



NEWS RELEASE

Partnership pays off for Pushpa

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In 2019, Pushpa Wati of Korovuto established a partnership with Fiji Sugar Corporation to ensure her 16-acre family farm prospered. Now she prepares to celebrate the results from the 2020 crush.

Sixteen years ago when Pushpa's husband passed away, the farm became hard to manage on her own, particularly while holding down a job as a teacher and raising her two children for many years. So in 2019, at a community meeting, Ms Wati approached Graham Clark, the CEO of Fiji Sugar Corporation (FSC) asking for assistance to revive her farm.

Only days later the FSC team came to survey the farm and assess its potential. "They came and assessed my farm and advised me that there was potential based on the flat nature of my land", commented Ms Wati.

In March 2019, FSC commenced farming the land. Preparation included grass slashing and general clearance, followed by tilling of the soil for planting. The FSC team also created a new irrigation system to feed from the creek that runs through the farm, before planting on eight acres of land.

FSC Chief Executive Officer, Mr Graham Clark commented "we saw great potential in Pushpa's farm, as the land was flat and fertile. It just needed some care and a team to help take on the operational tasks required to maintain the farm. So we presented a partnership agreement to assist with bringing the farm back to its former glory" he said.

Ms Wati is pleased with the partnership and the progress on her farm so far. Commenting "I signed a 5 year agreement for FSC to completely take care of the farm. I don't have to do anything, they prepare the land, plant, and harvest, they also bring all the laborers to do the work, and after the harvest we share the yields. FSC receives the yield from the crop, deducts all farming expenses incurred as well as their share, and I am paid the remainder" continued Ms Wati.

With the cane crushing season soon coming to an end, Ms Wati is now anticipating the final results, the payment and most importantly a positive future for her farm.

“I think the future will be good. It will be good by the grace of the Lord. For a good nine years my daughter and I had been praying for a solution.. Give us some way. So now, we have the way” she said.



Prior to FSC’s involvement in Ms Wati’s farm, the farm produced a mere 20 tonnes of cane. This year the expected yield is 372.45 tonnes.

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For more information, please contact:

Sereima Sokidrau | EA to FSC CEO | Email Sereima.Sokidrau@fsc.com.fj | Mobile: 999 0245

Picture caption 1: Pushpa Wati of Korovuto is pleased with the partnership with FSC

