



Transformative Agriculture and Enterprise Development Program

TADEP+ Update

July + August 2020

Key program activities

TADEP+ Annual Report 2019/20

The TADEP+ Annual Report summarises key program and project-level activities over the past financial year, highlighting the ways that the program has value-added to the otherwise distinct projects via cohesive communications, collaboration and cross-program capacity building. The report was submitted to ACIAR and DFAT, whom have both reviewed the report and provided feedback. A short summary has also been printed and made available to our DFAT colleagues at post.

The Annual Report will be added to the TADEP+ website in due course, but in the meantime, **[click here](#)** to read the report.

TADEP+ Collaborative Research Grant

There is one remaining Collaborative Research Grant (CRG) between the Bougainville Cocoa and Family Farm Teams projects, entitled *Initiating vegetable cultivation to improve nutrition in Bougainville*. The CRG project is piloting an intervention aimed at improving the diets of people living in 10 villages (South, Central and North Bougainville) identified from the Bougainville Cocoa 'Livelihood Survey' results that have a high prevalence of severe stunting and childhood malnutrition as well as 42% accessing unsafe water.

[Click here](#) to read an update about the CRG.

COVID-19 impacts

The three remaining TADEP projects have continued to provide updates to ACIAR and DFAT on a monthly basis about the impact of COVID-19 on project activities and whether there are any budgetary or timeline variations to be considered. The TADEP team has been working closely with the ACIAR PNG Country Office to provide additional details relating to COVID-19 impacts and responsiveness.

ACIAR food systems rapid assessment

ACIAR has recently published a brief technical report, entitled *Food systems security, resilience and emerging risks in the Indo-Pacific in the context of COVID-19: a rapid assessment*. This rapid assessment provides the foundation for a more systematic, integrated assessment that will be conducted over the following months.

As with many other sectors and organisations, the current pandemic is likely to change both what ACIAR seeks to do and how they do it. ACIAR, like many of their partners, faces important decisions about how best to respond, not just in this immediate, reactive phase, but over coming years. As an evidence-based organisation, one of ACIAR's responses has been to conduct this rapid assessment of impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the responses to it, on smallholders and food systems in our region. ACIAR is doing this so that they and their partners can better understand intervention opportunities and priorities.

Click here to read overview and download.

ACIAR *Partners* magazine

The latest edition of ACIAR's *Partners in Research for Development* magazine is now available for download. **Click here** to read an overview of the 2020 Issue 3 and navigate to the bottom of that page to download the magazine.

ACIAR project tools

Every wondered where you can download a template for a project budget acquittal? Or perhaps you're looking for resources to help build-in capacity development strategies during project design? ACIAR has compiled key templates, guides, resources and more for project teams to use and refer to over the life of their projects.

Click here to view and download.

Key project activities

Bougainville Cocoa

The State of Emergency (SoE) in Bougainville was lifted in mid-June and project activities recommenced soon after, and have continued during the Bougainville one-month election period, which concluded



The mini chocolate lab has been utilised for ongoing assessments of farmers' and exporters' cocoa samples for quality and flavour, with food safety training also being developed for the facility. An analysis of local chocolate making costs was also conducted.

Apart from setting up the Village Resource Centres (VRCs) as model farms for farmers in the Ward Assemblies (WA) and other communities, some of the Village Extension Workers (VEWs) and farmers have taken the initiative to build training shelters. These shelters are to support model farmers to conduct training, have WA meetings and cater for other community gatherings/event. In Central, five training shelters have been completed, four in North and two in South Bougainville.

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

PNG Cocoa

Ten thousand copies of Trevor's *Pacific Islands Cocoa Book* are being distributed to farmers in Bougainville, East New Britain, Morobe, Madang, New Ireland, East and West Sepik, and the Highlands. Copies of this book and other cocoa resources will be made available on the TADEP+ website soon, but in the meantime, [click here](#) to access them.

Various meetings key provincial leaders were held during a trip to New Ireland. The Provincial Administrator conveyed that his aim, through the Provincial Government Cocoa Project, is to support 20 farmers to each plant 1ha of cocoa (20ha total) in each of the 111 wards suitable for cocoa in New Ireland, with a total of 2,200 farmers involved.

A three-day Cocoa Propagation Training was conducted for 57 farmers at near Wewak as part of the STREIT PNG Program. Members of EU FAO attended the closing ceremony, and everyone was impressed to see that almost half of the attendees were women.

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



Sweetpotato

Training and support provided to communities is aimed at getting groups to better manage themselves and to more effectively seek assistance from outside the community to achieve outcomes that they cannot achieve themselves. For the Jiwaka Organic Food Farmers' Co-operative and its affiliates, the training has enabled them to be successful with their IFAD Market for Village Farmers program proposal to develop small scale kaukau processing facilities and produce value-add products for sale.

Field observation data have been collected and samples taken for virus diagnostic testing.

Interest in accessing clean kaukau vines continues to grow, with the latest connection to the project coming from Morobe Province. Hore Agricultural Suppliers, a SME that partners with Farmset to supply corn seeds being distributed by Farmset throughout the country, have approached the Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) project team to engage in the clean kaukau seed scheme to supply the lowland varieties.

[Click here](#) for the full Sweetpotato 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

The Family Farm Teams project's work in PNG is continuing with a project *Gender equitable agricultural extension through institutions and youth engagement in Papua New Guinea* led by Jo Caffery from the University of Canberra in partnership with the Pacific Adventist University. This project's aim is to adapt and apply the Family Farm Teams model for institutions (churches) and youth engagement in PNG.

A second project has begun to further develop the Family Farm Teams model in the Solomon Islands. This will be led by Deborah Hill also from the University of Canberra.



Galip Nut

The Galip Nut team submitted their final report and the highlights included;

- A demonstration factory was established at NARI producing over 2.4 tonnes of processed products in the final year of operation. Technical research underpinning this included depulping, drying cracking roasting, nut quality, food safety, shelf life and nutritional analysis.
- A range of products were developed, and markets tested in East New Britain and Port Moresby. The prices for final product ranged from PGK140/kg - PGK170/kg. The sales trials delivered consumer sales for retailers exceeding PGK450,000.
- A range of training interventions were delivered for smallholders, small-scale entrepreneurs and SMEs, with an emphasis on female smallholders and micro-enterprises.

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Key information/dates

- The state of emergency in Bougainville was lifted in mid-June. Project activities have recently recommenced.
- Mr Kenneth Dovaro was appointed DPI Acting Secretary
- Bougainville election period 12 August – 15 September 2020
- Resizing and restructuring exercise is in progress for DPI in collaboration with Department of Personnel Management. This will result to new responsibilities and/or recruitment of additional officers to take over some project activities for sustainability.

Upcoming or recent activities

- Plan to develop a directory of Australian artisan chocolate makers to help burgeoning Bougainville cocoa growers.
- Ethics approval has been granted by The University of Sydney to conduct the end-line surveys in February 2021.
- An analysis of local chocolate making costs was conducted by James Butubu and Grant Vinning.
- Food safety training for cocoa bean processing in the chocolate lab is being developed.
- Meetings were held with skilled local bakers to discuss engaging them to train farmers/village extension workers (VEWs) on how to bake cocoa based cookies, cakes and confectioneries.
- Continued assessment of farmers' and exporters' samples for quality and flavour in the mini-chocolate lab.
- Experiments investigating the impact of fermentation length and drying method on bean flavour and chocolate quality were initiated at Kubu. The goal is to identify optimum fermentation and drying recommendations for farmers using solar dryers. We found changes in fermentation temperature (Figure 1), and differences in moisture and flavour profiles using a range of drying days on solar dryers or direct sun drying. Data collection and analysis is continuing.
- Annual ACIAR and TADep reports were compiled and submitted.

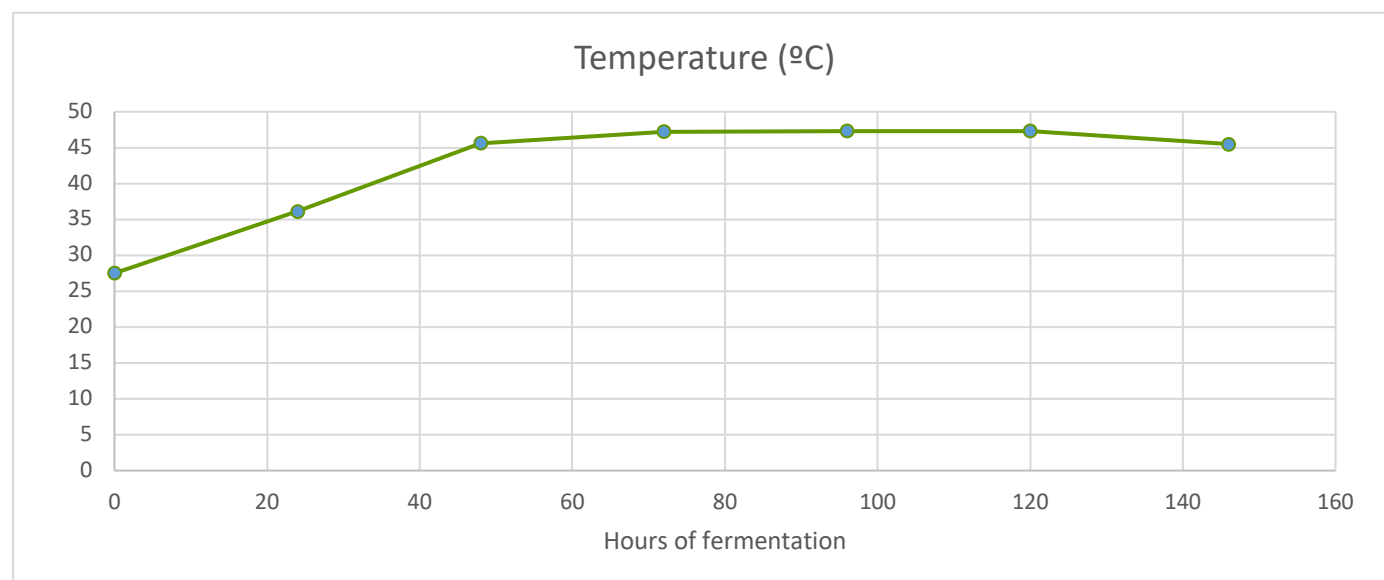


Figure 1: Temperatures produced during fermentation

Village Resource Centre (VRC) updates

- VRC Coordinator, Borgia Sinato, is currently visiting North and Central to monitor progress of VRC set ups. Further visits are planned for the next two months (September and October).
- Apart from setting up the VRCs as model farms for farmers in the Ward Assemblies (WAs, formerly known as Village Assemblies) and other communities, some of the Village Extension Workers (VEWs) and farmers have taken the initiative to build training shelters. These shelters are to support model farmers to conduct

training, have WA meetings and cater for other community gatherings/event. In Central, five training shelters have been completed, four in North and two in South Bougainville.

- The VEW for Hahon Nembaka Ward, Edward Gaoram, has extended his work to three other WAs, 17 farmers came from Anatoba, Savon and Pomat Wards.
- Tony Tamura, VEW for Tomasi Ward, has also extended his work to two other wards, Keabosi and Siato. There are a total of 50 farmers who were trained by ACIAR in integrated pest and disease management (IPDM), crop diversification, bud grafting, nursery management and vegetable nursery. Raymond Naeasi, their lead farmer, has formed a small farmer group to support cocoa production by fundraising to purchase farm tools, nursery and planting materials. They have established their own main nursery and several village nurseries and have requested for two sac clothes and 10,000 poly bags to extend their work further.
- Establishment of compost huts: North 6, Central 2 and South 3.
- Shade cloth was supplied to VEW Susan Baai and the women's group she formed in Sivuna, Central Bougainville. They supply the township of Arawa with the vegetables they grow. The same applies to Roger at Ioro, Panguna.

Research tools, articles, resources

- Paper titled 'Factors influencing undernutrition among children <5yrs from cocoa-growing communities in Bougainville' has been published in the journal *BMJ Global Health*: BMJ Global Health 2020;5:e002478. doi:10.1136/bmjgh-2020-002478
- Two additional papers are currently being finalised for peer reviewed publication.
- Seven Cocoa Market Newsletters were compiled and distributed. As usual, the newsletters are generating considerable follow-up.

Lessons learnt

- Develop and incorporate contingency/management plans for major disruptions (pandemic/travel restrictions/local circumstances) in future research projects.
- The ongoing uncertainty and the on-and-off again State of Emergency in Bougainville due to COVID-19 has meant the team has had to remain flexible with activities and understand the added mobility and human resource constraints the members in Bougainville are facing as a result of these uncertain times.

East New Britain

- Trevor maintained contact with Research Extension and Development Services (REDS) staff at Tavilo, including with Kenny Francis, head of the Processing and Quality Section, who requested samples from the solar driers in each province for evaluation in the laboratory at Tavilo. Samples will be collected from East Sepik (Chris and Nola Sasingian at Yekimbole, Cheribim at Rainambo, Norman Kawi at Niumindogim), Madang (Leslie at Balama, and Mabonob), New Ireland (Cathy Miroi at Luapul), East New Britain (Otto Koimba at Utmae), and Karimui in Chimbu Province.
- Trevor had several meetings with Peter Epaina who was appointed as the Principal Cocoa Breeder at REDS Tavilo. They discussed the work needed to revive cocoa breeding, especially re-activation of the SG2 hybrid seed gardens, rescuing the Trinitario collections, and further testing of the latest CCI clones. He has suggested that about 20 of the best CMFTs be supported to conduct detailed evaluation of the 18 clones in their budwood gardens in various locations. Peter is also keen to begin developing planting material better suited to smallholder farmers who integrate cocoa with food crops and useful tree crops. The original Trinitario types could be the basis of this material.
- Trevor and Phil produced a set of 18 short PowerPoint presentations on all aspects of cocoa and vanilla production, as a basis for further development with Cocoa Board and Department of Agriculture and Livestock (DAL) staff during training in presentation to farmers groups.
- Ten thousand copies of Trevor's *Pacific Islands Cocoa Book* are being distributed to farmers in Bougainville, East New Britain, Morobe, Madang, New Ireland (Figure 2), East and West Sepik, and the Highlands.
- David Yinil's wife, Sabina, died on Sunday 9 August. She was a friend of all who worked at CCI and David has received warm support from all his former colleagues there.



Figure 2 (above): Cocoa Board REDS/ACIAR team with the Panamecho Model Village Farmers group after presentation of copies of the *Pacific Islands Cocoa Book*.

New Ireland

- Between 10 and 15 July, our coordinator John Joseph visited 13 of the 20 CMFT sites in the province, including the two sites on New Hanover, and filled out Cocoa Model Farmer Trainer (CMFT) assessment forms.
- On 18 July, Trevor travelled by speedboat from Kokopo to the west coast of New Ireland, opposite Namatanai, with Kenny Francis, Charles Maika (lecturer in animal husbandry UNRE), and three crated goats (one male and two females) provided by UNRE (Figure 3, below). They were met by John Joseph and Anton Varvaliu, Head of Extension, REDS, who had flown to Kavieng the day before. The goats were delivered to Laraibina where the CMFTs David and Christine Waulis and their family were happy to receive them and introduce them to the goat house and enclosure they had built last year. Charles gave the family some training on husbandry of the goats.
- The team, including CMFT Kalu Eliab, met with Hon. Walter Schnaubelt, MP for Namatanai, and several LLG and Ward councillors, who want assistance to develop cocoa in the Namatanai District. He was informed that the ACIAR/CB project has established 11 CMFT sites all with budwood gardens and nurseries in the district and three training field days have been held in villages. Walter wants the cocoa program to develop rapidly and Trevor advised that planting SG2 seedlings is the best way to go, and that this could be facilitated by establishing a seed garden in New Ireland. Over several years, Walter has established farmers' groups (Walters' Farmers' Associations, WFA) in villages. He would like to fund a Coordinator and managers for four abandoned plantations he wants re-developed. He plans to establish several buying points and a central storage for shipping to improve marketing of cocoa in the area, so that farmers have easy access to buyers and receive a better price. Walter is using his national government-allocated District Services Improvement Program (DSIP) to fund these activities. He is keen to collaborate with and link his



Figure 3 (right): Goats ready for transport by speed boat from Kokopo to west coast of New Ireland.

WFA program to the ACIAR/CB project and offered 1ha of land for establishment of a seed garden, which Anton will follow up with Cocoa Board management. Trevor presented him with 320 copies of the *Pacific Islands Cocoa Book* and 18 PowerPoint presentations on cocoa and vanilla production prepared for the project.

- CMFTs Lydia and Subul Hus at Burau Village, Nick and Katherine Misi at Bo, Jeffery and Minala Kelly at Lemeris, Joane Pakeri at Katedan, Cathy Miroi at Luapul and David and Christine Waulis at Laraibina were visited on the drive back to Kavieng and given 20 *Pacific Islands Cocoa Books* each. Nick Misi has galip nut seedlings ready for distribution. All have budwood gardens and active nurseries that have been selling clones to the New Ireland Provincial Government cocoa project. The goats under David Waulis's care at Laraibina were doing well, being fed on sweet potato vines and oil palm meal (obtained for free from the local factory). David is assisting two other village groups.
- On 22 July, the team, accompanied by Dr Robert Watt and his wife Logie, the CMFT on Djaul Island, visited Mai Island near Djaul to collect pods and budwood sticks from old Trinitario cocoa planted there after WWII. These will be added to the Trinitario collection at Tavilo that is going to be revived by Peter Epaina. The material was later budded onto seedlings at Kopkop Station for inclusion in the Trinitario collection. They then visited Logie's CMFT site at Metandam on Djaul which has been neglected because Robert was recalled as the surgeon at Nonga Base Hospital, near Rabaul, although the budwood gardens is still useful. Farmers each received 300 cocoa seedlings before the nursery was abandoned.
- Back in Kavieng the team held a meeting with Barbara Makapa, Executive Manager of Agriculture Division, New Ireland Provincial Government. The need for a cocoa hybrid seed garden was discussed, and Anton Varvaliu strongly supported the need for more gardens because the capacity for producing hybrid seed at Tavilo was now limited, and it is better to have seed gardens in provinces at locations such as Hawain in East Sepik, the southern region, and Kopkop, New Ireland. 160 *Pacific Islands Cocoa Books* were given for distribution through DAL. After the meeting the team with DAL staff visited the Panamecho CMFT site (now led by Lemeris as David Kapia is now working for Business for Development to help establish a cocoa project on Simberi Island). 40 copies the *Pacific Islands Cocoa Book* were presented to the Panamecho Model Village Farmers' group and Trevor was especially pleased to be able to present copies to Ellison Wanariu and his family, whose photo is on the front cover. John Joseph has conveyed the appreciation of the group for choosing one of them for the cover photo and for the support given to their farmers. Kenny suggested that the village send cocoa samples to Queen Emma Chocolate company in Port Moresby for testing and possible supply.
- A meeting was held with the Provincial Administrator, Lamilla Pawut, to brief him on progress in the ACIAR Project. His aim through the Provincial Government Cocoa Project is to support 20 farmers to each plant 1ha of cocoa (20ha total) in each of the 111 wards suitable for cocoa in New Ireland, with a total of 2,200 farmers involved. Lelet plateau was mentioned as a possible cocoa area, with good soils at a higher altitude. We have assisted one farmer at Lelet with 1,000 trees, helped by Geoffrey Kelly CMFT. Lamilla requested weekly briefing from John Joseph and wants ACIAR to keep supporting cocoa development in the Province. Trevor, Kenny and Anton flew back to Kokopo on 24 July.
- At the New Ireland Day celebration on 27 July, Nason Laki (Cocoa Board Field Services) and John (Cocoa Board REDS/ACIAR) collaborated with Provincial DPI staff in an educational display to create awareness about cocoa and the economic sector as whole.
- On 5-6 August Nason, John, Barbara Makapa and Gideon Bogosia, the head of New Ireland Provincial Government DPI, participated in a two-day meeting of the provincial DPI and 15 VEWs from the Provincial Government Cocoa Project (each with three farmers) in Lavongai LLG, held at Noipuas Village on New Hanover. The meeting expressed disappointment at the lack of supply of SC2 hybrid seed from Tavilo which is holding up the project. John promoted the idea of planting local seedlings at stake and budding in the field with CCI clones, available from budwood gardens at Noipuas and Umbukul in the LLG. 80 copies of the *Pacific Islands Cocoa Book* were distributed. The meeting was also attended by the Deputy Governor of the province and the Lavongai LLG DPI coordinator.
- On 11 August, Nason, John and Gideon participated in a Radio Didiman program on cocoa development, emphasising treating cocoa growing as a business and that cocoa pod borer (CPB) could be managed using integrated pest and disease management (IPDM).
- Payments were made by the Konoagil LLG to four CMFTs in Namatanai District for supply of cocoa clonal plants (at PGK3 each) to farmers in the LLG – Nick Misi (1,100 plants), Robin Marty (1,000 plants), Subul Hus (600 plants) and George Tabakua (400 plants).

Highlands

- John Konam has continued working on a proposal for a greatly expanded cocoa, coffee, vanilla and vegetables project using the ACIAR strategy in Chimbu Province and other highlands provinces. He is not visiting the isolated Karimui Valley during the COVID-19 virus period.

East Sepik

- From 4 to 7 July, Timothy with Daryll Worimo, Head of Cocoa Board Field Service, and team conducted a 3-day Cocoa Propagation Training for 57 farmers at Nianguanje village, Wewak Rural LLG in Wewak District for the STREIT PNG Program. Attendees were welcomed with a traditional ceremony and given copies of the *Pacific Islands Cocoa Book*. Members of EU FAO attended the closing ceremony, and everyone was impressed to see that almost half of the attendees were women. Daryll wants cocoa to be integrated into traditional culture, as promoted in the traditional welcoming ceremony.
- Timothy transported budwood sticks collected from the budwood garden established two years ago at the Boram Correctional Institute to the Bana Dreikir CMFT site (4hr drive inland from Wewak) for a week-long budding program from 13 to 18 July. Inspector Zacharias Jakes Huasimbi and Corporal Bonawi Bongs Dalu are supervising the cocoa project and training in the institute and they also have a thriving goat colony. Corporal Dalu accompanied Timothy on the trip to Dreikir.
- *Pacific Islands Cocoa Books* were given to an interested cocoa farmer, Raymond Paki of Pinang village, Ward 11, Angoram/Middle Sepik LLG in Angoram District who visited the office in Wewak. Farmers there are very keen on developing cocoa production although oil palm is currently being cultivated heavily in their area. On 11 August a farmer from a remote area in Ambunti District attended the office and was given several copies of the *Pacific Islands Cocoa Book* for farmers he is supporting. The farmer asked REDS staff to visit and support cocoa development in this area, which has great potential for cocoa production to help alleviate poverty there. Copies of the *Pacific Islands Cocoa Book* were presented to the head of DAL in Wewak, Kevin Hawan, who likes the book and considers that it is well illustrated by pictures that village farmer can understand well. He suggested that a Tok Pisin version should be produced.
- From 19 to 24 July, training was conducted in Paliama Village by the UNRE/Kairak team of Donald Vavatang and Doreen Tunama on Module 3 'Basic Record and Book Keeping', including keeping a cash book, and household and block budgets, and Module 4 'Small Enterprise Record Keeping and Decision Making', including physical farm resources, farm maps, keeping and using farm records, and calculation of profits. CMFT Jonathan Poema oversaw the activities. Doug Kawasi and Timothy had to travel by boat to Kairiru Island to pick up CMFT Damien Kitop to attend the training. Eighteen CMFTs and their spouses and 20 interested farmers (56 people in all) attended the training and were presented with certificates, copies of the *Pacific Islands Cocoa Book* and a take home package of receipt, invoice and record keeping books. Kairak is going to arrange certificates for the 20 extra farmers who participated. The training event was reported with the photo of participants in the Post Courier on 10 August (Figure 4).
- On 22 July, Douglas Kawasi identified and profiled 23 farmer cluster groups in the Yangoru Saussia District for the EU/FAO STREIT program in preparation for a one-week training of the trainers session in August.
- On 20 August, Timothy, supported by the ACIAR project, accompanied David Yinil to the *haus krai* for his wife at Lumi, where they also met the Lumi Tenkile Alliance CMFT team led by Matthew Akon and advised on completing their budwood garden.
- Josephine Saul-Maora is conducting a Family Farm Teams Training at Paliama Village, East Sepik in late August.



Figure 4 (right): UNRE/Kairak training session at Paliama Village.

Madang

- From 11 to 18 July a team from UNRE/Kairak (Donald Vavatang and Doreen Tunama) conducted training for 29 CMFTs and interested farmers, including 8 women, from five Districts using the same modules as at Paliama, East Sepik, and concluding with final remarks by facilitators, project officers and farmers, and presentation of certificates. Spouses attended with CMFTs and all participants and the Kairak team were accommodated at the Alexishafen Catholic Church Centre. Radio personnel from NBC Madang attended and recorded events and interviewed the CMFTs for broadcasting. The project vehicles were used to transport most of the attendees to the training.
- Aitul and Bofeng summarised their plan for construction of ten solar driers and cocoa processing training during the latter part of 2020 (5 in Madang District, South Ambenob LLG, 2 in Bogia District, Almami LLG (Suaru and Amiten Villages), 2 in Sumkar District, Sumgilbar LLG (Rempi Village), Karkar LLG (David Magu), and one in Raicoast District, Ileg LLG. Fifteen (including two women) farmers visited Balama to observe Lesley's solar drier and model block and also visited Hobe Village to observe a simple solar drier (photo). Balama supplied 100 budsticks for field budding of seedlings and chupons in the Amele extension area. Bofeng and the team visited Mabenob to check solar drier construction, and Nuku to supply CMFT Amos Ligai with Pacific Islands Cocoa Books. Bofeng travelled with a carpenter to Sualu CMFT area to start building a solar drier that was completed in August (Figure 6). Some materials have been supplied by the project to get it started with CMFT Michael Kevei and group contributing more than half of the cost. The drier and fermentry were completed in August. A drier is under construction at Balang, Karkar Island. Seven solar driers in total are being prepared. One or two roles of plastic are being supplied by the project with all other materials and labour being contributed by the farmers' groups.
- On 28 July a meeting was held with 30 farmers (5 women) at Karkum CMFT site, Sumkar District. They have formed three cluster groups with an average of 20 members each and are establishing nurseries. The project is assisting with training on pruning, rehabilitation and budding.
- Thirteen project sites were visited in July and August. A total of 26 budwood gardens have been established in Madang; five are awaiting certification by the Cocoa Board and four need infilling to be completed.
- Nine established cluster groups (have been maintained in July-August and the five groups were establishment - Sualu CMFT area with 68 groups and 1,000 plus farmers, Amiten CMFT area with 18 groups and 582 farmers, Nuku CMFT area with 15 groups with over 500 farmers, Karkum CMFT area with 3 cluster group and 60 plus farmers, and Walium with 4 groups yet to be properly registered.



Figure 5: Simple design solar drier in Hobe Village, Madang District, modified from an Outspan model with clear plastic covering; farmers are using their own initiative to modify the basic design.



Figure 6: Simple design solar drier constructed in Sualu Village, Bogia District – another modification of the basic design.

- Training and support provided to communities is aimed at getting groups to better manage themselves and to more effectively seek assistance from outside the community to achieve outcomes that they cannot achieve themselves. For the Jiwaka Organic Food Farmers' Co-operative and its affiliates, the training has enabled them to be successful with their IFAD Market for Village Farmers program proposal to develop small scale kaukau processing facilities and produce value-add products for sale (participants; female 90, male 19 = 109 total).
- The training program has continued over the last month:
 - Organisational Strengthening training and part of Business Plan Training with two farmer groups (Kuka and Hagereto Farmer groups) in Asaro, EHP (participants; 42 female, 23 male = 65 Total).
 - One day training with Hagereto and Kuka farmer group on sorting and grading of kaukau tubers for markets, (ii) making kaukau silage for pigs, and (iii) making chicken feed from kaukau (participants; 30 female, 16 male = 46 total). A week later the team did a follow up visit, meeting and coaching with Hagereto and Kuka farmer groups executive members to develop their business plan using the format develop by project team in consultation with the National Development Bank (NDB) (participants; 5 female, 8 male = 13 total).
- Wilfred Wau (NARI) has undertaken a field survey to assess virus and virus-vector presence in the main project sites in EHP, Jiwaka and WHP. Field observation data have been collected and samples taken for virus diagnostic testing.
- Interest in accessing clean kaukau vines continues to grow, with the latest connection to the project coming from Morobe Province. Hore Agricultural Suppliers, a SME that partners with Farmset to supply corn seeds being distributed by Farmset throughout the country, have approached the Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) project team to engage in the clean kaukau seed scheme to supply the lowland varieties especially *beauregard* to communities around Morobe.
- The PNG National Apprenticeship and Trade Testing Board, with support from Ok Tedi, are upgrading their website and will include the Community Development Worker materials developed through this project on the website. The training package is nationally accredited and delivers to successful participants not only skills and knowledge to effectively engage and support communities but a nationally recognised certification of their training.