

LAND SETTLEMENT IN FIJI : INDIVIDUAL COMMERCIAL
FARMING IN THE LOMAIVUNA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME
AND ITS IMPACT ON THE RELOCATED ETHNIC
FIJIAN LEASEHOLDERS AND THEIR
HOUSEHOLDS.

BY

JOSEFA (JOSEVA) MATAU
B.A., DIP.ED. (U.S.P.)

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I.

DECLARATION

I certify that the substance of this thesis has not already been submitted for any degree and is not being currently submitted for any other degree.

I certify that to the best of my knowledge any help received in preparing this thesis, and all sources used, have been acknowledged in this thesis.

Finally the views, opinions, recommendations and errors made within this study are the sole responsibilities of the researcher. The occurrence of any error is regretted.



JOSEFA (JOSEVA) MATAU

II.

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IV.

ABSTRACT

Land settlement for farming development has initiated and motivated the utilization of under-used Fijian lands for commercial purposes. It has provided the impetus for the effective application of the integrated rural development approach aimed at improving living conditions in non-urban areas. In the three most recent national development plans (D.P.7 - 9, 1976 - 1990), goals have been set for programmes to promote economic opportunities and cater for the people's needs and livelihood.

This study, however, has tried to observe the impact of the land settlement programme on the Lomaivuna ethnic Fijian farmers and the surrounding communities. It reviews the origin and development of the scheme and its performance relating to the management, farming output, the role of participating agencies and the state of the scheme today.

Data were collected through a questionnaire survey, formal interviews, informal discussion and a search of archival records of the participant-agency files. Library research was carried out to provide the literature review and supportive information. Eighty random-sampled farmers (48% of the Fijian leaseholders or 38% of the total scheme farmers) were surveyed.

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The findings of the research study reveal that arable farming is still the primary economic activity at Lomaivuna. Fijian customs, traditions and related obligations will continue to affect nearly every aspect of the farmers' lives, particularly farming. It should be recognized and accepted that Fijian leaseholders regard customs and traditions as important aspects of their existence. The farmers have made compromises to accomodate communalism but the practical result qualifies the Lomaivuna leaseholders as only semi-commercial farmers, or even semi-subsistence farmers.

Today's Lomaivuna farmers are satisfied, although economic returns are not as fulfilling as most want them to be. Lomaivuna has provided them certain opportunities which are non-existent in the village community. Their immediate need (similar to most small farmers in Fiji relying on the domestic markets) is the provision of greater opportunities and efficient organization to convert production into profits.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ALTA	Agricultural Landlords and Tenants Act, 1976
ALTO	Agricultural Landlords and Tenants Ordinance, 1966
ANU	Australian National University
BOMAS	Business Opportunity Management Advisory Service
BP	Burns Philps (South Seas) Limited
BRAC	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee
BSF	Bureau of Statistics, Fiji
CADU	Chilalo Agricultural Development Unit
CPO	Central Planning Office
DAF	Department of Agriculture, Fiji
DP	Development Plan
FAB	Fijian Affairs Board
FABEU	Fijian Affairs Board Education Unit
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FELDA	Federal Land Development Authority
FMV	Fair Market Value
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
INCRA	Brazilian National Institute for Amazonian Research
IPS	Institute of Pacific Studies
KLDP	Kenyan Livestock Development Project
KTDA	Kenyan Tea Development Authority

XI.

LDA	Land Development Authority
LDC	Land Development Company
LDO	Land Development Ordinance
LLDP	Lilongwe Land Development Programme
LTFG	Local Task Force Groups
MH	Morris Hedstrom Limited
MPI	Ministry of Primary Industries
NAF	National Archives of Fiji
NLTB	Native Land Trust Board
NMA	National Marketing Authority
RFMF	Royal Fiji Military Forces
SIDA	Swedish International Development Authority
SODENKAM	Nkam Development Society
TFP	Tropical Food Products
UCV	Unimproved Capital Value
USP	University of the South Pacific, Fiji
WADU	Wolamo Agricultural Development Unit

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