



Solomon Islands Government




Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock

# **SOLOMON ISLANDS COUNTRY REPORT**

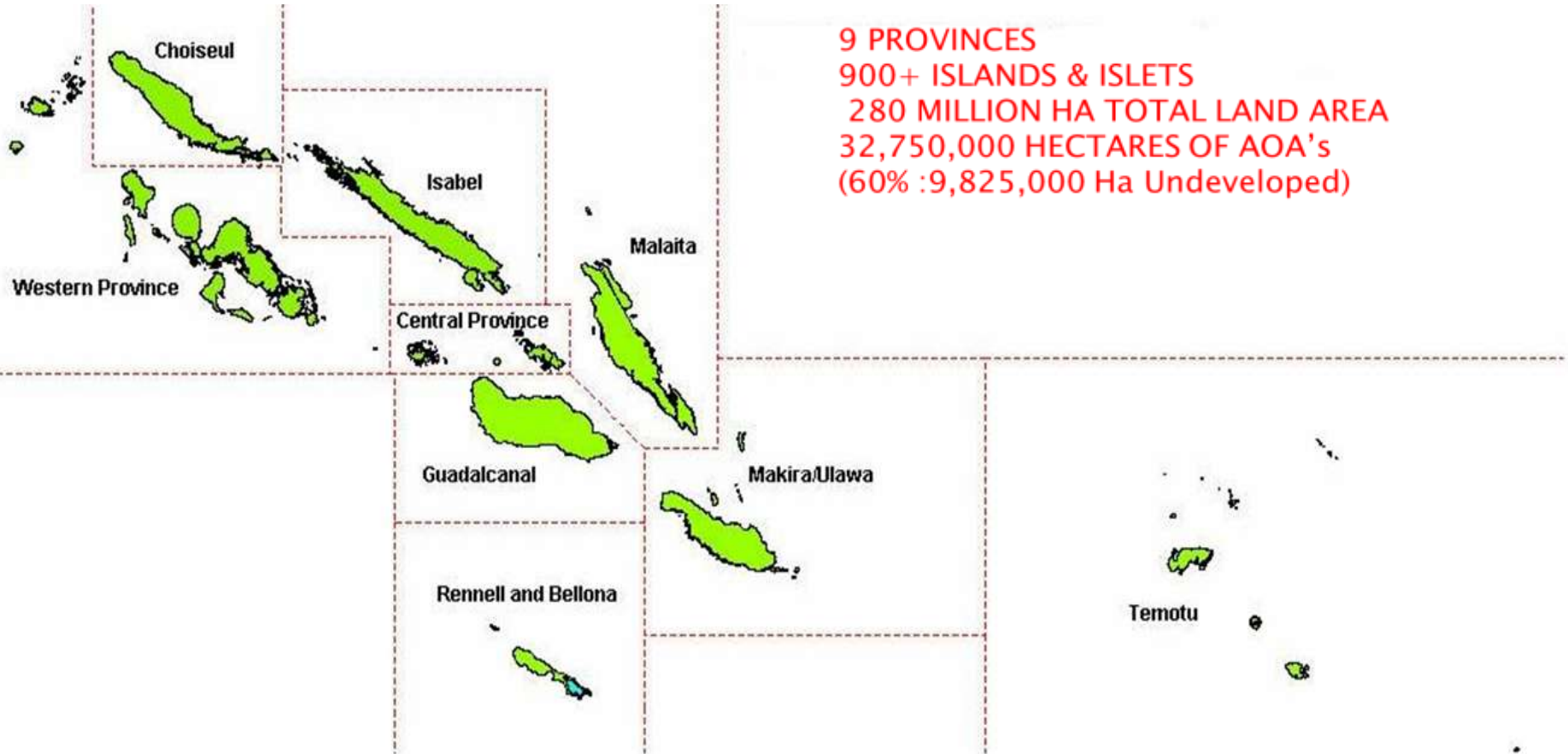
presented at the Expert Consultation on  
Coconut Sector Development Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup>  
Oct–01<sup>st</sup> November 2013, Bangkok Thailand

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## SOLOMON ISLANDS/ LAND AREA



# COUNTRY SITUATION ANALYSIS

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- ❑ The major coconut provinces are Western, Isabel, Central Islands, Malaita, Guadalcanal, Makira and Temotu.
  - ❑ 25,000 households directly involve with coconut
  - ❑ Total land area under coconuts estimated around 58,938 hectares with an estimated 9–10 million trees planted
  - ❑ More than 60% are senile trees

# Summary of coconut utilization in the country

- ▶ More than 70–80% for copra processing
  - ▶ 10–15% Oil production
  - ▶ 10% for Household uses
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- ❑ Nearly 65–70% of the total population directly depend on coconut industry for their economic and social livelihoods.
- ❑ According to CBSI 2012/13 annual report the coconut Industry contributed 7% to the national export earnings.
- ❑ The value of Copra export in 2012 was \$119,341 million, and 2013 was \$32,617 million (August)



## Total land Area under coconut cultivation

Province	Hectares	% HA	Planted Palm Trees
Western	14,454	25	2,093,000
Isabel	5,230	9	817,000
Central	7,909	13	1,287,000
Guadalcanal	12,758	22	1,825,000
Malaita	11,980	20	1,980,000
Makira	3,555	6	540,000
Temotu	3,032	3	470,000
<b>Solomon Is</b>	<b>58,938</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>9,012,000</b>

- ❑ Biggest holdings like RIPEL and alienated land plantations are currently without proper management
- ❑ Smallholder plantations are the main producers of 99% copra





## Production Estimates (2006 –2013)

Year	Area <sup>1</sup> (Ha)	Production of Coconut	
		Million Nuts	Copra Equivalent (MT)
2006	58,938	105	21,000
2007	58,938	105	21,000
2008	58,938	100	20,000
2009	58,938	100	20,000
2010	38,000	100	20,000
2011	38,000	<100	<20,000
2012	38,000	<100	26,610
2013	38,000	<100	8,074 (August)

<sup>1</sup> Relates to 1985 coconut survey  
2010-2013 figures are estimates only as most coconuts are senile and felled on main area.

# Age Profile of coconuts

In 2013 it is estimated that more than 60% of the country's coconut trees have already reached senile stages of growth and therefore expected a decrease in the production per tree.







Coconut plantation neglected,  
full of weeds and seed nuts  
growing as young palms

**SOLOMON ISLANDS: Production of Copra by Province, 2012–2013**

Province	2012	2013 ( Aug)
<b>WESTERN</b>	5,301	1,784
Smallholder	5,301	1,784
Plantation	–	
<b>SANTA YSABEL</b>	1,113	267
Smallholder	1,113	267
Plantation	–	
<b>CENTRAL ISLANDS</b>	5,346	1,278
Smallholder	5,346	1,278
Plantation	–	
<b>GUADACANAL</b>	7,083	2,751
Smallholder	7,083	2,751
Plantation	–	
<b>MALAITA</b>	3,077	888
Smallholder	3,077	888
Plantation	–	
<b>MAKIRA</b>	1,828	195
Smallholder	1,828	195
Plantation	–	
<b>TEMOTU</b>	941	161
Smallholder	941	161
Plantation	–	
<b>CHOISEUL</b>	1,922	750
Smallholder	1,922	750
Plantation	–	



## SOLOMON ISLANDS: Production of Copra by Grade

2012-2013 (in MT)

Year	G r a d e						Total
	First	%	Second	%	Third	%	
2012	26,610		0		0		26,610
2013	8,074		0		0		8,074
( Aug )							





**SOLOMON ISLANDS: Contribution from the Coconut Sector  
to Exports Earnings, 2012–2013**

Year	Total Exports	Coconut Exports	%
	(SBD \$ 1000)	(SBD \$ 1000)	
2012		119,341	
2013		32,617	

## Export of coconut oil, volume and value

Year	Volume (MT)	Value (SBD\$000 FOB)
2006	2,500	10,000
2007	741	21,089
2008	505	21,678
2009	634	22,202
2010	124	1,123
2011	470	4,355
2012	83,950 (86,775)	
2013	94,578 (90,559)	

*Source: Ministry of Finance & Oil World*

**SOLOMON ISLANDS: Exports of Copra, Volume & FOB Value**

2012-2013

Country of Destination		2012	2013(Aug)
<b>A. VOLUME</b>	<b>In MT</b>	<b>26,915</b>	<b>11,232</b>
Europe		-	-
United Kingdom			
Others			
Other Countries		26,915	11,232
Singapore			
Bagladesh			535.5
Philippines		26915.08	10697
Others			
<b>B. VALUE</b>	<b>In US\$ '000</b>		
	<b>In SBD\$ '000</b>	<b>119,341</b>	<b>32,617</b>

## SOLOMON ISLANDS: Quarterly Export Prices of Copra


2012–2013 (SI\$ per MT)

Month	2012	2013
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	5,174	3,096
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	4,426	2,989
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	4,048	
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	3,166	
Average	4,204	3,043

Source: Ministry of Finance

## **DOWNSTREAM PROCESSING and VALUE ADDITION**

Downstream Processing Initiatives for NCO, VCO and other products;

- ❑ Blue Lagoon Soap firm, Solfish Crushing mill, Solomon Tropical Products Ltd
  
  - ❑ KPSI is the major exporter of certified VCO.
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# Virgin Coconut oil Production and Export (kg)


Year	Exported Coconut Oil (kg)	Coconut Oil Purchases (kg)
2012	83,950	86,775
2013	94,578	90,559




# IDENTIFICATION OF GAPS/OBSTACLES IN COCONUT PRODUCTION AND UTILIZATION


There are factors affecting the level of coconut production and utilization. These include:

- ❑ The National coconut strategy plan provided a holistically direction, coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the industry however responsible Ministries, MCILI and MAL not able to implement the strategy plan due to inaccessibility of funds from governments budget allocation
- ❑ Increasing number of senile coconut trees, neglected and plantations with overgrown weeds and young palms
- ❑ Little coordinated coconut replanting and new planting programmes
- ❑ Low and unstable local prices of copra and coconut oil
- ❑ Scattered nature of the islands requiring efficient transportation network

- ❑ Urban migration by young people reduces labour for coconut production,
  - ❑ Copra processing is a laborious task and not worth it when the price of copra is only less than \$2.00 per kilogram,
  - ❑ Fast growing population which makes it harder to allocate more land space for new coconut planting and replanting development,
  - ❑ Less incentive crop as governments support towards coconut is marginal
  - ❑ Poor state of copra processing dryers and storage
  - ❑ The downstream processing and value addition component of the industry has not taken off strongly enough for farmers to realize better prices of other products from coconut.
  - ❑ Lack of Research and Product development
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## PROPOSED POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

- ❑ Solomon Islands has a National coconut strategy plan which is expected to be tested and implemented beginning of 2012, to roll out this plan the government has to allocate adequate budgetary funds to implement it.
  - ❑ Strong commitment and coordination by the government through various Ministries and stakeholders such as the Ministry of National Planning and Aid Coordination, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Ministry commerce and Trades, Ministry of Rural development, Ministry of Infrastructure Development, Commodities Export Marketing Authority, donor partners and the Private sector is essential to implement the plan.
  - ❑ The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock has an approved yearly development budget towards rehabilitation of the coconut industry and priority must be given to Coconut Replanting and some support towards downstream processing and value addition.
  - ❑ Political governments must not interfere with funds
  - ❑ SIG and donor support to improve shipping/transport network services and marketing infrastructure
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- ❑ Farmer support must be provided through government subsidies to encourage replanting program
  - ❑ Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock must support farmers with the establishment of seed gardens, nurseries, dryers and provision of technical and Extension support.
  - ❑ MAL and MICILI must facilitate with financial provisions for farmers going into downstream processing into oil (NCO & VCO) to improve their income.
  - ❑ Enhance Research and Product Development
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Neglected Plantation covered with weeds and overgrown coconut seedlings




Rundown copra dryer


## RECOMMENDATIONS

1) To achieve the objectives and outcomes of the national coconut strategy plan and to drive the industry forward depends on a strong commitment with a sound financing mechanism in place by the government and donor partners. The financing mechanism support will be used to achieve the following activities;

- ▶ To support the office of coconut secretariat coordinate implementation of the national coconut strategy plan
- ▶ To provide financial support to stakeholders who will support the implementation of various components of the coconut strategy plan
- ▶ To assist with finances and technical assistance to support 3 pilot coconut processing projects one each on Guadalcanal, Malaita and western provinces as stipulated in the national coconut strategy plan

- 2) The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock must prepare a yearly budget and submit for approval an allocation adequate to carry out urgent replanting program of senile coconut trees.
  - 3) The Asian Pacific Coconut Community and other partners assist in sourcing technical support in downstream value-addition initiatives and replanting program.
  - 4) SIG to consider prioritizing budgetary support to conduct a national coconut survey to verify the coconut stock level.
  - 5) SIG to prioritize budget allocation towards replanting, downstream processing and Value addition
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## CONCLUSION REMARKS

- ▶ To conclude, this country report highlighted the following important issues for consideration;
  - ▶ Solomon Islands needs to take a more strategic approach utilizing the national coconut strategic plan to revitalize the coconut industry
  - ▶ Coconut Replanting, downstream processing and value addition are top priority areas for increasing coconut production in Solomon Islands
  - ▶ Such a plan could only be successful in the presence of committed political leadership, strong government and donor partner support with a favourable business environment
  - ▶ APCC–FAO must recognize the issues and problems of Solomon Islands and the member countries and take immediate and practical steps to address them.
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- ▶ Your Excellency, Hon. Ministers, APCC–FAO Executive Directors, delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen
- ▶ This is end of my presentation

Taqio Tumas for your attention

