

## MISSION MOMENT

### LOMANA NA VULAGI ECO-FARM & TRAINING CENTRE, FIJI

If you walk up the path that weaves through the lush vegetation, you come to a field dotted with seedlings freshly planted in the rich, volcanic soil. In the distance, a voice echoes out “Cow! Cow!” Follow the voice and the landscape opens into a glorious scene of rolling hills under a bright blue sky. Cows low as they lumber from beneath patches of shade trees toward the feed left by the field worker calling them.

These seedlings and cows are just the first step toward a grand vision the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC) has to develop the innovative Lomana Na Vulagi Eco-Farm & Training Centre. Once completed, Lomana Na Vulagi, meaning “Love the Stranger,” will contain orchards and crops, a piggery, apiary and poultry house, farmhouses and a retreat center.

It was the height of the pandemic in 2021 when the PCC bought these fifty undeveloped acres. Border closures had been difficult even for larger islands like Fiji.

Having grown to rely on imports, now isolated Pasifika communities began to look to more self-sufficient practices and traditional foods like cassava and kura fruit.

The PCC saw a need and an opportunity to promote local farming to increase food security and develop a model of sustainability based on indigenous knowledge, culture, and environmental stewardship. Off the grid, the farm will use solar power and produce its own bioenergy.

Planting trees will provide carbon offsets. Member churches throughout the Pacific, as well as groups from youth to specialists, will be able to visit, learn, and share Pasifika solutions to ecological challenges like climate change.

The PCC believes strengthening the capacity and agency of Pasifika communities not only makes them more resilient in the face of both natural threats and exploitation from powerful nations, but the Vulagi Farm is rooted in the conviction that renewing the land and the indigenous spirit of the Pasifika is vital to the future of island peoples and their way of life.



*Workers from the Lomana Na Vulagi Eco-Farm & Training Centre, Fiji*



*Lomana Na Vulagi Eco-Farm & Training Centre, Fiji*



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