



VANUATU
**DEPARTMENT
OF INDUSTRY**



SANMA SKILLS CENTRE

Quarterly Report
Q2, 2025

Image 1: Sanma Skills Centre's new waste management system.

**Australian
Aid** 



SKILLS FOR AGRIBUSINESS

Priority Area: Sustainable and resilient farming - inclusive backyard gardening

Achievement/Outcome:

- The Sanma Skills Centre facilitated a 5-day workshop in backyard gardening for 11 people with disabilities including 4 women and 7 men from each of the 4 Ward Councils in Luganville in partnership with Vanuatu Society for People with Disability (VSPD), the Sanma Disability Desk and the Department of Agribusiness and Rural Development (DARD). Reasonable adjustments such as free transportation, facilitation of carer participation and additional devices were provided to ensure the effective participation of all participants in the workshop.
- Inclusive backyard gardening is a priority of DARD and VSPD to support the livelihoods of people with disabilities in Santo while strengthening resilience farming techniques and local food security.
- The workshop will help individuals with disabilities and their households to reduce daily expenses from purchasing dry goods from the shops, increase family income, while also contributing to addressing better health and combating non-communicable diseases. In addition, family farming becomes a shared activity, encouraging full household participation and strengthening family bonds.
- The hands-on involvement throughout the entire workshop kept everyone engaged until the end. As a result of the workshop, participants were extremely motivated and have now established their own backyard gardens.
- A follow up workshop will be conducted in Q3 focusing on how to preserve seeds for the next planting season and how to manage pests and diseases using local organic methods.



Image 2: Workshop participants during soil preparation practical sessions.



Image 3: Participants working together to prepare seed beds.

SKILLS FOR AGRIBUSINESS

Priority Area: Product development/sustainable resource management - Pandanus nursery establishment

Achievement/Outcome:

- Building on the pandanus species assessment on Malo in 2024, the Vanuatu Skills Partnership, in partnership with the Department of Forestry, made a joint trip to Malo to support the establishment of the first ever pandanus nursery to increase the supply of quality pandanus for local weavers.
- Working with the local community members, two high breed species of Dibius (no nails) and Tectorial (with nails) were transplanted in the newly established nursery using a specific technique, the coppicing of pandanus.
- Pandanus is one of the most important non-timber forest products in Vanuatu. It has been used for thousands of years in Vanuatu in day-to-day community life while also holding deep cultural significance for the role of pandanus products in birth, death, kastom and marriage ceremonies.
- In addition, on Malo pandanus plays a vital role in the community's climate resilience and adaptation efforts to mitigate the risks of rising sea levels and the impacts of storm surges on low-lying areas.
- As a result of this activity, 500 seedlings or “young suckers” were transplanted into the new nursery. Once these are established, they will then be distributed equally to households around Malo island to support replanting efforts.



Image 4: Field collection and Identification of pandanus species on Malo.



Image 5: Harvesting pandanus young suckers and from the mother tree.

SKILLS FOR CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Priority Area: Product development/sustainable resource management - solar dryer installation for SCICC producers in Luganville and Malo

Achievement/Outcome:

- An innovative solar dryer initiative was implemented through the Sanma Skills Centre. It is part of a one-year pilot program to assess the potential benefits of solar dryers for pandanus producers, aimed at enhancing pandanus quality and strengthening producer resilience in the face of climate change.
- John Bennett, an experienced operator in passive solar dryer technology based in Fiji, was engaged to supply and install two solar dryers for the Limabulu and Bosahe creative producer associations in Luganville and on Malo.
- Installing solar dryers in regional communities enables year-round processing and mitigates the limitations of sun bleaching, resulting in improvements in fibre quality - specifically whiteness - and yield.
- One of the dryers, a smaller unit, was installed at the Sanma Skills Centre for town-based Lima Bulu members' use. A larger unit, aligning with the Department of Forestry's initiative to plant pandanus on Malo Island, was installed at Bosahe community.
- Early feedback from the producers indicate that they are pleased with the speed of the new dryer and the higher quality of pandanus being processed.

"The solar dryer makes our work easier; we have good dried pandanus and the weavers can do their weavings anytime no matter if it is raining as we still have enough dried pandanus to weave." Noellyn Bwibwi, Limabulu Member.



Image 7: Technician, John Bennett, in discussions with weavers in Luganville.



Image 6: Demonstration of pandanus fiber drying using the new solar dryer in Luganville, Santo.

SKILLS FOR CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Priority Area: Sanma Creative Industries – Increased product quality

Achievement/Outcomes:

Several product quality skills trainings have been facilitated in Quarter 2 with producers from the Sanma Creative Industries Community Company. This has included:

- From 27 March to 12 April, international headwear coach Rosie Boylan facilitated a series of coaching sessions with 10 female headwear producers on the potential opportunities and business expansion of Sanma Creative Hub products locally and regionally.
- New hat making equipment introduced this year has greatly improved quality finishing, Headwear producers are recognizing the benefits of the equipment in improving their hat finishing. Through the coaching the producers have agreed to meet once a month at SCICC to access the facilities. The consistent production of quality products meeting international standards now offer more potential in domestic and international markets in Australia, New Zealand, New Caledonia, Fiji and Switzerland.
- In May, Coach Annie facilitated a learning collaboration with 9 textile clients (all women 1 with disabilities) to support them improve their contemporary bag designs, to brainstorm ideas and develop solutions. There are three types of different contemporary bag designs completed during the workshop. This includes a shoulder bag, beach bag and sling bag. All these bags were made by combining pandanus mats with fabric.
- These innovative new products are high valued products within the domestic market and the have a high market demand. SCICC clients, both headwear and textiles, will have opportunities to test these high quality products on the market in Q3 at large sales events such as Vanuatu Made and the National Arts Festival on Tanna.



Image 8: Demonstration of New electric hat stretcher .



Image 9: Display of Products at Pekoia Airport Shop.

SKILLS FOR CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Priority Area: Sustainable Business Hub Management- 2025 Business Strategy Review

Achievement/Outcomes:

- From 11 March - 14 May, VSP's business coach Rob Macalister supported the SCICC Board of Directors and Management to review the financial position of SCICC in addition to its current business strategies.
- In 2023 and 2024 SCICC achieved around 2 MVT in annual revenue. 2025 revenue is on track to exceed 3 MVT however this is well below the levels needed for sustainability. To be fully sustainable as a business SCICC needs to aim for total revenue of 7 MVT per year through product sales.
- It is recommended that SCICC Board review these at the next Board meeting and formally adopt them as targets to guide management. It is also recommended that SCICC urgently decide whether to renew the lease at the Pakoa shop (negotiate a new rental fee) or relocate to town given the high costs of operation at this location.
- In the next Board of Directors meeting in Q3, the board are planning to discuss and develop a set of strategic directions to increase revenue and confirm whether to re-negotiate a new rental for the airport shop or find a new location for the Business Hub.



Image 10: Rob Meeting with Chair & Manager of the Sanma Creative Hub.



Image 11: SCICC Directors developing new Business Strategy.

SKILLS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

Priority Area: Infrastructure Workforce Development for Sanma-based trades companies

Achievement/Outcomes:

- Sanma Skills Centre has been supporting local construction and plumbing companies to enhance their business management and operational practices.
- In May, two specialist skills workshops were delivered to 22 trade clients (including 3 women). Coach Larry Abel (Consilio Engineering) facilitated a 4-day workshop on Good Governance for clients and the executives of two registered construction companies and three registered plumbing companies.
- The training aimed to improve participants' knowledge in key areas such as cost estimation, contracts, business administration, work scheduling, and roles within a construction company. The goal was to equip local contractors and workers with tools to improve their business practices, enhance project management, and ensure quality construction work in Vanuatu.
- In addition, Ituani Vocational Skills Centre then facilitated a basic computer skills workshop. The foundational ICT skills and knowledge gained from this training will help trade-based clients to be able to apply or tender for any government and other projects in Sanma Province.
- As computer literacy remains a crucial skill required across all industrial sectors, VSP/ Sanma Skills Centre has established a partnership with Ituani to conduct a two-week training program for any new trade participants upon completion of their technical qualifications.



Image 12: Learner demonstrate practical activity on how to insert image.



Image 13: Clients participating in group discussions during the Good Governance workshop .

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Priority Area: Strengthening Skills Centre waste management systems

Achievement/Outcomes:

- Sanma Skills Centre has established a new waste management system at the office compound and inside each office space.
- This waste management system will support the staff to better manage our waste at the Centre while modelling for our kids, clients and partners to be able to establish their own systems at their respective homes and offices.
- The waste from the disposal bin will be taken to the Luganville waste management site, the items from the recycling bin will be used by handicraft producers for recycling products and waste from the compost bin will be used as fertilizers for the office backyard garden to support staff with healthy food.
- This change has occurred as a result of the Sanma Skills Centre Manager's recent study tour of a sustainable training campus in Brisbane, Australia.



Images 13 & 14: Sanma Skills Centre waste management systems outside the office and in the kitchen.

LESSON LEARNED AND ACTIONS

LESSON 1:

- Without clear communications, partners contributions and coordination of activities is not clear. Often facilitation and resourcing falls to the Skills Centres and timeframes are impacted.

NEXT STEPS:

- Strengthen coordination and co-contributions by advanced activity consultation and planning with partners at provincial level as well as national level.

LESSON 2:

- Delays from the Provincial Government regarding coordination and logistics preparations of materials for major infrastructure projects have contributed to the project falling behind the anticipated timeline.

NEXT STEPS:

- Meet with the Provincial Government to understand barriers and urgent priorities. Review timeline and adjust given delays.
- Strengthen coordination and logistics preparation of materials for provincial projects before project implementation- this includes holding regular meetings with all relevant partners.

WHAT ARE THE PRIORITIES FOR QUARTER 3?

Skills for Agribusiness

- Honey follow-up coaching/Hive Management (work with 15 committed key bee farmers to increase production and hive management)
- Pepper promotion and marketing (supporting pepper associations with marketing information such as packaging, labelling, pricing and marketing brochures/ pamphlets)
- Backyard gardening seed extraction workshop (continue to extract seeds at Sanma Skills Centre for backyard garden clients)

Skills for Infrastructure

- Certificate II in Building Construction, Southeast Area Council (complete accredited training and construction of Southeast Area Council Headquarter)

Skills for Tourism

- Tourism Product Readiness Coaching 1 (hospitality coaching for products needing improvement to reach quality standards)
- Tourism Market Readiness Coaching 1 (marketing and sales coaching for advanced clients)

Skills for Creative Industries

- Financial Literacy or SCICC producers
- Vanuatu Made Event
- Tanna Art Festival
- Gapuwiyak cultural exchange 2025-2026

Disability Inclusion

- VAC Staff DI Capacity workshop.

PARTICIPATION IN SKILLS DEVELOPMENT TRAINING*

SECTOR	WOMEN	MEN	TOTAL	PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
Skills for Tourism	19	2	21	0
Skills for Creative Industries	38	0	38	3 women
Skills for Agribusiness	5	7	12	11 (4 women and 7 men)
Skills for Infrastructure	5	36	41	0
TOTAL	67	45	112	14 (7 women and 7 men)

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