



Forestry

# Enhancing value added products and environmental benefits from agroforestry systems in the Pacific

## Overview

Approximately 80 per cent of people in Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands live in rural areas and rely on agriculture, fishing and forestry for their livelihoods. Agroforestry tree species are widely grown in the Pacific Islands, providing food, timber, non-wood forestry products and ecosystem services.

In PNG and the Pacific, most people are semi-subsistence smallholder farmers, with women often responsible for growing food. There is great potential to add value to primary products from agroforestry crops—a move that would help create jobs and enhance business opportunities for small and medium enterprises. Agroforestry crops, especially tree crops, may take several years to produce marketable products, which is why smallholders need incentives in the short term to encourage investment in tree crops. Tree crops can be integrated into agroforestry systems with other short-term crops, such as taro, sweet potato and banana, to produce a quicker return on investment; however, there is little information on the performance of these integrated agroforestry systems in terms of the best species, crop production and economic and environmental benefits to smallholders.



## KEY FACTS

**ACIAR Project No.** FST/2014/067

**Duration:** October 2015 to September 2019 (4 years)

**Target areas:** Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji

**Budget:** AU\$2,416,911

### Project leader

Prof Helen Wallace, University of the Sunshine Coast

### Key partners

- University of Adelaide
- Southern Cross University
- Ministry of Trade Tourism Industry and Commerce (Vanuatu)
- National Agriculture Research Institute (Papua New Guinea)
- Ministry of Commerce, Industry, Labour and Immigration (Solomon Islands)
- Secretariat of the Pacific Community (Fiji)

### ACIAR Research Program Manager

Dr Nora Devoe

## Research/Objective

**This project aims to enhance the economic, social and environmental benefits from market-focused agroforestry crop systems in the Pacific and foster improved management of degraded catchments in Fiji and Vanuatu.**

### The specific objectives are to:

- Identify multipurpose agroforestry crops with market potential to be value-added in all four countries.
- Develop techniques and enhance the ability of small and medium enterprises to participate in value-adding.
- Enable enhanced and gender equitable smallholder participation in agroforestry crop production.
- Develop and pilot test catchment revegetation systems linked to markets.
- Build capacity and disseminate research findings.

## Expected scientific results

- A clear understanding of key opportunities for value-adding to agroforestry crops in all four countries, and greater knowledge of value-adding methods and techniques.
- An understanding of opportunities, incentives and barriers to value-adding and agroforestry production.
- Recommendations on species mixes and pilot testing of agroforestry systems to facilitate revegetation in Fiji and Vanuatu.
- Improved understanding of approaches to gender equitable participation in agroforestry.

## Expected outcomes

- Improved financial status of: smallholders, by providing access to the cash economy and a market for their products; women, by expanding opportunities to sell products and for paid work for fruit and nut processing; communities, by reducing crop losses from spoilage; processors, by building capacity in value-adding and producing products targeted to market needs; and regions, through import substitution.
- Increased environmental benefits in areas where new agroforestry systems are replanted; agroforestry crops can reduce erosion and the impact of floods.
- Greater capacity in market analysis and value-adding and enhanced public-private collaboration in partner countries.



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