

Family farm teams

ASEM/2014/095

- June was a busy month with the first training (Working as a family farm team for family goals) of our new VCEs in our Islands Hub
- In Manggai/Loosuk/Livitua (New Ireland) we had over 60 women and men involved. We were pleased that Alfred Nongkas, Trevor Clark, Kula Daslogo and Josie Saul from PNG Cocoa project were able to join us. Josie will be attending all our modules and will then share the activities with the other areas of their project. Later that week we moved to Luaupul (New Ireland) where nearly 40 women and men were trained in the first module. It was a good start for our work with the New Ireland Department of Primary Industries
- In Buka where we are working with the Bougainville Women's Federation, our first module training was conducted in Halia constituency with 70 women and men. Again, Josie Saul was able to join us and will provide a link to the Bougainville cocoa project
- The large numbers of enthusiastic farmers has been very encouraging but has meant that we are thinking of a new model for training. We will continue with the large workshop for the keen VCEs and observers but will now select a smaller number for more advanced training, especially as peer educators. These farmers will become the local leaders and will lead teams who can hopefully roll-out the training more widely
- Our baseline data and community learning plans will further inform our brokered training plan. This has begun with training from the University of Natural Resources and Environment Integrated Agriculture Training Programs 'Sustainable Livelihoods and Book and Record keeping modules in the three islands sites.

Canarium

FST/2014/099

The Canarium team had an eventful month with meetings with DFAT in Port Moresby, and a visit to the canarium factory by potential private sector partners followed by the annual project review in Port Moresby on 18th-19th June then the TADEP meeting in Cairns. The team is energized and inspired by the recent meetings and looking forward to the impending galip season. We are implementing a new format for TADEP monthly reports in response to feedback from the review meetings - any suggestions welcome!

Progress towards objectives

Develop and undertake research-based interventions that address the needs of the private sector including smallholders, small scale entrepreneurs (especially women) SMEs, and large scale processors.

- Female entrepreneurs and smallholders have been participated in a range of demonstration and training activities in the previous season including:
- Cracking, drying, processing, packaging, labelling training day for 25 small-scale entrepreneurs who were already engaged in the marketing and sale of galip.
- A workshop for small scale female entrepreneurs showcased a female entrepreneur from Vanuatu.
- Solar drying training for 37 female smallholders and small scale entrepreneurs at two training events (one a remote community without power).
- Processing, food safety, health and hygiene translated by a local trainer to 50 female smallholders and small-scale entrepreneurs over three training days.
- We plan to roll these out again in the coming season (July-Dec) and expand to other areas, eg: Bougainville and New Ireland.

Develop an appropriate commercial model for a medium scale value adding factory for the canarium industry.

- The project team has greatly up-scaled factory production from less than 1 tonne of raw material (nut in pulp) since the start of the project in 2014 to 25 tonnes of nut in pulp purchased and processed in 2016.
- The coming season will be bigger again as the throughput capacity has been greatly increased with new equipment.
- A mechanical cracker has been installed and is now being tested. It has the ability to crack around 9 times faster than the current hand crackers and will greatly increase factory throughput
- A shipping container has been modified by NARI staff to create an energy efficient nut dryer. The drier uses passive solar heating and a small (2 kilowatt) heating element and has a capacity to dry 8 tonnes of nut in shell in 1 week. This may be a useful dryer for other crops that require drying such as cocoa.

Create a model for public-private partnerships in the canarium industry in PNG:

- Potential private sector partners visited the galip factory at Kerevat in June and discussions are ongoing about how we can work with them in retailing galip nut products.

Good news/impact stories

- The numbers of smallholder farmers selling galip to the factory as a result of the increased factory capacity more than doubled in 2016 and around 650 farmers are now participating the emerging industry.

Year	Nut in pulp purchased (PGK1-PGK1.50/kg)	Number of smallholder farmers selling	Farm gate value
2014	Small volumes (<1,000 kg) for research trials	N/A	N/a
2015	11 tonnes nut in pulp	243	PGK10,669
2016	25 tonnes nut in pulp	647	PGK26,349

- Two small-scale entrepreneurs were mentored to value add to galip nuts and improve shelf life and income by drying, packaging and labelling their products. These women have labelling and packages ready to go for the coming Galip season.



Forward plans

- The new galip season is approaching and the NARI factory is gearing up for buying and processing even more this year.
- We are planning for a product launch of galip nuts in Port Moresby in November
- Theo Simos, Helen Wallace, Brett Hodges, Emma Kill, and other team members are planning trips to Kerevat in July and August for planning more training workshops, working with female smallholders and entrepreneurs and increasing factory production for the product launch in November
- A galip open day is planned for the factory in November to invite private sector partners.

Activities

- We presented AGB-DPI with a new temperature and moisture probe that can be used to monitor fermentation, continuing our efforts to fully equip the DPI Research and Training Hubs in Bougainville
- We continue to work 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 continued to prepare and circulate cocoa market reports
- Grant Vinning continues to represent the project at the Organising Committee meetings in Buka for the Second Bougainville Chocolate Festival to be held 6-7 September. The ACIAR team will organize the chocolate competition, and will coordinate Field-day activities from DPI, DoH, CCIL and UNRE
- Bougainville chocolates on the world stage: Following the success of the 2016 Festival, one of our growers, Martin Linnux, had chocolates made by Jasper & Myrtle in Canberra that were awarded a Gold Medal at the Academy of Chocolate World Championships in London, and further medals at the International Chocolate Awards in New York
https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1701569056813782&id=1501032956867394
- Josie Saul-Maora will be trained by the Family Farm Teams project as a Trainer in Family Teams
- James Butubu will start work as the AGB-DPI Bougainville project coordinator, responsible for field activities in Bougainville. His role will combine aspects of Sam Rangai's and John Konam's responsibilities
- Thomas Betitis, Clement Totavun, Peter Kinani, Ignatius Nakuri, John Konam and David Guest represented the project at the TADEP meeting in Cairns, at which Grant Vinning organized a very popular tasting <http://aciarblog.blogspot.com.au/2017/06/lessons-on-eating-chocolate.html>. We also visited the Daintree Estates chocolate making plant at Mossman, and thank Thibault Fregoni for his hospitality
- Save the Children/Frontier Economics have released a report indicating the cost of childhood under-nutrition in PNG is costing the economy up to \$US1.5 annually, or 8.5% of GDP
https://www.savethechildren.org.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/228492/PNG-Nutrition-Report.pdf. Our Bougainville surveys support these estimates, with 90% of children "stunted". We think this is a major constraint to improving farmer productivity, even when improved technologies are available

Challenges

- As reported in May, many field operations of the project have had to be suspended because of the deficit remaining from the 2016 Bougainville Chocolate Festival. We understand that ACIAR continues to discuss with the AHC how we resolve the situation.

PNG cocoa

HORT/2014/096

- Trevor, Alfred and Phil attended the TADEP Meeting in Cairns from 19 to 22 June and presented a summary of the Cocoa in PNG Project.
- Kula Daslogo continued visits to CMFTs in New Ireland to encourage tipping of the clonal plants in the budwood gardens so that the plants would grow as symmetrical trees able to provide a lot of budwood.
- Following their training programs, Jimmy Risimeri in East Sepik and Aitul Weoh in Madang continued to support CMFTs to establish budwood gardens of the 18 CCI clones ready for propagation. Nurseries of seedlings were established ready for budding. The farmers at Yekimbole completed building their solar drier, following Trevor's advice last month.

Sweetpotato

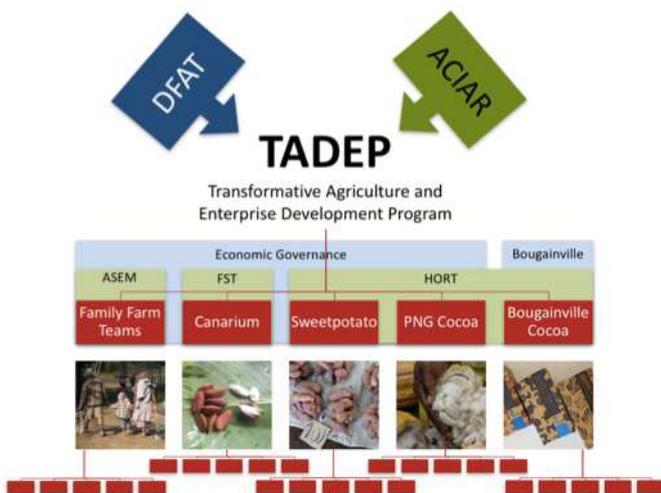
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- Project activities slowed down in PNG in June in the lead up to the election. Despite some technical difficulties, the CommCare survey for sweetpotato value chain mapping was completed in EHP, Jiwaka and WHP. We have interviewed 88 commercial growers/traders and secured consent of 17 growers to establish nursery for clean planting material (PT) multiplication and distribution. We also covered Lae and Mt Hagen urban markets. Port Moresby market will be covered after the election.
- The socio-economic review of kaukau production and markets completed by ANU Enterprises was distributed to all project partners for comments, and will be available for wider distribution in July. The review identified a previously unreported kaukau supply chain from the Mt Hagen/Mul Baiyer production areas to markets in Enga and Hela Provinces. Commercial growers operating in these chains have been identified through the value chain mapping exercise and will be included in chain development and research activities.
- Trainers Handbook and training materials for community development workers have been produced and training will commence following the election. The team welcomes Bennie Atigini who will commence work in July to guide the training program. Bennie will be located with FPDA in Goroka.

- The QDAF team in Australia has had success in initial development of virus detection protocols using the LAMP (loop-mediated isothermal amplification) system. This technology will allow faster and cheaper sample analysis for virus detection in sweetpotato, and will be used by the project in PNG and Australia.
- Arrangements have been put in place for shipping to PNG from Australia of new screen houses for NARI and material for nurseries for clean seed multiplication by growers.
- Team members attended the TADEP meeting in Cairns and a project planning and review meeting on the next day, followed by a visit to a sweetpotato farm.

2017 TADEP Annual Meeting

The 2017 TADEP Annual Meeting was held in Cairns on Tuesday 20 and Wednesday 21 June and welcomed 55 attendees from across Papua New Guinea and Australia. There was representation from each of the five TADEP component programs including all Project Leaders, our key partner organisations in PNG, three ACIAR Research Program Managers as well as Peter Horne and Maree Livermore from the ACIAR Country Programs team, two of our DFAT colleagues from Port Moresby and Canberra, four of the MAD4TADEP NARI CommCare certified staff, researchers from other linked ACIAR projects, local businesses from the chocolate industry and a farmer involved first-hand in the Bougainville cocoa project.



To help set the context of the TADEP program, brief overviews of priorities from both ACIAR and DFAT were presented, followed by a country-specific overview of ACIARs work in PNG and how TADEP forms part of the country program.

As illustrated in the diagram to the left, TADEP is co-funded by DFAT and ACIAR, each with varying organisational structure and reporting requirements. This visual map of how TADEP is funded and operates assisted attendees to conceptualise and gain a greater understanding of processes within the program, especially relating to reporting and communications.

Each of the five TADEP component projects gave updates on their respective projects followed by an interactive Q&A session. During the presentations the audience was encouraged to consider, a) what is that project doing that could be useful for my project and vice versa, and b) what *good news stories* or early stories of impact are starting to evolve?



These *good news stories* were captured on a sticky-note, colour-coded to the respective project, and added to over the duration of the Annual Meeting.

Potential cross-program ideas captured during the project presentations were then discussed amongst the five TADEP projects in a small group session. Projects also brainstormed any other opportunities for capacity building within their respective projects and/or across the program. These ideas were briefing shared to the whole group.

Day one concluded with a relaxed program dinner at the Annual Meeting venue, allowing for more informal discussion and networking.

The first session on the second day aimed to ‘ground truth’ the research findings from the MAD4TADEP small research activity. Each of the projects were asked to consider, a) how did you apply CommCare in your project, b) what did you expect the outcomes would be, and c) what (if anything) was surprising? Each of the TADEP projects have had varying utilisation and success in adopting CommCare within their projects and the presentations highlighted some key opportunities for CommCare to be used both at a program level but also for further institutional capacity building within our key partner organisations.

Project teams then reformed for another workshop session in the afternoon to review the *good news stories* that had already been captured over the day before and add to them, considering a range of themes to reflect potential target audiences. Each project team reported back their *front page worthy* story which was followed by a facilitated discussion about the communications strategy and how the program can best share information for planning, learning, collaboration and sharing of research and development impacts. This discussion led into reviewing progress against the Program Performance Framework, which will be reported against in the TADEP Annual Report.

Throughout the two-day event there were also a range of additional presentations, all linked to TADEPs priorities or impact. These included:

- Optimising soil management and health in Papua New Guinea integrated cocoa farming systems
- The benefits of interdisciplinary linkages that expand the impacts of TADEP
- Experiences from cocoa farmers involved in the Bougainville cocoa project
- Strategies for private sector engagement and/or understanding market channels to consumers

To ensure that energy levels were maintained for the final few hours of the event, a delicious chocolate taste testing session was organised by the Bougainville cocoa project. There were 12 different chocolates made from cocoa beans grown in Papua New Guinea, Fiji, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Participants tasted all varieties, and also judged the packaging and the name of each chocolate.

In concluding the 2017 TADEP Annual Meeting, it was agreed that the 2018 event be hosted in host the 2018 Annual Meeting in Arawa (1st preference), with contingencies in Buka (2nd) and Kavieng (3rd), in the second or third week of June, to be confirmed by January 2018.



For those that didn't collect a USB or weren't able to attend, all available presentations and photos are available via [this DropBox link](#).

On Thursday 22 June, an optional field trip was organised to visit Daintree Estates in Mossman and Oaklands organic sweetpotato farm in Kairi. Both locations were selected given their applicability to the TADEP component projects and also due to their relative scale. Those that attended found the hands on visit and candid discussions very insightful and interesting.

