

Improved management strategies for cocoa in Papua New Guinea



Key details

Location

Papua New Guinea

Duration

Start Jul 2014

End Nov 2018

Budget

AUD 1,109,194

Commissioned organisation

The University of Sydney

Partners

CAB International; Papua New Guinea Cocoa and Coconut Institute

Project Leader

David Guest - University of Sydney

Program

Horticulture

Project code

HORT/2012/026

Papua New Guinea is in crisis. Production in East New Britain Province, which formerly had the highest production, plummeted by 82% between 2008 and 2012. The main cause is cocoa pod borer, but past ACIAR projects indicated that eradicating cocoa pod borer in Papua New Guinea is impractical.

Primary scientific outputs of the project included versatile and region-specific extension guidelines for intensified cocoa management, involving cocoa pod borer-tolerant/resistant cocoa germplasm, improved pest and disease management (frequent and complete harvesting, pruning, sanitation, etc.), improved soil fertility, and recommendations to improve cocoa quality and market access.

Outcomes

The project delivered the following outcomes:

1. Guidelines for nursery best practice and safe movement of cocoa germplasm;
2. skilled human resource (master facilitators, facilitators/village extension workers & farmer trained in various aspects of cocoa production); and
3. Products e.g. publications and extension and communication materials (TOMF training manual, factsheets, etc.) that are used for communicating key messages and creating awareness.

Overview

This project aimed to support the sustainable intensification of cocoa production in Papua New Guinea through evaluating and disseminating new options to enhance productivity and profitability.

Despite growing global demand for cocoa and the economic importance of the crop, the cocoa industry in

