

## **Family farm teams ASEM/2014/095**

- We are pleased to welcome new staff to our Islands teams:
  - Milton Tenemi and Stella Itam: New Ireland Department of Agriculture and Livestock
  - Ian Viore and Shedrick Nana: Bougainville Women's Federation
  - Doreen Tunama (seconded from the Integrated Agriculture Training Program of the University of Natural Resources and Environment)
- Jeromy Kavi (our NARI staff member) has just completed the baseline surveys with men and women family heads of our village community education (VCE) teams in our three sites. Jeromy successfully overcame a number of challenges. This survey used the new digital process that is being used in a number of ACIAR projects, so there were a few lessons there too. We are now working on the data.
- Gloria Nema, Lalen Simeon and Heather Vanua presented at the recent Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development Annual Meeting. Gloria (CARE/UC) presented her use of Ripple Effect Mapping that she has used to follow up the first communities we worked with (Baiyer Valley, Western Highlands and Kerevat, East New Britain). She will also be using the same tool in a comparative study with CARE's Coffee project (Eastern Highlands) where they have developed a family approach to coffee business training. Lalen and Heather (PAU/UC) presented their work on the development of a financial training process for farmers with little or no literacy. This training focuses on the skills farmers need before they engage with banking.
- We are just beginning a follow-up project with Voice for Change (VfC) in Jiwaka, under the leadership of Lilly Be'Soer. VfC have selected four (2F, 2M) of the 2016 VCEs to be trained as Family Teams Community Based Extension Workers (FT CBEW). They will form part of a team of Community Based Extension Workers Network in Jiwaka, offering Family Teams training as their speciality. This Community Based Extension Service Program will follow a village-based farmer to farmer extension approach to share and pass on experiences and knowledge among and within the members of the community. The program will utilize the local expertise to train fellow men and women in own local dialect. This extension program will be targeting both rural women/men and their families to improving skills and knowledge to maintain food security, enhance cash income and sustain livelihoods.
- Congratulations to Veronica Bue from our partner university UniTech on her successful completion of the ACIAR 2017 John Dillon Fellowship.
- We will be beginning our Family Farm Teams Module 1 training for our VCEs in New Ireland in the first week of June and in Bougainville in the second week. The focus of this module is Working as a Family Farm Team for Family Goals. We are very pleased that Josie Saul, Trevor Clark and Alfred Nongkas from CCI and the TADEP cocoa projects will be joining us.

## **Canarium FST/2014/099**

### **Australian Nut Conference**

- Craig Johns and Theo Simos attended the Australian Nut Conference held in Melbourne, Australia (Figure 1). The purpose of attendance was to gain an understanding of the global nut market, nut marketing strategies and consumer trends, current challenges faced by the Australian based nut industries, and to network with a range of stakeholders and distributors involved in the industry.
- Some of the key insights for Canarium are that there is space in consumer markets for a specialty premium nut, and establishing market pull and distribution is critical.
- Research into understanding the Pili Nut Industry (Canarium Ovatum) grown in Philippines is being planned to be undertaken in 2017. This desktop research will be undertaken by a University of Adelaide master student and could provide some valuable insights and lessons learned to help the development strategy of Canarium in PNG.

The Canarium project team have been working on the product range from the pilot factory and have:

- Developed nut handling and processing control points for new variants to be packaged in Kerevat during the new season July 2017.

- Identified buyers for expanded distribution in East New Britain and Lae with more retailers ready to take product (4 hotel resorts and 4 retailer accounts).
- Commenced design of new packaging for 3 key pack sizes, with graphic designers in Adelaide and GMD packaging in Queensland to supply stand up pouches (Figure 2).
- Commenced planning for distribution in ENB and Port Moresby.
- Note: Stock is in short supply and we are waiting for the new season to start in June.



Figure 1. Australian Nut Conference, Melbourne, first speaker Bernard Salt from KMPG Demographics.



Figure 2. First draft designs for the new packaging of galip (note: this is not finalised, an example of the concept design work being done in Adelaide).

### **Bougainville cocoa HORT/2014/094**

#### **Activities**

- We presented AGB-DPI with micro scales that can be used to establish bean count and shell content, two important criteria when selling to the bulk cocoa market

- We have been working with students from Sydney University who are researching (a) the aroma profile of cocoa beans from different sources using gas chromatography-mass spectrometry and (b) chocolate industry players about their opinions on the outlook for niche chocolate.
- On behalf of our team, Grant Vinning prepared and circulated two market reports.
- Grant Vinning interviewed chocolate makers and chocolatiers in Brisbane and South East Queensland trying to understand better their purchasing decisions so we can market to them.
- Grant Vinning has represented the project at the Organising Committee meetings in Buka for the Second Bougainville Chocolate Festival to be held 6-7 September. The Festival will be organized by DPI with support from the CSF. This year, the ACIAR team will organize the chocolate competition, and we have started selecting judges. We are investigating the revival of the K.I. Tomlin Trophy, to be presented to the best young cocoa farmer at the Festival.
- Following the success of the 2016 Festival, we have now importing into Australia by airfreight seven bags from new suppliers into the Australian bean-to-bar market. We have distributed beans from the cache to potential new outlets, one a bean-to-bar maker and the other specialising in the niche drinking chocolate market.
- Josie Saul-Maora has been working with the Family Farm Teams project to identify widows to train as Trainers in Family Teams for our Resource Centres.
- The cocoa Budwood garden is now fully established at Buin DPI station with the 18 CCI released clones to be the central source for the other 11 Village Assemblies.
- Cocoa Budwood garden and clone verification operation is still on going for the 33 VAs.
- In Central Region, 6 blocks were identified and labeled as budwood gardens.
- Buin DPI station Nursery is under construction.
- A compost shed at Buin DPI station is under construction.
- An IPDM block is now fully established in Buin DPI station.

### **Challenges**

- We are very sad to say goodbye to John Konam, who will be returning to Chimbu from July to begin the next phase of his life with his family and wantoks. Nobody can replace John, but we are looking for someone to take us forward.
- Our project partner, the PNG Cocoa and Coconut Institute, will be dissolved on 1 July following a recommendation of the National Financial Expenditure Review Committee. We are now investigating what structure will replace CCI, and how we continue to access their expertise.
- The 2016 Bougainville Chocolate Festival was a hugely successful event for DPI, ACIAR and the AHC. Whilst there are some outstanding financial commitments that are yet to be resolved in the lead up to this year's event, planning for the 2017 festival is proceeding rapidly.

### **PNG cocoa HORT/2014/096**

- Baseline surveys were completed in East Sepik and Madang Provinces by CCI and Provincial Government DPI teams using paper forms, following difficulties in using smartphones and the CommCare app in the field. CCI office staff, Cynthia Risimeri (Wewak) and Delma Miriung (Madang), and office staff from the provincial DPI's are entering data into an Excel spreadsheet prepared by Trevor.
- Following the completion of surveys, training sessions for Cocoa Model Farmer-Trainers were conducted from 24 to 28 April in East Sepik and from 1 to 5 May in Madang. 39 farmers attended in Wewak and 47 in Madang. Eremas Tade, the CEO of the Cocoa Coconut Institute opened the training in Madang and also visited several CMFT sites. The training was led by Jimmy Risimeri in East Sepik and Aitul Weoh in Madang. Trevor, Alfred and Josie also participated in the training sessions, which concentrated on establishment of budwood gardens, nurseries and budding of seedlings. In both provinces, Josie presented a session on the involvement of women and family teams in cocoa farming, and the KVRTC/IATP Team (Kairak Training Centre, PNG University of Natural Resources and Environment) conducted training sessions on Sustainable Livelihoods.

- On 26 April Grant Vinning gave a presentation on the World Cocoa Situation to the National Development Bank Investments section in Port Moresby and has been invited to give another presentation to a wider audience of the bank's officials at a later date.
- Trevor has prepared and distributed to the coordinators Google Earth Maps for each province so that they can mark all their CMFT sites on the maps for future reference and reports.
- Trevor has established a UATP Individual Prepaid Account with Air Niugini to facilitate payment of tickets for air travel within PNG.
- Trevor, Alfred, Josephine have made arrangements to attend the Family Farm Teams training in New Ireland beginning on 6 June. Kula Daslogo is planning to attend with his wife and is arranging for several of the CMFT wives to attend as well. This will strengthen the links between our projects in promoting family-based cocoa farming. Following the training, Trevor and Alfred will visit several CMFT sites with Kula, especially to look at the budwood gardens that are all just getting to the tipping and formation pruning stage.
- In Simbu Province, John Konam and Peter Bapiwai transported the 18 CCI cocoa clones to Karimui on 10 May and established them in a quarantine house to ensure they are free of VSD before they are planted in the field. During a 3-day visit to Karimui, John also inspected the farms and checked the budding skills of the CMFTs.

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

- Mike Hughes visited NARI staff at Aiyura station to review facilities and procedures for virus indexing, and run refresher training for staff on testing methods. Low supply of *I. setosa* seeds, used in the virus testing, was identified as a risk to the project so trials were designed to maximise seed production to ensure continuous supply. Trials are underway to determine effects of dual virus infections on plant performance.
- Work has commenced on virus removal from material of varieties Korowest and Rachael (currently in tissue culture) with plantlets to be bulked, undergo thermotherapy and virus indexed prior to multiplication and distribution of clean planting material. These 2 varieties have been identified through the value chain mapping as key commercial varieties in demand by growers.
- Phil Brown, Craig Henderson, Johnny Wemin and Lonica Aris reviewed value chain CommCare app and finalised plans for surveys of all commercial growers not previously contacted. New sites for commercial clean seed propagation were selected in the Asaro region, and field sites confirmed for trials of 'best bet' pest management and soil fertility management treatments.
- FPDA staff will complete the value chain survey in all TEAM regions plus in markets in Lae and Port Moresby will occur over the next 2 weeks. Data will be added to previously collected data to fully map current chains.
- Activity will wind down in PNG as the election gets closer, with restricted travel by FPDA and NARI staff.