



FROM ACADEMIA TO THE GRASSROOTS

Open access, knowledge sharing and politics in
Pacific Islands agriculture

Library & information management

- Library & information management in the region
 - *In years past*
 - *The current situation*



Dodo Creek Research Station, Solomon Islands, ca. early 1990s. [Credit](#).

Journal publishing in the region

- Agricultural journals in the Pacific region
 - *Agricultural Circular (Fiji) 1920–25; Fiji Agricultural Journal, 1928–2020*
 - *BSIP Agricultural Gazette (Solomon Islands) 1933-36*
 - *New Guinea Agricultural Gazette 1935–41), many names changes until became PNG Journal of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, 1953–2014*
- Common issues
 - *Content development, production, distribution*
- Some solutions
 - *PKP OJS, Open Access, digital solutions*

Collaboration

- Pacific Index to Agricultural Journals
- Bibliographic databases
- Training and capacity development
- More ambitious developments ...

Pacific Index to Agricultural Journals

On this screen, you will find a list of agricultural journals published in the Pacific, the oldest started publication in 1920. Just about all articles in every issue of the journal has been indexed, and many records include abstracts; increasingly, many records now link to PDFs so that you can read the full article. This is a unique Pacific resource.

Agricultural Circular (Fiji), 1920-1925 (superseded by Fiji Agricultural Journal)
Alafua Agricultural Bulletin, 1976-1989 (superseded by Journal of South Pacific Agriculture)
BSIP Agricultural Gazette, 1933-1936
Fiji Agricultural Journal, 1928-
Harvest (PNG), 1971-
Journal of South Pacific Agriculture, 1992-
Niugini Agrisaiens, 1992-
Pacific Insects (last issues entitled International Journal of Entomology), 1959-1985
PNG Coffee Journal, 1981-
PNG Journal of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 1935- [title varies]
Revue d'Élevage et de Médecine Vétérinaire de Nouvelle-Calédonie, 1982-1994
Science in New Guinea, 1972-2010
South Pacific Ag Teacher, 1983-1991

Main Menu

Extension Materials

Publications

Pacific Index Ag Journals

Conferences

Theses

Hot Topics

Database Management

Collaboration

- Pacific Index to Agricultural Journals
- Bibliographic databases
- Training and capacity development
- **More ambitious developments**
 - ***PNG National Agricultural Information System (NAIS)***
 - *Pacific Agricultural Information System (PAIS)*

The screenshot shows the homepage of the National Agricultural Information System (NAIS). At the top left is the PNG flag. To its right is the title "National Agricultural Information System" in a black box. Below the title is a paragraph: "The PNG National Agricultural Information System (NAIS) is a partnership of agricultural organisations in Papua New Guinea. NAIS was first launched in 2001 as an initiative of NARI in partnership with CIC, to better manage resource sharing. It has now grown to embrace other organisations in PNG, and the wider Pacific region." The main content area is divided into several sections. On the left, there are four search categories: "Search | Documents" (with sub-items "Latest publications from PNG"), "Search | Theses" (with sub-items "All theses with PNG content" and "PNG theses 'in progress'"), "Search | Projects" (with sub-items "Current projects in PNG" and "New or updated PNG records"), and "Search | Organisations" (with sub-item "Organisations located in PNG"). In the center, there is a vertical menu with buttons for "Main Menu", "Extension Materials", "Publications", "Pacific Index to Ag Journals", "Conferences", "Theses", "Hot Topics", and "Database Management". On the right, there is a section titled "NAIS Partner Organisations*" with a list of partner organizations: "Cocoa Board of PNG", "Coffee Industry Corporation", "Dept of Agriculture and Livestock", "Fresh Produce Development Agency", "Kokonas Industri Koporesen", "Nat Agric and Quarantine Inspection Auth", "National Agricultural Research Institute", "New Britain Palm Oil Ltd", "PNG Forest Research Institute", "PNG University of Technology", "University of Goroka", and "University of Nat Resources and Environ". At the bottom left, there is copyright information: "Copyright PAIS 2001-2024" and "NAIS designed and managed with Inmagic® DB/TextWorks® v.15.5. This edition released 18 Feb 2024". At the bottom right, there is a note: "*Organisation names in italics, whilst they have..."

Collaboration

- Pacific Index to Agricultural Journals
- Bibliographic databases
- Training and capacity development
- **More ambitious developments**
 - *PNG National Agricultural Information System (NAIS)*
 - ***Pacific Agricultural Information System (PAIS)***

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Pacific Agricultural Information System (PAIS). At the top, there is a dark red header with the title "Pacific Agricultural Information System" and a release date of "Released 18 Feb 2024". Below the header, a paragraph of text describes the system as a partnership of agricultural organizations in the Pacific islands region, launched in 2016, and a further development of the National Agricultural Information System (NAIS) and the Melanesian Agricultural Information System (MAIS).

The main content area is organized into several sections:

- Search | Documents**: Latest Pacific publications added
- Search | Theses**: Recent theses completed, Pacific theses "in progress"
- Search | Projects**: Current projects in the Pacific, New or updated projects
- Search | Organisations**: Latest records added/updated

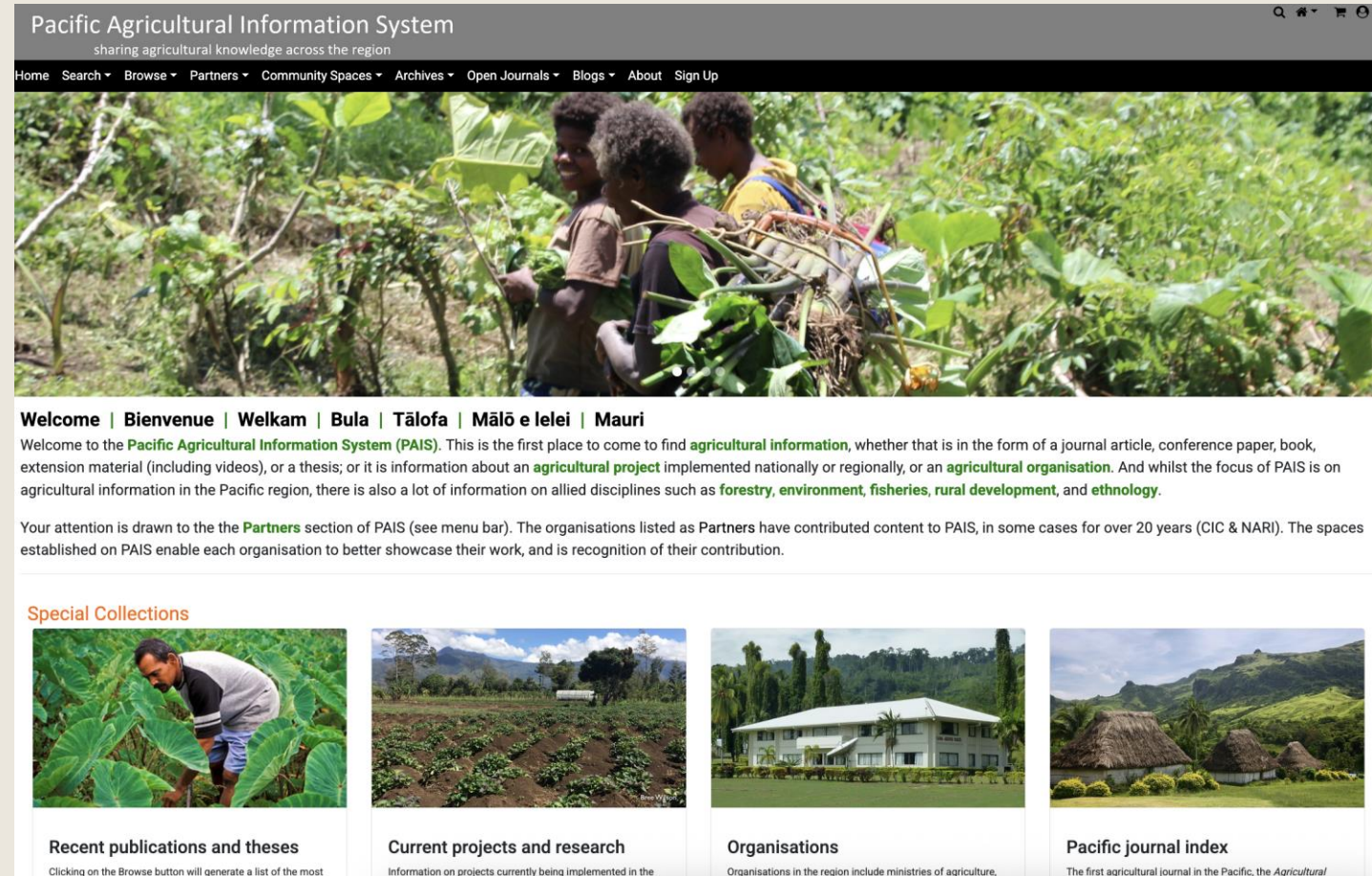
On the right side, there are two columns of navigation buttons:

- Extension Materials**: Publications, Pacific Index Ag Journals, Conferences, Theses, Hot Topics, Database Management
- National Partnerships**: Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands

At the bottom, there is a copyright notice: "Copyright PAIS 2001-2024" and a footer: "System designed and managed with Inmagic® DB/TextWorks® v.15.5".

Key features

- Integrated databases
 - *Common platform*
 - *Agreed standards*
 - *Shared metadata*
- Consortium of consortia
- Content collections
- Community spaces
- Open journals



Pacific Agricultural Information System
sharing agricultural knowledge across the region

Home Search Browse Partners Community Spaces Archives Open Journals Blogs About Sign Up

Welcome | Bienvenue | Welkam | Bula | Tālofa | Mālō e lelei | Mauri

Welcome to the **Pacific Agricultural Information System (PAIS)**. This is the first place to come to find **agricultural information**, whether that is in the form of a journal article, conference paper, book, extension material (including videos), or a thesis; or it is information about an **agricultural project** implemented nationally or regionally, or an **agricultural organisation**. And whilst the focus of PAIS is on agricultural information in the Pacific region, there is also a lot of information on allied disciplines such as **forestry, environment, fisheries, rural development, and ethnology**.

Your attention is drawn to the the **Partners** section of PAIS (see menu bar). The organisations listed as Partners have contributed content to PAIS, in some cases for over 20 years (CIC & NARI). The spaces established on PAIS enable each organisation to better showcase their work, and is recognition of their contribution.

Special Collections

- Recent publications and theses**
Clicking on the Browse button will generate a list of the most
- Current projects and research**
Information on projects currently being implemented in the
- Organisations**
Organisations in the region include ministries of agriculture,
- Pacific journal index**
The first agricultural journal in the Pacific, the *Agricultural*



Agriculture & Food Technology

Contact

University of the South Pacific
Samoa Campus
Alafua, Apia
Samoa

Tel +685 21671

E enquiries@samoa.usp.ac.fj

[Discipline website](#)

Journal of South Pacific Agriculture

The *Journal of South Pacific Agriculture* supersedes *Alafua Agricultural Bulletin*. First published in 1992, some of the most recent articles are listed below. But for a complete listing of all articles published in the journal since 1992, click [here](#).

Breadfruit in the Pacific Islands,

The Agriculture and Food Technology (AFT) Discipline of the School of Agriculture, Geography, Environment, Ocean and Natural Sciences (SAGEONS) is situated at the Samoa Campus of the University of the South Pacific. The Discipline offers Undergraduate to Postgraduate programmes in two broad academic disciplines (Agribusiness and Agri. Sciences). The AFT mission is to assist in meeting the agricultural and related needs, and improving the welfare and livelihood of the communities of the South Pacific region.

Academic publications

Below are some of the most recent books, chapters, journal articles, conference papers etc. on agriculture and forestry published recently by USP staff and students. For a complete listing, click [here](#)

Restoration in practice: participatory land use assessment and planning as decision support tools for an informed mataqali / community member in Naviti Island, Fiji

Daveta, Maika; Osborne-Naikatini, Tamara; Ligaiviu, Jese; Nisha, Zohya; Dranikamate, Epeli; Wainiqolo, Doni (2023) [Conference paper]

In: Proceedings Regional Agriculture and Forestry Symposium, 7-8 March 2023 at Radisson Blu, Denarau, Nadi, Fiji.

Nausori, Fiji : Fiji Institute of Agricultural Science.



SoNAIS Partners

The **Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock** is the only active partner in SoNAIS at the current time; but content from several other organisations and projects has already been included, and this could lead to further collaboration. Notable among these organisations are the following:

The Australian-funded **Solomon Islands Biosecurity**

Solomons National Agricultural Information System

The **Solomons National Agricultural Information System (SoNAIS)** was set up by the Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock in 2009, based on a similar network in PNG (NAIS). The idea behind SoNAIS is to provide a platform for agricultural organisations in Solomon Islands to share **agriculture knowledge and information**, network and communicate between organisations in the **Agriculture Sector** in Solomon Islands, and to farmers and the wider community.

After a period of dormancy, the network has been re-established and was relaunched in Feb 2024. Access to the content is via the Pacific Agricultural Information System (PAIS), of which SoNAIS is a consortium partner. It is anticipated that the number of SoNAIS partners will expand, as always anticipated, and that they will contribute agricultural information and knowledge resources to SoNAIS for the benefit of all.

Extension publications

The following is a list of recent extension publications released by a wide range of organisations or projects in or for Solomon Islands. For a complete listing, [click here](#)

Solomon Islands Bibliography of Agriculture and Forestry

In 1984, the British Government funded the compilation of the **Solomon Islands Bibliography of Agriculture and Forestry**. There were about 1,500 records in the original printed *Bibliography* (Reilly 1985), all of which, along with other bibliographies, were



PARDI2

Pacific Agribusiness Research in Development Initiative Phase 2

This project aimed to identify and understand how agribusiness development opportunities can improve economic growth and livelihoods in the Pacific.

A flourishing agribusiness sector is vital for sustainable economic growth in the Pacific Island countries (PICs). It is central to reducing poverty, especially in rural communities, and delivering an improved trade balance, both of which are key goals of Pacific Island governments and their development partners.

Building on the Pacific Agribusiness Research for Development Initiative (PARDI), this second phase (PARDI 2) looked at the reasons certain agribusinesses have succeeded, documented their positive impacts on community livelihoods and investigated how best to extend and make their economic benefits more inclusive and sustainable.

PARDI 2 was funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) – project [AGB/2014/047](#) (Jun 2017 – May 2023).

Agribusiness

Agritourism

Tilapia

Honey

Other Commodities

This listing presents reports and publications of a more generic nature on the topic of agribusiness

Impacts of the Pacific Pacific Agribusiness Research in Development Initiative - Phase 2

Australian Centre for Pacific Islands Research (2023) [Extension material; Video recording]

Key Partners

- The Pacific Community (SPC)
- Pacific Island Farmers Organisation Network
- Pacific Islands Development Forum
- Pacific Islands Private Sector Organization
- Southern Cross University
- University of Adelaide
- University of the South Pacific
- University of the Sunshine Coast

Coconut Rhinoceros Beetles

A **Community Space** for sharing information and knowledge about CRB

About CRB

There are 43 species of *Oryctes* spp. worldwide and most do similar damage to palms; but there is only one genuine **coconut rhinoceros beetle** (CRB), *Oryctes rhinoceros*. Adult *O. rhinoceros* attack many palm species of any age, including very tall ones. They outbreak when invading a new place, or 6–12 months after a **cyclone** has felled/killed many palms. *O. rhinoceros* uses the dead palms as breeding sites and when the numbers are high the adults kill healthy palms, thus completing a vicious cycle.

O. rhinoceros originated in SE Asia and has spread from there. One strain arrived in Samoa in 1909 and spread to nearby islands, and to Tonga and Fiji by the early 1950s, killing half the Fijian coconut palm crop within 10 years. The outbreak was eventually successfully controlled by a virus, **Oryctes Nudivirus**, introduced from Malaysia in 1963. More recently a different strain, **CRB-G**, resistant/tolerant to the Oryctes Nudivirus used elsewhere, spread to Guam (2007), Palau (2010), Hawai'i (2013), Papua New Guinea (2014), Solomon Islands (2015), and

Select Literature

There are many papers and reports on CRB, so we asked some experts to select those documents that are most important or valuable, including those that are not about the Pacific. They are selected because they can provide good scientific and technical information about CRB and its control; or because they are good examples of publications aimed at creating greater awareness and better understanding of the insect pest, and the economic and social consequences of its incursion into the region.

- [General Overview](#)
- [Green Muscardine Fungus](#)
- [Non-Pacific Publications](#)
- [Pest Control Overview](#)
- [Public Awareness Materials](#)
- [Virus Control](#)
- [Miscellaneous](#)

[Browse All Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Topics](#)



Useful Links

[Coconut rhinoceros beetle – Oryctes](#) [Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds Fact Sheet 108 (2021)]

[View fact sheet](#)

[Oryctes rhinoceros \(coconut rhinoceros beetle\)](#) [CABI Invasive Species Compendium] (2021)

[View datasheet](#)

List of volumes

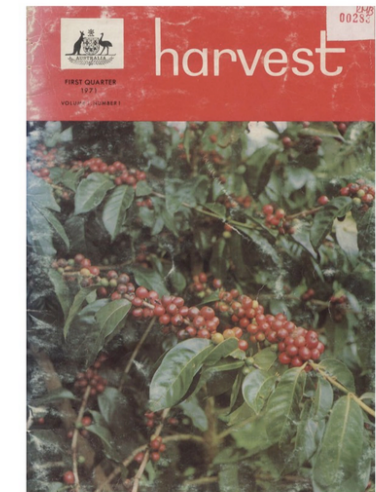
All published volumes of *Harvest* ([catalogue record](#)) are listed below. To acquire a digital copy of an **entire volume or issue**, click on the relevant [issue number](#) and download from the **ANU Open Research Repository**. To acquire a **specific article**, click on the relevant [volume number](#) and select article to download from the list.

- [Vol 22: 1&2 \(2002\)](#)
- [Vol 21: 1&2 \(2000\)](#)
- [Vol 20: 1&2 \(1999\)](#)
- [Vol 19: 1&2 \(1997\)](#)
- [Vol 18: 1&2 \(1996\)](#)
- [Vol 17: 1&2 \(1995\)](#)
- [Vol 16: 1&2 \(1994\)](#)
- [Vol 15: 1 • 2 \(1993\)](#)
- [Vol 14: 1-2 \(1992\)](#)
- [Vol 13: 1-4 \(1988\)](#)
- [Vol 12: 1 \(1986\) 2 • 3 • 4 \(1987\)](#)
- [Vol 11: 1 • 2 • 3 \(1985\) 4 \(1986\)](#)
- [Vol 10: 1 • 2 • 3 \(1984\) 4 \(1985\)](#)
- [Vol 9: 1 • 2 • 3/4 \(1983\)](#)

Harvest

In its very first issue in 1971, it was stated that *Harvest* was "*aimed at assisting primary producers ... more technical information, results of new research work, advice on economic aspects of primary production – these are the topics which will be covered by Harvest*".

Harvest was published by the Papua New Guinea **Department of Agriculture and Livestock**, under its various names over the years. During that time, it continued to contain practical articles on all aspects of farming in Papua New Guinea, with the intended audience being extension officers, technical advisers, agriculture teachers, students and progressive farmers. Work is ongoing to digitise all volumes so that they will be available 'open access' (see the sidebar on the left); the last published articles are listed below. There has also been discussion recently about resurrecting this journal.



Part of the reason why food crops and livestock extension in PNG is declining

Dekuku, R. Chris (2002) [Journal article]

Harvest 22 (1&2), pp. 41-49

PAIS benefits

- Beneficiaries
 - *Researchers*
 - *Policymakers & planners*
 - *Farmers*
 - *Students*
 - *Organisations*
 - *Networks & communities of practice*
 - *Projects*

Barriers & issues

- Limited staff of the right calibre, with appropriate skills, expertise and knowledge
 - No knowledge & information management strategies
 - Fewer and fewer library collections
 - Information 'technology' is not the same as information 'management'
-
- Sustainability
 - Funding & politics

Sustainability

- Financial sustainability *does not* assure sustainability
- *True* sustainability is 'improved' in the following way:
 - *Funding sufficient to meet annual anticipated recurrent expenditure, incl. application & platform fees, staffing, staff training, onboarding new partners, development costs, equipment*
 - *Beyond declarations of love – senior management demonstrate that they value the role and importance of the initiative through changes to policies and procedures, strategic investments, staff availability*
 - *The intangibles – such as willing to enter into partnerships, having a sense of ownership, exchanging full independence for the common good*

Funding & politics

- Agriculture in the Pacific, up to 80% of populations engaged in agriculture
 - *food security, livelihoods, exports*
- Aid funding comparative to GDP varies by country, but can range from 12% (Samoa) to 146% (Tuvalu); of this, agriculture receives between 3 to 6%
- Funding bodies/donors – the attitude and strategies of donors
- Donors play an outsize financial role
 - *Strategic imbalances; skewed priorities*
 - *Largesse granted for specific duration*
 - *Imperative to look good*
 - stickers, labels, banners, giant hoardings
 - social media clicks
 - beautiful websites a.k.a. information silos

Lessons learned

- Absolute necessity of having a ‘succession plan’
- Maintain a high profile, not just for promotion but also as a political weapon
- As far as possible, ‘embed’ the initiative within an institution
- You have to fight for it:
 - *identify what drives a positive response*
 - *identify what is needed to convert statements of support to action*
 - *demonstrate value to specific communities, and engage those communities*
 - *engender a sense of shared ownership – “This is our ...”*

Tusen takk • Thank you
Tenkyu tru • Fa'afetai lava • Vinaka vakalevu

<https://thepais.net/pais>

peter.walton@stackyard.net
[linkedin.com/in/waltonpeter](https://www.linkedin.com/in/waltonpeter)

