September 2024 at the IAPSIT International Sugar Conference 2024, held in Vietnam.

The Sugar Cane Growers Council (SCGC) received a prestigious award at the 8th International Association of Professionals in Sugar and Integrated Technologies (IAPSIT) International Sugar Conference & Sugarcon 2024, held in Vietnam from September 16-18. This is the first international recognition earned by the council.

Organized by the IAPSIT and Society for Sugar Research & Promotion (SSRP) the conference focused on building a resilient and sustainable global sugar and bio-energy industry. The event provided a vibrant platform for stakeholders from around the globe, including researchers, technologists, extension officers, managers, industry officials, policymakers, and progressive farmers, to share their views and experiences on global issues and initiatives for profitable and sustainable growth in the sugarcane and integrated industries.

This award represents a significant milestone for SCGC as the grower representative, recognized in the category of “Empowering Cane Farmers and the Industry”. The recognition highlights our bundled micro insurance initiative, available to cane growers for the past eight years. Since its launch in June 2017, the Micro Bundled Insurance Scheme, the first welfare initiative aimed at providing a dedicated safety net for all active cane growers at an affordable premium. Cane growing families have benefitted annually from the insurance scheme.

Over these eight years, the micro bundled insurance scheme has provided substantial financial support to growers and their families, making it the sole welfare scheme available to cane growers, alongside parametric insurance related to climate and disaster risk financing. The scheme to date with an economic value of more than \$2.9M to 1,013 recipients incorporating term life - financial security in the event of death, funeral alleviating financial strain during bereavement, fire damage- supporting

recovery and rebuilding efforts and permanent disability- financial aid in cases of severe injury affecting the ability to work.

The insurance initiative offers essential financial support during emergencies, preventing deeper economic constraints. Empowers growers in rehabilitation efforts for loss of dwelling.

While SCGC is strongly contemplating supplementary product such as crop insurance, cane growers continue to benefit from the micro bundled insurance scheme.

The scheme offers equal coverage, compliments gender equality within the cane industry. Gender orientated, both male and female growers inclusive of their families are protected, fostering inclusiveness and resilient farming community.

Particularly the women gain access to banking services, without bank accounts. The industry has realized the added benefits for individual operating bank accounts and later cane proceeds stream. SCGC is also offers the option of digital payment platform.

The benefit demonstrates the commitment regardless of the age of growers, portrays, motivation and encouragement to young and incoming growers/farmers venturing in sugar industry.

The Self-funding concept, sustainable model of accessing premium deductions from the source. Mandatory blanket cover on the strength of being an active cane farmer producing cane with no pre-registration and renewal.

Chief Executive Officer, Vimal Dutt acknowledged the privilege of receiving the award on behalf of SCGC. Representing Fijian cane growers internationally deserves an overwhelming source of encouragement and excitement for the Fijian Sugar Industry. Our cane growers dedication is no exception compared to global sugar producers.

SCGC sincerely appreciates to its instrumental primary emphasis strengthening growers welfare as we endeavor to protect and promote their interest at all levels.

Growers expressed deep appreciation for the scheme, expressing alleviated financial burdens and peace of mind.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all cane growers, Fiji Care Insurance as our provider, and relevant stakeholders.

The award is dedicated to all cane growers.

Vimal Dutt
Chief Executive Officer
24th September 2024