



Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises & Development

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Media Release

FRIEND EU GROW Farmers off to India

A total of 33 awards were announced at the EU GROW STAR awards ceremony with eight farmers winning themselves a learning tour to Kingston Foundation in India to look at integrated organic practices in agriculture.

The lucky eight farmers are first place getters in the main categories of the EU GROW STAR Awards for Best Cash Crop Farmer, Best Poultry Farmer, Best Apiary Farmer, Best Food Processing Farmer & Organic Farming. The EU Funded GROW programme focuses on economic activity and improving the quality of life of those living in the sugar cane belt areas by providing people with supplementary means to sustain and improve their livelihood.

Other awards were given for Best Cash Crop Cluster, Best Seed Saver, Best Food Security Farmer, Best Food security Community, Best Exercise Community and Best Backyard Garden.

“The awardees were selected through careful monitoring of good agriculture practices over the implementation of the project that comes to an end this year. We are hopeful that the recognition of their efforts will keep them motivated to continue their projects for sustainability and promote their projects as model farms for others,” says Sashi Kiran, Founder/Director, FRIEND.

The awards ceremony was held at Ratu Iliilovatu Hall in Vuda, Viseisei and jointly officiated by Minister for Agriculture Hon Inia Seruiratu and Head of Delegation of EU in the Pacific HE Andrew Jacobs.

The event also witnessed the final graduation ceremony of 100 youths who had completed their training in employability skills through University of the South Pacific under the GROW YEN Programme.

The winning farmer’s trip to Kingston Foundation will be organized early next year.

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