



30th October 2018

Dear Secretary General

Torba Bi Monthly Provincial Skills Development Report: August - September 2018

Torba Provincial Government Training Board (PGTB) is pleased to share with you all the outcomes of various activities that have taken place within Torba's rural communities through the partnership between the Torba Skills Centre and the provincial productive sectors to provide skills and knowledge to our rural communities.

This report highlights activities in the Handicraft, Tourism and Agribusiness sectors which happened in August and September.

Yours faithfully

Edmond Hillary

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Torba Skills Development Report

Skills for Handicraft

Product Development Workshop

A workshop on handicraft product development with Vetimboso Handicraft Association took place with the aims to continue improve the quality of handicraft products and carry on with clients coaching on business concepts such as book keeping and pricing. The week long workshop was from 6th to 10th of August on Vetimboso village with 22 craft clients of whom 15 are females. From the total participants, there were 2 people with a disability of whom one is a female.



A lot of improvements happened to the quality of the products, and you can tell from the demand through orders from wholesalers and individuals. Now orders are being made and clients are experiencing a new era of the craft business from the past. They are happier with their business as Torba Handicraft Centre played a significant role in marketing their products and also helping them to manage their income well.

Victoria, our client with a disability, through the outstanding moon basket that she is producing, was selected to attend the National Agriculture Festival in Luganville Santo in July this year. With the income that she generated, she decided to purchase a pig fence for her 2 pigs. It's a great outcome for people with a disability and this has impacted on her community who now see Victoria as respected community member as she is directly contributing to the economic development of her community.



Skills for Tourism

Certificate 1 in Tourism [Tour Guiding] Training

Torba province acknowledges the fact that the partnership between Torba Department of Tourism and the Torba Skills Centre has played a significant role in the development of Tourism in Torba province. We recognise the challenges that are yet to be addressed and need multi sectoral contributions, but significant changes have taken place since the establishment of the Torba Skills Centre especially in Gaua and Motalava. Improvements in tour guiding are one example of evidence of these changes that are being experienced within the Tourism sector mainly on Motalava, Vanualava and Gaua Islands. Since the beginning of this year, selected tour guides have gone through an accredited course on Tour guiding to gain the qualification in Certificate 1 Tourism in Tour guiding.

Block 2 of this 2 weeks training started on the 13th of August to the 17th on Sola with 16 tour guides of whom 1 is a female. All 16 completed the course successfully and are all competent. The course was delivered by Max Zacarie through Torgil Rural Training Centre.



Skills for Agribusiness

Farming system Workshop follow up

Sola Market house which was funded through the Direct Aid Project [DAP] under the Australian High Commission not only provides market access for our farmers to sell their products but it changes the mindset of farmers so they start to engage in new farming systems to help increase and sustain their production. The Department of Agriculture in Torba in partnership with Torba Skills Centre organised a farming system workshop for the Market House vendors at the beginning of this year to assist our farmers with their interest to move into this new experience of farming.

Alley cropping and intercropping are farming systems taught to assist farmers. Farmers learnt this new farming systems and during this first follow up coaching since the workshop, 75% of farmers completed this new farming system. The four [4] alleys introduced are alley of root crops, legume crops, fruit crops and leaf crops. In this alley cropping the Gliricidia tree is the main legume provider so all farmers were supplied with cuttings which were mainly transported from the Agriculture station in Sola. Alley distances introduced was 20 meters x 20 meters however, most farmers



increased to 60m x 60m. Alley cropping will directly increase their production and also allow them to farm varieties of crops which also meet the demand of their customers at the Sola Market house.



This follow up happened from the 20th to 24th of August on 6 remote areas of North East Vanualava that involved a total of 48 farmers of whom 28 are females. From this total, 14 are couples. The follow up also confirms positive outcomes by couples and it was encouraged within the farmers to continue in order to achieve positive impacts.

Summary

Various positive outcomes were experienced through this year in Tourism, Handicraft and Agribusiness. These changes are acknowledged by all sectors and also the Torba Provincial Government as everyone works in partnership to implement our plans for this year but most importantly addressing issues that are experienced within our communities. We would like to acknowledge the Provincial Government Training Board [PGTB] and each partner sector for continuous advice and support into the implementation of the sector activities. Let's continue to uphold this partnership as we move on to the end of another successful year.