

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE

# International Conference on Landcare and Sustainable Agriculture in the Indo-Pacific

*Landcare and sustainable agriculture: achieving socio-ecological balance to shape our future*

## INTRODUCTION TO THE CONFERENCE

*'All Pacific peoples have an undeniable connection to their natural environment, resources, livelihoods, faiths, cultural values and traditional knowledge... we have a deep concern for and commitment to the need for urgent, immediate and appropriate action to combat the threat and impacts of climate change; biodiversity and habitat loss; waste and pollution; and other threats.'*

– 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent

8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>  
**JULY 2026**

**Fiji National  
University**  
Namaka Campus

**NADI, FIJI**

How can we best shape our future in a world of increasing complexity? This will require dynamic and reciprocal collaborations that draw on diverse perspectives and people-centered responses. An integrated landscape management approach is needed, one that strikes a socio-ecological balance to engage communities and support strengthened institutional arrangements, whilst responding to emerging land, water, and climate challenges.

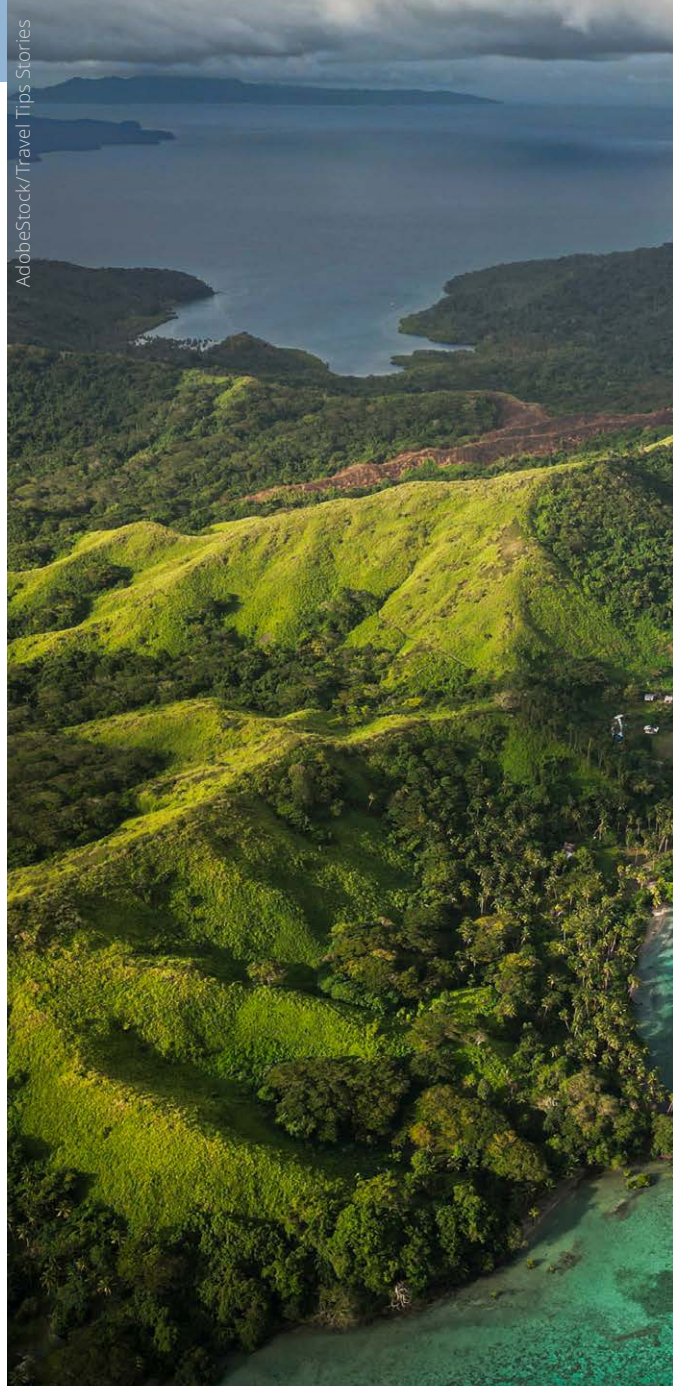
Tropical ecosystems host an incredible array of biodiversity found in diverse habitats that exist in contrasting land use types. Aside from their inherent ecological value, these ecosystems and their biodiversity also provide significant ecosystem goods and services, promoting economic and other livelihood opportunities. These ecosystems are the foundation of agricultural systems in these regions.

**CONFERENCE HOSTED IN PARTNERSHIP BY** Fiji National University (FNU) and Global Landcare Inc.  
**AND SUPPORTED BY** the Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research (ACIAR); Fiji Ministry of Agriculture, and Waterways; Tei Tei Taveuni; Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD); RMIT University; University of the Philippines Los Banos; and the University of the Philippines Mindanao.

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Despite the major benefits for humans of these ecosystem goods and services, ecosystem and landscape degradation by human activity and changes in land-use, climate, and population do compromise their ecological functioning. Using multiple lines of evidence and drawing on collective experience from multidisciplinary research work, focused on the tropical landscapes, we find that it is timely to come together on a platform to identify the major challenges and opportunities for translating research from these landscapes into better-informed choices for communities and supporting service providers. This way, we expect that the sharing and discussions in this conference will support a dialogue for the transformation of agricultural systems in tropical landscapes.

We invite and call upon interested researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and farmers to come together and share experiences in adopting a Landcare-LIFE or other locally developed Landcare approach working at the nexus of rural community livelihoods and the management of the landscape on which they depend in the Indo-Pacific region and across the globe.



## What is Landcare and LIFE?

Landcare is based on the notion that caring for land and water is underpinned by the values of community empowerment and collective action for innovative solutions to natural resource management challenges. The model has origins in Australian communities in the 1980s that evolved to a fully-fledged national program that enjoyed bipartisan support from the Government. The spread of Landcare values and practices internationally has been supported by Global Landcare and its partners, but without any systematic coordination or scaling-up strategy to date. This organic spread may be due in part to the compatibility of the Landcare approach with existing programs and traditional community values.

LIFE or Livelihood Improvement through Facilitated Extension is a model that draws on Landcare-based extension principles. The model evolved from ACIAR-supported research in the Philippines that highlighted how certain types of community-based extension principles can rapidly enhance agricultural livelihoods.

While the conference draws on Landcare and LIFE models, it also welcomes insights from other inclusive, participatory or community-led approaches to extension and natural resource management and Landcare-based or informed programs from around the globe.



## OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

1. Increase awareness of the importance of interdisciplinary research on agriculture and natural resource management to enhance sustainability and resilience across the Indo-Pacific region.
2. Showcase best practices for promoting evidence-based interdisciplinary research outputs (biophysical, social, economic) for sustainable landscape management in the Indo-Pacific region.
3. Provide an opportunity for global networking and knowledge exchange of interdisciplinary approaches across academics, partners, practitioners, and farmers that support livelihood improvement, climate adaptation, and biodiversity.
4. Create a sustainable platform for a livelihood-focussed transdisciplinary ag-extension network for Indo-Pacific exchange and learning, with global reach where appropriate.



## CONFERENCE THEMES

### **Sustainable Agriculture, Environment, and Biophysical Systems**

This theme focuses on the ecological and biophysical foundations of agriculture, including soil health, plant and animal systems, agroecology, regenerative and conservation agriculture, precision farming, integrated farming systems, agroforestry, water and nutrient management, biodiversity conservation, and climate adaptation.

It will showcase approaches such as Landcare-LIFE and other Landcare-informed approaches promoting environmental stewardship and sustainable resource management in ensuring resilient food systems.

### **Agri-Food Systems, Livelihoods, and Market Resilience**

This theme focuses on the socio-economic dimensions of agriculture, highlighting strategies to enhance sustainable livelihoods, food and nutrition security, agribusiness, value chains, market integration, farmer cooperatives, entrepreneurship, sustainable energy use, financial access, resilience strategies, and diversification.

It includes case studies from Landcare-LIFE and other inclusive models that support smallholders, entrepreneurs, and rural communities to build resilient local economies.

### **Learning, Innovation, Collaboration, and Social Systems in Agriculture**

This theme explores the social and institutional foundations of inclusive agriculture, including agricultural extension, participatory development, indigenous and traditional knowledge, digital transformation, cross-sectoral collaboration, governance, policy frameworks, gender and cultural dynamics, institutional strengthening, and community engagement.

It highlights approaches such as Landcare-LIFE and others that foster collaborative, people-centred learning, innovation and community engagement for sustainability.

## CONFERENCE AUDIENCE

This conference invites participation from a wide range of individuals and organisations who share an interest in inclusive agriculture, sustainable land management, and community-based development. While the Indo-Pacific region is the primary focus, perspectives and contributions from across the global community are warmly welcomed.

Participants may include:

- Researchers working on sustainable agriculture, extension, climate adaptation, or land and water management
- Government agencies and policy advisors involved in rural development or environmental stewardship
- Farmer and community leaders, including extension workers, engaged in local Landcare or livelihood improvement initiatives
- NGOs, development practitioners, and international organisations supporting community-based agriculture and natural resource management

## CONFERENCE PROGRAM & LOGISTICS

### Pre-Conference Masterclass

6 - 7 July 2026

A two-day Landcare-LIFE Masterclass, led by Global Landcare, will introduce principles and applications of the Landcare-LIFE approach.

### Conference

8 - 10 July 2026

Three days of plenary sessions, thematic discussions, and presentations on inclusive agriculture and sustainable landscape management.

### Conference Field Trip

10 July 2026

An organised field excursion will showcase community-led agriculture and natural resource management in Fiji. Further details will be provided.

## FIJI TOURISM

Fiji, in the South Pacific, is an archipelago of more than 300 islands. Famed for rugged landscapes, palm-lined beaches, and coral reefs with clear lagoons, Fiji is popular for its tourism activities. We warmly encourage delegates to stay on and experience what Fiji has to offer through the many tourism options available.





## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

### Categories

For this conference, abstracts may be submitted for contributions in the following categories:

1. Paper presentation or practical workshop
2. Poster presentation
3. Exhibitors

### Guidelines and requirements for submission

Abstracts should be submitted by the guidelines below for consideration:

- Maximum 300 words
- Times New Roman, 12 pt, 1.5 line spacing
- No subheadings or paragraph numbering
- Include short title
- List authors and affiliations with superscripts (e.g. "1", "2")
- Indicate corresponding author with an asterisk (\*) and email

The abstracts will be reviewed for acceptance by the Scientific Committee and upon acceptance, they shall be inserted in the "Book of Abstracts". The abstract for a practical workshop or demonstration must have a maximum of 300 words and contain a title, theme/problem area, contextualize the workshop, keywords, name and institution and desired technical needs. Likewise, abstracts for poster presentations can be submitted under the same conditions. The posters should be in A1 format and of sufficient layout and graphical quality. The time frame for all the paper and poster presentations mentioned above is 15 minutes + 5 minutes to questions.

### Timeline

- First announcement: September 2025
- Deadline for submission of abstracts: 28th November 2025
- Notification of abstract acceptance: 20th February 2026

### Contact Email

All conference emails, enquiries, and correspondences that include submission of abstracts for oral and poster presentations and full papers should be sent to Ms Lite Seruvakula, email: [landcareconferencefiji@gmail.com](mailto:landcareconferencefiji@gmail.com)

### Registration

Registration details will be forthcoming, including registration costs for domestic and international delegates.

### Language/Accessibility

The official language of the conference is English. If you have accessibility requirements or require translation support, please contact the organisers.

### Conference Administration & Secretariat

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# LANDCARE

An agricultural extension and community development model at national and district scale in Fiji

