

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 Kopafu (Bena Bena) in Eastern Highlands Province, Alkena & Kiripia (Tambul) in Western Highlands Province, Derin in Madang Province, Murukanam in Madang Province and Hisiu & Yule island 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 (Malafau) 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 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

Albeit lower than expected volume of village level activity in project implementation in most of the eleven project sites, the project is well on track. During Year 3, the detailed site level action plans were elaborated, and based on this, the project M&E plan and logical framework were updated. During year 3 no further changes were introduced into the activity plans, and the same list of activities and expected outputs developed and endorsed during Year 2 continue to provide the framework for project implementation. In Solomon Islands country level stakeholder consultation were held to discuss and elaborate site level action plans for the three sites and a few appropriate elaborate interventions were suggested for inclusion and these were incorporated into the action plans. Similarly two rounds of stakeholder consultations were organised in Vanuatu to discuss and create further awareness on the site level action plans.

The second independent project progress monitoring was conducted towards end of Year 3 (Annex 1). The report re-confirmed relevance of the project, its inclusiveness in the design and implementation, recognised the importance of various capacity building activities, and highlighted the broad coordination of related efforts at project and site levels. The overall assessment scores given were B for relevance and quality of design, C for efficiency of implementation, C for effectiveness to date, B for impact prospects and B for potential sustainability.

As agreed at the end of Year 2, three rounds of quarterly project review meetings were held by the project core team from the three countries and reviewed project progress, discussed cross-cutting emerging matters and organised collective actions.

The annual meeting of the Action Coordination Committee was held on 13 December 2013 at the Head Office of NARI, and was attended by a representative from the Contracting Authority (the Delegation of the European Union to Papua New Guinea). Minutes of this meeting are presented in Annex 2. The postponed third meeting of the Committee was also held on 10 April 2013 at the same venue, and the minutes are presented in Annex 3.

The Year 3 project budget was released in November 2013, but project activities continued unaffected by the delay, partly because the volume of project activities at project sites was slightly lower than expected due to shortage of field level staff, in response to which more full time project field assistants were recruited across the three countries.

All project offices and teams are operating, and essential administrative support services are in place. Visibility actions continued throughout the year in the three countries through publicity articles on printed and electronic media, institutional newsletters and project site signboards, asset stickers and media releases.

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.

2.2. Activities and results

Please list all the activities of the contract implemented during the reporting period.

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)	Progress is on track. During Year 3, the third and fourth meetings of the Action Coordination Committee were held in Lae. The first and second meetings were held in Honiara on 11 May 2011 and Port Vila on 18 July 2012. Minutes of the last two meetings are presented in Annex 2 and Annex 3.
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. Full time field assistants have also been recruited during Year 3 in the 3 countries.
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. 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, key staffs of MAL and DARD were given practical training in the management and analysis of the survey data.
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 by rapid exploratory surveys followed by in-depth appraisals in two sites, by involving three attachment graduate students from BOKU. The students have published their

			thesis on this research work.
3.2	Assessment of current and future impacts of climate change with respect to excess, deficit soil water content and salinity in PNG, SI and Vu and to identify suitable technologies to mitigate adverse impacts	NARI, BOKU, MAL, DARD, World Vision – Vanuatu, ADRA	<p>Planned activities at selected sites in PNG are implemented within the timeframe according the site activity plans. Some delays that were encountered were caused by delayed delivery of equipment mainly due to problems with customs, lack of capacity and tribal unrest in the vicinity of the NARI-HRC Aiyura station. In order to tackle difficulties, an additional technical assistant was hired to work full time for the project.</p> <p>Trial and demonstration plot designs for all three sites - Buma, Hund&Kena and Aruligho - are finalized and implementation started early 2014. Specialized equipment to monitor soil salinity status and soil water content at Buma has been purchased and delivered.</p> <p>But in Vanuatu progress remained slow during Year 3 due to World Vision Vanuatu being unable to be involved in the planned water and sanitation activities at Middlebush. Contact has been established with another competent NGO, ADRA, for them to take over these activities during Year 4.</p>
3.3	Develop and assess water harvesting methods, ground water availability & dynamics, irrigation techniques and management strategies at pilot sites in target communities in drought vulnerable parts of PNG, SI & Vu	NARI, BOKU, MAL & DARD	<p>Climate change scenarios for excess, deficit soil water content have been developed. Meteorological data from various sources and where ever available, for the study sites or locations in close vicinity of the sites, have been collected. Scenarios for sea water level rise are yet to be developed. However a study will be undertaken to determine potential future effects of SLR on land resources at Buma site in Solomon Islands.</p> <p>Specialized equipment to monitor soil salinity status and soil water content at Buma was purchased and delivered. Potential impacts on crops and management solutions will be assessed and recommended as a result of this study.</p> <p>A trial to determine soil water dynamics in sweet potato mound system and effects of excess soil moisture was set-up on-station at NARI-HRC Aiyura to monitor water balance in sweet potato mound system and assess potential effects of excess soil water scenarios on sweet potato production. Specialized equipment (soil moisture probes) were purchased and delivered.</p> <p>One automatic weather station, six automatic rain gauges and two manual rain gauges were purchased and delivered. Two more automatic rain gauges each were purchased for Vanuatu and Solomon Islands and will be set-up in early in 2014 at Ringgi station and Buma site in SI and Siviri and Malafau sites in Vanuatu. One automatic weather station is being set-up at Kopafu (PNG), a dry highland site. Most probably more rain gauges will be ordered to meet the need to continuously monitor rainfall at, at least</p>

			two more PNG sites, namely Murukanam and Yule Island.
3.4	Develop and assess soil water and soil management technologies under excess, deficit soil water and saline conditions at benchmark sites in target communities of PNG, SI & Vu	NARI, BOKU, MAL & DARD	This activity is set for Kopafu (PNG) and Buma (SI) sites and all planned activities are well on track. Milestones for planned outputs for Kopafu were achieved within the timeframe. At Kopafu an irrigation survey was conducted to establish baseline on water use for agricultural production. Model farmers have been identified and suitable irrigation technologies identified. Work will start as planned before end of dry season next year focusing on comparative analysis of low tech micro irrigation schemes. A graduate student of BOKU has been identified to implement research work and he is scheduled to commence work late May or early June 2014.
4.1	Source alternative sweet potato varieties from national and international collections which are tolerant of moisture excesses deficits or saline conditions	NARI	Rehabilitation of tissue culture laboratory and screen house at NARI was completed, essential supplies secured and the screening work started at NARI. M1. The collection of sweet potato varieties and accessions sourced from different national and international collections was completed and a total of 102 accessions were assembled at NARI Bubia. African yam (<i>Dioscorea rotundata</i>) was identified as a drought tolerant and preferred diversification crop and bulking up of planting material have been underway on-station at Bubia and Laloki in PNG. On-farm evaluations are in progress.
4.2	Screening of indigenous germplasm, locally bred and imported varieties of sweet potato and other crops/crop varieties under simulated conditions (in vivo and in vitro) to assess tolerance to drought, moisture excess and salinity condition , and to identify promising varieties		Tissue culture lab at Bubia was made operational, and all sweet potato accessions were initiated in the tissue culture, and 80% of the 102 accessions are now established in the tissue culture laboratory at Bubia. Protocols for in vitro screening for drought and salinity were standardized. Work is in progress to identify best-bet accessions for tolerance to drought and salinity for in vivo testing. As part of the evaluation, phenology grouping of PNG sweet potato accessions was established. But on the rainout shelter construction has remained very slow due to extended discussions on technical details of the structure as well as the design and building permit process. It is expected to be completed by mid year 4.
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		Planned activities on crop improvement and diversification have been progressing well at all sites except that the limited number of field level staff has limited the volume of work supported by the project. With several full time project field assistants recruited at the end of Year 3, the pace of work is expected to increase.

4.4	Piloting of selected improved cultivation practices for priority staple crops in target communities in PNG, SI, and Vu according to expressed needs		These are scheduled to take place during the remaining timeframe of the project.
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	<p>Preferred options for diversification and integrated use of resources were identified last year in all project sites where diversification through integration was identified as a preferred intervention. In particular, Murukanam, Tambul and Hisiu in PNG have gone ahead with specific demonstration trials.</p> <p>Appropriate demonstration trials have been implemented by nominated model farmers in all project sites where livestock diversification was sought after; three sites in PNG (Murukanam, Derin and Kopafo) and two sites in SI (Aruligho and Buma) and two sites in VU (Siviri and Malafau) have completed first rounds of demonstration trials with model farmers and have identified the second lot of model farmers.</p> <p>Participatory technology assessment workshops were held in four (Murukanam, Derin, Kopafo, Tambul) of the five planned workshops in PNG; were completed during Year 3. Two of the three sites in VU (Siviri and Malafau) have conducted the workshops at end of Year 3. Only one workshop was organised in SI at Aruligho.</p>
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	<p>The need and type of desirable forages were identified during year 3. All the identified forage species are local, without the urgent need to introduce exotic species from overseas. Apart from absence of any urgent need for introducing new forage species, the limited institutional capacity (manpower, research facilities) to maintain and propagate introduced exotic species does not encourage imports.</p> <p>Most farmers wish to improve the dual food-feed use of staple crops (sweet potato, cassava). A few local leguminous shrub species have been identified for promoting as feed for pigs and goats.</p>
5.3	Pilot test diversified livestock feeding systems in smallholder communities in target communities in PNG, SI and Vu		Implementation of pilot site improved feeding and management demonstration activities is an on-going activity. Demonstration livestock feeding trials have been underway in three of the five sites in PNG that chose these activities. In SI, two of the three sites have completed one round of feeding trials. In Vu, two of the three sites have completed the first round of demonstration trials. This will continue next year with a different set of nominated model farmers. Implementation completed. An on-going activity.

			Four of the five sites in PNG have started implementation of preferred livestock integration activities. In SI one site, in VU, two sites have started related crop-livestock integration activities.
5.4	Assessing existing mechanisms for supplying breeding stock, and demonstrating institutional or community-based breeding facilities		Preferred breeding stock of chicken, ducks, goats and Tilapia fish fingerlings have been distributed at three sites in PNG (Murukanam, Tambul, Hisiu). In SI, village chickens were distributed to one site from the KGA incubation facility. In VU, village chicken stocks are ready for distribution. More will follow during Year 4. The planned import of exotic foundation breeding stock of chicken, ducks, goats and pigs are being reconsidered in light of the current institutional capacities to manage the import and maintenance of imported breeding stock. Bio-security and cost considerations also make the available local options more appropriate and cost and time effective. Desktop review of breeding stock supply systems in PNG, SI, and Vu is scheduled for 2015.
6.1	Promotion of internet based discussion forums/blogs relating to crops/cropping systems, livestock and water management		These set of activities are planned for Years 4 and 5; the team has started preparing to hold the first stakeholder forum in VU and SI towards establishing research and extension networking and information exchange forums early during year 4.
6.2	Establishment / strengthening of multi-stakeholder (including research-extension provider) forums and local institutional linkages at pilot sites in PNG, SI and Vu		Scheduled for early Year 4.

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

A few planned activities scheduled to have been completed during Year 3 got delayed. One is the signing of sub-contracts with World Vision Vanuatu for implementation of planned water and sanitation related activities at Middlebush in Vanuatu. World Vision pulled out of the collaboration due to organisational restructuring and shortage of manpower. To manage this challenge the project team successfully negotiated with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in Vanuatu who agreed to step in for World Vision Vanuatu. Planned activities at Middlebush will proceed from June 2014.

The set up of rain-out shelter at NARI was also delayed due to extended discussions on the design details of the facility, its location as well as slower than expected architectural design and approval process. Another reason was unavailability of a local supplier of the rain-out shelter, which led to the decision to have it custom built in the country using local contractors. But these do not affect overall progress of the project. The structure will be completed during Year 4.

All planned imports of exotic breeding stock of pigs, chicken, ducks, goats and fish were cancelled following confirmation through the community needs assessment exercise that the conditions for

importing, maintaining and distributing these stocks do not exist in the project sites. The heavy investment on these technologies is better spent on the purchase and redistribution of local breeding stock within the countries.

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 second Independent Project Progress Monitoring report conducted in November 2013 (Annex 1) the project got off to a good start, but implementation rate has been lower than expected due to limited number of field level extension staff. This has been addressed by recruiting full time project field assistants who live and work at the project sites. During Year 3 the project team conducted quarterly project review meetings that helped identify areas of immediate improvement, facilitated information exchange and sharing of experiences in the field.

The model farmer approach adopted for demonstrating various improved technologies technically emphasises continuous engagement with the model farmers without restricting the participation of the wider community. But the voluntary participation of the wider community has not been easy, requiring continuous encouragement and follow up. This is compounded by the limited number of field level extension staff especially in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands.

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.

It is only the delayed roll out of planned activities at site level that limited project progress. Overall project implementation is on track despite the less than expected number of individual farmers that are directly involved in implementation of project activities.

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 3 of the project. The highest single payment to a service provider during this year was for a specialised equipment supplier in the United Kingdom from which the project procured soil moisture measuring instruments worth about Euro35 thousand. Others of significant amounts relate to aggregate international travel air ticket costs paid to the NARI official travel agent (PNG Travel Services) for research teams travelling to the three countries on field missions. 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.

2.4. Please provide an updated action plan 3

Timelines of the refined list of activities are presented in Table 1, which is the same one updated at the end of year 2. Overall the time lines remain the same but the actual activities have been aligned with outcomes of the needs assessment exercise.

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

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 3 BOKU continued to fully meet 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. The replacement for the BOKU economist, Mr. Roland Treitler, was nominated to be Mr. Christian Treitler, and he had started discussing his technical contributions to the project with the team. Tentatively he plans to visit PNG during the first half of Year 4. A sixth graduate student nominated to undertake field research at a PNG project site will start work during the first half of Year 4. No operational constraints encountered. To avoid the long delay in transfer of budget to pay for Dr. Ruffeis' staff time during Year 4, the budget transfer was made early during Year 4 in advance upon receipt of invoice from BOKU.
Partner 2	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL), Government body	Except the long undesirable delay in the completion of rehabilitation work on the tissue culture lab after the project has met its budgetary commitments, MAL delivered well on its commitments. The country project sub-coordinator, Mr. Jules Damutalau, has been competently coordinating project activities in Solomon Islands. The project senior scientist, Mr. Jimi Saelea, has been serving in this capacity even though he was appointed at the Permanent Secretary of MAL. He agreed to notify the project office when it is deemed appropriate for him to hand over his role as project scientist to another senior officer within MAL. To strengthen field level extension staffs who work at project sites, MAL requested the project to pay wages of four full time field assistants, and this was approved and implemented in full. Other than the long delay in the completion of the tissue culture lab, no major constraints were encountered during Year 3.
Partner 3	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) Vanuatu, Government Body (Europe-Aid ID number: VU-2009-FSD-1509831023)	DARD has been fully committed and directly involved in the project activities during year 3. Towards end of Year 3 the project sub-coordinator in Vanuatu (Mr. Peter Iesul) had resigned on his own accord and DARD has immediately assigned his replacement, Mr. Antoine Ravo. Similarly, the project senior scientist in Vanuatu, Dr. Roger Malapa of VARTC, requested that he be replaced by the previous appointee, Mr. James Wasi, as the latter is now back in DARD after having completed his secondment assignment to another project. But this still remained pending by the time of this reporting. Limited human capacity in the conduct of substantive research at project sites remained a challenge in Vanuatu. Three full-time project field assistants have been recruited and started work at the end of Year 3. VARTC, the mandated government agricultural research institution in Vanuatu, continued to serve the project very well. The village chicken breeding unit and incubation facility are also functioning properly as specified in the sub-contract it signed with the project.

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?

During Year 3 the project enjoyed smooth and effective collaboration with all Government institutions in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu as well as those in PNG. No constraints encountered during the year. In Solomon Islands, MAL, the Solomon Islands Meteorological Service and the Water Resources Department worked closely with the project team on planned project activities. They have attended stakeholder consultation and review meetings of the project. Likewise, in Vanuatu, DARD, VARTC, the Vanuatu Meteorological Service and the Department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources have all been readily collaborating with the project team, and have attended all planned stakeholder consultation meetings. On needs basis, 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 3 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: all the nine recognised institutions across the three countries officially associated with the project have continued to contribute to the project in various ways, and none of them expressed any concerns on their involvement in project activities. However, as always there are opportunities to improve the collaborations further, which are elaborated hereunder:
 - I. Department of Agriculture and Livestock (DAL) of PNG: provincial and district officers of DAL associated with the five project sites have been informed of project activities in their domains and invited to take part in all site level project activities. Strong involvement of the Madang Provincial DAL in the two project sites led to exemplary direct participation of district level extension staff in village level actions, community level consultations and quarterly project reviews. At the other three sites, their involvement remained limited and only occasional due mainly to limited number of staff and resources they have.
 - II. National Weather Service (NWS) of PNG: During Year 3 the NWS have been consulted by the project team in respect of weather forecasting services, the set up and management of weather stations and access to weather data.
 - III. Solomon Islands Meteorological Service: This office has been very supportive of project activities in SI and well represented in the project stakeholder consultations and reviews. It also agreed to work with the project towards improving the weather forecasting services in SI through set up of additional weather stations and sharing of available data. They have agreed in principle to take responsibility for the management of new weather stations set up by the project.
 - IV. Kastom Gaden Association (KGA) of Solomon Islands: KGA has signed the planned sub-contract, set up the chicken breeding unit as well as chicken egg incubation facility. They have been supplying chicks to project sites. They are also as interested to continue to be involved in crop improvement activities as well.
 - V. World Vision (WV) Pacific Development Group: Following their organizational re-structuring in 2012, the project now deals with three separate country offices of World Vision. The PNG office has delivered a good technical service as specified in the project document. The VU office declined to take up a substantive technical role in the project due to limited staff they have, and another NGO (ADRA) was brought in to effectively replace them. The SI office is ready to provide technical

services but the specific activities we have in SI have not as yet called for their immediate involvement.

- 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 have been represented on the stakeholder consultations in Honiara, and are interested to continue to collaborate with the project.
- VII. Vanuatu Meteorological Service: just like in the previous years, this associate institution has been very supportive of project activities throughout Year 3. Apart from actively collaborating with project partner institutions, it has agreed to take full responsibility for the management of newly set up weather stations designed to collect complementary weather data from additional sites. They are hosting the Vanuatu 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 continued to collaborate with project partner institutions and has agreed to provide relevant data to support planning activities of the project.
- IX. Vanuatu Agricultural Research and Technical Centre (VARTC): As in the previous years, senior management as well as technical staff of VARTC have been actively engaged throughout the year in all activities that involve them. They have been managing the poultry breeding and hatchery unit on behalf of DARD, and have supplied breeding chicks for the project sites. 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 had to be cancelled following withdrawal of World Vision Vanuatu from project activities. The project then made alternative arrangement with another NGO operating in Vanuatu, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), who have agreed to take over activities that were assigned for World Vision Vanuatu. These activities relate to water supply and sanitation for which the partner institutions do not have the appropriate expertise. Implementation planned activities is scheduled for Year 4.

- 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)

During Year 3, 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 providing some support and facilitation to project activities at three project sites (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 have tested the feed and have attended stakeholder consultation meetings.

Vanuatu:

- Department of Livestock (DL): DARD, the partner institution in Vanuatu, does not have expertise in livestock production because of the scope of its mandate. Thus the DL has been invited by DARD to be directly involved in the project to take care of planned livestock related activities in Vanuatu. The department has also designated one of their livestock officers to take lead responsibility in this regards.
- 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 has also been interested to 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 has been 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. Climate change related research projects of NARI in PNG: several projects led by the applicant institution (NARI) and under implementation are complementary to this project. Both projects are operating to promote synergies at project sites on activities related to adaptation to climate change.
2. Three complementary capacity building projects led by NARI and implemented across the same three countries, and completed during Year 3, have provided

several short on-the-job training opportunities for numerous staff from the partner as well as associate institutions. These projects were on: 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 had been 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 is being 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, with substantial complementarities with our 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. In terms of capacity building, two new ACP financed projects led by NARI and being implemented in the three countries (one on crop biotechnology and another on farm mechanisation) have also benefited from existing institutional collaborations and networking established by this project.

4. Visibility

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

During Year 3, 500 additional project publicity T-shirts with the project logo printed on them were organised and distributed to the three project countries. Most of these

were dedicated to project model farmers and field extension staff working directly on site level project activities. In all stakeholder and community level consultations, the contribution of EU has been acknowledged and recognised. Publicity articles published in the local media outlets (new papers, radio) highlighted the contributions. 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.

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 June 2014

Date report sent: 07 July 2014.

Annex

Annex 1: Report of the second independent external project monitoring mission November 2013

Annex 2: Minutes of the third meeting of the Action Coordination Committee

Annex 3: Minute of the fourth meeting of the Action Coordination Committee