

## Graduates encouraged to strive for excellence



*Chief guest, GM Future Farms Ltd, Stanley Raniga presenting the certificate to CAFF graduate, Michelle Kumar.*

Graduates from Fiji National University's (FNU) College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (CAFF) and National Training and Productivity Centre (NTPC) were reminded to always be open to learning and make the best use of resources available to them.

The second series of FNU graduations for 2018 commenced today with the CAFF and NTPC ceremony where Chief Guest, Stanley Raniga, the General manager of Future Farms Limited, urged graduates to remain humble, be honest and always maintain good work ethics.

"When you go into the workforce you will meet colleagues with a wealth of experience. The things that you will learn from them will be very useful in making you a successful person in your chosen career path," said Raniga.

"Grab all the opportunities in life with both hands irrespective of how big or small the responsibility is. It will help you in molding yourself into a better person. There may be challenges but embrace every opportunity and respect the seniors around you."

Raniga said Future Farms had a strong working relationship with FNU and reaffirmed its continued support of providing training and employment opportunities to students.

Future Farms has recently employed Fiji National University graduates at its complex in Ba.

"CAFF and NTPC have really assisted Future Farms in its journey. Through the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Future Farms took onboard two students under the graduate development program," said Raniga.

"The MoU also assists us in bridging the technical expertise gap in our industry."

Future Farms Ltd was the recipient of the President's Business Excellence award at this year's NTPC's Fiji Business Excellence

Awards (FBEA). It is the sixth organisation in the history of FBEA to have received this award.

"Through NTPC we have embraced the Quality Circles (QC) initiative. The QC program has been running for about three years and in the process and through the help and guidance of NTPC, we have had successful years such as winning the FBEA President's Business Excellence award – the highest recognition possible," said Raniga.

A total of 190 students graduated from FNU's first of seven graduation ceremonies which will be held this December.

Fifty-four students graduated from the College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry while 136 graduated from the National Training and Productivity Centre.

FNU Vice Chancellor, Professor Nigel Healey acknowledged the invaluable support of Future Farms Ltd and other stakeholders in the development of Fiji's future workforce.

Professor Healey also acknowledged the Fijian-Government's commitment in providing better and affordable education for all every Fijian. He thanked the government for funding a number of important capital projects at FNU to ensure students have the best study-experiences.

"I'm proud to inform you that our internal survey conducted during the mid-year graduation ceremonies indicate that up to 80-90 percent of FNU graduates secure paid employment after four months," said VC Healey.

"We continue to undertake market research and work closely with key stakeholders including employer organisations, government, public and private sector to develop study programmes that ensure Fiji's employment market is provided with graduates who possess the right skill sets and expertise."

Bachelor of Science in Animal Husbandry graduate, Michelle Priyashni Kumar was excited to have finally achieved her dream qualification after a few years of hard work and sacrifices.

"My love for animals led me to the career choice and I am eager to join the workforce and practice what I have learnt."

"I wouldn't have come this far if it were not for the support from my family, friends and lectures. I whole heartedly thank them for believing in me and being the beacon of support throughout the course of my study," added Kumar.

NTPC Advanced Diploma of Leadership and Management graduate, Amit Kishore was proud to receive his certificate in the presence of his family.

Kishore was also a recipient of the Excellence Award in his programme.

"I did not expect to receive this award but I am honoured to be recognised by NTPC," he added.

*For more pictures, visit the FNU Facebook page and Instagram.*