

Women's Business Acumen ASEM/2014/095

Filed trip to PNG – April 11 to 20 Major activities included:

- **Lumusa (WH)** - FPDA has begun their 'model farm' process with the 42 women farmers and their families. The model farm process takes the group from the first step of clearing land right through to the post harvest handling of the produce. FPDA had identified a market for bulb onion therefore this is the key crop to be produced. Each of the other 5 communities will now be supported to begin their own demonstration farm in their own village in order to follow the same agricultural production best practice steps. The model farm is part of the brokered training component as identified in the Lumusa community learning plan.
- **Lumusa (WH) Women's Leadership Training** - The objective of this activity was to develop group leadership skills among the 6 female village team leaders. The two previous workshops focused on identifying individual leadership skills. On this trip 2 half-day workshops were conducted with the 6 Women Leaders to identify leadership skills across the team with a focus on planning a joint women leaders' project. The team decided on a soil improvement project for the model farm using chicken waste from one women leader's chickens. In addition to building women's leadership skills, this project will value-add to the 'model farm'.
- **Lumusa (WH) Delivery of Family Teams Module 4: Communication and Decision making as a Family Team** - Two full days of workshops were completed on the topics of family communication and decision-making with the 42 Village Community Educators. A variety of participatory activities were used to discuss topics such as one- and two-way communication, verbal and non-verbal communication and body language, anger management, giving and receiving feedback, conflict resolution and financial decision-making. Two new activities were piloted. Participants engaged deeply with the activities and topics, with much discussion throughout the two days. Based on initial feedback, the module was perceived as highly relevant and valued by the participants. The VCEs will now roll this module out to their own communities.
- **PoM - Interagency Roundtable: Gender and women in rural PNG** - This activity is part of the project's communication and dissemination plan. The aim is to provide an annual forum to explore the challenges and successes when working for the empowerment of rural women in PNG, build collaborations and to share project lessons. The roundtable was held at the Australian High Commission from 9 to 3 on April 11th with participants from DFAT, Pacific Women, ACIAR, CARE PNG, UN Women and Coffey International. The group has developed a plan to now engage key people in PNG government and other NGOs.
- **PoM - Radio interview, NBC PNG.** Barbara Pamphilon was interviewed on the 'Morning PNG' radio show by presenter Dora - 45 minutes of great questions focusing on the 'gender inclusive approach to empowering and developing women smallholders.

Canarium FST/2014/099

TBC

PNG Cocoa HORT/2014/096

- The project was signed off in LaTrobe University on 4 April and a sub-contract signed with the Project Manager, Trevor Clarke, who has been working in Kokopo on the project with Alfred Nongkas, the PNG Project Coordinator based at the PNG Cocoa and Coconut Institute (CCIL), since 1 February.
- Kula Daslogo, the Project Coordinator in New Ireland, has been working on the project since February, visiting villages and beginning the process of selecting Cocoa Model Farmer-Trainers (CMFTs).
- Trevor and Alfred met with Desmond Nambri, the CEO of CCIL, to discuss the testing and deployment of a cheaper design of solar drier and received his enthusiastic support. The Cocoa Board was officially informed of the plans.
- Trevor has begun establishing a Closed User Group with Digicel for linking project staff.

- Trevor discussed collaboration with John Moxon, the Manager of the World Bank/EU cocoa project (PPAP), and obtained a summary of their proposed partnerships in East Sepik and Madang, their baseline survey format, and baseline survey data for ENBP and AROB (done by UNIQUEST). We will collaborate on the development and deployment of the solar driers.
- A Project Coordinator in East Sepik is being recruited.
- Plans for upgrading of office/dormitory facilities for the project in Madang and Wewak have been developed with Desmond.
- Sally Brough, the leader for corporate social responsibility of Nautilus Minerals, met with Philip in Melbourne and later with Kula in New Ireland to discuss their possible support to expand our project activities in their area of interest on the west coast of New Ireland.
- John Konam, Project Coordinator in Simbu Province, travelled with Provincial and District staff to Karimui by light plane on Thursday 21 April for the ACIAR project launching and a SCIDSC (Simbu Cocoa Industry Development Steering Committee) meeting. Trevor and Alfred planned to attend but project funds did not arrive at CCIL in time.

Bougainville Cocoa HORT/2014/094

- **Project funding:** The project has now been fully signed off in country and funding is flowing.
- **Bougainville Chocolate festival:** The ARB Minister of Agriculture, Hon Nick Darku, announced the Bougainville Chocolate Festival, to be held in Buin on 5 July. The Festival will include a chocolate competition. Farmers have been invited to submit cocoa bean samples that will be made into chocolate by Paradise Foods in Port Moresby, and judged by an international panel of chocolatiers, who will present a seminar for contestants in Arawa on 6 July. For further information contact Peter Nomoreke, Chair of the Festival Organising Committee pnomoreke@gmail.com
- **Communication:** Access to computers and internet continues to challenge project continuity and progress, and Digicel voice and data package plans are being explored to improve communication between project partners.
- **Stakeholder meetings:** David Guest met with Kofi Nouve and Brenna Moore from the World Bank Sydney Office to discuss synchronising our activities in Bougainville, and had a constructive follow up discussion with John Moxon to further align our activities in Bougainville with PPAP
- **Staff appointments:** Mr Sam Rangai is the Bougainville Project Coordinator. Three Regional hub coordinators will soon be appointed and placed in the 3 DPI Research and Training Centres. The Buin DPI Centre will be officially opened on 4 July.
- **Baseline information from the project sites:** The health team is leading the development of baseline information surveys to capture information electronically on livelihood and health issues affecting cocoa production. Project members will participate in a training session for CommCare, the mobile data acquisition software preferred by ACIAR, in Canberra in May.
- **Cocoa Marketing Training:** Mr Grant Vinning will present a market training activity in Bougainville between 9-14 May. He will use local daily prices for dry beans in Buka to make aware farmers on what sort of prices they can expect from buyers.
- **Women in Agriculture and diversifying income activities:** Communication and being established with Ms Elmah Maxwell to consider production of chicken hatchlings for sale as a supplementary source of income for cocoa farming communities, particularly for women.

Sweetpotato HORT/2014/097

- Phil Brown and Talitha Best travelling to attend the TADEP meeting in May, along with PNG based project team members
- Travelling to Goroka, Mt Hagen and Port Moresby over the following 2 weeks for initial value chain assessments and meetings with Province, District, LLGs about the project community development activities

- Time in Goroka overlaps with visit by UCanberra team, allowing planning for integration of activities initiated in the womens business acumen project this year to be continued in the sweet potato project in following years
- Contact has been made with the IFAD team involved in PPAP (Productive Partnerships in Agriculture Project); we are currently aligning travel itineraries to allow a meeting in PNG after the TADEP meeting to discuss potential areas for collaboration.
- Meeting also planned with Care International representatives in Goroka.