



Asian Productivity Organization “The APO in the News”

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Page: p1

Six trees native to Fiji were planted by delegates to the Asia Productivity Organisation workshop, at Fiji National University's Horticulture Centre in Legalega, Nadi.

Landscaper/horticulturalist Sagadewan Pillay said the delegates were given a tour of the projects currently underway out at the Centre.

He said two each of the six native plants stood beside plots ready for the delegates to put them into the soil.

He said the trees were Vutunikana, Tavola, Dilo, Candle nut tree, Vutunirara and Nim.

"These trees can be used for herbal medicinal purposes as well as other uses—some trees you would be able to abstract oil. The Tavola tree - you use the leaves and the nuts," he said.

Mr Pillay said the planting of the trees was to mark the visit by the APO delegates as Legalega is Fiji National University's horticulture centre in the West.

Thailand delegate, Doctor Boonde Bunyagidi said it was refreshing to get out of the workshop venue and move across to the horticulture centre to plant the trees.

She said she had planted the Dilo tree.

"This was exciting and refreshing at the same time not only for me but for other delegates as well. I got the opportunity to plant a Dilo tree," she said.

"I hope to come back to Fiji and visit Legalega where we planted the trees."

The delegates also visited the ongoing aqua-ponics project currently being tested out at the Legalega Centre.

Lecturer Khem Chand said the project started in July and was currently being trialled. Mr Chand said Legalega Campus was an environment free campus where nothing was wasted.

"We are raising fish together with vegetables. It's the nutrients from the fish that we supply back to the vegetable grow beds and then it goes back into the fish beds."

"At the moment we are harvesting lettuce and cabbage. The grow beds have gravel in them and use about 1/10th of water compared to using soil."

"There is no soil in these grow beds. We don't use any chemicals. It's totally organic and there's no use of pesticides."



Delegates from the APO meeting getting their hands dirty while planting six native plants at FNU Legalega Horticulture Centre in Nadi during the team's observational site visits.