VETIVER SYSTEM APPLICATIONS IN FIJI

Dr. Paul Truong
TVNI Technical Director
Brisbane, Australia.
Indian immigrants brought Vetiver from South India to Fiji over 100 years ago for medicinal and thatching purposes. From there it spread over to all islands in South Pacific including Australia and New Zealand.

Its use for soil and water conservation was not realised until the 1950’s when John Greenfield, who used it to control soil erosion on sloping sugar plantations operated by Colonial Sugar Refinery (CSR). John introduced this technology to India and where it was adopted and promoted by the World Bank. John is known as ‘The Father of VST’.
Terrace built up by trapped eroded soil after 20 years near Lautoka
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Fijian Ministry of Agriculture is in partnership with the UN promoting Vetiver uses in Fiji.
Addressing Coastal Erosion on Kia Island

Ministry of Agriculture planted Vetiver grass back in 2010 as it has been widely recommended as a community-based solution to coastal erosion. The 2010 grass had now grown huge, so the islanders used shoots from the existing clumps to replant the vetiver further along the coastline to increase its impact.

All the Islanders were impressed with the results, the village elders had noted that Yaro Village coastline had been eroded by over 100m just in the last 30 years.
Current Applications of Vetiver System Technology in Suva

1. Ornamental: EXTRA shopping centre. Suva
2. Edge protection
3. Steep slope stabilisation
Ornamental on footpath of at EXTRA shopping centre, Suva
Protecting steep edges
Protecting steep slopes at Gas Depot

On advice from Department of Agriculture
THANK YOU