## 2016 July Trip Work Diary

Ben Heyward

### Friday 22 July, Cairns to Port Moresby

7am-3.30pm

Flew Cairns to Moresby, travelled to MAPANG Lodge Boroko arrived at 2.30pm bringing in commercial packets of Broad Beans, Peanut and Pea Seed.

Proceeded to NAQIA Office Waigani filled and paid for Seed Import and Biological Material Import Permits at around 3.30pm.

Contacted Kathleen Pearce at the New Zealand High Commission where I then caught a taxi to meet with Kathleen and James Aipale their Senior Development Program Coordinator. I answered their questions about my perceptions of the progress of the Drought Adaptations Project, its potential influence and the amount of disease free planting material from NARI that has been distributed.

### Saturday 23 July, Port Moresby to Wapenamanda

In the morning 7.30 to 10.30am I drafted a Project Close Workshop Program.

After reaching Wapenamanda at 12.30pm on the second flight for the day and meeting Desmon Kolao I visited a prospective Project Close Workshop site. It was plain, the meeting room too small and the site ugly.

I visited Matthew Faber at his house just to check in with him and make him aware of our need for one of the District vehicles to go to Simbu later in the week for organizing the Workshop there and to visit Debbie Kapal at Jiwaka. Matthew is clearly supportive of the project team.

David and Anna Kulimbao arrived by bus in the afternoon. Later David and I walked over to Desmon's gardens to look at progress of the NARI taro and sweet potatoe they had planted. Some material has grown well other material does not appear to be performing any better than the local varieties.

On our way home we inspected the Wapenamanda Lutheran Church for its suitability as the Project Close Workshop venue. Toilets, seating and cooking facilities are inadequate. The amenity is better than the site visited this morning.

In the evening 7.00pm to 10.30pm David and I finalized the V3 Project Close Workshop Program which I emailed to David and Virginia Askin.

### Sunday 24 July, Wapenamanda

9am 11.30am

David, Anna and I waited for Pastor Lawa to arrive from Mount Hagen returning to Kompiam to report on the ongoing fighting within David's own clan at Kompiam.

12.00 4.00pm

After sharing news with Lawa over coffee I accompanied Desmon to the Upper Tsak. He was supposed to collect labourers for building a new house on his land to accommodate Project Close Workshop participants but the men were not at their home.

In the evening I wrote a Project Close Invitation letter.

### Monday 25 July, Wapenamanda

8am 9.00am

I opened up the June Follow-up Meeting feedback file only to discover it lists brief reports by each participant in the form of MSC stories so that the key questions I prepared remain unanswered. It must be reordered as for the May Spreadsheet.

8.30am 4.30pm

After visiting Amapyak International School facilities Desmon took David, Anna and I to Tsak for the round 2 Follow-up Visit Meeting there. At 10.00am we arrived at Raikamanda Primary School where we met Teacher Pas who is the local fieldworker and chairperson of the Tsak Rural Farming Women's Empowerment Group, and waited for several more participants. Whereas they were slow in coming we had about a dozen women from the Rural Farming group who had not attended the original Workshop.

We met with about 20 farmers, 6 of whom had attended the Main Workshop 28-31 March. We asked them whether or not they had planted new gardens then worked thro’ the M&E questions with those farmers who had. One woman participant is cross about missing out on African Yam planting material so ignored requests to provide feedback on her gardening since the Workshop.

While all the participants have understood the steps required to avoid infesting their new sweet potato gardens with weevils in comparison to Birip, Kompiam, Sirungi and all the Simbu sites the Tsak people are generally not worried about soil loss or declining fertility even though there was little food in their own market implying that their garden food supply is still recovering after last year's drought.

At the end of the meeting there a woman teacher made a request for assistance with vegetable business market development. Given that they already know CDWAI will have a role in their market development project this was surprising. From the meeting in the Elementary School classroom we made a lengthy visit of several gardens during which David received a fone call telling him that his uncle the pastor at his home place of Pakau had been killed in a raid earlier in the day.

We returned by bus to Wapenamanda from where David went with Anna and his 2 older sons up to Wabag for a family conference to make arrangements about safe travel to the 'Haus Krai'.

7.30pm-10pm

I copied and edited 2/3 of the June Simbu Follow-up Meeting participant feedback reports into the spreadsheet I had prepared in May.

### Tuesday 26 July, Wapenamanda

8.30am 12.30pm

Completed transferring all of the June Simbu Follow-up Meeting reports into the spreadsheet and recording all feedback from the round 2 Tsak Meeting into the July Spreadsheet. For the Tsak Meeting David Kulimbao and I then selected and supplemented responses to the 5 categories in the spreadsheet viz,

1. What techniques were used or well adapted?

2. What techniques were poorly understood or used or caused problems?

3. MSC Stories identified by the team

4. Problems identified by Farmers and Facilitator?

5. Learnings – from Farmers and Facilitators? and Requests

1.30 4pm

David, Anna and I allocated responses to the 5 categories for all Simbu Workshops.

4pm-6pm

Desmon, David, Anna and I visited the SDA and 4 Square Churches to check out their facilities. They were not suitable.

### Wednesday 27 July, Wapenamanda

8.30am 1.30pm

Went to Birip for a Follow-up meeting there where we met the SDA Youthworker Pastor Timothy but only he and his wife were present. After closely checking their NARI kaukau multiplication bed we looked at weevil infested kaukau in an old garden and at their home garden fruit trees. David re-arranged the Follow-up Visit for his return in 10 days time.

We returned to Desmon and Martha's gardens at Yalis where we inoculated some of the 'Virginia Bunch' peanuts I had brought as well as peanuts that Martha was about to plant in 4m by 6m beds. We planted the 2 kinds of seed on different beds, some interplanted with ginger.

2.00pm 3.00pm

We met with Dixon Iki, the Minister's Consultant, to request for Desmon and a District Office Landcruiser for the next 3 days. This became a Project presentation meeting, held in goodwill, and Dixon approved the release of the vehicle and Desmon to return Saturday evening after dropping me at Kagamuga Airport.

3.00pm 6.00pm

Desmon took us to another pre-arranged Follow-up Meeting with the Kondomanda Workshop participants at Lokwaepalase (Lokwae Palace!). In the morning we had met Kelly by his gate who said that after lunch he would ring us to confirm that participants had arrived. He had not done this but we found him at home so had a thorough inspection of his gardens including his African Yam sets which are shooting, and his NARI kaukau 2nd multiplication plots.

We dug tubers from his original NARI kaukau bed. Those runners are yielding well, notably varieties 'Sintaro' and 'Wan Mun Waghi Besta', especially considering that Kelly and his wife have already taken surplus runners from the bed to plant out the 2nd multiplication plot.

5 observations to make:

1. The NARI varieties look clean and virus free and are Gall Mite free
2. Kelly has rotated his commercial beds and family kaukau for 20 years so one would expect a low weevil population
3. He has also used organic and inorganic fertilizer for 20 years so even the old kaukau varieties look good but some are severely Gall Mite infested
4. Heavy Gall Mite infested runners set tiny twisted tubers.

The Care-NARI agriculture recovery training team then met up with us so Kelly and us took them back over his gardens to look at his commercial cabbage and lettuce beds and the NARI kaukau, cassava and African Yam plantings.

6.00 8.00pm

Updated Work Diary and began drafting Project Close Workshop budget.

### Thursday 28 May, Wapenamanda, Kundiawa, Barengil in Gembogl

Drove to bupng at Kimininga, Hagen where I got new fone numbers for Jack Mumu, in Baiyer, and Health Officer Fredah Wantun then left 'Virginia Bunch' peanut seed and inoculum for Jack. I briefly discussed the Project with Joseph Lakai. bupng Health Director, inviting him to attend the Wapenamanda Conference. Drove down to Minj where we located Fredah, explaining our interest in having her attend the Project Cose Conference with 2 of her Baiyer-Kwinkya Women's Microfinance and Agriculture Group leaders and to present about their work.

Reaching Kundiawa behind a very long slow funeral cavalcade, straightaway we drove out to Barengil in Gembogl District where participants were waiting for us to conduct a Follow-up Meeting. 16 participants met with us from 3pm till 6pm including a garden visit to check nodulation of beans. As at all Enga sites other than the Tsak, nodulation here was poor with perhaps fewer than 5 nodules on the one bean plant. After the feedback meeting we discussed the importance of beans, rhizobium and frost resistant legumes then inoculated and distributed small quantities of broad bean and pea seed as well as 'Virginia Bunch' peanuts. We also inoculated peanut seed brought to the meeting by some participants.

We had already emphasized the importance of corn, 'kumu' (leafy and other green vegetables and beans as the crops that would give the best and fastest yields once rains returned after drought.

Overnighted at 'Wina' Guesthouse Barengil: very tired boys and girls.

### Friday 29 July, Gembogl

7.30am to 11.30amp

Returning to Kundiawa we inspected the EBC Centre there but decided the facilities were not adequate for either the farmer group participants nor the outside province NGO guests. We moved to the Lutheran Guest House and thought the bedrooms and Conference Room to be suitable while being unhappy about conditions around the main building given that it is right now also a building site.

12pm–5.30pm

Went out to SinaSina catching up with the funeral procession near our destination. There were only 3 participants present (after the local facilitator) telling David he believed there would be 6. Once we were in the middle of events the situation was not surprising given the mourning around us and people necessarily being called into arrangements.

One of the participants went to a garden to bring a soya bean plant to us which like the Tsak was impressive with over 100 nodules. Along with the 3 participants, 4 or 5 other farmers and various young adult household members we had a discussion about corn, kumu and bean planting when rain returns after drought rather than jumping into big new sweet potato plantings. We discussed and taught about the following points:

1. Beans are a whole group or 'clan' of plants including soya beans, peanuts, peas, 'as bin' and others they already eat as well as shrubs and trees like 'Marimari', Albizzia falciparum
2. Beans are the plants whose parts we eat, the seeds, have the highest levels of protein, which is what bodies are built from and what strengthens our resistance to sickness
3. Beans have a 'poroman' relationship with lines of Rhizobium bacteria which form the nodule 'houses' we all saw (women always see nodules but think them insignificant) supplying fertilizer, nitrogen, to beans and eventually, soil
4. Our field observations have shown us that the Rhizobia 'poroman' across those districts has become weak so we are bringing in fresh strains
5. Bean seeds like peanuts and soya beans ought to be cooked before eating especially when fed to children. Otherwise, they drain away our bodies' proteins
6. Some beans from colder countries are frost resistant so we have brought pea and broad bean seed for them to trial on their farms

Several members of the group became quite up front about these concepts being previously unknown and obviously important making it clear that the Main Workshop and the first round Follow-up Meeting have generated a lot of credibility. Us backing up those occasions with seed and the 'poroman' story clearly impressed them that what we were on about could make their food supply more resilient.

Went back to the Lutheran Guesthouse where we booked in and soon found that they were disorganized and slow to react. The toilets smelt and had no light until I moved a fluoro tube and there were not enough for 40 people. The kitchen is closed off to the upstairs hostel area. There are no self-serve tea/ coffee facilities. The power points were off because of temporary builder connections. By 9pm David and I decided that on the Saturday, while he and Anna returned to Goroka, I would check out the Kerowaghi Catholic Centre with Desmon.

6pm–8.30pm Completed input for Thursday's Gembogl Follow-up Meeting.

### Saturday 30 July Gembogl to Jiwaka, Mount Hagen and Moresby

8am-3.30pm David and Anna caught a Goroka bus at 7.30am.

Then Desmon and I headed for participant Josephine's house and gardens near the Kerowaghi Bridge. We confirmed that her gardens at least, other members of the immediate community are also participants, would be fine for a Conference visit.

One of her bean plants had excellent nodulation. Another win for Simbu!

Afterwards Josephine came with us to the Kerowaghi Catholic Centre. DRDO Luis Apa joined us there.

We met Father Peter who took us around to the training centre which has 20 male and 12 female beds in rooms of 1, 2 or 3 beds each. There are enough basic, clean, well-kept toilets and showers but cold water only. Out of Province and District accommodation for 10 people is available above and within Peter's house. The Conference Room is rough but large, well ventilated and well lit. Peter has a data projector. There is a blackboard there and a whiteboard is available. They will supply tables and chairs for 45 people and a stand-by generator.

The cost structure appears within the range of the budget I am preparing. Josephine, Luis and I then discussed the Conference. We will invite 4 participants from each of the 5 Simbu District groups. Luis will bring a new young woman cadet RDO and can present. Chased around Banz for Debbie Kapal but she was off at a church opening.

### Sunday 31 July Port Moresby to Brisbane

4.15am Awoke and off to the airport for the 6.15 Brisbane flight.