

# NGO launches organic certification - Fiji Times Online

European Commissioner of International Cooperation and Development Neven Mimica with FRIEND Fiji associate director Dr Jone Hawea during the organic certification launch. Picture: SHAYAL DEVI

A LEADING non-government organisation (NGO) in the country yesterday launched its "home-grown" organic certified lemon grass tea from the Fiji Cha range.

The project, which took nearly two years to complete, was certified by FRIEND Fiji through a participatory guarantee system.

According to FRIEND Fiji director Shashi Kiran, the farmers certify themselves through peer review and FRIEND supervised and assisted in the training.

"Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community overlooks the processes, that they are being followed and provide the Organic Pasifika mark.

"We are very honoured that we launched our organic mark. It's very apt because this is the International Year of Soils and for us, sustainable soils mean sustainable families and agriculture.

"We are very happy that this is our first organic product in the market and hopefully, we will introduce more products that are organically certified for Fiji and the global market."

The launch was conducted by European Commissioner of International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica.