

INTERVENTION HIGHLIGHT

Promoting industry cooperation in Vanuatu Stakeholders unite to grow Tahitian lime exports

Tahitian limes are a commodity with potential in both domestic and export markets for Vanuatu. There is an existing pathway during the off-season in New Zealand from August through to February each year when high lime prices provide attractive returns that can benefit both growers and exporters.

Other regional and international markets with a growing demand for limes could add to the scale of the opportunity. PHAMA Plus works with Vanuatu Primary Producers Authority (VPPA) to support the development of Vanuatu's Tahitian limes pathway.

At a glance

- Critical to all of PHAMA Plus's achievements across the Program, and to future sustainability, has been the set up of Industry Working Groups or IWGs.
- In Vanuatu, this has been evident through the strong coordination of the cacao sector through the Vanuatu Cacao Industry Association, and the kava sector through Vanuatu Kava Industry Association.
- In September, PHAMA Plus supported VPPA to facilitate the establishment of the Vanuatu Tahitian Lime Product Group which currently represents farmers, exporters and processors in the main growing areas of Efate and Santo.
- The group serves as a platform for public-private industry engagement and enable VPPA to deliver training and provide extension support to Tahitian Lime farmers.
- Currently, 29 Tahitian lime farmers (20 men and 9 women) are actively engaged as members.

Since its establishment, the group has facilitated trainings, information sharing and provided extension support to Tahitian lime farmers. As part of PHAMA Plus's support during the reporting period, a New Zealand farmer and processor, Paul Hyslop from the New Zealand Limery in Hawkes Bay, visited Vanuatu to share his knowledge on Tahitian lime farming,

processing, and current lime market information. Vanuatu retail and export company, Dynamic Supply Company, recently renewed its HACCP certification, and has partnered with PHAMA Plus to upgrade a temporary packhouse facility in Port Vila for Tahitian limes. Dynamic Supply sources Tahitian limes from a network of local growers on Efate Island and exports them to New Zealand.

In January 2023, the VPPA facilitated the first Vanuatu Tahitian Lime Product Group Annual General Meeting in Port Vila. During the meeting, stakeholders endorsed the group's executive members, discussed challenges and opportunities since its establishment, and considered plans for 2024. The meeting improved the business awareness of Tahitian lime farmers to help ensure quality and consistent supply for both local and export markets. It also discussed onshore value addition and how to capture export market opportunities in the transition towards semi-commercial and commercial agriculture.

