



Inside This Issue

Ambassador shows appreciation of Botanical Garden



Officer undergoes training in Japan



Seed collection continues, vital to more tree planting plans



Carbon trading seminar in China



Welcome aboard...

This is the official Newsletter of the Ministry of Forestry and Research, published and distributed on a quarterly basis.

SFRM model extends to Jignale community



SFRM advisory team with community members of Jignale

The Sustainable Forest Resource Management (SFRM) model that was piloted under collaboration between the Ministry of Forestry and Research together with JICA under the auspices of Sustainable Forest Resource Management Project is extending its reach to Jignale community in Isabel Province.

The first two piloted communities are Falake Community on Malaita and Kumoniboli Community on Guadalcanal provinces respectively. These two piloted communities have since took off on their own with all the activities without further support from the SFRM Project with only exception of continuous guidance on technical advices at a very minimum scale.

Jignale Community was selected under its initial application for timber milling under Pilia Milling Program; with support from the Japanese Embassy whom distributed sixty-seven (67) lucas mill in 2024 through the Timber Utilization Division within the Ministry of Forestry and Research.

And as one of the successful applicants from Isabel Province, Pilia Milling is currently milling timbers on Sivoli Segu Tribal Land, in Bugotu District.

With an initial assessment carried out by JICA SFRM Advisory Project according to its selection criteria, it identified Pilia Milling Program to be suitable and potential to be a SFRM pilot site amongst the five (5) successful recipients from Isabel Province.

This followed suit with a Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) process, allowing the JICA SFRM Advisory project team to visit Pilia Milling program and facilitated MOFR and Sustainable Forest

Resources Management (SFRM) awareness training and consultation at Jignale Community from 25th to 29th August 2025.

Whilst this is an initial stage of the whole process, anticipation for continuous cooperation with the Jignale Community will continue into the future in pursuance of relevant requirements of the SFRM model to be fully realized in this newly identified pilot site.

SFRM Project Coordinator Dr Nishikawa Tatsuji says SFRM model's expansion is JICA's wish since the program's inception in 2017.

"To expand the SFRM model with its activities nationwide in Solomon Islands, is something we always wanted. Thus, we are indeed grateful for Jignale community whom has raised their hands and accept the SFRM model."

SFRM local consultation, Mr Hillary Wemani also stresses the uniqueness of the SFRM model noting its approach to blending into local communities' context as something proven effective.

"The SFRM model is unique, and fits well with our local communities and tribal groups including its members.

"With the much anticipation of development goals awaiting, this can be achieved through capacity building and effective participation of our communities and tribal groups with its members; by harnessing sustainability of their resources and effective resource management."



Sawn timber export update with Utilization

Total Veneer & Sawn Timber Export By Volume

Sawn Timber Export Volume (m ²)
1,949.464

Timber Species Export By Volume

Species	Volume
Kwila	182.238
Rose wood	607.127
Vitex	1,160.099
Total =	1,949.464

Timber Export Volume By Destination

Country	Volume
Australia	343.901
Malaysia	212.754
New Zealand	984.775
Phillipines	180.609
New Caledonia	45.187
Total=	1,949.464

NOTE:
There is no export of veneer in the third quarter of year 2025. Thus there is no available data compared to the first quarter of 2025.

Officer undergoes training in Japan



Mr Tavuata with all other participants at the training in Japan

An officer from the Utilization Division within the Ministry of Forestry and Research is currently undergoing a three (3) months training in Orbihiro, Japan.

Senior Forester, Joseph Tuavatu joined other forestry experts from fourteen different countries such as Nepal, Madagascar, DRC, Cameroon, Uganda, Vanuatu, Fiji, Bosnia, Herzegovina and Panama amongst the participating countries.

JICA under its Sustainable Forest Resource Management (SFRM) project in collaboration with the Ministry of Forestry and Research has made this training initiative possible.

The training program focuses particularly on 'Sustainable Forest Management with Community Participation'.

Mr Joseph says the training is indeed a step up in his line of work.

Highlighting the innovation and creativity displayed working hand-in-hand in how they approach managing their forest resources as something unique in its own.

However, it is interesting to note some similarities which are applicable to us, and some others that may not but its worth

learning from such a well-advanced country like Japan as we go along, he says.

"But one thing is for sure common about the program, the approach to forest management used. With hands on experience as training, it is even more helpful indeed."

Joseph thanks the JICA project that collaborates with the Ministry of Forestry and Research for the opportunity given and making all arrangements possible for him to attend the training.

He also acknowledges the Forestry's Secretary, Richardson Raomae for the generous support rendered towards allowing his participation in the training and seeing the potential that such trainings will sure help in areas of downstream processing in the country's forest industry.

He says as the industry is slowly turning into downstream processing, whereby adding value to raw forest products will sure become the country's next main revenue earner.

It is crucial that we also have the capacity and knowledgeable skills readily available as well.

Ambassador shows appreciation of Botanical Garden

Japan's Ambassador to Solomon Islands, His Excellency Keiichi Hagiuchi has shown appreciation of the Botanical Garden underpinning its central role to conservation as a benchmark that Solomon Islands should be proud of.

His Excellency Keiichi Hagiuchi uttered these sentiments whilst visiting the botanical garden.

The Botanical Garden comes under the National Herbarium and Botanical Division, one of the divisions of the Ministry of Forestry and Research. It manages and operates the daily activities of the Botanical Garden including the Herbarium. .

Excellency Hagiuchi also highlighted the importance of the botanical garden as a source for medicinal plants, shows how important such environment can be utilised of its full potential.

"By witnessing firsthand how residents utilise the forest environment—for instance, as a source of medicinal plants and water.

"I gained a renewed appreciation for the value of Solomon Islands' forests. Furthermore, my understanding of the Botanical Gardens' efforts in forest conservation and public awareness initiatives has deepened."

Staff of the Botanical Garden were able to guide His Excellency Hagiuchi sight-seeing in and around the garden on this one-day visit by the Japanese Ambassador to Solomon Islands.

Core to its roles and responsibilities, the Botanical Garden serves as an implementer of Solomon and overseas joint researches and studies which would lead to greater understanding and knowledge about the uses of the forest resources.

Focusing primarily on why forests need protection, conservation and studying of these forest resources and their ecological biodiversity which is so important.

Besides, the Division is also responsible in the collection and preservation of the plant specimen and information for the identification of their botanical names and their potential uses.



Ambassador Hagiuchi standing in front one of the standing trees



Ambassador Hagiuchi taking pictures whilst visiting



Ambassador Hagiuchi with Forester Ms Gabuvai at the Botanical office



News in brief

Round log export update with Forest Industries

The below table shows round log export by provinces for the third three months of 2025, the total figures in the columns are of estimated volume.

Round log export volume by Province

Province	Estimate Volume (m³)
Choiseul	31,550.000
Guadalcanal	44,800.000
Isabel	61,108.383
Makira	30,600.000
Malaita	11,025.170
Western	110,550.000
Total =	289,633.553

Round log export volume by Destination

Destination	Estimate Volume (m³)
China	284,133.553
Taiwan	5,500.000
Total =	289,633.553

Round log export for third quarter 2025 shows that 98% of the total round log exports goes to China markets and 2% to Taiwanese markets.

NOTE:

There is no export of plantation round logs in the third quarter of year 2025. Thus there is no available data compared to the first quarter of 2025.

Forestry farewells Mayumi

The Ministry of Forestry and Research has farewelled JICA Volunteer, Mayumi Nishiki. She has served as a JICA volunteer with the Botanical Garden Division for almost two (2) plus years.

Her dedication to her work has made significant improvements especially with the Botanical Garden staff and their work.

Thanking her, Commissioner of Forest Reeves Moveni acknowledges her tireless efforts and time in giving hands-on with the Botanical Garden and the Ministry as a whole.

Mr Moveni stresses that such volunteer work is not that easy but the Ministry is grateful to have such a hardworking individual who is willing; that our staff especially at the Botanical Garden will surely misses.

Thank you indeed Mayumi; and we wish you best in your future endeavors.



Barana partnership with SPREP ongoing

The partnership in tree planting program with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Program (SPREP) Project at Barana is ongoing.

This is an initiative driven to increase community participation in tree planting with specific goal for Barana community having being established a nature park in the past years with SPREP's backing

This tree planting aspect has been the main part that the Ministry of Forestry and Research under the Forest Development and Reforestation Division involved heavily in.

That is by providing the relevant technical advice, guidance and the continuous monitoring of those small-holder tree out-growers progress.

Deputy Commissioner Reforestation, Mr Paul Hatamane says his division is thankful for the generous support of SPREP whilst engaging his staff involvement. This is one such partnership like many other partnerships that foster greater co-operation between us together with the Barana community, and we are grateful to help the community plant more trees, he says.

He noted the challenges faced but reiter-



ated the importance not to give up so instant and to learn from those setbacks and improve more on.

His division looks forward to the continuous working together with SPREP on this tree planting initiative and welcomes such greater partnership with any organisation whom have keen interest to plant more trees, he adds.

Seed collection continues, vital to more tree planting plans

Seed collection of variety of tree species is continuing in the first, second and eventually into the third quarter this year.

The Forest Development and Reforestation division has been instrumental on this part, and been collecting seeds, distribute and initiate training programs for tree planting as one of its core role and responsibility.

Collection of seeds are done in selected seed provenance or of origin source that produces quality and high yield rate. And is being collected from different selected seed sources in the different divided regions.

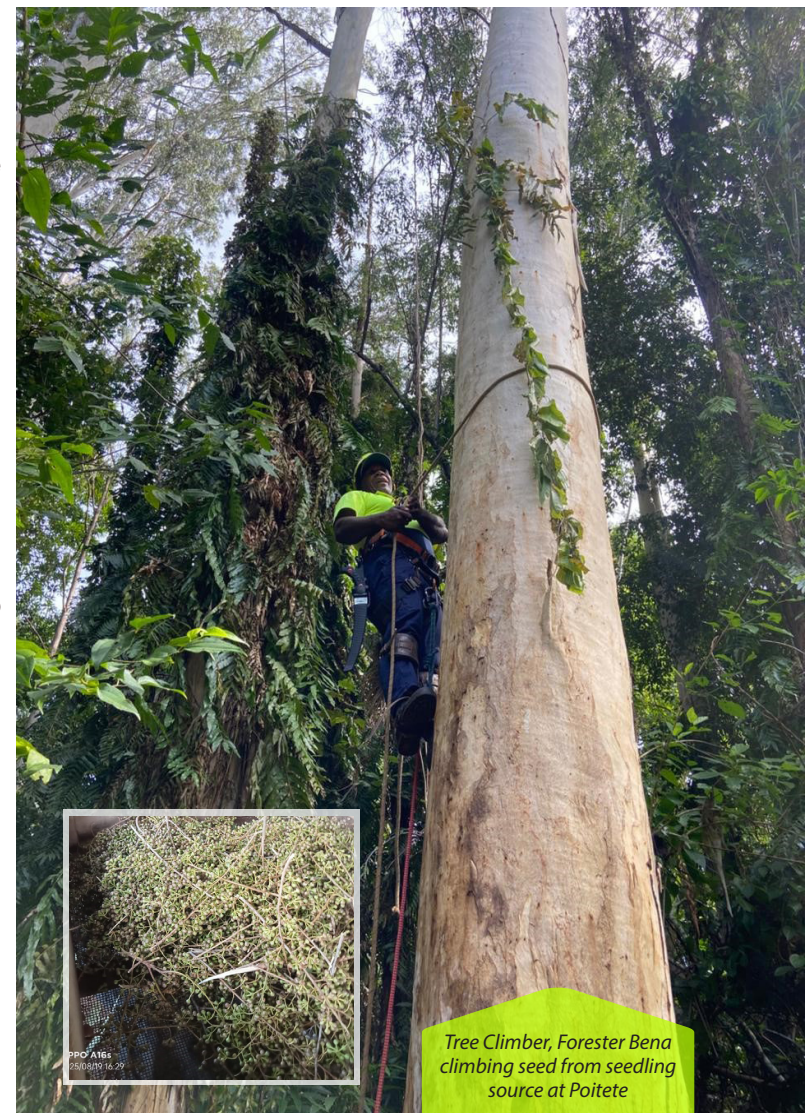
Deputy Commissioner Reforestation, Mr Paul Hatamane says that seed collection is very important as it is the backbone to having the plans to plant more trees achieved.

He explains that seed collection over the years has been on-going from our seed sources across the entire country. Seed sources are located within the different regions – eastern, central and western regions after its expansion a few years ago compared to the past where we only have one seed source, he adds.

Mr Hatamane says whilst seed sources have grown in number, specialised foresters to climb the seeds is in shortage as currently we only have one qualified seed climber in the country.

And we have to reshuffle him from wherever the seed sources are in order to keep the seed supply at stock whenever needed.

He adds with the primary achievement goal is to increase more forest plantation and more local domestic tree out-growers under our target objective, and with more tree planting initiatives at hand, this is a real challenge with the very limited resources and support currently.



Tree Climber, Forester Bena climbing seed from seedling source at Poitete

Central region gets hands-on training

Central Province, Guadalcanal, Isabel including Rennell and Bellona Provinces covered under the central region have had the opportunity to get hands-on training on initial seed nursery up to tree pruning and thinning.

The training that was held in the central island's province by the central region co-ordinator Benold Ngiloaia brought together reforestation provincial staffs, together with selected local tree out-growers.

Mr Benold highlighted that such trainings is very important to revitalise the vital need for sustainable forestry practices, and also help improve the skills level of the tree out-growers especially.

He says one of the important areas in this training is to get the participants to learn practically in the field, and actually get them

to do hands-on, on what is being thought in theory.

In doing so, participants get to involve themselves in the steps from identifying planting site, lining, seed nursery, transplanting and planting, tree maintenance, pruning and then thinning; the very key steps that must be applied with carefulness and precision, he adds.

Benold says the training has been a success, and he hopes the participants grasp what has been thought and being practiced as training.

He is also hopeful that those provincial staff in attendance have the opportunity to refresh their skills and knowledge; then followed on to do the same when they return to their respective provinces.



Tree-lining practical being done during the training



Licenses updates with Licensing

Felling Licenses Status	N0.#
Felling Licenses Issued	2
Felling Licence Amended	1
Show-caused	3
Suspended of Operation Order	0
Suspended Order of felling licence	3
Notice to suspend	5
Milling Licenses	
Renewed	51
New Approved Application	19



Forestry joins 2025 National Trade Fair show

Ministry of Forestry and Research has been part and parcel of the 2025 Annual National Trade Fair held from 2nd to 9th July in Honiara.

A revitalised event with recognition to have government agencies and the private sector alike to display and show-case their work and products including their many undertakings.

This year's theme, "Trade for Transformation: Rebuilding Our Happy Isles," forsters a greater platform to promote national development initiatives and engagement with the public.

This event coincides with the commemoration of Solomon Islands Independence celebrations which falls on 7th July annually, a fitting mark to the country's history as it revives the reowned 'trade show' as it has been initiatially known.

The Ministry of Forestry and Forestry likewise is indeed happy to be part of this tremendous events that has been successful, and would like to share some highlights of its display booth in photos. See the photos in display.



Your facts corner with Reforestation

Citrus (citrus) and Fortunella (kumquat)
Rutaceae (rue family)

C. aurantifolia lime *C. aurantium* sour orange *C. grandis* pummelo *C. hystrix* Kaffir lime *C. limon* lemon *C. macroptera* wild orange *C. medica* citron *C. mitis* calamondin *C. paradisi* grapefruit *C. reticulata* mandarin *C. sinensis* sweet orange *Fortunella* spp. Kumquat



Description In Brief

In Brief

Distribution: Widely distributed and cultivated worldwide including throughout Oceania.

Size: Depending on species and cultivar, trees reach heights of 3–15 m (10–50 ft).

Habitat: In the subtropics 0–750 m (0–2450 ft); in the tropics 0–1600 m (0–5250 ft); without irrigation, rainfall of 900–3000 mm (35–120 in) is needed.

Vegetation: Associated with a wide range of cultivated tropical and subtropical species.

Soils: Tolerates a wide range of soils; however, does not stand waterlogged soil, and grow best in freely draining soils; pH 5–8.

Growth rate: 0.1–0.3 m/yr (4–12 in) in height.

Main agroforestry uses: Homegardens, bee forage (excellent honey), animal fodder, craft and fuel wood.

Main uses: Fruit, medicine, cosmetics.

Yields: Vary greatly depending on variety and growing conditions; mature trees of oranges and grapefruit can bear 125–204 kg/tree (275–450 lb/ tree) in commercial situations.

Intercropping: Can be intercropped with a wide variety of species in homegardens and mixed farm systems.

Invasive potential: Citrus species are not considered to be invasive.



Mr Hatamane (left) with
MECDM colleague on the right
with a chinese counterpart

Carbon trading seminar in China

Solomon Islands has participated in an organised seminar by the Chinese Government foreign-aid training seminar targeting Carbon Market Development field in developing countries recently.

Titled “2025 Progress of China’s carbon market construction and cross-border carbon Trading cooperation Seminar”

It was attended by two senior government officials from Solomon Islands, the Climate Change Division within the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorol-

ogy (MECDM) together with one from the Ministry of Forestry and Research (MOFR).

Deputy Commissioner Reforestation, Mr Paul Hatamane on behalf of the Ministry of Forestry and Research attended the seminar that was held on 14th September to the 27th September 2025.

He reflected on the seminar training as very important one, highlighting the wide aspect of the topics covered as one key area that sure needs to be trimmed to a suitable context for countries like Solomon Islands.

Mr Hatamane acknowledges the initiative China has taken, in its step towards carbon trading especially in its efforts to get developing countries onboard as working partners on the same platform which is very important.

He hopes that the recent seminar will pave way to further seminars and trainings, that will be a step up further in this evolving carbon trading initiative, to improve and enhances the capacity of developing countries preparedness towards greater undertakings as such, he adds.

Thank You
for bearing with us...

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