

ANNEX VI INTERIM NARRATIVE REPORT

- This report must be completed and signed by the Contact person.
- The information provided below must correspond to the financial information that appears in the financial report.
- Please complete the report using a typewriter or computer
- Please expand the paragraphs as necessary.
- **Please refer to the Special Conditions of your grant contract and send one copy of the report to each address mentioned.**
- The Contracting Authority will reject any incomplete or badly completed reports.
- The answer to all questions must cover the reporting period as specified in point 1.6.

1. Description

- 1.1. Name of beneficiary of grant contract: **National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) of Papua New Guinea** (PG-2009-ENG-1809852755)
- 1.2. Name and title of the Contact person: Dr Workneh Ayalew
- 1.3. Name of partners in the Action:
 - 1.3.1. University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU) (EuropeAid ID number¹: AT-2007-DPL-2711241106)
 - 1.3.2. Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) (EuropeAid ID number: *derogation sought*)
 - 1.3.3. Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) Vanuatu (EuropeAid ID number: VU-2009-FSD-1509831023).
- 1.4. Title of the Action: Generation and adaptation of improved agricultural technologies to mitigate climate change-imposed risks to food production within vulnerable smallholder farming communities in Western Pacific countries
- 1.5. Contract number: **DCI/FOOD/2010/257-394**
- 1.6. Start date and end date of the reporting period: 15 February 2011 to 14 February 2016.
- 1.7. Target country(ies) or region(s):
 - 1.7.1. Papua New Guinea (Five communities at Bena Bena in Eastern Highlands Province, Tambul in Western Highlands Province, Derin in Madang Province, Murukanam in Madang Province and Hisiu in Central Province);
 - 1.7.2. Solomon Islands (three communities at Aruligo in Guadalcanal Province, Buma in Malaita Province, and Hunda & Kena in Western Province)..
 - 1.7.3. Vanuatu (three communities at Siviri in Shefa Province, Middle Bush in Tanna Province and Esema in Shefa Province).

¹ See footnote 2.

1.8. Final beneficiaries &/or target groups² (if different) (including numbers of women and men): Smallholder farmers in stress vulnerable locations: i.e. 5 locations in Papua New Guinea (500 households), 3 in Solomon Islands (300 households) and 3 in Vanuatu (300 households). Final beneficiaries are estimated at 2.4 million smallholder crop-livestock mixed farmers in the three countries.

1.9. Country(ies) in which the activities take place (if different from 1.7): Same as in 1.7 above.

2. Assessment of implementation of Action activities

2.1. Executive summary of the Action

As reflected in the report of the Independent Project Progress Assessment report (Annex 6) the project is well on track. On completion of the extended needs assessment exercise, after full execution of all planned community and stakeholder consultations, the list of activities and expected outputs was refined (Annex 1), and rolling out of activities started. The participatory needs assessment exercise has raised a lot of public awareness on food security risks associated with climate change and extreme climate events, and brought out local resilient options for food production that need to be strengthened and built upon when introducing new options. The process also contributed to local capacity building in effectively engaging local communities and other stakeholders for collective action. This is expected to influence positively the conduct of on-going and planned rural livelihoods projects across the three countries.

The third meeting of the Action Coordination Committee was delayed by three months because of the New Year holiday season. Two of the three planned sub-contracts were awarded at the end of Year 2. Unforeseen processes that led to the much delayed release of Year 2 budget caused delays in procurement of some supplies, but overall progress remains unaffected.

All project offices and teams are operating, and essential administrative support services are in place. The visibility of the EU contribution is being ensured through publicity articles on printed and electronic media, institutional newsletters, office as well as project site signboards, asset stickers and media releases.

2.2. Activities and results

Please list all the activities of the contract implemented during the reporting period as per Annex 1.

Activity 1:

Activity No.	Activity description	Implementing Body	Status of implementation
1.1	Action coordination, planning and review; Steering Committee Meetings	NARI (Applicant), BOKU (Partner 1), MAL (Partner 2) & DARD (Partner 3)	Well in progress as planned. First meeting of the Steering Committee was held in Honiara on 11 May 2011. The second planned meeting was held in Port Vila on 18 July 2012 (see Annex 2). The third scheduled meeting was postponed to end of April 2013, due to the New Year Holiday season overlapping with end of project Year 2.

² “Target groups” are the groups/entities who will be directly positively affected by the project at the Project Purpose level, and “final beneficiaries” are those who will benefit from the project in the long term at the level of the society or sector at large.

1.2	Action offices established, staffed, equipped and managed	NARI, BOKU, MAL & DARD	All offices established and fully equipped as planned at Applicant and Partner institutions. Participating staff nominated and fully assigned; replacements have been brought in for those who have since departed.
1.3	Action Inception Workshops	NARI, BOKU, MAL & DARD	Accomplished as planned during Year 1 from March to May 2011.
2.1	Identification of target community groups in areas of PNG, SI and VU at risk from drought, excess rainfall or sea water inundation	NARI, MAL & DARD	Completed and reported in full during Year 1.
2.2	Baseline surveys in target communities and farmer participatory workshops to assess needs, identify pilot sites	NARI, MAL & DARD	Baselines surveys were completed and reported on during Year 1. Data analysis and reporting back the results to the participating communities continued to the third quarter of Year 2. The novel approach of assessing and validating expressed as well as revealed community needs took a few more months to complete. This also included reporting these results to relevant provincial, district and site-level stakeholders, and enriching the suggested interventions by links with on-going and planned actions of stakeholders in and around the project sites (see Annex 1). Partner institutions in Solomon islands (MAL) and Vanuatu (DARD) were handed over the original complete data sets both in hard and electronic copies for archiving and further research. As part of the data hand-over, a few researchers from MAL and DARD were given practical training in the management and analysis of the survey data at NARI.
3.1	Rural appraisal surveys to assess water accessibility and current water use/management by target communities in PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, and to identify pilot sites	BOKU, assisted by NARI, MAL & DARD	Most of the survey was conducted during Year 2 due to delayed arrival at NARI of the BOKU post-doc scientist in December 2011 because of long visa processes; nevertheless, all sites in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu were covered during Year 2 and those in PNG were initially covered rapid exploratory surveys followed by in-depth appraisals in two sites, by involving three attachment graduate students from BOKU. Two brief technical reports by these students are attached as Annex 3 and 4. Two other students also contributed to field appraisals in Vanuatu (Annex 5) and Solomon Islands (Annex 7).
4.1	Source alternative sweet potato varieties from national and international collections which are tolerant of moisture excesses deficits or saline conditions	NARI	Laboratory facilities and supplies have been put in place to start the screening work. Rehabilitation of tissue culture laboratory and screen house at NARI was completed and essential supplies secured in preparation for the screening work. Initiation of sweet potato <i>in vitro</i> started in September 2012 with a total of 20 accessions. More were added gradually. Testing of protocol for excess moisture screening commenced in November. Preliminary phenology grouping trial started in February 2013 and will end

			in June. Rehabilitation of the MAL mini tissue culture laboratory is nearly done.
4.4	Sourcing other crop species/varieties with tolerance to excess precipitation, moisture deficit and soil salinity conditions	NARI	African yam (<i>Dioscorea rotundata</i>) was identified as a drought tolerant and preferred crop and bulking up of planting material is underway on-station at Bubia and Laloki in PNG. Preparations are being made for on-farm evaluation. Preparations underway to import drought tolerant Cassava and Xanthosoma (taro) from the Regional germplasm Centre in Fiji.
5.1	Assessing the potential for improving farm productivity through diversifying livestock assets and improved cyclical use of crop and livestock inputs in stress situations	NARI, MAL, KGA DARD, VARTC	The needs assessment exercise led to the identification of preferred livestock diversification options, and these will be implemented on priority basis. In most cases local sources of breeding stock are available, hence avoiding the lengthy process of importing breeding stock from outside the countries. As part of this, three small poultry egg incubators were purchased and set up in the three countries.
5.2	Sourcing and identifying forages tolerant of excess moisture and saline soil conditions, e.g. grasses, legumes, and multipurpose shrubs such as Mulberry.	NARI, MAL, DARD	None of the project sites have priority livestock activities that need substantial improved forage development; most wish to improve the dual food-feed use of staple crops (sweet potato, cassava). A few local leguminous shrub species have been identified for testing as feed for pigs and goats.
5.3	Pilot test diversified livestock feeding systems in smallholder communities in target communities in PNG, SI and Vu		Farmer training and trial preparations underway at three sites in PNG, one site in Solomon Islands and two sites in Vanuatu that have elected to improve their pig and chicken production. Comparative demonstration feeding trials as well as model improved farms will start in April 2013. The NARI broiler concentrate allocated for piloting in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu shipped to site; candidate institutions that can commercialise the concentrate have also been identified and engaged to take part in the piloting exercises.
5.4	Assessing existing mechanisms for supplying breeding stock, and demonstrating institutional or community-based breeding facilities		Within the limited elected re-stocking activities, model farmers who will demonstrate improved management of breeding stock of village chicken and pigs have been identified and their specific objectives for improvement documented. The three small poultry egg incubators set up to start supplying project sites with chicks. Baseline data on existing practices is documented.

2.3. Please list activities that were planned and that you were not able to implement, explaining the reasons for these.

One major activity that was not implemented on time was the third regular meeting of the Action Coordination Committee due to overlap of the end of the project year with the New Year Holiday season in all the countries. It is now set for 30 April 2013. A few minor delayed sub-activities, such as set up of rain-out shelters and development of water supply systems

occurred during Year 2 but these do not affect overall progress of the project. One reason for the delays was the late release of Year 2 project budget; another reason is unavailability of a local supplier of the rain-out shelter.

The signing of three sub-contracts with associate institutions was delayed until the beginning of Year 3, mainly because the specific activities to be undertaken at the level of each site were not very clear until the needs assessment exercise was completed; and hence the roles of various stakeholders, and in particular the services that they can be sub-contracted for, were not immediately apparent. Negotiations for sub-contracting were initiated soon after the final list site-level outputs and activities firmed up (Annex 1).

- 2.4. What is your assessment of the results of the Action so far? Include observations on the performance and the achievement of outputs, outcomes and impact in relation to specific and overall objectives, and whether the Action has had any unforeseen positive or negative results (please quantify where possible; refer to Logframe Indicators).

As reflected in the report of the Independent Project Progress Assessment report (Annex 6) the project is well on track; preparatory activities have been completed and site level actions initiated. Intervention in the form of training and supply of inputs will roll out from Year 3. The extensive participatory needs assessment exercise has raised a lot of public awareness on food security risks associated with climate change and extreme climate events, and brought out local resilient options for food production that need to be strengthened and built upon when introducing new options. The process also contributed to local capacity building in effectively engaging local communities and other stakeholders for collective action. It is too early to measure demonstrable impact of the project at this stage, but the process has encouraged local institutions to work together towards enhanced food production capacity at village level. This is expected to influence positively the conduct of on-going and planned rural livelihoods projects across the three countries.

A possible negative influence from the extended needs assessment exercise was the risk to raising expectations of communities. This was recognised very early and field teams were advised in advance to clarify the role and scope of the project and what is expected of the communities themselves.

Please list potential risks that may have jeopardized the realisation of some activities and explain how they have been tackled. Refer to logframe indicators.

If relevant, submit a revised logframe, highlighting the changes.

A notable constraint during Year 2 was the delayed transfer of budget. This was caused by: 1) the much longer time than expected it took the nominated auditor to submit the Year 1 expenditure verification report; and 2) the pre-condition of at least 70% of Year 1 budget expenditure for the release of the second pre-financing instalment. Both have subsequently been resolved and the Year 2 budget was eventually credited to the project account on 05 December 2012, during Q3 of Year 2. A few major procurements had to be held back when the account balance was too low; to allow essential project activities continue unabated, NARI advanced PGK200,000 in October 2012.

Perceived security uncertainties in the highlands of PNG during and after the General Elections in June and July 2012 forced us to delay planned community level engagements by a few months, and attempts were made to make up for lost time by running tight field level actions during the third quarter.

Please list all contracts (works, supplies, services) above 10.000€ awarded for the implementation of the action during the reporting period, giving for each contract the amount, the award procedure followed and the name of the contractor.

No single contract worth above Euro10,000 was awarded during Year 2 of the project; the highest ones were Euro9,537 and Euro9,040 paid to the NARI official travel agent (PNG Travel Services) for aggregate costs of several air tickets for research teams travelling to the three countries during the series of reporting back workshops at the project sites. Tickets are purchased after comparing current available ticket prices and the Official Travel Agent is given priority to match the lowest quote available, which they do in most cases. In a few instances, cheaper tickets were purchased from other service providers. The highest payment made for a single supplier was Euro6,215 for procurement of water and soil sampling kit from a supplier in a member of the EU, Austria.

2.5. Please provide an updated action plan ³

Timelines of the refined list of activities are presented in Table 1, with all the modifications made identified (strikethrough for deletions and red font for additions). Overall the time lines remain the same but the actual activities have been aligned outcomes of the needs assessment exercise.

³ This plan will cover the financial period between the interim report and the next report.

Table 1: Continued

Western Pacific NARI EU-ARD Project			Year 1										Year 2		Year 3		Year 4		Year 5					
			Semester 1					Semester 2					Subsequent Semesters											
Activity			Implementing body		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Crop improvement (sweet potato)	4.1 Source alternative sweet potato varieties from national and international collections which are tolerant of soil moisture excesses or deficits or saline soil conditions	NARI (Applicant)																						
	4.2 Development of elite breeding material of sweet potato for screening for drought, excess moisture and salinity tolerances via the on-going breeding programme in PNG (deleted as not in line with expressed needs of communities)	NARI (Applicant)																						
	4.2 Screening indigenous germplasm, locally bred and imported varieties of sweet potato, using in vivo and in vitro simulation methods, to assess tolerance to drought, moisture excess and salinity, and identify promising varieties	NARI (Applicant)																						
	4.3 Validation and piloting of sweet potato adaptability to different stresses at pilot sites and introduction of other crops and crop varieties in target communities in PNG, SI and Vu.	NARI, MAL & DARD																						
Crop diversification	4.4 Sourcing other crop species/varieties with tolerance to excess precipitation, moisture deficit and soil salinity conditions. Piloting of selected improved cultivation practices for priority staple crops in target communities in PNG, SI, VU according to expressed needs	NARI (Applicant)																						
	4.5 Evaluating the performance of selected promising sweet potato varieties under simulated moisture excess and moisture deficit conditions. Piloting of processing options of sweetpotato and cassava for food, feed, storage	NARI (Applicant)																						
	4.6 Evaluating the performance of selected potentially stress tolerant crops, under simulated stress conditions	NARI (Applicant)																						
	4.7 Validation and testing of sweet potato (and other crops) adaptability to different stresses at pilot sites in target comm's in PNG, SI and Vu (now 4.3)																							
	4.8 Assessment of existing mechanisms for provision of quality seed to farming communities in PNG, SI, Vu and recommendations for improvement	NARI, MAL & DARD																						
Livestock diversification	5.1 Assessing the potential for improving farm productivity through diversifying livestock assets and improved cyclical use of crop and livestock inputs in stress-situations where excess rainfall, soil moisture deficit or saline soil conditions are problematic	NARI (Applicant)																						
	5.2 Sourcing and identifying forages tolerant of excess moisture and saline soil conditions, e.g. grasses, legumes, and multipurpose shrubs such as Mulberry	NARI (Applicant)																						
	5.3 Evaluate the nutritive value of local feed resources and conduct feeding trials	NARI (Applicant)																						
	5.3 Pilot test diversified livestock feeding systems in smallholder communities in target communities in PNG, SI and Vu	NARI, MAL & DARD																						
	5.4 Assessing existing mechanisms for supplying breeding stock and demonstrating institutional or community breeding facilities	NARI, MAL & DARD																						
Information exchange & networking	6.1 Promotion of internet based discussion forums/blogs relating to crops/cropping systems, livestock and water management	NARI (Applicant)																						
	6.2 Establishment / strengthening of annual regional multi stakeholder and researcher-extension provider forums in PNG, SI and Vu	NARI, MAL & DARD																						
	6.3 Resources and methods developed for the dissemination of adaptation information to vulnerable smallholder communities in PNG, SI and Vu	NARI, MAL & DARD																						

3. Partners and other Co-operation

- 3.1. How do you assess the relationship between the formal partners of this Action (i.e. those partners which have signed a partnership statement)? Please provide specific information for each partner organisation.

Partner 1	University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU), University (Europe-Aid ID number: AT-2007-DPL-2711241106)	During Year 2 BOKU has fully met its partnership commitments under this project. The post-doc scientist, Dr. Dominik Ruffeis, has been on duty since December 2011. Prof. Willibald Loiskandl also paid visit to PNG and Vanuatu at the end of Year 2. Mr. Roland Treitler also visited PNG from 19 to 29 October 2012. BOKU further offered to assign more graduate students to work on project research sites. No operational constraints encountered. But the long delay in transfer of budget to pay for Dr. Ruffeis's time was cause of concern on both sides; the transfer was eventually made in December 2012 after project budget was credited into the project account. To avoid further inconvenience, the Year 3 payment due to BOKU was transferred in February 2013.
Partner 2	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL), Government body	MAL also met its commitments in full. Mr. Jules Damutalau was promptly assigned as replacement project sub-coordinator when Mr. John Bosco Sulifaoa left his position early in Year 2. Mr. Jimi Saelea, Under-Secretary Technical, was assigned as the senior project scientist when Mr. Maclean Vaqalo moved on, but the replacement took some time. Rehabilitation of the MAL tissue culture laboratory took much longer than expected. No major constraints encountered.
Partner 3	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) Vanuatu, Government Body (Europe-Aid ID number: VU-2009-FSD-1509831023)	DARD and the designated team remained actively involved in all planned activities, and no constraints have been encountered. When the project sub-coordinator in Vanuatu (Mr. Ruben Markward) left his position in DARD, Mr. Peter Iesul was immediately assigned to replace him. Similarly, when the senior project scientist (Mr. James Wasi) was seconded full-time to another project, Dr. Roger Malapa of VARTC, an associate institution to the project, was assigned to replace him. Limited human capacity in the conduct of substantive research at project sites remained a challenge in Vanuatu. VARTC, the mandated government agricultural research institution in Vanuatu, continued to serve the project very well. At the end of Year 2, VARTC signed the planned sub-contract to undertake specific R&D activities.

- 3.2. How would you assess the relationship between your organisation and State authorities in the Action countries? How has this relationship affected the Action?

NARI has had smooth and effective collaboration with Government institutions in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu as well as those in PNG. In Solomon Islands, MAL, the Solomon Islands Meteorological Service and the Water Resources Department worked closely with NARI on planned project activities. Likewise, in Vanuatu, DARD, VARTC, the Vanuatu Meteorological Service and the Department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources have all been readily collaborating with NARI. During Year 2 various stakeholder and community level consultations involved good participation of government as well as non-government institutions. When needs arise to interact with State authorities, partner institutions in the three countries handled all formal communications with them on behalf of the project, and the project office did not have to deal with state authorities directly. No operational problems of

any kind were encountered during Year 2 of project implementation. Limited manpower and research facilities in all the countries appear to limit options for action.

3.3. Where applicable, describe your relationship with any other organisations involved in implementing the Action:

- Associate institutions: the project has been working with the following nine recognised associate institutions across the three project countries:
 - I. Department of Agriculture and Livestock (DAL) of PNG: provincial and district officers of DAL took part in all site level community reporting back and consultation meetings of the five sites. Some also visited project participating communities and offered support in facilitating community activities.
 - II. National Weather Service (NWS) of PNG: it is during Year 3 of the project that NWS will be directly involved in project activities. This relates to preparation and delivery of more farmer friendly weather forecast services that take account of associated risks to food security.
 - III. Solomon Islands Meteorological Service: The office was represented at the project stakeholder consultation on the results of the needs assessment. They were engaged in technical discussions on how to generate a more informative weather forecast service that responds to needs of communities at project sites. This discussion will continue early in Year 3.
 - IV. Kastom Gaden Association (KGA) of Solomon Islands: Several of their senior technical staffs have been actively involved in all community level and stakeholder consultations held in Solomon Islands. They have also accepted responsibility to manage a small poultry egg incubator provided by the project on behalf of MAL. The planned sub-contract agreement was also finalised and executed.
 - V. World Vision (WV) Pacific Development Group: During Year 2, this international NGO underwent re-structuring and the country offices became more independent in their operations. As a result, the planned sub-contracting of this associate institution for activities across three countries could not materialise. Given the planned project activities that relate to activities in water and sanitation, especially in Vanuatu and PNG, technical staffs of WV in these countries have been actively engaged in the stakeholder consultations. Lately the Vanuatu branch of WV informed the project of its inability to assign a member of their staff to work with us at the project site on Tanna Island (Middlebush). The project will consider other available options
 - VI. Ministry of Mines and Energy – Water Resources Management Division of Solomon Islands: in Solomon Islands water supply related activities did not come out strongly in the needs assessment exercise. Nevertheless experts from this division were represented on the stakeholder consultation in Honiara, and are interested to continue to collaborate with the project.
 - VII. Vanuatu Meteorological Service: this associate institution has been forthcoming in all engagements with the project, and has expressed strong interest in the planning and implementation of more responsive early warning and weather forecast services relevant to communities around the project sites. They are very supportive of project activities in Vanuatu as a whole; they are hosting the National Advisory Committee on Climate Change (NACCC) and hence trying to link up project activities with other on-going and planned initiatives in Vanuatu.
 - VIII. Department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources of Vanuatu: The department has agreed to provide relevant data to support planning activities of the project.

IX. Vanuatu Agricultural Research and Technical Centre (VARTC): Senior management as well as technical staff have been actively engaged throughout Year 2 in all activities that involve them. They took management responsibility on behalf of DARD for the small poultry egg incubator purchased by the project. They are also involved in the supply of planting materials for staple crops.

- Sub-contractor(s) (if any):

The project has budgeted for three sub-contracts to be awarded to three associate institutions. In March of Year 2, two sub-contracts were awarded, one to KGA and the other to VARTC, but the third one is still pending. Negotiations with World Vision towards the third sub-contract have taken much longer time than expected. The project made a decision to award the sub-contract to the Vanuatu branch of World Vision, but they declined to take up planned tasks on the ground that they could not assign their staff on these tasks.

- Final Beneficiaries and Target groups:

The line up of immediate project beneficiary communities at the eleven project sites in the three countries remains unchanged from what was reported at the end of Year 1. Target remains the same, to reach out for 100 households per site.

- Other third parties involved (including other donors, other government agencies or local government units, NGOs, etc)

As also reported for Year 1, a number of institutions not mentioned in the project design document, have been involved in the project across the three countries:

PNG:

- Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA): they are interested to work with the project at sites where they are active, namely Kopafo, Tambul and Hisiu. Their representatives have attended stakeholder meetings and affirmed their readiness to contribute to the project effort. Focus of their work is on the production and marketing of fresh produce of vegetables and fruits.
- The Highland Piggery and Farmers and Association: this is a strong CVO active in the highlands of PNG. Their members are actively involved in the project at the Tambul site.
- The Papua New Guinea Women in Agriculture Association (PNGWiA): this is a gender-based association promoting entrepreneurship by women. The Association has active units operating in two of the five project sites, and can be instrumental in addressing emerging gender related issues at site level.

Solomon Islands:

- Vois Blong Meri Solomons: a local women-focused NGO in Solomon Islands with good networks to advance women-focused services. A few of their staff have been actively involved in project activities and will continue to do so around project sites where they are active.
- Quality Hatchery Ltd.: this private company is interested in commercialising a broiler feed formulation being tested in Solomon Islands. They will continue to be involved in on-going testing of the feed.

Vanuatu:

- Department of Livestock & Quarantine: A few of their officers have been directly involved during Year 2 in stakeholder and community level workshops and training and are set to continue participating in project activities related to livestock.
- SPC-GIZ project on Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Islands Region by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ): this is

a regional climate change related multi-country and multi-institutional project operating under the Vanuatu Meteorological Service. This project complements our project and is ready to take up proven technologies for testing outside project sites. A new major project financed by the World Bank will out-scale proven technologies in Vanuatu.

- Farm Support Association (FSA): a local NGO involved in extension of agricultural technologies at village level; it was represented at all consultations in Vanuatu. Their farm input trading wing is very useful in supplying inputs around project sites. They are therefore engaged in discussions about commercialising a feed formulation that the project is testing in Vanuatu.
- Live and Learn: another local NGO delivering extension services to farming communities. They will assist in disseminating information and knowledge to farming communities outside the project sites.

3.4. Where applicable, outline any links and synergies you have developed with other actions.

During Year 2, the following links and synergies, which were identified in Year 1, have been developed further:

PNG:

1. Drought Preparedness in PNG: both projects are led by the applicant institution (NARI) and are complementary. Both projects are operating to promote synergies at project sites on activities related to managing drought conditions.
2. Two new projects under preparation take advantage of the information and processes generated by this project, and members of the NARI project team are active part in their design. The first project on “Agricultural innovations for improved livelihoods in the Highlands Region” is to be funded by the European Union (RED2) and the full proposal was finalised; the second one on “Coping with Climate Change for Resilient PNG Agricultural Communities” is to be funded by AusAID.
3. NARI is implementing three ACP financed capacity building projects, all of which have links and synergies with our project. 1) Capacity Building in Core Research-Related Competencies and Networking among Staff of Agricultural Research Institutions in Three Western Pacific Countries; 2) Capacity Development for Research Planning, Programming and Implementation in Agricultural R&D Institutions of Western Pacific Countries; and 3) Capacity Development in Conservation and Utilisation of Invaluable Plant Genetic Resources in Western Pacific Countries. Staffs of partner and associate institutions are involved as trainers as well as trainees in all these projects, contributing to objectives of both projects at the same time.

Solomon Islands:

1. Pacific Adaptation for Climate Change: this project is on-going covering wider areas of the country. Information generated in this project will be made available for other areas through this project.
2. Enhancing resilience of communities in Solomon Islands to the adverse effects of climate change (SWoCK): a major broad project financed by the UNDP and complementary to this project.

3. Rural Development Project (RDP) financed by the World Bank with focus on strengthening services, like agricultural extension.

Vanuatu:

1. SPC-GIZ project on Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Islands Region: this project operates in close collaboration with our project and is interested in extending proven technologies in Vanuatu beyond the three project sites.
 2. Increasing Resilience to Climate Change and Natural Hazard (IRCCNH): this multi-institutional project financed the World Bank was launched in December 2012. Its activities are complementary and synergistic to that of our project.
- 3.5. If your organisation has received previous EU grants in view of strengthening the same target group, in how far has this Action been able to build upon/complement the previous one (s)? (List all previous relevant EU grants).

The above mentioned ACP financed Actions are managed by the same applicant (NARI). The Actions have been organising and providing training in a broad range of research related disciplines to agricultural researchers, research managers, extension staff and farmer innovators in nine agricultural institutions across PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Numerous staff of partners and associate institutions, NGOs and individual farmers who have attended these trainings are being involved in our project and they will certainly be actively involved in implementation of planned activities to take advantage of their enhanced skills and knowledge in specific technical areas.

4. Visibility

How is the visibility of the EU contribution being ensured in the Action?

In all stakeholder and community level consultations, the contribution of EU has been acknowledged and recognised stakeholders. Publicity articles published in the local media outlets (new papers, radio) highlighted the contribution. Project banners were displayed at venues of national level stakeholder consultations and meeting of the Action Coordination Committee. Quarterly issues of Newsletters of partner institutions, namely NARI Nius for NARI, Agrikalsa Nius for MAL and Talemaot for DARD published articles providing updates, promoting project work and recognising the contribution from EU. The NARI website (<http://www.nari.org.pg/>) runs short news stories related to the project.

Apart from project signboards displayed in front of the project offices at Head Offices of Partner Institutions, site level sign boards identifying relevant activities and actors have been prepared and distributed. All project assets, including field vehicles and office equipment have the project stickers on them. Project offices are also identified by similar stickers.

The project uses its own letter head with appropriate EU visibility marks included. Two media releases were made during official handing over of assets in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

The European Commission may wish to publicise the results of Actions. Do you have any objection to this report being published on Europe-Aid Co-operation Office website? If so, please state your objections here.

No objections at all.

Name of the contact person for the Action: Workneh Ayalew



Signature: .

Location: Lae, Papua New Guinea

Date report due: 30 April 2013

Date report sent: 12 April 2013

Annex 1: [Prioritised list of site-level outputs and activities](#)

Annex 2: [Minute of the second meeting of the Action Coordination Committee](#)

Annex 3: [Brief technical report from Kiripia and Kopafo by Barbara Knabl Feb2012](#)

Annex 4: [Brief technical report from Kopafo and Tambul by Agnes and Florian April2012](#)

Annex 5: [Brief technical report from Vanuatu by Helmut Nov2012](#)

Annex 6: [Independent project progress monitoring report ROM Nov2012](#)

Annex 7: [Brief technical report from Solomon Islands by Delia Brad Nov2012](#)