

Invitation letter

Dear Mr. Su Zengtian

14 Sep 2015

Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of Fujian Provincial People's Congress

I'm honored to invite your 5-people delegation to visit Fiji from October to December 2015 for 4 days. The purpose of your visit is to carry out local councils exchanges; learn agricultural cooperation between two sides as well as relevant laws and regulations; discuss how to further promote economic and trade cooperation and exchanges between sister cities. You propagate & introduce the core area of Fujian Maritime Silk Road construction-related cases to promote cooperation about bilateral exchanges in the local councils, agricultural personnel exchanges and "One Belt and One Road" construction.

Your delegation includes the following people:

Name	Sex	DOB	Position & Unit
Su Zengtian	Male	18.03.1954	Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of Fujian Provincial People's Congress
Ye Kangyong	Male	11.09.1957	Counsel of the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of Fujian Provincial People's Government
Su Yongge	Male	30.12.1966	Deputy Director-General of the General Office of the Standing Committee of Fujian Provincial People's Congress
Zhou Jie	Male	12.03.1978	Secretary of Su Zengtian
Wu Aihong	Female	08.03.1982	Translator of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Fujian Provincial People's Government

All expenses including accommodation, meals and health insurance will be borne by your side.

Sincerely yours,

Name

position



**HON. INIA B. SERUIRATU**

**Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster  
Management**

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**STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERIES STATISTICS,  
NADI, 5-8 OCTOBER – OPENING REMARKS**

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Venue: Tanoa Hotel, NADI

Date: 05 Oct. 2015

Time: 9.00 am

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Distinguished Guests:

EU Head of Delegation Ambassador Andrew Jacobs;

*FAO Representative Mr. Mubeshir, Sevastian*

Dr. Ken Cokanasiga, Deputy Director of SPC's Land Resources  
Division (TBC);

Representatives from FAO (Global, regional and sub-regional  
office);

Members of National Statistics Offices and Ministries of  
Agriculture and Fisheries from around the Pacific;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to be here today to officially open this workshop on “**Strategic Planning for Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics**”.

The agriculture sector is a major source of income and employment for most Pacific islands and plays a vital role in supporting **food security, sustainable livelihoods and economic growth**. Nearly three quarters (73%) of the Pacific population lives in rural areas and in Fiji the sugar industry alone supports the livelihoods of 200,000 Fijians.

We are gathered here this week to learn from new methodologies and share lessons learnt, on how statistics can be used to support **evidence based policy** in our agriculture and fishery sectors. As recorded in the 2007 Population Census, 49%

of the total household in Fiji are in the rural area and mainly rely on Agriculture and Fisheries for their livelihood. Effective use of statistics ensures that our support to these sectors is relevant, and that we have the right policies and priorities in place that deliver valuable services to our farmers. We also have the opportunity to discuss developing a **regional strategy on agriculture and fishery statistics** to ensure that we collaborate, share resources and exchange information in a sector that is critical to all of us in the region

I am personally a strong advocate for better use of statistics and data within the agriculture sector in Fiji. Fiji recently formulated the Fiji 2020 Agriculture Policy Agenda with the vision to build sustainable community livelihoods through competitive exports and food security. One of its key objectives is to **improve the delivery of services and project implementation** by the Ministry

of Agriculture. Effective use of data will be critical in meeting that objective.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Agriculture is currently working on an Initiative through a Baseline Survey of all farmers in Fiji in recognition of our need for clear and reliable data which will improve our farmers listing. This could later be developed as a frame for future Agriculture Census.

I would like to acknowledge the support of both FAO and the European Union supported SPC Pacific Agriculture Policy Project (PAPP) on agricultural and rural statistics in Fiji. **FAO** has provided support for **Fiji's 2020 Agricultural Policy** and is in the process of finalising its multi-year country programme framework. It is also helping Fiji to develop its own **Strategic Plan for Agriculture and Rural Statistics**. **PAPP** will support the

development of a **costed implementation plan** for Fiji's 2020 Agricultural Policy along with the development of other sub-sectoral policies. On statistics PAPP will support analysis of Fiji's Baseline Survey and has already supported **training to my staff on agricultural statistics** including a 10 day course by SPC on the use of CS Pro (a statistics collection and analysis software). Last week, my officers were also part of a World Bank -SPC PAPP awareness Regional workshop relating to how related tools like Public Expenditure Reviews can improve the quality and effectiveness of our current investments and the overall policy settings for the sector.

PAPP's initiatives have been made possible through the European Union and I wish to commend the European Union for their ongoing support. The EU and Fiji are also currently engaged

in the development of an Euro 20[\$FJm] – EDF11 programme to support agriculture and the sugar sector in Fiji from 2016-2020.

I would like to conclude with two final thoughts.

Firstly, the participants and organisers should remember throughout the workshop that statistics are not useful unless they are **used** by the key stakeholders in our countries. Statistics must therefore be **aligned with our national priorities** and emphasis placed on making the insights they reveal **accessible to non-specialist audiences**.

Secondly, there are relatively few fora within the Pacific which bring together representatives from the Statistics Offices and their colleagues in the Ministries of Agriculture and Fisheries. I would urge all participants at the workshop to use the opportunity to network, collaborate, and strengthen their

20th Oct - International Statistics Day.  
- Reliable and timely statistics is important to monitor our progress in SDGs.

partnerships. **Strengthening the partnership** between regional organisations, government and key institutes will enable key stakeholders to **effectively use statistical tools** and promote innovative ideas.

I now declare this meeting open.

Sustainable Growth. (CTA SCORE Apr/May 15)

- Data for Sustainable Growth.
- Research by World Bank has shown that economic growth generated from Agr is up to four times more effective in reducing poverty than growth in other sectors.
- With the right policies, technologies and access to markets, agr can become an engine of growth for many developing countries.
- Challenge! How to transform Agr so it becomes more profitable, resilient and sustainable.

Big DATA Agr Statistics.

Two ways data will help:

- (1) Level of Farmers, Producer Organisations.
  - Better access to latest data supports decisions on which crops to plant, which land management practices to adopt and which inputs to invest in.
- (2) Policy level - high quality data also enables better decision making and monitoring of results.