

About the EU

The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms.

The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.

About the APTC

The Australia-Pacific Technical College (APTC) was established in 2007 with Australian Government funding and the backing of the leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum. The APTC was designed as a centre of training excellence, helping Pacific Islanders gain Australian-standard skills and qualifications for a wide range of vocational careers. The goals of APTC are to increase the supply of skilled workers in targeted sectors in the Pacific region; improve employment opportunities for Pacific Islanders nationally, regionally and internationally; and increase productivity.

SUPPORTED BY:



TRAINING SUPPORT TO THE FIJI SUGAR INDUSTRY 2014 - 2017

A project funded by the European Union and implemented by the Australia-Pacific Technical College

OBJECTIVE

The project focuses on providing a training program for the Fijian sugarcane industry that improves the livelihoods of the sugar cane dependent populations by promoting income generation through sugar cane farming or alternative livelihoods.

BACKGROUND

Sugarcane is a significant mainstay for many of the country's rural communities. Sugar remains an important foreign exchange earner for Fiji. The European Union (EU) remains a major export market for sugar from Fiji.

In 2014, the European Union made an agreement of delegated cooperation with the Australian Government to provide the Training Support to the Fiji Sugar Industry project, complementing the "Accompanying Measures for Sugar Protocol (AMSP 2013)" programme. Under this agreement, the European Union has provided €4m to fund this project. The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has engaged the Australia-Pacific Technical College (APTC) as the delivery contractor for this project.

SCOPE

The EU/DFAT agreement requires APTC to engage with the sugar industry stakeholders and develop a training program to address skills gaps across the sugar supply chain.

The project will deliver the following:

- Improved skills for workers currently within the Fiji sugar industry.
- Delivery of identified gap training to staff working within the sugar mill.
- Delivery of skills training to agricultural extension staff to better support farmers.
- Improved skills development opportunities for people affected by changes in the Fiji sugar industry.
- Delivery of Australian qualifications and skills sets.

BENEFICIARIES

The project will deliver training to the following groups:

- Staff employed by the Fiji Sugar Corporation staff (executive and existing mill workers)
- Agricultural Extension Staff
- Leader Farmers

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The provision of Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET), contributes to the European Union's efforts to mitigate circumstances of current reforms and ongoing restructure of the Fiji Sugar Industry. Through vocational training, individuals are provided with essential skills to improve efficiency in milling operations as well as to forge alternative livelihoods where appropriate.