

# Launch of Freshwater Aquaculture Trials and Governance project

Compiled by Jonas Culwick

**A FRESHWATER AQUACULTURE** and governance project for Vanuatu will be launched at the Freshwater Aquaculture Centre at Tagabe in Port Vila this afternoon.

A statement from the Vanuatu Climate Change Office in Port Vila says: "This is a critical scientific research and community involvement project being undertaken by the Government of Vanuatu to help support the development of small scale fish farming.

"This is a priority project of the Government of Vanuatu in its drive for sustainable and economic development of its people."

The project actions the Government's National Sustainable Development Plan and the National Climate Change Policy to build resilience by helping the people of Vanuatu secure food resources and to develop economically prosperous activities in the face of global environmental challenges. Three specifically selected

communities will be directly involved with the project. These are the communities of Mangalihu, Eton and Onesua. The communities will support the aquaculture trials and are key partners of this project.

"The government is undertaking this project through the Ministry of Climate Change and Natural Hazards and the Department of Fisheries. "The project will also involve the government's National Advisory Board on Climate Change and Disaster

Risk Reduction (NAB)," the statement says.

This aquaculture project is being undertaken in close partnership with Queensland University of Technology which is providing project management technical support to the government. The project is funded by the European Union (EU) with additional technical and administration support provided by the Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The project objectives are: 1. Trial and test economically and

environmentally sustainable small scale, community-based aquaculture model, integrating successes into a robust national aquaculture governance system; and 2. Upgrade the infrastructure of Tagabe Freshwater Aquaculture Centre including improving skills of its technicians and enhancing overall planning and management of the facility.

The project outcomes include: 1. Environmentally sustainable small scale, community-based aquaculture models tested, and 2. A functional national aquaculture facility, maintaining 120 broodstock and producing over 24,000 fingerlings per month within 6 months, and supporting governance system, is adequately supporting the trialing and development of three community based and semi commercial aquaculture farms in a systematic way and other tilapia farms in Efate by the end of the first year. The total project cost is 290,000 Euros (Vt34.78 million).