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PRESS RELEASE

CAFF introduces flexi learning hours

Suva, Fiji Islands. The Fiji National University's (FNU) College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (CAFF) will offer selected programmes on flexible hours from Semester 1, 2018 to enable potential students who are engaged during the day to attend evening classes.

This is the first time the College has introduced this study mode after receiving strong requests from employees intending to upgrade their qualifications but weren't in a position to commit to fulltime studies.

The classes will be offered at FNU Nasinu campus from 2 February.

Lecturer at Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension Education, Mr Ritesh Chand said the College decided on this venue keeping in mind the travelling convenience of the intending students.

"In this competitive workforce, the need to upgrade qualifications has vastly increased. This will provide an excellent opportunity to those already in the workforce intending to further their studies," said Mr Chand.

"We wanted to have the classes at a venue which is easily accessible to everyone. Looking at the heavy traffic flow in the afternoon we felt that it will be difficult for working students to attend evening classes at Koronivia."

Mr Chand, who specialises in Agricultural Economics, said they are receiving a lot of enquiries from students interested in studying agriculture and becoming entrepreneurs.

"Study programmes offered at CAFF are designed in such a way that it trains a student to start up their own farm. Through Agricultural Economics we are trying to teach students how to manage finance in order to successfully run a business. Nowadays, farming is more about business which we call 'farm businesses' and gone are the days when it was only for traditional purposes."

"There are a lot of resources lying idle and they are not tapped to their full potential so in Agricultural Economics we are teaching how to fully utilise these resources. So this subject area is an important component of any programme at the College."

Meanwhile, third year Bachelor of Science in Agriculture student, Krishneel Chand, plans to pursue Masters in Agriculture through the University of Queensland after graduating from CAFF.

The 23 year-old from Rarawai, FSC, Ba said he has learnt many new and exciting things in the field of agriculture through his studies.

“I’m happy that I decided to join this College for my tertiary education. Agricultural Economics and Finance has been a very interesting component of my study here. I had never thought about how important the incorporation of economics and finance is in today’s farming practices.”

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About the Fiji National University: The Fiji National University (FNU) was established through the merger of 7 government-owned tertiary institutions in Fiji, and commenced operations from 1 January 2010. The constituent institutions are found at over 40 different locations across Fiji, and collectively offer Certificates, Diplomas, Advanced Diplomas, Degrees, Postgraduate qualifications and Skills Upgrading for those who are already in employment. Approximately 30,000 students pass through the University each year. Over the last six years of its operations, the University has registered major achievements with regard to new programme delivery, quality improvements and contribution to research and publications via its 5 Colleges: The College of Humanities & Education (CHE), the College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences (CMNHS), the College of Engineering, Science & Technology (CEST), the College of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry (CAFF), the College of Business, Hospitality & Tourism Studies (CBHTS) and the National Training & Productivity Centre (NTPC).