



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



# Sustainable Vanilla Value Chain Development in the Greater Sepik Region

Support to Rural Entrepreneurship, Investment and  
Trade in Papua New Guinea (EU-STREIT PNG)

# General Context

The northwestern part of Papua New Guinea has a unique agro-ecological environment with a great potential to cultivate many globally in-demand valuable and expensive agricultural economic products such as vanilla. If produced, processed and marketed in enough quantity and with the best quality, vanilla as the world's second most expensive spice can contribute significantly to the country's economy.

Despite this huge potentiality, currently, vanilla is mainly planted at the household, subsistence level on small plots, and farmers are not well equipped with knowledge on improved production practices and proper drying and quality attributes.

Besides, insufficient investment, support, capacity, and infrastructures left the region less prepared and provided with resources to tap into this potentiality and take the course toward sustainable vanilla value chain development.

## Programme Approach

To address these gaps and support triggering a transformational, durable change, the EU-STREIT PNG, in close partnership with the East and West Sepik Provincial Divisions of Agriculture and Livestock (DAL), stakeholders and local farmer groups, provides support and offers technical assistance to the vanilla farmers, agripreneurs and local Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise (MSMEs) as well as governmental authorities to increase the economic returns and opportunities through sustainable development of this value chain.

In this respect, the Programme supports the vanilla farmers with the provision of healthy vanilla vines, organising training sessions on improved production and curing techniques, and the development of farmers' capacity to adopt climate-smart agriculture practices.

The EU-STREIT PNG also works on improvement of the efficiency and profitability of farmer cluster groups and MSMEs, promotion of public-private partnership, enhancement of the vanilla market accessibility and market information systems, and introduction of vanilla certification systems.

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# Results Achieved

As of June 2021

- Developed 416 training materials on vanilla production and post-production systems
- Trained 142 Master Trainers on improved vanilla farming
- Trained 2 477 vanilla farmers on improved vanilla production and management practices
- Promoted crop diversification and integrated cropping systems in 1 020 ha of vanilla blocks
- Provided skill development training for 416 vanilla value chain stakeholders on improved processing, packaging, and storage
- Established 158 farmer cluster/ collective marketing groups
- Developed the capacity of 10 vanilla cluster groups and agripreneurs on entrepreneurship development
- Trained 152 farmers and stakeholders on gender sensitive vanilla value chain development, entrepreneurship and financial literacy
- Developed prototype of vanilla solar dryer at household level

# Ongoing Interventions

- Expanding and improving existing vanilla block for farm families
- Promoting sustainable climate change adapted practices among vanilla value chain actors
- Supporting development of household level drying kits
- Supporting local MSMEs and agripreneurs on fabrication and marketing of recommended technologies and processes of improved curing
- Provide skill development training on improved vanilla packaging and labelling
- Enhancing market access and linkages of value chain actors at provincial and national levels
- Developing partnership and collaboration with local private sector and agripreneurs
- Strengthening women and youths engagement in and benefitting from vanilla value chain activities
- Strengthening the capacity for adaptive research and vanilla demonstration facilities of regional technical institutions



## Programme in a Glance

The EU-STREIT Programme in Papua New Guinea, being implemented as a United Nations Joint Programme (FAO as leading agency/administrative agent, and ILO, ITU, UNCDF and UNDP as implementing partners), is the largest grant-funded programme of the European Union in the country and the Pacific region.

As an evidence-based, country-led and country-owned programme, the EU-STREIT PNG focuses on increasing sustainable and inclusive economic development of rural areas in East Sepik and Sandaun provinces.

This international rural agriculture development programme works on increasing the economic returns and opportunities from cocoa, vanilla and fishery value chains and strengthening and improving the efficiency of value chain enablers, including the business environment and supporting sustainable, climate-proof transport and energy infrastructure development in target areas.



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