

EPI KAVA QUALITY TRAINING REPORT

The Vanuatu Bureau of Standards is the National Quality Infrastructure, mandated to ensure that all products, services and commodities meet the required standards at all time in order to promote the competitiveness of Vanuatu trade services. This year in particular, the Vanuatu Bureau of Standards Provincial division is task through the VBS Annual Work Plan to undertake a Kava Quality Training in the province of Shefa.

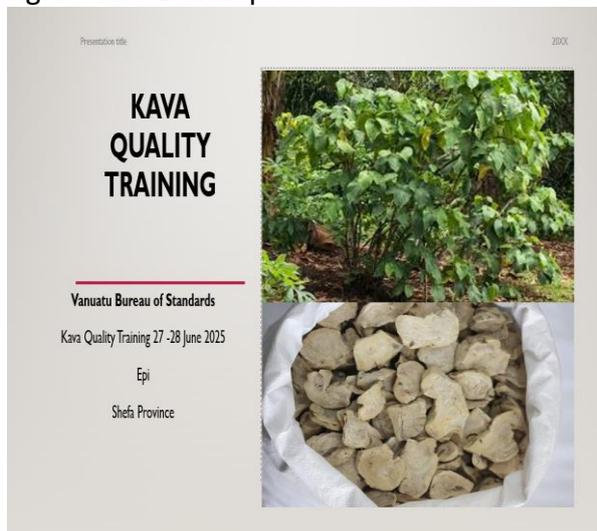
The training program was conducted in partnership with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), ensuring that all potential kava producers on Epi acquire the required knowledge of quality assurance in order to improve the quality of their produces. Since the commercialization of kava in the late 90s, *quality* remain a challenge for the Vanuatu kava industry. The training's outcome aims at promoting the competitiveness of the Vanuatu Kava products in the domestic, regional and international markets.

Given the current Air Vanuatu crisis, the team had to travel from Santo to Malekula and Epi by ship.

The training was conducted at Varsu Area Council, East Epi and all participants come from different area of the island.

Day 1

The Kava Quality Training was officially launched by the Area Administrator and the Epi Agriculture Development Officer.



Epi Agriculture Development Officer giving his remarks during the opening ceremony of the Kava Quality Training.

The first day of the training was allocated to the productive sector team represented by the DARD's kava specialist Mr Michael Longa and Amsen Willy Senior Agriculture Officer for Malampa.



DARD Kava Specialist explaining different varieties of kava to the participants.

Kava Node Cutting

Participant were though and reminded about the importance of a commercial nursery.



Kava Officers displaying one node cutting technic

Nursery Management

The success of a kava nursery project depends entirely upon its management.



Key topics raised by the productive sector team:

- Nursery Production and Management
- Plantation Management
- Pest and Diseases management
- Noble Varieties
- Kava Act Awareness

A Kava Act awareness was also conducted in the afternoon to remind kava producers about kava regulation, particularly the minimum prize set by the Government.



Kava Act awareness and question & answer to end Day 1 of the training.

Day 2

The second day of the Kava Quality Training was focus mainly on the Quality Control and Market. The session was facilitated by the VBS manager North and VBS Malampa Administration Officer.



Kava Quality Control Chain session presented by VBS Manager North.

The Kava Quality Control Chain covers the following topics:

- Post Harvest Handling
- Cutting & Washing
- Drying process
- Sorting & Packing
- Packing & Labelling for export
- Kavalactone testing
- Business Opportunity tips

Most of the participants are potential producers and suppliers of dried kava who admitted the challenges they faced to overcome quality issues.

Post Harvest and processing methods



Participants displaying their traditional method of processing kava.

Participants also learn about the requirements of kava export markets and business opportunities of kava.

Day 3

The Kava Quality Training ended on the third day in the morning as the participants will need to travel back to their respective villages.



Some of the participants posing with facilitators after the closing ceremony, before departing for their villages.