

TADEP program:

- Elizabeth Brennan has been engaged on a short-term, part-time contract to manage the TADEP program. She starts with us in February, and her email is eab@agcorp.com.au, and she will be in touch as she gets going. Liz is based in WA and will be travelling to PNG quite a bit over the next few months. Some of you may remember Liz from her previous work as the President of Australian Women in Agriculture, with women's leadership training, or when she lived in ENB for a few years. She's looking forward to getting back to PNG!
- The TADEP annual meeting will be held in ENB in the week 16-20 May (not for the full week). Please put these dates in your diary.

Women's business acumen ASEM/2014/095

- In our first area (Alona ward, Lumusa, Western Highlands) two family teams modules and village community educator training have been completed. Following the Community Learning Plan and analysis of the baseline study, brokered training will begin in February (Sustainable livelihoods, record and book keeping (Integrated Agricultural Training Program from UNRE), Banking and saving (Nationwide Microbank), Crop production and marketing (FPDA).
- Our final highlands areas have been selected. Area 2 is primarily in the Asaro Valley of the Eastern Highlands and will be conducted in partnership with FPDA (this project has been designed by FPDA to link into HORT/2014/096). Area 3 is primarily in the Whagi Valley of Jiwaka and will be conducted in partnership with Voice for Change.
- The baseline study for Areas 2 and 3 will be conducted in the first three weeks of February. This involves ethics permission process with 2 leaders from each of the 6 villages; a baseline survey (Tok Pisin) with 42 village community educators and their spouses; farm and market observations in all six villages; and a 4-day baseline study with community leaders (men and women)
- SAVE THE DATE: a 'Dissemination and Futures' conference from our previous project ASEM/2010/052 will be held at Pacific Adventist University on July 14 and 15 – all welcome!

Canarium FST/2014/099

- Kim Jones and Theo Simos will be travelling to PNG from 25th January to 5th February. The aim of their trips is to evaluate the scale of existing market participation and future potential, identify barriers to increasing scale of operations and explore opportunities for private-public partnerships. They will be meeting producers, retail distributors, packaging companies etc in Port Moresby, then travelling to Kerevat for meetings with NARI. They will also be meeting with representatives of PPAP, East New Britain Development Corporation and Agmark.
- Graham Ashford, Steffan Lippistch and Bruce Randall will be travelling to PNG from 1-5 February. They will gather information and conduct a preliminary economic analysis of the factory at NARI.

PNG Cocoa HORT/2014/096

- The project has been sent for signing off and the inception meeting is to be held at PNG

CCI at Tavilo, ENB, on 1-2 February under the stewardship of the Administrator of the Institute, Desmond Nambri. Peter Horne will lead the ACIAR delegation at the meeting. The meeting will also include a Participatory Impact Pathways Analysis (PIPA), to be led by Debbie Templeton. All stakeholders have been invited to participate in the process as a way of reviewing the three objectives and setting up methods for monitoring and evaluation of the project.

Bougainville cocoa HORT/2014/094

- The project has been signed off by the University of Sydney, and is now awaiting signatures from the project partners, ABG-DPI, CCI and UNRE.
- In November 2015, the Project Leader, David Guest, participated in a Masterclass on Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture, held in Canberra where the Bougainville project was used as a case study. Later that month he joined several ABG Ministers, the Regional Member from Bougainville, ABG officials and a private sector representative on a DFAT-organised tour of cocoa farming in Indonesia. This included site visits to a cocoa growing areas, discussions with a range of industry stakeholders and visits to cocoa traders and a chocolate factory. The goal of this visit was to introduce key Government figures to the broader world of cocoa.
- The PNG Project Manager, John Konam, spent a few days in Australia during December for project discussions, and to participate in a Phytophthora mini-symposium and field trip held at QAAFI in Brisbane.
- The Project Inception Meeting is to be held in Buka on 3-5 February, including a Participatory Impact Pathways Analysis (PIPA) to be developed at the meeting under the guidance of Debbie Templeton. All stakeholders, including representatives of the AGB Ministries of Primary Industries, Health and Local Governance, have been invited to participate in the process as a way of reviewing the four project objectives, developing work plans, and setting up methods for monitoring and evaluation of the project.

Sweetpotato HORT/2014/097

- Commercialising sweetpotato is with ACIAR for signing off and we expect will be contracted at around the time of the inception meeting in February. The meeting will be held at the NARI offices in Lae on 9-11 February. The meeting is being held jointly with the aligned sweetpotato pest management and soil fertility projects led by Geoff Gurr and Neal Menzies respectively. The Participatory Impact Pathways Analysis (PIPA) will be developed at the meeting under the leadership of Debbie Templeton. Australian and PNG members of the three project teams will travel to Aiyura after the inception meeting to plan field trials.