

Looking at TEK and How It Impacts Farming in Fiji

Outcomes:

Through different informants throughout my time in Fiji I learned a lot about how farming methods are passed down, how different areas are better for certain crops, and the differences between growing for food and growing for profit. The data collected shows that a significant amount of the crops grown in the village of Nasinu are used locally within the village, the exceptions being surplus crop's which are then sold in the nearby towns and kava which is sold more regularly by the villagers for income.

Impacts/benefits:

Understanding the changes that are occurring within the bay and within the amount of people farming is important for seeing how people are adapting. It is also important to understand how farming methods are changing because things like fertilizer and weed killer are now available in Fiji and looking at whether people understand the affects of these chemicals on their environment.



Background/explanation

Utilizing various research methods like rapid assessment, participant observation, and interviews I was able to collect important information regarding farming and its impact on the community. Nearly all the villagers have a farm or two and rely heavily on them for food throughout the year. A significant amount of those people also rely on their crops for income. Not only did I talk about the farms but also I went to them. I saw kava, tapioca, passion fruit, taro, and vanilla farms. Saw that most people relied heavily on kava farms with over 300 plants in some plots. I got to help plant both taro and tapioca learning about the methods involved in those processes. The farms themselves are located along the mountain behind the village and along the bay, most deep into the bush. The villagers knowledge of plants within the bush was vast and could aide them when traveling to and from their farms.

