



Forestry

Enabling Community Forestry in Papua New Guinea



Overview

In Papua New Guinea (PNG), where nearly two-thirds of the country's 46 million hectares of land are covered by forests and 97 per cent of forests are held under custom landownership, community forestry offers an opportunity to improve rural livelihoods. Forests provide households with fuelwood, housing timber and non-wood forest products, with women playing a key role in obtaining and managing these household resources.

Recognizing the forestry sector's huge contributions to the national economy, the Government of PNG is committed to building a sustainable and highly profitable forestry sector including increasing the area of planted forests. It views community forestry as vital to achieving this goal, focusing on five key factors that can influence the success of community forestry groups, namely: the importance of effective governance; secure property rights; social equity; government support; and tangible benefits.

Community-based reforestation and/or agroforestry in the grasslands has great potential to produce economic returns to clans, while also producing positive social and environmental outcomes. The results of the research undertaken in this project will be directly applicable to the PNG Forest Authority reforestation program '*Painim Graun, Plannim Diwai*'.

KEY FACTS

ACIAR Project No. FST/2016/153

Duration: October 2017 to September 2021 (4 years)

Target areas: Papua New Guinea

Budget: AU\$2,403,000

Project Leader

Grahame Applegate, University of the Sunshine Coast

Key partners

- Papua New Guinea Forest Authority
- Ramu Agri Industries Ltd
- Timber and Forestry Training College
- Department of Forestry
- PNG University of Technology

ACIAR Research Program Manager

Dr Nora Devoe



Research/Objective

The project's overall aim is to improve rural livelihoods through family-focused community reforestation and agroforestry in PNG.

The specific objectives are to:

- ◆ Design and test novel tree-based livelihood systems for family-focused community-based reforestation.
- ◆ Identify the methods by which family-focused community-based reforestation can be scaled-out to a landscape scale.
- ◆ Identify and pilot test institutional arrangements and policy recommendations that improve access to formal timber markets.

Expected scientific results

- ◆ Greater understanding of how livelihoods can be integrated into reforestation, including the elements that must be considered when designing and implementing reforestation programmes, both in PNG and elsewhere in the Asia-Pacific region.
- ◆ New knowledge to support PNG's reforestation program, including the selection of appropriate species and their associated silviculture as part of integrated tree and agricultural systems.
- ◆ Social and biophysical science findings, leading to improved implementation of community forestry policies and programmes in PNG, progress on the national planted forest goal and enhanced livelihoods for the communities that adopt them.
- ◆ Revised timber agreements and processes suitable for ecoforestry in PNG and revised reduced impact logging guidelines and management planning for ecoforestry.

Expected outcomes

- ◆ Improved research skills (social and biophysical sciences) of project partners.
- ◆ Recommendations to PNG Forest Authority for policy changes to facilitate improved application of community forestry.
- ◆ Improved skills of families for reforestation practices, including the establishment of integrated agricultural and forestry systems along with improved livelihood options and greater food security of community members.
- ◆ Improved access of communities to formal timber markets.



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