



Developing the cocoa value chain in Bougainville

Overview

Bougainville is an autonomous Papua New Guinean province recovering from a decade-long crisis that disrupted society and the economy. Before the crisis, cocoa was a major contributor to the economy; over 80 per cent of Bougainvilleans were involved in cocoa production.

This project's specific aim is to improve the profitability and vitality of smallholder cocoa farming families and communities in Bougainville. The project will foster and strengthen public and private sector partnerships and help to develop enterprises that enhance productivity and access to premium markets, while promoting gender equity, community health and well-being. Its key partners are the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) Departments of Primary Industries and Marine Resources, Local Government and Health, the University of Natural Resources and Environment, and the PNG-Cocoa and Coconut Institute.

Research

The project has four objectives:

- » To improve the productivity, profitability and sustainability of cocoa farming and related enterprises;
- » To understand and raise awareness of the opportunities for improved nutrition and health to contribute to agricultural productivity and livelihoods;
- » To foster innovation and enterprise development at community level; and
- » To strengthen value chains for cocoa and associated horticultural products

ACIAR project number	HORT/2014/094
Start date and duration (years)	2016, 6 years
Location	Autonomous Region of Bougainville, PNG
Budget	AUD \$5,994,982

Project leader(s) and Commissioned Organisation

David Guest, The University of Sydney

Partner country project leaders and their institutions

Thomas Betitis, ABG Department of Primary Industries and Marine Resources

ACIAR Research Program Manager

Richard Markham



Achievements

While the project officially started on 1 January, funds were not received until mid-2016

During this period the researchers consulted with project partners, Government, NGO and private stakeholders and planned their project in detail. Project staff participated in DFAT's "Gender in cocoa value chains" (Brisbane, October 2015) and "Nutrition-sensitive agriculture" workshops (Canberra, November 2015)

In collaboration with the Australian High Commission, the researchers led a tour of Sulawesi for ABG Ministers (November 2015). They planned the Bougainville Chocolate Festival (5 & 6 July 2016)

PNG project manager appointed (January 2016) and relocated to Buka (June-Dec 2016)

Inception workshop, PIPA and project workplan developed (February 2016)

Establishment of Project Stakeholders Reference Group (February 2016)

Participated in the annual TADEP meeting (May 2016)

Ran cocoa marketing skills training (May 2016)

Renovated accommodation for project staff (May 2016)

Drafting and piloting of Baseline surveys and Ethics Approvals (February-June 2016) TADEP meeting (Tavilo, May 2016)