



VANUATU
DEPARTMENT
OF INDUSTRY



SANMA SKILLS CENTRE

Quarterly Report
Q1, 2025



Image 1: Pepper farmers from the local community on Malo

Australian
Aid 



SKILLS FOR AGRIBUSINESS

Priority Area: Support for Pepper Farmer Associations from Malo to register with VFSC

Achievement/Outcome:

- The Sanma Skills Centre facilitated a two-day workshop for 22 pepper farmers (8 women and 14 men) from the Naviova and Ambosake Associations on Malo. The objective of the workshop was to review progress on their registration with the Vanuatu Financial Services Commission (VFSC), and to follow up on the status of their Provincial License and Industrial Permit.
- The workshop also provided an opportunity to discuss their ongoing marketing and promotion efforts, acknowledging the challenges local pepper farmers from Malo face in marketing their products to food stalls and restaurants in Luganville.
- It was encouraging to witness a strong sense of gender equality and community involvement, with men and women from the Ambosake and Naviova communities actively participating in the production process.
- An important outcome of the workshop was the re-election of the Naviova chairman and executive members, which was carried out through nominations, seconding, and unanimous voting.
- Following the workshop, registration of these Associations was confirmed by VFSC and they have now received their certificates.



Image 2: Meeting between Sanma Skills Centre and Pepper Association Office bearers from Malo

SKILLS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

Priority Area: Development of Nojavan Construction Company

Achievement/Outcome:

- In 2024, the Sanma Skills Centre facilitated the delivery of Certificate II in Building and Construction at Wusi, West Coast Santo. After the training, 25 people (including 5 women and 20 men) were supported to establish a new business, Nojavan Construction Company, which was registered with the Vanuatu Financial Services Commission.
- In early 2025, Nojavan Construction was subcontracted by Tulaet Construction to build the Tasmate Health Facility and a staff house in West Coast Santo. The value of the subcontract is VUV 5 million.
- Construction is underway and Nojavan Construction is making good progress to meet the project deadlines (see Image 4 and Image 5).
- Nojavan Construction Company Office bearers will be part of a governance workshop to be facilitated by Sanma Skills Centre in May. The workshop will help the Executive to strengthen their management skills (including financial management) and oversight of the company, which is particularly important now Nojavan has been awarded such a large contract.
- The success of Nojavan Construction highlights the vital role the Sanma Skills Centre is playing in building the province's capacity to meet its infrastructure needs and recover from future disasters, such as cyclones.



*Image 3 (above): Laying of blocks
Image 4 (below): Profiling of staff house*



DISABILITY INCLUSION

Priority area: Inclusion Refresher for Sanma Skills Staff

Achievement/Outcome:

- A two-day refresher workshop was organised for Sanma Skills Centre staff on disability inclusion to build understanding and awareness of practical ways to support the participation of people with disabilities in skills activities. This was an important step to strengthen our inclusion efforts and comes following discussions held during the staff planning meeting in January.
- The refresher covered disability policies and legislation, disability categories, barriers to inclusion, appropriate approach and language and ideas for improved collaboration between partners to progress inclusion in the future.
- After the refresher, the Sanma Skills Centre team committed to improving communication and dialogue with our provincial partners and to ensure inclusion is considered in all our planned activities for 2025. For example, the Sanma Skills Centre will support Vanuatu Society for People with Disabilities (VSPD) to deliver a workshop on backyard gardening for their clients in April.



Image 5 (above) and Image 6 (below): Sanma Skills Centre staff participating in the inclusion refresher



DISABILITY INCLUSION

Priority Area: Handing over of Vanuatu Agriculture College's Inclusive Resource Room

Achievement/Outcome:

- On 20 March, a ceremony was held at the Vanuatu Agriculture College (VAC) to mark the handing over of the Inclusive Resource Room to VAC.
- The ceremony was attended by representatives from the Sanma Skills Centre and VAC and signifies a milestone achieved as part of our ongoing partnership for the past 7-8 years.
- This project was initiated after a request for support from VAC management to identify opportunities to promote disability inclusion, needed as part of renewing their registration with the Vanuatu Qualifications Authority. The support provided by the Sanma Skills Centre includes funding for the renovation of the facility, procurement of furniture, and procurement of training resources to support people with disabilities who have enrolled at VAC.
- The resource room provides a safe and comfortable space, as well as learning resources, for people with disabilities while they are studying at VAC.
- VAC's Acting CEO, Norman Devis, stated that the resource room will be very helpful for supporting people with disabilities at VAC, and invited other institutions (including disability organisations) around Santo and Sanma to use the resource room.



Image 7: VAC's Inclusive Resource Room



Image 8: Group photo taken at the launching

WHAT ARE THE PRIORITIES FOR QUARTER 2?

Skills for Infrastructure

- Support the delivery of a good governance workshop for members of registered construction and plumbing companies.
- Hold consultations relating to Santo East VIT Campus.

Skills for Tourism

- Confirm tourism clients identified in the 2024 audit and prepare for skills development activities.

Skills for Creative Industries

- Facilitate training on how to use a Solar Dryer for SCICCL producers in Luganville and Malo Island (Limabulu and Bosahe).
- Establish Pandanus nursery plots on Malo and Santo.
- Support the delivery of basic ICT training for Samna clients, including producers and managers.
- Facilitate a follow-up workshop on production of contemporary bags for SCICC members.
- Review and update the SCICCL business plan.

Disability Inclusion

- Facilitate an inclusive backyard gardening workshop with VSPD clients.