

Tighter regulation on pesticides needed – Dr Hawea

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A locally based Non Governmental Organization, Foundation for Rural Enterprises and Development, FRIEND said tighter regulation on pesticides must be put in place.

Organization Associate Director Dr. Jone Hawea said people in the country are still using pesticides that potentially contributes to cancer.

With an increase in agricultural activities, people are now more in contact with pesticides.

FRIEND's Associate Director Dr. Jone Hawea said pesticides usage should be thoroughly regulated in the country.

” Current regulations only address the sales and registration of pesticides, it does not cover the use and there is no specific regulations covering the public health aspects of the use of these pesticides.”

The Organization from next week will embark on a campaign to raise awareness and hope their suggestions are taken on board by relevant authorities.

“Pesticide use is unregulated from applicators , the exposure of families living in farms and rural communities . The regulations here are only with Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Environment and there are no regulations under the public health act to cover the use of pesticides.” said Dr Hawea

However it is unknown as to how many pesticides used in Fiji do contribute to diseases such as cancer.

“Because direct causation has not been established and its a difficult thing to establish to say that this pesticide cause this cancer is almost impossible. ”

However Dr. Hawaea argues there have been studies done that proves certain pesticides do

contribute to cancer.