

INDUSTRY

Koreans Plan Rice Revival At Navua



From left: Daniel Kim(secretary), Jong Wan Song (agriculturalist), Yong Lin Kim(architect), Dong Choon Kim (agriculturalist), Duk gyu Ha (architect), Hwa Jin Jung(engineer), SunchangJang(engineer), Young Joon Ju(field manager), Sang Hyun Jin(field manager), Sung Jin Lee(scientist), in Navua with the first lot of machinery for the project. Photo: GRACE ROAD FOOD COMPANY

RANOBA BAOA
SUVA

A Korean Christian-based foundation is taking a leap of faith to revive the rice farming industry in Fiji.

Grace Road Food Company registered in March and since then says it has invested \$3 million on setting up and planning for production in Navua

This investment has included importing state-of-the-art machinery.

With about \$7 million expected to be spent altogether to start up the project, the foundation is already employing 30 people on its 83-acre mataqali-owned land.

The people are the owners of the land from what is described as the Deuba mataqali. The site is located at Wainidova Road, off

“It’s about contributing positively to this small yet vibrant country and help people live a healthy life.”

Daniel Kim
Grace Road Food Company secretary

Queens Highway after the Navua Bridge. Grace Road Food secretary, Daniel Kim, said where Korea has only one planting season because of its winter whereas Fiji has two.

\$7 million

Total investment as start up with already \$3 million spent since March.

Hence, it is with this reason, the foundation saw it befitting to start a project here that would benefit Fiji economically and socially

Advanced mechanised-farming

But unlike the rice industry’s former heydays, where it was hard core labour-oriented, the foundation plans to transform this into an advanced mechanised-farming system, Mr Kim said.

Already, their company has started clearing the site by reconstructing and erecting irrigation canal, exploiting water well and reclamation of land for the construction of green houses.

“For the purpose of establishing advanced mechanised farming, various machines such as tractor, rice transplanter, power tiller, excavator, and combine harvester have been invested and imported from Korea,” Mr Kim said.

“Currently, the company is constructing a warehouse, office, lodging, dry rack, granary and rice mill at the farming site.

“Fiji has all the necessary elements for a successful rice industry, such as the climate, precipitation (rainfall) rate and soil condition.

Grace Road Food Company Limited is a corporate body with a focus of agricultural production as its primary business. The company is based upon a Christian foundation namely Grace Road Church of Presbyterian Assembly.

“However, research has shown that Fiji imports 85 per cent of consumed rice which creates a high dependency on imported rice instead of locally grown ones.”

Why?

Aside from the fact that the local produce is not able to meet the current demand, another major factor why people did not wish to buy locally-grown rice was because of its quality.

“The foundation plans to change this,” Mr Kim said confidently.

“We’ve already imported a good stock of rice seeds from Korea which has been through the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji for a thorough quarantine check.

“Following this, we will try out the seeds and gauge its adaptation ability to Fiji’s climate and soil. But we are confident we will see positive results.”

Why Fiji?

Mr Kim travelled many miles around the globe on behalf of the foundation to look for the one country which ticks all the boxes.

He travelled on the request of his mother, who is the pastor of their church. Having done so, he said Fiji met all the require-

ments that were expected and that investment policies were favourable.

But it’s not fully about a money-making business for foundation, Mr Kim said.

“It’s about contributing positively to this small yet vibrant country and help people live a healthy life style,” he said.

What’s next?

For now, development is going as planned with about 15 Koreans from the foundation who are helping with the technical support.

“We are not only interested in rice farming but the green houses will be assembled to produce vegetables and various fruits,” he said.

“The company is forging its infrastructure and plans to farm rice in an additional 200-acre land in Deuba.”

When asked why not choose the Northern Division to start up there given that it was declared a rice hub, he said it was impossible to do so because of limited desired farming space.

In the long term, the foundation plans to establish a vocational school offering technical expertise in agriculture not only exclusive to Fiji but to the region as well.

Feedback: ranobab@fijisun.com.fj

Korean Company to establish a commercial rice farming scheme in Deuba

By Semi Turaga

Sunday 17/08/2014



The Grace Road Food Company from Korea will be establishing a commercial rice farming scheme on an 85 acre piece of land in Narara, Deuba.

Grace Road Food Secretary, Daniel Kim said the company has already invested about \$3 million into the development of the area and hope to invest a total of \$7 million by the end of September.

Kim also said that once they kick off production they hope to supply the whole of Fiji with rice as it is a healthier alternative than Cassava.

He added that they aim to employ the people from the nearby villages in Deuba and also assist them with education.

Under the Ministry of Agriculture's 2020 Policy Agenda, it said that increasing the existing rice production areas in Fiji is necessary for Fiji to become self-sufficient in rice.

The Ministry of Agriculture is currently providing Grace Road Food Company with Technical Assistance.

Agriculture Ministry facilitating investment of Grace Road Food Company in Navua

By Elizabeth Rokosuka and Semi Turaga

Monday 13/10/2014

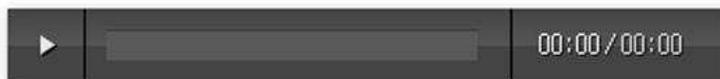


Deputy Secretary Agriculture Development Uraia Waibuta

The Ministry of Agriculture fully supports the Grace Road Food Company in Narara, Navua because there is some form of partnership between the investor and the landowners.

Deputy Secretary Agriculture Development Uraia Waibuta said the Ministry is facilitating and assisting this investment because of the level of commitment the new rice company has shown in terms of investment.

Waibuta said the Grace Road Food Company has already leased eighty acres of land and they have started with land preparation.



Waibuta said the Ministry is helping the company to use water from Navua river.



Meanwhile, Grace Road Food Company Secretary, Daniel Kim says they have used 3 million dollars so far for their project which includes the importing of all their equipment.

Kim said they are expected to start planting rice seedlings soon.



INVESTMENT

Korean rice investor plans an agriculture school



Grace Road Food Company staff members.

Further plans includes expanding project out of Viti Levu into Vanua Levu

RACHNA LAL
SUVA

Grace Road Food Company at Deuba was established as an extension of Grace Road Church of Korea. Its objective and aspiration is to fulfil rice import substitution in Fiji.

In order to execute this endeavour, however, it proved necessary to create an environment where rice farming is suitable.

The company saw it necessary to establish an agricultural institution which can educate and support various agricultural knowledge and technology.

Executive director, Daniel Kim, said their aim is to have this institution not only for farmers, but have it grow to be an educational centre that benefits local communities.

The company will invest \$4 million in the institution. The funds will be sourced through the foundation in Korea.

SUBJECTS

The specific classes

- Agriculture
Machinery, fertilisation, mechanical farming technology
- Engineering
Architecture, conceptual design, welding, plastering, construction
- Computer Science
Typing, informatics
- Foreign Language
English, Korean, Chinese, and Japanese
- Vocational classes
Hair styling, Fashion

Mr Kim said this entire project is being done in partnership with Deuba Mataqali. The core curriculum of the institution will be teaching the Bible. Then the curriculum will spread out to subjects such as agriculture, engineering, computer science, foreign language, and various vocational classes including hair styling and fashion. "Currently, the land to establish a school has been provided and this project is expected to launch immediately after the approval from the Ministry of Education," Mr Kim said.

Future investments

Mr Kim further confirmed they will be adding to the \$4 million investment and the rice farming project is also expected to take up a large part of the education.

"We are basically planting a variety of rice, vegetables, and fruits," he said.

"Not only will we help the growth of farming in Viti Levu, but also plan to expand our project towards Vanua Levu.

"We forecast milling factories and grain storage to be located at both islands.

"We truly want to create an environment in which many farmers can grow rice in Fiji for rice import substitution."

\$4 million

Will be invested by Grace Road Food Company in setting up the institution. The funds will be sourced from the Grace Road Church Foundation in Korea.

Support for small scale farmers

Mr Kim said they have also established a company called "The Seed" to help support and encourage small scale farmers in improving their field cultivation for better crops.

"We plan to improve rice varieties and share the field based research studies," he said.

Feedback: rachnal@fijisun.com.fj

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Grace Road Food Company staff members and Fiji National University students and Faculty members.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

FNU students visit rice farm in Deuba

**RACHNAL LAL
SUVA**

Students and staff of FNU held an education industrial field visit to Grace Road Food Company's rice farm located in Deuba this week.

These students saw mechanised rice farming, and witnessed machines and advanced, modern rice farm infrastructure that new in Fiji.

The machineries include combine harvester and transplanter. The students were able to observe how the machines were operated and how the rice farming scheme was maintained on a large-scale.

This visit was very encouraging. Students observed and learned on-site practically and theoretically.

Grace Road Food Company's executive director, Daniel Kim, said they don't only have a commercial objective but also to contribute to advancement of Fijian agriculture through education and share of technology.

"But what is more important than ad-

“ *The doors to our farm will always be open not only for students but to any Fijians who are passionate about farming rice.*

Daniel Kim

Grace Road Food Company's executive director

vanced farming technology is the motivation and passion of Fijians to cultivate rice," he said.

"The visitation from FNU students is a good example of our intention properly transferred to Fiji.

"The doors to our farm will always be open not only for students but to any Fijians who are passionate about farming rice."

Feedback: rachnal@fijisun.com.fj

Grace Road Learns from Thailand's Rice Farming Methods

RANOBA BAOA
SUVA

The Korean church based company that's on a mission to revive our rice industry recently had its management team visit the biggest rice exporter in the world, Thailand. Grace Road Food Company Limited's interest was in organic rice farming. The group toured various rice producing regions with Thailand's Ministry of Agriculture.

Managing director, Daniel Kim was accompanied by Finance manager Taewook Park for

Managing director, Daniel Kim was accompanied by Finance manager Taewook Park for a week's visit to the land formerly known as Siam. Thailand is at the centre of the Indochina peninsula in Southeast Asia.

a week's visit to the land formerly known as Siam. Thailand is at the centre of the Indochina



From Left: Dr. Goi, Director's Assistant, Dr. Amara, Director, Mr. Daniel Kim, Ms. Eun Hye Park, Mr. Taewook Park, Ms. Liu, in Thailand recently.

peninsula in Southeast Asia.

The country presently recommends its farmers to change their way of production organically, which matches with the direction that Grace Road Food Company aspires to.

Globally, there's been an upward trend in consumption of organically produced crops due to the keen interest in human health and the environment.

And as such, Grace Road's aspiration to change all farming methods to organic methods was of great importance.

Mr Kim said: "Through this trip we were not only able to gain great ideas such as producing fertilisers using worms, but also gained confidence as to why rice has to be cultivated organically.

"As people already know, organic farming benefits the purchaser's health, soil quality and the environment.

Additionally, since organic farming does not apply pesticides or chemical fertilizers, it reduces the overall production for all farmers, making organic farming profitable for all, he added.

"We will continue to research beneficially farming methods and apply organic farming techniques across all production schemes of Grace Road Food Company.

"In essence, our ultimate goal is to lead the way for Fiji's agricultural produce to be cultivated organically and visiting Thailand was a meaningful step to fulfilling that goal."

Feedback: ranobab@fijisun.com.fj

RICE INDUSTRY

Grace Road Plans 2020 Full Rice Substitution

WITH GOVERNMENT AND STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT IN PLACE

RANOBA BAOA
NAVUA

Grace Road Food Company Limited has announced an ambitious target and goal to Government. This is to accelerate a full rice substitution in Fiji by 2020.

It said it would be achieved with areas it feels need to be looked into by Government.

These areas included education, land and infrastructure development.

This is to ensure that its goal, in line with decreasing our dependency on rice imports and reducing our import bill, with stakeholder input and support, be fulfilled.

The proposal took place during a recent visit by the newly-appointed Commissioner Central Meleti Bainmarama and his team.

The Korean Christian-based church/foundation that has

This is to ensure that its goal, in line with decreasing our dependency on rice imports and reducing our import bill, with stakeholder input and support be fulfilled.

undertaken perhaps one of the most progressive and a fast-tracked project as far as rice farming was concerned.

Feedback

The visit indicated that Mr Bainmarama and his team were impressed with the state-of-the-art agricultural machineries and the rice fields that were ready to be reaped for harvest.

Mr Kim said: "GRFC consists of three expert teams that are agriculture-team for research and development, construction team for infrastructure and managing-team for overseeing the entire company's business.

"We are ready to enhance Fiji's



Meleti Bainmarama and Daniel Kim

“GRFC consists of three expert teams that are agriculture-team for research and development, construction team for infrastructure and managing-team for overseeing the entire company's business.

Daniel Kim
Grace Road Food MD

rice farming status.”

Meleti Bainmarama said support and cooperation will be rendered to Grace Road Food Company's vision and the projects that the company is running.

He assured collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture to create a Task Forced Team (TFT).

Feedback: ranobab@fijisun.com.fj

GRACE ROAD FOOD

Proposal Includes:

- **Education:** There needs to be Fiji Government's full cooperation in education over the agricultural practices. Also, government has to advertise the necessity of improvement of people's diet and the importance of rice as a main meal.
- **Land:** There are many vacant lands that local mataqalis have lawful rights over. GRFC requests Fiji Government's support from locating these vacant lands that can be converted to farmable lands all the way to signing a contract over these vacant lands.
- **Infrastructure:** Fiji Government's support is needed in constructing infrastructures that are crucial in rice farming such as water channels.



AGRICULTURE

Grace Road Food ready to harvest second variety



The Fijian rice variety which Grace Road Food Company will harvest today in Deuba.

RACHNA LAL
SUVA

Grace Road Food Company Limited is now ready with its second harvest of a different variety of rice on its farm in Deuba.

The Korean-based company is currently testing four different Fijian rice varieties.

This is in order to identify which

variety yields the most quantity of rice as well as finding out which variety is the most resistant to rice diseases and pests.

It will harvest the Fijian rice variety "Totoka" today with an expected yield of four to 4.5 tons per rice per acre.

Grace Road Food Company had its first rice harvest with the Fijian variety "Star," and the yield was 4 tons per 1 acre.

As per data obtained by the company from the Ministry of Agriculture, the average rice yield in Fiji is around 1.5 to 2 tons per acre.

"Therefore Grace Road Food Company's rice harvest, in comparison with the average yield in Fiji, was much higher," the company said.

The company said it remained committed to full rice substitution in Fiji by 2020.

Present to witness the harvesting

today will be government officials, biosecurity officers, provincial administrators, and native land owners.

The members of Ministry of Agriculture will also be attending the event on behalf of Minister of Agriculture who couldn't attend the event as a result of his visitation to India.

Feedback: rachnal@fijisun.com.fj



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GRACE ROAD FOOD COMPANY CONTRIBUTING TO ECONOMIC GROWTH

1/29/2015

The Grace Road Food Company recorded another achievement as it harvested its second variety of rice in Navua this week.

The company has been commended for its role in providing employment for locals and for developing rice farming potential in Navua.

The Company's managing director, Daniel Kim said the harvest is a success for the company since its establishment last year.

"We are planting four locally grown varieties and they are Star, Totoka, Nuinui and Deepak and our aim is to help and support the economy, upgrade skills, educate and introduce new

technologies to the people of Fiji," he said.

"Fiji has a suitable condition for planting rice and also the introduction of farm machines such as the combined harvester will help advance the minds of the local as it is easy, convenient and fast compared to the traditional method," he said.

Sakeasi Labalaba, a landowner together with family and Mataqali members, is one of those that have been assisted by the company.

"We have benefited a lot from this company, in terms of employment, financial benefits, education of our children and the development of idle land," he said.

The Ministry's senior agriculture officer (Serua/Namosi) Aporosa Lalabalavu commended the company for its contribution to Fiji's economic development.

"It is very interesting as they want to develop rice in Fiji and they are willing to work with the local people to reduce rice import bill and the Ministry of Agriculture is working closely with them to help in areas of irrigation and seed distribution," he said.

The Grace Road Food Company hopes to extend its rice operation to the North, venture into vegetables, livestock and aquaculture and establish a research institute, Milling Factory and other infrastructures.



AGRICULTURE

Grace Road Food looks into expansion

Successfully harvests second variety of rice yielding 4.5 tons of rice per acre

STELLA MORESIO
DEUBA

A Korean Church-based firm, Grace Road Food Company in Deuba, is looking at expanding their rice project this year from Viti Levu to Vanua Levu.

It also plans to venture into vegetable, livestock and aquaculture and establish a research institute, milling factory and other infrastructures.

Company managing director, Daniel Kim, said they currently have six mataqalis wanting to work with them on Vanua Levu and three in Viti Levu.

"We work with the native people where they give us the land, we develop it, we train them, give them a job opportunity and the market," he said.

The announcement comes as the

Watch the mechanical harvesting of the rice



How to use QR code: Page-3

company harvested their second variety of rice "Totoka" in Deuba this week.

Established a year ago, the main goal of the company was to develop a quality standard of rice farming in Fiji.

The food company provides training for the local people on how to plant their rice, how to harvest including the skills that are needed will be taught to all those who are willing to work with them.

Mr Kim said the Fijian Government and the company share the same aim for an import substitution plan on rice by the year 2020.

"The Fijian Government and we



A combined harvester harvesting rice at Grace Road Food's farm in Deuba. Photo: PAULINI RATULAILAI

have to work together. We need to change the mindset of the land owners and the locals so the local people can plant our rice with motivation," he said.

The company plants different varieties of rice and had set it off in Navua as a research centre hence the rice that was harvested will be stored in the shed as seeds for other farms.

Harvesting

Meanwhile, representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture were present to witness the successful event of the yielding of an estimated 4.5 tons of rice per acre.

Company Farm manager Chour Kyu Lee said the machine used to harvest the rice was the best combine harvester in Korea. Therefore using the processor minimises the loss of grains.

Grace Food Company now has 1500 acres of land which they signed on an agreement with the land owners for the betterment of the local



The combined harvester discharges rice collected. Photo: PAULINI RATULAILAI

economy.

Sakeasi Labalaba, a landowner together with family and Matabaqali members, is one of those who have been assisted by the company.

"We have benefitted a lot from this

company, in terms of employment, financial benefits, education of our children and the development of idle land," he said.

Feedback: stella.moresio@fijisun.com.fj

Second harvest

By ROPATE VALEMEI

A RICE company hopes to extend its reach in the country by establishing another operation in the Northern Division.

The Grace Road Food Company in Navua will also venture into vegetables, livestock and aquaculture and plans to establish a research institute, milling factory and other infrastructure.

The company recorded another achievement as it harvested its second variety of rice in Navua this week.

It was commended for its role in providing employment for locals and for developing rice farming potential in the area.

Managing director Daniel Kim said the harvest was a success for the company since it started operations last year.

"We are planting four locally-grown varieties and they are star, *totoka*, *nuinui* and *deepak* and our aim is to help and sup-

port the economy, upgrade skills, educate and introduce new technologies for the people of Fiji," he said in a statement.

"Fiji has a suitable condition for planting rice and also the introduction of farm machines such as the combined harvester will help advance the minds of the locals as it is easy, convenient and fast compared to the traditional method," he said.

Sakeasi Labalaba, a landowner together with family and *mataqali* members, are just some of the locals that had been assisted by the company.

"We have benefitted a lot from this company in terms of employment, financial benefits, education of our children and the development of idle land," he said.

Ministry of Agriculture senior agricultural officer for Serua and Namosi Aporosa Lalabalavu commended the company for its contribution to Fiji's economic development.

10 BUSINESS

EMPLOYMENT

Grace Road Hosts First Conference

**RANOBA BAOA
SUVA**

Grace Road Food Company Limited, will host its first major international conference on Rice Farming for Food Security in Fiji on February 19.

The conference dubbed will be enabled through world-wide leading rice seed researcher Dr Kyung-Ho Kang (National Institute of Crop Science, RDA). It will be held at its Deuba Rice-farm office with 80 people expected to attend.

Also in attendance will be Professor of Biotechnology Dr. Seong-Gene Lee (Chonnam National University)

Dr Kyung-Ho Kang worked for IRRI (International Rice Research Institute) from 2008 to 2010, and is currently working for KAFACI (Korea-Africa Food & Agriculture Cooperation Initiative) and NICS (National Institute of Crop Science, RDA).

Dr Kyung-Ho Kang is also associated with the National Institute of Crop Science of South Korea.

He will also explain the discoveries behind his research, examples of his rice-seed research, and the performance of his research application.

Through the keynote speech, he will enunciate a proposal of the best suited type of rice for Fiji.



Dr Kang (seated third from right) at the On-the-Job training on Enhancement of High-Yielding Rice Germplasm in Africa the past year.

Additionally, Dr Seong-Gene Lee of Chonnam National University in South Korea will explain the importance of food security in preparation of worldwide climate change.

Grace Road managing director Daniel Kim said: "Grace Road Food Company Limited is currently undertaking tremendous amount of effort in order to raise the rice-farming industry.

"Establishment of Research Center, out of all the effort being put in order for food security and the

BRIEF PROGRAMME:

- Rice breeding R&D activities for Africa through KAFACI programme in Korea
- Achievements & challenges of Rice research in Korea
- Implication of climate change on crop yield and food security.
- Grace Road Food Company Limited's plan for year 2020 rice self-sufficiency

value of high rice yield and quality through seed improvement.

He added: "Along with this goal, Grace Road Food Company Limited will also announce its plan about how we can achieve rice self-sufficiency by the year 2020." "is the missing link we have been looking for."

Feedback: ranobab@fijisun.com.fj



Grace Road Food Company staff members and management with residents of Galoa Village in Navua.

Company revitalises rice farming

By ROPATE VALEMEI

THROUGH its continuous investment in farm development, a rice company in Navua is expanding its farming project from Navua to Galoa.

Grace Road Food Company Ltd managing director Daniel Kim said the Galoa farming site was their second farming initiative.

Mr Kim said they would continuously develop farm lands in full

partnership with the residents of Galoa.

He said the land the company agreed to develop was about 200 acres.

"We are confident that this jungle-like land will be transformed into a beautiful farm," he said.

He said the company's machinery would also expand as native farm lands needed advanced development for rice farming.

He said other agricultural ma-

chinery would also be brought in to suit Fiji's climate.

Senior agricultural officer at the Ministry of Agriculture, John Cox, said the company provided the spark to revitalise the rice farming sector last year, adding that spark was turning into flames in 2015.

Meanwhile, the company is hosting the International Conference on Rice Farming for Food Security in Fiji on February 19 in Navua..



Conference participants at the Grace Road Food Company Limited headquarters in Navua.

Fijian Rice is growing, says Grace Road

**RANOBA BAQA
SUVA**

The time is now! These were the resounding words by Grace Road Food Company Limited's managing director Daniel Kim at their first international conference on rice production yesterday.

The International Conference on Rice Farming for Food Security in Fiji sponsored by the company was held at Grace Road's headquarters in Navua.

World-wide leading rice seed researcher, Korea's Dr Kyung-Ho Kang was a major speaker at the conference.

About 80 rice industry stakeholders, including financial institutions, diplomat representatives agriculture experts were all present under one roof to hear just what the group had in store.

Mr Kim said the passion that drove their Korean church-based group to help Government revive the rice industry was out of the need to help Fijians sustain themselves for the future.

He said this was in line with their ambitious target of full rice substitution in Fiji by 2020 as the country, he added had one of the best climates in the world to farm and produce rice.

"We plan to expand rice plantation up to 18,000 acres (100,000 tons rice production) by 2020," he said.

"This is a significant achievement and milestone for this company and for the rice industry in Fiji as a whole," Permanent Secretary for Agriculture, Uraia Waibuta said of Grace Road Food Company.

Fiji's Rice Industry to become Self-Sufficient

20 Feb, 2015



The Grace Road Food Company (GRFC) based in Navua plans to contribute to a rice self-sufficiency economy in Fiji by the year 2020.

This was part of a presentation by the GRFC to Agriculture Ministry officials and stakeholders at the International Conference on Rice held in Navua yesterday.

Opening the Conference, acting Permanent Secretary for Agriculture, Mr Uraia Waibuta thanked the Company for their invaluable foresight and contribution to the development of the rice industry.

The Conference discussed the importance of food security with the need to increase rice production through seed improvement and value of high rice yield, improve technology and quality as well as identifying the land area needed in order to be self-sufficient.

Mr Waibuta said the Rice conference augured well with the Ministry's strategic focus in the 2020 Agriculture Policy Agenda which is to modernize the agriculture sector in Fiji.

"When we modernize agriculture, we will see how significant and positive the impact will be on production, productivity, the livelihood of the people, on food security and of course, its contribution to the economy or to GDP."

Mr Waibuta added that the Ministry will also focus on rural transformation – a new approach to strengthen small holder farmers, encourage cooperatives and small and micro enterprises, use of new technology and technology transfer and capacity building.

"Currently the Ministry is embarking on improving our efficiencies and service delivery. We are collating and improving our statistical data for planning and sound policy decision making. In the last couple of weeks, you must have heard of our campaign, encouraging everyone who has interest in agriculture to visit any of our agricultural stations for awareness and information. These are some of the strategies the Ministry is undertaking to set the platform for this modernization," he said.

Mr Waibuta also thanked the GRFC team for the significant investment of the company in Fiji and acknowledged the presence of agricultural stakeholders at the Conference meeting.

"Your presence does not only show your support in the development of the agriculture sector in Fiji but also show your interest to know how best we can make use of our available resources together with the latest technology," he said.

The Grace Road Food Company has found the best rice varieties suited for local conditions and these include the Star, Totoka, Nuinui and Deepak with an average yield of six (6) to eight (8) tonnes per hectare.

"This is also what most rice farmers need for the improvement of their livelihoods. With this technology and new varieties, we will share and learn on how we can take this knowledge and replicate it at our various farms.

"We will learn and share the importance of food production in times of climate change and the necessity of continuing research for rice production for food security, to increase our production and decrease our import bill," Mr Waibuta said.

Since Fiji already has five local varieties of rice in existence, Dr. Kyung-Ho Kang of the Rural Development Administration (RDA), National Institute of Crop Science (NICS) said Fiji has the potential to increase production if other varieties are introduced.

In 2014, the country produced around 6,282 tonnes of rice, importing a total of over 30,000 tonnes with a total value of around \$40 million annually with farmers producing an average of three (3) tonnes per hectare.



During the International Conference on Rice.



Members of the International Conference on Rice Farming.

For further information please contact Principal Information Officer Ms. Reama Naco on phone 3383155/3237326 extension 361126 or email: reama.naco@govnet.gov.fj



Fiji: \$10m investment for rice industry

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Fiji Times | 23 February 2015

Fiji: \$10m investment for rice industry

by Ropate Valemei

A Korean rice company in Navua is looking at investing \$10million in the revitalisation of the rice industry in the country.

For Grace Road Company Ltd, this means more land to be acquired to employ more local people for their rice farm.



Grace Road's rice farm in Narara, Deuba.

Company managing director Daniel Kim said local people needed to be educated on why we should eat rice.

"From root crops to the rice, we want the Government to educate the local people on the importance of rice," Mr Kim said.

He said a firm, stable production and supply of food was of most important requisite that influenced a country's economy.

And when considering the poor production of rice in Fiji, the gravity of this requisite cannot be emphasised enough.

With the investment, he said they would provide all the affordable and suitable machines which were on their way from Thailand.

He said these included 20 units of machines with 16 units of tractor.

"Think about it, it's huge. We will be the main distribution for the rest of the Pacific Islands."

He said they would also provide the market for Fijians who utilised their land for rice farming.

"Fiji has a big land which can be utilised for farming. After they farm, we will buy their rice at a reasonable price so all Fijian can continue planting rice."

With four varieties of rice seeds in the country, he said they were looking at introducing more variety of rice seeds.

The company is also looking at building a rice research centre and an agricultural training institute in the country to train local people and Government officials on rice farming.

For the research centre, he said they were looking to spend about \$0.5m and \$0.5m for the training institute which they hoped to complete by October this year.

Source: [Fiji Times](#)

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\$10m investment for rice industry

Ropate Valemei

Monday, February 23, 2015

A KOREAN rice company in Navua is looking at investing \$10million in the revitalisation of the rice industry in the country.

For Grace Road Company Ltd, this means more land to be acquired to employ more local people for their rice farm.

Company managing director Daniel Kim said local people needed to be educated on why we should eat rice.

"From root crops to the rice, we want the Government to educate the local people on the importance of rice," Mr Kim said.

He said a firm, stable production and supply of food was of most important requisite that influenced a country's economy.

And when considering the poor production of rice in Fiji, the gravity of this requisite cannot be emphasised enough.

With the investment, he said they would provide all the affordable and suitable machines which were on their way from Thailand.

He said these included 20 units of machines with 16 units of tractor.

"Think about it, it's huge. We will be the main distribution for the rest of the Pacific Islands."

He said they would also provide the market for Fijians who utilised their land for rice farming.

"Fiji has a big land which can be utilised for farming. After they farm, we will buy their rice at a reasonable price so all Fijian can continue planting rice."

With four varieties of rice seeds in the country, he said they were looking at introducing more variety of rice seeds.

The company is also looking at building a rice research centre and an agricultural training institute in the country to train local people and Government officials on rice farming.

For the research centre, he said they were looking to spend about \$0.5m and \$0.5m for the training institute which they hoped to complete by October this year.

Grace Road Is The Type Needed, Says Waibuta



Grace Road staff members, holding samples of the rice recently harvested. Photo: RANOBA BAOA

February 23 10:23 2015

by Ranoba Baa, SUVA

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Grace Road Food Company Limited is the type of investment that is needed in Fiji, says Permanent Secretary for Agriculture, Uraia Waibuta.

Mr Waibuta said this during Grace Road Food’s first International Conference on Rice Farming for Food Security in Fiji the past Thursday.

“It has the highest level of commitment to come and produce and also to partner with the locals,” Mr Waibuta said at the conclusion of the half-day event.

“That is an area that we so thankful of and it’s not only them who will be benefitting from what they produce but it’s also the landowners who can benefit.

“For some of the projects, it can be theirs but on the other hand there will be a joint partnership with the landowners whereby whatever is being done on their farm is also being replicated with landowners.”

He added the best part on working with the rice company was that it was on all levels a win-win situation.

Plans

The company based in Navua is building an Agriculture Research Institute it expects to open in October.

It recently opened its second farm in Galoa, Navua, and has major plans to move into the North as approvals are underway.

Managing director, Daniel Kim said they have additionally invested \$5 million on state-of-the-art machinery from Thailand, the biggest rice exporter in the world.

To date, Grace Road has acquired with the help of the landowners, 1000 acres and hopes to acquire in total 13,500 acres of land by 2019 to produce 80,000 tonnes of rice annually.

Mr Kim added this would enable them to achieve its goal rice self-sufficiency by 2020 and expand further thereon in in areas of targeting international nice markets where they will grow high-end varieties.

Feedback: ranobab@fijisun.com.fj

AGRICULTURE

Talks on Agri and Rice Farming Institute Positive

Government lay out commitment in the set up

RANOBA BAOA
SUVA

Talks on establishing Grace Road Food Company Limited's first training institute ended on a positive note in Navua this week.

Minister of Agriculture Inia Seruiratu, and Grace Road Food managing director Daniel Kim, established focused on Agriculture Training Institute and the Rice Research Institute took place.

Grace Road plans to open the institute come October.

The purpose of constructing the educational institutions, according to Grace Road, is understood to not be limited to transferring the farming techniques with the basis of hands-on field experience.

However the company's vision is to have these institutions grow to be a place of intellectual convention to anyone who want to understand and on-site practices for farming.

Mr Kim said: "We sincerely appreciate Mr Inia Seruiratu's supporting our project from the beginning.

"We want to rebuild the Rice Industrial Area in Navua, Nausori, and Tailevu.

"With this intimate cooperation with the Government and the generation of talent-through the Agricultural Institution and the establishment of Rice Research Center,

INSTITUTE CURRICULUM:

- Rice Farming
- Vegetable Farming
- Organic Farming
- Machinery Training

MINISTRY SUPPORT:

- Quick and efficient administrative processing
- Installation of necessary infrastructure (Irrigation Channel, Road Maintenance)
- Tar-Seal Road and its maintenance for Deuba Farm and the Agricultural Institute
- Rebuilding the Rice Industrial Area in Navua, Nausori, and Tailevu

we will invigorate the Rice Industry."

Through this revitalisation, Mr Kim said, Grace Road will achieve its 2020 Fiji Rice Self-Sufficiency Scheme."

Optimistic

Mr Seruiratu responded with great optimism to the company's vision, and promised full support for the rapid actualisation of the plan.

"The education of the agriculture institute should not be limited to the technical aspects of farming, but create entrepreneurship simultaneously."



The team at Grace Road Food Company in Navua.

Grace Road to Invest \$4m in Rice Mill

RANGESA BADA
SUVA

Grace Road Food Company Limited is investing \$4 million into its next phase of development, a Rice Processing Complex.

The state-of-the-art complex will be the facility that will see through and manage every post-rice harvest process ranging from drying to milling and eventually to packaging.

With planning assistance by South Korean-based Shin Heung Steel Company Limited the complex will include the construction of a 500 tonne silo.

Works are expected to be complete by November. This outcome eventuated following a meeting this week with Minister for Agriculture Inia Seruiratu, Grace Road managing director Daniel Kim, Shin Heung steel executives.

Mr Kim said: "We have set fire onto rice farming movement to fulfill 2020 Rice Self-Sufficiency in Fiji."

"This RPC Construction by Grace Road will be the key cornerstone in expediting the advancement of Fiji Rice Farming Industry.

"Our passion to fulfill 2020 Rice Self-Sufficiency will not seize up," he assured.

About Shin Heung

Shin Heung Steel is considered South Korea's leader of the RPC Industry in South Korea, proudly boasts of a 40-year history and its 70% domestic market share.

Company representatives said indicated it was thrilled to pioneer Fiji as a new market, and was elated to contribute to the Fiji Rice Farming industry all through the partnership with the Grace Road Food Company.

Beginning with the foundational construction in April, the RPC construction will be completed within November this year.

The Construction scheme includes a month of architectural planning, two months of manufacturing in South Korea, a month of international shipping, and three to four months of assembling on-site.

From land cultivation to seed management, post-harvest polishing and packaging, all rice production process will be administered by the GRFC.

Through this synchronised, holistic system, Grace Road is aggressively pushing forward in mass producing high-quality rice.

Feedback: ranobab@fijisun.com.fj



Grace Road MD Daniel Kim and Minister for Agriculture Inia Seruiratu.

[Home](#) / [NEWS](#) / NEW SIGNING TO STRENGTHEN RICE PRODUCTION

NEW SIGNING TO STRENGTHEN RICE PRODUCTION



admin on April 10, 2015 - 5:02 pm in [NEWS](#)

☆☆☆☆☆ The Grace Road Food Company (GRFC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Mataqali Tacilevu from Matacaucau village in Korovou this week as part of the Company's efforts to reach the Government's vision of self-sufficiency in rice production by the year 2020.

Speaking in the iTaukei language, representative of the Mataqali, Mr Nemani Seru said that they were grateful to Grace Road Food for this timely initiative.



"The signing of the MOU was made possible after a series of discussions with the company and the Ministry of Agriculture. We are fortunate that the Ministry acted as a mediator between the Mataqali (clan) and the company and are grateful to them in initiating the meeting," he said.

Mr Seru said that they will work together with the Company to grow rice on more than 300 acres of the Mataqali land.

"Part of this land was used for grazing by the Fulton College in the past and has now been given back to the Mataqali by the iTaukei Land Trust Board."

Grace Road Food Company managing director Daniel Kim said, the signing of the MOU marks the beginning of a partnership between the company and the Mataqali.

"The development in the area will involve a lot of time and commitment from both parties," Mr Kim said.



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RSS



NEW SIGNING TO STRENGTHEN RICE PRODUCTION

4/10/2015

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AGRICULTURE

Grace Road Food introduces earthworm farming here

RACHINALAL SUVA

Grace Road Food Company Limited is now ready to introduce 'earthworm farming', which is believed to be a first in Fiji.

The Korean-headquartered company visited Australia for organic Earthworm Compost (vermicompost) training from March 31 to April 4 and bringing earthworms to Fiji.

The team included Grace Road Food managing director, Daniel Kim, and six members from the company.

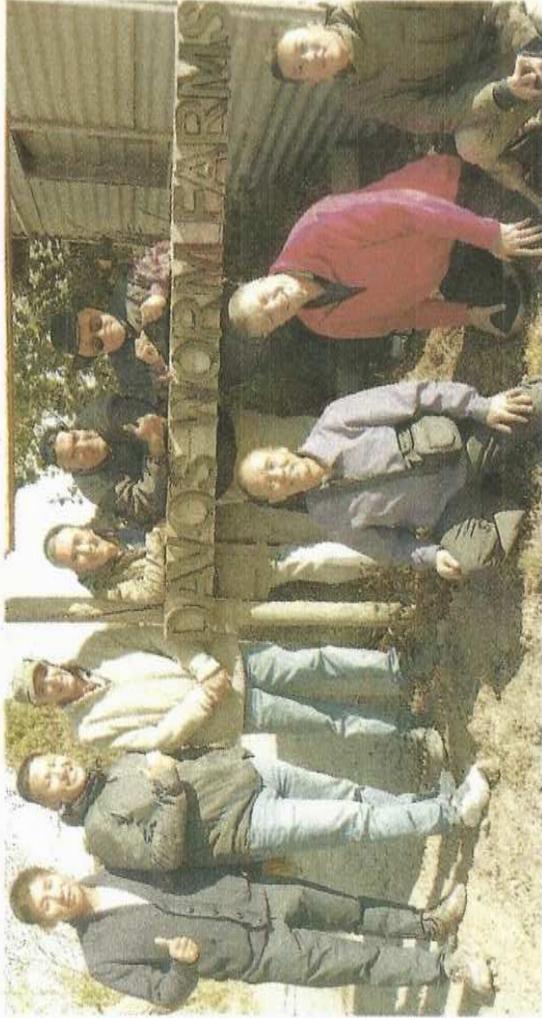
They were also accompanied by an Entomologist from Biosecurity Authority of Fiji, Nilesh Chand and Senior Research Officer from Koronivia Research Centre/Ministry of Agriculture, Apenisa Taleimalakadavu Sallo.

The team visited Davo's Worm Farm in Victoria, and underwent intensive training for three days.

Mr Kim confirmed the team arrived in Fiji with the Earthworms the past Saturday.

He said fertiliser in Fiji is imported and highly priced, so local farmers cannot afford chemical fertilisers.

"This earthworm farming allows farmers to use organic vermicom-



At Davo's Worm Farm in Australia -Grace Road Food Company managing director, Daniel Kim (second left) and owner of Davo's Worm Farm, David Davidson (third left), with the rest of the team who attended the Earthworm Compost Training.

post with low costs," he said.

Micro-organisms absorb the nutrition from the air and other surrounding environment to make the soil healthier," he said.

"The earthworm creates castings (vermicompost) through decomposing food waste, animal manure and water sludge and so on.

"The earthworm's body is the best incubator for microorganism cultivation. When the earthworms eat food, microorganisms are bred inside.

"After that, the earthworms excrete feces including propagated microorganisms as much as the worm's weight.

"This vermicompost is 'an extraordinarily powerful growth promoter in crops and five to seven times more nutritious than ordinary compost and significantly higher over chemical fertilizers.

"This is while also repelling crop pests and suppressing diseases protecting the soil, restoring and im-

proving its natural fertility."

The owner of Davo's Worm Farm, David Davidson, said: "Worm Castings generally make available 5 times more nitrogen, 7 times more Phosphorus and 11 times more Potassium than the surrounding soil.

"This effectively eliminates the need to ever apply NPK fertilisers again."

He said the environment can be protected by reducing waste amount as the earthworm eats food waste and water sludge. Moreover, we can reduce waste disposal costs."

An actual example in South Korea, government provides agricultural subsidy to farmers who make the vermicompost, because through worm farming, they can reduce the environmental and economic costs of landfill.

Why from overseas?
One of the earthworm species most often used for composting is

the Red Wiggler which does not exist in Fiji.

This species is not the same kinds that are found in ordinary soil in Fiji.

According to many studies, the Red Wiggler has more propagation power, ability of organic matter decomposition and adaptability of environment change than any other species.

Mr Kim said: "The way for sustainable agricultural development is not far away.

"Imagine, these great little recyclers decompose waste and create helpful compost at the same time.

"I feel confident that these small creatures are not just earthworms, but are the earth's warm future.

"Grace Road Food Company will make this Deuba Farm to be the best modal case of organic farm in the world."

Feedback: rachnel@fijisun.com.fj

[/ Front page / News](#)

Food company signs MOU with landowners

TALEBULA KATE

Sunday, April 12, 2015

Update: 8:21PM THE Grace Road Food Company signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the mataqali (landowning unit) Tacilevu from Matacaucau Village in Korovou, Tailevu earlier this week.

It is part of the company's efforts to reach the Government's vision of self-sufficiency in rice production by the year 2020.

A representative of the landowning unit, Nemani Seru said they were grateful to the company for the timely initiative.

Mr Seru said they would work with the company to grow rice on more than 300 acres of mataqali land.

Grace Road Food Company managing director Daniel Kim said the signing of the MOU marked the beginning of a partnership between the company and the mataqali.



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Sava Weather, Fiji Islands.

Tue, 01 Dec
Max: 30°C (85°F)
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16mph / 26km/h (SE)

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Grace Road Food Company signs MOU with a clan in the Tailevu Province

Posted by: Zabeena in Local Business @ April 13, 2015

By: Sofaia Koroitanao



The Navua based Grace Road Food Company has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a clan in the Tailevu province.

This will see the Mataqali Tacilevu from Matakaucau village in Korovou get into rice farming for the first time ever.

The initiative is part of government's vision towards rice self-sufficiency economy in Fiji by the year 2020.

Mataqali Tacilevu spokesman Nemani Seru says, the occasion was something they've been eagerly waiting for, following series of talks with the company.

Grace Road Food Company Managing Director Daniel Kim says, the MOU is the beginning of its friendship with the Mataqali Tacilevu.

Kim noted, developments are not always easy to get them off the ground, and they require a lot of commitment.

The Ministry of Agriculture mediated the negotiations between Grace Road Food Company the mataqali Tacilevu.

4 BUSINESS

AGRICULTURE

Grace Road set for rice farming in Tailevu

**RACHNA LAL
SUVA**

The Grace Road Food Company will develop approximately 350 acres of flat land in Tailevu which is seen to be highly-suitable for rice farming.

Company representatives recently met with members of Mataqali Tacilevu at the Matacaucu Village community hall.

Matacaucu in Tailevu is the third farming initiative undertaken by the company and it has promised to continually develop farm lands.

Grace Road managing director, Daniel Kim, said in Tailevu, there are vast flat field area and it was rice industrial area before with Navua and Nausori.

"But nowadays, most land of Tailevu region has been neglected," he said.

"This Matacaucu farm, the third farming site of Grace Road Food Company in Tailevu, has a great meaning for 2020 Rice Self-sufficiency Plan.

"It holds a great meaning because the farm development in Matacaucu is the first step for the revitalisation of the rice farming in Tailevu."

Mr Kim said when the rice processing complex by Grace Road Food Company is completed by November, the Fijian rice industry



Grace Road Food Company managing director, Daniel Kim (standing) explains to the members of Mataqali Tacilevu how the company will be conducting the rice farming in Tailevu.

will show signs of activity.

"I'm assured that we can achieve 2020 rice self-sufficiency in Fiji," he said.

Expansion plans

The company's expansion scheme includes lands on both Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, where memorandum of understanding have been

Grace Road Food Company is funded by the Grace Road Church in South Korea. It is carrying out rice farming in Fiji with new varieties of rice.

signed with various mataqalis. Mr Kim said the mataqalis are waiting for administrative process to be completed, and are waiting to be

come Grace Road Food Company's next farm. He highlighted machinery for rice farming and infrastructure have al-

ready arrived, and more machinery will be coming.

"Grace Road Food Company will certainly proceed to develop the land for farming in Vanua Levu as planned within this year," Mr Kim said.

Feedback: rachnat@fijisun.com.fj

Grace Road Group Moves To The Kitchen



May 02 08:08
2015

by Ranoba Baa, SUVA

0 Comments

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Grace Road Group Limited has ventured into a new business with the opening of restaurants in Lami and Nausori.

Grace Road Restaurant Limited, trading as The Grace Road Kitchen, is the fifth subsidiary of the South Korean church-based foundation in Fiji since it started last year.

The company has invested \$500,000 to set up the two restaurants, which Group managing director Daniel Kim said are just the first of many.

“Our shareholders are committed to Fiji’s growth and this is just one way we can contribute,” Mr Kim said.

Yesterday at the Lami Harbour Point Complex, two separate restaurant streams focusing on chicken and mixed Asian food were busy as the two open-kitchen concept set ups were attracting many.

Mr Kim said food items, except chicken, came from Grace Road Food Limited, their agriculture-base subsidiary.

“From production to food consumption, we are making this in one chain so we can supply the customer with organic food.

“This year we aim to open in Suva, Lautoka, Sigatoka and Nadi this and we will open in Vanua Levu as well.”

Mr Kim considers the food affordably priced which customers agreed upon. The opening yesterday saw all meals at half price. The opening rates finish today.

The restaurants in both locations are open from 10am to 8pm daily.

Grace Road Group’s other subsidiary arms are Grace Road Property Limited, Grace Road Seed Limited and Grace Road Beauty Salon Limited.

Feedback: ranobab@fijisun.com.fj

Grace Road Food Company Limited awaits TLTB offer letter

By Watisoni Butabua

Tuesday 02/06/2015



Rice farming

The Grace Road Food Company Limited is waiting for the offer letter from the i-Taukei Land Trust Board after a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Mataqali Tacilevu of Matacaucau village in Tailevu.

Director Daniel Kim says they want to develop 300 acres of land to grow rice, vegetables and fruits.

Speaking on behalf of Mataqali Tacilevu, Nemani Seru says once the land is surveyed and the land lease is approved, the land preparation will take five months to complete.

Seru says since the piece of land is outside of the reserve, the leader of the landowning unit will sign the consent on behalf of the members after the consultation.

He says part of the MOU condition is to offer members of the Mataqali job opportunity and provide assistance to the members in planting rice and other crops in their own piece of land.

The Grace Road Food Company Limited's effort is to reach the government vision of self-sufficiency in rice production by 2020.

Council Urges Landowners To Lease Land

June 06 12:44
2015 by Maika Bolatiki, SUVA[Print This Article](#)
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The Serua Provincial Council office is urging *iTaukei* landowners to lease their lands to the Grace Road Food Company for rice farming purposes.

The company has already signed a memorandum of understanding with a clan in Matacaucau Village, Tailevu.

Government representative to the Serua Provincial Council office, Roko Tui Serua Jese Volau, said most of the flat lands in Galoa and Culanuku were good for rice farming and should be developed.

However, Mr Volau said their council meetings found that some were a bit reluctant to give up their land for lease. He said they thought once the lands were leased, it would be out of their control.

Mr Volau said it was difficult to get the signatures of people to give their consent for the lease.

“Most of the landowners are living out of the village,” he said.

Mr Volau said they were also urging the landowners to develop their land and were trying to change the mindset of the landowners.

The landowners had been told that it was better to lease out their lands rather than leaving them idle.

The Roko Tui Serua said the landowners would benefit if they offered their land for lease.

Feedback: maikab@fjijisun.com.fj



The 2015 XV Pacific Games
4th July to 18th July



PORT MORESBY 2015
XV PACIFIC GAMES
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7:30:44 pm

Suva Weather, Fiji Islands



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FNU signs agreement with locally based company to take on board students for practical phases

Posted by: Zabeena in Local Business 1 hour ago

By: Apisalome Rabo



The Fiji National University has signed an agreement with a locally based company, Grace Road Food Company to take on-board their students for practical phases of their studies.

After F-N-U leases a 2,800 acres piece of land in Navua, the University has been looking for ways, to broaden the potential of its agriculture faculty in areas of undergraduate, postgraduate and research studies

Rouse says, this signing also gives students the opportunity to delve into untapped areas of farming here in Fiji

FNU To Tap Into Agri-Education



July 22 10:16
2015

by Rachael Nath, SUVA
0 Comments

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The Fiji National University (FNU) has understood that in order to unleash the true potential of agriculture in the country, it is vital to get the basics right.

And therefore, in bid to continue the growth of proper agricultural farming, FNU has signed a memorandum of understanding with Grace Road Food Company (GRFC).

This MOU will serve as a platform for the university to collaborate and work together to enhance the industry.

Grace Road Food Company, a South Korean Church-based firm, has started off rice farming in the Navua area using expert techniques and different varieties.

FNU Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Ian Rouse, said they recognised Grace Road Food Company had some fabulous facilities.

“They have a lot of technology and a lot of knowledge they can share with FNU’s Unifarm and our staff members,” he said.

The MOU that was signed yesterday at the Nasinu Campus is a general agreement to work together, share ideas, do research and have students attached working at their farm.

“That would be learning how to grow rice and learning how to run a properly-equipped greenhouse,” Professor Rouse said.

The Grace Road Food Company is ensuring its hard work invested into their farm will benefit the university.

The President Grace Road Food Company, Daniel Kim, said: “It does not matter whether it is a rainy day or a very hot day – our team is always working hard.

“We want to share with the FNU students the right spirit of hard work. And through this partnership, we are very confident we will achieve our vision for 2015.”

Feedback: rachael.nath@fijisun.com.fj

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[Professor Ian Rouse](#)

Grace Road Food Company building the largest rice milling factory in Fiji

By Sharon Diptika

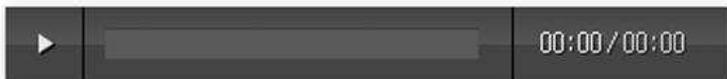
Sunday 26/07/2015



Korean company Grace Road Food Company is hoping to finish the construction of the \$4 million rice milling factory in Navua by November.

Company President Daniel Kim said they are currently building the biggest rice milling factory and dryer for Fiji which will help the company achieve its aim of total self-sufficiency in rice production for Fiji by 2020.

Kim said the company currently has 3,000 acres of land for development purposes but is talking with different mataqalis for more land.



Last week the company signed a memorandum of understanding with the Fiji National University for the use of their 1,000 acre unit land in Navua.

Kim said their aim is to develop 13,000 acres of land so they can produce up to 6,000 tonnes of rice.

■ GRACE ROAD FOOD COMPANY BUILDING THE LARGEST RICE MILLING FACTORY IN FIJI

Created: 27 July 2015

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10 | BUSINESS

OPENING

Grace Road Group brings Korean dessert here, opens Snowy House

Company hopes to make dessert healthy

RACHAEL NATH
SUVA

The Grace Road Group has extended its operating arm and ventured out into organic dessert.

Grace Road, a Korean Christian Church-based firm, started off investment in Fiji with rice farming in Navua, then opened up three restaurants in Lami, Nausori and Nadi. It has now opened a dessert outlet. It also plans to expand rice farming to other areas as well.

The newly-opened Snowy House in RB Patel Harbour Point Complex in Lami is a set to provide classical Korean desserts namely the 'Snow'.

Grace Road Group President, Daniel Kim, said: "Grace Road Group thinks about the nature and the people.

"Snowy House's 'Snow' is an original dessert that has not ever been tried before in Fiji, and it maintains its balance in both the taste and the nutrition."

About 'Snow'

'Snow' has been described as going beyond resembling the actual snow by distributing the ice flakes smoothly

Mr Kim said: "It is blended with various



Torika Toravakadrau (right) with the staff members of Snowy House Dessert Cafe at RB Patel Harbour Point Complex in Lami. Photo: RONALD KUMAR

kinds' of ingredients that are so full of energy and nutrients that it can be substituted for a whole meal."

The ingredients include many types of home-made fruit syrups, red beans, and mung beans.

"The key to the quality taste of 'Snow' resides in Rice," he said.

"Supplied by the Grace Road Food Company, the organic brown rice that is blended into the 'Snow' upgrades the taste and nutrition."

About 'Rice-Cream'
Snowy House also sells home-made ice cream, called 'Rice-cream'.

This is made from the organic rice supplied by the company. It is said to elevate the nutrition and taste of the ice cream compared to other ice-creams.

About Cookies

Home-made cookies from Snowy House are also a pioneering experiment. It is prepared

from organic cassava and brown rice. "These cookies are not only healthy, but are safe and edible desserts for consumers who have gluten allergies and atopy," Mr Kim added.

"Through Grace Road Restaurant and Snowy House, the Grace Road Group is engaged in establishing a healthy, daily meal along with a nutritional dessert culture."

Feedback: rachael.nath@fijisun.com.fj

AGRICULTURE

Grace Road shows interest in Rewa Rice

SHRATIKA NAIDU
LABASA

The Grace Road Group has shown interest to invest in the rice industry in the North and in particular, Rewa Rice Limited.

The president of the South Korean Christian Church-based firm, Daniel Kim, has requested Principal Agriculture officer North John Cox to get Government to consider his interest.

Grace Road already has a rice farm in Navua and has been exploring land elsewhere in the country to expand the farming operations.

Rewa Rice Limited is a state-owned enterprise and Mr Kim said they have the resources and machines for rice production.

"I am aware that the Rewa Rice has no production control and I am interested in lifting the rice industry in Fiji," Mr Kim said.

"We have all the resources, machines, our very own people from South Korea ready to train the locals to provide expertise in organ-

ic farming and especially rice."

He said currently their rice mill construction in Navua was nearing completion.

He also confirmed they have started with their first rice farming project in Vunivesi along Savusavu Highway in Cakaudrove Province.

Mr Cox commended on the efforts and commitment of the company.

"I have been working along with this company since they came to Vanua Levu last year searching for land to do rice farming," Mr Cox said.

"They have all the machines and resources and most importantly they have the foresight.

"We have been crying for rice farming in Vanua Levu and we had gone out talking to villagers but their prefer doing fishing."

Mr Cox has assured that he would write to the government about Mr Kim's request.

Rewa Rice

Rewa Rice Limited Mill manager Ashrit Pratap said they, as the miller only buy paddy from rice



Grace Road Group President Daniel Kim (right) with the Principal Agriculture Officer North John Cox during their visit to Vunivesi rice farming area along Savusavu Highway in Cakaudrove Province yesterday. Photo: SHRATIKA NAIDU

farmers, process it and sell it.

"The production of rice is looked after by Ministry of Agriculture and currently the machine is not functioning," Mr Pratap said.

"We have limited machines and this year the weather was not favourable.

"However compared to the past year rice production, this year we had an increase."

Mr Pratap said for 2014 they had 480 tonnes of rice and this year they had 517 tonnes.

"We do exist and still continue to provide rice in the market," he said.

He said the Grace Road Company has lot of advantages as it was under one control.

"They have plans to do their own farming, milling, production and marketing," Mr Pratap said.

"Unlike us, we work with Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Public Enterprises."

Feedback: shratikan@fijisun.com.fj

Grace Road's Rice Mill In Navua Well On The Way



Grace Road staff members working with Vunivesi Villagers to construct a warehouse before they start rice farming in Vunivesi area along Savusavu Highway in Cakaudrove Province. Photo: SHRATIKA NAIDU

September 03

11:03
2015

by Shratika Naidu, LABASA
 0 Comments

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Grace Road Food company's rice processing mill in Navua is now 50 per cent complete, confirmed company president, Daniel Kim.

The South Korean Christian Church-based firm is reported to be investing \$4 million in the mill and what is expected to be the largest rice mill in Fiji.

The company hopes to achieve its aim of total self-sufficiency in rice production for Fiji by 2020.

Mr Kim said the company was investing in rice industry to prepare for future worldwide food shortage and for Fiji to be called a branded organic farming country.

He said they found a technology and knew what to do because rice can be stored for ten years.

"We chose to invest in Fiji because Fiji is good for farming," he added.

"Fiji's soil is fertile, weather is nice, land price is cheap, and a lot of land is empty.

"Fiji is a small country and if we do organic farming overseas people will surely buy organic farm product."

Mr Kim said now there was a trend of organic farming and organic product.

"We want Fiji to have its own brand, like Fiji organic product brand," Mr Kim said.

Projects in North

The company, which started rice planting in Navua, now has five projects in Vanua Levu.

"Three weeks ago we started with our first project at Vunivesi along Savusavu highway in Cakaudrove Province," Mr Kim said.

He said it was a one-acre site and they started drainage work and construction of a warehouse.

"We have planned to do rice, cabbage and ginger farming on this one acre land," he added

He said the company has planned to provide employment to the villagers in these different rice farming projects in Vanua Levu.

"We also have our own people who will train the locals how to do organic farming," Mr Kim said.

"We also have a 240-acre freehold land situated next to Savusavu Airport and by the end of this year, we will construct our warehouse."

Feedback: shratikan@fijisun.com.fj

Milling machines arriving from Korea to help rice production

By Sharon Dipitika

Wednesday 09/09/2015

Share 0



Korean Company Grace Road Food Company will receive 16 containers of Rice Milling machines worth \$2 million from South Korea in the first week of next month.

Company President Daniel Kim says four Technicians and Engineers will also be arriving in the country on the 4th of October who will be putting the machines together at their Navua farm.

He says the opening of the Factory will be done either in December or early next year.

Kim says they currently have 87 staff out of which 50 are company members who train locals about rice production and 37 are locals.

Meanwhile the company plans to meet with Rewa Rice Company in a month's time to discuss plans of working with them to increase rice production in Fiji.



msingh@fijitimes.com.fj



330 4111



330 1521



Grace Road Group president Daniel Kim, right, with Agriculture Minister Inia Seruiratu at the construction site of the rice milling factory in Navua. The group aims to make Fiji self-sufficient in rice production. Picture: SUPPLIED

Group aims to reduce rice imports

By MONIKA SINGH

A CHURCH-BASED organisation has plans to help Government reduce its rice imports and make Fiji self-sufficient in rice production with the revival of rice farming.

Grace Road Group started operations in Fiji last year with an initial investment of more than \$10million.

South Korean investor Daniel Kim, who is also the president of the group, says Fiji has the potential to grow more rice and become self-sufficient by the year 2020.

Mr Kim said Government had the same plans but lacked the machinery to be able to achieve its goals.

"But we have brought the machines with us and we have the expertise and the manpower to achieve this goal.

"Our headquarters is in Navua and we are planning to build the biggest rice milling factory in Fiji there," he said.

He said they planned to finish building the rice milling factory by January or February next year.

Mr Kim said the group had a 100-acre farm in Navua and a 200-acre farm in Nausori where they had planted rice while they still waited on another 1000-acre land in Nausori/Tailevu to be cleared by Government.

He said they had plans to start rice revival projects on Vanua Levu and they had already moved their machinery to help them with the development.

Mr Kim said they planned to produce 44,000 tonnes of rice because that was roughly the amount of rice that was imported by Fiji. To do that, the group needed 13000 acres of land. Some of the challenges that the company faced was regarding land issues but Mr Kim said the Government had been very supportive in the process.

"We are doing organic farming

and our rice farms are also organic because we do not want to use chemicals and other harmful substance," he said.

Mr Kim said the group also had six restaurants in the country and it used products that were planted on their farm in Navua.

"We supply the rice to our own restaurant and we plan to supply organic rice to other resorts and restaurants once the other farms are ready," he said.

According to Mr Kim, they had a program for the landowners and the response from the *mataqali* had been very positive.

He said they had training programs for members of the church, who would then train the landowners so that they could pass the knowledge to their own landowning unit members and villagers.

Mr Kim said they also had plans to start potato farming and help reduce the import bill for potatoes.

AGRICULTURE

Grace Road organic farming acknowledged by Kepa



Ro Temumu Kepa tours the Grace Road Demonstration of New Organic Rice Farming Technique at the Mataqali Valelevu land in Rewa yesterday. Photo: JONA KONATACI

STELLA MORESIO
SUVA

A new direction for organic rice farming was demonstrated by Grace Road at the Mataqali Valelevu land in the Rewa province yesterday.

This follows after a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Grace Road Food Company Limited and the members of the Mataqali two months ago.

The two parties agreed on the terms where Grace Road will use the land to farm their crops and the 10 percent of their production profit will go to the Mataqali's youth scholarship scheme.

Leader of Opposition Ro Temumu Kepa, who belongs to this mataqali, was present to witness the event.

Ro Temumu thanked the President of Grace Road Food Company Limited for bringing organic farming to Rewa.

Organic farming

Ro Temumu said: "It is our duty to ensure that people are not the only ones who are healthy but also the environment which we live in and look for food to sustain us.

"We want to be part of your vision which is to feed Fiji and feed the world not only with rice and ginger but other crops as well.

"This is part of my dream which is to educate young people because I believe with Rewa, we need to get our people educated hence establishing a scholarship."

Farming Condition

Grace Road Food Company Limited

president Daniel Kim said Fiji has the fertile soil and the perfect conditions to support a strong rice farming industry.

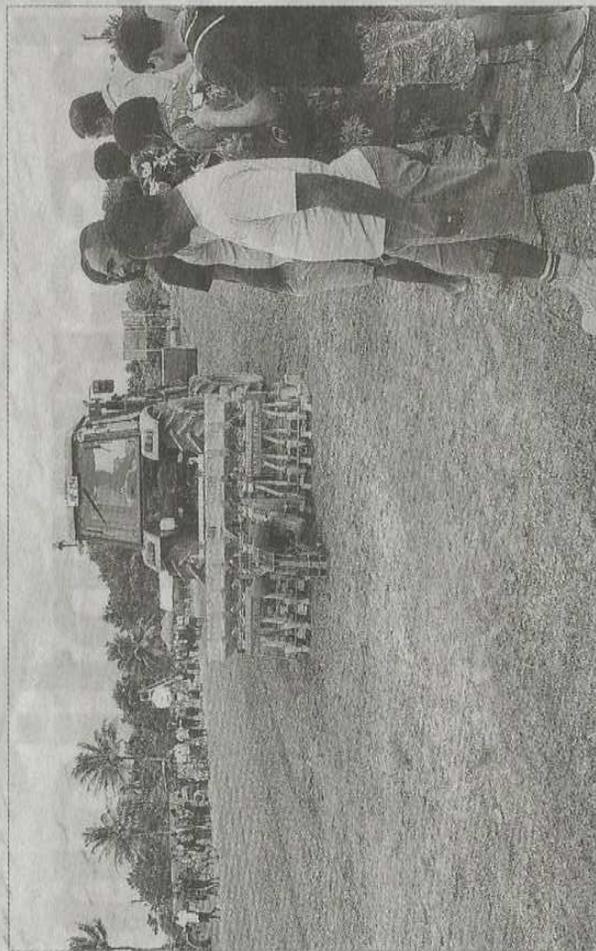
"Our goal is to achieve Rice Self Sufficiency by 2020 in Fiji. You have fertile soil and the perfect conditions to support a strong rice farming industry.

"We have adopted the direct rice seed, which can be used on dry-land and also adopted the organic farming technique using microorganisms, which can replace the traditional chemical farming method."

Mr Kim highlighted through the demonstration the company is confident that this will open people's eyes to have wider perspective of agriculture and this will give full confidence in moving onto organic rice farmer.

Feedback: stella.moresio@fijisun.com.fj

Organic boost for farms



Farmers watch the demonstration of the dry land rice seeder machine in Rewa on Wednesday.

Picture: KERESI NAUWAKARAWA

pose to everyone a new direction for farming that we should all take.

"Mechanised farming and organic farming are not just alternative ways. They're the ways we must take.

"There is no absolute solution for organic farming. It's tough, and difficult.

"But Grace Road will continue to learn and set the Fiji standard of organic farming. And if all of us work hard, and unite, we can achieve rice self-sufficiency by 2020 in Fiji," Mr Kim said.

He said if adopted, the new farming methods could make Fiji the first and the best organic farming nation in the world.

"Imagine, when everyone in the world think of Fiji as a trustworthy name for best organic product."

By KERESI NAUWAKARAWA

VILLAGERS in Rewa will be employed and upskilled through the Grace Road Food Group's new dry land rice seeder and organic farming technique using micro-organisms which were launched on Wednesday.

The group introduced and held a demonstration for villagers in the province of Rewa and neighbouring farming communities at its Valelevu farm, an 80-acre property situated next to the Burebasaga School in Rewa.

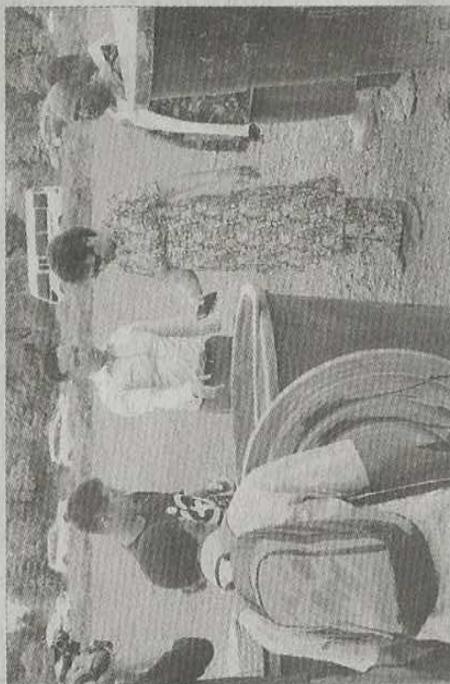
Group president Daniel Kim said this was the alternative farming method proposal they hoped would set the standard for organic farming locally.

"Our purpose for having a demonstration was to pro-

Mr Kim highlighted the company's goal to achieve rice self-sufficiency by 2020. "Fiji has the fertile soil and the perfect conditions to support a strong rice farming industry. It is blessed by God.

"However, there are some challenges as well like lack of infrastructure and machinery for rice farming and the high cost of chemical fertiliser and agricultural chemicals give difficulties to becoming a rice farmer. But God always gives us the solution."

Present at the demonstration was the Roko Tui Dreketi, Ro Teimumu Kepa, who said: "Today is only part of the bigger picture of what we will be seeing in all of our province and we thank you for bringing organic farming to Rewa."



Grace Road Group president Daniel Kim explains to Ro Teimumu Kepa how the micro-organism farming technique works.

Picture: KERESI NAUWAKARAWA

THE FIJI TIMES — FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2015 15

[/ Front page / Business](#)

Taste of 'snow'

Monika Singh

Tuesday, October 13, 2015

DESSERT caf   Snowy House is the second new business to open its doors to customers in the Capital City this month.

The caf  , which started operating last week on Friday, promises to offer delectable dessert and at the same time promise to offer nutritional desserts to its customers.

Owned by the Grace Road Group, Snowy House is the second outlet for the group.

Grace Road Group president Daniel Kim said: "Grace Road Group thinks about the nature and the people. Through the "Snowy House" the Grace Road Group is engaged in establishing a healthy dessert culture.

"We are planning to open 'Snowy House' in three different more locations including Damodar City, Nadi, and Savusavu. It will only venture out more to one day serve the entire nation of Fiji the heavenly taste of "snow" that will continue to sustain its healthy, appetising taste.

"Snow, like the jewels coming down from the heaven, can and will be tasted in Fiji from now on," said Mr Kim.

He said Grace Road Group, a pioneer in organic farming that was Korean Christian Church-based company introduced "Snowy House" in Lami, where they introduced Korea's classical dessert, the "Snow."

According to Mr Kim "Snow" provided a sweet, rich taste, and it went beyond resembling the actual snow by distributing the ice flakes smoothly down to the bowl.

The various ingredients have formed and shaped the dessert to revitalise and to offer many nutrients that can replace a whole meal and they include many types of homemade fruit puree, red bean, and mung bean.

He said the key to the quality taste of "Snow" from Snowy House was based upon the healthy ingredients that had immeasurable amounts of benefits. Furthermore, Snowy House offers homemade "Rice Cream" that surpasses the conventional ice cream sold in a typical market.



[+ Enlarge this image](#)

Customers inside the Snowy House in Suva. Picture: SUPPLIED



DEVELOPMENT

\$5m Agricultural Training Institute by Grace Road Food Company



Representatives of the FNU Agricultural Engineering department, stakeholders and Grace Road Food Company managing director Daniel Kim yesterday. Photo: RACHAEL

INSTITUTE PLAN

- 2015 – Establish institute in Navua
- 2017 – Expand more to eastern division and northern division. In Lautoka and Savusavu where the current farms are located.
- 2018 – Establish two more institute, in Labasa and Taveuni.

RACHAEL NATH
SUVA

Commercial agriculture has a growing potential and Grace Road Food Company is tapping into this.

The Korean church-based company says it will be investing \$5 million towards an Agricultural Training Institute in Navua.

The construction is expected to begin in January and is expected to be completed by October 2016.

Company managing director Daniel Kim said: "The students need actual farming skills and they need the proper venue to learn this skill."

"This institute will provide this platform for the students and bring out the potential in them."

The institute is proposed to offer both practical

and theory agriculture work for the students.

The three strategies the institute will concentrate on are organic farming, mechanised farming and value adding.

Partnership

Mr Kim said in order to take this project forward they need support and partnership.

"To operate this institute we need people support, we need interest, we need Government involvement, we need university involvement and we need community farmer's involvement to operate this institute."

The company did a presentation yesterday for the Fiji National University on the establishment of the institute.

The presentation highlighted the need for partnership to help the institute to operate and be

sustainable.

Chancellor Ikbal Jannif said the university will look into the proposal and deliberate to finalise an answer.

Potential

"There is a lot of potential in commercial farming but the issue is selling of the products. There aren't sufficient markets to sell the products," Mr Kim explained.

"In order to break down this situation we need to go with organic farming, mechanised farming and value adding.

"We will train the studies at the Institute so they understand the potential that lies in the agriculture sector."

Feedback: rachael.nath@fijisun.com.fj

\$5m investment

By MONIKA SINGH

AN investment of \$5million is expected to help the country improve its agriculture output and value adding.

Grace Road Group president Daniel Kim said they planned to establish an agricultural training institute for the country with its major focus on organic farming and reducing food imports.

Mr Kim met stakeholders at the Fiji National University campus in Nasinu on Wednesday and said Fiji would be able

to reduce its food bill through promoting mechanised farming, moving into organic farming and through value adding to products.

"We all know farming is a tough job. We need the proper tools to do that. So in order to fulfill mechanised farming, this year, our Grace Road brought 25 tractors and 20 power tillers, eight diggers, swamp dozer, combine harvester, and other agricultural implements and spare parts.

"And we will bring more machines to support fully-mechanised farming to this

nation," he said.

Mr Kim said he believed organic farming was the only way to survive in the market and the sustainable way for Fiji.

"For example, in Australia, jasmine grown with chemical fertiliser and pesticide is \$2.50 per kg. But organic grown rice is \$10 per kg.

"And organic market size is \$US72b (\$F155b), and strong growth of 20 per cent annually. But only 1 per cent of the world's agricultural land is organic.

"Fiji has pristine natural environ-

\$5m investment plan

Monika Singh

Saturday, November 21, 2015

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"And organic market size is \$US72billion (\$F155b), and strong growth of 20 per cent annually. But only 1 per cent of the world's agricultural land is organic.

"Fiji has pristine natural environment. So we have to take advantage of this resource that no other country has."

Mr Kim said the agricultural training institute, to be established near the Grace Road Navua farm, would train students in theory and practical modes, to be carried out at the Grace Road farm.

"By the end of this year, we will complete our rice processing complex in our Navua farm, and our construction team will start to work on the training institute on January 1. And it depends on the weather, but it will be completed before October 2016."



Fiji Time: Friday, 27 November 2015 1:27:35PM



FIJI NEWS

New rice factory by year end

08:39 Yesterday

Fiji will soon have another rice factory.

Based in the Central Division, the Grace Road food company will start production by the end of the year.

Managing Director of Grace Road food company Daniel Kim says the 'Fiji Rice' product should be in supply to the local market within that time frame.

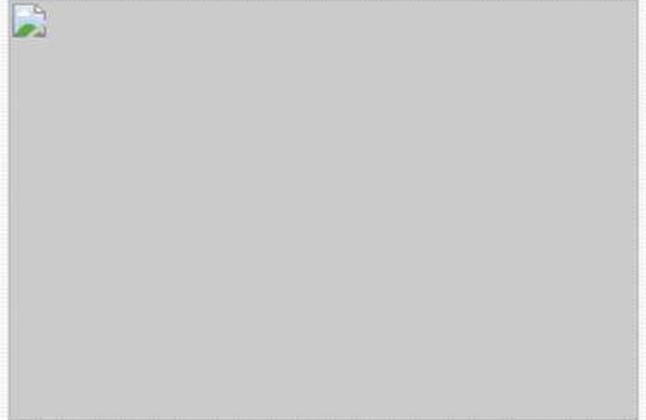
"At the moment all the funds comes from our church, all our members, and we already have spent about \$5 million and we will be spending more than \$10 million."

The company was set up last year by the South Korean Grace Road church with a basic production line in Navua for seed collection.

"6 tonnes per year, if we are looking about 300 acres, its 1800 tonnes that's our target this year, and we will keep cleaning the land after we clean the land it will be a lot, it will be mass production."

Seven Matagalas have consented to their land being used for rice production.

The company will train locals to manage farms in Deuba and in Navua.



Taken from/By: FBC News
Report by: Shanal Sivan

**FIJI NEWS****Grace Road Group opens new agriculture institute**

06:46 Yesterday

The Grace Road Group has recently opened their agriculture institution in Navua which aims to promote agriculture in the country.

Known as Agriculture Training Institution, opened in Wanidova Rd in Navua.

The company is calling on community farmers and students from various universities to take part in the courses they offer.

Company president Daniel Kim says the course will enable students to have broader knowledge of agriculture.

"From this new institution we will be training the theory in our institute and in the walking distance we have our farm that's where our headquarters they can learn the theory from the institute and the practical skills they will get it from our farm."

Kim says they will begin teaching the course in January and will be able to cater for 200 students.

The Agricultural Training Institution has a conference hall, four lecture halls, a library, dormitories and a research center for the students.



Taken from/By: WEB
Report by: Shreeti Prasad

Contract farming

By MONIKA SINGH

IN its bid to fulfil its 2020 rice self-sufficiency mission, Grace Road Group has launched contract farming with local farmers last week.

As part of the initiative, the Grace Road Group will provide all the materials needed for mechanised and organic rice farming, which includes seeds, machinery, organic fertiliser made from earthworm casting or other organic materials, and natural vermin repellent.

Grace Road Group president Daniel Kim said the cost of those materials would be deducted every time the contract farmer sold his rice to Grace Road Group and, in the case of the tractor, the machine will be owned by the contract farmer once the cost was repaid.

Mr Kim said the contract had a provision for education and site monitoring

needed for the farmer to make sure there were no problems for farming.

Mr Kim said continual contact would be kept between Grace Road Group and the contract farmer to resolve the problems that may arise and the contract was for a minimum of five years.

"The biggest reason Fiji imports not only rice, but most food commodities was there was no market that could motivate Fijians to start farming.

"To resolve this issue, we plan to finish the construction of the rice processing complex (RPC) that can process 6000 tonnes of rice in a year. RPC will commence its full-scale operation next year in February," said Mr Kim.

He said mechanised farming was the direction that Fiji should be headed in and that was why the group imported machinery and implements that were suited for Fiji's land.

"And today, we have made

our first distribution of the machinery with the local Fijian farmer for contract farming. Fiji's rice self-sufficiency cannot be accomplished just by Grace Road Group and some government departments. We absolutely need the support of Fijian farmers."

Mr Kim said contract farming was their first attempt and there were ups and downs expected, but the group was confident of the project being successful.

"We want to announce that this contract farming is not for a select few, but it is open to anyone

who wants to farm rice in the Navua region. Starting with Navua, we will expand this contract to the entire region of Fiji such as Rewa. We will continue our challenge of mechanised, organic rice farming to fulfil our mission of 2020 rice self-sufficiency, and we will succeed," said Mr Kim.

Navua farmer Vicky said he was grateful to the

group for their support and the opportunity.

"I have an available land, but there was nothing that I could do with it. But Grace Road Group decided to provide everything that I needed for farming and all I need to do is diligently farm in my own land," he said.

"I have not received this kind of tremendous help in my life and I could not believe that I was starting this contract.

"I wish to express my gratitude to Grace Road Group for their full support and I will succeed with mechanised organic rice farming on my piece of land."



Grace Road Group director Daniel Kim, right, with Vicky, second from right, in Navua.

Picture: SUPPLIED

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NEWS

GRACE ROAD FOOD COMPANY CONTRIBUTING TO ECONOMIC GROWTH

By admin - January 29, 2015 👁 156 💬 0

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The Grace Road Food Company recorded another achievement as it harvested its second variety of rice in Navua this week.

The company has been commended for its role in providing employment for locals and for developing rice farming potential in Navua.

The Company's managing director, Daniel Kim said the harvest is a success for the company since its establishment last year.

"We are planting four locally grown varieties and they are Star, Totoka, Nuinui and Deepak and our aim is to help and support the economy, upgrade skills, educate and introduce new technologies to the people of Fiji," he said.

"Fiji has a suitable condition for planting rice and also the introduction of farm machines such as the combined harvester will help advance the minds of the local as it is easy, convenient and fast compared to the traditional method," he said.

Sakeasi Labalaba, a landowner together with family and Mataqali members, is one of those that have been assisted by the company.

"We have benefited a lot from this company, in terms of employment, financial benefits, education of our children and the development of idle land," he said.

The Ministry's senior agriculture officer (Serua/Namosi) Aporosa Lalabalavu commended the company for its contribution to Fiji's economic development.

"It is very interesting as they want to develop rice in Fiji and they are willing to work with the local people to reduce rice import bill and the Ministry of Agriculture is working closely with them to help in areas of irrigation and seed distribution," he said.

The Grace Road Food Company hopes to extend its rice operation to the North, venture into vegetables, livestock and aquaculture and establish a research institute, Milling Factory and other infrastructures.



Company opens new outlet for babies

By MONIKA SINGH

Wednesday, February 10, 2016

Update: 3:59PM GRACE Road Group has added another investment to its growing portfolio with the opening of their store for babies in Lami today.

Their new store Happyland opened its doors to customers at the 1st floor of Lami RB Patel Harbour Point.

Group representative, Grace Park said they chose the location because it was an entry point for Suva and there was no problems with parking for customers.

She said the store would provide customers a chance to browse through the store in a serene environment.



[+ Enlarge this image](#)

Josefa Matau is assisted by staff during the opening of the Happy Land , Baby and Kids Shop at Harbour Point in Lami.
Picture JONA KONATACI

Grace Road plans to expand business with more restaurants

By **MONIKA SINGH**

WITH their chain of restaurants and cafes becoming a popular spot with people, Grace Road Group has plans to open more restaurants and cafes in other areas of the country.

The group's marketing officer, Grace Park, said they had five cafes (Snowy House), seven restaurants (Grace Road Kitchen) and a hair salon.

The Happyland, Baby and Kids store for babies and children that opened in Lami yesterday is the first for the group but there are plans to open another store in Nadi.

Ms Park said they would be opening another Snowy House cafe and kitchen in Lautoka soon.

She said next month their restaurant, The Grace Road Kitchen, would open its

doors for members of the public in Nadi.

Ms Park said the "South Korean church-based foundation had ventured into farming, restaurants, cafes, hair salon and now the department store with plans to re-open their furniture store.

She said the furniture used in their restaurants, store and cafes was made by their church members who were based at their farm in Navua.

"We had opened our furniture store in Lami but we have been very busy with the Grace Road Kitchen and Snowy House and so we had to close it. However, we still have people who come to us and enquire about the furniture," she said.

Ms Park said there was a possibility they would re-open their furniture store in the future but their major focus was on their businesses that were operation-



Little Grace enjoys a moment with Josefa Matau and Elenoa Matau during the opening of the Happyland, Baby and Kids store at Harbour Point in Lami yesterday.

Picture: JONA KONATACI

Shop for kids

Group invests in Happyland

By **MONIKA SINGH**

SHOPPERS from around Lami and nearby areas children from Happyland, now have a chance to shop for clothes and accessories for their babies and children from Happyland, she said.

Baby and Kids store that opened its doors to the public yesterday.

Happyland is another investment by the Grace Road Group and is a premium baby and children's store.

The groups marketing officer, Grace Park, said the store was located on the first floor of RB Patel Harbour Point in Lami and the group hoped it would become a premium store for babies and children.

Ms Park said they chose the location because of the huge parking space available.

"Most of the locations in Suva City have a problem with parking space and shoppers find it hard to find a parking spot.

"RB Patel has a huge parking space and this will give shoppers a chance to park their vehicles and take their time to shop," she said.

She said the clothes and other items for babies were from Korea, and they had plans to bring in toys for children too.

"The fixtures and furniture in the store have been made by our members from the Grace Road Group based in Navua and we have spent close to \$30,000 on the furniture only," she said.

The first customers for the store yesterday were Josefa Matau and Elenoa Matau, who were expecting their first child.

Mr Matau said he had seen the store from the roadside on his trip to Suva last week and yesterday he decided to stop by with his wife.

"This is our first child and a very special occasion for us and that is why I wanted to decorate our baby's room with something special. Here, I found what I was looking for in

the form of LED lights in the shape of the sun, moon and clouds," he said.

Mr Matau said the store was a good investment because it was a bit hard for people to shop for quality clothes and items for babies and children in Fiji.

"Plus the staff are very friendly and they serve you well," he said.

While the prices for some of the clothes at the store would seem to be very expensive for some shoppers, Ms Park said their group leader wanted the store to become a premium brand name despite the price factor.

She said they had plans to open their second Happyland in Nadi soon.



Happyland, Baby and Kids store opened its doors at Harbour Point in Lami yesterday. Picture: JONA KONATACI

Beginning of GRG



By SIKEL QOUNADOVU
sqounadovu@fijitimes.com.fj

“AND you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don't panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won't follow immediately. Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world. But all this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come” (Matthew 24:4-8)

With the great famine in mind, Grace Road Group (GRG) was established in Fiji because, according to Pastor Ok-Joo Shin, Fiji provides the best fertile land to prepare for the famine.

Established in 2014, Grace Road Food Company started with a capital investment of \$US150,000 (\$F320,300) and according to the GRG ever since then it has invested \$US10m (\$F21.3m) in Fiji.

In April of 2014 the company was granted a 50-year lease on an 83-acre land in Denba outside Navua and in the same year harvested rice on land that has not been farmed for more than 20 years.

According to the GRG, Fiji is blessed with clean water, fresh air, and unpolluted land.

“Grace Road Company does not use pesticides or chemical fertiliser so that the beautiful and clean land of this country does not become polluted,” read a statement from Grace Road Food Company.

“We are implementing organic natural farming methods that are safe to humans and nature. Grace Road Food Company is carrying out the ambitious plan of self-sufficiency through rice production by 2020.”

So why Fiji? Why Did Grace Road come to Fiji? And why does all the prophecies turn to Fiji?

For seven years since 1998 Ms Ok-Joo, senior pastor of Grace Road, has been ministering in South Korea before leaving for China for a further three years.

It was here that she realised that a lot of her sermons was of her own understanding and was not spiritually motivated.

After realising this truth, Ms Ok-Joo returned to Korea and in the first week of May 2008 started prophesying before re-establishing the church, Grace Road Church.

Speaking through a translator she said the problem with a lot of church in Korea is they have misinterpreted the Bible.

“Most pastors do not spread the message in spiritual ways, they interpret the Bible incorrectly,” said Ms Ok-Joo.

“Most are interpreting the Bible humanly when you have to be interpreting it from the Bible.

“The leaders, especially, should redeliver the gospel by returning to the truth, if they have delivered it differently from the Bible.”

According to GRG most have been preaching this way in Korea in the past 130 years since Christianity was proclaimed in Korea.

In her book *The Interpretation of Tongues and Speaking in Tongues, Lies Differing from the Bible, The Sorcerer in the Church, Biblical Judgment on Heretical Liars*, she claims she received wide criticism from Christian organisations in Korea, which resulted in them (GRG) being branded as a cult organisation.

“Even the pharisees and priests criticised Jesus. So everything that everyone is saying that we are a cult is a lie,” she said.

“What is more pitiful is that even in Fiji, GRG is being falsely accused of absolute lies that are far from the truth by Christians of the same Korean church.

“Reported by the Korean Missionary Fellowship is an especially wicked and vicious accusation that opposes Grace Road Church and the work of God that we are trying to do in Fiji.”

A few years ago Ms Ok-Joo informed Daniel Kim (GRG President) to look for a land and to prepare for the great famine and disaster as biblically prophesied.

He was informed to look for a country with no winter and an annual temperature between 20-30 degrees. Travelling to 60 countries on a one way ticket he came to a stop in Fiji.

When Mr Kim was about to leave for his next destination in Nepal with his companions he met while travelling, he found himself in a situation in which everyone had one-way tickets, but he was the only one



The first rice harvest by Grace Road Food Company in the Navua farm. Picture: SUPPLIED

The leaders, especially, should redeliver the gospel by returning to the Truth, if they have delivered it differently from the Bible

who could not leave Fiji.

“He took this as a sign of God and settled in Fiji,” said Ms Ok-Joo.

“In light of the Bible, we now have clear evidence that all of Fiji's environments and conditions prove that this is the land God has prepared,” GRG said in a statement.

The first company established in Fiji was a non-profit organisation called Grace Retirement village, this was the beginning of Grace Road Property Development.

Its mission in Fiji:

- To prepare for the coming great famine;
- To develop Fiji into a wealthier and stronger country, and yet to maintain its clean nature;
- To give relief to the Christian refugees according to the Bible, who are persecuted and killed by ISIS; and
- To accomplish “The World where God is the only God”, through the Christian nation of Fiji.

“Sharing the same goal as the Ministry of Agriculture's 2020 policy agenda, we are executing the self-sufficiency plan through close co-operation with them. Also, the largest and state-of-the-art rice processing complex is scheduled to be completed in February 2016,” read a statement from GRG.

“This does not mean that Grace Road Mission is an apocalyptic doomsayer. It is clearly recorded in the Bible that the end of the earth will not come until everything recorded in the Bible is accomplished.”

In the short time that it has been in Fiji, the GRG proudly stated they had gained the trust and recognition of many Fijians and in the near future it hopes to establish an Agriculture Training Institute.

“We signed the memorandum of understanding for agricultural development not only in Navua but also in Nausori, Vanua Levu, and Tallevu.

“We have leased more than 1500 acres of land in only one year and six months.

“Grace Road Food Company is hiring locals and contributing to the creation of jobs.

“Many Fijians possess land but cannot produce agricultural products. To solve this issue, we plan to establish an Agriculture Training Institute in Navua to teach agricultural skills,” read the statement.

The Grace Road Food Company guaranteed that it would not only produce agricultural products but also high value-added products.

“By doing this, we want to contribute towards opening new export markets and vitalising the national economy.

“Fiji has huge potential to be the hub of the South Pacific's politics and economic activity.

“We are confident that Fiji will greatly

contribute to the overall development of the island nations in the South Pacific.”

Its property development arm is looking also at improving housing issues of locals by providing proper houses at more reasonable prices.

In addition to this, it plans to improve dietary problems which it claims has been the cause for “short average life expectancy” for many Fijians.

“The restaurants run by Grace Road Group use the rice and vegetables we organically grow as ingredients.

“Intake of high-fibre and low-calorie foods will greatly improve the diet of Fijians who are suffering from metabolic diseases such as obesity, diabetes, hyperten-

sion, and arteriosclerosis.”

Furthermore the GRG has great interest in waste disposal and contaminant purification facilities.

“We are also planning to make a substantial investment in developing new renewable energy for the country's energy shortage in order to revive the economy of Fiji.”

GRG boasts to have 200 members from Korea, USA, China, Japan, Australia, Canada, Vietnam and New Zealand.

“They volunteered to come and they are working day and night to develop the Fiji nation and to establish the world where God is the only God.

“Let's make Fiji shine” is the motto for GRG in Fiji.

Situations Vacant

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

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operate in a fast paced and ever changing environment to provide challenging and rewarding careers. At Vodafone we bring out the best in people, live our values and are passionate about what we do.

Technical Support Manager- Information Technology

Reporting directly into the Chief Technology Officer, this role will lead and manage a team of IT engineers to actively drive the IT strategies for Vodafone Fiji Limited. This is a leadership role with the Network Operations Department that will be responsible for the overall management and execution of the IT Infrastructure strategy for the organization.

Key Duties and Responsibilities

- Maintain systems at optimal accessibility, and manage IT systems support to all areas of the business
- Responsible for IT Infrastructure design, build and Operation which includes infrastructures for Servers, IP Network, Network Security, Wide Area Network, Local Area Network, Office IT and Databases.
- Manage network security by developing and maintaining IT security policies to protect against known and potential internal and external threats to all IT Systems
- Responsible for overall Fraud, Risk & Security activities in the Business
- Improve processes, products and services of the Business Unit as well as manage all IT processes and procedures
- Drive IT business continuity planning
- Management of IT Assets and Helpdesk as well as manage risks and maintain integrity of company data.
- Management of projects and business initiatives taken up by the business unit.
- Forecast and Management of IT Budgets

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- Masters or Degree level qualification in Information Technology and Computing Science
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Vacancy: Technical Support Manager- IT
Vodafone Fiji Limited
Private Mail Bag,
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INVESTMENT

Sunny Pizza Opens at Mid City, Suva

KATHRIN KRISHNA
SUVA

Grace Road Group has invested in another restaurant named 'Sunny Pizza' located at Mid City in Suva.

The restaurant opened doors for business on Friday.

Grace Park, the marketing team leader for Grace Road Group said the restaurant was ready to offer fresh food to their customers.

"We are promoting healthy eating here and most of our food is organic which is another advantage," Park said.

She added the special menus available at the restaurant would definitely attract a lot of customers.



Tokasa Waiwai (R), Alan Tamani, Stanley Wakeham with Dohee Choi, a senior staff member at Grace Road Group at Sunny Pizza opening at Mid City in Suva on Friday. Photo: KATHRIN KRISHNA.

"We have a variety of Pizza menu's and the other spaghetti menu's, side dishes and desserts," she said.

"This restaurant is very much family oriented and you can come with your family and enjoy a variety of meals all under one roof."

Currently, three locals are employed here with plans of recruiting more locals for the business.

Mrs Park also said they were planning to extend the Pizza Restaurant to Lami Town as well.

"We are still doing preparations for the opening of our new Pizza restaurant in Lami Town which should be open by next month."

Feedback: kathrin.krishna@fjijun.com.fj

SEVERE TC WINSTON

Just after Winston

For some...

Caves only option

A view of Naocobau Village just after Category 5 Severe Tropical Cyclone Winston in February. Picture: BALJEET SINGH

Eight months later, all houses were rebuilt as part of rehabilitation efforts by the Grace Road Food Company Ltd. Picture: BALJEET SINGH

Eight months on

... who have the money they are able to rebuild houses while others that don't continue to wait

By KALESI MELE

PEOPLE in the province of Ra are slowly starting to pick up the pieces, eight months after Severe TC Winston struck.

For those most affected, their lives revolve around deciding what to do to get a better house or to earn a decent amount of money to assist the needs of their children who attend school.

And a tour by a team from this newspaper of the province a few weeks ago

found several families still waiting for assistance under the Help for Homes scheme initiated by the Government. There were some, though, who were able to raise funds to rebuild their own homes.

Navunivi Village chief Ratu Isikeli Sevutia said there was still great need for assistance in his village.

"For most of us along the Nakorotubu and Navitilevu districts, particularly in the coastal areas, our stories are similar in that we are still waiting for

assistance," he said.

"For those who have the money they are able to rebuild houses while others that don't continue to wait."

His sentiments were echoed by Nasau Village headman Inisio Navosese.

"Other than our homes the caves are the only option," he said.

"There is no other way out of this village other than by boat. We have no roads and the biggest question is whether we will be safe enough in the caves."

There are families across the district

facing similar circumstances.

Nasukamal Village headman Paula Kubu said access to better shelters was their most urgent need.

"Our crops are damaged, that was where we would normally get enough money to help us work on our homes ourselves — that is why we still need assistance. We haven't received any confirmation of assistance and so normal life is getting by with what we have.

"If we receive the assistance or not time will tell."



Winners of the 2017 Prime Minister's International Business Awards with the PM Voreqe Bainimarama (middle).
Picture: JONA KONATACI



Taewook Park, Grace Park, Daniel Kim and Ana Choi of Grace Road Food Company won the Primary Industry Business Excellence Award during the 2017 Prime Minister's International Business Awards.
Picture: JONA KONATACI

Sustainability in business

By AVNEEL CHAND

PRIME Minister Voreqe Bainimarama is urging businessmen to incorporate sustainability into their business plans.

He made this comment at the 2017 Prime Minister's International Business Awards at the Grand Pacific Hotel on Saturday night.

Mr Bainimarama said the government's ambition was to create an economy that was not only viable but also environmentally sustainable.

"My Government's ambition is to create an economy that is not only viable in the medium and long term, but also environmentally sustainable and socially responsible," said Mr Bainimarama.

"Tonight, I urge all of you to incorporate sustainability into your business plans.

"It is imperative that we realise the importance of a sustainable and green economy."

He said in order to preserve the interests of Fiji's economy and the future generation there must be a balance between development and sustainability.

"For the future of Fiji's economy and the future of our children, we must strike a balance between development and sustainability," he said.

He further added that adopting a sustainable business model would help businesses adopt to innovations while serving the country.

"By adopting a sustainable business model, you will not only serve Fiji, and invest in our future, but you will also be helping your businesses to adopt innovation, new technology and be more prepared and resilient in an ever-changing global environment and more extreme climate," he added.

"And by embracing a commitment to sustainability, you will help to build on the momentum that we are seeing out of our pre-COP."

WINNERS FOR THE 2017 PRIME MINISTER'S INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AWARDS

- Best Small Business Operating internationally — Cacao Fiji Ltd also known as Adi Chocolate.
- Best Medium Business Operating internationally — Foneology Solutions Ltd.
- Best Large Business Operating internationally — CBS Power Solutions
- Emerging Exporter of the Year — Paradise Beverages Ltd
- Re exporter of the year — Tappoo Group of companies
- Excellence in Innovation Award — Vodafone Fiji
- Excellence in E commerce Award — Mindpearl
- Excellence in Business Leadership — Mark Halabe
- Excellence in Service — Rosie Holidays
- Primary Industry Business Excellence Award — Grace Road Food Company
- Socially Responsible Businesses of the Year — Natural Waters of Viti Ltd also known as Fiji Water
- Supreme Award winner — Tappoo Group of Companies

Compiled by AVNEEL CHAND