

Identifying appropriate strategies for reducing virus and weevil losses in sweetpotato production systems in Papua New Guinea and Australia



Key details

Location

Papua New Guinea

Duration

Start Sep 2012

End Jun 2015

Budget

AUD 684,990

Commissioned organisation

Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Partners

National Agricultural Research Institute, Papua New Guinea; Australian Sweetpotato Growers Inc; Secretariat of the Pacific Community

Project Leader

Michael Hughes, Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Program

Horticulture

Project code

HORT/2011/053

in PNG which is increasingly grown as a domestic market crop, catering to escalating demand from expanding urban centres.

In recent years, with growing concerns of food and nutritional insecurity in PNG, the crop has figured largely in ACIAR's portfolio of projects addressing factors limiting production, such as soil fertility, pests and diseases, and marketing.

Within the broader development goal of increasing the resilience of food and nutritional security, the project identified that farmer education of weevil biology and ecology, and a participatory research process to empower farmers to implement the strategies they develop is the most promising means of management.

This project was formerly known as PC/2011/053.

Project outcomes

- Assessed the value of pathogen-tested planting materials in reducing the impact of virus diseases.
- Identified the most promising management tactics for weevils in specific production systems.

Overview

This project aimed to identify the most promising strategies for managing sweetpotato pests and diseases in Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Australia.

Sweetpotato is a significant, year round, staple food

