



Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region (CCCPIR)

Adaptation to Climate Change through Honey Bee Husbandry Improvement Pele Island, Vanuatu

The European honey bee, *Apis mellifera*, is distributed throughout the world, including throughout the Pacific Islands. The honey bee is important to the people of Vanuatu as a source of food security and income (through honey sales). It is also the most economically valuable pollinator of agricultural crops worldwide. Bees are crucial in maintaining agricultural biodiversity by pollinating numerous plant species whose fertilisation requires an obligatory pollinator.

While bees have adapted remarkably well to many climatic biotopes, changing climatic conditions will have an impact on the survival and productivity of Vanuatu's local honey bee strains. The SPC-GIZ Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region project is seeking to find innovative ways to enable small-scale honey bee enterprises to adapt to climate change. The adaptive strategies being trialled include:

- Modification of hive design to suit changing temperature and rainfall
- Selection of disease free strains
- Improved husbandry techniques
- Proactive use of agro-meteorology information for planning
- Trials on increasing agricultural productivity with bee pollination



Project facts CCCPIR

Funding sources: Federal Republic of Germany through the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Regional partners: SPC, SPREP and USP, Duration: January 2009-December 2015