

**Assessment of Agricultural Information Needs in
African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States**

Phase 2: Pacific

Country report: Solomon Islands

FINAL REPORT

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on behalf of the:

Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation

Project: 4-7-41-203-4/a

[HONIARA, SEPTEMBER 2005]

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The current study is being initiated and funded by CTA. In the study CTA in collaboration with its regional partners are expected to identify and prioritise agriculture information needs of the Solomon Islands. The presentation tries to put into perspective the current situation and information needs and aspirations of the stakeholders in the agricultural sector and to highlight the areas where CTA could assist.

Objectives of the study

The objectives of the study as specified in the terms of reference are as follows:

- to identify agricultural information needs of key actors / beneficiaries for CTA products and services;
- to identify needs of potential actors / beneficiaries of CTA activities and services in terms of building capacity for information and communication management;
- to identify potential partners / beneficiaries for CTA activities and services;
- to develop some baseline data to facilitate subsequent monitoring activities.

Methodology

Data for the study was collected in five ways:

- literature review of available information and data from the latest National Census, annual reports, project reviews and other relevant information sources;
- the conduct of face-to-face interviews with relevant stakeholders/concerned parties;
- telephone interviews;
- minutes from the recent Agriculture Senior Staff/ Provincial Ministers Conference;
- Discussions with agricultural officers and farmers during the recent tours to Central and Malaita Province's;

It should also be noted that there was no response from certain stakeholders for reasons known only to them.

Expected result

The expected result was a one main report not exceeding 20 pages according to the format provided.

Findings

The key institutions currently involved in the agriculture development in the Solomon Islands especially after the ethnic tension period are the Government institutions, namely the Department of Agriculture and Livestock (DAL) in the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, NGO's especially the Kastom Garden Association (KGA) and Funding Agencies such as the European Unions Micro-projects and Australian Aid funded, Community Peace Restoration Fund (CPRF), Regulatory authorities such as the Commodities Export Marketing Authority (CEMA) and the private enterprises being involved in agricultural activities.

Contribution of the agricultural sector to the economy in terms of the GDP in 1998 pre-ethnic tension era was at 54.3 percent, in 2001 it was 29% and in 2003 it rose to 39.3% (Table 2.8). These marked changes were the result of the closure of the CDC/SIPL oil palm plantation in the Guadalcanal plains and the discontinuation of the trading and exportation of copra and cocoa by CEMA. The recent increases in agricultural sector's contribution to the economy can be attributed to the involvement of the private sector in terms of trading and exportation of copra and cocoa. It is also important to note that the people had depended heavily on subsistence agriculture for their survival at the height of the ethnic tension when the country's economy was at its lowest ebb.

The return of law and order and normalcy to the country has built investor confidence in the country. This has brought about an increased need for agricultural information to cater for the renewed surges in agricultural activities. The loss of research information in the agricultural library at the Dodo Creek Research station during its destruction coupled with the inability of the Solomon Islands National Agriculture Information Centre (SINAIC) due to financial constraints to carry out its functions effectively, farmers and those needing agricultural information had to resort to other means to satisfy this need. This gave the rise to the non standard and unproven information-reaching farmers. There was also the availability of scientific research material as well as other very useful agricultural information's within the DAL that are yet to be formatted or tabulated to be made presentable for general public use.

Despite these constraints the DAL, through SINAIC, continues to provide the available information's to agricultural field staff, farmers, students and other stakeholders, while continuing to develop its capacity with assistance from the SIG as well as from donor agencies.

Conclusions

The study identified the following 8 key areas pertaining to information needs.

Markets: Constantly updated information on available national and international markets, world market prices for agricultural commodities, importing countries quarantine protocols, shipment and transportation costs. **Pesticide use and safety:** Most farmers had been introduced to the usage of pesticides without proper training as such, the correct application and safe handling of pesticides is becoming a major problem in the country. **Crop Agronomic Information:** this information includes recommended crop varieties, soil fertility requirements, Methods of planting, seed requirements, planting density, expected yield and the time to maturity. **Fertilizer requirement:** the type and the amount of fertilizer to apply at the different stages of plant growth. **Plant Protection:** insect and disease control, the identification of important pests and diseases and their control measures. **Harvesting and storage:**

the correct procedures and timing in the harvesting of the crops being planted.

Inputs: information on the sources of required inputs and their prices.

Lack of baseline data in DAL: there is lack of local baseline statistical and technical data on crops and livestock within the DAL, which is important in decision making and in the formulation of policies, project proposals and appraisals.

With regard to capacity-building, the following has been identified:

Accessibility to information systems: the geographical make up of the country makes accessibility to information in some areas very difficult and, if accessible, is usually very costly. Coverage limitation by currently used information systems: Mass coverage capable systems such as FM, AM, S.W radio services and H.F radios are not used due to the costs associated to their use. Newsletters and publications are currently not produced due to the unavailability of funds to cover production, reproduction and cartage costs. **Repackaging of information:** scientific research material as well as other very useful agricultural information is available within the DAL, however, this information needs to be formatted or tabulated to be made presentable for public use or even their translation into local languages. **The need for networking:** There is the need for better coordination and management of information from all the stakeholders in the agricultural sector. All sectors need to be made aware of what each sector is doing so that they work in unison for the benefit of the farmers rather than working as independent entities being competitive and antagonistic to each others activities. The problem could be better addressed by forming a national agriculture information committee which should consist of all the stakeholders in the agricultural sector. **System:** Policy for a Nation-wide intranet facility to be accessed by all the stakeholders.

Recommendations

The study recommends the following relating to each of CTA's three operational programmes.

Under INFORMATION PRODUCTS AND SERVICES:

- The establishment of an agricultural database by carrying out a national agricultural survey.
- CTA to identify and deliver useful CTA publications to most of the agricultural information organisations in the country.
- Resources need to be secured to repackage agricultural information as well as compile and formatting of raw agricultural information for public use.

Under COMMUNICATION CHANNELS AND SERVICES:

- A national conference on agriculture information should be held for all stakeholders in the agriculture sector with the expected outcome being the formation of the National Agricultural Information committee, which would be responsible for coordinating, managing and screening of all agriculture information to be made available for farmers and the general public.
- CTA to assist in the establishment of an agricultural information system most suited to the country.

Under ICM SKILLS AND SYSTEMS:

- Establishment of a national market information system.
- There is an urgent need for specialist overseas or on-the-job training for staff of agriculture information organizations and other stakeholders who would be involved in the Agricultural information networking system. This could be made possible through CTA sponsored training workshop on how to become good information and communication managers or for CTA to provide a short term contracted expert to assist in this specific area

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This study stemmed from the need to develop and provide services that improve access to information for agricultural and rural development, and to strengthen the capacity of ACP countries to produce, acquire, exchange and utilize information in this area. There is a need to identify priority agricultural information needs of potential partners in the Solomon Islands. In the framework of the ACP-EC Cotonou Agreement the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) is given these tasks.

Three principal activities are the basis of CTA's programme of activities. These include: providing an increasing range and quantity of information products and services and enhancing awareness of relevant information sources; supporting the integrated use of appropriate communication channels and intensifying contacts and information exchange particularly within ACP states; and developing the capacity of ACP to generate and manage agricultural information and to formulate information and communication management (ICM) strategies, including those relevant to science and technology. These activities were categorized into three operational departments:

- Information Products and Services
- Communication Channels and Services
- Information and Communication Management Skills and Systems

This current study stems from the need to identify priority agriculture information and thematic needs of potential partners in the Solomon Islands as an ACP country.

1.2 Objectives

The objectives of the study are as follows:

- to identify agricultural information needs of key actors / beneficiaries for CTA products and services;
- to identify needs of potential actors / beneficiaries of CTA activities and services in terms of building capacity for information and communication management;
- to identify potential partners / beneficiaries for CTA activities and services;
- to develop some baseline data to facilitate subsequent monitoring activities.

This study will assist the three operational departments of the CTA and also its local representatives to improve and better target interventions and activities aimed at potential partners/beneficiaries (women, youth, private sector and civil society organizations); to have a more informed picture of their needs and aid in the formulation of a strategy and framework of action. This study will as well highlight where there are specific needs for CTA's products and services.

1.3 Methodology

Data for the assessment was collected in the following ways:

1. Information from available literature;
2. Information collected from 11 institutions using the data capture forms;
3. The outcomes from Senior Agriculture Officers and Provincial Agriculture Ministers conference on the road map for agriculture in the Solomon Islands, held from the 4th – 8th October 2004 which was attended by forty (40) senior agriculture officers and provincial politicians and Trip reports on the water melon variety trial in Takwa, North Malaita. Forty seven (47) farmers are involved in the farm based trial three visits had been made to the trial site since May this year the recent one being on the 22nd – 27th November 2004.

2. COUNTRY PROFILE

Background

The Solomon Islands is a country in the South Pacific which attained its independence in 1978. Geographically the Solomon Islands lie to the east of Papua New Guinea and consist of nearly one thousand Islands. The Solomon Islands consist of 9 provinces including: Choiseul, Western, Isabel, Central, Rennell-Bellona, Guadalcanal, Malaita, Makira-Ulawa, and Temotu. All the Islands together make up a land area of 30.4 thousand square kilometres in a sea area of approximately 15 million square kilometres. The main Islands are characteristically hilly and rugged mountains with tropical rainforests encompassed by flat coastal plains and low lying atolls. The climate is tropical and has little temperature variation annually.

In November 1998 ethnic tensions gained momentum on Guadalcanal leading to the displacement, of many people from their villages. A major uprising by the Isatabu Freedom Movement (IFM) (initially known as the Guadalcanal Revolutionary Army or GRA) in June 1999 effectively cleansed the Island of Malaitans and other people, save for Malaitan pockets in peri-urban Honiara. The majority of those displaced from Guadalcanal were Malaitans. The formation of the Malaita Eagle Force (MEF) further ignited existing tensions. Guadalcanal and Honiara were the scenes of raids and retaliations bearing casualties on both sides, and resulting in the displacement of more people. In a coup in June 2000, the MEF ousted the democratically elected prime minister. Widespread lawlessness was experienced throughout the provinces. The breakdown of law and order consequently forced the closure of important revenue earning companies including Solomon Islands Plantation Limited (SIPL), Solomon Taiyo Ltd and Gold Ridge Mining. From July 2001 to July 2003 the domestic economy plunged into crisis. Militants, corrupt politicians and their cronies extorted funds from the government treasury; this resulted in the government not able to pay workers on time. Therefore many innocent public servants and their families suffered greatly in these situations, as during this time there was a general break down in work ethics.

In July 2003, the arrival of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Island brought back hope to many law abiding Solomon Islanders. There was great improvement in law and order. The government was able to consolidate its revenue and the subsidization of the National budget enabled the government provide some of the much needed services to the population.

The Solomon Islands population recorded during counting on the census night of 21 to 22 November 1999 is 409,042 representing an increase of 43 percent in 13 years after the 1986 census. This implies a yearly growth rate 2.8 (*Table 3.2 Annex 2.0*). Of the same population 51.7% (211,381) were males and 48.3% (197,661) females. The population distribution by provinces is considerably uneven. Malaita is the most populated with 122,000 people. Guadalcanal and Western provinces are next. The country has a very low population density with 13 people per square kilometre, although this figure may be misleading considering that a vast portion of the country comprises of rugged and jungle clad mountains and is largely uninhabited. The majority of people live in the coastal plains, and lagoon islands and atolls. The percentage age distribution by broad age groups indicate a population with a young age structure 41.5% at ages 0 – 14 and 45.2% at ages 15 – 44 in 1999 (*Report on*

the 1999 population and housing survey). Melanesians remain the largest ethnic group at 95% at the expense of other ethnic groups – Polynesians, Micronesians, Chinese and Europeans (Table 3.3 Annex2). The 1999 census recorded 65,014 households of which 63,405 (79.5%) were private and 1,610 collective households. Table 3.4 in Annex 2 compares households, population and household size since 1970. It is found in the 1999 census that households with 4 – 6 persons are most common.

2.1 Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

2.1.1 Agriculture

Agricultural population, land use and farmer categories

The Solomon Islands continues to be an agriculturally based society. Alongside logging, fisheries and forestry, agriculture continues to be major contributor to national GDP. The agricultural sector contributed 14.5%, SI\$39.3 million to the GDP in 2003. Agriculture also is the largest single employment sector, as the main unpaid activity and in the industry sector (Table 2.7 Annex 2)

A vast majority of Solomon islanders are engaged in agriculture activities. The census of 1999 shows 111,905 people participating in some kind of unpaid activity, 87,600 (78.3%) is engaged in agricultural activities, of which 43% are male and 57% are female. In paid employment by industrial sector 11,859 (20.6%) people are working in the agricultural sector: 53.2% are males and 46.8% are females (Table 2.1, 2.2 Annex 2)

A survey of the land resources of the Solomon Islands which was conducted in the 1970's identified 338,100 ha (3,381 km²) as having the potential for commercial agriculture development (Table 2.3 Annex 2). These areas are arable lands known as Agriculture Opportunity Areas (AOAs). It is estimated that about 21,500 ha of AOAs have been developed in the past for purposes of semi-commercial to commercial scale agriculture activities (Department of Agriculture and Livestock). For the purposes of this report it is not possible to ascertain and include what proportion of this lands remain as farms, what proportion of the AOAs remain undeveloped, and what area of land is developed for small-holder farming. A land resource survey needs to be undertaken.

There are 3 distinctive farming systems in the Solomon Islands:

1. ***subsistence agriculture***: this practised by the majority of households. They produce garden crops and small livestock for own consumption, are non-monetized, and is the established way of life for most people in the rural areas, areas outside the city, towns and administrative centres. The household is the predominant economic or production unit;
2. ***smallholder cash agriculture***: This agricultural system is common in many villages and peri-urban areas and comprise individuals, or household farm units with a degree of cash investment. These units are usually small and make very little profit while cash returns are usually used for to meet the obligations of the farmer;
3. ***Export orientated large-scale commercial companies***: As the name implies these type of agricultural companies produce for export purposes. These are usually plantation based companies operating on 200 – 1000+ hectares. These companies provide employment for thousands of Solomon

Islanders. A number of large scale export orientated commercial companies have closed down due to the lawlessness of the 2000 ethnic tensions

Prior to the ethnic tensions on Guadalcanal major players in the agricultural sector included commercial agricultural companies and entities; SIPL, RIPEL, CEMA, LDA CATM and NGOs which are described here below.

(i) Solomon Island Plantation Limited (SIPL) – Palm oil production

Palm oil production commenced on the Guadalcanal plains by the Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC) in 1970s. In the recent years Guadalcanal still dominated palm oil production under the name of SIPL. In the early 1990s, palm oil production increased from 29,000 tonnes to 31,000 tonnes in 1992 and 1993 (*Table 2.6 Annex 2*). As ethnic tensions increased in 1998 and workers of other ethnic groups left, operations were scaled down and production of palm oil fell to 13,500 tonnes in 1999 an all time low in 13 years. In 2000, SIPL remained closed; a cost assessment team from CDC headquarters in UK reported that damage to properties amounted to US\$20 million (SBD 100 million) and has withdrawn its interest to return. However, the Malaysian owned New Britain Palm Oil Company of PNG (NBPOPNG) visited the plantation several times in 2004 and indicated its willingness to take over the plantation. In October 2004 a Memorandum of understanding has been signed between NBPOPNG, SIG, Guadalcanal Province and Landowners Association for the reopening of the Plantation. The plantation under the Name of Guadalcanal Plains Palm Oil Company is expected to be reopened in January 2005. The Landowners association has stated that prerequisites for the reopening of the plantation include employment composition, administrative and recruitment procedures, settling outstanding claims and a new management team. Officials of the West New Britain Palm Oil Company have met and discussed with the Landowners association about the outstanding issues. The future of Palm oil production on Guadalcanal is promising.

(ii) Commodities Export Marketing Authority (CEMA) – Copra, Cocoa and Commodities Export

CEMA, the Commodities Export and Marketing Authority of copra in the Country had, as recently as 1995, made considerable progress. It actively promoted downstream processing by setting up crushing mills in various provinces including Makira-Ulawa, Guadalcanal, Western province and Choiseul, supplied farmers with drying equipment and materials, built buying points to collect and purchase products from farmers and promoted new crops especially chilli and Ngali nuts. Ngali nuts were exported to body shops overseas. In 1997 CEMA recorded a total copra export of 28,600 tonnes. In 2000 CEMA experienced a liquidity crisis, repercussions of the social unrest this was reflected in the production decline the same year to 19,004 tonnes compared to 23,000 tonnes in the previous year (*Table 2.6 Annex 2*). CEMA now serves as an advisory body, since a government decision to deregulate its role in 2001 was imposed. Private licensed copra buyers and exporters spread throughout Honiara and the provinces have benefited greatly from this move.

(iii) Russell Islands Plantation Estates Limited (RIPEL) – Copra, Coconut oil and copra cake and beef production

On over 4000 hectares of land in the Russell Islands, RIPEL, initially a subsidiary of CEMA, has the capacity to produce over 8000 tonnes of copra which could be converted to 4000 tonnes of coconut oil and copra cake. Coconut oil and copra cake are exported to Australia, New Zealand and Singapore. Over 1,000 heads of cattle graze under the coconut trees. In 1997, RIPEL imported 700 breeding cattle from studs in the Rockhampton area in Australia to boost its production. If improvements are accorded to general cattle management and current pastures, RIPEL can

produce at least 163 tons of beef yearly. In 2002, RIPEL has changed ownership and is now owned by an Asian Businessman. RIPEL has experienced continuous industrial unrest in the last 4 years as dissatisfied workers continue to boycott work.

(iv) Livestock Development Authority LDA – Meat production and Marketing

The enabling legislation for the establishment of a statutory corporation, the Cattle Development Authority, was enacted and established in 1977. Renamed LDA later in 1983 the principle functions of LDA were to: (1) promote and assist cattle development; (2) ensure efficient distribution and marketing of cattle products; (3) train and educate persons employed by the Authority. LDA Mamara complex on Guadalcanal had the capacity to produce 4,000 broiler carcasses per week, 1,000 pig carcasses a week and 1,000 cattle carcasses a week, mainly to supply Honiara and larger provinces. LDA cattle properties were located on Guadalcanal (6), Malaita (1) and Western province (2). These 9 properties altogether encompass about 3,000 hectares of productive pastures and the potential to fatten 6,000 heads. The marketing system utilized involved purchase cattle from numerous small-holders spread over the provinces to central locations in Honiara (Mamara Abattoir), Auki and Gizo. The Mamara Abattoir managed 1,400 cattle throughput per annum (1985 figure), which is said to be well below capacity. LDA operations commenced winding down in the early 1990s. Land Lease terms of cattle areas expired, unmanaged overhead and shipping costs and incompetent managers were the major reasons for the fall of LDA. By 1997 all of LDA cattle and broiler operations ceased, leaving only a remnant of the original stock remaining at the Mamara complex and a skeleton staff remaining. In 1998, as militant activities increased on Guadalcanal, all remaining pig stock were moved to farms on Malaita, main LDA infrastructure on Mamara have been damaged beyond repair and the authority is under liquidation.

(v) Chinese Agriculture Technical Mission (CATM) – Rice and Livestock

CATM is currently supporting the development of rice and recently livestock in cooperation with MAL. After cyclone Namu in 1986 destroyed large scale rice operations on the Guadalcanal plains, the Republic of China (Taiwan) has given strong support to rice development in the country. Rice seeds, farming tools and equipment and fertilizer were distributed to help farmers establish and develop their plots. In mid 1990s, Metapona (ex-Solrice land), the site of large-scale rice operations in prior to 1986, was allocated to smallholders for paddy rice production and about 200 hectares of this land was cultivated for paddy rice production. By 1999, upland rice production had spread to many villages as a result of continuous support from CATM. At the end of 1999, over 100 hectares of rice farm on Metapona were closed as result of ethnic unrests. In 2003, 600 hectares of upland rice was developed throughout the province as a result of CATM support, and rice development is expected to increase in 2005.

The CATM in Honiara cultivates 3 hectares land with 1.8 hectares devoted to paddy rice, 1.0 hectare is cropped with vegetables and fruits while 0.2 hectares is reserved for livestock development. CATM has recently imported 18 pigs from Australia (6 boars, 12 sows; 2 boars and 4 sows of Landrace, Largewhite and Duroc breeds) adding on to the present breeding stock of over 20 sows. Progenies will be distributed to farmers as means of improve native pigs.

Non Government Organizations (NGOs)

(i) Solomon Islands Development Trust (SIDT)

SIDT has an important role to play in the agricultural sector especially at the village level. They manage to reach areas the Agricultural Field officer has not visited and disseminate and instruct farmers on sustainable farming systems. They raise

awareness of developments surrounding and affecting rural persons. SITD has been very instrumental in this area and continues to work with the rural people.

(ii) Kastom Garden Association (KGA)

KGA is currently involved in village level development, assisting village communities to develop village type and based farming systems. KGA has greatly benefited from overseas funds and run programmes such as linking farmers, plant material network. Kastom garden and will now be leading a livestock programme on local poultry. The real impacts of KGA are still to be felt. The DAL has had good working relationship with NGOs and there is need for the KGA to have the same working relationship with DAL to complement each other instead of working in isolation.

Contribution of agriculture to the economy

After 4 years of ethnic and social unrest, the agricultural sector is slowly but certainly recovering. The sector continues to be a major contributor to the economy in terms of GDP, while in terms of employment, it remains the single largest employer (*Tables 2.1 and 2.2 Annex 2*). In 2003, agriculture contributed S\$39.3 million to GDP or 14.5% of GDP; this represents an increase of 24.2% over the previous year (*Table 2.8 Annex 2*).

Copra, cocoa remain the only export commodities of the sector after the closure of SIPL main producer of palm oil and kernel (*refer to Annex 2.1.3 for more information*).

Agricultural Departments and Policies

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock has 5 technical Divisions: Agricultural Extension, Research, Quarantine, Livestock and Veterinary, and Planning.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) has overall responsibility the development of agriculture with food security accorded high priority. Its aim is to ensure that the largely agricultural population, especially those in rural areas participate actively in agricultural development both commercially and for own consumption in order to secure food sources and self employment. It also encourages the involvement of large commercial companies to operate in the sector. MAL is currently facilitating negotiations between landowners and New Britain Palm Oil Company from Papua New Guinea.

The main agricultural policy objectives are to:

1. ensure the country has a high level of food security and self-sufficiency at all times at the household, provincial, and national levels;
2. safeguard the security of Agriculture by strong Quarantine policies and measures;
3. increase and diversify smallholder income generation to meet the needs of smallholder farm families;
4. broaden the export base of agricultural production through research into new crops and livestock in addition to copra, palm oil, cattle, pigs and poultry for export and import substitution;

5. promote and develop agriculture and livestock in all regions of the country and in the best interest of its entire people;
6. promote sustainable and environmentally sound farming techniques;
7. encourage the protection and conservation of the countries biodiversity, and
8. research the countries biodiversity for the benefit of its entire people.

2.1.2 Fisheries

The Solomon Islands is a maritime country with over 15 million square kilometres of sea area available for the fisheries sector. The fisheries sector accounts for 0.06% of total employment with 87.2 being males and 12.8 females. The Solomon Islands has an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 200 nautical miles, where anyone a licence to fish in the EEZ can catch fish. In its vast fishing areas, 20 nautical miles from shore fishing zone is exempted for local fishermen only. There are three levels of fishing systems in the Solomon Islands, these include; large commercial companies, small – cash fishing, subsistence fishing.

In the first quarter of 2004, fish catches fell by 16.9% from 5,395 metric tons in the last quarter of 2003 to 4,483 tons March 2004. Unfavorable weather conditions and the breakdown of two Soltai fishing boats which reduced the Soltai fishing fleet contributed to the decline in fish catches of the quarter (*Central Bank of Solomon Islands (CBSI) Quarterly Review, March 2004*)

The fisheries sector contributed SI \$16.3 million or 6.0% to GDP, a sectoral growth of 31.0% in 2003 (*Tables 2.6, 2.7, and 2.8 Annex 2*).

Coastal Aquaculture Centre – International Centre for Living Aquatic Resource Management (ICLARM)

A coastal aquatic centre was opened in June 1986 at Aruligho on the coast of Guadalcanal after an agreement was signed by ICLARM and SIG. The centre was charged with responsibility to develop a Giant Clam Hatchery. The basic objective of this hatchery is to develop an economically viable hatchery and nursery system for giant clams. In the early 1990s, after years of operation, a branch of the centre was opened on Nusatupe in the Western province. ICLARM closed its centre on Guadalcanal as result the security situation and relocated it to Nusatupe.

Fisheries Department and Policies

The Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources is responsible for ensuring the development of the fisheries industry and sustainable harvest of its marine resources to the benefit of its people. There are four sections established within the Division to monitor and ensure an orderly development of the domestic fisheries and the sustainable harvest of this resource. The three sections include the Licensing, Surveillance and Enforcement Section, the Extension and Development Section, the Resources Management Section and the Aquaculture section.

The general policy statement for the fisheries sector includes:

1. Facilitate the rational management and conservation of coastal fisheries and aquatic living resources through their sustainable utilization.
2. Rehabilitate and promote the privatization and commercialization of rural fisheries centres.
3. Promote aquaculture development of aquatic organisms such as seaweed, pearl culture, prawns, etc.
4. Promote tuna fisheries development through foreign and local investment.
5. Increase revenue through licensing of more tuna fishing vessels under access agreements and domestic licensing arrangements.
6. Improve the monitoring of fish catches, their exports and value and to share such information with customs, CBSI and related agencies.

2.1.3 Forestry

Forests, natural and planted, play an important part in the life of every Solomon Islander. Forests are the source of wood for cooking, timber for housing, wild life habitat, foods and medicines and protecting both land and marine water quality. Logging in natural forests provides significant revenues for the government through export duties and to landowners through royalties.

The National Forest of the Solomon comprises of the following components; unlogged natural forest, logged over natural forest, large scale commercial plantations and small scale village plantations. Forestry systems in the Solomon Island comprise traditionally-owned forests and state owned forests.

Forests in Solomon Islands encompass a total area of 2,805,200 ha. 75% of this area is non operable forest, 14% is unlogged natural forest, 19% is logged over natural forest, and 1% comprises industrial and village plantations (*Table 2.4 Annex 2*). Companies have reported planting a total of 35,000 ha. However, large proportions have failed as a result of poor management (*SIFMP 2003; National Forest Assessment*)

In the forestry sector, 3,143 men and 232 women are employed accounting for 0.06% of total employment. (Refer to Annex 2.1.3 (2) for more information)

Kolombangara Forest Products Limited (KFPL)

Kolombangara Forest Products Limited (KFPL) opened in the early 1980s has planted a further 400 hectares bringing its total plantation area to almost 15,000 hectares. 5,000 of this are planted with *Gmelina arborea* and the rest under *Eucaliptus deglupta*. KFPL has over the years planted forest for export purposes. In 1995 and 1996 KFPL recorded log harvests of 35,000 to 50,000 cubic meters a year (*Central Bank of Solomon Islands (CBSI) Annual Report 1995*).

Provisional data on log exports showed in the first quarter of 2004, a decline in production of logs by 28.5% to 130.47 m³ from 182.50 m³ in the previous quarter. The downturn in log production is a reflection mainly of seasonal trends which tend to

hinder production in the first quarter of each year (*Central Bank of Solomon Islands (CBSI), Quarterly Review, March 2004*).

The forestry, logging and sawmilling industry contributed a GDP value of SI \$26.0 million or 9.6% to the economy and sectoral growth of 20.6% in 2003 (*Tables 2.7, and 2.8 Annex 2*).

Forestry Department and Policies

The Forestry Department (FD) as empowered by the Forest Timber and Utilization Act has the Commissioner of Forestry as the overall manager and ultimate decision maker. The Commissioner directs and supervises the branches and liaises, and attends to administrative and public duties. The Commissioner and his team including the Minister, Permanent Secretary and Central Administrative unit are responsible for the division's economic efficiency and also for the implementation and review of SIG forest management policy. FD comprises of 4 sections called branches. These include: Management Branch, Development Branch, Economics and Licensing Branch, and Policy and Planning Branch (*See section 2.1.8 on Fisheries*).

The forestry sector policy objectives include:

1. Reforestation and sustained yield management practices are key elements of forest management.
2. Value added industries using the wood as inputs are to be encouraged.
3. Participatory approaches to forest management should be developed.
4. Protected area approach is to be adopted.

These policy objectives are to be achieved by strengthening public sector capacity to plan, regulate and control the industry, together with closer participation with the customary land owners in resource management.

3. OVERVIEW OF INFORMATION MANAGEMENT ISSUES: CAPACITY, SERVICES AND NEEDS

3.1 Information and Communication Management Capacity

Until about five years ago, agricultural information in the Solomon Islands was relatively well established. The Agriculture Information Unit which was responsible for the dissemination of agricultural information to the farmers and agriculture extension officers was established under the Agriculture Extension Division and based in Honiara while the National Agriculture Library was under the Research Division then located at the Dodo Creek Research Station 22 km east of Honiara. Both have been staffed until the time of the civil unrest when the Library was totally destroyed and the Agriculture Information Unit left unmanned due to staff displacement during the unrest.

In early 2003, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) assisted the Department of Agriculture and Livestock by funding the renovation of a room at the Ministry's headquarters for the National Agriculture Information Centre and providing two sets of Dell computers, a Dell Powerededge server, network accessories, modems and gateway. There is great potential for the Agriculture Information Centre to be able to disseminate agricultural information via the web based on the capacity of the hardware that is on hand. There are currently three officers in the agricultural information section with very limited experience in information and communication, although one (without formal computer background) has undergone some training on how to manage the LAN system established under SPC assistance and how to build the digital library using the Greenstone software introduced under the programme. Two are diploma graduates (tropical agriculture) and the other is a certificate graduate (also tropical agriculture). The three previously worked as research assistants at the Research Station under the Department of Agriculture for six to 10 years

The Agriculture Information Centre has a quarterly recurrent budget of about SBD\$20,000.00 (Euros 2,217) basically for subscriptions, book procurement, operational costs and equipment; this has been discussed as insufficient and hopefully may be increased for the 2005 recurrent budget. There has been great improvement in terms of finance for the Information Centre in that the Ministry has endorsed for the procurement of essential equipment, items and resources for the strengthening of the Centre during the last quarter of 2004. The biggest challenge faced by the Agriculture Information Centre as expressed by the officer managing the network is to be able to effectively manage and maintain the whole setup (hardware and software) with limited computer background. Some of the positive steps taken to counter this challenge and to ensure sustainability of this setup are:

- the Ministry of Finance's IT section has now assumed responsibility for the technical backup for the Centre with regards to IT issues. There is now close collaboration between both offices;
- approval has been granted and an internet line for the Centre has been established under the Centre's recurrent budget;
- arrangements have been made with the Director of Research Division and the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Agriculture to recall of the former librarian to resume duties in early 2005;

- the Ministry of Agriculture through the Permanent Secretary has made a strong commitment reinforcing the Agriculture Information Centre to be able to effectively serve stakeholders' information needs.

Since the information centre now has internet access, communication both locally and internationally has resumed officially. In order to ensure sustainability of such setups for not only the Department of Agriculture but also other ministries, a working group has been formed amongst most of the IT specialists within the Solomon Islands Government with the Ministry of Finance's IT Team to spearhead the working group providing technical support to all other ministries. Their mandate includes standardising all government network configurations to be able to work on a common platform where resources and skills could easily be shared within the working group and the government system.

3.2 Agricultural Information and Services

SINAIC currently is the unit within the MAL/DAL responsible for providing information on livestock and crop production. Since the establishment of SINAIC, many people from various fields across the community had approached the Centre in search of information to suit their needs, these included:

- agriculture staff, use this facility to update themselves on newly introduced agriculture technologies as well as to seek information for farmers in their areas of responsibility;
- primary school students, research on topics for agricultural assignments;
- secondary school students, to research on topics for agricultural assignments;
- students from the SNR/SICHE, to research on topics for agricultural assignments;
- students from the USP centre in Honiara, to research on topics for agriculture, lands and economic assignments;
- farmers (both established and intending), search for viable agriculture opportunity areas. Recently there had been a marked increase in the number of farmers seeking information on the vanilla crop;
- agricultural commodity traders, in search for world commodity prices and available markets;
- NGOs, in search of general information on agriculture livelihood and status of the country;
- funding agencies, DBSI, for technical agriculture information to assist them in the appraisal of agricultural projects for their clients;
- members of the national parliament, seeking information on suitable agricultural developments for their constituencies;
- curriculum development centre, in search of technical agriculture information to develop curriculum on agriculture subjects for both primary and high schools.

The type of information frequently provided includes:

- agronomic information on crops, spacing, planting materials, yields and suitable planting environment;
- information on pests affecting crops, pest prevalent periods and their control measures;
- pesticide information which includes pesticide types, safety and dosage;
- fertilizer types and application;
- information on genetically modified (GM) foods;
- information on integrated pest management (IPM);

- information on post entry quarantine for intending importers;
- export crop protocols;
- crop gross margins;
- livestock gross margins.

This information is provided in the form of:

- face to face dialogue
- information flyers, pamphlets, booklets, printouts, etc.

Persons are usually directed to the responsible departments, or the pool of highly qualified and trained specialists within the Agriculture department or to other information sources if the information needed is not available.

3.3 Needs Analysis

3.3.1 Information needs

As evident from the interviews, all the institutions have their various sources and means of accessing information. In the agricultural sector, very few source their information through the National Agriculture Information Centre which reflects the amount and kind of information available at the Centre and its inability to obtain requested information externally due to poor communication facilities.

From the assessment, the following are the information needs which have been identified:

a. *Establishment of a local information network*

There is a need for key institutions involved in the agricultural sector to create a network for information sharing. Local consultation for information exchange has been very weak therefore a strong network locally would ensure a more aggressive exchange of information between these key institutions involved in agriculture.

b. *Compilation and distribution of contacts to external information sources*

Bullet point A would help individual Information centres within the local information network share external point of contacts / information sources

c. *Subscriptions to useful information sources or networks*

Need for advice and support in terms of subscriptions and linking to useful external information sources

d. *Re-print and reproduction of local information materials*

The locally produced 'Agrikalsa Information Booklets' is now out of stock, but is still in high demand. There is need to locate the original templates and secure funding for the republication. There are also other publications produced by other agricultural organizations that needs to be reprinted and shared within the local network

3.3.2 *Capacity-Building Needs*

Most of the institutions interviewed saw the importance and the need for information but do not have the capacity to either source appropriate information or effectively manage information collections. Nearly all of them highlighted the need for capacity building to become good Information and communication managers.

There is urgent need for training / capacity building for Solomon Islands information personnel. The majority of the information officers of the organizations interviewed expressed the need for specific trainings in information and communication management which could be done through a CTA organized national training workshop.

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1. Conclusions

Agricultural information is deemed vital and important for a positive economic development of agriculture in the Solomon Islands. Regardless of its importance, there are no firm immediate and future plans for the training of information officers to improve their skills. There is a lack of incentives for the staff, no well established internal networking between key institutions involving in the agriculture sector development limiting flow of information locally. Absence of a strategic information policy has contributed to the fragmented approaches to information activities through out the country while the potentials of ICT has never been tapped to promote broader flow of information through out Solomon Islands.

Information Constraints

(a). Inaccessibility to information due to:

- Scattered islands in the Solomon Islands ;
- High cost of Internet;
- Majority of population with low literacy level.

The geographical make up of the country has always been a challenge to development in the country. Information and communication technologies like the use of postal mailing services, HF radio communication, radio broadcasting and newspapers had been the most effective means of relaying information to the remote corners of the country.

(b). Coverage limitation by currently used information systems

- Mass coverage capable systems, e.g FM, AM, S.W radios and H.F radios are not used due to the high establishment and maintenance cost associated to their use.
 - Air time costs to do awareness and service messages to inform farmers on SIBC.
 - Using H.F radio is also very costly.
- Newsletters, publications are currently not produced due to unavailability of funds to cover production and reproduction costs.
- Distribution cost, cartage and postage stamps for printed material in country and internationally are expensive.

4.2 Recommendations

Under INFORMATION PRODUCTS AND SERVICES, the following needs to be addressed:

- Lack of baseline data in all Agriculture departments to be used in decision making.
 - Agriculture, Arable land resource and livestock Survey.
 - Information on crop and livestock husbandry practices.

- Updated material costs.
- National and International market prices
- Limited to no access to CTA produced publications

From the interviews it is evident that nearly all the institutions selected have not received publications from CTA but are keen to benefit from this service. From these interests, it would be useful if CTA provide a list of available CTA publications to these institutions; who will then place orders for required publications

- Lack of funds preventing re-publication of locally produced agricultural publications
This service is available for agricultural materials through IRETA, thus CTA could assist in the re-publishing of these materials through IRETA upon requests.

Under COMMUNICATION CHANNELS AND SERVICES:

- Lack of information networking between key agricultural institutions

A national conference on agriculture information sharing should be held for all stakeholders in the agriculture sector with the expected outcome being the formation or establishment of the National Agricultural Information network, where sources of information, information coordination and management skills could be shared and in turn agriculture information could then be efficiently made available to farmers and the general public.

CTA to assist in identifying and establish an agricultural information system most suited to the country.

Under ICM SKILLS AND SYSTEMS:

- Lack of a national market information system in place

Majority of agriculture commodity producers are located in the rural part of the country and rarely have access to market information. These include potential buyers and their buying prices, shipping and transport schedules to Honiara and other relevant information. These could easily be made available through the Solomon Island Broadcasting Corporation radio programmes. Although this maybe deemed costly, it will have greater impact in boosting economic growth. We believe CTA is able to share experiences in this line from other ACP countries to assist in the development of national market information system.

- Poor Information and communication managers

There is an urgent need for specialist overseas or on-the-job training for staff of agriculture information organizations and other stakeholders who would be involved in the Agricultural information networking system. This could be made possible through CTA sponsored training workshop on how to become good information and communication managers or for CTA to provide a short term contracted expert to assist in this specific area

5. REFERENCES

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ANNEXES

Annex 1. Terms of Reference

ASSESSMENT OF AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION NEEDS IN AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN & PACIFIC (ACP) STATES Phase 2: Pacific

1. Introduction

The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) was established in 1983 under the Lomé Convention between the ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) Group of States and the European Union Member States. Since 2000, it has operated within the framework of the ACP-EC Cotonou Agreement.

CTA's tasks are to develop and provide services that improve access to information for agricultural and rural development, and to strengthen the capacity of ACP countries to produce, acquire, exchange and utilise information in this area. CTA's programmes are organised around three principal activities: providing an increasing range and quantity of information products and services and enhancing awareness of relevant information sources; supporting the integrated use of appropriate communication channels and intensifying contacts and information exchange (particularly intra-ACP); and developing ACP capacity to generate and manage agricultural information and to formulate information and communication management (ICM) strategies, including those relevant to science and technology. These activities take account of methodological developments in cross-cutting issues (gender, youth, information & communication technologies – ICTs, and social capital), findings from impact assessments and evaluations of ongoing programmes as well as priority information themes for ACP agriculture¹.

In January 2002, CTA's Strategic Plan (2001-2005) was implemented and CTA's activities were distributed among three operational programme areas / departments:

- Information Products and Services
- Communication Channels and Services
- Information and Communication Management Skills and Systems

These operational departments are supported by Planning Corporate Services (P&CS) which is charged with the methodological underpinning of their work and monitoring the ACP environment in order to identify emerging issues and trends and make proposals for their translation into programmes and activities. This current exercise, therefore, falls within the mandate of P&CS.

2. Main issues

CTA works primarily through intermediary organisations and partners (non-governmental organisations, farmers' organisations, regional organisations, ...) to promote agriculture and rural development. Through partnerships, CTA hopes to increase the number of ACP organisations capable of generating and managing information and developing their own information and communication management strategies. The identification of appropriate partners is therefore of primordial importance.

The "Evaluation of the Implementation of the Mid-Term Plan (1997 – 2000)" emphasised the need for CTA to develop a more pro-active approach and elaborate criteria for decision-making with regard to the choice of partner organisations and beneficiaries. Based on this evaluation, the "Strategic Plan and Framework for Action – 2001 – 2005" identifies strategic issues for CTA being: improved targeting (including partnerships and beneficiaries),

¹ Priority information themes for ACP agriculture have formed the basis of various several studies, workshops and seminars bringing together various stakeholders, organisations and institutions active in the field of agriculture and rural development. The documents (or extracts thereof) will be provided to the consultants.

geographical coverage, decentralisation, regionalisation and thematic orientation. The Plan also expresses concern about: the extent to which CTA's activities are relevant to and reach the poor, gender awareness and how to identify potential partners especially in the independent sectors.

Besides partner identification and selection issues, the observation has also been made that, traditionally, the Pacific and Caribbean regions have not received sufficient attention in CTA's programme and activities. This is, for example, highlighted in the statistics on the number of individuals and organisations which receiving CTA publications or participating in workshops and training courses. Furthermore, the admission of 6 new Pacific member states under the Cotonou Agreement means not much known about them, hence the need to develop CTA intervention strategy and provide more targeted assistance.

Finally, various national and regional partners with whom CTA has had a long-standing relationship have requested the current study in order to provide more targeted assistance to their beneficiaries.

3. Objectives and scope of the study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

- to identify agricultural information needs of key actors / beneficiaries for CTA products and services;
- to identify needs of potential actors / beneficiaries of CTA activities and services in terms of building capacity for information and communication management;
- to identify potential partners / beneficiaries for CTA activities and services;
- to develop some baseline data to facilitate subsequent monitoring activities.

The study should assist the three operational departments of the CTA as well as its local representatives to improve and better target interventions and activities aimed at potential partners and beneficiaries (including women, youth, private sector and civil society organisations); to have a more informed picture of their needs and aid in the elaboration of a strategy and framework of action. The study should also highlight where there are specific needs for CTA's products and services thereby enabling improvement in the delivery of the same.

4. Methodology

The consultant will use a combination of qualitative and quantitative rapid appraisal methods including:

- the desk review of available literature and information sources including the findings of programme evaluations;
- the conduct of face-to-face interviews with relevant stakeholders / concerned parties;
- the limited use of questionnaires.

The rapid appraisal approach will allow a general overview of the key issues and company / organisational profiles on a per country² basis and may give rise to more in-depth studies as and when needed in the future.

5. Expected outcomes / output

One main report per country not exceeding 20 pages according to the following table of contents:

Main report

1. Executive summary
2. Introduction
3. Country profile – summary structure and economic characteristics with particular

² Out of 30 countries comprising the Caribbean and Pacific regions, only selected number will initially be the subjects of studies, with domestic consultants conducting country-specific assessments. Country selection will be done by CTA on the basis of specific criteria.

- attention to agricultural sector (includes fisheries and forestry):
 - Summary of how agriculture, fisheries and forestry is organised in the country
 - Summary of the information and communication management capacity
 - The current source of agricultural information and services (synthesise Annex 3)
- 4. Needs analysis
 - Information needs
 - Capacity building needs (skills, training, media, ICT, equipment)
- 5. Conclusions and recommendations
- 6. References

Annexes

1. *Terms of reference*
2. *Country profile*
 - 2.1 General agricultural profile (from available documentation)
 - Size of agricultural population (male / female / youth)
 - Farmed land, forests, fishing areas
 - Agricultural systems
 - Agriculture in the economy (percentage GDP)
 - Main agricultural produce and secondary products
 - Main export markets
 - Trade agreements that include agriculture
 - Sectoral policy related to agriculture, fisheries and forests
 - 2.2 Socio-economic profile (from available documentation)
 - Total active population, demographic breakdown
 - Literacy level and languages
 - Access to services (health, schools, electricity)
 - Rural urban drift
 - 2.3 Media and telecommunications (update / check)
 - Newspapers, periodicals, magazines, radio stations, television channels,
 - Telecommunication services (fixed, mobile, etc.)
 - Computers and Internet access
3. *Profile of institutions*
 - List of all institutions involved in agriculture and rural development activities, including private sector and civil society organisations, with name, contact details, type and role of institution
 - Select list of key institutions involved in agriculture and rural development, with extensive data and information on the institution, the problems faced and why it is considered a key actor

It is also expected that the results of this study will lead to identification / update of some priority agricultural information themes which will feed into a possible priority-setting exercise in the Pacific in 2004.

6. Reporting

The country reports will not exceed 20 pages (excluding annexes). The annexes should include a list of Acronyms, of persons/institutions interviewed with addresses, phone, fax numbers, e-mail addresses (if any) as well as bibliography.

7. Timing

- Draft final report is to be submitted within two months after contract signature by CTA
- Final report due two weeks after receipt of comments from CTA.

8. Expertise needed

The overall coordination will be carried out by Ms Christine Webster, Deputy Head, Planning and Corporate Services CTA, assisted by Mrs Lola Visser-Mabogunje, Project Assistant.

Mr. Peter Walton will ensure the regional coordination and lead a team of local consultants to be identified per country³:

Local Consultant	Country
Mr. Nga Mataio	Cook Islands
Ms. Makelesi Tavaiqia	Fiji
Mr. James T. Movick	Federated States of Micronesia
Dr. Mareko Tofinga	Samoa
Mr. Pita Taufatofua	Tonga
Ipul Powaseu	Papua New Guinea
To be identified	Vanuatu

The expert should have a university degree or equivalent by experience. In addition, he/she should have at least 10 years experience in field of agriculture, rural development or social / economic sciences. He/she must have in-depth knowledge of the agricultural sector in his/her country and be able to identify key players and institutions / organisations active in this area. The ability to communicate and write clearly in English is essential, while knowledge of at least one of the local languages for communication / interview purposes is an added advantage.

9. Implementation schedule (CTA)

- Preparation/Finalisation of ToR; Identification/ short-listing of (potential) consultants; Call for offers (15 September – 10 November)
- Selection of consultants: (11 – 15 November)
- Contractual arrangements/ briefing (16 November – 10 December)
- Start date of contract: 11 December 2003
- Implementation period 11 December 2003 – 9 April 2004
- End date of contract: 10 April 2004

10. Key documents to be made available to consultants

Documents include:

- Cotonou Framework Agreement
- Excerpts of relevant sections of CTA's Strategic Plan and Plan of Action (2001-2005)
- Annual Reports
- Documents on priority information themes identified for the Caribbean & Pacific region
- Documents on products & services provided by CTA

11. Role of Regional Coordinator

- Attend briefing meeting at CTA
- Review the terms of reference
- Finalise questionnaires and methodological approach after due consultation with CTA Team
- Draw up briefing notes and guidelines for local consultants to ensure accurate and consistent application of the agreed methodology in data collection
- Responsibility for the implementation of the study and interpretation of technical queries to local consultants
- During the study, monitor and provide technical assistance to the local consultants
- Review preliminary country reports and findings and send comments back to local consultants
- Coordinate and ensure consistency of country reports
- In conjunction with the CTA Team, prepare the overall report taking into account the findings and recommendations of all the Pacific country reports (table of contents to be agreed by 31/01/04).

³ Final list of countries to be confirmed by 31/01/04.

12. Role of Local Consultants

- Familiarise themselves with background documents received from CTA; including the Terms of Reference
- Conduct interviews and gather in countries specified in the contract
- Undertake field visits in countries specified in the contract
- Draft initial country reports and send to Regional Coordinator for initial comments
- Based on comments received from Coordinator, revise country reports and send draft report to CTA
- Finalise country reports based on comments and observations received from CTA and send back to CTA

13. Role of CTA (Overall coordination CWE, assisted by TVI)

- Establish contacts with the Regional Coordinator and the ACP Local Consultants
 - Draw up Terms of Reference and other relevant documents
 - Invite the Regional Coordinator for Briefing Meeting
 - In consultation with the Regional Coordinator, draft questionnaires
 - Provide relevant background documents to the Team
 - Draft budget and discuss contractual obligations with the Team
 - Overall responsibility for the supervision and implementation of the studies
 - Appoint the Regional Coordinator and the ACP Local Consultants
 - Bear the agreed costs of expenditure in respect of the evaluation (economy class tickets for approved visits to CTA's Headquarters, hotel accommodation and subsistence allowances during briefing meeting, or during agreed and specified field visits)
 - In conjunction with the Regional Coordinator, prepare the overall report taking into account the findings and recommendations of all the Pacific country reports (table of contents to be agreed by 31/01/04).
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Annex 2. Country Profile – [Solomon Islands]

2.1 General Agricultural Profile

2.1.1 Size of agriculture population

A vast majority of Solomon islanders are engaged in agricultural activities. The census of 1999 shows 111,905 people participating in some kind of unpaid activity, 78.3% is engaged in agricultural activities while fishing accounts for 5.3%. (Table 2.0) Again agriculture industry is the largest single employment sector. 20.6% or 11,859 paid workers are employed in the agriculture sector, of these 53.2% are males and 46.8% are females. In the forestry sector, 3,143 men and 232 women are employed accounting for 0.06% of employments. The Fisheries sector accounts for 0.06% of employments with 87.2 being males and 12.8 females.

Table 2.1 Main unpaid work activity of males and females, 14 years and over

Main unpaid activity	Total population 14 years and over with unpaid work			Percentage of total		
	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>% of all industries</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
All unpaid activities	111,905	55,158	56,747	100	49.3	50.7
1 Agriculture	87,630	37,657	49,973	78.3	43.0	57.0
2 Fishing and hunting	5,954	5,277	677	5.3	88.6	11.4
3 Craft and related activities	8,662	6,560	2,102	7.7	75.7	24.3
4 Community work	8,148	4,990	3,158	7.3	61.2	38.8
5 Unpaid activity not stated	1,511	674	837	1.4	44.6	55.4

Source: Statistics Office (2000); Report on the 1999 population and housing census.

Table 2.2 Paid employment in 1999 by industrial sector

<i>Industry (ISIC groups)</i>	<i>Total population 14 years and over with paid work</i>			<i>Percentage of total (%)</i>		
	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>%of all industries</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
ALL INDUSTRIES	57,472	39,761	17,711	100	69.1	31.9
Agriculture	11,859	6,313	5,546	20.6	53.2	46.8
Forestry and logging	3,375	3,143	232	0.06	93.1	6.9
Fishing	3,367	2,935	432	0.06	87.2	12.8
Minning and quarrying	574	488	86	0.01	85.0	15.0
Manufacturing	7,237	5,387	1,850	0.13	58.6	41.4
Electricity and water	530	490	40	0.01	92.5	7.5
Construction	2,997	2,948	49	0.05	98.4	1.6
Wholesale/retail trade	7,275	4,263	3,012	0.13	58.6	41.1
Hotels and restaurants	865	417	448	0.02	48.2	51.8
Transport/communication	3,239	2,978	261	0.06	91.9	8.1
Financial intermediation	581	308	273	0.01	53.0	47.0
Reas estate, business services	994	840	154	0.02	84.5	15.5
Public admin., social security	4,337	3,480	857	0.08	80.2	19.8
Education	4,324	2,673	1,651	0.08	61.8	38.2
Health and social work	1,830	872	958	0.03	47.7	52.3
Other services	2,122	1,542	580	0.04	72.7	27.3
Private household employees	1,065	67	998	0.02	0.1	99.9
Extra territorial organization	208	133	75	0.00	63.9	36.1
Industry not stated	693	484	209	0.01	69.8	30.2

Source: Statistics Office (2000); Report on the 1999 population and housing census

2.1.2 Farmed Lands, Forests, Fishing Areas

i. Farmed Lands

A survey of the land resources of the Solomon Islands which was conducted in the 1970's⁴ identified 338,100 ha (3,381 km²) as having the potential for commercial agriculture development. These areas are arable lands known as Agriculture Opportunity Areas (AOAs). It is estimated that about 21,500 ha of AOAs have been developed in the past for purposes of semi-commercial to commercial scale agriculture activities (Department of Agriculture and Livestock). For the purposes of this report it is not possible to ascertain and include what proportion of this lands remain as farms, what proportion of the AOAs remain undeveloped, and what area of land is developed for smallholder farming. A land resource survey needs to be undertaken.

⁴ No recent work has been done in this area to be able to obtain recent figures.

Table 2.3 Agricultural Opportunity Areas (AOA) in the Solomon Islands

Island	AOA (km ²)
New Georgia group	1,328
Guadalcanal	746
Malaita	536
Makira	200
Nendo	183
Choiseul	153
Isabel	90
Shortlands	75
Russell islands	42
Ulawa	28
Total	3,381 km² (338,100 ha)

Source: Hansell and Ward, 1976, Vol 1. page 136

ii. Forests

Table 2.4 Forest Areas as determined by SIFMP

Province	Non-operable forest and unforested land (ha)	Unlogged natural forest (ha)	Conservation areas (ha)	Logged over natural forest (ha)	Plantations (industrial & villages) (ha)	Total Area (ha)
Guadalcanal	457,300	44,500	-	36,800	100	538,700
Western	324,600	64,200	-	138,700	24,000	551,500
Isabel	290,600	78,100	-	51,700	2,400	422,800
Malaita	380,300	29,800	-	11,600	300	422,000
Choiseul	218,200	89,100	-	22,500	400	330,200
Makira	288,300	21,000	-	12,600	-	321,900
Temotu	60,600	19,900	-	4,300	2,900	87,700
Rennell	36,400	24,000	-	5,500	-	65,900
Central	53,300	6,700	-	4,500	-	64,500
Total	2,109,600	377,300	-	288,200	30,100	2,805,200
% of total land area	75%	14%	0%	10%	1%	100%

Source: SIFMP 2003

Forest areas of the Solomon Islands encompass a total area of 2,805,200 ha. 75% of this area is non operable forest, 14% is unlogged natural forest, 19% is logged over natural forest, and 1% comprises industrial and village plantations. Companies have reported planting a total of 35,000 ha; large proportions have failed as a result of poor management (SIFMP 2003; National Forest Assessment, page 20)

Table 2.5 Summary of Industrial scale plantations

Province	Owner	Location	Planted Area (ha)	Commercial Area (ha)
Western	KFPL	Kolombangara	12,000	12,000
	Eagon (EPPL)	Viru harbour	12,500	8,900
	FD	Shortland Islands	2,100	1,200
	FD	Gizo	600	200
Choiseul	Eagon ERC	Choiseul Bay/Moli	3,200	300
Isabel	FD	Allardyce	2,300	2,300
Temotu	FD	Santa Cruz	2,900	2,900
<i>Total</i>			<i>35,600</i>	<i>27,800</i>

Source: SIFMP 2003

iii. Fishing areas

2.1.3 Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries Systems

(1) Agricultural systems

The agriculture sector in the Solomon Islands comprises of three distinctive scales. These include the subsistence sector, the smallholder-commercial sector and the export orientated commercial sector. While in the context of the broader agriculture sector the Household unit is the predominant economic or production unit whereby individuals or families operate from. There are 65,014 households in the Solomon Islands. (Census Report 1999 pp 62).

i. Subsistence agriculture

A majority of households in the Solomon Islands practice subsistence agriculture they produce garden crops and small livestock for own consumption and are non-monetized. Subsistence agriculture as practiced throughout the Solomon Islands is the established way of life for most people in the rural areas, areas outside the city, towns and administrative centres. The main unpaid work activity for men and women in the Solomon Islands is agriculture.

ii. Smallholder cash agriculture

This agriculture system is common in many peri-urban areas, individuals, families or groups run farm units with a degree of cash investment. These units are usually small and make very little profits and cash returns are usually used for obligations of the farmer. These farm units participate in production to supply domestic demands for agriculture products. Many small –holder farmers supply export commodities to export agents who in turn export overseas.

iii. Export orientated large scale commercial companies.

As the name implies these type of agriculture companies produce for export purposes. These are usually plantation based companies operating on 200 – 1000+ hectares. These companies provide employment for 1000's of Solomon Islander. A number of large scale export orientated commercial companies have closed down due to the lawlessness of the 2000 ethnic tensions. Solomon Islands plantation Limited (SIPL) owned by CDC used to be the only palm oil exporter in the Solomon

Islands, it has now closed. RIPEL in the Russell Islands 3000 ha of plantation and cattle grazing area is also experiencing financial difficulties and employee unrest.

(2) Forestry systems

Forests in the Solomon Islands are either natural or planted. They play an important role in the lives of every rural Solomon Islander. Forests are the source of wood for cooking, timber for housing, wild life habitat, foods and medicines, also protecting both land and marine water quality. Logging in natural forests provides significant revenues for the government through export duties and to landowners through royalties. The National Forest of the Solomon comprises of the following components; unlogged natural forest, logged over natural forest, large scale commercial plantations, and small scale village plantation.

Forestry systems in the Solomon Island comprise, traditional owned forest, and state owned forests.

i. Traditionally owned forests

The vast majority of natural forest in the Solomon Islands is in traditional ownership in a form of a private rather than state ownership. Any moves by the government to limit a landowning group's ability to dispose of its forest would be regarded as interfering with their private rights of ownership. Through the available legal mechanisms traditional forest owners can allow logging companies to harvest logs from these forest. Traditional forest owners can establish forest areas in logged over areas through reforestation programmes. Many village forest plantations are currently being established. Village people have greatly taken interest in planting timber trees. It is estimated that by mid 2004 more than 2000 ha of village plantations will be planted with commercial forests, as a result of the continuous support from SIFMP and FD. These village plantations have the potential to become important sources of cash income and building materials.

ii. State owned forests

Large scale industrial plantations at Alu in the Shortlands, Gizo, Kolombangara, New Georgia, Isabel and Temotu encompass a total planted area of 35 600 ha (Appendix) (SIFMP), large areas of state plantations have failed due to poor management. These state owned plantations are a source of revenue for the government.

Logging by Foreign Companies

The forest industry has been topical and controversial in the recent years. This controversy is related to the current rates of exploitation, sustainability, logging prices and transfer pricing. This sector is dominated by foreign firms and smaller landowner groups exploiting the natural forest and a joint venture operation involved in plantation forestry. (There is a general view that most of the logging activities is illegal). Log exports were very high in the mid 1990s; provisional estimates from the Timber control unit (TCU) showed a production figure of 850,000 cubic meters. Of this 35,000 cubic meters came from forest plantations and the rest represent harvest from the natural forest. At the height of social unrests in 2000, certain logging companies downscaled operations and log production declined. The arrival of the RAMSI improved security and law and order returned. Many logging companies ceased illegal operations and harvesting, this also had an effect on the log production figures. In 2000 and recent years log production remained less than 100,000 cubic meters (*Table 2.6 Annex 2*).

(3) Fisheries systems

Solomon Islands is a maritime nation, therefore fishing is a very important activity. 62% of all households in the Solomon Islands catch fish for their own consumption. The proportion rises considerably in provinces further from Honiara, with 87% in Western and 85% in Temotu. Fishing for cash is gradually increasing in 1986 only 17 percent of households fished for income. By 1999 24% of all households in the country earned money from fishing.

There are three levels of the sector: subsistence production, small-scale cash fishing and large scale of shore fishing industry.

Large commercial fishing

Prior to the ethnic unrest in 1998, Solomon Taiyo Ltd (STL) and National Fisheries Development (NFD) were the major Fishing companies with on-shore investments operating in the Solomon Islands. STL was initially a joint venture between Taiyo Gyogyo Company of Japan and The Solomon Islands Government, and then later Taiyo Gyogyo Company sold its shares to Marahua Corporation also of Japan. In the mid 1990s, total annual total fish catches reached 56,000 tons. Solomon Taiyo Ltd (STL) caught over 35,000 tons while NFD caught the balance.. Together both companies boast around 100 fishing “catcher” boats. Another fishing company Ting Hong which applied for a licence and was scheduled to commence operations in 1995, never operated due to irregularities in its licensing arrangements. There were concerns in the same year regarding the licensing of large numbers of purse seine vessels to fish in the Solomon waters. Poor catches were experienced in 1996 and the rest of the years preceding 1998.

In 2000, total fish catch fell by 55.9% to a record low of 21,163 tonnes. Solomon Taiyo caught 11,528 tonnes and NFD caught 9,635 tons. Only 3 out of 5 companies registered locally were actively fishing in 2000. The three companies are Solomon Taiyo Ltd (STL), NFD and Solgreen. Canned Tuna from STL fell from 997,300 cartons in 1999 to 274,000 cartons in 2000. Marked falls in world price for tuna and security situation in the country posed serious problems for the fishing industry. STL eventually ceased its fishing operations at the end of 2000 when Maruha Corporation of Japan decided to terminate its venture with Solomon Islands Government. Processing of canned products from reserve stocks in its Noro cannery continued for domestic consumption and for export to several regional neighbours.

Already discarding its pole and line fleets in 1999, NFD further down-sized its operations in 2000 by retrenching 175 of its 250 workers and holding on to just two purseining boats. Solgreen Enterprises Ltd is a long line fishing company which is locally based. It also ceased its fishing activities in 2000.

Immediately after the termination of STL partnership in 2000, SIG established a new company Soltai Fishing and Processing Ltd (SFPL) in partnership with the Western province. SIG through the Investment Corporation of the Solomon Islands (ICSI) holds a 51% share and the Western province 49%. In 2004, SFPL and NFD are continuing operations side by side from their bases at Noro in the Western province.

In the first quarter of 2004, the fishing sector remained weak with fish catches being a mere 4,483 tonnes. Declines were due to unfavourable weather and the reduction in the number of fishing boats after the breakdown of two SFPL fishing boats. It is reported that there are only less than 10 fishing boats operational. The SFPL cannery at Noro is capable of producing 1 million cases of canned tuna if operating at full capacity. Only the three companies SFPL, NFD and Solgreen remain operational. Solgreen continues to export sashimi tuna from its base in Honiara.

Small-cash fishing

Fishing for cash is gradually increasing. In 1986, only 17% of households fished for cash, by 1999 24% all households in the country earned money from fishing (*Table 3.0 Annex 2*). Fishermen supply fish vendors who sell fish from ice filled coolers (Esky) in urban Honiara and fish centres in the provinces. Fishing techniques commonly used include, tow lining, drop lining, and gill netting, from outboard motor powered boats.

Subsistence fishing

62% of all households in the country catch fish for their own consumption (*Table 2.9 Annex 2*). The proportion rises considerably in provinces further from Honiara, 87% in the Western province and 85% in Temotu province. Fishing techniques used include, hook and line, drop lining, and collecting/gathering shells

In 2004, there are currently two major local fishing companies Soltai and National Fisheries Development (NFD). Soltai produces canned tuna from its large cannery at Noro in the Western province. The cannery is capable of producing a million cases of canned tuna annually (12,300 tonnes of Raw Tuna). The NFD fleet also operates from its base at Noro, and is more involved in exporting Tuna. The NFD currently has a fleet of 2 purse seiners, and seven pole and line vessels, this is a very small fleet compared to fishing fleets in the past operating for Solomon Taiyo. NFD and Soltai are involved in Pole & Line fishery, Baitfish fishery, Purse seine fishery, and Long line fishery.

2.1.4 Agriculture in the Economy

Data available from the Central Bank of Solomon Islands showed, in the First quarter of 2004 the Agriculture, Fisheries and Logging industries contributed to the domestic economy, GDP values of SI \$39 million (39.3%), SI \$26 million (26.0%), and SI \$16 million (16.3%) respectively (*Table 2.8*). The contribution of important agricultural products is examined here below:

i. Copra

In the first quarter of 2004 copra production totalled at 1,939 metric tons; significantly lower than the previous quarter; 5,320 metric tonnes. This fall was attributable to seasonal factors and the inability of some copra license holders to purchase copra during the quarter, as they did not renew their license (*Table 2.6*). Despite this decline copra production is expected to increase in the next quarter as traders renew their license and resume trading.

ii. Cocoa

Cocoa production took a significant decline during the first quarter of 2004 with a quarterly production of only 521 metric tons. This is a marked contrast to the production figures of a thousand plus tons in the previous quarter. Seasonal factors were the main cause of the decline. (Central Bank of the Solomon Islands, *Quarterly Review March 2004*, Vol.15, No. 4)

Table 2.6 Production by major commodity in years 2000 – 2004

Period	Copra (m.t)	Coconut Oil (m.t)	Cocoa (m.t)	Fish Catch (m.t)	Timber Log Prodn ('000 Cum)
2000					
Mar	7157	3171	734	7178	134
Jun	6383	2126	864	10272	130
Sep	2600	2173	357	2954	148
Dec	2865	1083	360	760	124
2001					
Mar	315		55	1056	35.0
Jun	68		304	1056	26.0
Sep	105		108	3506	26.0
Dec	80		85	3506	68.0
2002					
Mar	100		50	2119	20.0
Jun			437	1066	52.9
Sep	85		245	1962	66.0
Dec	661		148	1607	34.2
2003					
Mar	827		14	2430	62.0
Jun	834		688	2102	72.1
Sep	1709		473	2782	59.3
Dec	1950		282	927	61.0
2004					
Jan	1475			1550	40.6
Feb	1725			1420	46.3
Mar	1904			1513	43.5

Source: Central bank of Solomon Islands, Quarterly Review March, Vol 16 No.1

iii. Fisheries

A weakening of activities in fishing sector was experienced in the first quarter of 2004. Fish catch fell by 16.9% from 5,395 metric tons in the last quarter of 2003 to 4,483 tons March 2004. Unfavourable weather conditions and the break down of two Soltai fishing boats which reduced the Soltai fishing fleet contributed to the decline in fish catches of the quarter.

iv. Logging

Provisional data base on Log exports showed in the first quarter of 2004, a decline in production of logs by 28.5% to 130. 47 cubic meters from 182. 50 cubic meters in the previous quarter. The down turn in log production is a reflection mainly of seasonal trends which tend to hinder production in the first quarter of each year.

Table 2.7 Sectoral Contribution (in %) to RGDP 2000 -2003

Industry	(1985 =Base year)	2000	2001	2002	2003
Agriculture		11.6	10.8	12.1	14.5
Forestry. Logging, Saw milling		7.2	7.8	8.3	9.6
Fishing		4.8	4.4	4.8	6.0
Mining &Exploration		3.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Manufacturing		4.8	4.2	4.1	3.9
Electricity and Water		1.7	1.7	1.8	1.7
Construction		0.8	0.7	0.4	0.6
Retail and Wholesale Trade		9.5	9.3	10.4	10.1
Transport and Communications		4.2	3.8	4.3	4.4
Finance		5.4	5.7	5.8	5.6
Other Services		26.2	28.5	23.5	19.3
Non Monetary: Food		19	21.3	22.5	22.3
Non Monetary: Construction		1.6	1.8	1.9	1.9
Total (%)			100	100	100

Source: Central Bank of Solomon Islands Quarterly Review, March 2004 Vol 16, No. 1

Table 2.8 Gross Domestic Product Values by industries, 1998 – 2003

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
GDP VALUE (SI\$Millions)						
Agriculture	54.3	42.3	33.9	29	31.6	39.3
Forestry Logging and Sawmilling	20.8	25.5	20.9	20.9	21.5	26.0
Fishing	28.6	27.7	13.9	11.7	12.4	16.3
Mining &Exploration	6.8	19.2	9.3	0.1	0.1	0.0
Manufacturing	17.4	17.4	13.9	11.2	10.6	10.6
Electricity & Water	5.7	5.6	5	4.5	4.6	4.7
Construction	6.2	3.5	2.4	1.9	1.1	1.6
Retail &Wholesale Trade	32.8	30.9	27.7	24.8	27.2	27.3
Transport & Communication	14.6	15.3	12.3	10.1	11.2	11.8
Finance	16.2	16.4	15.9	15.4	15.2	15.1
Other Services	80.6	77.8	76.4	76.2	61.2	52.3
MONETARY TOTAL	283.9	281.6	231.6	205.8	196.9	205.0
Monetary Index	170.7	169.4	139.3	123.8	118.4	123.3
Annual movement (%)	0.7	-0.8	-17.8	-11.2	-4.3	4.1
Ommiting Mining &Exploration	277	262.5	222.3	205.7	196.8	204.9
Index (1985=100)	165.1	156.4	132.5	122.6	117.3	122.1
Annual movement (%)	-2.4	-5.3	-15.3	-7.5	-4.3	4.2
PRIMARY PRODN MONETARY	103.6	95.5	68.7	61.6	65.6	81.5
Index (1985=100)	143	131.8	94.8	85	90.5	112.5
Annual movement (%)	-7.4	-7.8	-28	-10.4	6.5	24.3
Non Monetary: Food	52.7	54.1	55.5	57.2	58.7	60.3
Non Monetary: construction	4.5	4.6	4.7	4.9	5	5.2
NON MONETARY TOTAL	57.2	58.6	60.2	62.1	63.7	65.5
RGDP (IN SI\$M)	341	340.3	291.9	267.9	260.6	270.5
Index (1985 = 100)	164.5	164.2	140.8	129.2	125.7	130.5
RGDP (in US\$M)	89.3	67.2	57.3	50.5	38.4	36.0
Economic Growth (%)	1	-0.2	-14.2	-8.2	-2.7	3.8

Source: Central Bank of Solomon Islands, Quarterly Review March 2004, Vol 16, No.1

2.1.5 Main agricultural produce and secondary products

The main agricultural, fisheries and forestry produce of the Solomon Islands are included in the list below, by industry:

Industry	Main produce
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Agriculture:	Copra Coconut Oil Palm Oil Palm Kernel Cocoa
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Fisheries:	Frozen Fish Smoked Fish Canned Fish Marine shells
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Forestry:	Round Logs Sawn Timber
------------------	---------------------------

Source: Central Bank of Solomon Islands, Quarterly Review December 2003, Vol 15 No.

2.1.6 Main export markets

i. Agriculture

- Australia: Holland Commodities International Pty: Cocoa and Copra.
- England: Lonswis Limited : Cocoa and Copra
- PNG: Agmark : Cocoa
- Singapore : Agricom : Copra

ii. Forestry

- Singapore
- Taiwan.
- Korea
- China
- Malaysia.

iii. Fisheries

- Japan
- PNG
- Australia
- Fiji
- Indonesia
- Malaysia

- Thailand
- European Union
- Taiwan
- Vanuatu
- Hong Kong
- New Zealand
- Singapore
- American Samoa

2.1.7 Trade agreements

The following are Regional/International Trade Agreements which include Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

- MSG:** (Melanesian Spearhead Group); Trade Agreement among the MSG countries.
- PICTA:** (Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement)
- PACER:** (Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations).
- Development Agreement with the Tuna Pacific Agency Ltd of Fiji for Chartered Korean long line fishing vessels.
- Multilateral Fisheries Treaty with the U.S.

2.1.8 Sectoral Policy related to agriculture, fisheries and forests

i. Agriculture

The main policy objectives of the agricultural sector are to:

1. Ensure the country has a high level of food security and self-sufficiency at all times at the household, provincial, and national levels;
2. Safe-guard the security of Agriculture by strong Quarantine policies and measures;
3. Increase and diversify smallholder income generation to meet the needs of smallholder farm families;
4. Broaden the export base of agriculture production through research with new crops and livestock in addition to copra, palm oil, cattle, pigs and poultry for export and import substitution;
5. Promote and develop agriculture and livestock in all regions of the country and in the best interest of its entire people;
6. Promote sustainable and environmentally sound farming techniques;
7. Encourage the protection and conservation of the countries biodiversity, and

8. Research the countries biodiversity for the benefit of its entire people.

ii. Fisheries

The general policy statement of the fisheries sector includes:

1. Facilitate the rational management and conservation of coastal fisheries and aquatic living resources through their sustainable utilization.
2. Rehabilitate and promote the privatization and commercialization of rural fisheries centres.
3. Promote aquaculture development of aquatic organisms such as seaweed, pearl culture, prawn etc.
4. Promote tuna fisheries development through foreign and local investment.
5. Increase revenue through licensing of more tuna fishing vessels under access agreements and domestic licensing arrangements.
6. Improve the monitoring of fish catches, their exports and value and to share such information with customs, CBSI and related agencies.

iii. Forestry

Main Policy objectives of the Forestry Department include:

1. Ensure that sustainable harvest of forests by monitoring of log harvesting and ensure that code of logging practice is complied with.
2. Monitor the extent and quality of the nation's forests.
3. To encourage reforestation at all levels and to support family based reforestation by providing seeds and technical advice.
4. Conduct appropriate collaborative forest research programmes
5. Monitor world market prices for logs for purposes of duty adjustments, and keep track of revenue captured from the industry

2.2 Socio-Economic Profile

2.2.1 Total active population

<i>Provinces</i>	<i>All ages</i>	<i>15-29</i>	<i>30-44</i>	<i>Total active population</i>	<i>Percentage to prov. pop</i>
Solomon Islands	409,042	121,304	63,561	184,865	45
Choiseul	20,008	5,385	3,098	8,483	42
Western	62,739	18,211	10,511	28,722	46
Isabel	20,421	5,530	3,045	8,575	42

<i>Provinces</i>	<i>All ages</i>	<i>15-29</i>	<i>30-44</i>	<i>Total active population</i>	<i>Percentage to prov. pop</i>
Central	21,577	6,204	3,320	9,524	44
Rennell-Bellona	2,377	562	353	915	38
Guadalcanal	60,275	17,968	9,363	27,331	45
Malaita	122,620	33,548	17,023	50,571	41
Makira-Ulawa	31,006	9,234	4,496	13,730	44
Honiara town council	49,107	19,502	9,431	28,933	59

Source: Report on the 1999 population and housing Census

2.2.2 Literacy level

<i>Provinces</i>	<i>Literacy, sex Literate</i>			<i>Literacy rate</i>		
	<i>Both sexes</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Both sexes</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Solomon Islands	222,405	123,173	99,232	64.4	69.1	59.4
Choiseul	12,267	6,249	6,018	73.3	73.3	73.5
Western	42,032	22,439	19,593	79.1	79.6	78.6
Isabel	10,951	6,000	4,951	63.2	68.1	58.1
Central	10,687	6,186	4,501	58.4	65.4	50.9
Rennell-Bellona	1,467	797	670	72.7	76.4	68.6
Guadalcanal	30,487	17,072	13,415	60.4	64.9	55.5
Malaita province	52,476	29,265	23,211	51.3	57.8	44.9
Makira-Ulawa	17,726	9,496	8,230	68.2	71.2	64.9
Temotu	8,302	4,602	3,700	50.9	59.0	43.5
Honiara town council	36,010	21,067	14,943	84.1	87.1	80.1

Source: Report on the 1999 population and housing Census

2.2.3 Access to services

2.2.3.1 Percentage of households and population having access to piped water supply by SIWA/RWSS, by province.

Province	Percent of households	Percent of population
Solomon Islands	60.8	61.9
Choiseul	56.7	55.5
Western	62.1	62.5
Isabel	87.1	88.0
Central	61.0	61.2
Rennell-Bellona	1.4	1.0
Guadalcanal	40.3	40.4
Malaita	57.6	58.5
Makira-Ulawa	65.1	65.4

Province	Percent of households	Percent of population
Temotu	43.0	43.4
Honiara	95.4	95.9

Source: Report on the 1999 population and housing Census.

2.2.3.2 Households, by access to electricity, source of electricity supply, and by rural-urban location.

Area	Households without electricity		Households with electricity		Of which by:			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	SIEA	Private company	Own source	Other
Solomon Islands	54,538	84.2	10,209	15.8	10.8	1.8	2.3	0.8
Rural areas	52,007	93.6	3,557	6.4	1.2	2.0	2.3	0.9
Honiara urban surroundings + Taro	392	69.1	175	30.9	24.0	0.0	4.8	2.1
Honiara	1,887	27.3	5,018	72.7	70.9	0.1	1.4	0.2
Other urban areas	116	9.4	1,116	90.6	80.0	4.9	5.0	0.6

Source: Report on the 1999 population and housing Census.

2.2.4 Rural–urban drift

B2.07. Total population, by place of birth and by province and ward of enumeration														
<i>Province of enumeration</i>	<i>Total population</i>	<i>Solomon Islands</i>	<i>Province of birth</i>										<i>Other country</i>	<i>Not stated</i>
			<i>Choiseul</i>	<i>Western</i>	<i>Isabel</i>	<i>Central</i>	<i>Ren-Bel</i>	<i>G'canal</i>	<i>Malaita</i>	<i>Makira-Ulawa.</i>	<i>Temotu</i>	<i>Honiara</i>		
Solomon Islands	409,042	403,131	20,615	59,297	21,440	21,020	2,452	62,200	131,359	31,350	21,697	31,701	4,141	1,770
Choiseul province	20,008	19,587	17,192	1,365	45	45	5	177	195	28	47	488	368	53
Western province	62,739	61,365	1,842	51,917	484	452	32	822	2,400	431	660	2,325	1,000	374
Isabel province	20,421	20,253	86	282	18,206	171	6	252	286	145	99	720	121	47
Central province	21,577	21,476	67	217	295	17,529	58	505	1,596	191	398	620	74	27
Rennell-Bellona province	2,377	2,361	2	17	5	42	1,694	9	28	2	5	557	3	13
Guadalcanal province	60,275	59,789	166	497	234	460	51	53,968	1,899	300	380	1,834	339	147
Malaita province	122,620	121,723	119	740	126	479	21	3,417	110,499	265	164	5,893	194	703
Makira-Ulawa province	31,006	30,699	38	133	94	124	8	246	471	28,400	524	661	77	230
Temotu province	18,912	18,880	6	135	28	183	2	282	144	141	17,392	567	18	14
Honiara town council	49,107	46,998	1,097	3,994	1,923	1,535	575	2,522	13,841	1,447	2,028	18,036	1,947	162
Migrate Out			3,423	7,380	3,234	3,491	758	8,232	20,860	2,950	4,305	13,665	4,141	1,770

Source: Report on the 1999 population and housing census

2.3 Media and Telecommunications

2.3.1. Newspapers

- (i) Solomon Star Co.Ltd, P.O.Box 255, Honiara, Tel, 26235,
E-mail: solstar@welkam.solomon.sb
A Privately owned newspaper company producing daily newspaper five days a week
- (ii) Solomon Voice News paper, P.O.Box 1235 Honiara, Tel 20116
A privately owned newspaper company producing news paper ones a week.
- (iii) Nius Blong Mere Solomon. Quarterly News Letter produced by the Voice blong Mere Solomon.

2.3.2 Broadcast Media

- (i) Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation AM, SW, MW, FM
P.O.Box 654, Tel: 20051, Fax: 23159
SW Radio frequency nation wide radio coverage 6 am – 10 pm every day.
- (ii) ZFM 100
P.O.Box 100, Honiara, Tel: 677 22100, Fax: 24100
E-mail: zfm@solomon.com.sb
- (iii) PAOA FM
P.O.Box 255, Honiara, Tel: 38984
E-mail: paoafm@solomon.com.sb
- (iv) SOLOMON TELEKOM TV RELAYS
BBC and ABC, 24 hrs on air.

2.3.3 Telecommunication services

Solomon Telekom Company Limited

This is a joint venture between Solomon Islands National Provident Fund, Investment Corporation of the Solomon Islands and Cable and wireless.

a) Services provided:

- Telephone services
- Facsimile
- Card Phones (Prepaid cards)
- Mobile phones (Analogue and GSM)
- Data communications
- Internet services
- Satellite phones (Nera & Irridium)

b) Cost of a 3 minute call:

- fixed phones
 - Local calls - \$1.89
 - Trunk calls - \$8.31

- mobile phones - Analogue out going airtime only - \$8.31
- GSM (out going airtime only) - \$9.24

c) International calls:

- Band 1 \$9.38 / minute
- Band 2 \$16.98/ minute

Band 1: Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu
and all other pacific countries.

Band 2; Rest of the world.

d) Coverage:

Most of the urban centres of the country have access to fixed telephones, there are about 6,662 fixed telephone subscribers and 1,634 mobile phone subscribers. Apart from office and private home telephone there is also the Card phone system which are found in many convenient locations in Honiara as well as in the provincial centres. For rural areas with access to High frequency radios, Radio Telephone connections can be done.

Source: *Solomon Telekom Company Limited, Solomon Islands Telephone Directory 2004.*
pp. 7-19.

2.3.4 Computers and the Internet.

All internet service providers are hooked to the Solomon Telekom and there are 2,051 subscribers to the internet nation wide.

Internet service providers

(a) Urban e-mail services:

- (1) ENVISION
P.O.Box 643 Honiara, Tel: 677 21051
Fax: 38772, E-mail: envision@solomon.com.sb
- (2) Internet Café Zone
P.O.Box 1721, Honiara, Tel: 22258
E-mail: internetcafe@solomon.com.sb
- (3) Systek Business Computing Service
P.O.Box 1297, Honiara. Tel: 22016 Fax: 26307
E-mail: systek@welkam.solomon.com.sb
- (4) T.M Internet Café
P.O.Box 1283, Honiara, Tel: (677) 21055
E-mail: tepe@solomon.com.sb
- (5) People First Time Net work (PF NET)
Honiara office: 24 work stations

There are 23 rural E-mail stations deployed throughout the whole country. E-mail stations are accessible from 8am – 4:30 pm six days a week. From the report of E-mail use as on March 2004; Pirupiru on Ulawa, Makira Ulawa Province - 255, Sasamuga in Choiseul Province-406, Kati in the Temotu province-167, Hutuna on Renell, in the Rennell and Bellona province- 255, Silolo on North Malaita-183, Sa'a on South Malaita – 173, Seghe in the Western Province-202.

(b) Rural e-mail stations:

Choiseul Province

- (i) sasamuga@pipolfastaem.gov.sb
- (ii) wagina@pipolfastaem.gov.sb
- (iii) pago@pipolfastaem.gov.sb

Western Province

- (i) vanga@pipolfastaem.gov.sb
- (ii) rarumana@pipolfastaem.gov.sb
- (iii) seghe@pipolfastaem.gov.sb

Makira Province

- (i) pirupiru@pipolfastaem.gov.sb
- (ii) santaana@pipolfastaem.gov.sb

Temotu Province

- (i) kati@pipolfastaem.gov.sb

Ysabel Province

- (i) sigana@pipolfastaem.gov.sb

Rennell and Bellona Province

- (i) hutuna@pipolfastaem.gov.sb
- (ii) bellona@pipolfastaem.gov.sb

Malaita Province

- (i) pelau@pipolfastaem.gov.sb
- (ii) saa@pipolfastaem.gov.sb

(c) PFNET subscribe stations

Kia, Isabel Province, in collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries.

- (i) kiafisheries@pipolfastaem.gov.sb

Vanga western Province, collaboration with St. Dominics Marist brothers and Vanga RTC.

- (ii) marist-vanga@pipolfastaem.gov.sb

Vanga western Province in collaboration with Kastom Garden Association.

- (iii) kga-vanga@pipolfastaem.gov.sb

Silolo, North Malaita, in collaboration with Kastom Garden Association.

- (iv) kga-silolo@pipolfastaem.gov.sb

Sir Dudley College, Isabel province.

- (v) dudley@pipolfastaem.gov.sb

Annex 3. Profile of Institutions

3.1 List of Institutions in the Agricultural Sector

Name and contacts	Type	Role
<p>Name Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industries Acronym : SICCI Postal address : P.O. Box 650, Honiara Solomon Islands. Tel: (677) 39542 Fax: (677) 39544. E-mail : chamberc@solomon.com.sb Web site: NA</p>	CCI	PP
<p>Name: Voice Blong Mere Solomon Acronym: VBMS Postal address : P.O.Box 602, Honiara Tel: (677) 28738 Fax: (677)28738 E-mail: vbms@welkam.solomon.com.sb Web site: NA</p>	AS-W	IN
<p>Name: Solomon Islands CETC Alumini Acronym: SI/CETC Postal address : C/o P.O.Box G39, Honiara, SI Tel: (677) 22166/ 26316 Fax: (677) 26316 E-mail: wdd@welkam.solomon.com.sb Web site NA</p>	AS-W	EX
<p>Name : Development of Agriculture Sustainable Projects Acronym :DSAP Postal address: C/o Ministry of Agriculture and Lands P.O.Box G13, Honiara SI. Tel: (677)22162 Web site: NA</p>	GOV	RD
<p>Name : Development Bank of Solomon Islands Acronym: DBSI Postal address. P.O.BOX 911, Honiara Solomon Islands Tel : (677) 21595 Fax : (677) 23715 E-mail : dbsi-it@welkam.solomon.com .au Web site: NA</p>	BNK	FS
<p>Name: Women's Development Division Acronym: WDD Postal address : P.O.Box G39, Honiara, SI Tel (677) 26316 Fax (677) 26316 E-mail wdd@welkam.solomon.com.sb Web site: NA</p>	AS-W	EX

Name and contacts	Type	Role
Name Commodities Export Marketing Authority Acronym CEMA Postal address: P.O. Box 1087 Honiara Tel : (677)22528/22347 Fax : (677) 21262 E-mail : cema@solomon.com.sb Web site: NA	STA	RG
Name : Solomon Islands Sustainable Agriculture Acronym SISA Postal address: P.O.Box 1229, Honiara Solomon Islands Tel: (677)39676 Fax : (677)39676 E-mail: rckimisi@solomon.com.sb Web site: NA	PRV	PS-E
Name: Don Bosco Technical Institute Acronym: DBTI Postal address : P.O.Box R-341 Tel : (677) 36222 E-mail: lcapelli@donbosco.org.sb Web site: NA	EDU	TR
Name: Curriculum Development Centre Acronym: CDC Postal address : P.O.Box G27, Honiara, SI Tel: (677) 30738 E-mail: diriala@solomon.com.sb Web site NA	GOV	RD/TR
Name: Solomon Islands Association of Rural Training Centres Acronym: SIARTC Postal address : P.O.Box 556, Honiara, SI Tel: (677) 24253 Web site : NA	NGO	TR
Name: Solomon Agricultural Supplies Acronym: SAS Postal address : P.O.Box 978, Honiara, SI Tel: (677) 20138 Fax (677) 20138 E-mail: alomae@solomon.com.sb Web site: NA	PRV	PS-S
Name: Solomon Islands Copra Exporters Pty Ltd. Acronym: SICE Postal address : P.O.Box 1024, Honiara, SI Tel: (677) 23144 Web site : NA	PRV	PS-E

Name and contacts	Type	Role
Name: Direct Management Ltd Acronym: DML Postal address : P.O.Box 1485 , Honiara, SI Tel: (677) 25564 Web site : NA	PRV	PS-E/P
Name: Island Butcher Shop Acronym: IBS Postal address : P.O.Box 1211, Honiara, SI Tel: (677) 39719 Web site : NA	PRV	PS-E
Name: Solomon Tropical Products Acronym: STP Postal address : P.O.Box 1870, Honiara, SI Tel: (677) 38556 E-mail: stp@solomon.com.sb Web site : NA	PRV	PS-M
Name: BRK Agencies Ltd Acronym: BRK Postal address : P.O. Box 1338, Honiara, SI Tel: (677) 20780 Web site : NA	PRV	PS-E
Name: Purple Investment Acronym: PI Postal address : P.O. Box 995, Honiara, SI Tel: (677) 38519 Web site : NA	PRV	PS-E
Name: Kastom Garden Association Acronym: KGA Postal address : P.O. Box 742 , Honiara, SI Tel: (677)39551 E-mail: tonyj@solomon.com.sb Web site : NA	NGO	EX
Name: ROC/Agriculture Technical Mission Acronym: CATM Postal address : P.O. Box 487, Honiara, SI Tel: (677)30717 Web site : NA	GOV	RD/EX

Name and contacts	Type	Role
Name: Solomon Islands Commodities Sales Agency Acronym: SICSA Postal address : P.O. Box 755, Honiara, SI Tel: (677)28310 Web site : NA	PRV	PS-E
Name: Solomon Coffee Growers Acronym: SCG Postal address : P.O.Box 146, Honiara, SI Tel: (677) 30869 Web site : NA	PRV	PS-M
Name: School of Natural Resources (SICHE) Acronym: SNR Postal address : P.O. Box G23, Honiara, SI Tel: (677)30111 E-mail: solomon@welkam.com.sb Web site : NA	GOV	TR

3.2 Select List of Key Institutions in the Agricultural Sector

Data capture form – institutions

Name: Women's Development Division	Acronym: WDD
Postal address : P.O. Box G39, Honiara, SI	
Tel 26316	Fax 26316
Email wdd@welkam.solomon.com.sb	
Web site -	

Type (tick)	Role (tick)
AS-F Farmers' association (includes co-ops)	EX Extension and outreach
AS-W Women's association	IN Information services
AS-Y Youth association	FS Financial services
BNK Bank or credit institution	PP Policy and planning
CCI Chamber of commerce and industry	PS-E Corporate – exporter (fresh, frozen and dried produce)
CHU Church-based group	PS-M Corporate – manufacturer (e.g. tannery, bottler, refiner, roaster)
EDU Educational institution	PS-P Corporate – producer (e.g. commercial farm, fishing company)
GOV <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government institution	PS-S Corporate – supplier (e.g. chemicals, seeds)
NGO Non-government organisation	RD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research and development
PRV Private enterprise	RG Regulation (compliance, standards)
REG Regional organisation or network	TR Training (tertiary and vocational level)
STA Statutory body	TM Trade and marketing (include development)

Objective / mission statement Partnership in Development

Field of specialisation Training

Number of staff : 5 Main location : Honiara, Solomon Islands Branches, other sites : Seconded staff in the provinces. Direct employees by the provinces are helping our programs plus our contact persons based in their own organisations, are also assisting us when it comes to women's issues/ training.
--

Annual budget: - Main source of funding : Government funding, sometimes we get assistance from other aid donors.

Programme / projects undertaken Training – Vegetable growing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food processing - Food and nutrition - Clothing and Textiles - Appropriate technology - Sewing machine maintenance 	Target audience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women - Community - Human right - Women peace and security.
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Linkages and collaboration

Extent of collaboration with CTA (tick all that apply)

Receive *Spore* magazine
Receive CTA publications
DORA
SDI
CD-ROM subscriptions
Question & Answer Service

CTA Seminars
Co-seminars
Training programmes
Seminar Support Programme

Extent of collaboration with other institutions (local, national, regional, international) – need name and type of collaboration

Ministry of Agriculture, information sharing, use of ministry resource persons during trainings.

Information management

How are information needs currently met? From where? What type of information?

Information comes from the Agriculture, health department and the Vois Blong Mere Solomon

Main information needs not satisfied

Updated information on agriculture technology and information are lacking, currently only relying on the Agriculture department for agricultural information and advise.

Main problems – information and communication management (capacity, skills, resources etc)

No staff is trained in information technology, even basic information resources are lacking

Lastly

Why did you select this institution to interview?

Because it is an institution that deals with women interest in a wide range of fields and need a lot of information to continuously update them to disseminate to their target groups.

Name: Voice Blong Mere Solomon	Acronym: VBMS
Postal address : P.O.Box 602, Honiara	
Tel 28738	Fax 28738
Email ybms@welkam.solomon.com.sb	
Web site still to be installed – September by CUSO volunteer (for Womens Networks).	

Type (tick)	Role (tick)
AS-F Farmers' association (includes co-ops)	EX Extension and outreach
AS-W ✓ Women's association	IN ✓ Information services
AS-Y Youth association	FS Financial services
BNK Bank or credit institution	PP Policy and planning
CCI Chamber of commerce and industry	PS-E Corporate – exporter (fresh, frozen and dried produce)
CHU Church-based group	PS-M Corporate – manufacturer (e.g. tannery, bottler, refiner, roaster)
EDU Educational institution	PS-P Corporate – producer (e.g. commercial farm, fishing company)
GOV Government institution	PS-S Corporate – supplier (e.g. chemicals, seeds)
NGO Non-government organisation	RD Research and development
PRV Private enterprise	RG Regulation (compliance, standards)
REG Regional organisation or network	TR Training (tertiary and vocational level)
STA Statutory body	TM Trade and marketing (include development)

Objective / mission statement –

Dissemination of regular and relevant information that will enable and empower women to actively contribute to all aspects of National development. Establish and strengthen links with national and provincial women's focal points and organisations to enhance information collection and dissemination for women in S.I.

Mission statement – To advance the status of S.I. women by linking through information sharing.

Field of specialisation

MEDIA – Women's Information Network.

Number of staff : 4

Main location : Honiara, Solomon Islands

Branches, other sites : Organisation memberships/individuals – Focal points for women both in Honiara and all Provinces.

Annual budget: - \$324,000 SBD

Main source of funding : Overseas Donor – Both Current and Recurrent (a three year budget net 2007)

<p>Programme / projects undertaken</p> <p>Radio Program on SIBC and Paoa FM</p> <p>Quarterly Newsletters (Nius Blong Mere Solomon)</p> <p>Resource Centre-</p> <p>Membership-</p> <p>Media awareness/ Training/ Touring</p> <p>Networking – with women's organisations, civil society networks & NGO's, Government Sectors and individuals, Solomon Islanders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Media Organisations both national & regional. - Womens Focal points both national, regional & international. 	<p>Target audience</p> <p>Women, Youth</p> <p>All stakeholders/ members</p> <p>Women, students, public</p> <p>Women's Org. and groups,</p> <p>Individuals.</p>
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Linkages and collaboration

Extent of collaboration with CTA (tick all that apply)	<p>Receive <i>Spore</i> magazine</p> <p>Receive CTA publications</p> <p>DORA</p> <p>SDI</p> <p>CD-ROM subscriptions</p> <p>Question & Answer Service</p> <p>CTA Seminars</p> <p>Co-seminars</p> <p>Training programmes</p> <p>Seminar Support Programme</p>
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Extent of collaboration with other institutions (local, national, regional, international) – need name and type of collaboration

Board of 3 women's Focal points, namely National Council of Women(NCW), Women's Development Division (WDD-Government). Solomon Islands Christian Association – Federation of women (SICA FOW). Membership on committees both NGO & Government Sectors.

Representation and Participatory during Forums, Conferences, Seminars, workshops and meetings.

Information management

How are information needs currently met? From where? What type of information?

Filtering information through these networks, right down to communities and vice versa. Mainstream and traditional media are re-enforcing these information to a wider-general public. Information which are relevant e.g. health, education, agriculture and governance and Democracy (Human rights etc.) Help reduce poverty.

Main information needs not satisfied

Human Rights – Women in Decision making, Conventions e.g CEDAW- how it is translated into various government sectors and implemented – its complementary recognition between the Government/ NGO Sector s, Considering the low literacy rate in S.I. All information is urgently needed in this country.

Main problems – information and communication management (capacity, skills, resources etc)

No - Management of information systems structures

- Recognition of the power of information, how/ why to use it,
- Committed attitude towards information dissemination and networking.
- Fully Utilize all systems and approaches to communicate with different groups e.g. the community.

Lastly

Why did you select this institution to interview?

Because this is a media institution which is run by women to address issues that affect women in the Solomon Islands, Thus the need for regular flow of information including agriculture information.

Name : Solomon Islands Sustainable Agriculture

Acronym SISA

Postal address: P.O.Box 1229, Honiara Solomon Islands

Tel: 39676

Fax : 39676

Email: rckimisi@solomon.com.sb

Web site:/

Type (tick)	Role (tick)
AS-F Farmers' association (includes co-ops)	EX Extension and outreach
AS-W Women's association	IN Information services
AS-Y Youth association	FS Financial services
BNK Bank or credit institution	PP Policy and planning
CCI Chamber of commerce and industry	PS-E <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corporate – exporter (fresh, frozen and dried produce)
CHU Church-based group	PS-M Corporate – manufacturer (e.g. tannery, bottler, refiner, roaster)
EDU Educational institution	PS-P Corporate – producer (e.g. commercial farm, fishing company)
GOV Government institution	PS-S Corporate – supplier (e.g. chemicals, seeds)
NGO Non-government organisation	RD Research and development
PRV <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private enterprise	RG Regulation (compliance, standards)
REG Regional organisation or network	TR Training (tertiary and vocational level)
STA Statutory body	TM Trade and marketing (include development)

Objective / mission statement

To participate in the revitalization of the copra industry in the Solomon Islands.

Field of specialisation:

1. Copra export
2. Quality control and Marketing; training
3. Copra meal export
4. Industry survey

Number of staff : 13 staff
Main location: Honiara
Branches, other sites

Annual budget
Main source of funding:

SISA annual budget is roughly 10 million Solomon dollars annually. The main sources of funding include SISA and its overseas buyer/s.

Programme / projects undertaken

1. Training; quality assurance.
2. Industry survey/statistic
3. Farmer strengthening

Target audience

Copra producers

Linkages and collaboration

Extent of collaboration with CTA (tick all that apply)

Receive *Spore* magazine
Receive CTA publications
DORA
SDI
CD-ROM subscriptions
Question & Answer Service

CTA Seminars
Co-seminars
Training programmes
Seminar Support Programme

Extent of collaboration with other institutions (local, national, regional, international) – need name and type of collaboration:

SISA has no official links or collaboration with institutions either locally or overseas, except with its overseas buyer (name not supplied) which provides donor support to SISA on a copra pre-payment basis.

Information management

How are information needs currently met? From where? What type of information?

SISA has access to IT communication and email facilities and sources its information from its overseas buyer, about world copra prices and overseas markets.

Main information needs not satisfied:

1. Copra and cocoa marketing

Main problems – information and communication management (capacity, skills, resources etc)

Staffs of SISA do not have the capacity to manage information and communication resources, this is a problem.

Lastly

Why did you select this institution to interview?

SISA not only deals directly with rural small-holder copra producers by buying their produce but also is becoming a major exporter of copra. A vast number of rural Solomon Islanders rely on copra production for cash income. The copra industry was badly affected by years of ethnic violence, SISA is participating in the industries revitalization.

Name: Solomon Islands CETC Alumni

Acronym: SI/CETC

Postal address : C/o P.O.Box G39, Honiara, SI

Tel: 22166/ 26316

Fax 26316

Email: wdd@welkam.solomon.com.sb

Web site -

Type (tick)	Role (tick)
AS-F Farmers' association (includes co-ops)	EX <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Extension and outreach
AS-W <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Women's association	IN Information services
AS-Y Youth association	FS Financial services
BNK Bank or credit institution	PP Policy and planning
CCI Chamber of commerce and industry	PS-E Corporate – exporter (fresh, frozen and dried produce)
CHU Church-based group	PS-M Corporate – manufacturer (e.g. tannery, bottler, refiner, roaster)
EDU Educational institution	PS-P Corporate – producer (e.g. commercial farm, fishing company)
GOV Government institution	PS-S Corporate – supplier (e.g. chemicals, seeds)
NGO Non-government organisation	RD Research and development
PRV Private enterprise	RG Regulation (compliance, standards)
REG Regional organisation or network	TR Training (tertiary and vocational level)
STA Statutory body	TM Trade and marketing (include development)

Objective / mission statement

Working with women nationwide

Field of specialisation
Community Development

Number of staff : 88 Community Development Trainers
Main location : Honiara, Solomon Islands
Branches, other sites : Throughout the provinces

Annual budget: - Nil
Main source of funding : Nil .

Programme / projects undertaken

Working in collaboration with Womens Development Division, Churches, communities, in the areas of community Development training.

Target audience

- Women

Linkages and collaboration

Extent of collaboration with CTA (tick all that apply)

Receive *Spore* magazine
Receive CTA publications
DORA
SDI
CD-ROM subscriptions
Question & Answer Service

CTA Seminars
Co-seminars
Training programmes
Seminar Support Programme

Extent of collaboration with other institutions (local, national, regional, international) – need name and type of collaboration

- Women's Development – administration and information.
- Ministry of Agriculture – advise and training resource personnel
- SPC, Noumea (Agriculture)
- CETC, Fiji – Short term training funding, training of alumni

Information management

How are information needs currently met? From where? What type of information?

Thru training and meetings organised by women's Development and the Ministry of Agriculture, and other associated departments.

Main information needs not satisfied

So far information needs are addressed through the help of women's Development Division.

Main problems – information and communication management (capacity, skills, resources etc)

The SI/CETC Alumni depends on women's Development for funding, training materials and equipment. Transportation is always a problem. The Alumni needs a supporting funding to assist us in conducting a lot of our trainings.

Lastly

Why did you select this institution to interview?

This institution deals with women's interest in a wide range of fields including agriculture and need a lot of information to continuously update them to disseminate to their target groups.

Name : Development of Agriculture Sustainable Projects

Acronym :DSAP

Postal address: C/o Ministry of Agriculture and Lands P.O.Box G13, Honiara Solomon Islands.

Tel: 22162

Fax :

Email : dsap@solomon.com.sb

Web site :

Type (tick)	Role (tick)
AS-F Farmers' association (includes co-ops)	EX Extension and outreach
AS-W Women's association	IN Information services
AS-Y Youth association	FS Financial services
BNK Bank or credit institution	PP Policy and planning
CCI Chamber of commerce and industry	PS-E Corporate – exporter (fresh, frozen and dried produce)
CHU Church-based group	PS-M Corporate – manufacturer (e.g. tannery, bottler, refiner, roaster)
EDU Educational institution	PS-P Corporate – producer (e.g. commercial farm, fishing company)
GOV Government institution	PS-S Corporate – supplier (e.g. chemicals, seeds)
NGO Non-government organisation	RD ✓ Research and development
PRV Private enterprise	RG Regulation (compliance, standards)
REG ✓ Regional organisation or network	TR Training (tertiary and vocational level)
STA Statutory body	TM Trade and marketing (include development)

Objective / mission statement :

To increase sustainable agriculture of farm families in the Solomon Islands

Field of specialisation :

Addressing food security issues.

Number of staff : 1 National Staff coordinator and 3 Graduate Research Extension Assistants (GREAs)

Main location : Honiara

Branches, other sites :

- Busurata and Dala – Malaita province
- Simbo Island – Western province.
- Santa Ana – Makira province.
- Taro Island – Choiseul province

Annual budget: Fj \$100,000.00 (Fiji dollars per annum)

Main source of funding : DSAP is funded by European Union (EU) through the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

Programme / projects undertaken:

Problem assessment of target areas through PRA

Target audience:

Village based farmers

Linkages and collaboration

Extent of collaboration with CTA (tick all that apply)

Receive *Spore* magazine
Receive CTA publications
DORA
SDI
CD-ROM subscriptions
Question & Answer Service

CTA Seminars
Co-seminars
Training programmes
Seminar Support Programme

Extent of collaboration with other institutions (local, national, regional, international) – need name and type of collaboration:

DSAP has only links to SPC and EU through official correspondence and information sharing. DSAP however does not have any collaboration with other institution overseas. Information can be accessed through available facilities.

Information management

How are information needs currently met? From where? What type of information?

Sources of information include; newsletters, internet and SPC publications. Most information comes from SPC. The types of information are basically agriculture information in subject areas including;

- Tissue culture
- Agro forestry
- Crop production
- Plant/crop protection
- Breeding taro (*C. esculenta*) and sweet potato (*I. batatas*)

Main information needs not satisfied :

The types of information not available include those on the following subject areas;

- Agriculture extension
- Soil improvement
- Sustainable agriculture
- Crop production

Main problems – information and communication management (capacity, skills, resources etc)

Staff are not trained in handling and management, preparing and delivering or dissemination of information

Lastly

Why did you select this institution to interview?

This institution is selected because it works very closely with the department of agriculture in its programmes and that its programme deals directly with rural farm families and communities who have potential food security problems. DSAP makes situational assessments through farmer participatory methods and attempts to formulate corrective measures.

Name: Don Bosco Technical Institute	Acronym: DBTI
Postal address : P.O. Box R-341	
Tel (677) 36222	Fax
Email icapelli@donbosco.org.sb	
Web site	

Type (tick)	Role (tick)
AS-F Farmers' association (includes co-ops)	EX Extension and outreach
AS-W Women's association	IN Information services
AS-Y Youth association	FS Financial services
BNK Bank or credit institution	PP Policy and planning
CCI Chamber of commerce and industry	PS-E Corporate – exporter (fresh, frozen and dried produce)
CHU ✓Church-based group	PS-M Corporate – manufacturer (e.g. tannery, bottler, refiner, roaster)
EDU Educational institution	PS-P Corporate – producer (e.g. commercial farm, fishing company)
GOV Government institution	PS-S Corporate – supplier (e.g. chemicals, seeds)
NGO Non-government organisation	RD Research and development
PRV Private enterprise	RG Regulation (compliance, standards)
REG Regional organisation or network	TR ✓Training (tertiary and vocational level)
STA Statutory body	TM Trade and marketing (include development)

Objective / mission statement
To train young Solomon Islanders who have no chance of further education.

Field of specialisation
Training Skills (technical & Value Education)

Number of staff : 11
Main location : Honiara, Solomon Islands
Branches, other sites : Tetere, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands.

Annual budget: -
Main source of funding : Donors/ Overseas Churches organisations, individuals.
<input type="checkbox"/>

Programme / projects undertaken Technical, Education Vocational training. To acquire skills for life	Target audience - Young boys and girls - Youths - Adults
--	---

Linkages and collaboration

Extent of collaboration with CTA (tick all that apply)

☐ Receive *Spore* magazine
☐ Receive CTA publications
☐ DORA
☐ SDI

CD-ROM subscriptions
Question & Answer Service

CTA Seminars
Co-seminars
Training programmes
Seminar Support Programme

Extent of collaboration with other institutions (local, national, regional, international) – need name and type of collaboration

- Locally limited
- Regionally – very limited
- Internationally – Nil
- Needs more constant linkage with other institutions and organisations.

Information management

How are information needs currently met? From where? What type of information?

Publications, e.g books, pamphlets, general technical skills, Through media, tertiary training and libraries.

Main information needs not satisfied

Linkages to other institutions, regional, international, internet, educational and technical skills not satisfied

Main problems – information and communication management (capacity, skills, resources etc)

Capacity insufficient, more training, more resources, facilities infrastructures.

Needs more exposure to international communications.

Lastly

Why did you select this institution to interview?

Because it is important to get representation from vocational training centres who are active in training youths to become agriculturalists and various other skilled professions.

Name : Development Bank of Solomon Islands	Acronym: DBSI
Postal address. P.O.BOX 911, Honiara Solomon Islands	
Tel : (677) 21595	Fax : (677) 23715
Email : dbsi-it@welkam.solomon.com.au	
Web site	

Type (tick)	Role (tick)
AS-F Farmers' association (includes co-ops)	EX Extension and outreach
AS-W Women's association	IN Information services
AS-Y Youth association	FS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Financial services
BNK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bank or credit institution	PP Policy and planning
CCI Chamber of commerce and industry	PS-E Corporate – exporter (fresh, frozen and dried produce)
CHU Church-based group	PS-M Corporate – manufacturer (e.g. tannery, bottler, refiner, roaster)
EDU Educational institution	PS-P Corporate – producer (e.g. commercial farm, fishing company)
GOV Government institution	PS-S Corporate – supplier (e.g. chemicals, seeds)
NGO Non-government organisation	RD Research and development
PRV Private enterprise	RG Regulation (compliance, standards)
REG Regional organisation or network	TR Training (tertiary and vocational level)
STA Statutory body	TM Trade and marketing (include development)

Objective / mission statement:
To become the leading, Development Financing institution in the Solomon Islands.

Field of specialisation:
Credit assessment, delivering and management.

Number of staff : 45
Main location : Honiara
Branches, other sites:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Auki (Malaita province) 2. Gizo (Western province)
Agents :
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kirakira (Makira province) 2. Munda (Western province) 3. Taro Island (Choiseul province) 4. Buala (Isabel province)

Annual budget: 6 million (Solomon dollars SBD)
Main source of funding: Loan repayment, special credit lines and savings mobilization.

Programme / projects undertaken	Target audience
Credit PROJECT to support rural families and communities start up their income generating projects.	1. Farmers. 2. Entrepreneurs and 3. Coops In our rural communities.

Name	Acronym
Solomon Island Association of Rural Training Centres	SIARTC – EU/RTC PROJECT
Postal address	
BOX 1130 HONIARA	
Tel (677) 30615 30618	Fax (677) 30616
Email: linda@siartc.org.sb	
Web site: www.siartc.org.sb	

Type (tick)	Role (tick)
AS-F Farmers' association (includes co-ops)	EX <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Extension and outreach
AS-W Women's association	IN Information services
AS-Y Youth association	FS Financial services
BNK Bank or credit institution	PP Policy and planning
CCI Chamber of commerce and industry	PS-E Corporate – exporter (fresh, frozen and dried produce)
CHU Church-based group	PS-M Corporate – manufacturer (e.g. tannery, bottler, refiner, roaster)
EDU <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational institution	PS-P Corporate – producer (e.g. commercial farm, fishing company)
GOV Government institution	PS-S Corporate – supplier (e.g. chemicals, seeds)
NGO Non-government organisation	RD Research and development
PRV Private enterprise	RG Regulation (compliance, standards)
REG <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional organisation or network	TR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Training (tertiary and vocational level)
STA Statutory body	TM Trade and marketing (include development)

Objective / mission statement

Solomon Islands Association of Rural Training Centres (SIARTC) is the umbrella body for Rural Vocational Training Centres (RTCs), non-formal educational institutions for young men and women. RTC trainees graduate with the appropriate knowledge and practical skills for self-sufficiency, productivity and responsible citizenship within the rural community. SIARTC was established in March 1992 by the controlling authorities of RTCs. Today, SIARTC has a total of 34 member RTCs, spread through eight provinces of the Solomon Islands. The Association's aim is to improve the standard of vocational training in the Solomon Islands, and to seek development partners to help us achieve this.

The Association exists to bring together on a permanent basis the Rural Training Centres of the Solomon Islands in order to further their work. This work consists of providing appropriate vocational training to improve the quality of Solomon Islands village life. There are two categories of training centre membership.

RTCs were set up to prepare young people to lead productive and useful lives in their villages, or if they choose, in urban areas.

Field of specialisation -SIARTC is working in partnership with a project funded by the European Union. The main areas of work include: Curriculum Development; Training of RTC Instructors and Principals; Upgrading of Infrastructure at RTCs; promotion of Enterprise Development at RTCs; funding of RTC short courses; construction and initial running of Vanga Teachers College; Media Promotion.

Full Members of the Association have a full programme of vocational activities and must have at least 75% of their normal timetable activities as vocational training. Vocational Training subjects include: agriculture and associated subjects; woodwork, carpentry and building; mechanics; home economics and associated subjects; bookkeeping and business studies; typing, computing and secretarial work; literacy, English and maths; life skills; other vocational subjects approved by the Steering Committee and ratified by the Association AGM.

Associate Members of the Association shall be non-governmental organisations engaged in vocational education which accept the Associations Objective and undertake to participate in carrying out the Association's Functions but have less than 75% of their timetable activities as vocational subjects, or who are carrying out training on a part – time or occasional basis.

In 2002 – 2003 the European Union project is making small grants available to RTCs to stimulate enterprise developments, increasing prospects of self-sufficiency, as well as grants for infrastructure improvements and the purchase of hand tools for training purposes. The project is making a big push to upgrade the instructors at RTCs.

The training curriculum offered by SIARTC's members reflects those aims, providing a wide range of vocational courses for students from around the Solomon Islands to choose from.

The diversity of the training centres also allows students to select the technical level of courses or style of delivery. Students can learn the practical side of running a small business, as in many RTCs students are encouraged to run small enterprises, such as poultry and piggery projects, small stores or petrol resale depots. In others, students participate in group projects, managing model farms, producing vegetables or rearing livestock.

Number of staff **There are 7 staff in the main office, 1 in the second office and approximately 170 teachers and principals in the various full membership RTCs. There are also support staff in most centres.**

Main location: **The main SIARTC office is in Panatina Plaza. A second headquarters is in the Anthony Saru Building. We provide support to the member schools**

Branches, other sites SIARTC currently has 34 member centres, spread throughout the eight provinces of the Solomon Islands, under two membership categories. To qualify for full membership of SIARTC, RTCs must devote 75% of their timetabled activities to practical vocational training as defined by the association's constitution.

Annual budget \$

Main source of funding **The main source of funding is the European union**

Programme / projects undertaken The main areas of work include:
Curriculum Development – in Life Skills, agriculture, carpentry, mechanics, math and basic communication
Training of RTC Instructors and Principals;
Upgrading of Infrastructure at RTCs;
promotion of Enterprise Development at RTCs;
funding of RTC short courses;
construction and initial running of Vanga Teachers College;
Media Promotion.

Our Objectives are:

To help define the needs of member Rural Training Centres and provide resources
To assist member RTCs in running their centres and improving their programmes
To assist communication between rural training centres and all levels of government, between RTCs and outside organizations such as non-governmental organisations (NGO's), churches, funding sources and between RTC and the public.
To encourage and support members' programmes, which preserve and pass on cultural values and techniques and foster stewardship of the environment and respect for human rights.

Target audience

RTC's cater to students who have been pushed out of the formal school system often as Standard 6 leavers, sometimes as Form 3 leavers

120 RTC instructors have been through an in-service adult learners certificate of education course

20 RTC graduates a year are going through a two year teaching certificate (RTC) course at Vanga Teachers College

Principals of RTCs are being upgraded in all aspects of administration from simple account keeping to best administrative practice

Linkages and collaboration

Extent of collaboration with CTA (tick all that apply)

Receive *Spore* magazine
Receive CTA publications
DORA
SDI
CD-ROM subscriptions
Question & Answer Service
CTA Seminars
Co-seminars
Training programmes
Seminar Support Programme

Extent of collaboration with other institutions (local, national, regional, international) – need name and type of collaboration

We work with APHEDA –the Australian Council of Trade Unions on the Humanitarian Aid Abroad – they have given \$100 a student to RTC's, they are planning a new programme of short courses

CUSO – a Canadian Volunteer Agency – provide the volunteer curriculum coordinator

SPC-PPS – Secretariat of the Pacific Community Plant Protection Service has just opened contact with us and will provide help with written materials in agriculture.

Churches – Church of Melanesia, South Seas Evangelical, Seventh Day Adventist, Catholic churches, and the United Church – the controlling authority of the RTC's

ADRA Solomon Islands – planning an AIDS and sexually transmitted disease awareness programme.

SICHE – We contract their personnel to provide Adult Learners Teaching Programmes, and as course writers.

Information management

How are information needs currently met? From where? What type of information?

Much of the information that we gain is by good luck and through people we meet or know. We would love to have access to accurate, up to date and sustainable agricultural information. Knowledge about organic methods that are suitable to the South Pacific would be beneficial.

Main information needs not satisfied

In terms of curriculum and reference materials, we have little. I would love to have access to past pamphlets and brochures. It seems foolish to be constantly recreating the wheel, when indeed time and money would be better spent on just republishing existing information.

Main problems – information and communication management (capacity, skills, resources etc)

The high turnover of people in all jobs, means that there is rarely the collective memory about what has been available, where the masters are stored and steps necessary to recapture that information and put it in place again in the community.

No sustainable funding is attached to curriculum development – so that curricula are developed but not enough final product ever reaches the schools. The funder leaves before the final stages are reached.

Lastly

Why did you select this institution to interview?

They are responsible for imparting agricultural knowledge to vocational institutions like the Rural Training Centres and are active in distributing agricultural information to rural areas of the country

Name	Commodities Export Marketing Authority	Acronym	CEMA
Postal address:	P.O. Box 1087 Honiara		
Tel :	22528/22347	Fax :	21262
Email :	cema@solomon.com.sb		
Web site			

Type (tick)	Role (tick)
AS-F Farmers' association (includes co-ops)	EX Extension and outreach
AS-W Women's association	IN Information services
AS-Y Youth association	FS Financial services
BNK Bank or credit institution	PP Policy and planning
CCI Chamber of commerce and industry	PS-E ✓ Corporate – exporter (fresh, frozen and dried produce)
CHU Church-based group	PS-M Corporate – manufacturer (e.g. tannery, bottler, refiner, roaster)
EDU Educational institution	PS-P Corporate – producer (e.g. commercial farm, fishing company)
GOV Government institution	PS-S Corporate – supplier (e.g. chemicals, seeds)
NGO Non-government organisation	RD Research and development
PRV Private enterprise	RG Regulation (compliance, standards)
REG Regional organisation or network	TR Training (tertiary and vocational level)
STA ✓ Statutory body	TM Trade and marketing (include development)

Objective / mission statement:
To promote efficient production, processing, and marketing of prescribed commodities to ensure best returns to resource owners.

Field of specialisation:
Agricultural commodities trading and export and quality assurance.

Number of staff: 12
Main location: Honiara
Branches, other sites: Yandina (Central Province), Noro (Western Province)

Annual budget : 1.0 million (Solomon Dollars)
Main source of funding: Levies from export, export licenses and license fees, and rental (Real estate investment)

Programme / projects undertaken	Target audience
Revitalization of Copra and cocoa industries	Rural agriculture sector

Linkages and collaboration

Extent of collaboration with CTA (tick all that apply)

Receive *Spore* magazine
Receive CTA publications
DORA
SDI
CD-ROM subscriptions
Question & Answer Service

CTA Seminars
Co-seminars
Training programmes
Seminar Support Programme

Extent of collaboration with other institutions (local, national, regional, international) – need name and type of collaboration:

1. Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. (official relationship, training, information sharing)
2. Ministry of Commerce. (Information sharing, training)
3. NGOs. (information distribution)
4. Asia Pacific Coconut community (Information supplier)

Information management

How are information needs currently met? From where? What type of information?

CEMA has access to email and communication facilities which can be used to search for information. CEMA is Interested in information on weekly prices of copra and cocoa.

Main information needs not satisfied

Update market information is very important for CEMA. CEMA's access to information is limited to free information only, but needs finances to be subscribed to other useful sources of information.

Main problems – information and communication management (capacity, skills, resources etc)

1. Need to improve on IT skills to tap into electronic information sources.
2. Need analytical skills to make use of statistic on the industry.
3. Need skills to disseminated acquired information.

Lastly

Why did you select this institution to interview?

CEMA is the institution with deals with regulations of the domestic trade and export of agricultural commodities, including copra and cocoa. It is important that CEMA be linked or exposed to other institutions and establish positive collaboration

Name : Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industries Acronym : SICCI

Postal address : Postal address : P.O. Box 650, Honiara Solomon Islands.

Tel: (677) 39542

Fax: (677) 39544.

Email : champerc@solomon.com.sb

Web site: /

Type (tick)	Role (tick)
AS-F Farmers' association (includes co-ops)	EX Extension and outreach
AS-W Women's association	IN Information services
AS-Y Youth association	FS Financial services
BNK Bank or credit institution	PP Policy and planning
CCI ✓ Chamber of commerce and industry	PS-E Corporate – exporter (fresh, frozen and dried produce)
CHU Church-based group	PS-M Corporate – manufacturer (e.g. tannery, bottler, refiner, roaster)
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GOV Government institution	PS-S Corporate – supplier (e.g. chemicals, seeds)
NGO Non-government organisation	RD Research and development
PRV Private enterprise	RG Regulation (compliance, standards)
REG Regional organisation or network	TR Training (tertiary and vocational level)
STA Statutory body	TM Trade and marketing (include development)

Objective / mission statement :

VOICE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR

1. To promote and protect commerce and industry throughout the Solomon Islands;
2. To encourage the principles of the development and maintenance of good relationship between employers and employees.
3. To encourage the observance by employers of fair conditions of employment.
4. To provide a forum for consultation and exchange of information and views arising from relations between :
 - Employers and employers
 - Employers and their work people (including Trade Unions)
 - Employers and Government
5. To promote and encourage consultation between and amongst members on matters connected with relating to affecting or likely to affect such interests;
6. To develop general public's interests in commerce and industry and its promotion through free enterprise and the development of entrepreneurial skills by dissemination of information;
7. Collect, collate and analyze employer related statistics;
8. To organize annual wage survey to assist members to be competitive in respect of their employees;
9. To act as a sounding board for the views of employers

Field of specialisation :

This is a non profit organization whose main functions include;

1. The provision of point of contact between Board members and general membership ; SICCI and Government bodies and or individuals wanting to make contact with SICCI executive or investment enquiries.
2. Provision of secretarial support to the SICCI executive for arranging Board meetings.

Number of staff : 2 Main location: Honiara Branches, other sites: -

Annual budget : \$ 62, 000.00 (2004) Main source of funding : Annual Membership subscription

Programme / projects undertaken : Nil	Target audience
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Linkages and collaboration

Extent of collaboration with CTA (tick all that apply)	Receive <i>Spore</i> magazine Receive CTA publications DORA SDI CD-ROM subscriptions Question & Answer Service CTA Seminars Co-seminars Training programmes Seminar Support Programme
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Extent of collaboration with other institutions (local, national, regional, international) – need name and type of collaboration: 1. International Labour organization (ILO) 2. World Bank. 3. International Monetary Fund (IMF) 4. International Chamber of Commerce. 5. Forum Secretariat
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Information management

How are information needs currently met? From where? What type of information? International and regional organization listed above send information in the form of monthly email; magazines; books ; journals, of subjects relating to trade, business standards; latest market strategies; employers, employees, and union relations e.t.c. The Government (Statistics Department, Commerce Department) provide information on CPI and, trade and commerce policies.
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Main information needs not satisfied SICCI requires up to date CPI (Consumer Price Index) information. The statistics department have very often failed to provide details of this much needed information.
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Main problems – information and communication management (capacity, skills, resources etc) SICCI requires additional staff, although at the moment it seems information and communication management capacity is not a worry, it might need to be addressed.

Lastly

Why did you select this institution to interview?

SICCI promotes and protects commerce and industry, which is in fact important for many local entrepreneurs wanting to participate in commerce and trade activities in the difficult time this nation is going through. If SICCI is better staffed and better informed it can be an important institution to help other institutions create a conducive business environment for local businessmen and overseas investors.

Name: Curriculum Development Center

Acronym: CDC

Postal address : P.O.Box G27, Honiara, SI

Tel 30738

Fax

Email diriala@solomon.com.sb

Web site -

Type (tick)	Role (tick)
AS-F Farmers' association (includes co-ops)	EX Extension and outreach
AS-W Women's association	IN Information services
AS-Y Youth association	FS Financial services
BNK Bank or credit institution	PP Policy and planning
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NGO Non-government organisation	RD Research and development
PRV Private enterprise	RG Regulation (compliance, standards)
REG Regional organisation or network	TR ✓ Training (tertiary and vocational level)
STA Statutory body	TM Trade and marketing (include development)

Objective / mission statement

The Ministry of Education strongly believes that our future generation will learn better than us. A comprehensive curriculum reform is proposed with our commitment to the following values.

- Develop a national unity curricula focusing on diversity and flexibility in curriculum development to suit the needs of students and different school contexts;
- A learner- focused curriculum;
- A belief in all students' ability to learn and their having multiple-intelligence and different potentials, resulting in a firm commitment to provide equal opportunities for students to learn;
- Partnership in curriculum development with all sections of society through.
- A participative, interactive and collaborative approach.

It is our vision that the locally produced school curriculum materials will be made culturally relevant so as to establish a solid foundation for life-long learning and development. Through the school curricula, all Solomon Islands will develop as individuals and possess the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to earn a living and to live in harmony with others and their environment.

Field of specialization

Curriculum Development – Production of learning and teaching materials.

Number of staff : 16 (another six will be recruited very shortly)

Main location : Panatina Campus, Honiara, Solomon Islands

Branches, other sites : No

Annual budget: - 2004 Development Budget - \$10,844,560.00

Main source of funding : NZAID + SIG Recurrent - \$1,218,000.00

Programme / projects undertaken

Curriculum Review & Reform

Which is involved in the revision and development of primary/secondary curriculum materials for all levels.

Target audience

School children and teachers
(Primary / Secondary)

Linkages and collaboration

Extent of collaboration with CTA (tick all that apply)

Receive *Spore* magazine

Receive CTA publications

DORA

SDI

CD-ROM subscriptions

Question & Answer Service

CTA Seminars

Co-seminars

Training programmes

Seminar Support Programme

Extent of collaboration with other institutions (local, national, regional, international) – need name and type of collaboration

We have collaborated with a number of local and overseas institutions such as

Solomon Islands College of Higher Education (School Of Education), University of the South Pacific, SPREP, NGO'S etc.

Information management

How are information needs currently met? From where? What type of information?

Through e-mail / internet x Magazines – educational information covering broad subjects.

Main information needs not satisfied

There are numerous information's particularly local information which are difficult to get e.g, information on agriculture activities done locally.

Main problems – information and communication management (capacity, skills, resources etc)

Lack of resources, database and a well coordinative body to oversee exchange of information. The CDC requires such information so that it could be in the formal curricular where appropriate.

Lastly

Why did you select this institution to interview?

Because this institutions deals with the formulation of curriculum for both primary and Secondary schools which also covers agriculture subjects.