

PENANG SANGAM HIGH SCHOOL
P.O.BOX 44, RAKIRAKI
YEAR 12 GEOGRAPHY WORKSHEET 7 – WEEK:19,20,21 /LESSON NOTES & ACTIVITIES

Strand	Physical Geography
Sub Strand	Agriculture and Food Supply
Content Learning Outcome	i. Identify the nature and type of agricultural activities in Fiji. ii. Discuss the different farm practices in Fiji.

10. Cattle Farming

a. Beef Cattle Farming

Fiji mainly self-sufficient in the lower grades beef but imports most of the expensive cuts used by the hotel industry.

- The largest beef cattle estate in Yaqara, Rakiraki. It is known as Yaqara Pastoral Company Limited. The company is owned by the government.
- Yaqara Pastoral Company Limited also diversifies its farming by doing sheep farming and hybrid mangoes farming.
- Uluisavou in the interior of Ra and Yalavou Scheme in Serua are in other commercial areas in beef cattle farming.
- The main purpose of the beef cattle farming is to manufacture high quality meat for human consumption.

b. Dairy Cattle Farming

- The sole purpose of the dairy cattle farming is to extract milk for human consumption and manufacture milk products example cheese, butter, yoghuts, ghee.
- Commercial dairy farms are located in the South Eastern parts of Viti Levu.
- The Fiji Dairy Cooperative Dairy Company Limited has replaced Rewa Dairy.
- FCDCL was created under the Dairy restructure decree in 2010 when the industry was restructured in the two companies FCDCL and Fiji Dairy Limited.
- The primary focus of FCDCL is self-sustaining business with five years therefore reduce, reliance on government support (the yearly grant). To achieve this FCDCL must work with farmers to produce more milk.
- The biggest supplies of milk are from Waidalice and Naitasiri farmers.

Problems Faced

(i) Cow disease for example brucellosis. In 2013, 350 milking cows died as they were infected with brucellosis disease.

(ii) A decline in milk supply. The reason for the decrease are;

a. Dairy farmers could not meet the high cost of production for example 17 registered bulk farmers in Fiji produced 1.17m liters of milk for first quarter of 2013 but compared to some period in 2014, farmers only manage to produce 92000litres of milk.

b. the climate between May and October Fiji experience winter with dry conditions. The lack of rainfall during this period will discourage good growth of pasture therefore, decline in milk production.

Activity

1. Explain the reason Dairying thrives in the Eastern side of Viti Levu and beef cattle in the Western side.

Solutions

- Farmers need to get a return and fair price on their milk.
- The FCDCL most work with the farmers to produce more milk.
- Cow should be regularly inspected and vaccinated to avoid cow disease.

Supplementary feed

- The company provides to the farmers at a low cost which less than the market price.
- Mill mix and copra mill are widely used in the dairy industry.
- Because of the uneven distribution or supply of copra mill locally, the company has begun importing palm Kemal from Solomon Island to substitute protein supply for the cows.

Own Feed Mill

The cooperative is in progress of establishing its own feed mill to ensure sustaining supply of supplementary feed.

Pasture Development

The cooperative is also providing free pasture seed to its farmer to engage them in pasture development because most of the grasses in Fiji not good for animals.

Short Term Loan

If farmers want to do some improvement on the farm they can get short term loans from the cooperative at 2% interest rates for six months.

Resolving Fund

A small amount of fund is set aside to be given to dairy farmers for their farm improvement.

Farmers can apply for this loan specifically for farm development for example to buy new equipment for fencing or pasture development.

Government Assistance

Apart from the cooperative the government through the agricultural ministry has also been assisting the farmers.

Under the dairy development program, the government provides millions of dollars as grant to the cooperative for improving services, infrastructure and facilities. This grant helps in the development of the industry and increasing the raw milk productions.

Activity

1.Elaborate on the importance of a work cycle in Dairying and Beef cattlefarming.

2. Explain the importance of soil fertility to dairying and beef cattle farming.

3. Mention one reason farmers requires capital in their bsiness.

Cocoa

- Cocoa industry has not been given much importance in the previous years.
- However the villagers of Nabalabala in the district of Tokaimalo district in Ra have started cocoa plantation with an aim bringing back cocoa as the number one business in the regions.
- The farming of cocoa price in the villages stopped in 1970's due to poor cocoa price paid to farmers.
- A new initiative undertaken by the international trade Centre and the Fiji crop and life stock council will allow selling their produce to an exporter at prices ranging from \$6 and \$7 kg per kg.
- The International Trade Centre (ITC) help workshop in the village to teach farmers more about cocoa farming and selling.

The International Trade and Fiji Crop and the Livestock Council

- Is an organization which allow farmers to deal directly with exporters.
- For example farmers in the Ra province showed great appreciation to this organization for organizing workshop in the villagers with regards to better farming and as offering good price for their produce.
- The ITC allows farmers to deal directly with exporters rather than looking for middle men to sell their produce and also selling it in the market.

Services Provided

- Organizing workshop and teaching farmers for better farming skills.
- Offering farmers a good price for their produce.
- Organizing export dealers to come directly to the farmers to collect the produce.

Potato farming

- Fiji has started small-scale potato farming with the help of the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Potato farming – Nadarivatu and Yaqara (midway between Rakiraki and Tavua)

Research Stations in Fiji

- Koronivia Research Station (researching vegetables, rice)
- Legalega Research Station – Nadi (pulses, legumes, beans)
- Sigatoka Research Station in Nacocolevu, Sigatoka
- Dobuilevu Research Station in Rakiraki

Fertilizers used in farms

- NPK
- Urea
- Superphosphate (root crop)
- Blend A,B,C fertilizer (sugar cane)

Abattoirs in Fiji

- i. Fiji Meat Industry Board (FMIB) in 9 Miles, Nakasi.
- ii. Vuda Abattoir in Lautoka

Weedicides

Pesticides

Glyphosate, Rambo

Orthene, Capton, Benlate, Malathion

Fiji Map