

ASEM/2014/095 Women's business acumen

- Barbara Pamphilon & Pauline Gwatorisa (UC), and Jessie Abiuda Mitir (NARI) trained the Village Community Educators (VCEs) in Asaro Valley (Eastern Highlands – partner FPDA) and Wahgi Valley (Jiwaka – partner Voice for Change) in the Family Teams program Module 2 (Planning your Family Farm as a Family Team) and Module 3 (Feeding your Family Team) in mid May. The VCEs reported strong family and community interest in Module 1 “Working as a Family Team for Family Goals”.
- Brokered training for both these sites is under negotiation with Integrated Agricultural Training Program (University of Natural Resources and Environment), Nation-wide Microbank, UniTech and FPDA.
- Kym Simoncini (UC) and Elisapesi Manson and her team in the School of Education, Pacific Adventist University have piloted the professional development unit for pre-service teachers and in-service teachers. The PD unit helps primary school teachers develop place-based teaching materials and authentic assessment by developing curriculum materials based on the agricultural context of PNG children.

All interested people are invited to our conference to be held at Pacific Adventist University on 14-15 July, see attached invitation.

FST/2014/099 Canarium

- The Canarium team from Australia [Helen Wallace, Brett Hodges and Emma Kill (social science), Kim Jones (nut industry expert), Bruce Randall (technical support – nut processing), Shahla Hosseini-Bai (nut and soil chemistry) and Theo Simos (value chain and product to market)] attended the TADEP Annual Meeting in East New Britain. The Canarium team also undertook their PIPA analysis and a project review with NARI and Tony Bartlett during the week.
- Brett Hodges and Emma Kill will be moving to East New Britain with their four children in July for six months to work with stakeholders in the Canarium industry.
- We are in the planning stages to upgrade equipment in the factory to increase production for the coming season.

HORT/2014/094 Bougainville cocoa

Project funding

- Project partners are gradually signing project MOUs and sending invoices for funding.
- ACIAR Port Moresby will explore obtaining tax exemption for duty free vehicle purchase.

Bougainville Chocolate Festival

- The project has 18 out of 60 samples already turned into chocolate at Paradise Foods, Port Moresby.
- Chocolates samples of 100g per samples will be delivered to the four judges overseas and we aim to get all out by mid June as scheduled.
- Details on the event are available on the website www.bougainvillechocolatefestival.com and Facebook Page www.facebook.com/bougainvillechocolatefestival/

Communication issues:

- A Stakeholder Reference group has been formed with specific TOR to provide advisory support to the project.
- The PNG Project Manager will be accessible digitally as a contract agreement with Digicel voice and data package plans is now in place as of 24 May for six months on a trial basis (PGK4,955 including PGK2,000 deposit).

Staff

- Mr Sam Rangai is the Bougainville Project Coordinator under DPI-ABG from 28 April.
- Three Regional hub coordinators will soon be appointed and placed in the three DPI Research and Training Centres before the Chocolate Festival in July.

Baseline information from the project sites

- Our health team has drafted the survey questions and are loading it into CommCare. We will be participating in the CommCare Masterclass in Canberra on 7-9 June, and obtaining ethics approval before the pilot testing in Arawa and Buin during the Chocolate Festival.
- Tablets for the survey for electronic survey have been purchased.

Cocoa Marketing Training

- Mr Grant Vinning ran a market skills training activity in Bougainville on 18-19 May where a total of 48 out of the target 60 farmers were in attendance. There will be a refresher immediately before the festival.

Travel

- John Konam, Peter Nomoreke and Sam Rangai attended the TADEP Annual Meeting in East New Britain on 18-19 May.
- UNRE and CCI teams will be travelling to Bougainville within the next three weeks to establish demonstrations plots and prepare for the upcoming Chocolate Festival.

HORT/2014/096 PNG cocoa

- Trevor Clarke, Alfred Nongkas and Desmond Nambri visited Murunas station near Madang on 8-12 May to select a Cocoa Coconut Institute (CCI) house for refurbishment as a dormitory, training centre and office for the project activities in Madang Province. While there, they worked with the CCI Extension Officer and Project Coordinator in Madang Province, Aitul Weoh, to draw up a workplan for activities in the province.
- Funds were disbursed to Kula Daslogo in New Ireland and Aitul Weoh in Madang to cover project activities.
- Kula Daslogo sent in detailed minutes of his meetings at ten villages in New Ireland held on 7-29 April to make farmers aware of the project and to begin the process of recruiting Cocoa Model Farmer Trainers (CFMT) from particular villages. An average of about 25 men and 6 women farmers attended the meetings along with DPI staff, showing great enthusiasm for the project and the possibility of having a CMFT as a source of advice permanently present in local wards.
- Alfred Nongkas and Jeffrie Marfu attended project awareness meetings with Provincial and District DPI staff in New Ireland on 6, 7 and 13 April. Jeffrie also delivered new CCI clones for establishing budwood gardens.

- As a result of initial scoping visits to New Ireland, Madang and East Sepik Provinces, and the enthusiastic response of farmers at Kula's project awareness meetings in New Ireland, it was decided to double the number of CMFTs to be trained and deployed from 10 to 20 in each lowlands province.
- Trevor held a meeting with Charles Maika of UNRE to plan for the studies of the integration of livestock, especially goats, into cocoa farming.
- Trevor, Alfred and John Konam attended the TADEP Annual Meeting on 18-19 May, and discussed plans for project work in Simbu Province.
- Philip Keane held discussions on 23 May with Peter Sale and James Hunt at LaTrobe University on their involvement in the project studies on soil fertility and physiology of Karimui cocoa.
- On 24 May, Trevor and Alfred held a meeting with the Agronomy Section at CCI to plan their involvement in the further development and study of cocoa at Karimui in Simbu Province.

HORT/2014/097 Sweetpotato

- Project team members attended annual TADEP Annual Meeting in East New Britain.
- FPDA have commenced work mapping commercial sweetpotato value chains in four regions (Asaro, Minj, Hagen central, Baiyer Valley) with interviews with commercial growers and traders scheduled over the next two months.
- Three commercial grower sites have been set up for multiplication of clean planting material from Aiyura.
- Identification of a further 20 growers willing to operate clean seed multiplication businesses will occur over the next two months.
- Drs Gunnar Kirchof and Ryo Fujinuma will be travelling to Aiyura and Goroka/Asaro in the second week of June to establish soil fertility trials.
- Meetings held with IFAD and Care International representatives in Goroka - mutual interest in aligning training programs targeting sweet potato growers in Asaro and Jiwaka.
- Agreement with Womens Business Acumen project for training activities undertaken in Asaro, Jiwaka and Baiyer Valley to be continued in 2017 within the sweet potato project.