



INA Lunchtime Seminar

12.10, Tuesday 12 November

INA Conference Room, 2nd Floor IPA Haus, Konedobu

All welcome: for information or attendance, please contact Rachel David on tel. 3211044/5,
email: rachel.david@cimcpng.org

Livelihoods in Transition: farmers' response to the Cocoa Pod Borer disaster

George Curry, Gina Koczberski, Esley Peters, Joachim Lummani, Jack Pundu
and Robert Nailina.

Abstract:

Cocoa Pod Borer (CPB) has devastated cocoa production and growers' incomes in East New Britain with a fall in production of over 80% since 2006. The pest is rapidly spreading through other cocoa growing areas. In the seminar we discuss the impact of CPB on cocoa production and the local economy, and outline the farming and livelihood strategies farmers have adopted in response to CPB. While a small proportion of growers have managed to adopt CPB control strategies successfully, the large majority have been unable to do so which has undermined their capacity to earn a living, to meet their education and health needs and to maintain their general quality of life.

For the long-term economic and social survival of farming households, effective management of CPB is vital to restore household incomes. However, to control CPB, farmers will need to switch to a more intensive labour input system of production. While this is easy to recommend, it is much more difficult to achieve. In the last part of the seminar we examine some of the industry's attempts to restore smallholder cocoa production in a CPB environment. The capacity of smallholders to adopt a high input system of production in ENBP and elsewhere in PNG will ultimately determine the future of cocoa production in the country.