

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Kastom Garden Association (KGA)

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Kastom Garden Association (KGA) was established as a charitable trust in 2000. It grew out of a five-year programme of an Australian NGO focused on providing services to the subsistence and local market agriculture sector which encompassed the vast majority of the rural population. At the time, this sector was poorly-serviced and poorly-recognised by government, donors, and private sector. The KGA mission is to “strengthen villa-based food security in the Solomon Islands using participatory, practical, grass-roots approaches that enable village people to examine, understand, and develop their own solutions to improving household food security and village-based agriculture economy’.

KGA’s core business is to provide services to members of the Solomon Islands Planting Material Network. KGA’s Planting Material Network has about 3000 members across the country. Most are individual famers but the network membership also includes 175 formal and informal farmer and other village-based groups including women’s and youth groups. Members are entitled to access to the KGA seed bank, a newsletter, and to take part in the various extension services for food security and livelihood improvement.

Since 2010, KGA has selected ten key partner Farmer Organisations in five of the nice provinces of the Solomon Islands to build their capacity to provide extension services to farmers on the local level and based on local needs. These partners are estimated to reach about 40% of the network members. KGA is the national implementing agency for Vanuatu under the MTCP2 project. KGA has carried out a wide-range of projects and activities over the years in support of its members. Recent projects include: Kam Gaden Rural Livelihood Programme; SearmNiu Plant Long Gaden Programmer; a national climate change adaptation project led by the Solomon Isladns Government. In addition, KGA has a seed exchange network – the Planting Material Network (PMN) – that maintains and has available for members approximately 100 varieties of open-pollinated vegetables and root crops. Farmer collections supported by PMN conserve hundreds more varieties of banana and root crops.

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Virgin Coconut Oil Producers Association (VCOPA)



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Virgin Coconut Oil Producers Association (VCOPA) was formed in 2004 and formally registered as a Charitable Organization on 29th November 2013. VCOPA is committed to assisting the development of coconut resources and its by-products to maximise the benefit for the improvement of social and economic livelihoods of all Solomon Islanders. VCOPA has done this in collaboration with Kokonut Pacific Solomon Islands (KPSI) who is the leading partner by establishing Direct Micro Expelling (DME) units in villages throughout the Solomon Islands so that rural communities can produce Certified Organic Virgin Coconut Oil (COVCO) which is exported by KPSI.

VCOPA's core business is producing Quality and Organically Certified VCO oil. VCOPA has over 60 active members who directly own DME Units and involving about 1,200 nut suppliers. VCOPA helps to organise village farmers to invest in planting, management, processing, storage, and transportation. Also in coordinating Association members meetings and trainings. VCOPA in partnership with Coconut Technology Centre (CTC) provides an internal auditing and compliance system for over 1,200 small farmers and more than 60 DME Owners.