

CERTLINK UPDATE – SEPTEMBER 2012

Welcome to the first CertLink Update monthly e-newsletter. These updates are designed to keep all stakeholders informed on progress, events and opportunities available for engagement with the CertLink data management system.

We encourage you to [join our NuiData Public Outreach Community](#) to keep up to date as CertLink develops.

DARD- CertLink Forum

We would like to start by thanking the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) and it's former Director, Mr Ruben Bakeo Markward, for their ongoing support and for kindly hosting the CertLink Forum at the Holiday Inn, Port Vila on 21 August.

We would also like to thank everyone who was able to attend the Forum. We appreciate that it was a busy day with the Face to Face event and other competing priorities, and are grateful for the time that everyone gave to learning about and contributing to this exciting system. There were approximately 30 participants for the main forum presentations, with a dozen staying back for an optional afternoon session of more detailed discussions.

For those who were unable to attend, copies of the presentations are available for download and viewing on the Nuidata website – www.NuiData.org – in the News column on the right hand side of the homepage. The event has also received positive coverage in the Vanuatu Daily Post - <http://www.dailypost.vu/content/agriculture-department-holds-agri-systems-management-leading-innovation-forum>

Since the Forum

Discussions are currently being finalised with the **Department of Livestock** to engage in a collaborative 6 month data management pilot. We will be working to - create and organise baseline data; develop enterprise profiles accessible live on the web via secure login; and design the first national survey to verify current data profiles and critical data updates. The Department of Livestock are in the process of securing funding for the project.

With the support of **TRR** and the **Department of Agriculture**, CertLink and the Vanuatu Agriculture College have organised a workshop to take place at the [Rensarie Telecentre](#), Malekula this Thursday 20th & Friday 21st September. The workshop will be for Local Network Facilitators from the Vanuatu Organic Cocoa Growers Association (VOCGA) and other interested parties, to cover ICS/data collection and management and to start the recording and verification of baseline data for Cocoa, Coconut and Livestock. VOCGA are participating in the Phase I Pilot project for CertLink as part of their reapplication for organic certification.

Vanuatu Agriculture College (VAC) are key partners in data collection and management for the CertLink project, and have already commenced conducting Internal Control System (ICS) training with representatives of grower groups from Santo, Malekula, Tanna and Epi. They will shortly be using the CertLink system to keep track of Local Network Facilitators who have participated in training, to evaluate the effectiveness and impacts of the training. Plans are also afoot for registering all students from the college and implementing CertLink for mentoring, progress monitoring and tracking careers post-graduation.

World Vision are working closely with the **South Santo Coconut Communities** as part of the SANMA Community Economic Development (SCED) project, with the goal to increase agriculture-based income by 20% in 24 communities of Sanma Province by 2016. 12 communities are currently participating in Phase I, establishing a coconut growers group network to supply to Vanuatu Virgin

Coconut Oil Ltd (VVCOL) and COPSL, as well as applying for organic certification. They have been drawing on the expertise of VAC and the CertLink team to assist in training, data collection design and management, and are well on their way towards establishing baseline data across a wide range of agricultural products and social criteria for 6 initial communities by the end of September.

Under Development

As a pioneering initiative CertLink is still feeling it's way forward in terms of business structure and logistics. Some of the issues we are currently working on include:

- Public/private partnership - creating a local private Vanuatu company that holds the CertLink License and is contracted to the various stakeholders; the main service function will be the management of the data, verification and reporting requirements for the different agencies as well as aggregation of the data on a per country, island, crop, gender or various other demographics.
- Acute awareness of confidentiality and data privacy, development of procedures and protocols.
- Managing the logistics of regular data update & monitoring.
- The importance of accurate and up-to-date data as an essential policy priority.
- The long term outcome is to have Vanuatu growers successfully managing their data profiles, either assisted through web based extension services or through their personal mobile devices.

We welcome any thoughts, suggestions or comments you may have on the above or any other issues relating to CertLink - please contact us [here](#). Through working openly collaboratively with all stakeholders we hope to come to the best possible solutions for Vanuatu growers.

Press Coverage

[Agriculture department holds agri-systems management leading innovation forum](#) (Daily Post)

[Vanuatu cocoa chocolate product](#) (Daily Post)

[Vanuatu gives market power to small cocoa farmers](#) (Radio Australia, Pacific Beat)

CertLink Data Insights - September

Based on the 229 cocoa growers whose data is currently part of the CertLink trial:

- 67% of Growers have 1 ha or less under cocoa cultivation
- On average 1 ha of land has 806 cocoa trees with a yield of 0.912 kg fermented and dried bean per tree
- On average 1 ha of land yields 735 kg of bean @ average of 140 vatu/kg = 102 900 vatu/ha/year

We welcome your feedback, comments and suggestions and remind you to [join our NuiData Public Outreach Community](#) to keep up to date as CertLink develops.

Please feel free contact us [here](#) (info@nuidata.org).

Best Wishes from the CertLink Team

Innovating Vanuatu Agriculture through Data & Information Coordination.

Our Vision – “By 2015, Vanuatu to be lead innovator in small scale agricultural management systems...Globally”

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