

FRIDAY 24 August, 2018

Press Release

FNU opens new Agro-Meteorology facility at Koronivia

Suva, Fiji. The Fiji National University (FNU) commissioned the first ever Agro-Meteorology facility at its College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forests (CAFF) Instructional Crop Farm in Koronivia this afternoon.

This facility will enable students to increase their understanding and knowledge of weather patterns and use weather and climate information to increase or expand agricultural crops and or to boost crop production.

Agro-Meteorology is the branch of meteorology that deals with the relationship of weather and climate to crop and livestock production and soil management.

Dean CAFF, Professor Paul Ade Iji said the new facility will provide timely and accurate data on Fiji's climatic condition, which will provide students vital information and assist with proper farm planning.

The facility, which cost around \$50,000 to set-up consists of a rain gauge, sunshine recorder, wind vane, anemometer and hydrometer to record the wind direction, air temperature, rain amount, duration and intensity, soil moisture and sunshine duration.

Professor Iji said the facility is important given that climatic conditions play a major part in the Agriculture sector.

"We all know the impact climate has on our economy and especially with Agriculture where we have to have sound knowledge if we are going to ensure improve our production. This facility will allow our students to understand the factors that have a bearing on Agriculture and what they can do, or how they can plan to ensure they achieve maximum returns from their farms," said Professor Iji.

"Last week we hosted a group of farmers as part of our commitment to strengthen community engagement and assist farmers to learn new techniques that will assist in improving their agricultural outputs. Agriculture is a big part of the Fijian economy, hence, it becomes even more important for us at CAFF to be at the forefront in empowering the farmers."

Professor Iji added that the latest expansion was in line with the new developments planned for the College.

FNU's Pro Vice Chancellor Learning and Teaching Dr. Eci Nabalarua said opening was a significant achievement for the College. The senior academic said the College was also working on developing new post graduate programmes which will be offered in the near future.

"The University continues to develop and redesign programmes in order to remain relevant and attend to the needs of the industry," said Dr Nabalarua.

For more information contact: Shireen Lata| Public Relations and Communications Officer | P: 339 4000 | Ext: 2886|Email: prco-sl@fnu.ac.fj

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).