

**CRAWFORD FUND MASTER CLASS IN
COMMUNICATING RESEARCH TO STAKEHOLDERS**

Nadi, Fiji, 25-31 May 2014

Short Biographies Provided by Participants

Mr Fereti Atumurirava

Integrated Pest Management Officer, Secretariat of the Pacific Community

After graduating, Mr Atumurirava briefly worked with the Livestock Division of Fiji's Ministry of Agriculture before joining the Crop Research Division in 1990. He then transferred to the Dreketi Rice Scheme and worked in research for seven years. During this period he worked with hybrid rice in The Peoples Republic of China at Guazhou and Changhza. In 2000 he commenced work in root crop agronomy in Fiji, then joined the Secretariat for Pacific Countries (SPC) in early 2003. In SPC he worked as a technician in the entomology section of the Plant Health Unit. In 2012 he was promoted to his current position of Integrated Pest Management Officer and his work involves field trial execution, data collection, reporting, project coordination and a leadership role in the plant health unit.

Mr Tokintekai Bakineti

Principal Agricultural Officer, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agriculture Development, Kiribati

As a researcher, Mr Bakinete is involved extensively in conducting research trials to improve the resilience of cropping systems for atoll countries. He also conducts qualitative studies for community-based development programs in Kiribati. He started his career as a researcher after completing a Masters program at Sussex University, UK and a Bachelor of Science in agronomy and soil at the University of Hawaii, USA.

Dr Murom Banabas

Head of Agronomy, Papua New Guinea Oil Palm Research Association Inc.

Dr Banabas heads the agronomy section for the Papua New Guinea Oil Palm Research Association. He designs and manages field experiments, analyses data and reports the results. He is also involved in training farmers, extension staff and plantation staff on the best agronomic practices for oil palm production. He has also recently worked on food security projects. He studied soil science at both the Masters and PhD level in New Zealand.

Mr Amena Banuve

Senior Research Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Fiji

Mr Banuve has been working at the Sigatoka Research Station in Fiji for the past eight years as a research officer responsible for cereal and vegetable research. In this position, he develops and implements research projects in collaboration with extension officers, stakeholders and other agricultural institutions; supervises and leads staff; disseminates research findings through training, field days and publications; monitors, budgets and reports on projects and provides support to the horticulture section. He obtained his Bachelor of Agriculture at the University of the South Pacific.

Ms Nicholar Boas

Floriculture Officer, National Agriculture Research Institute, Papua New Guinea

Ms Boar works as a floriculture officer and researcher at the National Agriculture Research Institute in Papua New Guinea (PNG). She is conducting research on both science and socio-economic aspects of floriculture. Ms Boar graduated from PNG University with a Bachelor Degree and Post Graduate Diploma in agricultural science; and a Masters in agronomy from the University of Queensland, Australia.

Ms Ana Buli

Pest List Database Technician, Secretariat of the Pacific Community

Ms Buli has been involved in agriculture since graduating from the University of the South Pacific in 2005. Her current position requires her to maintain the Pacific Pest List Database by liaising with research organisations and technical staff and consulting past literature. From working on various projects for the Secretariat of the Pacific Community in Fiji, Ms Buli has experience in delivering training, working collaboratively to carry out research trials, and relaying the importance of project objectives back to relevant stakeholders.

Mr Kaitu Erasito

Senior Research Officer, Secretariat of the South Pacific Community

For the past four years, Mr Erasito has been employed by the Secretariat of the South Pacific as a Senior Research Officer for the Pacific Breadfruit Project. He manages a number of applied research activities. He ensures the effective operation of the breadfruit orchards through varietal collection, documentation and distribution. He also promotes and distributes information among breadfruit industry stakeholders. He holds a Bachelor Degree in agriculture from the University of the South Pacific.

Mr Clifton Gwabu

Research and Development Coordinator, National Agricultural Research Institute, Papua New Guinea

Mr Gwabu works as a Research and Development Coordinator for the National Agricultural Research Institute's (NARI) Southern Regional Centre (SRC) in Papua New Guinea (PNG). He coordinates and monitors research projects implemented by scientists in the SRC. He also assists staff to plan new research projects. Mr Gwabu liaises with stakeholders to understand their development needs so NARI can make strategic interventions. This includes communicating research outputs and outcomes to farming communities in various ways - print, electronic, audio, field days, etc. He holds a Bachelor of Economics from the University of PNG and a Masters of Natural Resource Economics, majoring in agricultural economics from the University of Queensland.

Dr Ellen Iramu

Project Coordinator - Pacific Islands, The World Vegetable Center

Dr Iramu is an agricultural scientist involved in vegetable crop production research. She currently works as a project coordinator in integrated crop management. She is responsible for designing trials, compiling and analysing data, preparing extension material and communicating project outputs to stakeholders. She did her PhD research at the University of Queensland.

Dr Jong Joanita Bendita da Costa

Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, East Timor

Dr Jong has worked at the East Timor Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries since 2005 as a veterinary technician. She is responsible for treatment and surveillance. She provides assistance to new staff in the field, is involved developing the annual action plan, prepares proposals for the animal health department activities and controls the distribution of medicines and vaccines.

Mr Tom Kukhang

Chief Scientist, acting Chief Executive Officer, Coffee Industry Corporation, Papua New Guinea

Mr Kukhang is a coffee breeder who trained under well-known coffee breeders from France. Since graduating from university in 1987 he has been involved in the coffee industry. Mr Kukhang became the Chief Scientist of coffee research for the Coffee Industry Corporation (CIC) in 2003 where his main task is research management. He works in the areas of maintaining scientific standards, conducting adaptive research with farmers, translating research findings for application by farmers' and disseminating information to the industry. Mr Kukhang also coaches young scientists and is the lead editor for the Papua New Guinea Coffee Journal, CIC Newsletter and other CIC publications.

Mrs Maria Linibi

President, PNG Women in Agriculture Development Foundation

Six years ago, Ms Linibi founded the Papua New Guinea Women in Agriculture Development Foundation, a non-governmental organisation of which she is now president. In this capacity she is striving to build it into a robust, transparent and knowledgeable organisation.

Ms Ulamila Lutu

Research Technician, Secretariat of the Pacific Community

Ms Lutu has worked at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community for over five years and is based at the Center of Pacific Crops and Trees (CePaCT) where she is a research technician. Her responsibilities include monitoring and conserving the crop collection held at CePaCT and managing research projects. Her current research project is developing a mass multiplication protocol in the laboratory. This project aims to help the Samoan taro industry that was wiped out by taro leaf blight in 1993. Ms Lutu has a Bachelor Degree majoring in biology and chemistry, a Post Graduate Diploma in biology and is currently completing a Master of Science program at the University of the South Pacific.

Dr Viliami Toalei Manu

Deputy Director, Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Forests & Fisheries, Tonga

Dr Manu graduated from the University of New England in Australia with a PhD in 2000. His research was on the effects of cropping on soil organic matter and nutrients and practices to enhance crop yields in Tonga. Currently, he is directing and managing the agricultural research station in Tonga, and conducting research on crop production, crop protection, genetic resources, climate change adaptation and environmental resilience.

Mr Sunia Marayawa

Education Officer, Ministry of Education, Fiji

Mr Marayawa is in his tenth year with Fiji's Ministry of Education, having spent eight years as a teacher and two years as an education officer. His main responsibilities are responding to queries and correspondence, internally and externally; developing issues briefs; writing and editing speeches; developing and conducting training; organising tours and meetings; providing secretariat services; facilitating publicity and monitoring public and media responses to the Ministry's policies and actions. Mr Marayawa was trained as an English teacher and is currently pursuing a Post Graduate Diploma in teaching English as a second language.

Mr Vinesh Prasad

Agroforestry Technician, Secretariat of the Pacific Community

Mr Prasad comes from a farming background. His parents and grandparents were sugarcane and vegetable farmers. After secondary school he was awarded scholarship to undertake a Diploma in Tropical Agriculture at the University of the South Pacific. Upon completion, he joined the Ministry of Primary Industries in Fiji and went on to complete a BA. Mr Prasad joined the Secretariat of the Pacific Community in 2008. He currently works as an agroforestry technician and his major tasks are training forestry and agriculture officers, farmers and youth in plant propagation techniques, nursery management and farm planning; establishing agroforestry demonstration farms in different parts of the region; providing technical assistance on climate change projects and undertaking communication activities to increase the visibility of project donors.

Mrs Luseane Taufa

Plant Pathologist, Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Forestry and Fisheries, Tonga

Mrs Taufa is an experienced plant pathologist, both in laboratory diagnosis and field identification of pests and diseases. She has a strong background in tropical horticulture, as well as experience teaching general agricultural to students at secondary and tertiary levels, extension workers, farmers and women. Mrs Taufa has skills in leadership, reporting and assessment, particularly in community based projects. She is currently in charge of the Food Section of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Forests and Fisheries Agriculture in Tonga. Her main responsibilities include developing guidelines and assessing the capacity building needs to strengthen food control systems in Tonga, in the areas of food legislation, inspection, laboratories, safety, information quality, education and communication. She is also involved in conducting research, investigating production technology, packaging, processing and utilisation of foods and food quality control.

Mr Simione Siliakalou Tukidia

Publications Assistant/Graphic Designer, Secretariat of the Pacific Community/ AUSAID PHAMA Project

Mr Tukidia has been a Publications Officer at the Land Resources Division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community in Fiji for the past ten years. He is primarily a graphic designer and works with researchers to produce publications - doing layout, design and photography. Mr Tukidia is also involved in shooting video, printing and disseminating information. Presently he is working on a book about kava for a Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access project which involves interviewing farmers and taking photos.