

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Budget estimates 2010-2011; June 2010
Answers to questions on notice from
Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)

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Question 1

Topic: Papua New Guinea (PNG)—ACIAR research activities and capacity building on the Western Province, PNG
Hansard, pp. 9-12

Senator Trood asked:

- A. What research and capacity building projects are focussed on the Western Province?
- B. Which of these projects have a collaborative dimension with other agencies and/or research organisations
- C. Do any of the projects have a community management dimension?
- D. How many PNG nationals have been successful in receiving ACIAR scholarship assistance?
- E. How does the level of ACIAR scholarship assistance compare with other countries?
- F. What fishery research is taking place on the Western Province?
- G. What biosecurity work is focussed on the border area of the Western Province?
- H. Is ACIAR developing or aware of predictive work that is being done in relation to the impact of climate variability in PNG and most specifically on the Western Province?

Answer

- A. *FIS/2004/065—Culture of promising indigenous fish species and bioremediation in northern Australia and PNG.* This project aimed to develop hatchery and growout techniques for indigenous species in Western province.

FIS/2008/043—Barramundi feed development trial in Western Province PNG. This small research activity provides an expert advisory committee to guide the design, construction and establishment of a barramundi hatchery in Daru and the design of growout trials with different feeds in locations in the Fly River and Lake Murray.

FIS/2009/014—Preliminary assessment of invasive and exotic fish species in PNG. This project involved a survey and collection of data to assess the extent of invasion of exotic fish species (primarily climbing perch, snakehead and walking catfish) in the Fly River system in Western Province and recommendations for further action.

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FIS/2006/138—Developing aquaculture-based livelihoods in the Pacific Islands region and tropical Australia. This project includes a mini-project that aims to evaluate the effect of different storage methods and periods on the potential use of the Fly River herring as a feed for aquaculture.

FIS/2008/031—An assessment of the extent of genetic introgression in exotic culture stocks of tilapia in the Pacific. This project involves an assessment of the genetic status of the introduced tilapia and will provide recommendations concerning the need for a new introduction of tilapia for sustainable aquaculture in PNG. While not focussed on the Western Province, project scientists have collected samples throughout the Pacific and PNG (including the Western Province).

FIS/2008/023—Increasing production from inland aquaculture in PNG for food and income security. This project will focus on improving inland aquaculture through better fingerling production, better feeding technology and better land use planning. Land Use planning will occur in Western Province but the focus will be in the Eastern Highlands and Morobe Province.

FST/2007/078—‘Development of a PNG timber industry based on community-based plantation forests: design and implementation of a national germplasm delivery system’.

FST/2004/050—‘Value adding to PNG agroforestry systems’. This project aims to encourage the adoption of commercial-scale high-value tree growing in PNG, developed through a relationship fostered between landowners and selected business partners.

ASEM/2005/094—Improving the profitability of village broiler production in PNG – This project uses locally available sweet potato or cassava as alternatives to purchased concentrates in poultry diets used by smallholder farmers. This farming system project has one of its foci in the Western Province and is designed to improve profitability.

- B. All of the above projects have a collaborative dimension with other agencies and/or research organisations in both Australia and PNG.
- C. Projects: FIS/2004/065; FIS/2008/043; FIS/2008/023, FST/2007/078 and FST/2004/050 detailed above have a community management dimension.
- D. ACIAR’s John Dillon fellowship (JDF) and John Allwright fellowship (JAF) awarded to PNG include 48 JAFs and 10 JDFs totalling 58.
- E. The level of ACIAR scholarship assistance in PNG compared with other countries total:

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Country	JAFs	JDFs	Total
PNG	48	10	58
Indonesia	64	14	78
Vietnam	39	4	43
Cambodia	9	5	14
Laos	7	4	11
India	14	3	17
Philippines	33	6	39

- F. Projects: *FIS/2004/065; FIS/2008/043; FIS/2009/014; FIS/2006/138; FIS/2008/031; FIS/2008/023* involve, to varying degrees, fishery research in the Western Province.
- G *FIS/2009/014 Preliminary assessment of invasive and exotic fish species in PNG, which focuses on biosecurity*, has undertaken data collection in the Fly River which flows through a small stretch on the border area of the Western Province.
- H *Project ASEM/2006/129 'Strategies for early warning and drought preparedness for improved management of crop production'* builds on an initiative developed for the Pacific Island Countries called the Seasonal Climate Outlook for Pacific Island Country (SCOPIC) and is delivered through the PNG National Weather Service. This work does not have a particular focus on the Western Province.