

### **ASEM/2014/095 Women's Economic Empowerment**

- Two Masters students from UniTech will be conducting their research projects in our Wahgi Valley sites. Both joined the UC team in early June to conduct their initial field orientation.
  - Elizabeth Owa - Innovations adopted by women and their impact on their family livelihoods in selected villages in the highlands of PNG.
  - William Nano - Performance and impact evaluation of peer education learning in animal production for women in selected rural areas in the highlands of PNG.
- Two different approaches to agricultural development through model farms will be trialed in the next 6 months - FPDA commercial bulb onion (Asaro Valley) and UniTech poultry production (Wahgi Valley).
- Our partner agency in the Wahgi Valley (Voice for Change) has just opened a guest house with an attached training room at Minj. Two 2 person rooms are available at K100 per person per night and this includes breakfast. The other 4 person rooms are K50 per person per night with breakfast included. Lunch is K20 per plate and dinner is K25 per plate. Hire of conference room is K200 per day with am and pm tea/coffee with biscuits and fruits. Meals are mainly locally grown foods. We can highly recommend this venue – for further information contact Lilly BeSoer [lillybesoer@gmail.com](mailto:lillybesoer@gmail.com)

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

#### **Field trips**

- Brett Hodges travelled to Canberra to attend a MAD (mobile acquired data) Masterclass on the CommCare system. CommCare is a mobile data application that can capture data in the field and sync it to the cloud.

#### **Upcoming trips**

- Brett Hodges and Emma Kill will be moving to Kokopo with their 4 children on July 6 for six months to work with stakeholders in the Canarium industry.
- Helen, Shahla and others will be travelling to ENB in late July to complete the project planning for the year coming.
- Helen and Craig Johns will be travelling to Lae on a related project in August.

### **HORT/2014/094 Bougainville Cocoa**

- Jess Hall and Rosalie Daniel participated in the ACIAR MAD Masterclass in Canberra on 7-9 June. We will be piloting CommCare for the baseline livelihoods and health surveys in Bougainville in July.
- David Guest met with Liz Brennan, Richard Markham and Peter Horne to discuss TADEP support for individual projects, particularly to improve communication technology.
- David Guest met with Barbara Pamphilon to discuss collaborations with the Women's Economic Empowerment Project.
- John Konam will be based at DPI, Buka, from June until December 2016.
- Project staff will participate in the [Bougainville Chocolate Festival](#) (5-6 July), initiated as part of the project and run by the PNG Lead Partner ABG-DPI, in association with the Australian High Commission. The central part of the Festival is a chocolate competition – 46 farmers have entered beans that were made into chocolate and judged by 1 PNG and 3 Australian chocolatiers. The Festival is also a field day with information stalls and other events.
- David Guest will talk about the project on 18 August at the Sydney Royal Botanic Gardens Calyx exhibition, [Sweet Addiction](#).

### **HORT/2014/096 PNG Cocoa**

- Discussions were held with George Curry about basing a Cocoa Model Farmer-Trainer in Dagua, East Sepik Province, to be linked to his post-graduate student, Alois Ndrewau, who is working there.
- On 1 June, Philip met with Grant Vinning in Melbourne to discuss his proposed meeting with banking and finance executives in PNG to improve the perception of cocoa farming as a good banking proposition.

- On 2 June, Jim Thomas, the Director of the [Tenkile \(Tree Kangaroo\) Conservation Alliance](#) contacted Philip about linking to our project activities in East Sepik Province, where some of his conservation activities are based in villages that grow cocoa. Improved cocoa production and livelihoods (following the Cocoa Pod Borer incursion) would support their conservation effort.
- A vehicle (Ford Ranger 4x4) has been purchased for the project activities in ENB.
- Following his recent appointment to LaTrobe University as an agronomist/crop physiologist, James Hunt indicated his interest in supervising the studies of Peter Bapiwai at CCI on the physiology and adaptation of cocoa in the highlands, using the PhD scholarship given by LaTrobe to support the project. These studies will be co-supervised at CCI by Eremas Tade.
- Baseline Survey and Block Survey Forms were developed with advice from George Curry. It has been decided to proceed with paper forms rather than digital devices at this stage.
- Trevor Clarke and Alfred Nongkas visited New Ireland from 31 May to 3 June to review the project work with Kula Daslogo and John Joseph and field test the Baseline Survey Form. Scanned forms were sent to Philip to begin establishing methods of data analysis.
- On 25 May, Paul Voutier, head of the NGO, [Business for Development](#), based in Melbourne, contacted Philip and discussed the possibility of collaboration with activities under the cocoa project in PNG. Paul visited Alfred and Trevor in Kokopo on 10 June to further discuss collaboration. While their current activities are based in Morobe Province, their approach is very similar to ours and we will be able to combine experience.
- Trevor met with John Nightingale, the CEO of Agmark, to discuss his possible involvement in helping to obtain micro-finance for farmers. John will also advise on improved market access.
- In early June, Alfred and Trevor visited [Kada Poroman Microfinance Ltd](#) in Kokopo to brief them on the project and the need to facilitate microfinance for cocoa farmers. Kada Poroman arranged for them to meet Mr Ellison Pidik, the former successful CEO of Kada Poroman and now the Deputy Governor of the Bank of PNG, and Mr Anil Paul, Consultant to the Savings and Loans Society, on 7 June to discuss possible avenues for facilitating loans for cocoa farmers. They are interested in the training and support of our proposed Cocoa Model Farmer-Trainers and advised us to consult with Savings and Loan Societies, especially in New Ireland where they are proposing to support farmers. Mr Pidik and Mr Paul are meeting with the Cocoa Board to discuss financing options for farmers. They indicated that with the advent of CPB, many Savings and Loans Societies had lost a lot of money on defaulting smallholder loans, so they now have a low risk tolerance in lending further. Alfred and Trevor explained the optimistic outlook for cocoa based on the new clones and management methods being promoted in our project.
- On 10 June, Alfred and Trevor met with the CEO of the Cocoa Board, Mr Boto Gaupu, who supported the testing and roll out of the cheaper solar driers.
- Positions for Cocoa Development Coordinators in East Sepik and Madang have been advertised.
- Philip had a phone discussion on 15 June with Barbara Pamphilon about collaboration between the Women in Agriculture and Cocoa in PNG projects in New Ireland. This will be followed up during a joint visit to New Ireland in November 2016.

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

- First batches of 'clean seed' material produced by NARI at Aiyura has been distributed to the Village Extension Worker representatives in 3 TEAM sites. That material is now being multiplied by the VEWs in insect proof screen houses and will be ready for distribution to sweetpotato growers in approximately 2 months
- Field trial plans using the 'clean seed' have been drawn up for implementation as the planting material becomes available
- Value chain mapping has commenced with FPDA staff helping develop a list of key information to be extracted from commercial growers, traders and market agents. The survey has already uncovered one emerging value chain aiming to supply a new variety of sweetpotato into a supermarket group in Port Moresby, and production of 'clean seed' for use by the growers involved in the chain has commenced.

- Members of the aligned soil management research team have been coordinating with NARI during a visit to PNG to establish field trials