

Family farm teams ASEM/2014/095

- As some of you might notice, we have adapted the 'shorthand' name for our project. We hope this name will help local farmers, government and non-government agencies recognise the core aspects of our work – moving from semi-subsistence activities to becoming a 'family farm' and working equitably and effectively as a 'family team' on that farm.
- We are in the process of planning our learning activities in Bougainville and New Ireland over the next 18 months.
- Village Community Educators (VCE) have been selected in our three areas – Halia, Bougainville = 50; Manggai, NI = 25; Luaupul, NI = 25. The leadership teams have yet to be finalised.
- We will be training the VCES in two FFT modules in 2017 and two in 2018. They will then share the training in their own families, networks and communities.
 - Module 1: Working as a family farm team for family goals (June 2018)
 - Module 2: Planning your family farm as a family team (August 2018)
 - Module 3: Feeding your family farm team (February 2018)
 - Module 4: Communicating and decision-making as a family farm team (May 2018)
- Our brokered training is designed based on our community learning plan workshops and results from our baseline survey so this training has yet to be fully confirmed. However, we have begun with two topics provided by the Integrated Agricultural Training Program of the University of Natural Resources and Environment (UNRE): a) Sustainable Livelihoods, and b) Record and Book-keeping. The first provides an important orientation for farming families towards planning farming for sustainable family livelihoods. The second we hope will enable our participant families to learn the value of record-keeping but we are also hoping to use the record books for data (for example to assess the changes in marketing, purchasing and income).
- Pacific Adventist University (PAU) have just completed three videos on the Family Teams approach. These were designed, scripted and produced in PNG. Our thanks to Dr Lalen Simeon for the skilled leadership of this project - videos can be seen at <http://pngwomen.estem-uc.edu.au/photo-gallery/>
- We are in the process of planning further activities with other TADEP projects as well as the ASEM Traditional Vegetables project – more news to follow.

Canarium FST/2014/099

- Craig Johns and Theo Simos visited several commercial companies to analyse markets and the value added chain for Canarium nuts in February. They found a good deal of interest from retailers and potential increase for Galip products.
- Kim Jones and Theo Simos visited several commercial companies to determine what NARI would need to demonstrate to show industry potential in February. They identified that detailed financial information and factory output are needed to show viability for the canarium industry.
- Kim Jones has reviewed factory operations and purchased of large equipment required to increase capacity. He has undertaken several visits (February and April 2017) to Kerevat to assist with construction of the drying container, installation of cracking equipment for the NARI factory and factory layout. He is currently organising quotes for water bath, dryer, sorting tables and conveyors to improve efficiency and investigating depulping machinery.
- The current drier has a capacity of 20t NIS (nut in shell) per month or equivalent 40t NIP (nut in pulp). To operate commercially, NARI needs to purchase at least 1.5t NIP every day during the harvest period. The 1.5t then has to be depulped every day and delivered to the drier. The cracker can easily handle the 500kg NIS per day. This will produce approximately 200kgs kernel (100kg whole kernel and 100kg of broken kernel for oil pressing) every day.
- Kim Jones has produced the Roadmap for development of the factory and NARI standard operating procedures.
- Shahla Hosseini Bai has been working with Emma Kill, Kim Jones and Simaima Kapi to prepare a booklet for women in the market and collected new data for nutrient cycling in Canarium plantation in March with Godfrey Hannet.

- Shahla Hosseini Bai delivered a talk at the University of Natural Resources and Environment (UNRE).

Bougainville cocoa HORT/2014/094

Activities

- Grant Vinning continued his market awareness missions in Australia and PNG, with valuable assistance from the ACIAR Office in Port Moresby. Two more Gold Medal winners from the 2016 Bougainville Chocolate Festival have been able to secure sales in Australia. Those medal winners are now training other growers in their fermenting and drying techniques (see 2nd point below). Work is underway to assemble the cocoa needed to fulfil the contracts achieved during the February marketing mission to Singapore and Malaysia - two bags of cocoa beans from Peter Kinanai have been transferred to Peter Joyce to be air freighted to Singapore. Additional measuring equipment was handed over to the Bougainville Department of Primary Industries. This included a new form of moisture meter as we search for the right combination of price, robustness, and accuracy appropriate to Bougainville conditions. Presentations on the world cocoa situation were made to two financial institutions in Port Moresby as well as Cocoa Support Facility staff on Bougainville. The presentations analyse the current price slump and indicates likely future price movements. The presentations are illustrated by examples of the different forms of how cocoa is traded – beans, butter, powder, paste, and “other”, thereby feeding the body as well as the mind. Requests are being received to do similar presentations to a range of organisations. Three Cocoa Market Reports were circulated to over 100 recipients.
- Elizabeth Pisiai and Peter Kinanai are going full steam with the cocoa quality awareness through all the selected Village Assemblies. By end of April, the team has completed Buin and Bana districts and are now heading into Siwai districts. The awareness is generating huge crowds who are very happy with the activity. Many are saying this should have been done before and many have been waiting for this.
- The Health and Livelihood surveys in South Bougainville have been completed, under the leadership of Ignatius (Iggy) Nakuri. We have now completed 2,500 surveys using CommCare, and have generated detailed information about livelihoods, cocoa farming, living conditions and health. These data will be analysed by the team, including Jess Hall as part of her PhD studies, and shared with relevant ABG Departments.
- Training for the Central and Northern surveys was held in Arawa from 27 March – 7 April, under the guidance of Merrilyn Walton, Kirsten Black, Jess Hall, Grant Hill-Cawthorne and David Guest. ABG Department Secretaries Thomas Betitis (DPI) and Clement Totavun (Health) were briefed on the preliminary findings. Despite funds shortages and transport logistics problems, in Central the survey team is going full steam ahead and doing a good job. The survey team in the north have encountered some issues but have managed to make progress.
- The first meeting of the Festival Organising Committee was held in Buka on 25 April. The second Bougainville Chocolate Festival will be held in Arawa on 6 and 7 September 2017. The ACIAR project will continue to organise the Chocolate Competition component of the Festival.
- The contribution made by Sam Rangai as the Bougainville Project Manager was acknowledged at a dinner in Buka on 5 April. His role has been filled by Theodore Kisu until Joachim Lummani returns from his PhD studies later this year. Sam remains as an advisor and member of our Stakeholder Reference Group.
- Further training on Cocoa Pod Borer (CPB) management was held by CCI and CABI. Hub Managers and selected Village Extension Workers (VEWs) from each region were invited to participate.
- Discussions have continued with Barbara Pamphilon about synchronising activities with her Family Farm Teams project.
- Damien Field and Kanika Singh have identified field sites to include in their ACIAR project on monitoring impacts of organic amendments on cocoa soils in Bougainville and other parts of PNG.

- John Connell (Geosciences, University of Sydney) reported on his return to Siwai in 2016 forty years after his first visit. While there is a broader understanding of the wider world there is a healthy dose of scepticism and some nostalgia for the kastom and stability of the old days.

PNG cocoa HORT/2014/096

- Collaboration proceeded with SMCN/2014/048 'Optimising soil management and health in PNG integrated cocoa farming systems' lead by Damien Field and Kanika Singh (University of Sydney) and Chris Fidelis (PNG Cocoa Coconut Institute) on the establishment of joint soil fertility field trials in New Ireland and East Sepik. From 25 – 30 March, Phil and Kanika, and Chris, David Yinil and Peter Wasita from CCI, worked with Jimmy Risimeri and Chris Toli, a CMFT in Wingei 2 (Toby Gaundu) and one of his farmers (Eric Narapal) to establish a soil fertility trial on an existing young cocoa planting on the Sepik Plains grasslands and collect initial soil samples. CMFT husband/wife teams, Leah Kowi and Edmund Huiwali (Lumidogum Village), and Nola and Chris Sasangian (Yekimbole Village), were visited and excellent progress in establishing budwood gardens, nurseries and solar dryers was observed. Chris and Jimmy have prepared a proposal for extra funds to be submitted to the East Sepik Provincial Government. Trevor visited Yekimbole Village from 5 to 7 April to advise on the establishment of their solar dryer and to train their carpenter, Wesley Hiambohn, along with the CCI carpenter.
- From 30 March to 3 April, Phil worked with Aitul Weoh and Max Makui, the newly appointed Assistant Project Coordinator in Madang, visiting CMFTs and teams conducting Baseline Surveys in Madang Province, specifically two sites in Usino LLG, and Tamane Village and Erima Village nearer to Madang. On 1 April, a lunchtime meeting was held with project staff and Godfried Savi, the Director of the Madang Provincial Government DPI. Both DPI and CCI staff have worked together on the Baseline Survey.
- From 3 to 4 April, Phil and Kula Daslogo worked with Kanika, Chris, Peter Wasita and Peter Bapiwai from CCI to establish a soil fertility field trial on young cocoa managed by Daniel Piniau, at Panamecho in New Ireland. The team met with Gideon Bogosia, the newly appointed director of the Provincial DPI, Benjamin Kimbe, the Deputy Provincial Administrator, and Kunibert Tibil, Special Projects Officer, to explain the projects. From 5 to 13 April, Phil visited 14 CMFTs with Kula in New Ireland, observing the establishment of budwood gardens at all sites and meeting husband/wife CMFT teams and groups of farmers. A planned visit by Trevor, Alfred, Phil and Kula to CMFT sites on New Hanover and Djual Islands was not possible because of rough seas. However, an evening meeting was held in Kavieng with a CMFT (Erobin Tamarik) and three farmers from Mussau Island; the project aims were explained and a visit to the island (6 hours by boat) was promised for November. Kula and Phil had an impromptu meeting with the hierarchy of the Uniting Church in New Ireland when they stayed overnight in the church's Halis Guesthouse near Namatanai; they expressed great interest in the project and will invite Kula to address their synod, with a view to involving the church in promoting cocoa growing.
- At a meeting in Kavieng on 11 April, Kunibert Tibil, on behalf of the NI Provincial Government received from Kula a Memorandum of Understanding between the Provincial Government and the PNG Cocoa Coconut Institute on a 'Cocoa Development Extension Liaison Project'. This was formally signed by Governor of New Ireland Province, Sir Julius Chan, and the CEO of CCI, Dr Eremas Tade, on 20 April. Under this understanding, the New Ireland Provincial Government will commit 3 million Kina (AUD 1.25 million) to extend the current ACIAR Project to cover all 110 wards. This will involve establishing another 9 CMFTs with budwood gardens and nurseries, in addition to the 29 already established by Kula (including the 20 established under the project and 9 groups paying their own way, but receiving the same training). These extra 9 groups funded by the Provincial Government will be strategically placed to cover another 90 wards in addition to the 20 already covered by the ACIAR Project. The extension will also finance the training and establishment of another 90 CMFTs in the extra wards. The objectives of the Provincial Government extension project are fundamentally the same as the ACIAR project. Kunibert will lead the Provincial

Government project in collaboration with Kula. It is expected that the Provincial Government commitment will last until the end of the ACIAR Project.

- On 12 April Alfred, Trevor and Phil, with Kula and John Joseph from CCI, and Naison Laki from the PNG Cocoa Board, attended the grand ceremonial opening and blessing of a solar dryer in Panamecho Village. This is built to a unique design from Kula that enables the drying tray to be pushed on rails into the plastic-covered solar dryer during sunny weather, or into a wood-fired kiln dryer during wet weather.
- Solar dryers under test at Tavilo and Tokiala, East New Britain Province, were visited by Trevor and Phil and observed to be functioning well during warm weather. It was evident that dark river stones placed under the drying beds are more effective than a concrete floor. Adjustments to the fermentation time may be needed to give a lower pH in the beans.
- A highlight of Phil's visit to project CMFTs in East Sepik, Madang and New Ireland (from 27 March to 13 April) was the evident involvement of husband-wife teams of CMFTs. We originally tried to recruit an equal number of women and men as CMFTs but finished up with about 10 men for every woman. However, in New Ireland, all wives attended the training sessions with their husbands and it was evident during the visits that the CMFTs were functioning as strong husband-wife teams (see photo attached). This was also evident in East Sepik and Madang.



Sweetpotato HORT/2014/097

- Chris Gard met with Billy Bouri, officer in charge of the Community Development Worker (CDW) standards, at the National Apprenticeships and Trade Testing Board (NATTB) to discuss accreditation of the training being provided in the project. Support was received for allowing accreditation by portfolio instead of workplace assessment for the National Standard for CDWs. This would mean that FPDA can issue accreditation for extension workers in-house, keep the

evidence (observation checklist by in-house assessor, copies of work-plans, reports, etc.), and then later submit it to NATTB for their accreditation. FPDA have submitted an EOI to request that the NATTB Director approve the use of portfolio for the National Standard for CDWs. This strategy could be more widely adopted, and already has gained support from other groups including CARE.

- Chris also met with Larson Thomas (Director, DPLGA) and Rowan Nim (Senior Officer, DPLGA) at DPLGA offices in Port Moresby and gave a presentation on the project. They said DPLGA was fully supportive and endorsed any District involvement should it evolve (for example involvement of Wards or District Officers in training).
- Bennie Atigini has been approached to facilitate the training accreditation, based in Goroka, and will commence work on the project in July after the election.
- FPDA is also going through the process of registering as a training provider with National Training Council (NTC). The National Standard for CDWs is listed on the NTC website, potentially providing FPDA with the opportunity to become a NTC registered training provider for the CDW training packages. Embedding this capacity in FPDA will support ongoing development of a professional extension capacity for agriculture after this project is completed.
- Phil Brown and Craig Henderson are visiting field trial sites in the Mul-Baiyer, Hagen, Minj and Asaro regions in the first week of May. The visit will allow identification of sites where pest and soil 'best bet' management practices (generated in aligned ACIAR projects) can be assessed.
- Mike Hughes and Sandra Dennien will conduct refreshed training for NARI staff at Aiyura on virus diagnostics, and discuss foundation stock clean seed facilities and project requirements. Mike will meet with NARI management in Lae at the end of the trip to discuss progress on the clean seed scheme.