



Australian Government

Australian Centre for
International Agricultural Research

Social Sciences

Improving agricultural development opportunities for female smallholders in rural Solomon Islands



Overview

Female smallholder farmers in rural Solomon Islands find it challenging to access and participate in agricultural training, community-decision making and economic development.

A Family Farm Teams approach implemented in Papua New Guinea has successfully helped female smallholders and their families to improve their family livelihoods by developing an equitable and effective 'family business' approach to their farming activities.

This project will adapt the Family Farm Teams approach, and implement it in the Solomon Islands. It will also assess the potential for scale out in the Solomon Islands and other Pacific Island Countries. In doing so, the project will work with Live and Learn NGO and Solomon Islands' Mothers' Union, a cooperative, church-based women's network, to adapt and scale out the Family Farm Teams program using peer education and family-based action learning.

KEY FACTS

ACIAR Project No. SSS/2018/136

Duration: January 2020 to December 2024 (5 years)

Target areas: Solomon Islands

Budget: A\$875,000

Project Leader

Dr Deborah Hill, University of Canberra

Key partners

- Live and Learn, Solomon Islands
- Kastom Gaden Association, Solomon Islands
- Longgu District Mother's Union

ACIAR Research Program Manager

Dr Jayne Curnow



Objective

The aim of the project is to facilitate opportunities for equitable and effective agricultural development for Solomon Islands and female smallholder farmers and their families.

The objectives are to:

- Adapt the Family Farm Teams approach of agricultural extension to the Solomon Islands and assess its potential for scale out in the Solomon Islands and other Pacific Island Countries.
- Explore opportunities to improve agricultural livelihoods for subsistence and semi-subsistence female smallholders and their families in three Solomon Islands districts, and contribute knowledge that can guide their development in the future.

Expected scientific results

- Data analysis and knowledge of effective ways to improve agricultural development and livelihoods for female smallholders.
- Generation of information about the outcomes of agricultural extension and sustainable livelihood activities for women and their families.
- Analysis of the process and effectiveness of utilising existing women's networks for peer-to-peer learning and the scale-out of sustainable livelihood programs in Pacific Island Countries.
- Improved understanding of the social and cultural norms and practices that influence family decision-making and access to income for women in smallholder families.
- Increased knowledge about the role of culture in developing sustainable livelihoods.

Expected impact/outcomes

- Improved understanding of the role of culture in the adoption of gender-based approaches to sustainable livelihood development in the Solomon Islands.
- Increased knowledge of gender equitable communication and shared workloads in family.
- Adoption of opportunities to improve agricultural livelihoods, especially by female smallholder farmers.
- Understanding of socio-cultural factors that impact agricultural development for female smallholders and their families in three Solomon Island districts.
- Increased knowledge about socio-cultural issues, including gender and economic factors for subsistence and semi-subsistence female smallholders who want to access and implement new agricultural knowledge.



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