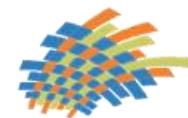




VANUATU
**DEPARTMENT
OF INDUSTRY**



VANUATU
**SKILLS
PARTNERSHIP**



SANMA SKILLS CENTRE

Quarterly Report
Q2, 2024

*Image 1: Sanma Skills Centre Manager, Simeon Bage, presenting
Quarter 1 results to the Sanma Provincial Government Council in April*

**Australian
Aid**



SKILLS FOR AGRIBUSINESS

Priority area: Pepper production, value adding and business development

Achievement/Outcome:

- In collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), the Department of Industry (DoI), and Pepper Coach, Patrick Joe, a workshop on processing, packaging, and labelling for pepper farmers was held on Malo. This event, which included 32 members of the NAVIOA and AMBOSAKE Pepper Associations, saw participation from eight women, one of whom has a disability, and 24 men.
- The workshop provided an opportunity for farmers to review their action plans alongside the coach and government partners. Practical sessions focused on enhancing skills in quality pepper farming and processing. Key operational challenges, such as issues with processing timing, were discussed, leading to the development of improved operational procedures.
- Notable achievements of the workshop included the clarification of business operational processes and the enhancement of packaging and labelling quality, aided by the introduction of hand grinders. This initiative aimed to boost the overall quality and marketability of the pepper produced by these associations.
- The workshop culminated in a two-day sales promotion at the Luganville market, where participating farmers collectively earned VUV 59,450.
- Overall, the workshop marked a significant step forward for pepper farmers on Malo, equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in the competitive agricultural market.



Image 2: Farmers from Navioa Association selling their products at the Luganville Markets

SKILLS FOR CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Priority area: Product Development – Refinement of headwear production, planning skills and techniques

Achievement/Outcome:

- In collaboration with DoI, and Headwear Coach, Rosie Boylan, the Sanma Skills Centre facilitated a five-day workshop and coaching activity for headwear producers from the Sanma Creative Industries Community Company (SCICC). The event saw participation from 12 producers, all women, including one with a disability.
- The skills activity focused on refining headwear production techniques to meet catalogue buyers' expectations, particularly emphasising fractional sizing. Producers also experimented with fibre processing techniques to improve the bleaching and shelf life of their hats.
- Through the support from coach Rosie, participants gained a deeper understanding of the current market streams SCICC is involved in and the specific demands of each market. Additionally, one-on-one coaching sessions with SCICC management reviewed sales from April 2023 to 2024. A total of 760 hats were sold in 2023 and the first two quarters of 2024, generating sales of approximately VUV 1,520,000. These sales included local retail, events, and both domestic and international wholesale orders.
- SCICC producers are currently working diligently to fulfill ongoing orders from Hills Hats and Rise Beyond the Reef in Fiji as their business operations and market reach grows.



Images 3 & 4: SCICC clients working with Coach Rosie on refining hat quality

TRAINING PROVIDER SUPPORT

Priority area: Betania Bible Institute Registration with Vanuatu Qualifications Authority (VQA)

Achievement/Outcome:

- With support from the Sanma Skills Centre, the Betania Bible Institute (BBI) is aiming to gain registration with the Vanuatu Qualifications Authority (VQA) to become a nationally recognised training provider.
- The VQA completed a review of BBI's application in September 2023. This identified several areas that needed to be strengthened prior to registration being awarded.
- In May 2024, the Sanma Skills Centre provided support to Betania's Board and management to explore the findings and recommendations of the VQA review and to complete and submit a Rectification Report to the VQA Board.
- Through this activity, the Institute's Board and management were able to review their Quality Management System and clarify their roles and responsibilities within the operational structure of BBI.
- The Rectification Report has now been submitted and BBI is waiting on further advice from VQA.



Image 5: Betania Board and Management staff in front of the classroom

SKILLS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

Priority area: West Coast Area Council building

Achievement/Outcome:

- In collaboration with the Sanma Provincial Government (SPG), the Sanma Disability Desk under the Ministry of Justice and Community Services (MoJCS), the Australia Pacific Training Coalition (APTC), and Nok Construction, the Sanma Skills Centre successfully conducted a five-day community consultation in West Santo. The event, held in the remote villages of Tasamate and Wusi, aimed to gather insights and support for an upcoming building and construction project.
- The primary objective of the consultation was to understand the available resources and the specific needs of each community to ensure buy-in and participation from the community for the proposed project. Good communication and the full involvement of the Area Administrator and Area Secretary were crucial to the success of the consultation.
- As a result of the consultations, 30 interested applicants from two communities were able to register for the upcoming Certificate II in Construction and complete a Language, Literacy, and Numeracy (LLN) test administered by APTC.



Image 6: Community awareness in Tasamate

SKILLS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

Priority area: West Coast Area Council building

Achievement/Outcome:

- Site visits confirmed the availability of all necessary resources, with the host community in Wusi already taking the lead in site preparation, including clearing land, installing plumbing for clean water, and setting up a tool shed. The community also committed to supporting the trainees during the course by providing accommodation and fresh produce from their gardens.
- An Environmental Impact Assessment was conducted by the Sanma Provincial Planning Officer as part of the consultation. The findings from this assessment will be shared with the project team to ensure that the building project and training delivery adheres to environmental guidelines and benefits the local community sustainably.



Image 7: Potential trainees undertaking LLN assessments with APTC

LESSON LEARNED AND ACTIONS

LESSON 1:

The liquidation of Air Vanuatu in May 2024 and resulting cancellation of domestic flights had an adverse impact on many of the Sanma Skills Centre planned activities for Quarter 2.

NEXT STEPS:

- With support from DFAT and Vanuatu Skills Partnership management team, the option of using Vanuatu Ferry was quickly identified and approved with safety requirements in place; this will assist with implementation of our activities in Quarter 3.

LESSON 2:

It is difficult to coordinate the implementation of projects being delivered in remote locations.

NEXT STEPS:

- We will engage a short-term project coordinator within the local community in Wusi to support the Sanma Skills Centre and Sanma Province to coordinate the West Coast Area Council building project. This person will support coordination between the trainer, contractor, community and Sanma Province and Sanma Skills Centre.

WHAT ARE THE PRIORITIES FOR QUARTER 3?

Skills for Infrastructure

- Support construction of the West Coast Area Council building in Wusi, which includes the delivery of Certificate II in Construction by APTC.

Skills for Health

- Facilitate a partner meeting for the 'Farm in Hospital' initiative at Northern Provincial Hospital (NPH).
- Conduct a recipe refresher workshop for NPH kitchen staff.
- Coordinate Customer Service training to Board members and staff of the Tasmalum Health Centre.

Skills for Agribusiness

- Deliver beehive management and business development skills activities to beekeepers in North-west, West Santo and Luganville.
- Continue supporting pepper farmers in Malo on quality production, harvesting, processing and marketing.
- Pandanus replanting scoping and consultation.

Better Balance

- Conduct a Family Life Education workshop for Sanma Skills Centre staff.

Skills for Creative Industries

- Continue to support SCICC governance and business strengthening.

PARTICIPATION IN SKILLS DEVELOPMENT TRAININGS

SECTOR	WOMEN	MEN	TOTAL	PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
Skills for Agribusiness	8	24	32	1 woman
Skills for Creative Industries	12	0	12	1 woman
TOTAL	20	24	44	2 women