



26th October 2021

Joe Iautim,
Secretary General,
Tafea Province

Dear Secretary General,

Provincial Skills Development Quarterly Report of July to September 2021

The Tafea Skills Centre is committed to supporting implementation of the Government’s National Recovery Strategy, *Yumi Evriwan Tugeta* – and the longer-term goals of the *National Sustainable Development Plan 2030*.

Yumi Evriwan Tugeta clearly outlines three priority objectives:

1. Enhance lives and livelihoods
2. Repair the built environment
3. Restore and strengthen essential social services and protections

Working together to enable high quality skills training and market access facilitation in our key productive sectors is essential to achieving these objectives. This requires collective action, innovation and a determination to leave no one behind in the development of our province.

The Tafea Provincial Government Training Board is pleased to share with you the results of our efforts in this quarterly provincial skills development report. We look forward to our ongoing partnership for the recovery and prosperity of our communities and the nation as a whole – *Long God Yumi Stanap*.

Yours faithfully,



Kipsen Yamaimai, chairman, Tafea Provincial Training Board

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Overview

Quarterly Activities and Participation

	Activity Type	Women	Men	TOTAL	People with Disabilities	Couples
Skills for Agribusiness/ Food Security	1 x event		2	2	0	0
Skills for Construction	1 x workshop & coaching 8 x procurement	2	14	16	2	0
Skills for Creative Industries	1x event 1x professional development 3x Procurement	8	2	10	0	0
Skills for Tourism	1 x coaching	22	6	28	0	0
Training Provider Support	1x QMS Development 1x meeting	4	17	21	0	0
Leadership & Management	1 x accredited training 1 x LLN Assessment 1x workshop	7	22	29	0	0
Inclusion	1x procurement and support 1x meeting	2	5	7	0	0
Other					0	0

Highlights

Enhancing lives and livelihoods

Skills for Agribusiness - Food Security

Name of activity, priority area or initiative: National Agriculture Week

Location: Lenakel Tanna

Overview:

The National Agriculture Event took place on Tanna from 30th August to 3rd September 2021

This event brought together all key farmers in agriculture, livestock, fisheries from the 6 provinces of Vanuatu to showcase and sell their products. In addition to handicraft and value-added product producers, vendors and representative from difference producer hubs attended the event and were able to sell high value products for income generation.

The event also brought together Ministers, national and provincial government departments from the productive sectors as well as Tourism, Foreign Affairs, Health, Internal Affairs and the VNPF. These departments showcased their work and set up help desks for people to get information about the work they are doing and the services they are providing.

Key achievements/ outcomes:

A vanilla grading activity took place during the week to assist farmers to sort their beans in price categories to strengthen their links to market access. Sales for two youth clients during this time totalled: VUV 34,100.



Figure 1 Vanilla grading in process with clients from Aneityum

Skills for Creative Industries

Name of activity: Vanuatu Made Event and client participation at National Agriculture Week event

Location: Lenakel, Tanna

Total number of participants: 10 (8 women and 2 men)

Overview:

The Department of Industry and partners incorporated a Vanuatu Made Event into the Vanuatu Week of Agriculture from 30th August 3rd September 2021 on Tanna.



Clients were selected by each provincial centre/handicraft hubs to represent the producers from that province. A total of 19 handicraft clients from the Vanuatu Skills Partnership attended the event: 5 from Torba, 4 from Sanma, 10 from Tafea.

Through the Tafea Skills Centre, 10 clients (8 women and 2 men) attended the event and sold their products. 4 of the clients (two women and two men) are from Tafea outer islands of Aniwa and Aneityum and represented both local handicrafts and value-added products.

Key achievements/ outcomes:

During the event several achievements were noted including:

1. Progress on the development of the planned Tafea Handicraft Hub

The ground-breaking ceremony for this new hub took place and was witnessed by partners and clients and the community. In addition, the signing of a Land Agreement between the Department of Industry and the Nikolatan Council of Chiefs was witnessed by the Mayor of Lenakel Town Council Municipal.

Materials for the construction of the Hub have already been delivered to the Tafea Skills Centre with construction commencing in the coming months.

2. Clients and hubs were awarded a number of awards during the week including:

1st Prize Award winner of the Garments & Textile competition was awarded to the Textile & Clothing group of women under the Sanma Creative Industries Community Company in Sanma.

3rd Prize Award for the best labelling of honey products was awarded to a Sanma honey farmer by the Vanuatu Bureau of Standard (VBS).

3. Income generation for Tafea Skills Centre clients through a successful sales campaign

Sale summary of Tafea Handicraft clients during the event:

Tafea Handicraft Producers	Total Amount Earned
Aniwa	VT53,700
Aneityum	VT282,300
Malamala Producers in Tanna	VT66,000
TOTAL	VT 402,000

About 99% of the products shipped to Tanna for the event were sold out.

“We have been producing local jewellery since 2016 but during the agriculture event we have received the highest income from jewellery sales in just a week and the income has helped us with our expenses during the ongoing COVID crisis.” Tanna-based client.



Figure 2 Ground-breaking ceremony for the Tafea Handicraft Hub



Figure 3 A representative from the Sanma Booth collecting their prize

Skills for Tourism

Name of activity: Safe Business Operations (SBO) Coaching with Southeast Tourism Operators

Location: South East Area Council

Total number of participants: 28 (22 women and 6 men)

Overview:

In preparation for the Yasur Run event facilitated by VTO and supported by the Vanuatu Skills Partnership, coaching was provided to deliver refresher skills on Accommodation services to 12 bungalow operators in South East Tanna who will be accommodating guests during this time. The coaching also included a pre – assessment on safe business practices in the context of COVID 19.

Key achievements/ outcomes:

- The coach visited 15 bungalows (although one was closed) although it was planned for her to visit only 12 bungalows.
- 9 operators were given temporary hand washing stations including 1 x box of mask, 1 x box of gloves and 1 bar of soap. 1 operator had their handwashing station set-up post SBO workshop. 3 washing containers returned to the office to be given when operators who did not attend SBO attend the next session – this was recommended by DOT team who accompany the coach during this trip.

- The bungalow owners and staff felt confident and ready to accommodate safely Yasur Run officials and athletes in October.



Figure 4 Checking the workplace health and safety plan with a bungalow owner

Repairing the built environment

Skills for Construction

Name of activity: Basic Village Plumbers Workshop on East Tanna

Location: Whitesands Bilingual College, Whitesands Area, Tanna.

Total number of participants: 16 (2 women 14 men, 2 with disability)

Overview:

Delivered by facilitators from Hexagon Water Works, this workshop provided community members with simple steps on how to carry out any maintenance works on water systems that currently provide good clean water for community users. The activity is in line with the Department of Water Resources' goal to increase the skills and understanding of community water systems for the rural population of Vanuatu.

Key achievements/ outcomes:

Participants gained practical experience and an understanding in how to maintain and trouble shoot issues within their water systems. They will be able to apply this in their homes, communities and also the Whitesands Bilingual College.

As part of the practical exercises within this workshop, maintenance was provided to the water system at the Whitesands Bilingual College. Although there is still some outstanding work to be completed these actions have strengthened the water supply for the school and its students and teachers.

DOWR partners supported the delivery of this workshop and the participation of two women in this course (a traditionally male dominated field).

Quote from Client:

" This is the first time that I attended a training of this sort and the knowledge and skills learnt will assist me to repair the leakages in my taps." (Female participant)



Installing a new tap-stand and soak-away



Setting up the school tanks base

Restoring and strengthening essential social services and protections

Training Provider Support

Name of activity: Southwest Tanna Area Council Building Project Reflection and Lessons Learnt Workshop

Location: Tafea Skills Centre, Isangel, Tanna

Total number of participants: 10 (2 women 8 men)

Overview:

Tafea Secretary General, Mr Joe Iautim, hosted a reflection workshop with partners following the successful completion of the SW Tanna Area Council administration building.

VIT representatives, Namas Lume VTC Building trainers, Tafea Provincial Government staff, community leaders and Tafea Skills Centre staff came together to share their observations and experiences from the recent partnership to deliver the full course qualification accredited training and coordinate the implementation of the SW Tanna Area Council Building Project.

Key achievements/ outcomes:

The workshop allowed partners to discuss achievements, challenges and agree on a way forward for planned activities in 2021-2022 including the construction of the next Area Council Administration building project scheduled for SE Tanna later in 2021.

Reflection workshops such as this are a critical part of ensuring the success of these decentralised provincial service delivery and infrastructure projects supported by the Vanuatu Skills Partnership and local training providers.

The Tafea Provincial Government has agreed to use the same concept of Southwest Tanna to build the South East Area Council house. The South East Area Council groundbreaking was performed on the 7th of October during the Tafea 40th Anniversary Celebration week.

The launching of the South West Area Council House was a highlight during the Tafea 40th Anniversary celebrations.



Figure 6: shows Tafea SG, Mr. Joe Iautim, Tafea project officer, Mr. Nakat Kukrey, VIT principal Mr. Wade Evans, Lume training founder, Mr. Jimmy Tom, and trainer, Mr. Jerry Tes, with Vanuatu Skills Partnership team attending the reflection meeting on the South West Tanna Area Council House construction project.

Leadership & Governance

Name of activity, priority area or initiative: Basic Computer Training

Location: Isangel, Tanna

Total number of participants: 20 (3 women and 17 men)

Overview:

The aim of this activity was to boost the computer skills of Tafea based Area Administrators to enable them to work more effectively and support decentralised service delivery in their Area Councils. This nationally accredited Certificate 1 in Information Technology supported the participants to gain an understanding of how to use Microsoft Office software such as Excel, Powerpoint and Word in addition to Gmail and using web-based information services such as the Internet.

Prior to the delivery of the training Edwards Institute of Technology performed LLN Assessments with all participants to establish their level of language, literacy and numeracy skills.

Key achievements/ outcomes:

All 20 trainees achieved competency in a range of IT skills.

This was the first time that Edwards Institute of Technology delivered a nationally recognised training outside of Port Vila or Luganville.

"I have been working for over 10 years, but this is the first time my superiors have made it possible for me to attend a training like this as a professional development for the Area Secretaries and Area Administrators. The training has helped us how to put number data in graphs using excel and, prepare a presentation using PowerPoint software which some of us have never done before."

Participant and Area Administrator

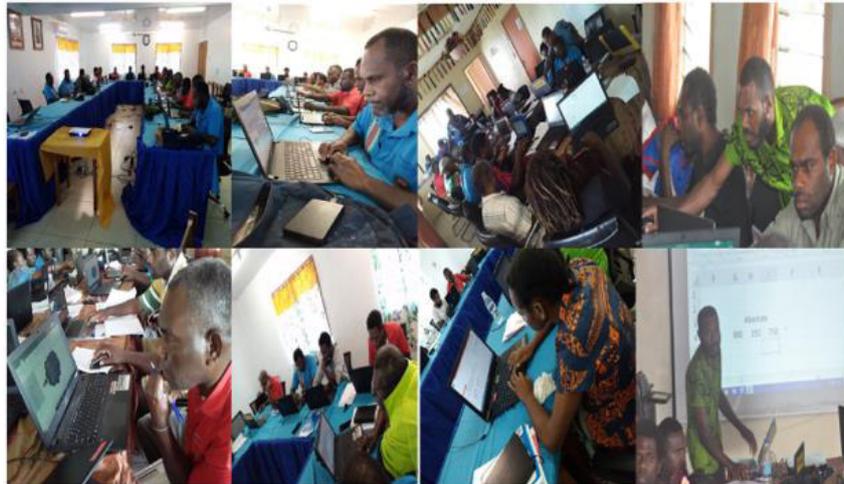


Figure 7: shows Area Secretaries and Area Administrators and Tafea Province staff attending computer training.

Inclusion

Name of activity: Women in Agriculture Forum – Equal Opportunities for All (as part of National Agriculture Week)

Location: Lenakel Tanna

Total number of participants: over 50 women farmers from around Tanna attended the forum

Overview:

The ‘Equal Opportunities for All’ initiative, is one of DARD’s approaches to addressing Objective 13 of their current strategy, which focuses on the inclusion of women, people with disabilities and other disadvantaged groups. As part of this initiative, a forum was run as part of the National Week of Agriculture to allow women in the sector to come together to discuss, learn and network.

Key achievements/ outcomes:

The invitation to present during this forum was a big honour for the Vanuatu Skills Partnership.

The Partnership’s Inclusion Manager gave a presentation to over fifty (50) female farmers from around Tanna on VSP’s Better Balance approach to Agriculture and Farming. The presentation included sharing a case study– Sarabolo Family Farm from South Ambae - in addition to group discussions around key focus areas for female farmers from Tafea in terms of Agriculture.



Figure 8. Shows Vanuatu Skills Partnership Inclusion Manager, Ms Sherol George, giving an inclusion presentation at the Women in Agriculture forum during the National Agriculture week.