

Ministry of Agriculture

2016-2017 Budget

Major Highlights

The Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) budget for 2016-2017 totals **\$74.4 million**, comprising **\$30.6 million** operating budget, **\$40.6 million** capital expenditure and VAT of **\$3.2 million**.

Major highlights of the 2016-2017 budget for the Ministry include:

- The Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations will be setting up its new office at the Ministry of Agriculture's HQ in Raiwaqa. As part of Government's commitment to the establishment of the new office, \$0.1 million is allocated to cover the costs of office supplies, general operating expenses and new office equipment;
- A sum of \$2.0 million is expected to be drawn down from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in 2016-2017 through the Fiji Agricultural Partnership Project (FAPP). Funding will cover the capacity building of the Ministry to support agribusiness activities at national and farm level. The Fiji Government contributes \$0.3 million as counterpart funding for the loan program;
- The Ministry will continue to support the Ongoing Agricultural Statistical System with funding of \$0.4 million. This will enable the Ministry to analyse collected agricultural data and make well informed policy decisions;
- The Fiji Ag-Trade unit plays an important role by undertaking market surveys to understand local market situations and identifying overseas market potentials. As a result \$0.3 million is allocated;
- The Land Resource Planning Division has been provided with \$0.5 million for Sustainable Land Management to train farmers on the best sustainable agricultural practices. The Farm Management Services is budgeted with \$0.18 million to build farm management capacity within the Ministry. This involves training crop and livestock extension officers, provision of technical support services and analysing farm performances on a case by case basis;
- The Ministry will assist farmers to access agro inputs through the Agro Input Subsidy (\$1.0 million) which reduces the cost of fertilizers to farmers;

Ministry of Fisheries and Forests
2016-2017 Budget
Major Highlights

The Ministry of Fisheries and Forests (MFF) is allocated a total budget of **\$27.1 million**, of which **\$17.6 million** is for operating expenditure, **\$8.2 million** for capital, and VAT of **\$1.2 million**.

Major highlights of the Ministry's 2016-2017 budget are:

Department of Forestry

- Government will continue its support to the Fiji Pine Trust with an operating grant of \$0.5 million. The Trust assists community land owners by the establishment of nurseries; raising, nurturing and distribution of pine seedlings; supervision in plantation establishment; and plantation monitoring;
- A budget of \$50,000 is allocated to continue the subsidy on the purchase of forest value-adding machines to forest owners;
- \$0.2 million is allocated to continue the progress and commitment to Fiji's REDD plus programme.¹ This will complement the \$2.2 million grant provided by the World Bank through the Forest Carbon Participation Facility to undertake the readiness phase of the programme;
- MFF will receive a new allocation of \$40,000 for Industry Consultations, which will allow the Ministry to disseminate pertinent information affecting Fisheries and Forests sectors to stakeholders when needed;
- The Timber Research Division at Colo-i-Suva has been provided with a budget of \$0.1 million for the Renovation of its Entomology Laboratory and Purchase of Microscope for the Lab;
- \$50,000 is allocated to the Timber Utilisation Division in Nasinu for the Purchase of a Stress Grading Machine. This equipment will enable the staff to test structural properties of timber sold in Fiji including tension, compression and strength; and
- Other major forestry programmes budgeted for the 2016-2017 fiscal year include: Reforestation of Degraded Forests (\$0.5 million), Research and Development of Wood

¹Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation

and Non-Wood Species (\$0.15 million), Sandalwood Development Program (\$0.1 million), Purchase of Equipment for Lakeba Pine Scheme (\$0.2 million), Pine Woodlot Logging Package (\$0.2 million) and Upgrade of Colo-i-Suva Forest Park (\$0.1 million).

Department of Fisheries

- A sum of \$2.4 million is allocated to assist in the Cyclone Winston reconstruction and recovery needs of the Fisheries sector. This includes an allocation of \$0.6 million to support the ongoing Recovery Programme, which includes the procurement of Fish Aggregating Devises (FADs) and fishing gears and training on sustainable fishing practices. Also included is an allocation of \$1.6 million towards the Construction of Fisheries Institutional Buildings; and rehabilitation of Seaweed farms with an allocation of \$0.2 million;
- \$0.6 million is allocated to complete the construction of the Rotuma Ice Plant and \$0.5 million each for the preparatory works for ice plants to be built on Moala and Cicia respectively. These projects seek to achieve food security and empower communities to manage and benefit from their marine resources;
- \$0.3 million for the hosting of the 13th Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, which will be held in Nadi in December, 2016; and
- Other major fisheries programmes budgeted for this fiscal year include: completion of construction of the Caboni Multi-Species Hatchery (\$0.7 million); Upgrade of Fisheries Office and Quarters (\$0.4 million); Makogai Mariculture Centre (\$0.2 million), Coastal Fisheries Development Programme (\$0.55 million); Aquaculture Development (\$0.2 million); Brackishwater Development (\$0.28 million); and Food Security Programme – Aquaculture (\$0.25 million).

- \$1.0 million is to support Farm Mechanisation through the provision of farm machines and tools to improve efficiency;
- Further support is for Land Clearing (\$1.5 million), where the Ministry subsidises the cost of hiring a tractor for farm preparation. \$0.5 million is set aside for the provision of Seedlings and Planting Materials from Agriculture Research Stations;
- The Demand Driven Approach program is supported through the budget allocations targeting; (i) agricultural exporters [Export Promotion Program - \$1.0 million], (ii) individual farmers or farmers groups [Food Security Program - \$1.0 million], (iii) farmers in the rural and maritime islands [Rural and Outer Island Program - \$1.5 million], (iv) improvement of infrastructures in the Sigatoka Valley [Sigatoka Valley Development - \$0.2 million] and support to livestock farmers [Dairy Industry Support - \$0.85 million];
- Support for specific commodities will continue: Ginger Development Program (\$0.8 million), Rice Revitalisation Program (\$1.0 million), Coconut Development Program (\$0.5 million), Cocoa Development Program (\$0.53 million) and Vanilla Development Program (\$0.05 million);
- Budget for rehabilitation efforts: Yaqona Programme (\$0.65 million), Dalo Programme (\$0.5 million), Coconut Programme (\$0.25 million), and Construction of Rural Office and Quarters (\$1.5 million). The repair of damaged Irrigation Schemes has been allocated \$0.18 million;
- Various research programs will continue, with \$0.65 million provided for Agriculture Research Services (Root Crops, Tree Crops and Horticulture). Rice Research and Development is provided with \$0.15 million, while \$0.3 million is for the Potato Research and Development project;
- The Ministry will also continue to support the dedicated Livestock Research Programs for goat, sheep, beef, pig, and poultry with an aggregate budget of \$0.89 million;
- The Ministry intends to construct a new Agronomy Building with funding of \$0.25 million provided for the demolition of an existing building;
- The Brucellosis Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign (BTEC) is supported with funding of \$1.0 million, Livestock Rehabilitation Program \$1.0 million, Beef Multiplication Program \$0.4 million, Sheep Multiplication Program \$0.66 million and Dairy Development Program \$0.5 million;
- The Drainage and Flood Protection Program has been provided with \$5.0 million, and Watershed Management with \$1.4 million. Both are part of the Ministry's mitigation

programs. The Ministry continues to support the three divisional drainage boards with \$2.0 million through the Drainage Subsidy; and

- The support for Flatland Development in the Central Division (\$0.5 million) and Farm Access Roads (\$2.0 million) is also budgeted.

Aid in Kind

- Fiji Agriculture Support (NZMFAT) - \$1.2 million;
- Planning for Nadi River Flood Control Structures (JICA) - \$2.2 million;
- Mushroom Technology Demonstration Centre (China) - \$4.4 million; and
- Rice Technical Cooperation Project (China) - \$4.0 million.

Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources
2016-2017 Budget
Major Highlights

The Ministry is allocated a budget of **\$31.0 million** in 2016-2017, of which \$18.9 million is for operating, **\$10.5 million** is for capital expenditure and **\$1.5 million** is for VAT.

Major highlights of the budget for the Ministry include:

- The survey and assessment of potential mineral and groundwater sites will provide people in remote communities access to water sources. This is made possible through the Groundwater Assessment and Development program for both small (\$0.48 million) and large islands (\$0.75 million);
- The development of all vacant and underutilized state land is supported through a budget allocation of \$2.7 million through the development of State Land. For the purpose of making more iTaukei land available for productive and socio-economic use, \$2.5 million is allocated through the Land Bank Investment;
- There is a \$0.7 million budget support for the Maintenance of Existing Subdivisions for the upgrade and improvement of infrastructure and public utilities and amenities in existing subdivisions on state lands;
- The upgrade of the Geodetic Datum will provide more accuracy to surveyors and other users. A budget of \$1.18 million is provided;
- The Ministry will purchase a new Unmanned Aerial Vehicle for land surveying use that will provide real-time information with a shorter turnaround time for land surveyors. In addition, there is potential to use this technology to provide visuals in the aftermath of natural disasters. A budget of \$0.26 million is allocated for this purpose;
- Government will fund the ongoing renovation of the Mineral Resources Department's laboratory with an allocation of \$0.25 million to introduce geochemical analysis services locally which is otherwise only available overseas; and
- Government has allocated funding for the Survey of Mahogany Plantations (\$0.3 million) and the Survey of Government Property on iTaukei Land (\$0.43 million).

Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism
2016-2017 Budget
Major Highlights

The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism (MITT) is allocated a total budget of **\$77.0 million**, of which **\$37.5 million** is for operating expenditure, **\$38.2 million** for capital expenditure and VAT is **\$1.2 million**.

Major highlights of the MITT budget for 2016-2017 are:

- The Micro and Small Business Grant programme has been a success in its first year and will continue with an increased allocation that brings its budget to \$6.4 million;
- The Fiji Commerce Commission will receive \$2.5 million to improve its daily inspections and monitoring of trader activities; the Consumer Council of Fiji is allocated \$1.3 million to continue its advocacy work and protect consumers through mediation and referral to relevant consumer protection agencies;
- Film Fiji has been allocated \$1.9 million, an increase of \$0.8 million from the 2016 level;
- The National Export Strategy is allocated \$2.0 million, targeting exporters in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry sectors;
- The allocation for the Northern Development Program (\$1.5 million) and the Integrated Human Resource Development Program (\$0.8 million) is transferred from the Ministry of Economy to MITT;
- The Ministry has been allocated \$2.7 million for the purchase of new Lab Equipment including an Automatic Bell Prover which will be used to certify vapor meter; Length Comparator with Helium Lazer for certifying meter ruler and length tape and Mass Comparator which will be used to certify weighing equipment;
- Tourism Fiji (TF) has been allocated an increased operating grant of \$8.3 million and a marketing grant of \$27.6 million; and
- A grant of \$4.7 million is provided by the Government of India for Micro and Small Business Facility which will be utilized for new SME development.

Ministry of Sugar
2016-2017 Budget
Major Highlights

The Ministry of Sugar is allocated a total budget of **\$27.5 million**, which includes **\$3.4 million** for operating expenditures, **\$23.7 million** for capital expenditure and **\$0.35 million** in VAT.

Major highlights of the 2016-2017 budget of the Ministry of Sugar are:

- Sugar Cane Development and Farmer Assistance Programme - \$11.0 million.
- Sugar GIS Cadastre Development (\$0.6 million).
- Upgrade of Cane Access Roads (\$3.0 million), which will cover farmers within the 38 sectors of the sugarcane growing areas.
- An amendment to the Sugar Industry Act by Parliament in 2015 commits Government to pay a \$0.6 million Sugar levy to support the Sugar Cane Growers Council (SCGC). In the past, farmers had to provide contributions for the operations of the SCGC. Government is now relieving the burden on farmers and allowing them to use the additional savings to increase crop size, invest in better irrigation and purchase new equipment.
- Government will continue to support the South Pacific Fertilizers Limited with a total subsidy of \$9.7 million for the 2016-2017 financial year. Around 31,000 metric tonnes of fertilizers will be sold to sugarcane farmers at a subsidised price of \$31.50, which is equivalent to just over 633,000 bags. The purpose of the subsidy is to encourage fertilizer usage at an industry recommended rate of 15-18 bags/hectare.
- Social Mitigation Programme AMSP 2010 (EU) of \$31.5 million is allocated as aid-in-kind.

Ministry of Public Enterprise
2016-2017 Budget
Major Highlights

The Ministry of Public Enterprise is allocated a total budget of **\$13.9 million**, of which \$10.8 million is for operating expenditure; **\$3.0 million** for capital expenditure and **\$0.1 million** is for VAT.

Major highlights of the 2016-2017 budget for the Ministry are:

- A holding company known as Asset Fiji Limited will be established to manage state-owned assets. A budget of \$50,000 is allocated to support the administration of the unit that will facilitate it, to be based at the Ministry of Public Enterprise;
- The Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF) is mandated to protect Fiji from the introduction and spread of animal and plant pests and diseases and facilitate access to viable agro-export markets. It is allocated an operating grant of \$6.1 million and a capital grant of \$3.0 million. This will allow the Authority to carry its core functions of pre- and post-border operations effectively and efficiently.
- \$0.35 million is allocated for Office Renovations; and
- Food Processors Limited is allocated \$46,700 for the procurement of a new generator for back-up services.

Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment
2016-2017 Budget
Major Highlights

The Ministry's budget for 2016-2017 totals **\$25.1 million**, comprising **\$9.3 million** operating, **\$15.1 million** capital expenditure and VAT of **\$0.7 million**.

Major highlights of the 2016-2017 Budget are as follows:

Department of Local Government

- A sum of \$0.4 million is provided to the National Fire Authority to subsidize the operational expense of Emergency Ambulance Services during fires and emergencies;
- A total sum of \$0.65 million is provided to support the salaries of Special Administrators and CEOs of various municipal councils for effective governance of municipal councils to ensure effective service delivery to ordinary Fijians;
- The Town Council Management Support programme seeks to strengthen capacities of small municipal councils to improve their service delivery. A sum of \$116,000 is provided for 2016-2017 financial year for the review of the organizational structure of municipal councils and to sustain the operations of the new Navua Town Council;
- A sum of \$0.2 million is budgeted for the purchasing and installation of Fire Hydrants.
- \$3.0 million is set aside for National Fire Authority Grant for the construction of Fire Stations and purchasing of fire equipment;
- A sum of \$0.54 million is provided for the Purchase of 3 Vacuum Trucks for 3 Municipalities which includes; Suva City Council, Nadi Town Council and Lautoka City Council;
- \$4.0 million is provided towards Challenge and Investment Funds to assist Municipalities on capital investment;
- \$0.75 million is set aside for the construction of Lautoka Botanical Garden and Swimming Pool;
- \$0.35 million is budgeted for the development works for the Valelevu Sports Stadium; and
- A sum of \$0.89 million is allocated for drainage and flood Mitigation for town councils.

Department of Town and Country Planning

- A sum of \$60,000 is being budgeted for the completion of stakeholder consultations and the finalization of the Town and Country Planning Act; and
- A budget of \$1.0 million is provided for New Town Development (Nabouwalu).

Department of Environment

- Government is embarking on the construction of a Waste Transfer Station for the Central division with \$0.5 million allocated for 2016-2017. The facility will bring down overall waste management costs and improve the proper management of waste;
- \$3.7 million is provided for the transition of the Naboro Landfill Stage 1 to Stage 2 which involves the construction of Cell 1 and Cell 2 for an additional five years of landfill space; and
- Other important funding allocations include Environment Programmes (\$0.1 million); Environment Management Act (\$0.1 million); Litter Awareness (\$0.1 million); National Waste Management Strategy (\$0.23 million); and 3R Awareness Programme (\$0.1 million).