In the grey dawn one morning last March the staccato chugging of a diesel engine disturbed the silence in picturesque Imby Bay, near Hollandia, Netherlands New Guinea. The sun had not yet appeared on the horizon, but behind Cape Suadja at the entrance to the little bay the sky was already rosy hued, with cumulus clouds drifting westward.

The chugging sound came from a small seafish fishing vessel, bearing her name KEMBOONG in black painted letters on her bow. (Kemboong is the Malay name for a delicious little fish.)

KEMBOONG, however, is not just an ordinary fishing vessel. She was built at the suggestion of the Dutch fisheries expert with the South Pacific Commission, Mr. H. van Pel, to introduce new fishing techniques and also to familiarise native fishermen with fishing boats better than their own outrigger canoes. With such craft they can fish in areas they were not able to reach before by their outrigger canoes.

By CLAUDE BELLONI*

These builders at work at the Seafisheries Station on the six new fishing vessels were all trained at the Lower Technical School, Hollandia.
Above: Paying out a net. Centre: Part of a catch taken by trolling. Right: Aitai Karubaba inspecting a catch to be sold at the native market on the Hollandia waterfront.

unable to reach with their canoes, and thus can extend their fishing grounds considerably. It also means greater catches at lower cost than is possible with outriggers powered by outboard motors.

**Local Materials Used For Hull**

*KEMBOONG* was designed by Mr. W. A. Mackenzie, Head of the Sea Fisheries Division at Hollandia. She took six months to build, local materials being used throughout. The vessel is 27 feet long and has a beam of 8 feet. She is equipped with an insulated refrigerated hold, with a capacity of one ton of fish. An 18 h.p. diesel engine gives her a cruising speed of 7½ knots.

Shortly after KEMBOONG began her fishing career, a second fishing vessel, KAP, and a third, KRAPOE, were launched. In all, six of these 3½-ton vessels will be built and stationed along the Geelvink Bay coast.

It is not only the vessel with which the Papuan fishermen have to familiarize themselves; the fishing methods, too, are new to them. The Sea Fisheries Division, too, is still experimenting with the latter.

**Boats Leased To Fishermen**

The craft are leased to interested fishermen for a certain percentage of the proceeds of the catch.

*KEMBOONG* has been leased to a group of Papuans from a village near Serui on Japen Island, Geelvink Bay. They have a reputation as fishermen, for, led by their village chief Aitai Karubaba, they used to catch about a ton of fish daily in the fishing waters near Soreng.

At present, Karubaba and his men make up the crew of KEMBOONG. Their current catches are no not as spectacular as those off Soreng, because fishing grounds in the Hollandia area are definitely poorer. The main thing for them, however, is that they are gaining the experience required to operate this type of fishing vessel, and are using the new methods.

Thus, in helping to increase the protein content of the diet of their countrymen, they are also contributing to the economic development of their country.

SPC Plant Introduction Activities Expand (continued from page 41)

Cocoa experiment and propagation scheme. The main emphasis is on vegetative propagation of local and introduced clones, and also fermentation and drying experiments. An experimental fermentary and a Samoan-type drier have been constructed and put into operation.

Necessary equipment for the laboratory manufacture of chocolate has been acquired and will be installed at this station.

Naduruloulo's collection of cocoa includes 16 clones, "Trinitarios" and "Forasteros", of which seeds and/or cuttings are available for South Pacific territories. The selections present are either from local trees or introductions from outside Fiji (from the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad, Grenada, Keravat Experimental Station in New Britain, and Western Samoa).

The collection of coffee includes 24 varieties of "Arabica", 5 varieties of "Robusta", and one of "Liberica", of which seeds are now available for distribution.

The black pepper collection at Naduruloulo includes 7 different varieties, of which cuttings are available for distribution.

**Naduruloulo Plant Material Being Distributed Throughout Pacific**

Territories of the South Pacific are showing an increasing interest in the plant material available at the Naduruloulo plant introduction station.

During the past two years a large number of coffee seedlings, rooted cuttings of black pepper, cacao pods and rooted cuttings, as well as some other useful plants have been distributed to several territories in the South Pacific including American Samoa, British Solomon Islands, New Hebrides, French Polynesia, Guam, New Caledonia, Niue, Papua and New Guinea, United States Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and Western Samoa.

A large amount of plant material was also distributed in Fiji.

During 1958 and 1959 several varieties of Arabian coffee, black pepper, cocoa, breadfruit, taro and pandanus were introduced at the Naduruloulo plant introduction and quarantine station. At the end of 1958, an interesting introduction of "Amelonado" cocoa was made from Malaya. After a period in quarantine on Bekana Island, the seedlings were planted in an isolation block at Waimaro, Tailevu. Pods and rooted cuttings from this "Amelonado" will be available for distribution after two or three years.

Other interesting and useful introductions made at Naduruloulo included an Hawaiian wilt-resistant tomato, a macadamia nut tree selected for thin-shelled, high-quality nuts, tea shrubs and a tropical basket willow.

The few facts quoted above concerning the work of the Commission's plant introduction service show that it has proved of practical value in the improvement of economic conditions in the South Pacific islands.