



# ACIAR and Papua New Guinea

Research for more productive and sustainable agricultural systems

**The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) is the Australian Government's specialist agricultural research for development agency, within the Australian aid program.**

ACIAR delivers the knowledge and technology that underpins more productive and sustainable agricultural systems and more resilient food systems, for the benefit of developing countries and Australia. We do this by investing in bilateral and regional research projects, global research collaborations and building the scientific and policy capabilities of our research partners.

## ACIAR and Papua New Guinea

For over 30 years, ACIAR has been working with Papua New Guinea (PNG) to improve agriculture productivity, sustainability and food system resilience. Since 2007, ACIAR has invested in over 83 projects, across agriculture, fisheries, forestry, gender and climate adaptation.

## Why agricultural research?

PNG's high annual population growth of 3.1% is a significant issue for the country's long-term economic development and compounds existing problems, such as food and nutritional security.

To address this, PNG has established the new National Strategy for Responsible and Sustainable Development. The strategy recognises that forestry and biodiversity, fisheries and marine resources, agriculture and livestock are strategic assets for investment and pillars for economic growth.

ACIAR research with PNG is contributing to this to help secure improvements in food supply, food access and rural incomes for smallholders through increased productivity and enhanced access to markets and services.



### QUICK FACTS



**27 projects**

Includes 3 small research activities



**A\$8.4 million**

Invested in 2020-2021



**+15 partner organisations**

Working with Australian researchers

### ACIAR research with Papua New Guinea contributes to:

- Increased sustainability of food production
- Improved benefits from agricultural technologies
- Increased gender equity and empowerment of women and girls
- Developing market opportunities for smallholder agricultural products
- Improved community forestry for high-value tree species
- Improved livelihoods from coastal fisheries and both inland and marine aquaculture
- Influencing policy through research outcomes

# ACIAR research with Papua New Guinea for 2020-2021

## Crops

- Developing a foundation for the long-term management of basal stem rot of oil palm (*CIM/2012/086*)
- Managing basal stem rot in oil palm by converting infected logs to biochar (*CROP/2019/147*)\*

## Fisheries

- Developing pearl industry-based livelihoods in the western Pacific (*FIS/2014/060*)
- Towards more profitable and sustainable pearl-industry based livelihoods in the western Pacific (*FIS/2019/122*)
- Improving technical and institutional capacity to support development of mariculture-based livelihoods and industry (*FIS/2014/061*)
- Institutional strengthening: translating fisheries research into policy and management (*FIS/2018/151*)
- Improving peri-urban and remote inland fish farming to benefit both community-based and commercial operators (*FIS/2018/154*)

## Forestry

- Enhancing value-added products and environmental benefits from agroforestry systems (*FST/2014/067*)
- Enabling community forestry in Papua New Guinea (*FST/2016/153*)
- Enhancing private sector-led development of the Canarium industry in Papua New Guinea – Phase 2 (*FST/2017/038*)
- Promoting smallholder teak and sandalwood plantations in Papua New Guinea and Australia (*FST/2018/178*)

## Horticulture

- Responding to emerging pest and disease threats to horticulture in the Pacific islands (*HORT/2016/185*)
- Developing the cocoa value chain in Bougainville (*HORT/2014/094*)
- Enterprise-driven transformation of family cocoa production in East Sepik, Madang, New Ireland and Chimbu Provinces of Papua New Guinea (*HORT/2014/096*)
- Developing improved crop protection options in support of intensification of sweetpotato production in Papua New Guinea (*HORT/2014/083*)
- Supporting commercial sweetpotato production and marketing in the Papua New Guinea highlands (*HORT/2014/097*)

- Safeguarding and deploying coconut diversity for improving livelihoods in the Pacific islands (*HORT/2017/025*)
- Protecting the coffee industry from coffee berry borer in Papua New Guinea and Australia (*HORT/2018/194*)

## Livestock

- Increasing the productivity and profitability of smallholder beekeeping enterprises (*LS/2014/042*)
- A One Health approach to establish surveillance strategies for Japanese encephalitis and zoonotic arboviruses (*LS/2018/213*)\*
- Drug sensitive and resistant tuberculosis and zoonotic infections as causes of lymphadenitis (*LS/2018/217*)\*

## Social Sciences

- Identifying opportunities and constraints for rural women's engagement in small-scale agricultural enterprises in Papua New Guinea (*ASEM/2014/054*)
- Improving livelihoods of smallholder coffee communities in Papua New Guinea (*ASEM/2016/100*)
- Climate-smart agriculture opportunities for enhanced food production in Papua New Guinea (*ASEM/2017/026*)
- Gender equitable agricultural extension through institutions and youth engagement in Papua New Guinea (*SSS/2018/137*)

## Soil and Land Management

- Optimising soil management and health in Papua New Guinea integrated cocoa farming systems (*SMCN/2014/048*)
- Better soil information for improving Papua New Guinea's agricultural production and land use planning – building on PNGRIS and linking to the Pacific Regional Soil Partnership (*SLAM/2019/106*)

\* small research project

## Building research capacity in the Pacific

Building capacity in partner countries is a key priority for ACIAR to extend and maximise the adoption of new knowledge and technologies. Our partnership model ensures partner countries have input into and ownership of research priorities and the delivery of research programs. The result is innovative and lasting local solutions that aim to bring choice and change to those who need it most. To date ACIAR has supported 87 Papua New Guineans, to gain postgraduate qualifications to build local research capacity. During 2020-21, ACIAR is renewing its activities to have a greater focus on leadership and career development through various short and medium-term programs. Our focus on postgraduate training will continue as new initiatives are developed and implemented.

## Contact

Doreen Iga | PNG Country Manager  
Doreen.Iga@aciarc.gov.au

Peter Horne | General Manager, Country Programs  
Canberra, Australia | peter.horne@aciarc.gov.au



Australian Centre  
for International  
Agricultural Research



More information available at [aciarc.gov.au](https://aciarc.gov.au)