



# TAFEA SKILLS CENTRE

Quarterly Report  
Q4, 2024



*Image 1: Tafea Public Health staff proudly displaying their certificates in Computer Skills (Certificate I), joined by honored guests during the graduation ceremony*



# SKILLS FOR AGRIBUSINESS

## Priority Area: Vanilla production and business development for farmers on Tanna and Aneityum

### Achievement/Outcome:

- Vanilla farmers from Aneityum and Tanna attended the official grading and weighing of the 2024 crop of vanilla beans, which was conducted by Mr. George Lava, Agriculture Development Officer from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) for Tanna, and Mr. Mike Jimmy, Agriculture Development Officer (DARD) for Aneityum. It was the first time the exercise had been completed since late 2022, noting that the 2023 crop was destroyed by TC Judy and TC Kevin.

- Results from the vanilla grading and weighing for 2024 were as follows:

ANEITYUM	TANNA
Grade A: 91.11 kg	Grade A: 33 kg
Grade B: 50.89 kg	Grades B & C: 82.43 kg
Grade C: 27.63 kg	
<b>Total: 169.62 kg</b>	<b>Total: 115.43 kg</b>

- For vanilla farmers from Aneityum, while the total volume of production was well below 2022 levels (169.6 kg in 2024 compared to 314 kg in 2022), the overall quality was comparable to previous years, with 53.7% of the crop considered to be 'Grade A' compared to 56.7% in 2022. For vanilla farmers from Tanna, the results show an improvement in quality compared to previous years. In 2022, almost all vanilla produced on Tanna was 'Grade C', whereas the results for 2024 show that 28.5% of the crop was 'Grade A'.
- The Partnership and DARD have been working to secure buyers for the vanilla beans. Negotiations are progressing with local organization Nasituan to purchase the vanilla from Aneityum, while Venui in Santo has expressed an interest in purchasing the beans from Tanna, though they have requested the beans be regraded before agreeing to buy them.
- Inclusion was considered as part of this activity through the involvement of couples in vanilla production and business development, demonstrating how small-scale farming can empower families and generate income.

# SKILLS FOR AGRIBUSINESS



*Image 2: Mrs. Mary David, a dedicated vanilla farmer from Isla-Tanna, works alongside West Tanna Agriculture Officer, Mr. Lava, to weigh her harvested vanilla beans*



*Image 3: Cured vanilla beans from a farmer in Tanna being weighed*



# LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE



*Image 4: Provincial Asset Manager, Mr. David Kiel, handing over a cash contribution of VUV 150,000 on behalf of the Provincial DARD to the Project Site Coordinator*

**Priority area: Government co-contributions to the new vanilla building in Port Patrick, Aneityum**

## **Achievement/Outcome:**

- The Tafea Skills Centre has been leading the design and delivery of a new vanilla building in Port Patrick, with construction commencing in October following consultations with the Aneityum Area Council Administrator, the Aneityum Development Officer and the community.
  - The vanilla storage house is a critical piece of infrastructure needed to support the growth of the vanilla sector in Aneityum. Once completed, it will provide vanilla farmers with a facility to cure and securely store their beans, ensuring their quality is maintained. The building will also include two office spaces (for the Port Patrick Cooperative Association and DARD), a room for handicrafts, and a room for fisheries.
  - In late October, Tafea Skills Centre personnel visited Aneityum to conduct a quality check on the progress of the building's construction and were joined by provincial partners including Tafea DARD, Tafea Provincial Government and Tafea Department of Water Resources (DoWR).
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- The partners held meetings with the community and confirmed their contributions towards the cost of constructing the vanilla building, including VUV 250,000 from Tafea DARD, and VUV 150,000 from Tafea Provincial Government.
  - These financial contributions demonstrate both leadership and commitment by provincial partners to support development of the vanilla sector in Aneityum and sets a strong precedent for future provincial development initiatives.

# SKILLS FOR CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

**Priority area: Market access for Tafea handicraft producers: 3rd Melanesian Festival Aotearoa and Auckland War Memorial Museum.**

**Achievement/Outcome:**

- In early November 2024, in collaboration with the Department of Industry, Futuna Council of Chiefs, and the Tafea Creative Hub Board, the Tafea Skills Centre supported the Tafea Creative Industry and Cultural Hub Manager, Mrs. Lina Numake, to represent Tafea at two prestigious events in New Zealand: the 3<sup>rd</sup> Melanesian Festival Aotearoa and a special exhibition at the Auckland War Memorial Museum.
- At these events, a total of 200 handicraft products from Tafea were showcased, allowing diaspora Pacific Islanders and New Zealanders to purchase unique, high-quality items. Sales of VUV 347,135 were generated from the events, directly benefiting local producers and their communities in Tafea.
- The trip helped to formalise the relationship between the Tafea Handicraft Hub and the Auckland Museum, creating the opportunity for future sales of Tafea products in New Zealand and providing producers from Tafea with exposure in an international market.
- The visit also provided valuable professional development opportunities for Ms Numake, including gaining insights into customer preferences, sales strategies, and product presentation.



*Image 5: Tafea Handicraft products showcased for the first time at the Auckland War Memorial Museum in New Zealand, November 2024*

# SKILLS FOR CREATIVE INDUSTRIES



*Image 6: Tafea Handicraft Manager, Ms. Lina Numake, showcasing and selling Tafea handicrafts to diaspora Pacific Islanders and New Zealanders at the Melanesian Festival in New Zealand*

# SKILLS FOR HEALTH

## Priority area: Professional development of provincial health officers

### Achievement/Outcome:

- In 2024, the Tafea Skills Centre supported Ituani Vocational Skills Centre to deliver the Certificate I in Computing course to eight provincial health officers (all male) in Tafea. The training is aligned with the Ministry of Health's objectives to build a strong health workforce and to support improved planning, preparation, and execution of health services for local communities.
- Specifically targeting the Health Information System, the training provided provincial health staff from Tafea with practical Information Communication and Technology (ICT) skills to improve their data management, reporting and communication with national colleagues.
- A graduation ceremony was held on 22 November 2024 for the eight public health officers, recognising their achievement in completing the Certificate I in Computing course.
- After the graduation ceremony, the Partnership completed a tracer survey to understand how the graduates had been able to apply the knowledge and skills they learnt during the course, and to identify opportunities for providing additional support. In their responses to the survey, all graduates stated they had improved confidence to operate a computer following the training and are now using the new skills every day in their work. All eight officers indicated they would be interested in higher level study, such as a Certificate II in Computing.



*Image 7: Mr. Sakary Kapalu, Tafea Provincial Health Officer, receives his certificate from Mr. Jeanve Kapalu, Tafea PEO and Chairman of the Tafea Provincial Training Board, during the graduation ceremony*



# TRAINING PROVIDER SUPPORT

## Priority area: Quality Assurance Committee Visit to Napil Agriculture Training Centre

### Achievement/Outcome:

- On 28 November 2024, the Tafea Skills Centre Manager led a visit to Napil Agriculture Training Centre (NATC) to verify information and evidence provided for its application to deliver Certificate I in Agriculture (Nursery) and Certificate II in Agriculture (Crop Establishment). The visit was crucial to ensuring Napil meets the required standards to deliver Certificate I and II in Agriculture and ensures the training centre is equipped to provide practical and relevant skills to learners.
- The Quality Assurance Committee included two representatives from the Vanuatu Qualifications Authority, Mrs. Norma Tugu and Mrs. Caroline Massing, and two industry representatives, Mr. Sam Naligo and Mr. Sam Naiu from Tafea DARD, as well as the Tafea Skills Centre Manager.
- The visit involved interviews with the institution's board, the manager, and trainers responsible for delivering these courses. The committee also assessed basic equipment and infrastructure, including classrooms, a library, and recreational areas, to ensure they meet the required standards for learners.
- NATC has been approved to deliver courses, subject to the submission of required documentation within three months, as outlined by the Quality Assurance Committee. The committee has recommended that NATC commence delivery of two courses in 2025. To support this, the Tafea Skills Centre will provide assistance in strengthening NATC's Quality Management System through coaching and training workshops to ensure they meet the required standards.



*Image 8: Members of the Quality Assurance Committee during their visit to Napil Agriculture Training Centre*



# SKILLS FOR TOURISM

## Priority area: Tourism product readiness on Tanna

### Achievement/Outcome:

- In collaboration with the Department of Tourism (DoT) and the Vanuatu Tourism Office (VTO), the Tafea Skills Centre supported the delivery of an audit of tourism accommodation providers on Tanna. The audit aimed to gather information about the products offered by these providers and assess their preparedness for an expected increase in tourist numbers in the coming months, particularly with international flights to Port Vila now being offered by both Qantas and Jetstar.
- The audit was completed using product readiness tools and resources developed in conjunction with DoT and VTO earlier in 2024.
- A total of 37 properties on Tanna were part of the audit, including a mix of fully and partially operational properties. Key results from the audit include:
  - There is an urgent need to improve the quality of rooms and amenities across all accommodation providers in Tanna, to ensure the customer experience is positive.
  - Hotels currently provide the highest capacity on Tanna, serving larger groups of visitors, while island bungalows and guest houses have varying operational levels, indicating potential for expansion. Homestays, though limited in capacity, also present opportunities for growth, offering more personalised experiences for tourists.
- The data will be used by the DoT, VTO and the Tafea Skills Centre to inform future support for the tourism sector in Tanna in 2025.

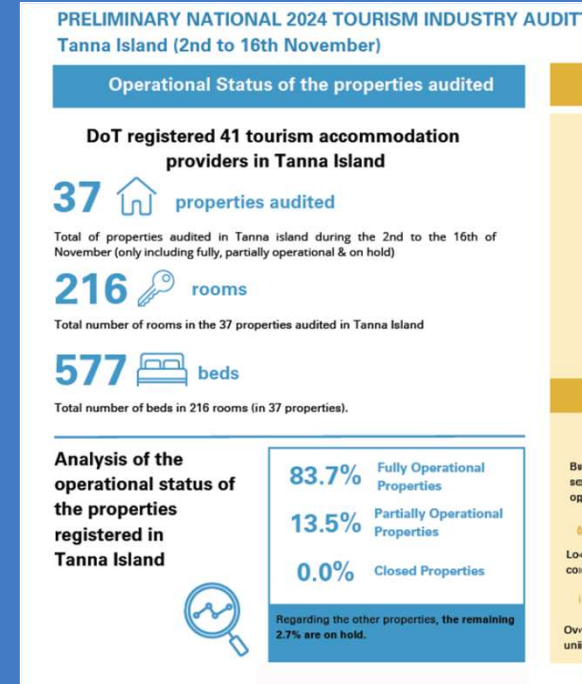


Image 9: An infographic showing key results from the audit of tourism providers on Tanna

# INCLUSION

## Priority area: International Disability Day celebrations

### Achievement/Outcome:

- On 3 December 2024, the Tafea Skills Centre joined local partners including the Ministry of Justice and Community Services (Tafea Disability Desk officer), Department of Women's Affairs, Vanuatu National Women's Centre, CARE International, World Vision, and Area Council to celebrate International Disability Day. Approximately 160 people attended the celebrations, including 25 people with disabilities (13 males, 12 females).
- The celebrations were held in the Louwepen Community, Eastern Tanna with the theme of: *"Inclusive Mindset: Empowering Everyone to Participate Equally and Effectively."* Support through the Partnership included a contribution of VUV 50,000 to the Disability Desk's budget, which covered transport and catering expenses for the day.
- Awareness sessions on disability inclusion, domestic violence, and nutrition were held, while there was also a rope knotting demonstration. The celebrations provided an opportunity to recognise the contributions of people with disabilities in farming, handicrafts, and their families.
- The celebrations also included the official launching of the Central Tanna Disability Association supported by the Area Administrator of Central Tanna, under the Care International Project.
- International Disability Day is an important event for Tafea because it shines a spotlight on the rights, needs, and contributions of people with disabilities. It also provides a platform to challenge misconceptions and reduce stigma around their abilities and their potential to make positive contributions to their local communities.



*Image 10: Tafea Disability Desk Officer, Mr. Maxwell, recognized the contributions of people with disabilities and expressed gratitude to the partners who supported the celebration of International Disability Day 2024*

# INCLUSION



*Image 11 and Image 12: The Tafea Skills Centre has worked closely with the Disability Desk and the Provincial Government to promote accessibility at the new West Tanna Area Council Building. The Tafea Skills Centre funded the construction of a ramp, and plumbing work for a standard-sized accessible toilet, and widening door openings to accommodate people with disabilities. This initiative sets a precedent for Tafea, ensuring that future Area Council buildings incorporate accessibility features during the design stage*



## **PARTICIPATION IN SKILLS DEVELOPMENT TRAININGS\***

<b>SECTOR</b>	<b>WOMEN</b>	<b>MEN</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES</b>
<b>Skills for Agribusiness</b>	2	18	20	0

*\*Participants in skills training activities only- this data excludes market access activities, consultations and events.*