

## Fiji Agriculture Minister visited CDB on 31-1-15

Fiji Minister Shows Interest in CDB Technology Know-How We are waiting for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to be signed between India and Fiji so that we would be able to pursue technology transfer between the two countries, especially in the coconut sector and the market development activities,” said Hon. Inia Seruiratu, Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management, Republic of Fiji. The minister was talking after a meeting with Mr.T.K. Jose I.A.S and senior officials of Coconut Development Board at its head quarters in Kochi.



“It is a good opportunity for us to share the areas of common interest. Following the visit of Hon Indian Prime Minister Shri.Narendra Modi, as India is willing to assist Fiji in Agriculture and small holder dairy development, we have expressed our interest in getting into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with specific agencies within the Government of India as we would like to pursue on Agriculture related issues particularly seed development, trainings and technical expertise exchanges,” said Mr.Inia Seruiratu.

“The coconut industry is important as there are a lot of farmers involved particularly rural communities and with the recent developments, the meeting will benefit our farmers a lot of areas in coconut product diversification/value addition and by-product utilization, technology transfer, quality seed production and husbandry practice,” he added. The Minister and his team is in Kochi for attending the 51st Ministerial Meeting/Session of the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC), which is to be held at Hotel Crowne Plaza, Kochi, from 2-5 February 2015.

Fijian High Commissioner to India, Mr.H.E. Yogesh Karan said the country is interested in knowing more about the technological know-how of shell-based activated carbon. The High Commissioner asked in particular about the production cost to set up an activated carbon unit in Fiji. While responding to Mr.Yogesh Karan, Mr.T.K. Jose I.A.S, Chairman, CDB, informed that CDB would be happy to disseminate the technical know-how to the country once the MoU is signed.



The Fijian delegates also expressed their interest in importing the hi-end furnitures to India. The Fijian furnitures made out of coconut is of high demand in foreign countries. 90 per cent of the same is being exported. The representatives said they are in talks with the Indian counterparts regarding the same.

The team has also visited the Coconut Museum at CDB and has showed interest in the coconut husk and shell-based products displayed at the museum.

Hon. Faiyaz Siddiq Koya, Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism, Republic of Fiji, Mr.H.E. Yogesh Karan, Fijian High Commissioner to India, Mr.Uraia Waibuta, Acting Permanent Secretary of Agriculture, Fiji, Mr.Sakeasi O.

Waikere, First Secretary, High Commission of the Republic of Fiji, Mr.Uron N.Salum, Executive Director, Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC), Shri. Sugata Ghose, Chief Coconut Development Officer, Shri.A.K.Nandi, Secretary, CDB, Shri.R Jnanadevan, Deputy Director, CDB and Dr. Remany Gopalakrishnan, Consultant, CDB were present at the meeting.

