

Abstract

The implementation of Land Resource Planning and Development (LRPD) Policy in 2000 has recently aroused considerable public interest in Fiji and abroad.

This report analyses current information about the implementation of LRPD land reform policy program and its implication on poverty to farmers in Fiji. The basic idea behind this paper is to analyse the impacts of land tenure to farmers productivity and how it has assisted them on their daily lives. Most importantly how land reform policies have managed to cope with the current poverty status of each farmer and how it understands the causes and consequences of this poverty. Using the household income and expenditure survey (HIES) datas for 2002-03 and Fiji's National Planning strategic informations, this paper examines further the reasons why farmers are not able to handle the current social, economic and political troubles affecting Fiji and the reasons most farmers opted to leave the agriculture industry and search for other alternative livelihood. Factors such as land tenure insecurity, inflation, and financial crisis contributed immensely to the direction which poor farmers are heading nowadays. Most farmers opted to stay in squatters and avoid harassments from land owners to pay excessive rents or unpaid leases due to inefficient farming. The problem of insecure property rights continue to affect farming progress in Fiji as farmers are not sure on their future as well as their interests in the agriculture industry . Analysis made on farmers consumption level reveals that less money is saved than spent. Farmer's investment continues to fall for reasons such as lack of finance and the high costs of farming equipments and materials. The findings of this paper are to implement strict government policies to assist farmers and allocate efficient resources equally.