THE 2017 RISE PROGRAM

The goals of this 4-week program:
- Teach the methods of composting and build composts on the farms
- Build a school garden to teach and inspire the children to farm
- Build a greenhouse for starters and long-term goals
- Build a chicken tractor (eggs and fertilizer)
- Build Dilo nut dryer (Dilo Oil production)
- Plant Vanilla for a medium-term income crop
- Survey island for future programs (livestock, forestry, aquaculture)

During these two weeks the soil school students and myself made the school garden, planted vanilla, and built a greenhouse/shading structure for growing Sandalwood and Teak starters.

The program also teaches the villagers how to harvest, process and store naturally growing income crops like Virgin Coconut Oil and Dilo Oil.

What is the RISE Program?

The RISE program is a 4-week comprehensive soils training and implementation program designed to increase the biology of the soil so farmers can once again build healthy, self-sustaining and thriving remote island communities in Fiji.

The program starts by bringing professional soil scientists and students to the remote islands to teach and train the remote farmers on how they can develop healthy soil that will grow organic and health-focused crops.

It then reintroduces the crops and understanding needed to move them away from their current reliance on the government food subsidies of processed foods that has created one of the highest rates of diabetes in the world.

They then teach and train them on how to plant and/or harvest naturally growing income crops that will slow and eventually reverse the emigration of their youth to the primary islands for income opportunities and preserve the very future of these beautiful islands.

The RISE program also helps the farmers return to traditional styles of farming and the introduction of new practices like composting instead of burning their fields.

Thank you

I would like to thank the E.R. Jackman Internship Support Program and Global Experience Fund for having an interest in furthering my education and funding my incredible experience in Fiji.

I would also like to thank the Agricultural Sciences department for also supporting me and giving me the ability to intern for Organic Matters Foundation. It has deepened my love for agricultural science and inspired and clarified my dreams and goals in this field of study.