

### Women's Business Acumen ASEM/2014/095

- Meetings held with Phil Brown HORT/2014/097, Phil Keane HORT/2014/096 and David Guest and Merrilyn Walton HORT/2014/094 to begin planning collaborative activities.
- Kym Simoncini is developing a video with NARI (Jessie Abiuda Mitir) and UniTech (William Nano) to show families how to make soap, kaukau bread and peanut butter from local produce. The video will be used with teachers to encourage them to develop agricultural based lessons in primary schools. The video will be piloted with teachers in May. It will be trialed with the village community educators in our highlands sites.
- A new 'Maria book' is under development 'Maria's family raises chickens' - to address the need to diversify incomes and use eggs as a protein source – see <http://aci.gov.au/publication/mn161> for the other Maria books.

### Canarium FST/2014/099

#### **Trips**

- Emma Kill and Brett Hodges travelled to ENB late in February to continue ongoing relationship building with female smallholder farmers to uncover the barriers and constraints to entering the canarium industry. The spoke to women at the markets and at the cooperative society executive meeting for the ENB WIYIA.
- Shahla Hosseini-Bai travelled to ENB 14-18 March to collect samples and continue shelf life experiments. She also set up a weather station at the NARI factory.
- Kim Jones travelled to ENB 14-18 March to discuss factory operations and quality issues
- Helen Wallace, Theo Simos and Brett Hodges will travel to ENB from March 29 to April 1 to prepare for the TADEP meeting and project review.

#### **Three papers on canarium have been published this month:**

- D.A. Walton, B.W. Randall, M. Poienou, J. Moxon and H.M. Wallace, 2016 '**Maturity indices of *Canarium indicum* (Burseraceae) nuts**', Acta Hort. – Proc. Int. Symp. on Nut Crops.
- B.W. Randall, D.A. Walton, E.L. Grant, P. Zekele, B. Gua, R. Pauku and H.M. Wallace, 2016 '**Selection of the tropical nut *Canarium indicum* for early fruiting, nut-in-shell size and kernel size**', Acta Hort. – Proc. Int. Symp. on Nut Crops.
- D.A. Walton, B.W. Randall, M. Poienou, J. Moxon and H.M. Wallace 2016, '**A roasting study for the tropical nut *Canarium indicum* (Burseraceae)**', Acta Hort. – Proc. Int. Symp. on Nut Crops.

### PNG Cocoa HORT/2014/096

- No update available

### Bougainville Cocoa HORT/2014/094

- Project documents were finally returned to the University and signed on 22 March, so funding will soon be available.
- We have been developing a duty statement for the Bougainville Project Manager, to be appointed by the ABG-DPI, and who will be the key contact for the project in Bougainville.
- Bougainville cocoa farmers were invited to submit 20 kg bean samples for the Chocolate Competition, to be held as part of the Bougainville Chocolate Festival on 5-6 July. Twenty samples will be selected from each of the north, central and southern districts and made into chocolate by Paradise Foods in Port Moresby. We have three Australian judges and one PNG judge who will rate each chocolate sample and award gold to those satisfying strict quality criteria. Entrants will be invited to a special seminar where the judges will provide feedback in Arawa on 6 July.
- The Bougainville Chocolate Festival Organising Committee, Chaired by Peter Nomoreke from ABG-DPI, has been convened and met on 25 February. The Committee includes the Australian High Commission,

which is providing extra funds to bring the Festival to Arawa as well as Buin. A Festival Concept has been produced and planning is underway for three events – opening of the DPI Buin Research Station on 4 July, Buin Festival and Chocolate Competition Awards on 5 July, and a seminar for competition entrants and Festival in Arawa on 6 July. The Committee meets next on 24 March.

- We have begun the process of selecting sites for the DPI Research and Training Hubs in North, Central and South Bougainville, and will now discuss selection of participating villages with the Department of Community Government.
- We have been working on developing the baseline survey to incorporate farming systems, livelihood and health information and are looking into the best software and hardware for data collection.
- David Guest and Merrilyn Walton travelled to ACIAR in Canberra on 17 March to discuss project operations and to finalise the PIPA process started in Buka. This will become a valuable roadmap for achieving our project goals. We also met with Barbara Pamphilon and Katja Mikhailovich to explore engagement with the Women’s Business Acumen ASEM/2014/095 project.
- We developed a project management structure to streamline communications between project partners and stakeholders. The structure establishes a Reference Committee, in addition to the project partners who are directly responsible for the implementation of the project.
- The management structure will include Letters of Understanding between Sydney (the “Commissioned Organisation”) and each project partner.
- We have been investigating options for improving telephone and internet access for our project partners. Digicel has a “Closed User Group” plan that offers, for a minimum K40/month:
  1. Mobile Voice Plans with domestic and International call bundles rolled over month-on month
  2. Credit Limits set according to plans and reviewed monthly
  3. Data Plans to be bolted on each users plan for web browsing and e-mail access etc
  4. Fixed LTE wireless routers with a bundled Data to be installed in office set-ups with 20, 40 or 80 GB bundle to be accessed via Wi-Fi and shared by 1-10 users at any one time
  5. Closed User Group (CUG) for unlimited calls and SMS between the staff/members of the groupThis option may be of interest to other projects?

### **Sweetpotato HORT/2014/097**

- Phil Brown and Craig Henderson will attend the TADEP meeting in ENB, and afterwards travel to Eastern and Central Highlands along with Mike Hughes and Chris Gard.
- Discussions held with Barbara Pamphilon and Katja Mikhailovich to plan integration of training activities in the Asaro and Jiwaka regions between the two projects. Both teams are planning to be in Goroka for meetings following the TADEP ENB meeting to progress training strategy implementation.
- PIPA and project communication strategy for TADEP sweetpotato project and aligned soil management and pest management projects is being drafted. Linkages between the three projects are a priority to facilitate effective coordination with NARI and FPDA partners and impact for sweetpotato growers.
- Clean planting material is being prepared for distribution to Village Extension Workers (FPDA network of growers) in Asaro, Jiwaka and Central Hagen regions for multiplication in preparation for field demonstration trials.