



25th October 2021

Reynold Surmat,
Secretary General
Torba Province

Dear Secretary General,

Provincial Skills Development Quarterly Report of July to September 2021

The Torba 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:

- Enhance lives and livelihoods
- Repair the built environment
- 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 Torba 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,



Philimon Ling
Chairman
Torba Provincial Government Training Board

Co-authored by

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|  |  |  |  |  |
| Eddy Woksen Department of Cooperative, Torba | Peter Maho Department of Agriculture, Torba | Olivet Dorony Department of Tourism, Torba | Haines Dini Department of Water Resources, Torba | Jimmy Kelvin Torba Skills Centre |



Overview

Quarterly Activities and Stakeholder Participation.

| | Activity Type | Women | Men | TOTAL | People with Disabilities | Couples |
|---|---|-------|-----|-------|--------------------------|---------|
| Skills for Agribusiness/ Food Security | Coaching x 2 Launch/Event x 1 Procurement/Budget Support x 3 | 17 | 20 | 37 | 2 | 5 |
| Skills for Construction | Technical staff support x 1 Procurement/budget support x 1 | 18 | 1 | 19 | 0 | 0 |
| Skills for Creative Industries | Technical staff support x 1 Scoping trip x 1 Meeting x 1 Launch/event x 1 | 26 | 2 | 28 | 1 | 1 |
| Skills for Tourism | Workshop x 1 Procurement/budget support x 1 | 11 | 6 | 17 | 0 | 0 |
| Training Provider Support | Scoping trip x 3 Reporting x 1 Professional development x 1 Procurement/budget support x 3 | 4 | 6 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Leadership & Management | Procurement/budget support x 1 | 35 | 45 | 80 | 0 | 8 |
| Inclusion | 1x meeting | 11 | 19 | 30 | 8 | 4 |
| Other | Nil | | | | | |



Highlights

Enhancing lives and livelihoods

Skills for Agribusiness - Food Security

Name of activity: Food security response follow up visit, Motalava Farmers' Cooperative launch, Farmers' Cooperative governance strengthening

Location: Merelava, Ureparara, Motalava and Eastern Vanualava.

Total number of participants: 37 farmers (17 women, 20 men, 5 couples (farmers), 2 people with disabilities)

Overview:

Between 23 - 25 August 2021, the Agribusiness Industry coach, John Morrison Bong, in collaboration with the Torba Skills Centre Manager, delivered a 3-days food security response follow up coaching visit to 29 farmers in Merelava and Ureparara islands. Both coaching visits aimed to follow up on kumala transplanting from nursery to DARD demonstration plots and also follow up progress on fishpond/fishing developments from the deployed fish aggregating device in Ureparara & other sustainable food security implementation, such as goat husbandry.

Key achievements/ outcomes:

-Kumala tubers harvested at both Ureparapara and Merelava nursery sites are proving to be good yield size tubers for sustainable crop production in the two islands.

-Farmers have identified specific locations suited to the challenging rainy weather conditions and suitable topographical soil conditions to grow these kumala crop varieties.

-Small livestock farmers on Ureparapara have demonstrated good goat and piggery farming husbandry practices.

- Tilpia fishpond constructed in Ureparapara is ready for restocking with fingerlings by Fisheries Department in Torba.

- The deployed fish aggregating device has greatly assisted the Drivers Bay Cooperative Fishers' Association to increase fishing activity for both food security and increased sales. A total 466kg from the fishers' catch has generated a total income of VT 71,370 between June and mid-August.

During this period, a few other activities were also implemented which include:

-Two agribusiness infrastructure partnership projects are currently in progress through efficient coordination from Gaua and Merelava Area Council Administrators. These are the Gaua accessible market house building and Merelava accessible fish market facility projects.

-In July, Motalava Farmers' Cooperative handed over a subsidy support grant for farmers to purchase agriculture farming tools to assist with their sustainable crop production. This was facilitated by the Torba PGTB chair, Philemon Ling, and Torba Agriculture Department, Provincial Agriculture Officer, Mr Peter Maho.

- The National Slow Food festival in Vetimboso, West of Vanualava highlighted another milestone for the people of Torba province. Torba Skills Centre supported this event, in collaboration with the

local organising committee, to bring together selected agribusiness farmers, producer cooperative representatives, creative industry producers across islands of Gaua, Mota, Mota Lava and Vanua Lava. The weather prevented representatives from Merelava, Ureparapara and Torres islands from participating. This year's event celebrated the official launching ceremonies of a producer marketing cooperative, an accessible meeting venue for weavers at Vetimboso village, and a newly piloted ecological purification water system introduced by the Department of Water Resources at Vatrata community, a first of its kind in Vanuatu.



Figure 1: Fresh tubers harvested from Nursery demonstration plots and high volume of fish catch by fishers from the deployed FAD at Diver's Bay on Ureparapara Island

Skills for Creative Industries

Registration of SfCI Clients in Remote Areas

Location: Merelava

Overview:

Professional Development- Torba Skills centre has seen the importance of professional development for staff of the creative industry hubs. The Torba Handicraft Cooperative Coordinator has been enrolled in ITCO10417 Certificate I in Computing (Computer Operations) which comprises seven (7) clusters and was undertaken in 3 blocks. She has successfully completed seven clusters on 24th September at Ituani Vocational Skills Centre in Sola.

Merelava Clients registration- A total of almost 32 producers have been registered during the registration process. The producers also set up their Merelava weavers' association during the registration to govern their marketing in the future.

THC event participation sales

-THC has participated in major national events such as the national Slow Food Festival, Vanuatu Made week and the Sista fashion show in Port Vila.

Key achievements/ outcomes:

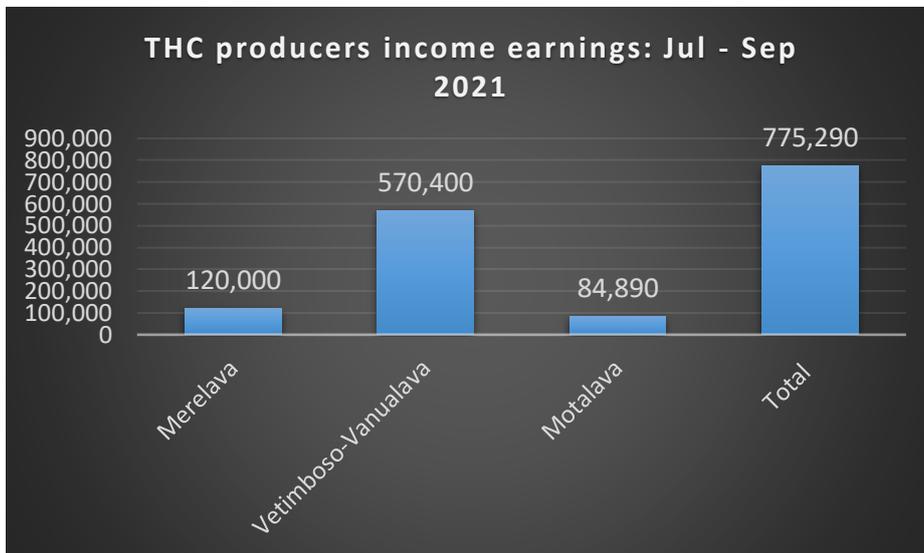


Figure 2: Photo (Left): Official opening of Vetimboso Handicraft Meeting Haos by the Official Guests, West Vanualava. Photo (Right): THC producers showcasing their products at the 2021 Vanuatu Made Event coinciding with 2021 National Agriculture Week on Tanna Island, Tafea province.

Skills for Tourism

Name of activity: Safe Business Operation workshop with Torres tourism operators.

Location: Torres

Total number of participants: 17 people (11 women, 6 men)

Overview:

On September 21st – 26th, 2021, a Tourism Industry coach, Mr Albea Watt conducted a Safe Business Operation (SBO) workshop in Loh Island at the Torres Group followed by tourism operator coaching sessions. The SBO workshop and series of coaching session were held separately in the 5 islands of Torres group as part of the business operators' preparedness and readiness to operate during COVID 19 pandemic. About 17 participants (Tourism Operators) attended the workshop and coaching sessions.

Key achievements/ outcomes:

- - Strengthened the confidence of the tourism operators to keep their business active despite the COVID-19 context.
- The operators learned more ways to keep themselves and their customers safe.
- They were helped to improve the standards of their business to meet the SBO criteria. Supported the business operators to comply with the standard measures to the path to be certified and achieve the triple 'C' sticker from the Department of Tourism (DoT).



Figure 3: Group photo with the 17 tourism operators who completed the Safe Business Operation workshop in Loh Island, Torres Group



Repairing the built environment

Skills for Construction

Name of activity, priority area or initiative: First accessible market house construction project launched in Gaua and first ecological purification water system installation at Vatrata community, West Vanualava.

Location: Gaua Island

Total number of participants: 1 women, 20 men

Overview:

Through the Torba Skills Centre, ACOMVETS Torgil RTC will deliver a first ever Certificate II in Building Construction on Gaua Island. This delivery includes the construction of the accessible market house as part of learners practical Learning

In addition, Torba Skills Centre facilitated a basic plumbing workshop in Torba province through the installation of first ever ecological purification water supply system at Vatrata community on West Vanualava

Key achievements/ outcomes:

- The ground-breaking ceremony was officiated by the Gaua Vatsur Council of Chiefs Chairman, Samson Waymen, Gaua Area Administrator-Jacques Berry, Gaua DARD officer, Daniel Nenet, and Torba Skills Centre Manager, Jimmy Kelvin
- This new accessible market house aims to benefit the community by providing a central location for all farmers to sell produce to the wider community boosting both income generation and access to regular fresh vegetables. In addition, the installation of a purification water system will provide an addition water source for the community.
- 21 trainees are enrolled to undertake this training and construction project delivery, including a female trainee who came from Torres. Details on learners have all been uploaded into the PSET MIS by ACOMVET as provider for this accredited training.
- The initial 2-week basic plumbing training conducted by Department of Water Resources (DOWR) covered topics such as: plumbing safety, safe operations of hand plumbing tools, assembling of pipes, installing taps & valves, and basics of gravity-fed and rainwater harvesting systems.

The 26 participants can now continue along a skills recognition and career pathway by undertaking an accredited training certificate level-plumbing course with a registered training provider.

-This again demonstrated a truly collaborative initiative, with strong community ownership to deliver both the training and the building construction and WASH improvement project.



Figure 3: Ground-breaking ceremony to official launch the Gaua Accessible Market house construction project



Figure 4: Trainees undergoing the first practical sessions to dig the foundation of the accessible market house on Gaua Island.

Restoring and strengthening essential social services and protections

Training Provider Support

Name of activity: Partnership Agreement with ACOMVETS and VIT to deliver Certificate II in Building Construction training on Gaua Island.

Location: VIT campus, Port Vila

Total number of participants: 10 people (4 women, 6 men)

Overview:

Anglican Churches of Melanesia Vocational Educational and Technical School (ACOMVETS) and Vanuatu Institute of Technology (VIT) for the first time agreed to collaboratively work together to strengthen decentralised service delivery across the country.

Key achievements/ outcomes:

- Sealed with a signing ceremony, the new collaboration will enable ACOMVETS to purchase VIT's training and assessment resources for delivery of the Certificate II in Building Construction qualification.

-VIT will provide technical assistance to ACOMVETS trainers to customise the resources for delivery in rural northern Vanuatu.

-At the same event, Vanuatu Skills Partnership signed an agreement with ACOMVETS for Torgil RTC to deliver a community construction project on Gaua with the support of the Torba Provincial Government and the Torba Skills Centre.

-Through this collaboration and shared commitment to reaching rural and remote populations of Vanuatu, we are demonstrating in practice what national building looks like.



Figure 5: ACOMVETS Building Trainer, Mr John Colridge deliver a skills session on measurements to the trainees

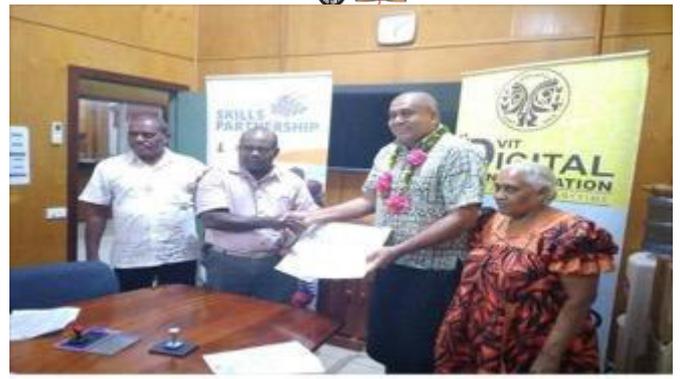


Figure 6: ACOMVETS signs a Training Provider Partnership Agreement with VIT to share its training and assessment resources for the Gaua building construction training delivery.

Leadership & Governance

Name of activity: Official launch ceremonies of Torba Provincial Government Projects

Location: Central, East, and West Vanualava.

Total number of participants: 80 people

35 women, 45 men

Overview: Sola Food Stall is an initiative for Torba provincial government that was supported by the Agriculture Department and Torba Skills Centre. The market access was built to support the farmers who sell their products at the market and to build a value chain between the producers and the consumers. The commitment between the partners have also brought together the President and the Secretary General of Sanma Province to join the delegation who witnessed this official launch ceremony of the Food stall facility celebrating together this milestone achievement on Torba day event. The first political adviser to the Minister of Public Utilities joined the President and the Secretary General of Torba Province who officiated this food stall facility launch.

-Sola Food Stall Opening

-Accessible Sola Market Toilet opening

-Vatrata Water Project Launching

Key achievements/ outcomes:

- Bringing the importance of partnership into reality
- Strengthening women in business

- Presence and commitment of the leaders has displayed good leadership models



Figure 7-8: (Photo left) Newly opened accessible Sola market house toilet. (Photo Right) Official launch of the Sola Food Stall Facility, Vanualava



Figure 9: (Official launch of the newly installed ecological water system in Vatrata community, West Vanualava

Inclusion

Name of activity: Inclusive Producers Virgin Coconut Oil Cooperative Established

Location: Motalava Island

Total number of participants: 30 people (11 women, 19 men - 4 couples (farmers), 8 people with disabilities)

Overview:

The Department of Cooperatives in Torba in collaboration with Torba Skills Centre conducted a visit to Motalava in September. The officers commenced initial registrations and set up cooperative management committee for EDA Inclusive Coconut Virgin Oil Cooperative.

Key achievements/ outcomes:

- Collaboratively developed a bi-law and appointed a management committee of this new producer cooperative. A few members have also paid their shares to the cooperative.

-A coordinator was appointed to manage the cooperative business.

-The Motalava Area Council Community Liaison Officer has also agreed to allocate an office space within the newly built area council officer for EDA producer cooperative coordinator to use as their business store.

-Torba Skills Centre contributed with 20 measurement jars and 40-yard tissue to help the producers with safe packaging of their virgin oil productions and supply to the cooperative. These jars will be sold at the cooperative back to the producers as additional income to their new business.



Figure 11: Torba Cooperative Officer, Mr Eddie Woksen is conducting a bookkeeping coaching session with the new Coordinator of EDA virgin oil producers



Figure 12: Mr Woksen explaining the new EDA cooperative Bi-law to its members: