

Petition launch - Fiji Times Online

Mavuku Tokona

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A PETITION to regulate the 1971 Pesticide Act was launched to monitor the aggregate distribution of pesticides which may have detrimental effects on the country's populace.

The launch was hosted by the Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises & Development (FRIEND) and attended by several civil society organisations (CSO), along with the national adviser for non-communicable diseases for Fiji Dr Isimeli Tukana and IFOAM Organics International president Andre Leu.

FRIEND founder and director Sashi Kiran explained that after witnessing countless farmers and rural women expose themselves to dangerous toxins, she decided to start a mass awareness program.

"We have seen exposure and when we investigated there's nobody there to regulate it because there's no regulation either for the public health or the environment," she said.