

More funds sought - Fiji Times Online

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IN an attempt to keep the revenue stream of farmers flowing, the Foundation for Rural Intergrated Enterprise and Development (FRIEND) Fiji has introduced a backyard herb gardening program.

FRIEND Fiji director Shashi Kiran said although EU funding for the program ended last year, the program was progressing.

She said FRIEND Fiji was applying for grants to last for the next three years.

"We are doing backyard herb gardens and looking into the organic certification of other products," Ms Kiran said.

"FRIEND Fiji is also working with outer islands and our primary work includes livelihood projects and we are focussing on health as well."

According to Ms Kiran, the sale of FRIEND Fiji products had also increased significantly in the past few months.

"Sales of products have really picked up as we are doing six times more sales compared to previous times. The range of tea products has become really popular and the chutneys and gluten-free flours are doing well."

She said dried fruits such as pawpaws and bananas were favoured by several hoteliers.