

# Tei Tei Taveuni

The Role of farmer organizations

What roles farmer organizations  
can play in crop industry plans ?

# Tei Tei Taveuni

- **Founded 2009**

- 2010-2012 Soil Schools
- 2011 Lime Task Force
- 2011-2014 AVI/Farm Gr's
- 2011-2014 Soil Health Project
- 2013 PIFON
- 2013 POETCom
- 2014 Resource Center
- 2014 Training for FREIND
- 2015 Cuba exchange/  
farmers exchange
- 2015 Champion Farmers  
training

## TTT's Farmers Resource Center



# Context: “The year of the Soil”

## The need for sustainability

- According to Christine Jones Australia loses 7 kg topsoil for every 1 kg wheat produced
- According to Graeme Sait from Nutritech Australia British thinkers state that with the current rate all topsoil will be lost in 60 years
- UN: The causes of soil destruction include chemical-heavy farming techniques, deforestation which increases erosion, and global warming. The earth under our feet is too often ignored by policymakers, experts said.
- Fiji: Depleted soils and low ph
  - Depleted soils and decreasing dalo quality
  - Depleted soils and brucellosis

# Initiatives to develop farmers organizations and advance issues benefitting farmers

## Current initiatives:

*The role of FO's are long term viability for farmers.*

- TTT Resource Center
- Champion Farmers training – SHP implementation and capacity building
- Trials for yields/sustainability
- PIFON – Farmers exchange & Soil Workshop
- POETCom and Cuba organic learning experience

## Tutu Soil Workshop



# Identify some challenges for FO's in implementing changes benefitting production & long term sustainability

## Challenges:

- Make sure farmers will learn if you invite them – they are busy people
- How to define the main problem
- Find/provide solutions and if you don't have them, make sure the farmers are involved in searching for them.
- Make it viable for farmers to implement changes for sustainability
- Mobilize farmers for the long haul

## Soil Health Project





# Prioritize constraints (at least 5)

## Constraints

- Funding for staff and operation for FO's like TTT
- Mobilize farmers who want to and believe they can work and succeed in making changes
- Funding fatigue for growing crops
- The “opinion/belief” that organic farming is:
  - 1) what our ancestors did
  - 2) do nothing / leave it to nature
  - 3) what not to do.
- Research into long term sustainable & organic farming systems have low priority/less funding

## Mukuna – Carbon farming ?



# Possible Solutions

## At the local/national level

- MOA, SPC and Funding Agencies have to take FO's seriously.
- Avoid rivalry – we can't afford it.
- Participatory research as practiced in the Soil Health Project
- Mobilize the ones who wants developments and just keep going

## Farmers Organizations are here to stay

