



Transformative Agriculture and Enterprise Development Program

TADEP+ Update

March + April 2021

Key program activities

'Niupela Pasin'

Those involved in TADEP and its projects that are based in Australia have been reading and watching the news of COVID-19 spreading across PNG with heavy hearts. We have all been thinking of our PNG sisters and brothers during this very unsettling and heartbreaking time. We encourage everyone to keep in contact with colleagues to ensure that spirits are buoyed and that any assistance that can be offered from afar can be done so.

For those that may have not seen the most recent updates from the PNG Government in relation to the Niupela Pasin or 'new normal', click on the links below for:

- **GoPNG 'Niupela Pasin' - General**, as of 22.03.21
- **GoPNG 'Niupela Pasin' - Public Transportation**, as of 22.03.21
- **COVID-19 Measures**, as of 13.04.21

Family Farm Teams Masterclass

Unfortunately, the two FFT Masterclasses that we scheduled to be held in March and May have been postponed until further notice. The FFT project team has been working with other partner agencies in country to trial online and hybrid delivery models. If/when the COVID-19 risk is manageable, the TADEP team will work with the FFT project team to explore options for delivery, without compromising the safety of participants and facilitators.

Evaluating ACIAR's programmatic approaches

ACIAR has been conducting a series of project level outcome evaluations on projects that were part of one of the three intentionally designed regional programs (TADEP, SDIP, Aik Saath) currently managed by ACIAR. These

individual evaluations are currently being undertaken and will be compiled into a broader report on the achievement of the program as a whole, that will include some investigation of the different programmatic models and lessons learned through their implementation.

Each of the five TADEP projects have contributed to the evaluation and participated in feedback sessions to discuss the preliminary findings to date. The project level evaluations have now been completed and the overarching program evaluation is currently being undertaken. The balance will continue in the the coming months, with the evaluation being completed by June 2021.

A plant health specialist's story: Dr Josephine Saul Maora

Dr Josephine Saul Maora, or Josie as she is collegially known in many of her professional circles, has recently been featured in an article chronicling her career progression and milestones. Reflecting back on what drew her to science, Josie recalled, *"I saw microorganisms through a microscope, and it was exciting. To see these little things that the naked eye couldn't see!"*

Josie's career has intersected with many ACIAR projects and whilst specialising in plant pathology, her skillset and experience have meant that she's worked across diverse research areas. Josie was initially engaged to work on two TADEP project, Bougainville Cocoa and PNG Cocoa, but given her adaptability soon also became involved in the Family Farm Teams (FFT) project. Josie has since become an accredited FFT trainer and is a champion for the inclusive methodology.

"You have the goals first and this should not be a decision set by one member of the family. It is the whole family who should sit down and talk about these goals and what they want to achieve in life. Cocoa then becomes their economic venture to get the money to achieve their goals," Dr Saul Maora says.

Click here to read the article on PNG Loop.

Also see below in the Family Farm Teams section below for a newly released resource that Josie has contributed to.

ACIAR Partners magazine 2021, Issue 1

The next edition of ACIAR Partners magazine features a range of climate change research to reflect ACIAR's exciting new appointment as Chair of the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA). ACIAR has long been investing in climate change adaptation research across it's entire research portfolio, recently exemplified by the development of a stand-alone **Climate Change Program**. ACIAR has also been one of the major investors in, and partner with, the CGIAR Climate Change and Food Security program.

Click here to read the most recent Partners magazine issue.

Key project activities



organised for 2 staff involved in procurement to visit kaukau farms in the highlands to view the clean kaukau production supported by the project.

A women's business group in Jiwaka have sent samples of their kaukau flour product to Lae Biscuits and Paradise foods and beverages for evaluation in the product development programs of those companies.

The FPDA Kaukau program will be purchasing small machinery to introduce to some of the farmers supported by the project. The establishment and now operational activities of the Kaukau program within FPDA promises support for continuation of the work that has been initiated in the TADEP project.

[Click here](#) for the full Sweetpotato project update

Bougainville Cocoa

The project team has assisted Village Extension Workers (VEWs) in Central and South Bougainville with repair of cocoa nurseries. Various training for VEWs was also ongoing across each of the three regions, covering topics such as nutrition and vegetable cultivation and soil sterilisation. Some VEWs in the Northern region have also been training other farmers, using the training they received from the project in nursery management, grafting techniques, pruning, etc.



The **Bougainville Cocoa and Health Project (Univ. of Sydney)**

Facebook Group now has 392 members, featuring regular relevant posts and an active discussion forum.

Whilst there were initial concerns that COVID-10 would cause food insecurity in places such as Bougainville, the project has been noticing that the reverse has actually been true. Navigate to the 'Lessons learnt' section of the Bougainville Cocoa section in the Update to read more.

[Click here](#) for the full Bougainville Cocoa project update

PNG Cocoa

"Even though you might not be here again, what you and ACIAR have left with us here in Passam is highly appreciated and we'll carry on." The PNG Cocoa concluded in March and the project team is now in the process of compiling and writing the final Project Report.



with partner agency and Provincial Government stakeholders to capture endline data and feedback, and thank all for being involved.

[Click here](#) for the full PNG Cocoa project update

The Transformative Agriculture and Enterprise Development Program (TADEP) is a multidisciplinary research program that aims to improve the livelihoods of rural men and women in Papua New Guinea. The program initially had five component projects, of which two have concluded. The program now comprises of the following:

- **Bougainville Cocoa** - HORT/2014/094 Developing the Cocoa value chain in Bougainville
- **PNG Cocoa** - HORT/2014/096 Enterprise-driven transformation of family Cocoa production in East Sepik, Madang, New Ireland and Chimbu Provinces of Papua New Guinea
- **Sweetpotato** - HORT/2014/097 Supporting commercial Sweetpotato production and marketing in the Papua New Guinea highlands

TADEP is co-funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).



Australian Government
Australian Centre for
International Agricultural Research



Whilst two of the initial five TADEP projects have concluded, they have evolved into three new ACIAR projects and both have keenly agreed to continue to contribute to TADEP. The following updates demonstrate this continued collaboration across research disciplines, sharing useful and relevant insights.

Family Farm Teams

A new Family Farm Teams (FFT) Workbook has recently been completed and is available for download. This Workbook was developed in the FFT project and trialled in New Ireland and Bougainville. It is intentionally generic so that it can be adapted by adding specific pages on crops such as cocoa, coffee, kaukua, etc. It is written in Tok Pisin with summarised English translations and footnotes. It is in black and white for easy printing and if it can only be printed on single side machine, the farmers have extra pages to write on as they use it with their family.



Special thanks to Dr Josephine Saul Maora for her work in

[Click here](#) to download.



Galip Nut

Papua New Guinea and Australian researchers have redoubled their efforts to ensure a steady supply of the popular galip nut products, with new stocks now back on supermarket shelves in Port Moresby.

The city's biggest retail company, **City Pharmacy Limited** (CPL) took delivery of new stocks over the Christmas holidays, with ongoing monthly supplies planned over the coming year.

NARI Commercialisation Manager Scott Needham said there had been some challenges with production of galip in 2020, but efforts are now underway to use this research to increase production and provide insights to benefit the development of this new industry.

'In the last five months, new strategies have been put in place to increase purchase and production of galip nut. The recovery of dried nut has been very low after all the processing and food safety steps have been undertaken and this is a challenge we are working to overcome.'

[Click here](#) to read the article on the ACIAR website.

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Sweetpotato

HORT/2014/097

- The COVID-19 situation in PNG continues to restrict project activities but significant progress and successes have still ensued.
- Following on from the successful supermarket consumer survey undertaken by NARI and FPDA staff, CPL supermarket group has organised for 2 staff involved in procurement to visit kaukau farms in the highlands to view the clean kaukau production supported by the project. This is a very positive development and strengthens the connection between farmers and the supermarket retail sector.
- A women's business group in Jiwaka, through support provided by Debbie Kapal, have sent samples of their kaukau flour product to Lae Biscuits and Paradise foods and beverages for evaluation in the product development programs of those companies. The group is also working to set up a kaukau flour market trial with CPL supermarkets.
- Finalisation of irrigation activities at several farms will occur over the coming 2 months, with good feedback from farmers on the impact of the work completed to date.
- The FPDA Kaukau program will be purchasing small machinery to introduce to some of the farmers supported by the project. The establishment and now operational activities of the Kaukau program within FPDA promises support for continuation of the work that has been initiated in the TADEP project.

Bougainville Cocoa

HORT/2014/094

Upcoming or recent activities

- A 12 month, no-cost project extension was granted to enable us to try and make up lost time due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so the new end date for this project is now December 2022. The focus of the extension period will be to consolidate the Village Resource Centres (VRC) and to continue Family Farm Teams (FFT) training.
- This is a critical time for the Bougainville cocoa industry with the establishment of the Bougainville Agricultural Commodities Regulatory Authority (BACRA) in mid-2021. BACRA will assume responsibility for marketing and exporting cocoa beans from Bougainville. A number of our project staff are involved in the planning and implementation of BACRA, including Bougainville Project Leader James Butubu. Our project has significantly increased the depth and capacity of DPI staff which is key to the successful implementation of BACRA.
- The Central Bougainville Team have assisted Village Extension Worker (VEW) John Arenau of Vito Village Assembly (VA) in Manetai with transportation of his milled timber for the construction of his new nursery to replace his old nursery (see Figures 1 and 2). In addition to this, eight follow-up visits to provide supervisory and advisory role to VEWs were conducted in Central Bougainville in March-April.

Figure 1 (right): Project team members from Central Bougainville assisting VEW John Arenau with building materials for the replacement of his cocoa nursery.

Figure 2 (next page): VEW John Arenau inspecting cocoa seedlings in his nursery.



- Nutrition and vegetable cultivation, training on soil sterilisation and demonstrations were conducted in two pilot sites in Kaprosipa (Wakunai) and Kasawaro (Manetai) in March. Demonstrations also included erecting of a village chicken shed.
- Setting up of plots for demonstration and conservation of food crop varieties such as taro and sweetpotato that were collected from local farmer was initiated in Buin DPI station by UNRE female officer, Constatina Kanugere. This work was supported by the DPI will be continued with the establishment of a vegetable nursery in May.

Figures 3 and 4 (both below): Food crop and conservation plots in Buin DPI Station.



- In South, VEW Peter Turi at Mamaro has had his nursery constructed with assistance from the South Team members, Elizabeth Pisai and Silas Pais, and he is now raising seedling (see Figure 5 and 6 below). His food crops/vegetable demonstration plots are been marked, cleared and planted in April. An addition VEW Joe Moini in Koogu Village Assembly is being supplied with his goat after considerable delays.



Figure 5: VEW Peter Turi at his nursery.

Figure 6: VEW Joe Moini and wife receiving their goat.

- In the Northern region, VEWs Martin Masen (Malasang VA), Rodney Panaki (Tohatsi VA) and Edward Gaurom (Ben Mate/Hahon VA) have now made use of their previous trainings they have received on nursery management, grafting techniques, pruning etc to conduct training for their own farmers in March-April.

- Family Farm Teams training has been delayed by the outbreak of COVID-19 on Bougainville and is now planned to resume in May with Dr Josie Saul-Maora leading the training programs.
- We continue to assist with the TADEP program review conducted by the Whitelum Group.
- The health of the goat population has improved following diagnosis of worm infestations and poor nutrition, and administration of appropriate supplements and therapeutic drugs. Goats continue to attract a lot of interest and a high demand for breeding goats, although Michael Pearson's census indicates Bougainville still only has 47 goats. There is also a high demand for goat manure to use as organic fertiliser in food crop gardens. Elizabeth Pisai, the project's Southern Bougainville Hub Manager (Figure 7 below) reported that she was stopped by a school teacher at Yamamoto asking for a bag of goat manure for her vegetable crops.



Figure 7 (above): One of the Hub Managers, Elizabeth Pisai, at the goat house at the Southern Bougainville Hub.

Project or Program achievements

- The *Bougainville Cocoa and Health Project (Univ. of Sydney)* Facebook Group now has 392 members, featuring regular relevant posts and an active discussion forum. Details: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/623998121765260>

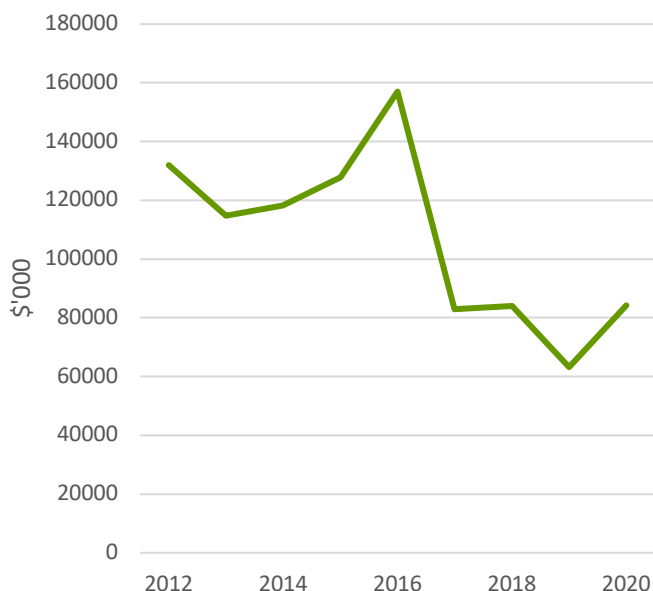


Figure 8 (left): Combined gross value of imports of cocoa beans from PNG into eleven countries: 2012 - 2020

- Grant Vinning has circulated market reports showing imports of cocoa beans from PNG are higher than pre-COVID-19 levels.
- Unfortunately PNG does not have up to date cocoa bean export figures, so these production figures are based on import data. Trade statistics of 14 countries that have imported cocoa from Papua New Guinea over the past five years were examined. Eleven of these imported cocoa from PNG in 2019 and 2020. The 2020 data was at December 2020. The graph below shows that the combined imports of the eleven were about 30 percent higher in COVID-affected 2020 than what they were in non-COVID 2019.

- In the two months since the last TADEP+ Update, the project has provided ten updates on aspects of the international trade in cocoa. Frequent reports have been made using the daily price reports posted by the ICCO. The graph below compares the prices for the first three months of 2021, 2020, and 2019.

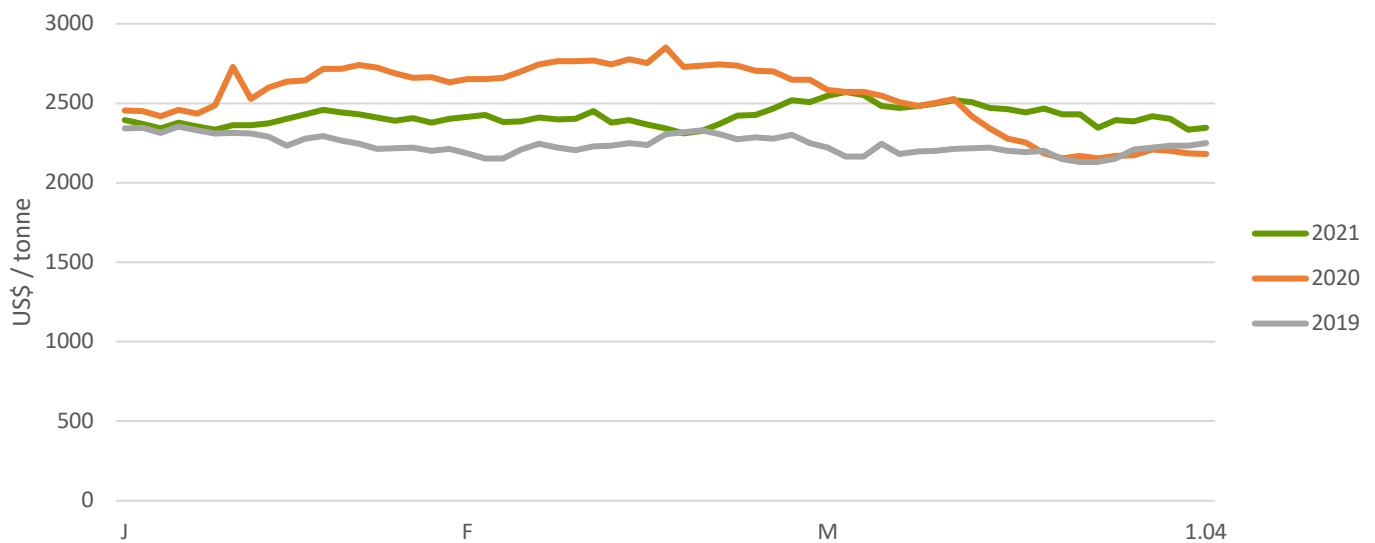


Figure 9 (above): ICCO Daily Prices: January to end of March 2021, 2020, 2019

- Work is continuing to develop a mobile app to support cocoa farmers. The project team hopes this will become available mid-2021.
- Food diaries for the vegetable cultivation and nutrition research TADEP-funded Collaborative Research Grant project have been entered into an excel spreadsheet and will provide base line data for the diets of the participating villages. The monthly coaching and monitoring visits continue.

Lessons learnt

- It has generally been assumed that the COVID-19 pandemic would cause food insecurity in urban and rural communities on Pacific Islands like Bougainville. It was feared that disrupted supply chains and labour mobility will cause significant shocks to households. It was also feared that returning migrant labour might swamp local food systems. Global uncertainty would drive down commodity prices, farm incomes and drive-up living costs.
- However, we are hearing that the local response to the pandemic appears to have had a positive effect on food security for cocoa farmers in Bougainville. Cocoa farmers in Bougainville now appear to be producing more cocoa and more food crops than before the pandemic. Why?
- The first part of the explanation is that the rapid lockdown of the island of Bougainville in 2020 helped contain the virus.
- Secondly, we know that labour is a significant constraint to improving crop production. While the predicted return of people from urban centres has increased the local demand for food, we think this relatively young, well-educated and healthy workforce has introduced new skills and innovations that increase local food supplies and decrease the reliance on imported foods. But there remains concern about the nutritional value of the diets preferred by village communities. Growing a diverse range of healthy food and consuming it is necessary for preventing stunting in children along with improved water and sanitation.
- The influx of labour has also helped commodity crop production like cocoa, in defiance of the anticipated slump in markets. Commodity crops provide cash income in rural villages that is essential for local transport, medical care, school fees, clothing and food. Spending this cash stimulates town and Provincial economies.
- In many ways the local response to COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated a resilience not seen in the globalised economy.
- The project thinks the COVID-19 pandemic supports it's proposition that improved education and health services support more productive, healthier and more food secure communities.

Research tools, articles, resources

- We will soon release our mobile Bougainville Cocoa App, with information on cocoa farming, food crops, health and sanitation.

East New Britain headquarters

- Trevor Clarke oversaw the logistics and conduct of the final focus group discussions in New Ireland, Madang, Simbu and East Sepik. Josie Saul-Maora and Leonnie Songtave conducted the discussions in New Ireland, Josie and Matilda Hamago in Simbu, and Matilda and Robert Nailina in Madang and East Sepik. The schedule for the discussions was disrupted by the two-week mourning period for Michael Somare as well as by COVID-19 restrictions.
- Trevor made final visits to the REDS staff at Tavilo and the staff at the Kairak Training Centre, University of Natural Resources and Environment (UNRE), and delivered all the remaining farmer's handbooks for use in on-going training programs. He departed for Brisbane on 23 March after handing over the project headquarters vehicle to David Yinil, Head of REDS, at the Tokua Airport (Rabaul). He had to quarantine in Brisbane for two weeks and fortunately was not infected by COVID-19 despite his busy final schedule of travel in PNG which was suffering a serious outbreak of the disease at the time. ACIAR owes him a great debt of gratitude for continuing to conduct all project activities on the ground in PNG throughout the COVID-19 restrictions from March 2020 to March 2021.

Trevor's final round trip to farewell and thank project collaborators

- Trevor undertook a final round trip to all provinces (Simbu had been visited earlier) to report on our failure to secure a follow-up project, thank our coordinators and collaborators and prepare for the handover of project resources and activities to Cocoa Board REDS and Provincial Government staff. On 1/2 March he flew to Madang via Port Moresby for meetings with our coordinators, Aitul Weoh and Bofeng Mebali, followed on 3 March by a meeting with Provincial Government senior staff Ganai Agodop, Madang Economic Sector director, and Godfried Save, Provincial Agriculture Manager. He reported that the project was closing down after 5 years and thanked provincial DAL for their support throughout. Godfried praised the project but mentioned that the participation of DAL district staff had been disappointing, highlighting a flaw in the current extension system in PNG whereby the provincial and district systems operate independently. Despite Godfried's strong support for the project, he had no control over district staff and our project was not able to support and interact with the district DAL system, except for occasional committed staff. Godfried described how the extension system has not only been fragmented but also severely under-resourced for many years, a problem our project attempted to address by developing a village-based, farmer-driven system. Godfried said he was impressed by success of our Cocoa Model Farm Trainers (CMFTs) and mentioned in particular Kokurai Omurup at Tamane Village who has supported and developed many cluster groups and become a trainer in other projects. He estimated that about 3,000 farmers in Madang Province have been assisted through the project, centred around the development of 35 budwood gardens. While the project is unable to document increases in cocoa production, Godfried noted the increased enthusiasm for cocoa development. Godfried discussed the possibility of finding a role in DAL for Bofeng to continue the project strategy and mentioned this in an email to Phil Keane. Godfried and Ganai offered a big thankyou to ACIAR for the project. Trevor, Aitul and Bofeng then drove to Balama and filmed an interview with Lesley and wife on their perceptions of the project.
- On 4 March the team drove to Gumaru in the Trans Gogol area, and met CMFT Elson Amas and some members of his group. He had built a solar drier and his group members and cluster groups in the area also want one. So far about 10 driers have been built and another 25 are on order in Madang Province. Interest in cocoa is high in the area. Bofeng conducted a video interview with Elson and wife. The team then drove to Wafen and met the CMFT Seth Mal and his wife Christine, who had joined the project as a cluster group formed by Kokurai Omurup. Bofeng interviewed them on how they had participated in the project. They were pleased with their solar driers which had been registered and were being used. Seth intends to start a farmers' association with multiple solar drier owners marketing their dry beans together for a better price. This indicates the potential of solar driers to drive the establishment of sound cocoa wet bean buying and processing businesses, as shown at Yekimbole in East Sepik. The team moved on to Hobe Village where they were met by Sition Leleki, Joel Leleki and Sition's wife Seki, who have built and registered a solar drier, with a unique 'L' shape, constructed from bush materials to a design used in coffee bean drying in Finschhafen, and covered with plastic film supplied by the project, an outstanding example of farmer-driven innovation. They have rehabilitated their block and are now selling dry bean. Seki mentioned that they were very pleased with their solar drier because they were producing good quality cocoa and selling at a premium price of PGK460 per bag compared with only PGK410 for a bag of kiln-dried cocoa. A video interview with the family was

conducted. On 5 March back at the REDS office in Madang, the team met with CMFT Omurup Kokurai from Tamane, one of the outstanding CMFTs who has grown throughout the project. He was thanked for his work with his group and the several clusters or new groups he had created and assisted. They then drove to Rempi village and met CMFT Agatha Igag and her husband Joe, who were thanked for their participation in the project, particularly their leading of an all-women's group. A tearful Agatha thanked the coordinators and did a video interview. Back in Madang the project support staff, Delma Miriung, Ronnie Sibert and Steven Singa, were thanked for their dedicated involvement in the project despite lack of support from the Cocoa Board. Before its liquidation, they were employed full-time by CCI but were not paid after the take-over of cocoa work by the Cocoa Board and relied on intermittent payments from the ACIAR project. Trevor arranged for them to receive a small bonus payment. In lieu of a full salary they had also been assisted to set up budwood gardens and CMFT groups back in their home villages. Bofeng and Aitul expressed thanks to ACIAR for the help given, and indicated that they plan to introduce the project strategy to their home areas in Finschhafen, Morobe Province. Trevor felt that the project finished on a good note, and that a good relationship had been developed with the provincial government that could see the strategy pursued further.

- Trevor flew to Wewak on the Saturday 6 March and was met by our coordinator Timothy Sam. On Sunday 7 March they visited CMFT Jonathan Poema at Poliama Passam and saw the nursery, new solar drier, mature budwood garden and successful goat breeding colony. There is great interest in developing the goat colony to supply other interested villages, and Jonathan intends to get more female goats from the colony at the Boram Correctional Institution in Wewak, where Timothy is also helping with a cocoa project. On Facebook, Timothy summarised the activity at Paliama as follows – *all 18 CCI clones have been established in the budwood garden and bud sticks have been heavily harvested for budding activity at 15 satellite nurseries throughout the entire Passam ring; the 10,000 capacity nursery is supplying clonal cocoa plants (and bud sticks) to farmers at many sites in the province including sites in the Governor's SMART Cocoa Program and the FAO/EU STREIT Program.* Timothy and Jonathan thanked Trevor and ACIAR, saying "Even though you might not be here again, what you and ACIAR have left with us here in Passam is highly appreciated and we'll carry on." The presentation of a microscope to the nearby Passam National High School, where Jonathan and Timothy have commenced a cocoa project, was also acknowledged.
- On 8 March, Tim and Trevor visited Niumindogum CMFT, Norman Kowi and his wife Blantina, who have taken over the group from his sister Leah, who left to pursue studies at UNRE, and revived it to serve 25 active members. They now have two healthy goats and a solar drier. The nursery has been moved to a new site. Norman has helped with construction of nurseries and solar driers for 7 other cluster groups in the Nambo LLG area. The groups are waiting for solar plastic to be supplied by the project. They then visited the Yekimbole CMFTs Nola Sasingian and her husband Chris. They are still buying wet bean and receiving a premium price from the Globe company in Wewak for dry bean prepared in their three large solar driers. They have been successful in forming their cocoa drying business and are now taking advantage of an offer from the Kaunauki company, developing cocoa on their clan land nearby, for help with a poultry project with 5000 bird capacity. Materials for the chicken house have arrived on site and construction is due to start shortly. Terrence Fufungian helped explain the management of the cocoa drier - after box fermentation, the wet beans are spread out on bamboo slats covered with plastic fly screen (shade cloth). In wet weather the beans are spread thinly and still dry in 4 or 5 days. The cocoa planting trial being conducted by the ACIAR/REDS soils project at Yekimbole was visited and it was evident that the cocoa is growing best in soil broken up with the ripper and disc plough supplied by the project.
- After overnighting in Maprik, the group drove to Bana in the Dreikir LLG area and visited CMFT Paul Aro and his group. They have a budwood garden and nursery and are doing their own budding to produce clones for their members. They then drove to Blamda and met CMFT Kenny Nako although poor roads prevented a visit to the budwood garden and nursery site, which was one of the first established at the beginning of the project. The group has been using its bud wood garden for materials and a new nursery site is being constructed to allow better access for exporting clones. The group has 40 members and there are 5 cluster group receiving assistance as well. Kenny has received solar plastic but is waiting on timber to complete a drier. The women in the group are happy working with cocoa. The team drove to Hambeli near East Yangoru station, and met with James Huingian and members of his group. On the trip, interviews with CMFTs at all sites were recorded on video. After driving back to Wewak, Trevor and Timothy met with Kevin Hawan, Provincial Director of DAL, and Jimmy Risimeri, our first coordinator in East Sepik who left to work for KIK and has now been employed with the FAO/EU Project. They were thanked for their contributions to the project.

- On 10 March Trevor met Matilda Hamago who was waiting for Robert Nailina to arrive to start focus group interviews, which had been disrupted by the mourning period for Michael Somare. Trevor and Timothy visited the Maguer CMFT group on the West Coast. The CMFT Linda was not there but a woman member of the group was interviewed. They also met Banak CMFT Francis Wan, and conducted a video interview with him and his wife. Francis developed into an enthusiastic participant in the project and was very emotional on learning of its end. He has many cluster groups he has assisted with training and bud wood materials from the Banak budwood garden. The CMFT site of Cherobim at Rainambo, which has one of the first solar driers built under the project, but visited.
- On 11 March Trevor flew to Kavieng for a final visit. Later in the REDS office, now relocated to the Provincial Government DPI centre at Kopkop, Trevor discussed registration of solar driers with Nasson Laki, the Cocoa Board Head of Field Services section there, who has been a great help to the project. He and John Joseph, accompanied by Dr Jeff Kinch, Principal of the Fisheries College, visited CMFT Cathy Miroi at Luapul and saw her solar drier and discussed her wet bean buying and processing business, which is receiving support from the Cocoa Board Price Support Scheme for isolated cocoa development. They then visited CMFT David Walus at Laraibina village. A team of youths who have been working with David were filling up planting bags in the nursery. Video interviews were conducted with David and the youths, and with Mrs Kayapo, and her son Lesley, who praised the project for occupying the youths and keeping them away from trouble associated with use of homebrew and drugs. The thriving colony four goats was observed – they are awaiting three more breeder goats to be delivered by UNRE under the project. On the way back to Kavieng they visited Panamecho and met the CMFT Lumeris at his fermentry and drier. He said the best clones propagated from the budwood garden were B1, B3, B4, S1 and S2. Trevor was scheduled to fly back to Kokopo but the flight was cancelled. John drove him (4 hours) to Namatanai where he caught the 'Solwara Meri' speed boat back to Kokopo next day.

East Sepik

- On 30 March the REDS section of the Cocoa Board, led by Timothy and Douglas Kawasi, travelled by speedboat to Victoria Bay, Kairiru Island (Wewak District) to conduct two days of Cocoa Propagation Training at Rumlal, Surai and Suir Villages. John Meth, who had initiated the cocoa project and established a budwood garden of the 18 CCI clones on the island, sent his encouragement via Facebook. Altogether 49 farmers (4 females) were trained in practical budding skills and made clones of the 18 CCI releases for their own use.
- On 18 and 19 March final focus group discussions were held at Bararat Village and Niumindogum Village in Yangoru/Saussia District, led by Matilda Hamago and Robert Nailina. The meeting house at Bararat was burned down in late 2019 after some disagreement over management of the CMFT group, but the house has been rebuilt and the group re-assembled. Niumindogum group broke down after the departure of Leah Kowi but her brother Norman has rebuilt it.

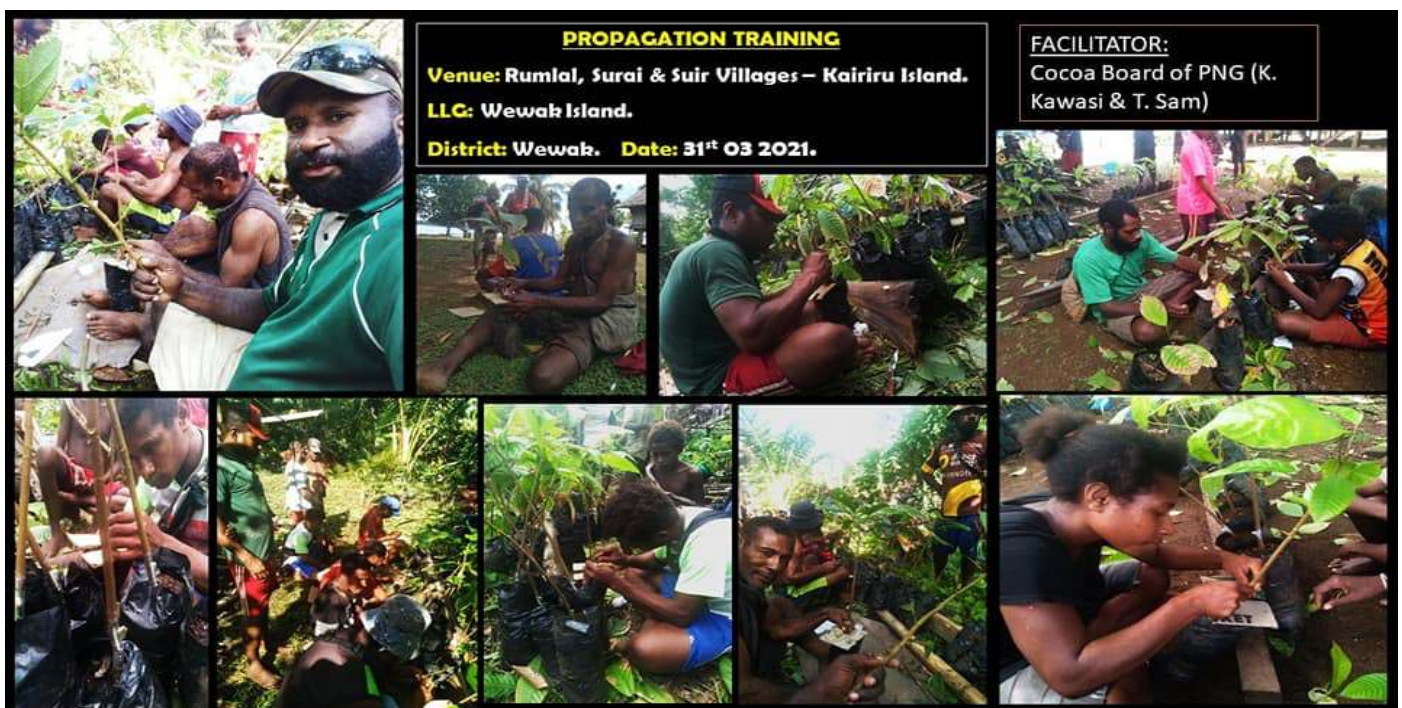




Figure 11 (left): Trevor Clarke and Jonathan Poema in the excellent village nursery at Paliama CMFT site, Passam, East Sepik. The nursery supplies planting material to many satellite groups in the vicinity and two other projects.

Figure 12 (right): Matilda Hamago and Robert Naila conducting a focus group discussion at Niumindogum Village, East Sepik. The CMFT group nursery is in the background.



Figure 13 (left): Matilda Hamago conducting a focus group discussion with women farmers in the rebuilt meeting house at Bararat Village, East Sepik (Timothy Sam, project coordinator, East Sepik, in foreground).