

## Family Teams

- Analysis of evaluation data from Area 1 (Alona ward, Lumusa, WH) in progress
- Bulb onion and cabbage model farm (FPDA) challenges such as men/women's roles, watering equipment and pests in cabbages are being addressed
- Lessons from Area 1 informing changes to Area 2: Asaro Valley - especially to engage more men in the project at a leadership level
- Nationwide Microbank training now rolled out in all 3 areas
  - Alona ward, Lumusa, WH: 39F & 8M VCEs trained (22 accounts opened to date)
  - Asaro Valley, EH (in progress): 25F VCEs & 20M family members (16 accounts opened to date)
  - Wahgi & Minj valleys, Jiwaka (in progress): training numbers not reported yet (35 accounts opened to date)
- Design of Hub 2 (ARB and New Ireland) re-considered due to lessons from Highlands Hub

## Canarium

### Upcoming trips:

- Kim Jones is planning to travel to ENB at the end of August to help move the construction of the nut drier forward.
- Shahla is also looking to travel to ENB in early September to work with Dalcie and Emma to improve processing procedures.
- Shauna Hack, a USC undergraduate student is undertaking a Special Research Project (SRP) is traveling with supervisor Graham Ashford around 17 October to carry out data collection for her biofuel study.

## Bougainville Cocoa

- Following the success of the Bougainville Chocolate Festival a number of growers are negotiating with potential buyers in Australia (as well as the USA and France) to supply beans for specialty markets. David Guest spent an afternoon at Guittard Chocolates in San Francisco promoting Bougainville cocoa, and we hope to have them involved in next year's Festival. We are currently looking at the best way to export small quantities of beans directly from Bougainville.
- John Konam, Sam Rangai and Peter Nomoreke trained the first group of staff who will begin establishing the three Research and Training Hubs in Bougainville. The hub coordinators were shown how to establish training nursery, establish IPDM plots using improved clones or existing trees. The DPI staff were also trained on how to integrate goats into cocoa farming to promote "zero waste" cocoa farming (cocoa waste > goat feed > goat manure + goat meat > improve soil + protein source for farmers)
- Key areas for the local partners were determined and prioritised in preparations for October and November training in the Regional hubs. UNRE will establish goat trials at Southern Regional Hubs plus the current farmer's trial as x1 VA to get the breeding program going. CCI will focus on establishing nurseries as training facilities at each Hub, and also establish satellite nursery in VAs as training facility for VAs. CCI will also establish budwood gardens and initiate soil compost work using goats manure to be superimposed on the IPDM demo plots on station and in VAs where CCIPNG clones will be established
- ABG-DPI will coordinate Hub establishment. ABG-DPI will support a submission for ABG support for goats in the VAs.
- We are preparing for the recruitment and training of the baseline survey collectors in October, and commencement of the surveys following this training. We are finalising the CommCare survey tool and are very excited about using it, as we explained in our interview with the MAD SRA team. We are also excited that Jess Hall, who led the development of our CommCare survey, has been recruited for the MAD4TADEP SRA.
- Grant Vinning and Andrew Sale will be running the next instalment of our market training activity in October.

- David Guest spoke about sustainable cocoa production at the “Sweet Addictions” event at the Sydney Royal Botanic Gardens. The event marks the opening of the new exhibition space at the Gardens, the Calyx, built to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Gardens in Sydney. Cocoa trees for the event were supplied by Daintree Estates, one of our Festival judges.
- The possibility of extending the proposed new shipping line for the Solomon Islands into Bougainville is being investigated.

## **PNG Cocoa**

### **Karamui**

- DPI sold 14 bags of dry beans on behalf of farmers and so production and sale of dry beans is progressing even though many pods are being harvested for seed for further planting.
- Peter Bapiwai from CCI Agronomy Section began his program of M.Sc. study to compare the growth, production and physiology of highland (Karamui) and lowland (Tavilo) cocoa.
- Negotiations have proceeded on the employment of John Thomas Vano as the Project Coordinator in Karamui
- Training of three cadets employed at Karamui by the Simbu Provincial Government was conducted - pruning of cocoa and shade trees, weed control, pest/disease management, nursery management, field grafting and bud grafting of seedlings.
- 6 Cocoa Model Farmer-Trainers (CMFTs), including two women, have been engaged and trained in field grafting, lining and nursery training. Each CMFT is tasked to train all potential cocoa farmers in his/her ward, which can vary from 400 to 1000 families.
- The intention is to have the whole ward will be planted rather than the select 20-25 farmers as in the lowland provinces. The initial plantings will be seedlings derived from the original Karamui trial. By 2019, when Peter Bapiwai’s study is completed and results available from the trial of the 18 first and second release CCI Hybrid Clones from Tavilo, all poorly performing seedling trees will be replaced through field grafting.
- John Konam has begun planning for construction of a quarantine house for transferring the 18 Hybrid Clones from CCI Tavilo to Karamui under a strict quarantine protocol to ensure that Cocoa Pod Borer and the VSD fungus are not introduced. He has also begun planning for erection of a solar drier on the Solomon Island design.

### **New Ireland**

- 20 sites have been selected and awareness meetings have been held, leading to the selection of 20 CMFTs. At each site 25 farmers have volunteered and been selected to work with each CMFT, giving a total of 500 farmers involved. Two sessions on the Radio Didiman program, NBC Radio Niu Ailan, were conducted by Kula.
- A 3-day workshop was held for CCI and Provincial and District Government DPI officers in the Kavieng CCI Training Centre to go through the baseline survey form and learn how to conduct the survey. A strategy as to how the actual survey will be conducted was established and two survey teams were formed. See photo attached.
- The Baseline Survey was commenced on Monday 1 August and was estimated to take 4 weeks to complete all 20 selected sites. Trevor Clarke visited NIP from 10 to 12 August to help with the surveys and by the conclusion of his visit, 10 sites had been completed; 10 sites remaining to be completed in the next two weeks (15/08 – 26/08/16). Allowing for 3 days to check and follow up any incomplete surveys, the survey should be completed by Wednesday 31 August.

### **East Sepik and Madang Provinces**

- The purchase of a Toyota troupe carrier for each province was completed. Alfred Nongkas visited the provinces in the week beginning 15 August to assist the Provincial Coordinators with their awareness meetings. Alfred produced a checklist of responsibilities to guide the selection of CMFTs.
- Awareness meetings were held in 3 villages in East Sepik and 4 in Madang Province. In all villages the farmers accepted the aims of the project and seemed to welcome the 10% contribution (in cash

or kind) required from participating farmers and the user-pay policy which will be applied for services rendered by the CMFTs and the pruning or IPDM teams. In all villages, strong participation by women was evident and the project team was made aware of the need for transparency and fairness in selecting CMFTs and participating farmers.



Conducting the baseline survey at a site in New Ireland

### Sweetpotato

- Planting material multiplied in insect screened houses in 3 TEAM sites will be deployed in farmer's gardens in the next month for field trialing of PT plant performance and 'best bet' commercial production practice systems
- Meeting held with members of the *HORT/2014/083 Developing improved crop protection options in support of intensification of sweetpotato production in Papua New Guinea* project team (Geoff Gurr, Gavin Ash, Bree Wilson) to align activities proposed in that project with the trial work at the TEAM sites
- Project team members Talitha Best and Chris Gard are planning travel to EHP, Jiwaka and WHP in late September. Travel will align with that of the *Family Teams* team to plan continuation of training activities in the 3 TEAM locations in 2017
- Contact has been made with UniTech for collaboration in supply chain management, training and potential processing opportunities for sweetpotato, managed through the Eastern Fresh Produce Cooperative Society (EFPCS)
- The Australian DAF and Aust Sweetpotato Growers Association team members met in Gatton QLD in August. The LAMP system for in-field virus testing has been ordered and will be trialed in the spring growing season in QLD to develop operational protocols and survey virus levels in crops. These protocols will be used in PNG in 2017.
- Project annual report submitted to ACIAR.