



# VIVEKANANDA TECHNICAL CENTRE



# Annual Report 2022

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# INTRODUCTION

It is our pleasure to present the 2022 Annual Report of Vivekananda Technical Centre [VTC]. VTC is managed by Ramakrishna Mission, Fiji. It is registered under the Fiji Higher Education Commission (FHEC).

VTC specializes in providing training programmes in Agriculture which are registered under the Fiji Qualifications Framework. This report provides the management of VTC and other stakeholders with an overview of the operational and financial activities and performance for the year 2022.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF VIVEKANANDA TECHNICAL CENTRE

Vivekananda Technical Centre [VTC] is run by the Board of Management of Ramakrishna Mission, Fiji which is a branch of the worldwide Ramakrishna Mission with its Headquarters at Belur Math, West Bengal, India.

The VTC started in 1981 at the Nawaicoba campus offering courses in Carpentry and Joinery, Agriculture and Automotive Engineering. Apart from the Ministry of Education's two-year vocational courses, VTC also offered Fiji National University [FNU] franchised courses in the early nineties. In 2013, VTC piloted and offered Certificate level IV Fiji National Qualification [FNQs] courses in Commercial Cookery, Automotive Mechanics, Automotive Electrical, and Cabinet Making & Joinery.

Since 2016, Ramakrishna Mission made the decision to discontinue other courses and move to the much-needed Agriculture sector, focusing on training our local farmers.

Therefore, currently, we at VTC are fully focused in developing and delivering training programmes in Agriculture to farmers on their farms.

## OUR INSPIRATION

*“Let every man and woman and child, without respect of caste or birth, weakness or strength, hear and learn that behind the strong and the weak, behind the high and the low, behind every one, there is that Infinite Soul, assuring the infinite possibility and the infinite capacity of all to become great and good.*

*Let us proclaim to every soul: Arise, awake, and stop not till the goal is reached. Arise, awake! Awake from this hypnotism of weakness. None is really weak; the soul is infinite, omnipotent and omniscient. Stand up, assert yourself, proclaim the God within you, do not deny Him! De-hypnotize yourselves. The way to do that is found in your own sacred books.*

*Teach yourselves, teach everyone his real nature, call upon the sleeping soul and see how it awakens. Power will come, glory will come, goodness will come, purity will come and everything that is excellent will come when this sleeping soul is roused to self-conscious activity.” – Swami Vivekananda*

### **Our Vision**

Quality technical education in agriculture for better utilization of our resources.

### **Our Mission**

Providing accessible training for a skilled, competent, productive agriculture workforce which will contribute to the development of the nation.

### **Our Goals**

1. To continue running a quality technical education centre with a sound management, administration, proper training resources and relevant and up-to-date curriculum.
2. To provide quality technical education in agriculture to meet the needs of the nation in collaboration and partnership with the industries and Government.
3. To enhance the productivity of farmers engaged in farming.
4. To introduce new farming techniques, crops and technologies to the farmers and support them by connecting them to financing institutions, buyers, equipment suppliers etc.
5. To introduce agriculture training into high schools to attract students to take up farming as a career.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT



I am pleased to present VTC's Annual Report for the year 2022. Agriculture plays a very important role in Fiji's economy. It not only offers employment and opportunities for sustaining livelihoods, but it also establishes a strong link between the agriculture sector and our national economy. Over the years, horticulture has come to be one of the most profitable agricultural enterprises in the nation's economic growth.

VTC is managed by the Ramakrishna Mission (RKM) based in Malolo, Fiji. Besides VTC, RKM also manages two other institutions namely Swami Vivekananda College (SVC) and Sarada Medical Centre (SMC) along with an outreach mobile medical Services to the remote village in Nadi under SMC.

VTC provides courses in horticulture, food processing and spice production as it is dedicated to developing the growth of the country's economy with the full support and guidance of FHEC.

VTC is committed to empower farmers registered under it with technical knowledge and skills in agriculture and has done a lot of work during 2022.

Swami Vivekananda's message, "*Service to man is worship to God*" is the source of our inspiration. And VTC has focused all its energy on Production in Horticulture.

With a humble beginning in 2016 with 68 registered student farmers, we have progressed to our present student farmer's strength of 136.

Our teaching method is hands-on-learning and competency-based, at the same time we ensure that we are all inclusive and do not deprive any farmer interested in developing his or her skills. Farmers are instructed on their own farms, thereby making the farm a practical class-room cum laboratory. Instructors visit farmers at different locations in a radius of 30km around VTC.

### **Currently VTC is running the following FHEC accredited programmes:**

Production in Horticulture for Certificate level 2

Production in Horticulture for Certificate level 3

Production in Horticulture for Certificate level 4

Certificate in Agriculture (Spice Production) level 2

Certificate in Food Processing level2

VTC has started using the digital platform for the interested farmers where our instructors are unable to reach (beyond 30km from VTC's location). We have uploaded study materials of Production in Horticulture of Cert.2, 3 and 4.

VTC has planted perennial spices like cinnamon, nutmeg, and black pepper. VTC has developed a small spice-nursery with the help of an ITEC expert from India where vanilla, cinnamon, nutmeg, black pepper, cardamom, mango-ginger, turmeric, have been planted. Black-Pepper is a spice which can grow well in Fiji and VTC is trying to encourage farmers to take up its cultivation.

Two instructors have completed International Skills Training (IST) which qualifies them to assess students in various subjects.

### **Work with Australian Volunteer**

VTC continues to work in partnership with the Australian Volunteer Program (AVP) to take agriculture to a newer height. We used the AVP impact fund to empower women to develop fruit grafting skills. We have submitted another request for an AVP assignment to develop Digitalizing of our programs.

### **Farmer's workshop**

A farmer's day workshop was organized on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July 2022 and the theme of the workshop was 'Plant Propagation Techniques.' Participants were mainly women who were imparted training in different methods of plant multiplication.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

We thankfully acknowledge FHEC for their financial and administrative support to run and sustain our programs efficiently.

We also thank all the student farmers who have enrolled themselves in VTC's Certificate Level Courses and also extend our thanks to 'Tech World, Fiji' for their continued support to VTC in IT matters.

# PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

## Introduction



It is my pleasure to present the 2022 Annual Report of Vivekananda Technical Centre [VTC], a unique tertiary training institution that provides technical and vocational education [TVET] training courses registered under the Fiji Qualifications Framework approved by the Fiji Higher Education Commission. This report provides the management and other stakeholders with information about the institution's activities and performance for the year 2022.

## Staffing

VTC staff members in 2022.

- Director
- Administration officer
- Principal
- 2 Agriculture instructors
- Finance officer
- Handyman/Nursery hand

## Courses

The following VTC Provider Qualifications, registered on the Fiji Qualifications framework were offered in 2022:

1. Certificate in Production Horticulture (Level 2)
2. Certificate in Production Horticulture (Level 3)
3. Certificate in Production Horticulture (Level 4)
4. Certificate in Agriculture (Spice Production) (Level 2)
5. Certificate in Food Processing (Level 2)

## Activities & Achievements of the Agriculture Programs 2022

A total of 136 Farmers joined the course in 2022, they were enrolled in Certificate in Production Horticulture (Level 2,3,4), and Certificate in Agriculture (Spice Production) (Level 2), Certificate in Food Processing (Level 2), field visits were carried out following the Covid 19 safety plan and protocols of MOHMS. Monthly meetings of VTC Administration are carried out, this is done to monitor overall progress of the institution,

A position for Agriculture Assistant was filled, as to have equality based on gender a female staff member was chosen to be part of the team to support and empower women farmers.

Mr. Ryan O'Flaherty in his 12 weeks Australian Volunteers Program with VTC, has trained instructors in the range of tropical fruits as well as guiding VTC to start a fruit tree nursery, planting of fruit tree has already begun and grafting will be carried out once the root stock is ready. He has also guide VTC to develop tools for record keeping.

More planting materials are being propagated in fruits, perennial plants, citrus and horticultural crops for providing support to trainees and farmers. Turmeric and mango ginger demonstration plot is being maintained, instructors are carrying out trials based on soil type, fertilizers, irrigation, husbandry practices and weed management systems and results are being passed onto trainees to implement of their field.

An application for reaccreditation of Certificate in Production Horticulture (Level 2) was sent to FHEC, this review was done by the Australian Volunteers Program Volunteer Mr. John Anthony Portman.

IMPACT FUND – VTC had successfully implemented an impact fund project under the theme 'building and enhancing communities to be better equipped to propagate fruit trees ensuring more resilient and disaster tolerant communities.' A total of 5 nursery were built in the communities and a total of 285 fruit trees were procured for distribution. Mostly women farmers were targeted for this project, this project was mainly focused on Goal 2 of the sustainable development goals (SDG) to **end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.**

A photography activity was carried with AVP communications team from Melbourne on 13<sup>th</sup> of June, the purpose was to capture information from Partners on the ground on their locally led programs driven by Partner's needs, also to hear and capture footages, video filming focusing on beneficiaries of the program as well as the Impact Fund Grant; Reach out and capture stories from our Partners that have engaged remote/face to face volunteers under the program.



VTC has been allocated a total of \$128,196 for the financial year 2022/2023 by the Fiji Government, due to the impacts of Covid 19 the amount has decreased over the years, VTC plans to propagate grafted fruit and sell to farmers in order to support the operations of the institution.

An educational tour to Teitei Livelihoods Centre was carried out, it is a permaculture farm specifically designed to care for the nature, some of the things that the instructors had learned are, Rain water harvesting practices, retaining terraces that were carved into the hillside, Pesticides and herbicides were never used since the farm was acquired in 2006, Crops were always planted in an integrated manner, animals were used for insect control and fertilizer, as well as for eggs.

Principal together with one Agriculture Instructor attended a 4-day training on Online Conversion and Virtual Teaching organized by the HEC in association with the Pacific Community (SPC)'s Educational Quality and Assessment Programme (EQAP). (21/06/2022 – 24/06/2022), also VTC participated on a 2-day training at FNU Namaka campus on development of micro-qualification organized by the Pacific Community (SPC)'s division of Educational Quality and Assessment Programme (EQAP). (04/08/2022 – 05/08/2022). This has enabled VTC staff to develop micro qualification which will be recognized in the Pacific Region.

Principal and Agriculture instructor has successfully completed the international Skills Training (IST) Course which is offered by APTC in partnership with FHEC. After completion of this course this will enable them to become internationally recognized trainers and assessors

## 2022 Enrollment Data

		Number
1	Certificate in Production Horticulture (Level 2)	36
2	Certificate in Production Horticulture (Level 3)	25
3	Certificate in production Horticulture (Level 4)	25
4	Certificate in Agriculture (Spice Production) (Level 2)	25
5	Certificate in Food Processing (Level 2)	25
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>136</b>

## Farmer Cluster Breakdown

### Certificate in Production Horticulture (Level 2)

SN	Cluster Name	Number
1	Nacovi Cluster	4
2	Qeleloa Cluster	1
3	Malamala Cluster	4
4	Nalovo Cluster	27
TOTAL		36

### Certificate in Production Horticulture (Level 3)

SN	Cluster Name	Number
1	Mulomulo Cluster	9
2	Melevani Cluster	16
TOTAL		25

### Certificate in Production Horticulture (Level 4)

SN	Cluster Name	Number
1	Salovi Cluster	3
2	Dakadaka Cluster	1
3	Nacovi Cluster	6
4	Nalau Cluster	12
5	Malamala Cluster	2
6	Moala Cluster	1
	TOTAL	25

### Certificate in Agriculture (Spice Production) (Level 2)

SN	Cluster Name	Number
1	Moala cluster	2
2	Uciwai cluster	3
3	Rada cluster	5
4	Wailoaloa cluster	5
5	Namata cluster	6
6	Nacovi cluster	4
	TOTAL	25

### Certificate in Food Processing (Level 2)

SN	Cluster Name	Number
1	Nacovi cluster	4
2	Uciwai cluster	3
3	Korovuto cluster	5
4	Sonaisali cluster	3
5	Nawaicoba cluster	3
6	Moala cluster	2
7	Yako cluster	1
8	Rada cluster	4
	TOTAL	25

## **DETAILS OF ACTIVITIES FOR 2022**

### **CERTIFICATE IN PRODUCTION HORTICULTURE (LEVEL 2)**

1. 36 farmers enrolled in the Certificate Level 2.
2. 6 training visits were made to train the farmers on 3 different modules which focused on Nursery Production, Husbandry Practices and Introduction to Farm Tools & Machinery Operation.
3. Apart from the above-mentioned visits 58 assessment visits were made for field observation and assessment of implementation of knowledge and skill sets that were passed on to the farmer.

### **CERTIFICATE in PRODUCTION HORTICULTURE (LEVEL 3)**

1. 25 farmers were enrolled in Certificate Level 3.
2. 11 training visits were made covering the module on Safe use of agro-chemicals, Nursery Production, Seed Production and Field Production.
3. Apart from the above-mentioned visits 84 assessment visits were made for field observation and assessment of implementation of knowledge and skill sets that were passed on to the farmer.

### **CERTIFICATE in PRODUCTION HORTICULTURE (LEVEL 4)**

1. 25 farmers were enrolled in Certificate Level 4
2. 10 training visits and 89 assessment visits were made for field observation and assessment of implementation of knowledge and skill sets.

### **CERTIFICATE in Agriculture (Spice Production) (LEVEL 2)**

1. 25 farmers were enrolled
2. 12 training visits and 69 assessment visits were made for field observation and assessment of implementation of knowledge and skill sets.

## CERTIFICATE in Food Processing (LEVEL 2)

1. 25 farmers were enrolled
2. 10 training visits and 84 assessment visits were made for field observation and assessment of implementation of knowledge and skill sets.

## Graduation

A total of 146 farmers completed their training in Levels 2,3,4 of Production Horticulture and Spice production.

## Innovation and Assistance

1. **Making new products (Value addition)** -the instructors were trained by the expert from ITEC India to make several products. These include products such as Moringa Leaves powder, Citrus jam, Curry Leaf powder, Cinnamon powder, Cinnamon leaf powder, Cassava Starch, Cassava Flour, Turmeric powder & Mango powder.
2. **Beekeeping** – honey production is another area where VTC is working to make more hives and can be used as a training area for farmers who wish to take beekeeping as their profession. This is an area where VTC will be looking in the near future.
3. **Soil Testing** – Soil test was another assistance given to farmers which allows them to know their farm and soil better. VTC educates farmers on how to collect soil samples and tests the soil for 9 different components of the soil such as PH, organic carbon, nitrate, ammonia, phosphate, potassium, magnesium, calcium and sulphur.

## Concluding Remarks

I wish to thank the Ramakrishna Mission Fiji management, staff, the representatives of the local industries and our stakeholders who have all contributed towards VTC's success. With the continued support from all the stakeholders there is no doubt that VTC will continue to deliver the outstanding quality of training and its services to the people of this nation.

**Head of Campus (Principal)**

**Divikash Anal Nair**

# AGRICULTURE TRAINING



*Distribution of fruit trees. (13/06/2022)*

*Pic Credit: Darren James*



*Fruit tree's being propagated for grafting (19/05/2022)*



*Farmer being advised by the Director VTC (13/06/22)*



*Staff attending Inaugural Higher Education Forum 2022 (15/07/22)*



*Instructor Demonstrating to the participants of onsite workshop. (27/07/22)*



*Trainees participating at the onsite workshop. (27/07/22)*



*Educational tour to Teitei Livelihood Centre. (23/07/22)*



*Nursery being constructed at farmers farm. (23/05/22)*



*IST Course block 1 participants (23/09/2022)*



*VTC hosting block 2 of the IST Course (21/09/2022)*



*Propagation of fruit trees (19/08/22)*



*Fabrication of soil sterilization kit for demonstration purposes to trainees. (12/08/22)*





*Honey harvesting and packaging. (02/09/22)*



*Fabrication of tank for Aquaculture (04/08/22)*



*Trainee inspects his produce. (15/09/22)*



*Principal visits trainee and inspects his farm. (14/09/22)*



*Trainee is advised on husbandry nursery practices.  
(15/09/22)*



*Instructor demonstrating banana propagation techniques to FNU Attachees. (12/08/22)*

*Fiji National University students on attachment at VTC*



*Attachees visiting farmers fields (19/12/22)*



*Attachees practicing single seed sowing.  
(16/12/22)*

## APPENDIX 1: VTC ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Entity	Members	Responsibilities	
Ramakrishna Mission Board of Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Swami Bhadreshananda</li> <li>2. Swami Guruvarananda</li> <li>3. Dilip Khatri</li> <li>4. Umakant Patel</li> <li>5. Vinod Patel</li> <li>6. Harish Ratanji</li> <li>7. Arvind Raniga.</li> <li>8. Sat Narain</li> <li>9. Anil Pillay</li> <li>10. Nitin Hiralal</li> <li>11. Dharmesh Motiram</li> <li>12. Jitesh Pala</li> <li>13. Prakash Pala</li> <li>14. Hitesh Shivilal</li> <li>15. Ajay Raniga</li> </ol>	<p>Management of all the institutions of Ramakrishna Mission</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Swami Vivekananda College</li> <li>2. Vivekananda Technical Centre</li> <li>3. Sarada Medical Centre</li> <li>4. Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama</li> <li>5. Ramakrishna Mission Relief Services</li> </ol> <p>Responsible for overall management, funding, development, and coordination with the Government and Donor Agencies.</p>	
Vivekananda Technical Centre Committee	<p>Swami Bhadreshananda</p> <p>Mukesh Chand</p> <p>Farnaz</p> <p>Divikash Nair</p>	<p>Director</p> <p>Admin Officer</p> <p>Finance Officer</p> <p>Principal</p>	<p>Committee works with the VTC admin and stakeholders to ensure that all aspects of VTC run smoothly, maintenance of infrastructure and accountably as per the policies established.</p> <p>Looks after accounts and payroll.</p> <p>Monitors the activities of the VTC and reports to the Board of Management.</p>
VTCAdmin	Director, Principal and HOD, Admin Officer	Day to day administration of the Centre in coordination with the VTC Committee	
VTC Academic Committee	VTC Admin and other teaching staff	Conducting admissions, classes, examinations, implementing policies, collection of fees, student matters, promotion of courses, etc.	

## **APPENDIX 2: 2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

*This has been submitted separately.*