## Breadfruit (*Artocarpus altilis*), Production in Fiji

Shalendra Prasad Ministry of Agriculture Fiji

# Breadfruit - Introduction

- Breadfruit Mulberry family, Moraceae.
- Originating in the South Pacific and that was eventually spread to the rest of Oceania.



 British and French navigators introduced few varieties to Caribbean islands during the late 18th century and today it is grown in some 90 countries throughout South and Southeast Asia, the Pacific Ocean, the Caribbean, Central America and Africa.



# Why Breadfruit?

- CARBOHYDRATE 53% to 76%
- α 1,4 glucose AMYLOSE
  α 1,4: α1,4,6 AMYLOPECTIN
- α 1,2

► FIBRE

4.9%

PROTEIN

1.05% to 1.3%

# VITAMINS (Per 100 g)

- Pantothenic acid
- Vitamin B1 (thiamine)
- Niacin
- Vitamin B6
- Choline
- Vitamin C
- Vitamin E

- 0.5 mg 0.2 mg 0.9 mg
- 0.1 mg
- 9.81 mg
- 29.1 mg
- 0.1 mg

## MINERAL CONTENT OF BREADFRUIT (PER 100g)

- Phosphorus
- Calcium
- Sodium
- Potassium
- Iron
- Magnesium
- Zinc
- Copper
- Manganese

30 mg 17.1 mg 2.0 mg 490.3 mg 0.5 mg25 mg 0.1 mg 0.13 mg 0.11 mg

# **Research & Development**

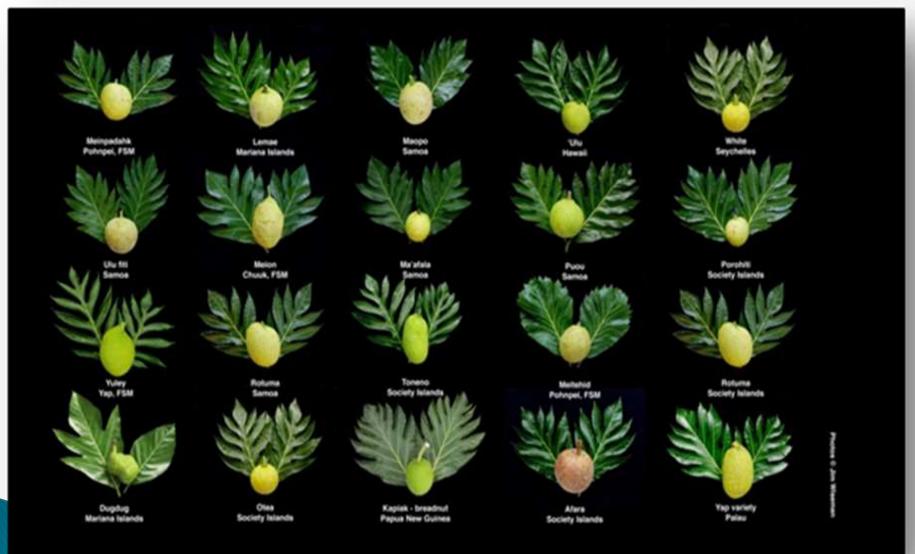
 Fiji has been at the forefront of breadfruit research and development regionally and internationally.



## **Botanical work**

- In 1966 Dominiko Koroveibau named 70 breadfruit varieties in Fiji.
- The characterization included documentation of the morphological characteristics of the fruits, leaves, length of the male flowers, fruiting time, and the food value of each variety.

## **Breadfruit Diversity**



# **Propagation Trials**

#### An evaluation of marcotting techniques on breadfruit (Artocarpus altilis) variety "Balekana ni Samoa for improved multiplication of planting material in Fiji

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## Root suckers







## Marcotting















## Tissue Culture

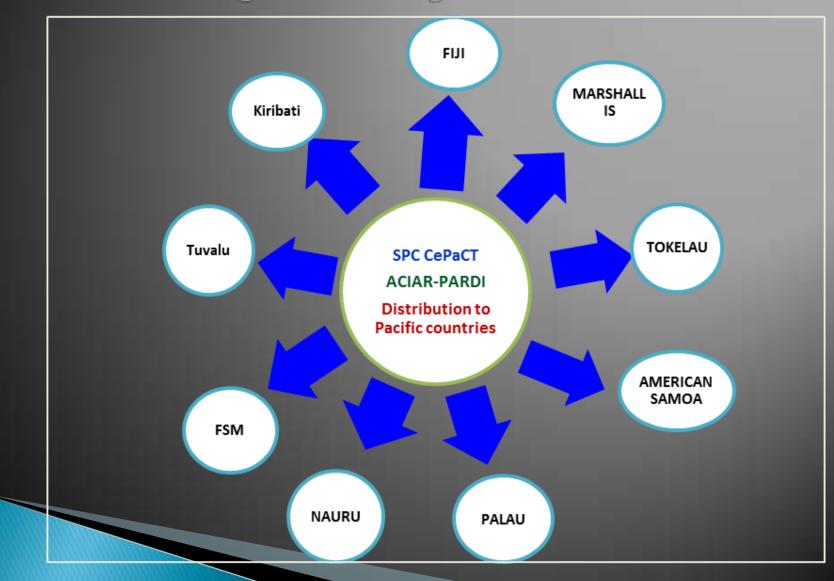








### Distribution of germplasm to neighbouring countries



### Protocol for fresh exports to New Zealand – 2000

- Focus was on controlling fruit fly.
- Worked carried out High Temperature Forced Air Treatment



## Market research (2000 - 2004)

Nature Way Cooperative (Fiji) Ltd.

> 2001 Strategic Plan 2002-2006.

Grandison Gordon

 2002 Report on Fresh Breadfruit Exports to New Zealand. South Pacific Trade Commission, New Zealand.

### Grandison Gordon

 2004 Market Potential for Fijian Breadfruit Exports to New Zealand. A report prepared for the Pacific Enterprise Development Facility/International Finance Corporation. Sydney.

# Refining the export supply chain (2003–2005)





### A Manual for the Growing and Marketing of Breadfruit for Export







October 2005

### 1<sup>st</sup> National Breadfruit Conference at Legalega Research Station (2005)



First International Symposium on Breadfruit Research and Development (March 2007)



Participants near Africa (Benin, Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania), the Seychelles, the Caribbean (Trinidad and Jamaica), Sri Lanka, and in Pacific (Fiji, Pohnpei \[Federated States of Micronesia], Hawaii, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu), and Australia.



# **Production Systems**

- Agroforestry program in traditional food gardens.
- Integration of breadfruit into commercial agroforestry systems timber and fruit trees.
- Integration of breadfruit into commercial orchards with intercropping (linear or square).



## Market and Market Opportunities

### Local municipal market



## Exports

- New Zealand
- Australia



## Processing

### Breadfruit Flour Processing





# Value-added Products



BREADFRUIT(ULI 109



(Breadfruit)

Ingredients: Premium Hawaři Island Breadfruit, Canola Oil, Salt

MADE IN HAWAFI

Net WT: 7 oz.



Midnight Bea



 The US gluten free existing and market demand projections.

- Agroforestry benefits of breadfruit
- Food security and health benefits of breadfruit
- Entrepreneurial opportunities from breadfruit,



### Future R & D

 Additional Planting Materials to Scale up Production (Tissue culture, root suckers, marcotting)



Explore commercial viability of sea freight exports by developing postharvest protocols

Preliminary research so far conducted show that storage at non chilling temp. 12 degrees Celsius inhibit ripening with rot development the limiting factor. Av post harvest life was about 21 days.

- Systematic studies on the effect on rot development at low temperature of fungicides that are currently acceptable in NZ and Australia. (Range of concentrations and dip times at a range of temperature is required).
- Research is required to determine the extent of sugar accumulation during low temperature storage.



### Breadfruit - crop of the future!

- Ability of breadfruit to secure food energy from the atmosphere, thanks to large leaves and canopy >> also relatively undemanding of soil
- High tolerance to climate extremes
- Well suited to inter-cropping
- High yielding in biomas that can be converted to high quality gluten free flour & paste products



# **Tree of Bread**

"Regarding food if a man plant ten (breadfruit) trees in his life, which he can do in about an hour, he would completely fulfill his duty to his own as well as future generations"

Sir Joseph Banks 1769

# Acknowledgement

- Ministry of Agriculture Fiji
- Pacific Breadfruit Project
- Naturesway Cooperative
- Secretariat of the Pacific Community
- Fiji Institute of Agricultural Science

## **THANK YOU**