

Women's business acumen ASEM/2014/095

- Area 1 (began on 2015): Lumusa Western Highlands: two modules delivered to the project's 50 Village Community Educators (VCE) by the Integrated Agriculture Training Program of the University of Natural Resources and Environment (Sustainable Livelihoods, Records and Booking keeping)
- Area 2 (began in 2016): Goroka: partner FPDA Baseline study and VCE training 1 completed. Further plans in progress to integrate with TADEP project HORT/2014/096 Supporting commercial sweetpotato production and marketing in the PNG highlands
- Area 3 (began in 2016): Jiwaka (partner Voice for Change): Baseline study and VCE training 1 completed
- One male and one female Masters students from UniTech currently being selected
- Exploring the lives of women smallholder farmers in Papua New Guinea through a collaborative mixed methods approach: Mikhailovich, Pamphilon, Chambers, Simeon and Zapata in Cogent Social Sciences <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/23311886.2016.1143328>

Canarium FST/2014/099

- Kim Jones and Theo Simos travelled to ENB (31st Jan - 5th Feb) to assess barriers to increasing scale of production in the private sector. They met with: Peter Woolcott, owner and operator of Kilin Wata plantation; Dennis Hill, Tropic Frond; John Moxon, manager of the World Bank PPAP cocoa project; Rowland Kerina, ENDBC; and John Livingston, NGIP Agmark. Generally, companies or individuals with the potential to develop a canarium nut industry need demonstrated market potential and financial information from farm to market before considering large scale investment.
- Graham Ashford, Steffan Lippistch and Bruce Randall travelled to ENB (1st - 5th Feb) where they met with the NARI team and undertook activities to begin the process of developing an appropriate commercial model for medium scale processing of canarium. Their initial analysis of the NARI canarium pilot factory focused on: products and trials; operating procedures; production efficiencies and throughput rates; financial records and systems; and information sharing.
- Emma Kill has just returned from a trip to ENB to meet with female small holder farmers and assess their needs for market participation. Details of this trip will follow in the next monthly update.
- Shahla Hosseini Bai and Kim Jones are travelling to ENB from the 14th - 18th March. Shahla will be collecting samples to bring back to Australia for shelf life experiments. Kim will be assisting with quality control and processing efficiency measures in the NARI canarium factory.

PNG Cocoa HORT/2014/096

- Trevor Clarke and Philip Keane travelled to East New Britain Province for the Inception Meeting of HORT/2014/096 at the Cocoa and Coconut Institute Ltd., Tavilo, on 1st - 3rd February, and then Trevor, Philip and Alfred Nongkas, the PNG Project Leader,

travelled to New Ireland Province to meet with the Provincial and District Administrations to coordinate the project. From 15th - 20th February, Trevor and Alfred also travelled to East Sepik and Madang Provinces to liaise with the Provincial and District Administrations. Simbu Provincial and District Administration officials, including the MP for Karamui District, Mr Mogerema Wei, attended the inception meeting at Tavilo. It is expected that the project will be signed off in early March.

Bougainville cocoa HORT/2014/094

- The inception meeting for HORT/2014/094 was held in Buka from 3rd - 5th February. We were honoured to have the active contributions of the Hon Member for North Bougainville on the first day, and the important participation of the ABG Ministers for Agriculture, Health and Local Government, with their Departmental Secretaries, for the three days of the meeting. Many other stakeholders were represented, including farmers, women's groups, cocoa buyers, chocolate makers and exporters, ACIAR and the AHC. The program included a PIPA activity that helped focus the group's attention on how project activities will be arranged to achieve what we want. Discussions then turned to the Bougainville Chocolate Festival, a showcase event to be held on 5th July this year. An organising committee is now finalising the venue and chocolate-making arrangements for this very exciting event. The project will also have a Bougainville Steering committee and a Technical working committee to steer and direct the project.

Sweetpotato HORT/2014/097

- Supporting commercial sweetpotato production and marketing in the PNG highlands has progressed to contracting of the project to CQUniversity. The project inception meeting was held at NARI headquarters in Lae on 9th - 11th February and was a combined meeting with projects HORT/2014/083 Developing improved crop protection options in support of intensification of sweetpotato production in Papua New Guinea and SMCN/2012/105 Sustaining soil fertility in support of intensification of sweetpotato cropping systems. Collaborators from the three projects prepared an initial draft of the Participatory Impact Pathway Analysis for the combined projects and planned linked activities to be undertaken in the first year of the projects. First season field production trials will be conducted on farms in the Asaro Valley, Minj, and Hagen Central. A representative from the PNG Women in Agriculture attended the meeting and offered access to her grower network for training of women involved in sweetpotato production. Contact was also made with Care International staff running a community training program for coffee producers in the Asaro and Minj regions, and possibilities for collaboration will be explored.