



<b>Partner:</b>	<b>Courier Document &amp; Parcel Services Limited</b>
<b>Title:</b>	Investing into Barge Services to better connect outer island farmers to export markets.
<b>Intervention Number:</b>	FJ/HO/I13
<b>Start Date:</b>	December 2014
<b>Intervention Managers:</b>	Dharmendar Chand and Rajnil Prasad
<b>Intervention Area:</b>	Horticulture and Agro-Exports: This intervention will provide farmers with access to more diversified end markets via the improved efficiency of sea transportation services.

## Background Information

CDP is one of the country's longest serving logistics companies within the Fiji islands. It provides courier services to all households, government organisations, banks and major business houses by delivering documents and parcels. Due to the unique distribution of outer islands in Fiji, the interisland transport system is a big challenge for the distribution of products within Fiji. If producers in any location have a competitive advantage in growing certain products, they find it difficult to transport surplus volumes to other regions. Hence surplus volumes are supplied in the same market which brings down the price to an almost non-profitable level. Interisland logistical problems also affect large industries which require large volumes of raw materials and end products to be transported among islands and find it very difficult through existing commercial ferry services or the limited chartered barge service.

Barge services, are cheaper and can haul high volume of goods, and operate in shallow water. However they are not easily available as there is no commercial barge service providers in Fiji. MDF is working closely with a private courier company - CDP Services Limited which intends to enter into the domestic sea freight business by introducing small to medium barge services to optimise its logistics operation. Exporters, wholesalers and large industries will be able to haul high volumes of goods at a cheaper rate than that of the commercial ferry service and chartered barge service. MDF is supporting CDP to hire a logistics expert to conduct a market feasibility study and determine its viability to inter-link outer islands' transport systems via sea freight business as Phase 1. Following the outcomes of Phase 1, MDF and CDP will determine plans for Phase 2.

## Partnership Summary

<b>Goal:</b> Additional jobs and income created	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be determined by the outcome of the feasibility study and implementation of Phase 2 interventions.</li> </ul>	<b>Outreach and Employment:</b> To be determined by the outcome of the feasibility study.  <b>Innovation:</b> To provide a cheaper and regular inter-island transport system.
<b>Purpose:</b> The poor benefit from improved enterprise performance and sector competitiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To regularly inter-link outer islands via cheaper sea freight transport systems and enable traders and entrepreneur's access to end markets.</li> </ul>	
<b>Outcome:</b> Markets around the poor work better	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following the success of Phase 1, recommendations by the consultant will be considered for investment into a suitably sized sea-freight logistics business as key to providing a regular transport system linked to the outer islands.</li> </ul>	
<b>Output:</b> Partner implements activities, increases capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based on the outcome of Phase 1, the consultant will complete a needs analysis highlighting a clear pathway for future investment for CDP to provide cheaper sea freight transport system.</li> </ul>	
<b>Activities under Partnership Agreement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MDF is supporting CDP to hire a consultant to conduct a market feasibility study to assess viability of providing barge service in Fiji.</li> </ul>	