

Vanuatu National Green Export Review

The case of Coconut, Cocoa and Sandalwood

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The Status of the 3 NGER Products

- ▶ Over 74,145 hectares of coconut (which is equivalent to around 9 million trees)
- ▶ Over 3 million cocoa trees
- ▶ Over 700,000 sandalwood trees
- ▶ Copra is the main exported product from the coconut to mainly Philippines.
- ▶ In 2017 exported 22,000 tonnes
- ▶ Increase in Crude Coconut oil recently
- ▶ In 2017 exported 6,000 tonnes of CNO
- ▶ A small but growing Virgin Coconut oil (VCO) industry is slowly being advanced basically targeting the domestic and tourism market

Post NGER Report and launching of the National Plan of Actions

- ▶ Coconut replanting program initiated by DARD
- ▶ Review is currently being made on Customary Land Management Act to speed up the process of land registration
- ▶ Legislative and policy support for value adding falling in place
- ▶ Foreign Investment initiative (Santo Free Trade Zone)
- ▶ Increased production of VCO at the MSME and SMEs level,
- ▶ Increased awareness amongst primary producers on the benefits of adhering to certain standards whether legal or voluntary (Improved quality of cocoa beans)
- ▶ There are currently two artisan chocolate producers in Port Vila with specific suppliers of quality cocoa beans
- ▶ An observed increase on number of individual cocoa bean producers exporting to New Zealand and France
- ▶

Continued challenges for value adding

- ▶ Inadequate and inconsistent supply of quality raw materials has adverse impacts on investments to value adding
- ▶ Perceived additional costs to meeting standards by small rural producers is a risk factor worth considering.
- ▶ Relatively higher cost of production at the secondary level is a risk factor to sustaining efforts on maintaining quality by small rural producers,
- ▶ Lack of technical capacity and basic knowledge for value adding
- ▶ Constraints relating to high cost of logistics and export of niche products

Strategies for Increasing production

- ▶ Effective management of positive attitude towards maintenance of standards
- ▶ More promotion and awareness on the benefits accessing niche market through Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS)
- ▶ Maintaining consistency in quantity and quality of products by integrating VSS concept to consumer cooperatives
- ▶ Encourage investment of MSMEs and SMEs through incentives
- ▶ Establish and ensure consistency of data collection at all levels of the supply chain

▶ Thank you for your attention