



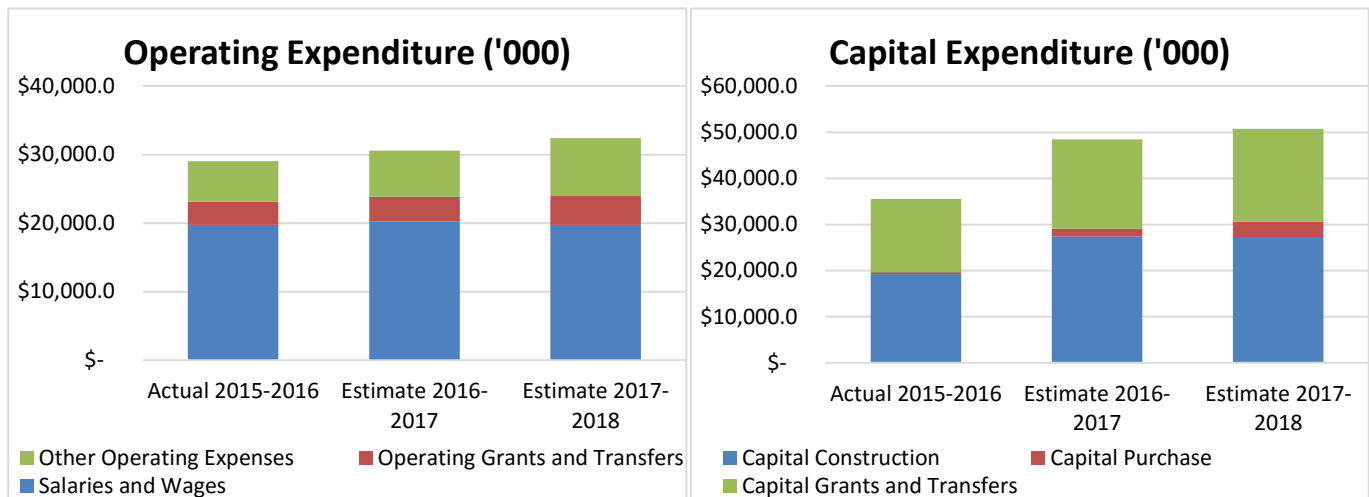
The Fijian Government Ministry of Agriculture 2017-2018 Budget Highlights

The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for supporting the livelihoods of ordinary Fijians who rely on farming (outside of sugarcane) by providing technical crop and livestock extension services and conducting research to develop innovative solutions for Fiji's agriculture sector.

The Ministry supports farmers' livelihoods by modernising the agriculture industry, fostering healthy competition, boosting food security, upholding high standards for Fijian crops and livestock and improving resilience to the severe effects of climate change.

The Ministry will place more emphasis on encouraging private sector involvement to drive the implementation of the Fiji 2020 Agriculture Policy Agenda. This is already underway in the form of the National Livestock Strategy, the National Crop Strategy, and the Five Year Agriculture Strategic Development Plan.

The total budget for the Ministry of Agriculture in 2017-2018 is **\$86.3 million**, comprising **\$32.4 million** for operating expenditure, **\$50.4 million** for capital expenditure and VAT of **\$3.5 million**.



The increase of **\$4.1 million** in the Ministry's 2017-2018 Budget is mainly attributed to:

- an increase in operating expenditure due to salary adjustments and new funding to cover travel and communications, maintenance and operations and the purchase of goods and services; and

- an increase in capital expenditure allocations that supports the construction and upgrading of public buildings and institutional quarters; modernisation of research facilities; adoption of mechanisation; private sector led development; and grant assistance to ensure that subsistence, semi-commercial and commercial farmers have equal access to the ministry's services and share in the industry's development.

New Initiatives

- Maintenance of Existing Rural Office and Staff Quarters: supports the periodic maintenance and upgrading of the existing agriculture buildings, offices and institutional quarters around Fiji (\$1,600,000).
- Stray Animals Control Campaign: supports the campaign to reduce the number of stray animals and livestock nationwide and the construction of a new animal pound and the procurement of a portable race to support the campaign (\$1,370,000).
- Agro Processors Infrastructure Support: covers assistance for infrastructure development such as the establishment of pack house or cool storage facilities for processors and farmer organisations (\$1,000,000).
- The Ministry of Economy will work with Reserve Bank of Fiji to explore the introduction of crop insurance (\$350,000).

Ongoing Initiatives

The Ministry operates through five different divisions that oversee the various allocations assigned in a fiscal year: Policy Administration, Extension Services, Crop Extension, Livestock Extension and Research.

- Policy and Administration:
 - Committee on Better Utilisation of Land (CBUL): supports work on the renewal of expiring agricultural leases and improves access to land for productive purposes (\$7,791,938).
 - Agriculture Marketing Authority (AMA) Capital Grant: delivers services to farmers that focus on the provision of a stable market and the procurement of crops such as dalo,

yaqona, yams & coconut and marine products such as fish & seaweed at the farm gate (\$5,600,000).

- The Fiji Agricultural Partnership Project: a loan-funded project with the U.N. International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) to ensure that small-scale producers are engaged in sustainable farming and business partnerships in remote areas, particularly for Fijians in highland communities (\$2,000,000).
- Farm Mechanisation: supports the adoption of mechanisation in agriculture through the provision of machineries such as tractors, diggers and excavators to farmers at affordable rates (\$1,540,000).
- Agro Input Subsidy: ensures that farmers have access to affordable agro inputs and lower production costs at the farm level (\$1,000,000).
- Export Promotion Programme: strengthens commercial agriculture development through continued support for crops that have the potential to do well in the export market (\$1,000,000).
- Food Security Programme: provides continued support for selected locally produced fruits and vegetables for food security purposes, with a broader aim of reducing imports and creating livelihood opportunities for rural communities (\$1,000,000).
- Rural and Outer Island Agricultural Development Programme: supports the expansion of crop and livestock agribusiness in remote rural areas and outer islands (\$1,500,000).
- Cyclone Rehabilitation – Ongoing Construction of Rural Office and Quarters: completes the maintenance and reconstruction works on damaged office complex and quarters (\$1,610,000).
- Crop Extension Services:
 - Agriculture Extension Services – Crops: improves awareness of Ministry's services for farmers and ensures more effective programmes for supporting crop commodities (\$1,000,000).

- Support for Revitalisation of Key Crop Commodities: covers the support to increase cultivation of rice (\$1,000,000), ginger (\$1,000,000), coconut (\$750,000) cocoa (\$550,000), vanilla (\$100,000), dalo (\$800,000), yaqona (\$500,000) and potatoes (\$300,000) and access to planting materials (\$500,000).
- Land Clearing: supports the expansion of production areas through the clearing of tress and vegetation within the proximity of existing farming areas. Government will provide machinery such as diggers, excavators and tractors to undertake land clearance, drainage works and land preparations (\$1,500,000).
- Flatland Development: funds the desilting of drains, alignment of drains and installation of flap gates in the Rewa delta, Tailevu South, Muaniweni, Baulevu and Soloira flats to expand production areas for farmers (\$500,000).
- Farm Access Roads: supports the upgrading of existing farm access roads to facilitate the transportation of inputs to farms and agricultural produce to market, and link agricultural production areas to national highways and other roads (\$2,500,000).
- Sigatoka Valley Development Programme: carries out infrastructure upgrading on irrigation and drainage systems within Fiji's salad bowl (Sigatoka) and surrounding areas to support production of selected root crops, fruits and vegetable crops, especially those under Bilateral Quarantine Agreement (BQA) (\$300,000).
- Nadarivatu Development Programme: funds infrastructure development, including drainage system improvement and the establishment of a cool storage unit to support expansion of crop production and market access in the interior of Savatu, Nadrau and Nabobuco in Nadarivatu (\$350,000).
- Saivou Valley Agriculture Development Programme: carries out infrastructure development such as the improvement of the irrigation system, desilting of drains, establishment of market collection centre and cool storage to support production and market access in the interior of Nakorotubu, Nalawa, Sigavou and Rakiraki in Ra (\$387,000).
- Rotuma Island Development Project: distributes planning materials and establishes nurseries to support food security and commercial agriculture development on the Island of Rotuma (\$100,000).

- Livestock Extension:
 - Agriculture Extension Services – Livestock: improves awareness of Ministry's services for farmers and ensures more effective programmes supporting livestock commodities (\$800,000).
 - Support for Livestock Commodities: supports increases in the breeding of goats (\$200,000), pigs (\$350,000), sheep (\$500,000), beef (\$500,000), poultry (\$100,000) and honeybees (\$300,000).
 - Beef Multiplication Programme: constructs infrastructure such as fencing, pasture and sheds on private cattle multiplication centres and fattening farms to facilitate the growth in stock numbers (\$300,000).
 - Sheep Multiplication Programme: constructs infrastructure such as fencing, pasture (fodder and new), and sheds on private sheep multiplication centres and fattening farms to facilitate the growth in stock numbers (\$300,000).
 - BTEC Programme for Disease Surveillance: supports the nationwide control of Brucellosis and Tuberculosis and the eventual eradication of these diseases from Fiji's cattle industry (\$1,000,000).
 - Dairy Development Programme: is a grant to Fiji Corporative Dairy Company Limited to cover milk cartage costs from farms to chilling centres and fodder development to help dairy farmers boost their milk production capacity (\$800,000).
 - Livestock Rehabilitation Programme: supports the importation of stronger livestock breeds from overseas and also compensates farmers whose livestock are affected by tuberculosis (\$1,500,000).
 - Veterinary Pathology Lab Upgrade: supports continued capital upgrading of the existing Veterinary Pathology Laboratory at the Koronivia Research Station to a standard where it can be accredited by the World Animal Health Organisation and National Association of Testing Authorities (\$300,000).

- Research:
 - Agriculture Research Services Management: oversees the research operations within the Ministry to develop innovative solutions to issues faced by farmers (\$1,500,000).
 - Infrastructure Improvement for Research Stations: supports improvements to existing buildings and infrastructure at various research stations (\$300,000).
 - Construction of Agronomy Building – Phase 1: covers the costs of construction for a new agronomy lab that will have modern facilities for plant breeding and other required field testing (\$1,300,000).
 - Purchase of Equipment – Agricultural Chemistry Lab: provides continued support for annual procurement of testing equipment and chemicals (\$380,000).
 - Purchase of Equipment – Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory: provides continued support for annual procurement of testing equipment and chemicals (\$250,000).
 - Upgrade of Plant Tissue Culture Lab: provides support for the planned accreditation of the Plant Tissue Culture Lab at Koronivia Research Station (\$200,000).