

Organic farming potential

Manhire: There is an opportunity for it to grow a lot more

By REPEKA NASIKO

THERE is growing potential for Fiji to grow its organic farming capabilities which could translate into better economic growth.

This was the view of AgriBusiness Group managing director Jon Manhire who shared his expertise with organic farming stakeholders at a workshop on Developing Organic Agriculture policies in the country.

He said interest in organic agriculture peaked when people started to see the benefits that it brought to trade and the health sector.

"There seems to be a real interest in growing Fiji's organic industry from both the Government and private sector," he said.

"Fiji is doing quite well in organic farming in comparison to other countries in the Pacific and it has grown a lot over the years.

"But I think there is an opportunity for it to grow a lot more and actually having a bigger contribution to the health, wellbeing and economy of Fiji."

He explained the health benefits of organic farming were especially significant.

"Even though organic farming is growing, it is still a minor land use here in Fiji and until it becomes a major form of land use, it will start contributing to all of the other sectors including health.

"There are some major benefits as far as its contribution to the environment and health.

"One of the great things is there are whole communities and islands that have become totally organic.

"There can only be very good health benefits that come with that."



Adi Makelesi Tavaiqia with AgriBusiness Group managing director Jon Manhire during the FRIEND Fiji workshop in Tuvu, Lautoka on Tuesday.
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