

ASEM/2014/095 Women's economic empowerment

- We welcome two new staff members
 - Anna Umba began on July 25th on a 9 month contract with the Baptist Union based in Mount Hagen as the Assistant ACIAR Project Officer to Fredah Wantum, the Highlands Hub Leader. This will enable Anna to be involved with the project activities until the end of the year when Fredah resigns and then to support the communities at Lumusa and the final evaluations that will be conducted in early 2017. Baptist Union will then consider employing Anna to continue their agricultural development activities
 - Gloria Nema will begin on August 15th on a 14 month contract as a Research Officer, on a jointly funded research project with CARE International in PNG She will be based in Goroka, supervised by Anna Bryan, Coffee Industry Support Project Manager, and will be researching how the Family Teams concept has been understood and applied in three areas: Eastern Highlands (CARE's Family Business training) Western Highlands (ACIAR project Family Teams training) and East New Britain (ACIAR project Family Teams training). The findings from this will help both CARE and our project further develop our learning materials and training model
- Building PNG through Building Farming Families conference held at Pacific Adventist University – July 14 and 15 – attracted a range of participants from the past project sites as well as key current partners such as FPDA, NARI and Baptist Union. Unfortunately due to Peter O'Neill's actions that week re the vote of no confidence a number of people could not travel and there was a lower turn out of GoPNG attendees.
- Katja Mikhailovich (UC), Lalen Simeon (PAU) and Jessie Abiuda Mitir (NARI) conducted the first evaluation of Area 1 (Alona ward, Mul-Baiyer district, Western Highlands) (focus groups, participatory workshops, 1:1 interviews; end-line survey and farm observations)
- The teacher professional development module was piloted at the Seventh Day Adventist Mission Marantha Centre, Honiara with 136 primary teachers. This enabled an assessment of the relevance to the agriculture focused teaching development in another Pacific nation. Kym Simoncini (UC) and Elisapesi Manson (PAU) presented a paper at the preceding Vaka Pasifika conference *Bringing together good teaching and agricultural learning in primary schools: A Case Study of a New Professional Development for PNG teachers*
- Barbara Pamphilon attended the IFAD Forum on Household Methodologies (see attached info sheet). This work has been primarily developed in Africa but has many transferable lessons for working with farmers with low literacy – feel free to contact Barbara if you would like further details

FST/2014/099 Canarium

- Helen, Shahla and Theo travelled to ENB to finalise the M&E Plan and plan for the second year of activities.
- Tsvaki Gama has recently embarked on her PhD that will focus on nut quality of canarium and other nuts. Tsvaki will be travelling to PNG later in the year for her field work.
- Shauna Hack, a USC undergraduate student is undertaking a Special Research Project (SRP) as part of her studies that is looking into the waste products from the canarium nuts and their potential as a biofuel.
- Emma and Brett are now living in Kokopo and will stay until December.
- Shahla will travel to ENB mid-August for the canarium project
- Helen and Craig will travel to Lae from the 9-12th of August for the ACIAR agroforestry project

HORT/2014/094 Bougainville Cocoa

- David Guest, Merrilyn Walton, Grant Hill-Cawthorne, Grant Vinning, John Konam and Josephine Saul-Maora attended the first Bougainville Chocolate Festival in Buin on 5 July, and in Arawa on 6 July. The Festival, an important component of the project run this year with the assistance of the

AHC in Port Moresby, was a great success. Hundreds of growers attended both days to witness speeches, cultural activities, over 20 stalls displaying information from a range of stakeholders and presentation of Gold, Silver and Bronze awards to the 46 entrants to the Chocolate Competition. Beans were made into chocolate by Paradise Foods in Port Moresby, and judged by a panel consisting of Barry Kitchen (Daintree Estates), Peter Mengler (Cravve) and Luke Spencer (Spencer Chocolates). Congratulations to this year's gold winners Herman Kopou, Marin Linnix, Glen Tovirika, Peter Kinana, Simon Tsidaori and Jacob Matuku, and good luck to those who will enter again next year. The judges, under Grant Vinning's stewardship, presented a seminar to a packed room of entrants and stakeholders to provide feedback on cocoa quality attributes and areas for improvement. Peter Channells and Li Peng from Jasper & Myrtle posted a Festival blog at <http://jasperandmyrtle.com.au/south-pacific-adventures-at-the-bougainville-chocolate-festival/>

- Pilot tests of the tablet-based baseline survey (using CommCare) were successfully conducted on 11 volunteers at the Festival.
- Meetings were held with the Bougainville Healthy Communities Project (BHCP) team, Ruby Marinko, Dr Tony Wrightson, Alois Pukieni Director of Public Health, Department of Health to discuss collaborations with our project.
- The first meeting of the Project Stakeholder Reference Group was held in Arawa on 7 July.
- The first installment of project funds was received by the ABG-DPI on 26 July. UNRE received funds in late June, but CCI is still waiting.

HORT/2014/096 PNG Cocoa

- Training of recorders for the baseline surveys commenced in New Ireland and Kula Daslogo continued awareness meetings, including on Mussau Island and Jeffrie Marfu visited New Ireland to deliver more clones for establishing budwood gardens.
- On Monday 11th July John Konam, Peter Bapiwai, Trevor Clarke, Alfred Nongkas and Philip Keane travelled to Goroko, and had a meeting with the Provincial Administrator, Joe Kunda Naw, at which he expressed his enthusiastic support for the project. The team, led by Eric Gore and Raphael Kee from the Provincial Secretariat, Damien Tokei (Head of Agric. Div., Simbu Provincial Govt.), Willie Baia (Head of Commerce, SPG), and Limbia Tiagoba (District Administration, Karamui) then flew to Karamui, where a community meeting was held and cocoa plantings observed. On Tuesday a meeting of the Simbu Cocoa Development Steering Committee was held on Tuesday morning at which SPG staff summarised progress (14 Provincial, District and project staff in attendance). The Cocoa Board representative, Wesley Kilang, discussed the CB freight subsidy for cocoa. Goats are common in the District, which is about 90% SDAs, and the project aim to promote integration of goat husbandry with cocoa will be possible there. It is expected that the rapid expansion of cocoa will drive the completion of a road into Karamui, and on Tuesday afternoon the DA arranged for Trevor, Alfred, John and Philip to fly out with him by helicopter to view the existing incomplete road. Peter Bapiwai remained in Karamui to commence his studies of the high altitude cocoa and select the best plants for clonal propagation, working with John Thomas Vano (who will be the project coordinator there) and two cadet staff paid by SPG (Kua Kaupa and Mathew Joshua).
- Trevor, Alfred and Philip travelled to Wewak and on Saturday visited the Hawain Cocoa Board training centre and nursery with the CB Field Officer, John Meth; they saw the office/dormitory which the project is helping to restore as a training centre. The group visited Mugur Subigin Village (Dagua) where George Curry's student is based, and discussed the project with Emanuel Toboi and met the woman chosen as a CMFT, Lynda Muguduo Toboi. On Sunday meetings were held with the newly appointed Project Coordinator, Jimmy Risimeri (CCI staff), and Assistant PC, Chris Toli (project staff), to discuss sites for CMFTs and deployment of facilities. As much cocoa is grown on the east side of the Sepik River by people who have lacked help in the past, it was decided that a canoe and outboard motor will be purchased to enable access to these people. A deposit was paid on a troupe carrier for the project. On Monday, Jimmy Risimeri took the team to Yangoru and Wingie to see the large-scale planting of cocoa under *Gliricidia* on kunai grasslands (Wingei Community Cocoa Development Project) and discussions were held with the CB leader of the project, Stephen

Walimbara. Trevor marked out the site for a solar drier at Yangoru township. Thompson Fafungian travelled with us and showed us his village cocoa development at East Yangoru, where a budwood garden and nursery have been established and two women (Nola Sasingian and Dorkas Nakamburi) chosen as CMFTs.

- On Tuesday 19 July Jimmy Risimeri travelled to Kairuru Island for a project awareness meeting with the women's group there who will provide two CMFTs.
- The team returned to Kokopo on Tuesday for meetings with John Moxon (PPAP), Graham McNally and John Nightingale (Agmark), and the CEO, Desmond Nambri, and other staff at CCI. Links with PPAP were identified, particularly for a Masters project by Kenny Francis (CCI) to compare different solar driers established side-by-side in different locations, and to study the integration of galip nut with cocoa. Philip was able to enjoy the excellent office facilities provided for the project by Agmark, particularly the reliable internet connection and photocopier/scanner. Collaboration with the galip nut project was discussed with Brett Hodges and Theo Simos who came to the office and later with Emma. Philip delivered to PPAP the final edited draft of the PNG CCIL Cocoa Extension Manual following final checking and additions by CCI staff. Josephine Saul-Maora's future work with the project in Madang is officially supported by Desmond, and this was discussed with her on Saturday 23 July.
- On Sunday 24 July, Trevor, Alfred and Philip travelled to Madang to work with the Project Coordinator Aitul Weoh and Provincial and District officers on the project.
- Baseline and plot survey forms were delivered to staff in all provinces.

HORT/2014/097 Sweetpotato

- The project is looking closely at the CommCare platform and has quotes for supply of tablets to allow PNG staff to capture data during grower meetings and market visits. Lessons learnt from the Cocoa project will be valuable as we start to roll out the system in the sweetpotato project
- Insect proof screen mesh has been sourced for construction of new clean seed multiplication structures.
- Clean seed material from grower multiplication sites in Asaro, Jiwaka and Hagen Central TEAM sites are ready for field bulking for production trials
- CQU will shortly be advertising a position to support the value chain research activities in the project.