



SUGAR CANE GROWERS COUNCIL CANE GROWER

THE NEWSLETTER FOR SUGAR CANE GROWERS OF FIJI

MESSAGE FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



I take immense pleasure in presenting to you the latest in-house Sugar Cane Growers Council [SCGC] newsletter. This would be the first edition in lapse of more than a decade. In this issue we are pleased to reconnect with our growers, industry institutions and other stakeholders. We update on developments covering key highlights and milestones in the year 2024.

We begin by updating our growers on key ongoing strategic projects. Growers and staff members learning visit to India, international award recognition on empowering cane growers through micro insurance bundled facility, introduction of farm management agreement venture, scale up initiative on parametric insurance and update on welfare scheme of growers. We celebrated excellence and encouraged rural women day function of internal day of rural women. Networking and continuous learning are virtues worth pursuit.

SCGC is a member of the World Association of Beet and Cane Growers (WABCG).

We look forward for a productive cane harvesting season 2025.

VISIT TO INDIAN SUGAR INDUSTRY BY SUGARCANE GROWERS OF FIJI UTTAR PRADESH, INDIA, 2024



The Sugar Cane Growers Council in collaboration with the Indian High Commission under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) took an 18-member delegation to Uttar Pradesh in India for a study tour of Indian Sugar Industry. This was a learning and capacity building trip for the participants. Sugarcane growers of Fiji needed exposure in terms of modern cane farming practices especially from countries such as India being the second largest producer of sugar cane. The participants visited various sugar research institutes, sugar factories and had interaction with progressive sugarcane farmers of India. The actual study tour and visit to various factories and institutions in Uttar Pradesh was facilitated by National Sugar Institute (NSI) of Kanpur India. The delegation was received by NSI representatives at Kanpur International Airport on 25th February 2024. The Director for NSI Dr Narendra Mohan and his team welcomed the delegation at NSI on 26th February 2024 and the study tour began with presentations on functions of NSI which involves teaching, consultancy, provide sugar standards and conduct research. Also visited various departments of NSI to better understand the functions and activities undertaken by the institute.

Sponsor: Ministry of External Affairs - Government of India Under ITEC Program

Visit coordinated by National Sugar Institute, Kanpur

Date: 25th February 2024 - 9th March 2024

EMPOWERING CANE FARMERS AND THE INDUSTRY



The Sugar Cane Growers Council 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. 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.



FARM MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT "HAND IN HAND"

The "HAND IN HAND" Farm Management Agreement was successfully launched on November 5th in Labasa at the Waiqele Sector, with a selected farm now under management. This initiative was introduced and piloted by the Honorable Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry. Farm taken by Honorable Minister under Share Farming Agreement.

The program covers 14 acres of land, which is prepared for cane planting. Promoting and strengthening the key focus of collaboration with farmers. Additionally, the initiative is aligned with Best Farm Practices to improve crop yields. The beauty of this agreement is that farm ownership remains with the grower, while profits are shared between both parties according to the terms of the agreement.



Sugar Cane Growers Council
Serving The Cane Growers of Fiji

FARM MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

"HAND IN HAND"



A Farm Management Agreement is a legal contract that outlines the terms and conditions between a Cane Grower and Farm Manager. It defines responsibilities and rights related to crop planning, financial management and resource allocation.

Please visit the nearest Sugar Cane Growers Council Office to obtain information regarding the Farm Management Agreement.



INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR RURAL WOMEN

**THEME – “RURAL WOMEN
SUSTAINING NATURE FOR OUR
COLLECTIVE FUTURE: BUILDING
CLIMATE RESILIENCE, CONSERVING
BIODIVERSITY, AND CARING FOR
LAND TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY
AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN
AND GIRLS”**



The Council planned the International Day of Rural Women, which was held at Moto Sanatan Sammelan School on October 19, 2024. It was honored by Mrs. Wati Seeto, Manager of Financial Inclusion and Market Conduct at the Reserve Bank of Fiji and Vice President of Fiji Law Society. Along with the invited guest speaker from Fiji Crop Livestock Council (FCLC), and our esteemed farmers and women in rural community. They spoke based on the theme and on Women Empowerment. We recognized how important it is for rural women and girls to continue the fight against hunger, poverty, and the loss of biodiversity. By focusing on the intersection of environmental sustainability and gender equality, this year's theme stresses the importance of empowering rural women to lead efforts in climate adaptation, biodiversity preservation, and community health. The event was supported by Ministry of Agriculture, Fiji Cancer Society, South Pacific fertilizers Ltd, Sugar Cane Growers Fund, Sugar Research Institute of Fiji, The Fertile Factory & Co., Medical Team, TIS Sangam, who were present there with their team to provide their services to the participants.

SCALE-UP FOR PARAMETRIC MICROINSURANCE PRODUCTS IN FIJI



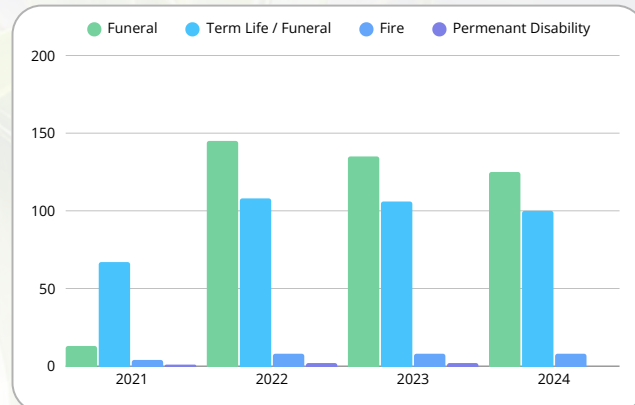
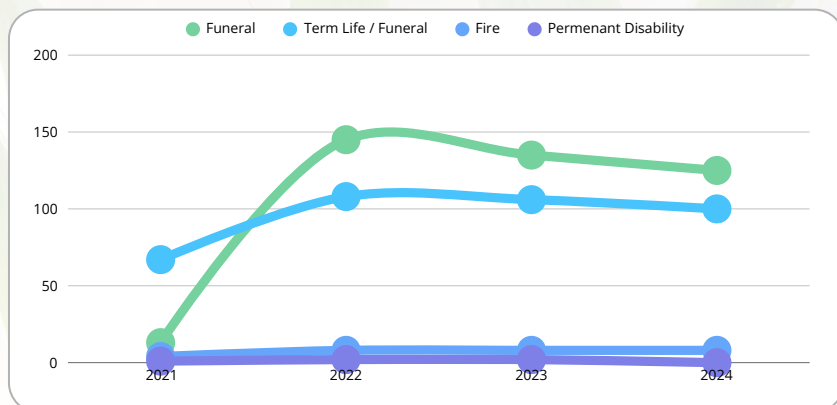
The UNDP in partnership with the Reserve Bank of Fiji, proudly launched the Scale Up of Parametric Microinsurance Products for Fiji. The initiative aims to bring greater climate financial relief for our hardworking sugarcane growers. The Parametric Microinsurance Product is specifically designed to provide rapid support following weather events and other triggers, ensuring a quicker recovery for our dedicated cane growers. A few sugarcane growers, represented by the Sugar Cane Growers Council, had the privilege of receiving their Certificate of Insurance at the event. Last year, 200 growers received payout mainly from Rakiraki, Tavua, Ba, Lautoka and Nadi for excessive rainfall cover. The Reserve Bank of Fiji has offered 50% premium subsidy for 2024/2025 cyclone season to women sugarcane farmers who are producing below 100 tonnes of cane.

BUNDLED INSURANCE PRODUCTS

Bundled Insurance Product is the sole welfare initiative currently available to all active cane Growers at an annual premium of \$62. The package offers \$3,000 in coverage for Term Life insurance, \$1,000 for Funeral expenses, \$3,000 for House Fire insurance, and \$3,000 for Personal Accident insurance, bringing the total coverage to \$10,000. In 2024, a total of 233 claims were submitted from various districts, with total claim compensation amounting to \$547,500 between January and December. The number of deceased growers reached 225, with ages ranging from 40 to 90 years. Additionally, claims for house fire incidents were received from eight growers.

Claims	Number of Growers	Amount
Funeral	125	\$125,000
Term Life / Funeral	100	\$400,000
Fire	8	\$22,500
Permanent Disability	0	\$0
Claims Paid	233	\$547,500

BUNDLED INSURANCE TREND



GOVERNMENT SUPPORT MEASURES FOR CANE GROWERS 2023-2024 BUDGET ALLOCATION

1. Minimum Guaranteed Cane Price

Government has made its commitment to growers of \$85.00 per ton as minimum cane price per ton of sugarcane.

2. Subsidy on Fertilizer - \$20M

Growers will continue to pay \$20.00 per 50 kg of blended fertilizer supplied by South Pacific Fertilizers PTE limited. Balance of price is paid by the Government.

3. Subsidy on Weedicide - \$1.0M

70% price of weedicide is paid by grower while 30% is paid by government. Two main weedicide Diuron and Amine is covered by subsidy program.

4. Grant for Replanting & Planting of New Sugarcane

\$4.0 M Allocation

5. Cane Access Road Maintenance Grant

Growers are not required to pay any amount in repair and maintenance of cane access road.

Government takes the full responsibility of the repair of cane access road expenses.

6. In-Field Drainage Maintenance Grant

All infield drains would be maintained at no cost to cane growers. Government takes full responsibility of the infield drainage work.

7. Payment of Lease Premium New Farmers

Government will pay 30% or to maximum of \$7,500 for lease renewal premium.

8. New Farmer Assistance

Government will pay 30% to a maximum of \$7,500 for purchase of cane for first time cane farm buyers.

9. Farmer Incentive Program- Increase In Cane Production

Growers whose cane production have increased in 2023 compared to 2022 season will receive \$5.00 per ton for the increased tonnage as cash incentive, without any deductions.

10. Manual Cane Harvesting Support - \$3.0 M

Growers whose cane harvested by cane cutters will receive \$3.00 per ton.

11. Small Grants to Grower - \$0.5M

Growers are eligible for fencing materials and irrigation items and equipments.

12. SCGC Grant on behalf of Growers

Operating Grant to SCGC on behalf of cane growers. Deduction of levy from cane proceeds has stopped.

13. Penang to Rarawai Mill Cartage

Cane cartage from Rakiraki mill yard to Rarawai mill yard is paid by government at no additional cost to growers.

14. Cage Bin - \$1.0 M

Grant for fabrication of cage will ease the cost of transportation especially for remote sectors and distance growers.

15. Farm Mechanization Program - \$0.5M

Promotion of new mechanization solution for cultivation to increase productivity.

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