

# TAUTU FARM WINS AGRITECH GRANT TO TAKE THEIR BUSINESS TO THE NEXT LEVEL

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM) is pleased to announce it has awarded A.M. Tautu and Sons Limited (Tautu and Sons) a SMART AgriTech Scheme grant to increase the efficiency and productivity of their Tautu Farm business.

**T**autu and Sons, trading as Tautu Farm in Matavera, is a family-owned business producing and selling fresh, healthy produce and free-range eggs. Tautu and Sons will use the Agritech grant to establish mobile poultry units to reduce the amount of labour needed to maintain their fields, while also expanding their poultry farm. The poultry units would also change and improve the negative aspects of animal farming created by odours from fixed permanent structures, noise and proximity to neighbours' homes. The poultry units will enable Tautu and Sons to easily move the chickens to different areas, where they will run free on the land and also assist with soil improvement.

Tautu Farm eggs are very popular and often sell out, so Tautu and Sons owner Aneru Tautu is looking forward to growing his business to meet demand.

"We first established our business back in 2017, with an original purpose to feed our children, and then to feed our local peo-



ple with fresh homegrown produce," says Aneru. "This project will benefit my family and community, but most importantly it will benefit our consistent local customers. With the new mobile units to move our free-range chickens around different areas, we'll be able to maintain a consistent supply of fresh free range local eggs."

In addition to enabling Tautu and Sons to increase egg production, the mobile units will also reduce the fertilisers needed for planting the various fruits and vegetables they grow. This is because as the chickens feed and leave their manure on the soil, they also fertilise the land. Chicken manure has a high nitrogen value and breaks down very

fast in the soil. Moving the chickens around planting areas also reduces labour input, as the chickens eat weeds while they roam.

After doing things the traditional way for a while, and with 10 years farming experience under his belt, Aneru is now set to take Tautu and Sons to the next level by incorporating the mobile units into his business. "We are very grateful for this Agritech funding, and are looking forward to growing production to meet our customers' demand for our Matavera uncaged eggs," Aneru says.

