

## MEDIA RELEASE

21 February 2018

### **Fijian Government supports Fiji Sugar Corporation with a Grant of FJD2.1 million for farm equipment investment**

The Fiji Sugar Corporation (FSC) received a grant of FJD2.1million from the Government of Fiji following the signing of Grant Agreement at the FSC's head office in Lautoka today. The grant was made possible through the close co-operations between the Governments of Fiji and India. This signing of the Grant Agreement follows the formal transfer of grant funding from the Government of India to Fiji. The grant will be utilized for purchasing of farming equipment, to fulfill the Government's objective of mechanizing the sugar industry.

Representing the Government of Fiji at the signing ceremony was the Permanent Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister and Ministry of Sugar Industry, Mr. Yogesh Karan. Also present was the Director Sugar Operations, Mr. Sanjay Kumar and other Ministry of Sugar Industry officials.

At the signing ceremony, the Permanent Secretary for Sugar Industry Mr. Yogesh Karan, on behalf of the Fijian Government, thanked the Government of India, for their continued and valued support to Fiji's sugar industry. "We are indeed grateful to the Government of India for its generous support and its contribution to the efforts in revitalizing our sugar industry. This grant will be invested back into the industry in areas such as cane planting and harvesting that is crucial for increasing cane yields and growth in sugarcane production".

As part of FSC's strategic plan to revive the industry, FSC will be investing in an agricultural fleet to service cane grower needs of planting, cultivation, harvesting and haulage of cane. The mechanization of the industry will help in alleviating challenges affecting growers, and through this initiative, FSC envisages a positive and progressive engagement with cane farmers.

**Right:** CEO Graham Clark and Permanent Secretary for the Sugar Ministry Mr Yogesh Karan at today's signing



FSC CEO Graham Clark says "this is a crucial first step towards mechanizing the sugar industry and a further example of continued support from the Government of Fiji. We at FSC are very grateful. As we embrace mechanization, it is our aspiration that efficiencies in farming will materialize to benefit all. An efficient sugar cane farming sector will support the industry as a whole".

The FJD2.1 million grant will be used to purchase five Tata Tipper Trucks, three sugar cane Case IH A 4000 harvesters, five 9500 4WD Mahindra tractors and forty farming implements. The order for this equipment is in the process of being placed.

The items are expected to arrive in time to be used in this year's planting and harvesting campaigns, and will be distributed together with other FSC equipment, to all areas of the cane belt through the FSC sector structures.

Farmers will be able to deploy the equipment at pre-determined cost-effective rates from FSC via a system that will be communicated to cane farmers before the start of the 2018 crushing season.

## **ENDS**

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