

- We have just completed agricultural training for our VCEs in Bougainville and New Ireland. The training was conducted by the Integrated Agricultural Training Program of the University of Natural Resources and Environment. The modules that were offered are:
  - Soil management
  - Vegetable production
  - Village and commercial poultry
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- Our VCEs were very positive about the value of this training in developing better agricultural practice and opening new income avenues.
- Jeromy Kavi and Doreen Tunama (NARI) have just completed our end-line survey in Bougainville and New Ireland. These surveys use the CommCare application and we are keen to see how this works – but of course the data will be uploaded when the staff return to good internet connection
- We have just published an article on the Maria Books, and how they were used in schools. The Maria books were written to help families learn about key agricultural activities, such as marketing, budgeting and raising chickens.. They are written in English and Tok Pisin to help both children and parents learn to read and about agriculture at the same. To read more about the Maria books and how parents and schools can use them, click here <http://pngwomen.estem-uc.edu.au/marias-family-books/>
- We would be happy to hear from any group who may have a topic for a new Maria book that would help PNG farmers - please email Barbara Pamphilon [Barbara.pamphilon@canberra.edu.au](mailto:Barbara.pamphilon@canberra.edu.au)

### Official Launch at the Stanley Hotel, Port Moresby

- Over 80 guests attended the official product launch held at the Stanley Hotel in Port Moresby. Professor Helen Wallace was the MC and launch was kicked off by the PNG National anthem and prayers, followed by short speeches from Mr. Bruce Davis (Australian High Commissioner), Professor Chalapan Kaluwin (NARI Council Chairman), the honourable Jelta Wong, Minister of Police and member for Gazelle, the honourable Benny Allan Minister for Agriculture and Livestock, Mr. Mahesh Patel (Managing Director CPL), and Tony Bartlett (ACIAR).
- The launch also included Tolai welcome dance and singing program, and galip experience stations where the attendees could experience galip hand cracking and taste the products. The attendees also enjoyed 11 different galip incorporated canapés in the launch.



**Figure 1 (left):** Galip team in the launch at the galip experience station Helen Ronnie (NARI), Simaima Kapi (NARI), Simon Minah (NARI), Tony Bartlett (ACIAR), Tio Nevenimo (NARI), CPL staff member, Dr. Shahla Hosseini Bai (USC) and Professor Helen Wallace (USC).



**Figure 2 (right):** Dorothy Luana from Galip Club had a chance to showcase her galip product at the Launch. Image credit: Dr Shahla Hosseini Bai

## Product launch in CPL stores

- The product was officially launched in three CPL stores. There was great media coverage, with the launch broadcasted on EMTV and published in The National newspaper.

The Galip Nut Company hoped to be 'nationally owned' in the future (EMTV) <https://youtu.be/K4U9uMJpmKQ>  
Products from Galip Nut Company officially launched and showcased (EMTV) <https://youtu.be/M11D3mDOvXw>  
PNG's first home grown nut brand, Galip Nut available on shelves for sale (EMTV) <https://youtu.be/ji3ijbShutc>  
Allan backs potential of Galip (Post Courier) <https://postcourier.com.pg/allan-backs-potential-galip/>



**Figure 3:** Product launch in CPL Waigani supermarkets and Prouds at the international airport.  
Image credit: Dr Shahla Hosseini Bai

## Media launch in the stores



**Figure 4:** Media launch in the CPL store, Prof Helen Wallace (USC), Simaima Kapi (NARI) and Tio Nevenimo (NARI).  
Photo credit: Dr Shahla Hosseini Bai

- A great deal of activity was taken up with preparation for the Bougainville Chocolate Festival in September. This included the gamut of helping with the production of a slide show on the movement of cocoa from beans to chocolate; acquisition of large ziplock bags; publicising the Festival to growers; assisting with different press releases; development of registration forms that enable the project to harvest information from the eventual medal winners so as to direct future research and extension efforts.
- Purchased mini chocolate processing machines from Australia to be imported to Bougainville (DPIMR)
- Initiated construction of a chocolate processing laboratory (Room) at DPIMR HQ Buka.
- Presentations/addresses to farmer groups on world cocoa prices were made at different communities on Bougainville.
- Presentations made in conjunction with Family Farms. (see Figure 5 below left)



**Figure 5 (left):** James Butubu explaining to grower group at Halia Resource centre on what cocoa technologies and training programs that can be conducted if the farmers organise themselves.

**Figure 6 (right):** Hub Coordinator Elizabeth Pisiai with some of her taste testing group at Buin, southern Bougainville. For the record, nearly all preferred the 65% cacao and nobody wanted 85% cacao. They said that the 85% has strong cacao taste which they do not like. They really like the “susu blo mama” (65%) because it’s sweet.

- Initiated discussions for the collaborative research project between the family farm team project and HORT 2014/094. Planning and designing of the collaborative project is currently underway
- Continuation made with the income diversification activity by introducing producers to different forms of drinking chocolate. (see Figure 6 above right)
- Development of providing daily ICCO cocoa prices through the DPI’s blog site continued. It is noted that in promulgating this information there is a concomitant need to explain that growers will NOT receive the New York/London daily price but movements both up and down in the ICCO price should be reflected locally. Blog site is <https://dpimrdbg.blogspot.com>
- Four Cocoa Market Newsletters were produced.
- Continuation of discussions regarding the ongoing issue of Cocoa Board licensing.
- Presentations made at UNRE in line with the decision made at the TADEP Annual Meeting in Kavieng that subject specialists when visiting their projects should endeavour to provide lectures, etc at various educational facilities.
- Travelled and conducted training remote Karato VA (Torokina, South Bougainville) on nursery bud grafting and top grafting training by Cocoa Board officer Silas.
- Compost production huts established by Cocoa Board’s Chris Fidelis at Sigh VA, North Region, Manetai VA (Central) and Buin DPI (South).
- Conducted training in compost production using cocoa pod husks, top soil, chicken manure and saw dust at Sigh VA.



**Figure 7 (right):** Farmers looking as different compost materials were poured into the composting box.



**Figures 8 and 9 (above):** Trainings on Field budding/grafting and formation pruning of young cocoa clonal materials at farmer Cletus’s block at Hanahan ward.

- Nursery and grafting training at Tsunpetz VA (North) and at Kunua VA
- Initiated negotiation to involve Hanahan primary school children for cocoa technology and vegetable production trainings



**Figures 10 and 11 (above):** Harvesting and sales of first vegetables (cabbages) and other crops grown in strip cropping with cocoa in Kubu.

- Had a consultative meeting with DPIMR Minister and Chiefs to fast track ABG funding allocation for reactivation/re-establishment of DUNCAN Research Centre to be a Central regional research hub.



**Figure 12 (left):** Strip cropping with food crops in Kubu, north.

**Figure 13 (top right):** Soil fertility improvement and composting theory and training.



**Figure 14 (bottom right):** Training on seed preparation in Ratsua Ward Siara-Selau.

### East New Britain

- Trevor and Kanika Singh from the Soil Fertility Project SMCN/2014/048 have obtained quarantine permission to import from India a small quantity of pigeon pea for use as shade and a food source in establishing cocoa on grasslands. They are in the process of importing the seed for testing.
- Trevor has prepared a formal diary for CMFTs to report their training/block rehabilitation/seedling and clone planting with the 25 farmers in their groups, and another diary for supervisors of CMFTs to report their contact/training/mentoring/supervision of the CMFTs for whom they are responsible. These one-page diary entries will be completed every month and reviewed by supervisors, project coordinators and managers so that progress can be monitored month by month.

### East Sepik Province

- Trevor met with David Yinil, Executive Manager of the Research Extension and Development Section of the Cocoa Board (REDS) and Acting CEO of the Cocoa Board, to discuss management of the project in East Sepik following the loss of Jimmy Risimeri to KIK. Agreement was reached on the present arrangements, with John Meth as the Provincial Coordinator of the project and in charge of the REDS team, Chris Toli as the Assistant Coordinator, and greater involvement of Provincial DAL and District staff as supervisors of groups of CMFTs.
- Trevor visited East Sepik from Monday 16 to Friday 20 July accompanied by Anton Varvaliu, the new Manager of Extension Program under REDS. Discussions were held with John Meth, Chris Toli, Provincial DAL officers Kevin Hawan, John Worowan and Tony Ogiagi, Richard Manjo (Special; Projects Officer in the Governor's Office), and Jimmy Risimeri (KIK), about plans for the Provincial Government to fund many more budwood gardens and nurseries to greatly increase cocoa production from the province. The Governor has set an ambitious target of 1000 budwood gardens and nurseries, with 65 million cocoa seedlings and clones to be planted in the province. John Meth has been offered the position of overseeing all cocoa development work in East Sepik. The group visited the Hawain Station to observe the renovated training centre, budwood garden, 60,000 seedling nursery, and demonstration blocks on cocoa rehabilitation and intercropping, managed by John Meth. They also observed the construction of a solar cocoa dryer at the CMFT site of Kerubim and the completed budwood garden at the CMFT site of Jonathan Poema at Passam. A further meeting was held with John Worowan and Tony Ogiagi to discuss DAL activities linked to the project, especially the plan to bring goats from Erap and to involve more RDOs as supervisors of CMFTs.
- On Wednesday 18 July Trevor, Anton and Chris visited the CMFT Xavier Manijembi at Kwaiari and saw impressive work on rehabilitation of old cocoa blocks with member of the farmer group, and construction of a nursery. They then visited the Yekimbole CMFT site of Nola and Chris Sasingian where they have constructed another Solomon's Solar Dryer 32 metres long, giving them a total length of 61 metres x 5 metres wide, with a drying bench surface of 240 m<sup>2</sup>. Outspan has been buying their cocoa beans and is happy with the quality. They have been getting good drying even on wet days by maintaining only a single layer of beans on the drying benches. They have also obtained a tractor for use in ploughing grassland for establishing *Gliricidia* and cocoa; the project will assist with a battery and servicing. A new cocoa station with a budwood garden and nursery is being established by the Cocoa Board as a regional centre at Kanauki in East Yangorou. Progress on the budwood garden and nursery at Niumindogum was inspected; Edmund Huiwali is managing the site while his wife Leah Kowi is away completing here agriculture degree at the University of Natural Resources and Environment, Vudal, with project support.
- On Thursday 19th July Trevor, Anton, Chris and John Meth attended a meeting with cocoa exporters at the Provincial Government offices to discuss the plans for the expansion of the cocoa industry in East Sepik. Later Trevor and Chris visited the CMFT site of Linda Mugubuo at Mague on the west coast road; in early June John Meth conducted field budding of seedlings to establish a budwood garden and some replacement clones are awaited.
- The future management of the project in East Sepik was discussed with John Meth and Chris Toli. It was decided that Provincial DAL and District RDOs should supervise the new CMFTs to be established under the Governor's Program and these should be given refresher training in the new cocoa clones and field management. All 27 current project CMFTs should be visited and the sites assessed for project follow-up to complete budwood gardens and nurseries and the provision of SG2 seedlings and clones to farmer groups. In future visits to CMFTs should occur at least once per month, and this will be facilitated by recruitment of Provincial, District and LLG RDOs to become supervisors of CMFTs reporting back to the project managers. Diaries will be used by CMFTs and their supervisors to report monthly activities back to project managers.

The project 10-seater will be put on a booking system to ensure its most efficient use for visiting CMFTs and distributing materials. The project office will be moved to the Provincial Government office complex.

### Highlands

- Following field visits by project members in March and June 2018 and discussions with provincial officials, Peter Epaina has prepared a submission to the Southern Highlands Provincial Government for establishing cocoa trials in Pangia district to complement work being done by Peter Bapiwai in Jiwaka Province and John Konam and Provincial Government and the Cocoa Board in Karamui Valley, Simbu Province. Possible sites for cocoa growing in Pangia district have been identified and, if financial support is forthcoming, test plantings of SG2 hybrid seedlings will be established there and monitored over the next four years.
- Peter Epaina, Peter Bapiwai and Trevor met at Tavilo with Kokopo BSP Bank Manager and Neblier (Western Highlands Province) Cooperative Chairman, Joe Makinta, to prepare a submission for cocoa development in the Western Highlands, similar to the Southern Highlands proposal. Joe Makinta will take it to the Governor of Western Highlands Province next month. A similar proposal for Jiwaka Province will be prepared to build upon the budwood garden already established in the Jimi Valley by Peter Bapiwai.

### Madang Province

- Five CMFT sites were visited in June, with two visits per site. Two new extension CMFT sites have been added to the project, these being at Bom and Dumpu. Budwood gardens at Balama, Tamane, Kaviak, Mabanob, and Aiome were visited and plans made for their completion. Twenty four nurseries have been established and budding was conducted during June at Balama, Tamane and Gohe/Mawan using contract budders. At Aiome 25 farmers planted nearly 2000 clones in their blocks, while at Amiten the 25 farmer group planted 1000 clones, and at Kaviak the 25 farmers planted over 300 clones. Budders have been contracted to maintain activity in the Murnass nursery. The goat enclosure at Korona has been completed and is awaiting the arrival of goats from Erap.

### New Ireland Province

- Our new coordinator in New Ireland, John Joseph, with the support of the head of the Cocoa Board in New Ireland, Nason Laki, accompanied by Provincial DAL staff, visited as many CMFTs as possible and informed them of the new supervisory arrangements for the province. Many had to be contacted by mobile phone due to restricted access to a vehicle on the main island and lack of a motorboat to visit outer island sites. John and Nason have been recruiting Provincial, District and LLG RDOs as supervisors of groups of CMFTs to increase the mentoring and supervisory contact with the CMFTs and their farmers. They have had a meeting with the Gideon Bogosia, Director of Provincial DPI, Kunibert Tibil, the Special Projects Officer for the Governor, and DAL Officers to try to resolve the division of resources and responsibilities at the agriculture station at Kopkop following the separation of cocoa and coconut functions of CCI. Trevor, John, Nason and DAL staff and senior staff from REDS visited ten CMFT sites on New Ireland from 30 July to 3 August.
- All budwood gardens have been established at all 20 CMFT sites and budwood harvesting for budding will begin in August for some sites. The distribution of 200 SG2 seedlings for all 25 farmers at all sites is complete.

### Sweetpotato

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- A trial shipment of 30 cartons graded, good quality kaukau was completed from Asaro to Port Moresby, with product distributed to RH Vision City supermarket, RH Gordons supermarket, CPL Waigani Central supermarket, NCS catering, and Bange Fresh Produce distributor. Product was very well received by customers and by the retailers.
- Chris Gard delivered a successful Participatory Planning workshop for FPDA extension staff as well as Coffee Industry Corporation, Ok Tedi Development Foundation, CARE International and Wildlife Conservation Society staff. The training is designed for participants to achieve accreditation under the PNG National Standard for Community Development Workers, and equips the participants with skills and knowledge to effectively deliver professional training to farmers and other community groups.
- A paper documenting some of the value chain work conducted in the project has been accepted for delivery at the International Horticulture Congress in Turkey in August, and will be presented by project team member Kirt Hainzer.

- Meetings held with a company building a processing facility in WHP to discuss the feasibility of processing kaukau for value-added French fry or chip products.
- Impediments to handling and transport of higher value, graded kaukau to access Port Moresby markets were identified in the supermarket trial, and meetings have been held with shipping companies and packaging manufacturers to identify strategies to overcome the impediments.
- Trials examining seed bed management have been completed in Australia, including the evaluation of low cost sensors to monitor soil temperature and moisture levels. Findings on root breakdown in seed beds will inform the development of appropriate seed bed management strategies for PNG conditions.