

Enhancing returns from high-value agroforestry species in Vanuatu



Key details

Location

Vanuatu

Duration

Start Jun 2017

End Jun 2022

Budget

AUD 1,564,973

Commissioned organisation

University of the Sunshine Coast

Partners

Department of Forests; Department of Industry; Southern Cross University; University of the Sunshine Coast

Project Leader

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ACIAR Research Program Manager

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Program

Forestry

Project code

FST/2016/154

Overview

This project aimed to advance the Vanuatu planted forestry sector by improving the availability of new and existing technologies and facilitating wider smallholder adoption of the 3 priority species.

To achieve this, the project sought to: (1) enhance availability of selected Canarium seed through evaluation and capture of wild resources; (2) improve the value of planted sandalwood by widening the deployment of improved genetic resources; (3) enhance knowledge and capacity among whitewood value chain stakeholders, of growing, processing and marketing of high and lower value wood products; and, (4) increase adoption of existing technologies for planted forests through improved knowledge development and transfer among stakeholders.

In Vanuatu there is great potential for a smallholder-led planted forest industry, based on high-value timbers and non-timber products such as Canarium nut, sandalwood oil, and whitewood timber. The Government of Vanuatu has initiated a Decade of Reforestation, under which it aims to support the planting of millions of trees.



Expected project outcomes

- Canarium varieties with high yield and large kernels identified and established in seed production orchards. This, along with the knowledge disseminated in a production manual, leading to greater nut product quality and consistency in the supply chain, improved market potential and industry viability.
- Wider availability of improved sandalwood germplasm resulting in greater investment in sandalwood planting and better quality of sandalwood traded.
- Establishment of new breeding resources leading to a greater participation of the private sector in improving sandalwood germplasm.
- Improved knowledge of existing planted whitewood resources promoting additional industry investment in processing technologies and improved supply chain function.
- Cost-effective methods of whitewood drying and preservation leading to increased utilisation of existing plantings and longevity of dwellings.
- Improved approaches to extension leading to greater adoption by smallholders of research outputs, proficiency in planted forestry and reduced dependence on formal extension services.

