

## Building the business skills of a tilapia farm operation in Papua New Guinea

*The Pacific Community (SPC) has conducted a training workshop to improve the business skills of staff from the ASK Sanctuary Tilapia Farm (ASTF) in Yonki, Papua New Guinea (PNG). The training was conducted by the Lae-based 'Mind Your Own Business' (MYOB) provider Business Information Management Limited (BIML). The training assisted ASTF staff to improve their understanding of the use of MYOB Accounting Software to manage the financial records of its farm operation. With improved financial practices, ASTF staff will be able to manage finances and generate reports that will assist them in making sound management decisions and becoming a more viable and sustainable business.*

The General Manager of ASTF, Mr Yogomul, stated that, 'We are more confident now to work in MYOB to enter transactions, reconcile records, generate reports and carry out end-of-year roll over. Our capacity in MYOB has been enhanced and with more hands-on use of the system and in close dialogue with BIML as and when required. We will master the MYOB system to positively benefit our farm operation.'

In order to expand the region's aquaculture sector, fish farms need to be placed on a business-like footing. Targeting growth in technical components of fish husbandry is only half of the formula for success. Strengthening staff skills in management, planning, product marketing, accountancy, computer literacy and modelling, branding, and communication are some of the areas that fish farmers must aim for in order to be economically sustainable. SPC's Aquaculture Section aims at building capacity in aquaculture business-related skills, whereby managers and investors apply knowledge acquired to build confidence in their businesses. Good accounting practices can be utilised to demonstrate to lending institutions that a farm that maintains good records, makes sound business decisions, is a lower risk, and is worthy of consideration for loans or investment.

Using a local service provider such as BIML for the training is important because they have a better understanding of accounting and legislation within PNG. The training can be conducted in English and local dialects to improve understanding and uptake. In addition, access to follow-up support will ensure that participants receive assistance when they need it.

The training was conducted under the Sustainable Pacific Aquaculture project and funded by New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The training was conducted on 10 and 13 August 2018.



Marianne Neiworo (front left) of Business Information Management Limited trains Lencie and Guna Yogomul of ASK Sanctuary Tilapia Farm on the use of the Mind Your Own Business accounting software in Lae, Papua New Guinea.

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### For more information:

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