



Australian Government

Australian Centre for
International Agricultural Research

Horticulture

Developing the cocoa value chain in Bougainville

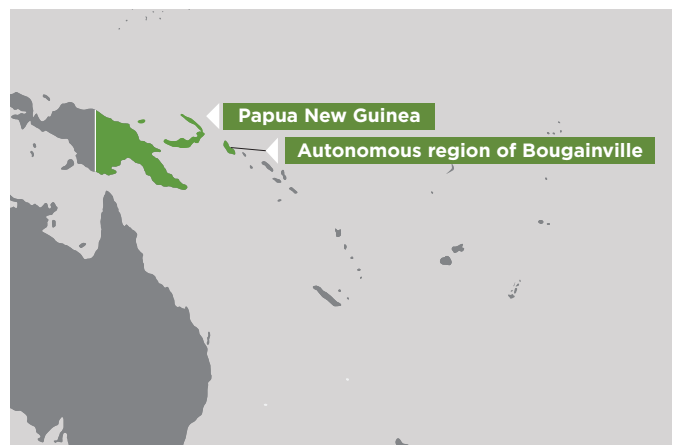
Overview

Cocoa production directly supports about two-thirds of the population in Papua New Guinea's Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ARoB). Many of these cocoa farmers have formed into cohesive communities with clear goals and objectives. These communities now want assistance to increase the profitability of crops.

The potential benefits of improved cocoa management are yet to be realised due to poor access to support, limited labour availability and inefficient cocoa supply chains. Cocoa production in ARoB has been falling since 2009, with reduced productivity and profitability due to ageing trees and increasing damage from the invasive cocoa pod borer.

Advanced technology and communication networks provide opportunities to address these issues, with potential for greater engagement with women and youth, fostering entrepreneurship, addressing limited capital availability, and understanding how malnutrition and ill health compound labour shortages.

Higher yields of cocoa beans can be achieved with moderate progress to more intensified management, including rehabilitation of existing cocoa, replanting with improved genotypes, improved cocoa agronomy, soil management and integrated pest and disease management (IPDM). And, better fermentation and drying procedures will produce higher quality beans which, when linked through more efficient value chains to niche markets, return significantly higher prices.



KEY FACTS

ACIAR Project No. HORT/2014/094

Duration: February 2016 to December 2021 (6 years)

Target areas: Papua New Guinea (PNG), Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ARoB)

Budget: A\$5,994,988

Project Leader

David Guest, University of Sydney, Australia

Key partners

- School of Public Health, Marie Bashir Institute, UoS
- ABG Department of Primary Industries and Marine Resources, PNG
- Cocoa Board, PNG
- University of Natural Resources and Environment, Vudal, PNG

ACIAR Research Program Manager

Irene Kernot

Objective

The overall aim of this project is to improve the profitability and vitality of smallholder cocoa farming families and communities.

The project's specific objectives are to:

- Improve the productivity, profitability and sustainability of cocoa farming and related enterprises.
- Understand and raise awareness of opportunities for improved nutrition and health to contribute to agricultural productivity and livelihoods.
- Foster innovation and enterprise development at community level.
- Strengthen value chains for cocoa and associated horticultural products.

Expected scientific results

- Data collection on farming, incomes, family decision making, roles of women and youth, family health, disease prevention and immunisations.
- Adaptation of smartphone technologies to support cocoa growing communities.

Expected outcomes

- Improved cocoa yields and quality.
- Engagement of researchers, cocoa buyers and exporters in sustaining cocoa's role in generating wealth and raising living standards.
- Improved incomes and health of rural communities in ARoB, through techniques that can be implemented in other diverse, developing countries.
- Improved family and community understanding of different roles and inputs of men and women along the value chain to help address gender equity issues in the sector.
- Empowerment of women and youth through diversification of household incomes into food crops, livestock and small enterprises specialising in cocoa fermentation and drying, marketing, nursery establishment and service provision, and training in financial literacy.
- Enhanced capacity within villages to manage and improve livelihood outcomes.

