

Family teams ASEM/2014/095

- November 14, 15, 16 —Barbara Pamphilon, Jo Caffery and Deborah Hill (University of Canberra) ran a 3 day Advanced Trainers Master Class for our top village community educators from Western Highlands (11) and East New Britain (13). We hope to hold such an event every year to build a national network of Family Teams VCEs.
- November 21 to 25 —Katja Mikhailovich (with Lalen Simeon (PAU) and Iga Anamo (FPDA)) is conducting the end-line study in our Eastern Highlands sites around Goroka. The VCE graduation will be held as a fitting closure to a very busy year for the VCEs (34F, 1M)
- November 21 and 22 – Barbara Pamphilon is working with Phil Keane and his New Ireland team to design activities for 2017 and confirm partners.
- November 24 and 25 – Barbara Pamphilon will be working with CARE, World Vision and other Bougainville contacts to design activities for 2017 and confirm partners.
- November 28 and 30 - Mid-term Review in Mount Hagen.
- November 30 - VCE graduation at Alona ward, Mul Baiyer district Western Highlands (44F, 8M). The launch of the bulb onion model farm was also planned for this date however the bulb onions are not yet doing well due to soil and rain issues.
- November 30 to December - Katja Mikhailovich (with Sanna Harri (UC) and Fredah Wantum (Baptist Union)) is conducting the end-line study in our Jiwaka sites. The VCE graduation has been postponed until 2017 as the Integrated Agriculture Training Program (UNRE) modules on Sustainable Livelihoods, Record and Book keeping will be offered to VCEs in early 2017.

Fredah Wantum will be resigning from her position on December 7th at the end of our Highlands Hub. Fredah has been a major contributor to our projects since 2011, She has been a wonderful community organiser, an insightful researcher and a great friend. We wish her all the best for 2017 as she stands for election in Telefomin – go pawa meri!!

Canarium FST/2014/099

- During Shahla's visit in late October she worked with Dulcie to further improve processing procedures and refine the factory protocols. Shahla also collected soil, plant and root samples from cacao and coffee plantations that are intercropped with canarium.
- Bruce is currently accompanying Votausi, an entrepreneur from Vanuatu, on a visit to Kokopo. The purpose of this trip is for Votausi to see improvements to the NARI factory and for Votausi to speak to aspiring female entrepreneurs about her own experiences and share her professional knowledge.
- A new oven has just been shipped from Australia for use in the NARI canarium factory facility. The mechanical cracker is still in transit on its way to Kokopo.
- Brett and Emma, who are currently residing in Kokopo, are continuing with their work training women in food processing techniques.

Bougainville cocoa HORT/2014/094

- In September, CCIL staff Jeffrie Marfu and Anton Kamuso established budwood gardens and IPDM demonstration plots at the Buin Project Hub. These will be used for Village Extension Worker (VEW) training, and for producing budwood of the elite clones for nursery propagation.
- Following a three-day workshop in Buin with the Project team and Training Hub Managers to select the interviewers and facilitators for the baseline survey, five women and five men were selected to conduct the interviews in the South, with Iggy Nakuri elected Team Leader. Iggy has a background in electronic engineering so is perfectly qualified for the use of CommCare mobile data acquisition software. We aim to survey 10% of the Bougainville population (about 40,000 people) with questions on livelihoods, attitudes to cocoa farming, housing, education, health and diet. With advice from the ABG, we selected 33 Village Assemblies across the island to provide representative baseline information for project planning and monitoring. By the end of the first week the team had completed Nakorei VA and were starting on Kikimogu VA, so we are on track to finish the Southern

Region in January. Training for the Central and North surveys will begin in March. We will be sharing our data with other TADEP projects including the Family Teams project. This is the first survey of this scale since the Crisis.

- David Guest, John Konam and Sam Rangai met with Peter Nomoreke (Deputy Chief Secretary, ABG) and Thomas Betitis (Secretary, ABG DPI) in Buka to discuss the partnership arrangements, progress and plans for 2017. This was a very productive and rewarding meeting that confirmed the close alignment between the ACIAR project and ABG priorities and aims.
- In November Grant Vinning and Andrew Sale presented a series of marketing workshops to growers in Buka, Arawa and Buin. A vital part of marketing is quality control at the processing level, and participants were trained in quality monitoring, including the use of a pH metre used to measure the degree of acidity in the fermented beans. Francis Kenny from the PNG Coconut Cocoa Institute explained to the growers that too much or too little acidity affects the flavour of the chocolate. Francis explained they can control fermentation to achieve the level of acidity desired by individual buyers.
- Vinning and Sale initiated discussions on directly exporting cocoa beans from Bougainville. Currently, all beans are exported from Buka after shipment across the Buka Channel, imposing a massive cost burden on farmers. Participants from North, Central, and South decided to establish licensed Cocoa Export groups. All agree on the need to have a consolidator in Arawa as the best port for exporting. A likely candidate is Peter Joyce, a local cocoa buyer who sells mainly to AgMark, but will segregate top quality beans. We have been informed that Customs Officers are now stationed in each of the three ports, and expect the first shipment of top quality beans to Australia in December.
- Planning is underway to organise a training visit in early 2017 to the Mars Cocoa Academy in Sulawesi for DPI, CCIL and UNRE staff, Research and Training Hub Managers and selected VEWs. Participants will spend three weeks at the Academy, and a further few days visiting cocoa importers and processors in Singapore with samples of their beans learning all aspects of cocoa production, processing and marketing.

PNG cocoa HORT/2014/096

New Ireland

- CMFTs have received their first round of training from Kula Daslogo and John Joseph in budding and grafting the new cocoa clones. The interest in the training was so keen that Kula trained 23 CMFTs and then conducted a second round for another 8; the extras will not be directly supported by the project but are self-funded and will work alongside the project, receiving the same training. Kula has done a monitoring round of all CMFTs and found that they have all cleared blocks for budwood gardens and have begun clearing 1ha for establishing their model farm with clones to be prepared in their own nursery. Nine budwood gardens have been planted and 11 have been prepared for planting by December. One nursery linked to a CMFT is already functioning as a commercial nursery. As budwood gardens develop, nurseries will be established alongside them.
- The Governor of New Ireland, Sir Julius Chan, asked Alfred and Kula to prepare a submission for local funding for further work based on our project strategy. This was presented to him at a meeting on Wednesday 23 November and he has provisionally agreed to fund this submission.
- On 21 and 22 November, Barbara Pamphilon visited Kavieng to establish study sites at two of the CMFT sites for the Family Teams proeject, in collaboration with Josie Saul-Maora from our project. A meeting was held with Provincial Govt staff on 21st and Barbara and Josie addressed a large meeting of the Women's Assembly for New Ireland. On Tuesday Barbara, Josie and our project team visited a CMFT site at Luapul, which has a woman (Kathy Miroi) as the CMFT, and another at Mangai where the wife and daughter of the CMFT are strongly involved. Barbara established links to two Provincial Govt DPI women staff (Barbara Makapa and Bolomes Arawes) who will assist her future visits to these sites. It became evident during Barbara Pamphilon's visit to the project sites in New Ireland that her activities will mesh very appropriately into our project activities and aims.

Madang

- 22 CMFTs and sites have been selected by Aitul Weoh with assistance and advice from Godfried Savi, the senior DPI officer in the Provincial Government. Alfred, Trevor and Phil visited 5 sites from 17 to 19 November, including Usino southeast of Madang (3 hours on the Lae Rd), Erima on the Rai Coast (one hour by road), and three sites on the west coast (Bogia) road (2 hours by road). Farmer groups at all sites have prepared areas for budwood gardens and begun establishing nurseries; all expressed an interest in building a solar drier based on Trevor's model. We visited Murunas which, with its well established budwood garden and nursery, will be the centre for training of CMFTs in Madang Province, scheduled to begin as soon a large house there has been repaired with project funds as a dormitory/training centre. In January Josephine Saul-Maora will move from Tavilo to Madang to work with Aitul on managing the CMFTs and to continue her role as advisor on the involvement of women in cocoa production.

East Sepik

- 25 sites and CMFTs have been selected following awareness meetings and publicity through a radio program by Jimmy Risimeri, the Provincial Coordinator. Alfred, Trevor and Phil visited the Hawain Training Centre (PNG Cocoa Board) and were impressed by the efforts of John Meth in repairing the Centre using funds provided by the project; they also visited six sites from 14 to 16 November, ranging from three sites on the west coast road (1-2 hours from Wewak) at Kherubim (near Hawain Training Centre), Banak and Maguer Villages, to Saparu-Kausimbi on the Yuat River (3 hours by road to the Sepik River and 2 hours by boat down the Sepik and up the Yuat River), and to Yekimbole Village in East Yangoru (2 hours by road) and Blamda Village in North Wosera (4 hours by road). At Saparu and Yekimbole, a budwood garden, nursery and meeting/budding house have been established, and at Blamda a budwood garden, meeting house and budding shelter have been completed. The enthusiasm generated by the project was obvious in the work being done by, for example, the CMFT at Yekimbole (Nola Sasingian) and the DPI officer at Blamda (Angela Gossiba). The husband and wife team of Sperian and Miriam Kapia leading the group at Saparu on the Yuat River were exemplary; Sperian has taken leave from his teaching job to lead cocoa development in his village area and is generating great enthusiasm, as shown by the elaborate welcoming ceremony for Trevor and Phil, who were inducted as 'Sepik men'. John Worowan (Head, Provincial Govt DPI, East Sepik) is keenly supporting the project and has designated Clement Neingou as the staff member directly involved in the project representing the Provincial Government. Training of the CMFTs by CCI, Cocoa Board and Provincial DPI staff will commence as soon as repairs to the Hawain Training Centre have been completed.
- In the evening of Sunday 13 November a meeting was held in Wewak with Jim Thomas and his staff from the Tenkile (Tree Kangaroo) Conservation Alliance and it was agreed that his group at Lumi (West Sepik) be included in the project. One of the project aims, to promote husbandry of goats linked to cocoa farming (the goats are fed on prunings from the cocoa shade tree *Gliricidia*, which benefits the cocoa by encouraging pruning and reducing over-shading) is particularly germane to the Alliance as it provides a source of animal protein as an alternative to tree kangaroos as well as a good source of income.

Simbu

- In the Karimui Valley, Simbu Province, the project led by John Konam has established the full complement of 7 CMFTs in all LLGs, linking to about 650 farmers who have already planted over 0.5 million seeds collected from the Initial successful CCI trial in the valley (at 1200 masl, establishing a whole new environment for growing cocoa). CCI agronomists have selected the best trees in the trial for clonal propagation and further testing and are in the process of arranging the transport of the 18 latest-release clones from CCI Tavilo (East New Britain Province) to Karimui (involving quarantine).

Other news

- Following further field testing with farmers and surveyors in East Sepik, the CommCare Survey on mobile phones has been shortened considerably. When testing the survey with farmers in tok pisin, the original survey was taking too long; there were also comments about the intrusiveness of some

questions, and so we have limited it to cocoa management and finance related to the immediate aims of the project.

- Solar driers have been completed at Tokiala and Kavieng (CCI Provincial Resource Centre), and Kula has successfully dried two batches of cocoa (in 4-5 days).
- A meeting of all the Provincial Project Coordinators, Project Leader (Phil) and Project Managers (Alfred and Trevor) will be held at CCI, Tavilo, East New Britain on 29 November to pool experience to date and discuss further development and streamlining of the project.

Sweetpotato HORT/2014/097

Staff news

- Mr Chris Bugajim has joined the project as a Research Technician in FPDA, based in Goroka. Chris will be assisting in development and deployment of Commcare apps for the project and in field data collection.

MAD4TADEP CommCare training

- FPDA team members Johnny Wemin (Village Extension Worker program manager), Joseph Koima (Program manager, Information and Communication Program), Chris Bugajim (Research Technician), and Lonica Haris (Extension Advisor and Farmer Database Coordinator) undertook a 4-day training in Lae, 20-24 Nov. Project leader Phil Brown joined the team for the training. A survey instrument to document commercial grower details and value chain connections, and a field data recording system, were developed over the 4 days.

Upcoming field work and travel

- Test deployment of the commercial grower survey will occur in the first 2 weeks of December, with full scale deployment in late January/February 2017.
- Commercial crop have been planted using the clean seed generated through the year from material supplied by the NARI tissue culture lab and propagated in the project screenhouses in EHP, Jiwaka and WHP. The Commcare field data recording system will be tested with these crops and refined for deployment on all crops planted in the main early 2017 planting period.
- Phil Brown and Talitha Best will visit the ANUE team in Canberra on Dec 15th to work on the enterprise development plan for 2017.