



**Sustainable Development
Management Solutions**

PROJECT CONCEPT

Organic Seaweed Fertiliser (Sea4Crops)

Prices of chemical fertilisers is continually increasing. The Fijian government subsidises fertilisers for farmers but with the increasing prices and increasing transport costs, their price still remains high for farmers, even with the subsidies. This has become a financial burden on both farmers and the government. If fertilisers were to be produced locally from a readily available resource, this would cut transport costs and have it on the market for local farmers at much more affordable prices, as well as making it available to international markets as a Fijian high quality organic product.

The government has numerous times expressed a preference for organic agriculture but the transition has been slow and hindered by a lack of expertise and readily available and affordable organic alternatives for farmers. Seaweed fertiliser is naturally organic, and very high in nutrients which are highly bioavailable for the plants. It is non-toxic and harmless to humans and livestock. Seaweed fertiliser is a natural biological system that works in harmony with the plant-soil ecosystem.

PROJECT GOAL: To produce and market Organic Seaweed Fertiliser, as a sustainable alternative to synthetic fertilisers.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

1. To collaborate with the Ministry of Agriculture and test different forms of seaweed fertilisers and concentrations on different crops;
2. To establish a network of seaweed farmers/providers;
3. To establish a fertiliser production centre;
4. To procure machinery that would automate the production of the fertiliser;
5. To train employees in the farming of seaweed and the production of Sea4Crops fertiliser;
6. To market the fertiliser for domestic and overseas markets.

THE PROJECT

The project would test a variety of seaweed fertilisers in liquid form (in different concentrations) and mixed with other naturally derived nutrients and also in dry form, that would require farmers to dilute in water before applying to their crops. These would be tested by Fiji's Ministry of Agriculture using the different mixtures with different produce in an effort to identify the best mixture for each of the crops mostly produced in Fiji, and with the expectation that it receives the Ministry's stamp of approval. The project would bring benefits to farmers, as well as provide employment to coastal women and youth who would collect and/or farm the seaweed. The Project will primarily aim to supply the domestic Fiji market but as production increases it would also aim to export an organic Fiji product of high quality.

FUNDING: Financing of USD 200,000 is being sought.

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