



Support to Rural Entrepreneurship, Investment and Trade (Streit Tok)

65 undergo cocoa propagation training

Sixty-five farmers completed a cocoa clonal seedling propagation training that was organised by the Cocoa Board of PNG at the Haripmo Cocoa Nursery, Yangoru/Saussia District, East Sepik province.

The training is a first step towards certification of registered professional cocoa budders. Yangoru/Saussia District currently leads in cocoa production, accounting for 28% of total export volume in East Sepik Province with a total value of K17 million in exports last year. There were 27 youths, 11 women and 27 adult men who attended the training.

Haripmo is a State-owned Nursery established in 2018 and it is managed by the Cocoa Board of PNG and District DAL office with the targeted production capacity of 1 million hybrid clone seedlings per year.

After the training, each trainee was provided with 50 rootstocks to bud with hybrid clonal budsticks. The strike rate for each trainee was measured after 14 days. The Cocoa Board provided certificates as registered professional budders based on the strike rate percentage.

Fifty certified professional budders are going to be employed following the training and certification. Two STREIT Programme team members, Rabi Rasaily and Ruth Sim, attended the closing ceremony of the cocoa budding training. The two took the opportunity to create awareness on STREIT PNG program to the trainees and farmers and local government officers.

A meeting was also held with Mr Jacob Yafai, the District Administrator (DA) and Mr Daryll Worimo, Cocoa Board Regional Manager, on site, at the Haripmo Cocoa Nursery. It was established that presently, around 300 000 rootstocks were available in a nursery in a ready to bud stage.

The DDA requested the STREIT program to support on budding these rootstocks with hybrid clone. In another meeting with the STREIT team, the Yangoru/ Saussia Member of Parliament requested STREIT program to support seedling production in Haripmo Nursery to meet its target.

However, the STREIT team highlighted that before determining the number of seedlings production from the nursery the assessment of existing cocoa blocks and fermentaries with facts and figures of cocoa blocks area and number of cocoa trees should be conducted. These data will guide the program on planning of appropriate interventions in the district.

The Yangoru/Saussia DDA has allocated K50,000 for the assessment of existing cocoa blocks and production in the district. It is expected that a report will be ready in three months. This will then enable the STREIT programme to support the seedling production at Haripmo Nursery.

STREIT FACTS

Full name: Support to Rural Entrepreneurship,
Investment and Trade in Papua New Guinea
Co-Financed: European Union
Budget: USD 89 800 589
Duration: 1/DEC/2019 30/NOV/2024 Implementation:
United Nations joint programme Administrative
Agent: FAO,
Partners: ILO, UNCDF, ITU, UNDP

STREIT Team, Cocoa exporters in inception meeting

A meeting to sensitise cocoa and vanilla exporters about STREIT PNG programme and understand issues and challenges they face was held in April. This meeting, the first of its kind, was to create a platform to enable the exporters of the two value chains to collaborate with the STREIT Programme so as to improve value in export of cocoa and vanilla. Additionally, it was also an opportunity for the STREIT PNG Programme Deputy Programme Coordinator, Pavel Burian to provide a brief on the overall objective of the programme to the exporters. Burian elaborated that in terms of cocoa more focus will be on how to significantly improve the way the beans are dried and processed. Burian added that some of the activities have been affected by COVID-19. "Once all these are lifted, we will work faster as expected to deliver our activities as planned," said Burian. The STREIT PNG Programme Deputy Programme Coordinator also mentioned that EU is scouting and collecting ideas to continue production of cocoa during the COVID-19 for 3 to 6 months and encouraged the participants to provide ideas on how to do that.

On their part, exporters highlighted the main challenges as transportation and road accessibility. Other issues which were raised during the meeting include freight cost, dry bean quality, high management fee for exporters charged by government, corruption, non-issuance of fermentary license, not enough international buyers and shortage of machinery. Exporters agreed to be one of the members in cocoa technical working group to provide inputs and explore areas of cooperation and or partnership with the STREIT programme. Going forward, it was agreed that the exporters would explore areas of cooperation/partnership with the STREIT program. It was also agreed, during the meeting that the terms of reference for the technical working group be finalized. The exporters were also expected to share information on fermentary and road conditions through their cocoa farmer group as well as the inventory of cocoa blocks of their farmer groups.

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Cocoa budders contracted for 28 000 hybrid clone seedlings propagation

Cocoa Industry Board certified cocoa budders were contracted to propagate 28,000 rootstocks with 18 hybrid clone varieties released by Cocoa Industry Board. The budding activity was conducted by 10 budders in DAL Hawaiian Nursery, Wewak district. The early initiation of budding of these seedlings is crucial for timely availability and distribution of clone seedlings for the establishment of budwood gardens and rehabilitation of cocoa blocks.

FEEDBACK?
Any praise, gossip or grumbles you may wish to share?
You can Tok Streit with us!
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