

Focus on organic farming - Fiji Times Online



Students of Sigatoka Methodist Primary School inside their classroom which was renovated by AusAID. Picture: METHODIST CHURCH

A GROUP of eight farmers have been taught natural farming techniques in order to promote organic farming and sustainable agricultural methods.

The farmers were trained in India after a selection process was conducted by the Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises and Development (FRIEND).

They learnt to collect rain water to use on farms and turning barren lands into farms and orchards using organic manures.

FRIEND founder and director Sashi Kiran said they wanted to promote organic farming as opposed to the use of chemical inputs.

"This will help in pest and weed control and increased yields," Ms Kiran said.

"While organically-grown produce is better for health, it is also a more sustainable way of farming and better for the environment."

The farmers visited Indian farms and facilities that incorporated organic practices in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.