



Transformative Agriculture and Enterprise Development Program

TADEP+ Update

Key program activities

COVID-19 impacts on TADEP

In recent months, the COVID-19 crisis has escalated in PNG affecting both the TADEP program and the two remaining projects, as well as the PNG ACIAR Country Office. The Delta variant is taking a toll on the people and the health facilities in PNG. It has been a very stressful situation for staff within the Country Office and the Australian High Commission, managing rapidly changing circumstances and feeling the emotional weight with the growing number of deaths of relatives or people known to them.

The TADEP Team have been working closely with the PNG Country Office to respond to the current dynamics and reworking plans for the balance of the program. Whilst we had planned to host an online multi-day TADEP Kibung for the program and a broader network of stakeholders last month, the decision was made to cancel the event. The decision was not made lightly.

Instead a series of videos are being developed to capture the key achievements of the program and projects over the life of the program. These will be shared via the next and final edition of the TADEP Update, as the program concludes at the end of 2021. They will also be uploaded to a condensed version of the TADEP website, which will be transferred to the ACIAR website to ensure the legacy of the program and the projects will remain.

A slightly different Update

As three of the five TADEP component projects have concluded (PNG Cocoa, Family Farm Teams and Galip Nut) and COVID-19 has been a major disruption to project operations, this bimonthly Update is a little different to usual. Instead, we asked each of the Project Leaders to provide responses and reflections to the following questions:

- How you've adjusted to working in COVID-19? (eg: less travel, more capacity building – or less extension, more field work, etc)
- What have you achieved or been implementing? (despite COVID-19)
- Lessons learnt from working within these parameters?

Key project activities

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 three have concluded. The two remaining projects have been extended, largely due to COVID-19 disruptions, and will continue as standalone projects after TADEP concludes in December 2021:

- **Sweetpotato** - HORT/2014/097 Supporting commercial Sweetpotato production and marketing in the Papua New Guinea highlands
- **Bougainville Cocoa** - HORT/2014/094 Developing the Cocoa value chain in Bougainville

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



Sweetpotato

We haven't run any activities in the kaukau project that directly respond to the covid situation, but the FPDA team made a very concerted effort to include covid awareness training at all of the workshops/community events held over the past 12 months or so. This has included limiting numbers at training events, meeting in open spaces, wearing masks, promoting washing of hands, etc.

Bougainville Cocoa

While disruptive in many ways, the COVID pandemic presented an opportunity to transfer responsibility to team members in country, a critical component for sustainability of project impacts. The Australian team has not been able to travel since February 2020, and our Bougainville team members faced a number of lockdowns, cancelled flights etc which caused significant delays and added costs to project activities. Although delayed, project activities have continued, at times when trainers were unable to travel, local team members took leadership to carry-out various activities in their absence.

With no travel the Australian team have been communicating regularly with the Bougainville team via regular emails, weekly WhatsApp calls



and the Facebook group with over 550 members. The level of communication between Australia and Bougainville seems to have increased during the Covid-19 period.

A number of lessons have been learned during this time, in particular the need to remain flexible and patient with activities and understand the added mobility and human resource constraints the members in Bougainville face as a result of these uncertain times. Instead of travelling, work for the Australian team has been desk-based. Through this the team has learned that the sharing of information is a two-way street, in providing information to various groups, more information and opportunities are shared back with the team e.g As a result of the Cocoa Newsletter the New Zealand's Pacific Trade and Invest sent mail-out on the Pacific Freight Subsidy Scheme. It has also provided an opportunity to build relationships with chocolate makers in Australia, and investigate ways to facilitate shipments of cocoa beans.

The Bougainville Cocoa project also provided a project update. [Click here](#) to read it.



Australian Government
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The following three projects have concluded as part of TADEP and in the case of Family Farm Teams and Galip Nut, other ACIAR projects have evolved from the previous research projects.

PNG Cocoa

Whilst the PNG Cocoa project has recently concluded, the Project Leader provided the following summary in relation to the impact of COVID-19:

- Covid lockdown on international travel prevented my travel to PNG after I returned from my last trip on 13 March 2020 (a day before the lockdown) - I missed about 3 trips that would have mainly been to help with final assessment of the project.
- Covid prevented travel of George Curry and Gina Koczberski to PNG to conduct the final focus groups.
- Trevor was in PNG throughout the final year and kept the project going as normal on the ground in PNG - he couldn't return to Australia for annual leave during - 2020 - March 2021 when the project ended.
- The four PNG coordinators kept the project going well and conducted a survey of CMFT during the latter half of



- PNG contracted staff conducted the final focus groups and did a good job.
- The final report was prepared through from late 2020 and submitted in Sept 2021, after George and Gina and colleagues had analysed the final surveys of CMFTs and farmer focus group summaries.



Galip Nut

Whilst the original Galip Nut project that formed part of TADEP has concluded, it has evolved into a new ACIAR project 'Enhancing Private Sector-led Development of the Canarium Industry in Papua New Guinea – Phase 2' which commenced in December 2019. As such, the entire project has carried on with remote support from the Australian team due to Covid-19 travel restrictions. There has been much progress in delivering key outputs. The project team has found ways to collaborate and deliver the project remotely with the Australian team via Zoom. Project team members in PNG have taken leadership on all project activities and designed, carried out and analysed research activities.

Family Farm Teams

The Family Farm Teams project has recently released a new publication 'Ripple Effect Mapping: an empowering participatory learning and evaluation process'. Below is a summary and link to the new publication:

Ripple effect mapping (REM) is a participatory evaluation process designed to enable development programs to identify the long-term impacts of complex programs. This monograph shows how its use in low literacy farming communities in Papua New Guinea not only enabled the evaluators to understand the range and type of impacts of two gender transformative agricultural development programs but most importantly it gave project participants an opportunity to reflect on the range of outcomes and the challenges. It made them proud of what they had achieved, re-energised them and enhanced their commitment to on-going work.

Through the process of appreciative inquiry peer interviews and ripple identification large group work, women and men were able to identify how, where and why their families and their farming had changed. This naming affirmed their success, large or small. As they mapped and discussed the different levels of ripples, they saw what they achieved as peer educators collectively across their own cultural networks and their community. The REM process showed participants the power of local learning that



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flows on within local networks and across the community. Through the wider dissemination of the REM results, the validity and value of local knowledge also becomes visible to wider stakeholders and actors.

REM is a valuable participatory evaluation tool and can contribute to a deeper understanding of gender transformation as women and men map and analyse their experiences of moving from being 'gender neutral' or 'gender blind' to 'gender aware' and 'gender responsive'.

[Click here](#) to access the monograph



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Upcoming or recent activities

- Family Farm teams training was completed in September for the Central Region.
- A preliminary video of the the Farmer Mobile App will be launched during the opening of the BACRA Arawa mini Lab. Following Covid-19 protocols the opening and field days will only be able to have 20 people attending. The VEWs small Grant project may also be announced at this event.
- Preparations for the CRG evaluation are underway. Interviews will be conducted with regional coordinators and a sample of households who took part in the pilot in. December.
- A website is currently being developed for the end of project review.
- UNRE delivered ToT training on goats and crops to staff in Buin.



Figures 1 (left) and 2 (right): Field trip to Konga goat and vegetable farm by UNRE and the trainees.

Photos by Elizabeth Pisai



Figure 3 (left): UNRE delivering training at ACIAR demo farm

Photo by Elizabeth Pisai

Research tools, articles, resources

- Four Cocoa Newsletters distributed