

Empowering Coastal Women in Fiji Through Sustainable Mabè Pearl Culture

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Overview

- Background of mabè culture in Fiji (How, Why and When)
- Involvement of women from local communities
- Training provided to women from local communities
- How are they making difference in their communities now



National Spat Collection Trials

- Supply round pearl producing oyster to round pearl farmers which was the bottle neck of the industry and mitigate cyclone effect on oyster supply.
- Spat collectors were deployed at different sites within the country.



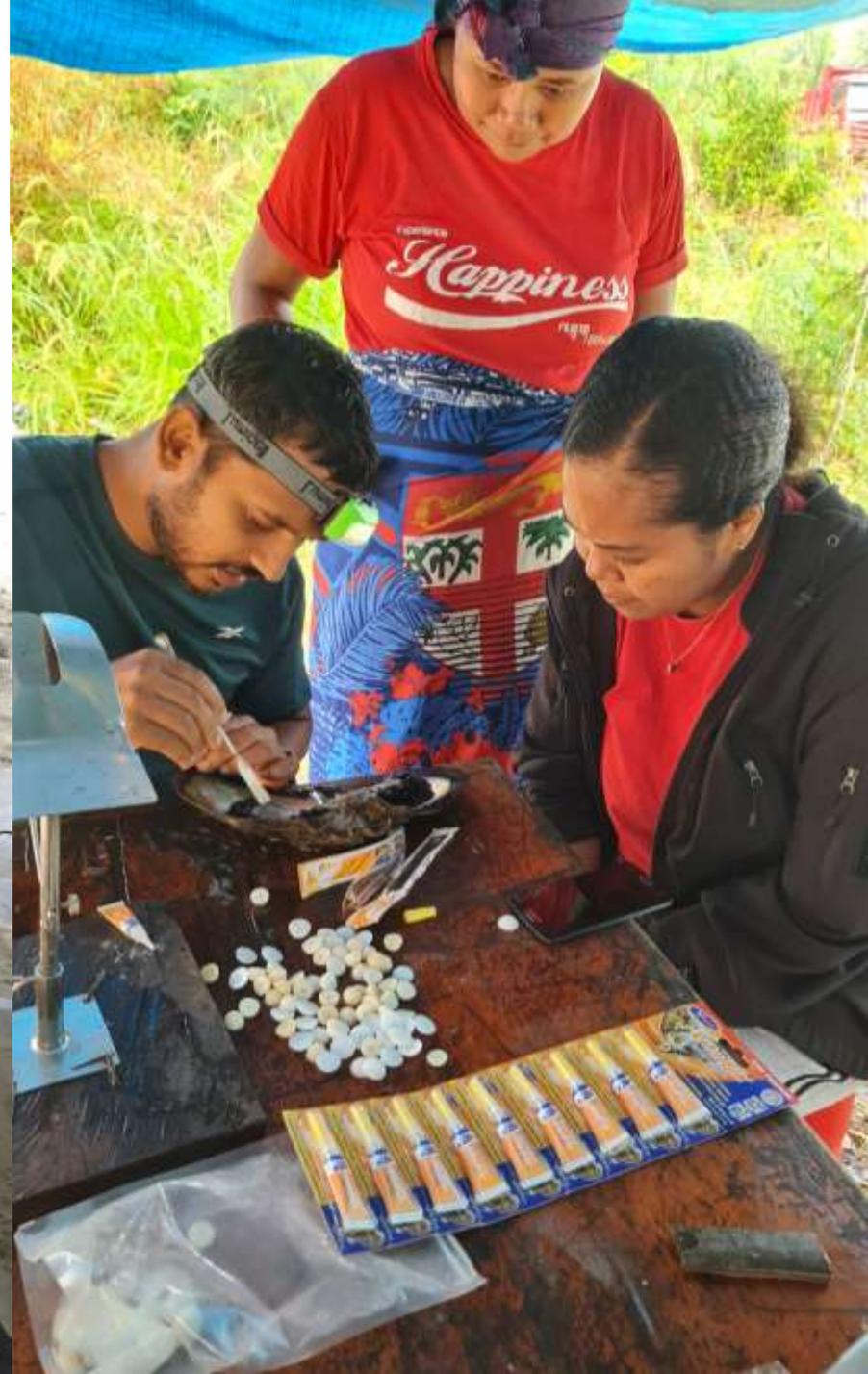
- Most spat collector sites were managed by women's groups
- Two species of interest were recruited on spat collectors
- *Pinctada margaritifera* were sold to round pearl farmers for round pearl production while *Pteria penguin* were kept by women's group for mabè production
- A well structured and registered women's group was initially chosen to be the model group.



- Training on how to construct appropriate culture units (chaplets) and juvenile oyster culture was provided
- Record keeping training was also provided



- Relevant juvenile oyster culture training was provided to get oysters grown to the size desired for implanting
- Implanting trainings were provided



- After a culture period of 12 months, mabè are harvested and sold generating income for these women's groups
- This model was then applied to other groups



- Shell handicraft trainings have also been provided to women's group that now enable them to process their own oyster shells and mabè



Achievements

- Regular income for women's groups
- Increase in self confidence
- Improvement of road infrastructure for greater visibility and accessibility by government
- Better stewardship towards ocean
- Equal contributions towards church, school etc



Thank you