

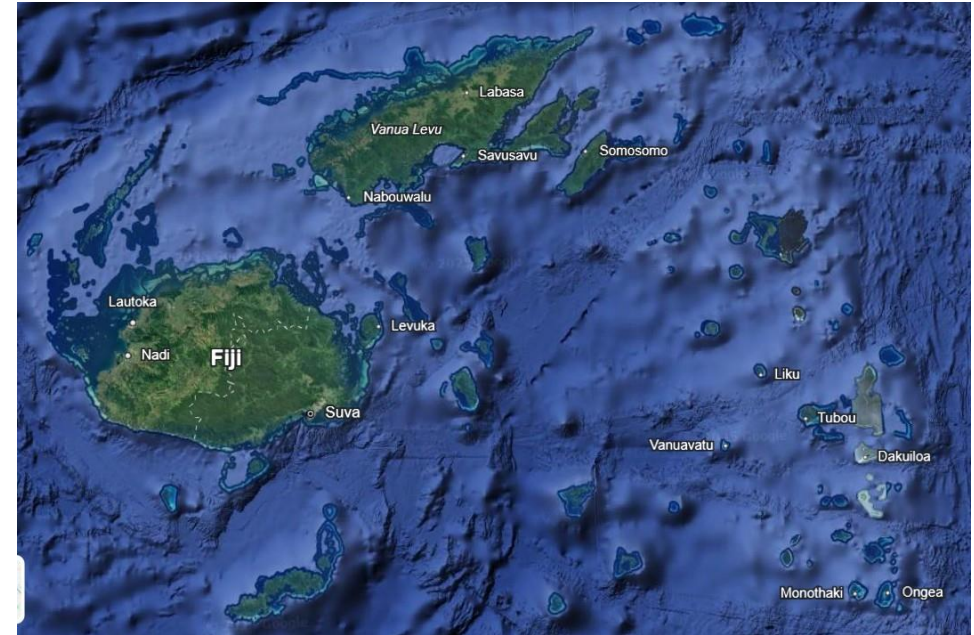


Pacific  
Community  
Communauté  
du Pacifique

# Introduction of New Genetic Strains of Freshwater Prawn and Tilapia

Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and  
Aquaculture 8

# Fiji's Aquaculture Development Progress (2024 – 2025)



- Fiji embarked on the introduction of a new strain of freshwater prawns strengthening freshwater aquaculture diversification. With the need to address production challenges and genetic limitations in existing stocks
- Efforts are underway to secure new tilapia strains:
  - Chitralada “Plus” strain from Manit Farms, Thailand.
  - 20th Generation GIFT Tilapia from WorldFish.
- Focusing on improved genetics for better growth, resilience, and climate-smart production.

*These initiatives are designed to boost productivity, food security, and resilience to climate risks in Fiji's aquaculture sector.*



# Fiji Aquaculture Development Plan (2024 – 2028)



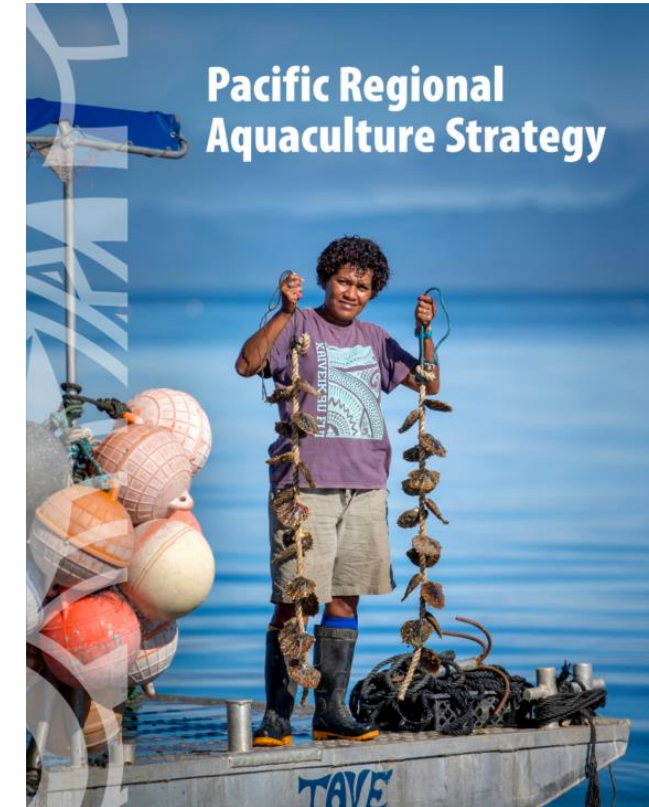
- Goal: Increase annual aquaculture production from 2024-2028 (Fiji’s current aquaculture production is valued at around F\$11.11 million with an ROI of estimated 80.7%)
- Strategic focus on:
  - The various species targeted in the aquaculture include Pearl Oysters, Seaweed, Shrimp (Black Tiger Shrimp and Pacific White Shrimp), Giant River Prawn, Tilapia, Giant Clams, Rock Oysters and Mabe
  - One of the 12 challenges and solutions identified in the publication of the ADP is “promoting energy-efficient practices and optimizing feeding strategies to help out greenhouse gas emissions. Enhancing resilience through pond design modifications and species diversifications as equally crucial”.



# Alignment with Pacific Regional Aquaculture Strategy



- Fiji's initiatives align with PRAS priorities:
  - Fiji has recently enacted the Aquaculture Act and work is in progress for the Aquaculture Regulations. The Act and its Draft regulations are looking into the biosecurity aspects and management of aquatic diseases
- Sustainable intensification of aquaculture.
  - Support through the implementation of the Aquaculture Development Plan will pave the way for Model Farms at Commercial Levels for intensified productions of Tilapia and Freshwater Prawns
  - Also engaging nature-based and climate smart practices that aim to minimize impacts to the environment
- Regional genetic improvement programs for tilapia and other species.
  - Fiji has recently received new strains of Freshwater Prawn and working with private sector to decrease overconcentration of resources and have multiple point dependency of genetic strains
  - Addressing genetic aging of the current broodstock and improving production rates and resilience
  - Development of systems and procedures to maintain genetic pool and its movement to farmers and intended markets
- Nature-based solutions for climate adaptation and resilience used in Fiji.
  - Emphasis on integrating aquaculture with conservation, reducing environmental costs of traditional aquaculture
- Strengthening collaboration with regional partners (SPC, WorldFish, NACA).
  - Fiji has continuously relied on regional partners to streamline priorities and coordinate achieving priorities for the region as well as nationally.



*“Fiji’s national aquaculture development directly supports PRAS, demonstrating how Pacific countries can contribute to regional food security and resilient blue economies ”*

# The Road Ahead

- Secure & establish new genetic strains of tilapia. Working with Manit Farms, Thailand to import new Chitralada Plus to ensure importing disease free strains
- Scale-up freshwater prawn farming with proven strain. Developing improved techniques on production plans of new families and its traceability to farmers.
- Expand seaweed and marine finfish pilot projects. Ongoing work with establishment of nurseries and improved farming techniques, identifying new strains better suited for climate change conditions and also identify ways to further develop it as a nature based solution commodity across the outer islands for seaweed.
- Hatchery production of marine fin fish with immediate discussions on cage culture in the future
- Build capacity of farmers, especially women and youth. Continued empowerment to all groups to enhance knowledge, skills and techniques for improved farming practices
- Ensure sustainability through policy, partnerships, and research.





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