

PROGRAMME NEWSLETTER

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STREIT PNG - a Game Changer



Helen (middle) and family at the cocoa training.

At 25 years of age, Helen Hwana, of Nienguanje village in Wewak, East Sepik Province of Papua New Guinea, never took a moment to try her hand at cocoa budding. She always thought it was something that was done by others, mostly male farmers, despite the fact that cocoa budding is a very critical skill for improved production. Helen is a cocoa farmer, working with her family on their piece of land.

Things changed for Helen in July when she got an opportunity to try cocoa budding. For her, this was a whole new experience and she is excited to take part in the STREIT training that afforded her and others an opportunity to learn the critical skill of cocoa budding or propagation.

She says learning the new skill was not without incident. *"My hands were shaky on the first day but I was able to bud 50 seedlings after four days. I'm excited to learn something new and will train my family members in our gardens,"* says Helen after completing the training of trainers' course on cocoa budding.

Helen was part of a group of eight women who participated in cocoa budding training rolled out by the provincial Cocoa Board, supported by the FAO led and the European Union (EU) co-funded Support to Rural Entrepreneurship, Investment and Trade Papua New Guinea (STREIT PNG).

Helen's mother, Angeline, was proud of her daughter's participation at the training session. Cocoa budding is an important skill, Mum Angeline said, because it will enable Helen to train other family members as well as work on their piece of land and be more productive.

Governor endorses STREIT PNG Programme plans

The European Union co-financed STREIT PNG Programme in the Sepiks is expected to bring more income earning opportunities to over 250 000 people in the Province as well as employment, better roads, access to finance and better telecommunication network coverage. This was unveiled in a strategy plan for the programme delivery presented to the East Sepik Governor - Hon. Allan Bird and the Provincial government administration team by Dr. Pavel Burian (Deputy Programme Coordinator) and Dr. Nchinda Valentine (Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist) on Thursday, 16 July 2020.



STREIT FACTS

Full name: Support to Rural Entrepreneurship, Investment and Trade in Papua New Guinea

Co-Financed: European Union

Budget: EURO 81 300 000/USD 89 470 440

Duration: 1/JAN/2020 31/MAY/2024

Implementation: United Nations joint programme

Administrative Agency: FAO

Partners: ILO, ITU, UNCDF, UNDP and Government of Papua New Guinea

The governor saluted the programme team for integrating the Provincial and national development priorities into the overall delivery strategy and activities to be carried out by the STREIT PNG Programme. He did not only endorse the delivery plan but appreciated the fact that programme integrates gender and cultural dimensions in the programme's delivery mechanism. He called on the team to count on his support and that of the GoPNG administration for the successful implementation of the Programme in the Province.

STREIT to support farmers in clusters



STREIT officers with Gawi LLG President and farmers at Pagwi waterfront.

The STREIT PNG team in Wewak, in collaboration with provincial DAL, cocoa, fisheries and commerce divisions visited Angoram and Wosera-Gawi districts in East Sepik Province in June to raise awareness on the kind of support available under the European Union Co-financed programme.

STREIT PNG Deputy Programme Coordinator Dr. Pavel Burian led the first visit to Angoram where the team saw a market facility where fish products and other goods are sold. One of the activities under STREIT PNG is to ensure reliable and decent market facilities as an enabling environment to add value to fish.

The officers also observed the current situation of the Saramandi Cocoa Research facility and a cocoa nursery at Kasmin village supported under the provincial DAL and Cocoa Board 'Fama Halivim Fama' initiative. The group was identified as one of the potential beneficiaries of EU co-financed STREIT PNG programme for the expansion of nursery and rehabilitation of cocoa blocks.

On Tuesday 30 June, Dr. Rabi Rasaily (STREIT PNG Technical Specialist - Cocoa, Vanilla and Energy) led the

team to Pagwi waterfront in Wosera-Gawi district and met with farmers, district officers and Gawi LLG President Leo Singut, where he explained the programme's objective and highlighted work under three value chains (cocoa, vanilla and fisheries) and the enabling environment where active participation of women and youth are encouraged.

Dr. Nchinda Valentine (Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist) added that the EU co-financed STREIT PNG Programme being implemented by FAO and other UN agencies will support farmers in cluster groups. In addition, the programme works with farmers who are already involve in some activities they are good at or capable of doing.

Hence, it was emphasised that farmers and value chains stakeholders in programme implementation districts with the support of their local administrators, DAL, Cocoa, Vanilla and Fisheries officers must share true information for the STREIT PNG team to know them well and to support them better to develop and expand their enterprises.

The team also visited a cocoa bud wood garden at Burui village supported by the provincial Smart Cocoa Programme and a fishpond.

One observation for budwood gardens was the lack of good water supply for nursery set-up in the grasslands or plains in Wosera-Gawi district.

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