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THE Fiji National University together with Centre for appropriate Technology and Development has taken steps to help those living in the rural areas.

This follows a Memorandum of Agreement between the FNU's College of Engineering, Sciences

CATD director Josefani Bola said with the expertise of the FNU they would assist the rural villagers in Nadave and nearby areas.

"With your expertise we will be able to put together programmes to help the people in rural areas," he said.

"This will improve living standards of those in rural areas. I think by working together we will be able to assist in taking some of the researchers and the technology designed at FNU to the rural areas," he said.

The Fiji National University, through its College of Engineering, Science and Technology and the Centre for Appropriate Technology & Development (CATD) signed the agreement last week at the Samabula Campus.

The agreement entails both parties to collaborate and cooperate in the areas of biofuels research, development and demonstration (RDD) and associated research dealing with renewable energy technologies, in the following specific ways/areas:

- To exchange staff and students between the two institutions for mutual benefit
- To allow designated students from CEST to get attachments with the CATD as part of their studies, at no cost to the CATD
- To work jointly to carry out appropriate research on biofuels and related RE technologies, both at the CATD and the FNU facilities
- To allow students and staff to reside, if necessary, at the CATD facility in Nadave, for an agreed cost, to be borne by the FNU and for purposes of carrying out research activities
- To work together for mutual benefit on events such as meetings, workshops and possible symposia in the area of biofuels development
- to share the benefits of any RDD efforts in this area

CEST Dean Dr Surendra Prasad said the agreement will benefit the students to get practical hands on attachment at CATD particularly those from that area.

"The purpose of this is so that we have basis of working together where both the institutions will benefit," he said.

We can also exchange ideas on technology. We are pleased that we have signed the agreement and the first step is for our staff to visits the centre," he said.