# Trip Report

**Teptep: Project Awareness and rebuilding communication with the farmers, contact farmer (champion farmer) and the leaders**

**August 27th 2019, Teptep, Saidor Local Level Government, RaicoastMadang**

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| Name(s): | Elly Solomon (Labu/Bubia-Livestock), Tai Kui (Aiyura-Soils and water) and James Laraki (HQ- Information) |
| Team Members | Elly Solomon, Tai Kui and James Laraki |
| Itinerary : | Lae-Teptep 27 August return Teptep-Lae 2nd September 2019 via North Coast Aviation (depart 8:30 am from Nadzab& arrive at 9.00am Teptep). Returned Saturday 2nd September 2019.  The trip was funded by EU-CCR project. The funding covers all travel costs, accommodation, freight costs, and other miscellaneous. |
| Purpose& Objectives | 1. To re-establish communication with the farmers and leaders 2. To do awareness on the EUCCR project and its activities 3. To assess soil usage by villages and collect soil samples 4. To assess the water; availability; sources and; usage by different villages 5. To assess different cultivation practises and livestock raring. 6. To train farmers on improved pig and village chicken management 7. To train farmers on soil conservation and water management |
| People met | * Mr.Ano- lead and champion farmer and the acting RDO * ELC- Teptep Circuit leaders * Community leaders of 6 different main villages including current and former councillors. * Community members of 6 different villages |
| Major events | We were unable to fully achieve objectives 7 and 8.The reasons were due to: Morobe governor’s visit; the ELC church leaders gathering and; walking distance between different villages. However, we managed to achieve most of our objectives for the trip. Our main activities in every village visited was conducting awareness on:   1. The EUCCR Project i.e. 2. Drought in 2016-2017 in which Teptep was categorized under 4-5 on their disaster scale by PNG disaster office. 3. The baseline survey in 2018 and intervention plans derived for the communities. 4. Introducing some of NARI technologies to prepare for next drought that might occur soon 5. Trainings to be conducted by our team on the week following 6. Soil conservation and water management. This also included: 7. Soil samples collection 8. Water dam site visits; water supply source and piping systems assessment 9. Display on new techniques 10. Distribution of bean seeds to a village representative 11. We also responded to questions raised by the community leaders; 12. The project activities 13. Specific question on soil conservation and water management 14. Specific questions on livestock management and raring 15. **Day 1, 26thAugust 2019: Teptep station to West Kopkop** 16. Traveled to Teptep station for Lae. Arrived at the station and met by Ano our contact and champion farmer/ the acting RDO. We briefed him on our purpose and he send out words to other villages on our visits to be made at their sites. 17. Walked to West Kopkop, a village at a top hill (2 hour walk, uphill) 18. Started our awareness with some of the villagers. Most of the villagers were attending an ELC circuit conference at nearby village downhill. 19. Collected soil samples at one of the gardens. 20. Continued discussing with few more community leaders during night and also responded to some of their questions 21. **Day 2, 27thAugust 2019:West Kopkop to Gua** 22. Inspected the water supply dam that supplies two villages with a population of over 1500 people. 23. Awareness continued with more emphasis on the water management during drought; soil conservation 24. Walked to a next village (Guwa) downhill (1 hour walk). 25. Soil sampling was done at one of the gardens. The people living in West Kopkop and Gua share the same land area for gardening. The gardens are located between these two villages. 26. We were met by a big delegate of church leaders and the community at Gua village. Our Awareness continued. 27. Sweet potato silage demonstration in the afternoon. 28. **Day 3, 28thAugust 2019: Gua to Duwi** 29. Walked to Duwi village. It’s a village situated in a rain forest. (5 hours walk) 30. Collected soil samples 31. Visited the sheep and pig farms. Discussed with the farmers on the issues raised by the people 32. Visited their water source and discussed with them on the importance of water management 33. Awareness continued in the night with the heads of families 34. **Day 4, 29thAugust 2019: Duwi to Nokopo** 35. Walked back to Nokopo village (1 hour walk). 36. We inspected the water supply dam and GPS points were taken 37. Our awareness continued with the community members. 38. Collected soil samples at one of the gardens 39. Walked back to Ganglut village (3 hours walk). 40. **Day 5, 30thAugust 2019: Ganglut** 41. Visited and assessed the water supply dam and checked their water piping system. 42. Visited and assessed the crop demonstration and multiplication sites 43. Demonstration on sweetpotato silage by the champion farmer. 44. Continued with the awareness 45. Walked back to Teptep station (1 hour walk up hill) 46. **Day 6, 31stAugust 2019Teptep station** 47. Checked the demonstration plots at the station 48. Worked on the temporarily nursery shelter i.e. covering the shelter with the shade-cloth and setting up the nursery tray bench 49. Prepared the training shelter for the participants 50. Marking out areas for setting up different systems i.e. livestock area (including pig model shelter; duck and fish integration; sheep and goat yard and; family poultry shelter); soil conservation and crop multiplication plots; permanent nursery shelter 51. **Day 7, 1st September 2019: Teptep station** 52. Continued on preparing the training and demonstration sites for the project. This included connecting water into the demonstration fish pond and setting up a water tape for use during training. The water was connected into the yard using bamboos 53. Continued with our awareness at Teptep station. |
| Way Foward | * 1. MoU to be fast tracked for the site to participate effectively to project activities.The MoU should also consider following:      1. The agriculture area for the station to be used as demonstration and training site for the project      2. The facilitators of the project to be allowed to use a vacant house during time of visit.      3. Due to less presence of the RDO at site and also the participating communities are from both provinces i.e. Madang and Morobe it would be better Anno Darkop a champion farmer to be our contact and be in charge of the activities on the ground. Mr.Darkop has a very good PR with all the communities and he has involved in many agricultural activities. For example. He is the contact person for the IF solar mill project. He is also part of the ELC Teptep circuit leadership group. For the successful implementation of all our planned activities and sustainability of the project, it is recommended that Mr. Anno Darkop be our contact person on the ground and be in charge of all the activities.  1. The site for demonstration and training needs a facelift. The immediate need for the site is water and water has to be connected into the area from the water supply system. The station’s agricultural site will feature    * 1. Livestock area (pig model shelter; duck and fish integration; sheep and goat yard and; family poultry shelter);      2. soil conservation and crop multiplication plots;      3. permanent nursery shelter      4. training shelter      5. security house 2. A proper training on pig management have to be conducted. Focusing more on housing; nutrition and breeding. The reason being that pig is the main source of income for every household and plays a major role in social obligations like bride prize, church and school gatherings, compensation, etc. 3. They have a very unique cultivation practise and this needs to be encouraged with other soil improvement techniques introduced. Demonstration on soil conservation using of legumes and other possible plants needs to be conducted on the training and demonstration site. 4. All the villages visited have existing water supply systems. The water supplies were built by Lutheran Development Services (LDS). However, most of the dams, pipes and tapes need maintenance and needs to be assessed with a proper feasibility study. This will be done by locals or we can engage LDS since, they were involved in setting up all the water supply systems. Recommendations will be made based on the feasibility study.At the mean time the community leaders were asked to have a proper water managing committee who can manage the day to day use of the water. 5. Inbreeding and poor management are two main constrains that limits or hinders the farmers involved with pig, sheep and rabbit production. Introduce new breeds especially sheep and rabbits from Labu to improve their production. Moreover, livestock diversification is a way forward for the Teptep site. 6. Most of the main villages have allocated a piece of land for further demonstration and distribution of crops. Farmers involved with livestock (fish, duck, village chicken, sheep and goat) have agreed to multiply and distribute livestock to other farmers. Proper arrangements have to be made with the community leaders and the lead farmers in all the villages. |
| Follow-up actions required | 1. Demonstration and training site, facelift. (Anno Darkop to carry out all the planned activities at site while Elly Solomon to supply materials needed via NCA) 2. Activities monitored and keep leaders and contact farmers on the loop- (Elly Solomon) 3. MoU drafting, vetting and signing – (James Laraki, Jeffery Waki and Janet Pandi) 4. Distribute more improved fallow options seeds with legume crops seeds for farmers to boost soil fertility improvement - (Tai Kui and Elly Solomon) 5. Report back the analyzed soil fertility status of Teptep soils – (Tai Kui and Elly Solomon) |
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| Other comments | * We were well received by every village visited. The leaders said to send in their representatives to participate in the training and will involve in other project activities. * One of the main massage emphasised was to allow more women participation in the trainings and also in other discussions in relation to climate change. * The Teptep Evangelical Lutheran Church circuit is well prepared to partner with the project. * The main gardening land for Teptep station, Ganglut, West Kopkop and Gua are situated at Gua and Ganglut. * The communities practise continuous cultivation with:   + 1. Follow period. During the fallow period, the people fence the gardens and allow pigs to roam around for several months before re-cultivation.     2. Compost is also used by the people     3. The mounds or plots are designed to capture runoff water   It was encouraging however, more training and new techniques has to be introduced. Some of the new techniques were emphasised during our awareness. For example: encouraged farmers to use legumes in the fallow period or even use legumes for compost.   * Farmers request for further assistance from NARI in supplying a male sheep so they can be able to improve their sheep production * The main crop cultivated for the villages near the Teptep station was sweetpotato. It was mentioned that taro, singapore, cassava and other crops were recently introduced. Only Duwi and Nokopo showed some diversification in farming of different staple crops. It was Duwi and other villages further Duwi supplied food to the Teptep, Gua, West Kopkop, Keteng andGanglut communities during the 1997 drought. * Teptep station and West Kopkop are the only villages situated in Madang province while other villages are situated in Morobe province. However, most of the gardening for West Kopkop and Teptep station are located in Morobe province. This is also an indication that both provinces needed to be engage in this project. |