

Juncao, a kind of grass introduced from China, has been bringing tangible benefits to Fijians as it not only helps develop a low-cost mushroom cultivation industry, but also produces cattle feed and minimises soil erosion in the Pacific island nation. The Juncao technology (Jun means fungi and Cao means grass) was invented in the 1980s by Lin Zhanxi, a professor at China's Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University, who is also the chief scientist for the China-Fiji Juncao Technology Co-operation Project which was established in 2014 after the Chinese and Fijian Governments inked an agreement to start the agriculture co-operation. Juncao technology allows farmers in developing countries, including small island developing states like Fiji, to grow as many as 11 types of nutritious mushrooms from dried, chopped grasses, without cutting down trees and damaging the environment. In addition, the technology can also be used for producing cattle feed and minimising soil erosion to combat desertification, he said, adding that in the long run, depending on local demands and the scale of production, it may also provide opportunities for exporting the mushrooms cultivated using the technology and provides for a new way with ecological and economic benefits for environmental protection, employment improvement and poverty alleviation.

Participants of the South-South Cooperation Pacific Consultation will be taken on a field visit the Legalega Research Station in Nadi to witness South-South Cooperation in action in the Pacific. Transport will be arranged for all participants by the PIDF Secretariat.

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Legalega Research Station, Nadi

9am-11am

Communications Focal Points:

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Dr. Leba Salusalu, Coordinator Member and Partners Services, Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) leba.salusalu@pidf.int The field visit will include an overview provided of the JUNCAO Technology, Silage Production, Substrate Tubes Production, Inoculation & Incubation

It will also highlight the projects Indoor Fruiting, Outdoor Fruiting, Mushroom cooking Demonstration and a Panel and Mushroom Product Display.

