



**Sustainable Development  
Management Solutions**

## **PROJECT CONCEPT**

### ***Green Tractor Hire***

Fiji is an agrarian economy. Most of the agricultural work is being conducted by small holding farmers that may not have either the capital or the need to be sole owners of major expensive farming equipment, such as tractors. Still they need to have access to tractors for periods when they need to plough their fields or when harvesting their crops. For this reason tractors are available for hire in Fiji, giving farmers the opportunity to hire them just for the periods when they require them. This saves farmers from having to undertake maintenance on these tractors, saving them considerable costs. However, these diesel operated tractors have become very expensive to run as the price of fuel continues to remain high. Additionally, as we transition to a green low-carbon economy to combat climate change, it would be preferable to use low-emission technologies to contribute to the country's efforts to lower emissions.

**PROJECT GOAL:** To provide farmers in Fiji an option to hire tractors that are powered by bio-mass as fuel, contributing to Fiji's emission reductions.

#### **PROJECT OBJECTIVES:**

1. To establish hiring centres in the three major rural areas in Fiji – in the Central, Western and Northern Divisions;
2. To procure AgLoco tractors – the right mix of 35 HP and 75 HP tractors.
3. To train local staff in maintenance procedures for these tractors.
4. To market these tractors and their benefits in Fiji as well as demonstrate their use to farmers.

#### **THE PROJECT**

The AgLoco is a very robust but simple tractor. Skilled local tradesmen would be able to make repairs using standard workshop equipment with all parts being able to be machined in Fiji.

It is a zero-carbon tractor which can match a diesel model on performance and save up to 90% on fuel costs. AgLoco tractors are biomass powered (wood and crop residue). A typical farm need only put aside 2% of its land area to continuously produce enough solid biofuel to meet the AgLoco's needs (or one third of crop residues). The biomass can be purpose grown or it could utilise waste and residues. 120kg of wood-chip provides 4 hours of run time at an average 48% load.

Farmers would be able to hire these tractors at an average of FJD 25-35 per hour while incurring no running costs.

**FUNDING:** Financing of USD 1.5 million is being sought.

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