

SOURCES OF HYBRID COCOA

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HYBRID SEEDS AND SEEDLINGS

At present it is easy to obtain hybrid seeds. They can be sent to all provinces, except those that are free of vascular-streak dieback (VSD-free). Specially inspected seed can be sent to VSD-free areas.

Hybrid seedlings are also available, but only to those growers with road access to the supply centres.

You can buy hybrid seeds and seedlings from:

1. Lowlands Agricultural Experiment Station
P.O. Keravat, E.N.B.P.,
Telephone: 926251
2. New Guinea Islands Produce Company Pty Ltd
P.O. Box 387
Rabaul, E.N.B.P.
Telephone: 921982
3. Tavilo Plantation (Cocoa Industry Company Ltd.)
P.O. Box 532,
Rabaul, E.N.B.P.
Telephone: 922136
4. Vunapau Plantation
P.O. Box 151, Rabaul
E.N.B.P.
Telephone: 921770
5. Matala Plantation
C/o Sonoma Adventist College
P.O. Box 608
Rabaul, E.N.B.P.
Telephone: 922164

6. East New Britain Cocoa Nurseries Pty Ltd
P.O. Box 83,
Kokopo, E.N.B.P.

L.A.E.S. and Tavilo Plantations produce a full range of hybrids using recommended Amazonian clones as female parents and recommended Trinitario clones as male parents or pollen sources.

The system is explained more fully in HARVEST Vol. 8, No. 1, pp. 8-10.

N.G.I.P. and Vunapau Plantation supply seeds produced by hand pollinating Trinitario clones with pollen from selected Amazonian clones. The Trinitario clones used are mainly KA2-101 and some K20.

Matala Plantation has a small hybrid seedgarden producing a full range of hybrids.

East New Britain Cocoa Nurseries Pty Ltd is a subsidiary of the Papua New Guinea Development Bank. It supplies seedlings to both borrowers and the general public. Seedlings are grown from N.G.I.P. and L.A.E.S. produced hybrid seed.

Prices

Prices for hybrid cocoa planting material have been set by D.P.I., to allow the private sector to offer planting material for a reasonable return. The prices are as follows:

Hybrid seedlings. These cost 20 toea each. These are available only to people with road contact to the Gazelle Peninsula of the East New Britain Province.

Hybrid seed. This is supplied soaked with Ridomil and with a 10% free allowance to cover germination losses in the nursery.

The price from Tavilo Plantation is 5 toea per seed for local buyers, and 7 toea per seed (including freight) for buyers in other provinces.

Seed in this form is cheaper to airfreight to other provinces.

Hybrid pods. Hand pollinated pods are K2.00 each; open pollinated pods are K1.00 each. Pods are recommended for local distribution within East New Britain Province.
(Note: Airfreight to other provinces is extra.)

The seed gardens and suppliers can provide enough seed to plant five thousand hectares every year.

HYBRID SEED GARDENS IN OTHER PROVINCES

West New Britain Province

A hybrid seed garden has been established at Tiaru, near Bialla. This seed garden will begin producing pods for distribution in West New Britain in late 1984 or mid-1985.

East Sepik Province

A hybrid seed garden will be planted out at Saramandi near Angoram this year (1983). It should be producing pods in 1986.

Central Province

A hybrid seed garden will be

planted at Moreguina in the Cape Rodney area in 1983. It should be producing pods in 1986.

Northern Province

An arrangement has been made for Higaturu Oil Palm Pty Ltd. to get seed from L.A.E.S. and distribute hybrid seedlings to cocoa growers in the province. These hybrid seedlings can be obtained from the old D.P.I. station at Lejo which is now run by Higaturu Oil Palm Pty Ltd. Seedlings are sold at the recommended price. The company also maintains the clone nursery at Lejo.

HYBRID SEEDS FOR VSD FREE PROVINCES

Areas which are free of VSD disease are North Solomons Province, New Ireland Province, Manus Province, the islands areas of Milne Bay Province, and the Bali-Witu Islands (Unea and Garove Islands) of West New Britain.

After getting approval from the Provincial departments involved, D.P.I. has agreed to allow hybrid seeds from pods which have been microscopically inspected to be sent under government seal to VSD free provinces. This is an example of cooperation between the National government, Provincial governments and the Cocoa Board. The Cocoa Board is paying the operating costs of the scheme. In order to recover some of the costs, a slightly higher price is being charged for the seed - 10 toea per seed, including freight. Anyone from the North Solomons Province, New Ireland Province or VSD free areas of West New Britain or Milne Bay Provinces who wishes to buy seed should place orders with:

The Executive Officer
Cocoa Board
P.O. Box 532
East New Britain Province.

6. Koi Koi Plantation
P.O. Box 24, WAKUNAI
Telephone: VHF 950197

HYBRID SEED GARDENS FOR VSD FREE PROVINCES

North Solomons Province

The Cocoa Board, helped by D.P.I. at L.A.E.S., has planted a hybrid seed garden at Kurwina. As well, they have helped 6 plantations to set up hybrid seed gardens. The Kurwina hybrid seed garden is already in production.

The small hybrid seed gardens are on the following plantations:

1. Watagru Plantation
P.O. Box 31, BUKA
Telephone: 966169
2. Soraken Plantation
P.O. Box 246, BUKA
Telephone: 966101
3. Deos Plantation
P.O. Box 34, INPUTZ
Telephone: VHF 966145
4. Raua Plantation
P.O. Box 56, TINPUTZ
Telephone: 966184
5. Tenakau Plantation
P.O. Box 522, ARAWA
Telephone: 959041

At the time of writing only Watagru Plantation has pods for sale.

The North Solomons Provincial D.P.I., with the help of the Cocoa Board and National D.P.I., has planted up a full size hybrid seed garden at Wakunai. This garden should come into production in 1984-5.

New Ireland Province

The Cocoa Board hopes to plant a hybrid seed garden at Kerunga in New Ireland. The Provincial D.P.I. has a clone nursery at Namatanai. There are plans to plant a nursery on a subleased section of Mageh Plantation.

Manus Province

The Manus Province has only a small cocoa industry and at present has no plans to establish a hybrid seed garden.

Hybrid cocoa seed is freely available at present and availability will improve over the next two years. The productive potential of hybrid cocoa is more than double that of the cocoa that it replaces.



Cocoa seeds, packed and ready for air freight