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PRESS RELEASE

FNU signs MoU with Grace Road Food Company

Fiji National University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Grace Road Food Company (GRFC) to promote co-operation in the field of Agriculture Education and Technical & Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

Acting Vice Chancellor Professor Ian Rouse said the MoU explores the potential for involving students doing research, sharing facilities and sharing ideas.

He said the FNU Council has agreed that the University can explore every inter-relationship with private sectors to better use the farms.

“With significant support of government, FNU is to acquire the lease for a significant piece of land in Navua, nearly 2,800 acres which will be called UniFarm and at the farm there is great potential to explore the development in agriculture facilities which could be of great benefit to Fiji,” he said.

Professor Rouse said the University wants to be involved in things which will allow TVET and higher education students to learn the different components of farming or agriculture and also be able to do some research; undergraduate or postgraduate research.

“The only key principle is that we do not want to sell off the farm but we want to do things in partnership where our expectation is to obtain results of higher or international standards. Grace Road Food Company (GRFC) is already in a sense like a research facility,” he said.

He added that GRFC has different breeds of rice which they are experimenting to identify which one will grow best in the facilities, with the amount of water and the climate in Navua.

Professor Rouse said Fiji is a fantastic country with great potential in the areas of agriculture, fisheries and forestry and as a university they should be involved in developing these further.

According to the President of GRFC, Daniel Kim, their vision is to share their skills and achieve rice self-sufficiency by 2020.

“What we want to do with FNU is not just to share the farming skills; what we want to share with FNU students is the spirit- ‘the hardworking spirit’,” he said.

Mr. Kim believes that with this partnership they will be able to achieve their vision by 2020.

The signing of the MOU was held at the FNU Headquarters at Nasinu Campus.