



Australian Government

Australian Centre for
International Agricultural Research

Social Sciences

Gender equitable agricultural extension through institutions and youth engagement in Papua New Guinea.



Overview

Women smallholders in Papua New Guinea (PNG) undertake the major labour in farming, while also fulfilling valued social roles, including family care. However, they have few opportunities to access agricultural training and face unequal gendered family roles in labour and decision making.

Youth also face barriers to productive and valued roles in agriculture, but little research has been conducted in this area to understand how youth (particularly young women) relate to agricultural issues and how to engage youth in agricultural futures.

The Family Farm Teams (FFT) model has assisted women smallholders and their families to improve their livelihoods by developing an equitable and effective 'family business' approach to their farming. This project will scale and sustain the successful FFT approach by embedding it into core PNG institutions' agricultural programs and exploring agricultural challenges and enablers for youth.

KEY FACTS

ACIAR Project No. SSS/2018/137

Duration: October 2019 to March 2023 (4 years)

Target areas: Papua New Guinea (PNG)

Budget: A\$1,200,067

Project Leader

Dr Josephine Caffery, University of Canberra

Key partners

- Pacific Adventist University (PAU), PNG

ACIAR Research Program Manager

Dr Jayne Curnow



Objective

The project will adapt and apply the FFT approach to empower PNG women farmers through religious institutions and engage PNG youth in agriculture.

The objectives are to:

- Explore and develop the capacity of PNG churches to work in a gender inclusive way to engage rural agricultural communities in smallholder farm development.
- Explore and develop pathways for increasing PNG youth involvement in family farm teams and sustainable farming futures.

Expected outputs

- Identification of opportunities for youth within agriculture.
- Development and trial of an FFT youth approach using family-based action learning and peer education.
- Youth trained as agricultural Youth Community Educators through the FFT peer education approach.
- Development of a youth cohort as FFT researchers through the FFT peer education approach.

Expected scientific results

- Increased knowledge base for agricultural and social scientists developing gender—inclusive research and training approaches for women and youth, especially for those with low literacy in the agricultural sector.
- Transferable lessons for the development of women and youth agricultural-based activity through the churches and core PNG institutions will inform other PNG, Pacific Island and Australian church-based organisations.
- Adoption of church-based lessons and tools by the agricultural and social sciences communities to further engage women and youth in equitable agricultural family and community farming and research.
- Creation of data on effective elements of youth leadership training in the PNG and Solomon Islands agricultural context.
- Increased understanding of social and cultural norms and practices that influence family decision making and access to income and equality for women in smallholder families.

Expected outcomes

- Scale up and out of the FFT approach through church-based organisations' existing agricultural programs in rural and remote communities.
- Scale out of the FFT approach to youth examining the challenges, enablers, attitudes and aspirations of youth, to identify and develop roles for them in family farm businesses.
- Lifestyle and economic benefits to PNG rural farmers (women, men and youth) and partner churches.

