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### Train the Trainer Workshop and Follow-up Activities for Full-time Village Chicken Keeping Workers, Solomon Islands

In April 2006, The IRPC was granted funds by GRM International to undertake a project in the Solomon Islands to conduct 'Train the Trainer' Workshops and Follow-up Activities for Full-time Village Chicken Keeping Workers. Over the duration of a year, the project comprised a two-week training workshop specifically for up to fifteen prospective trainers in village chicken keeping; consolidation of facilities and personnel at existing farmer schools and assist to establish proposed new farmer schools; and importation of a small number of crucially needed chicken and duckling breeds to commence establishment of a regional network of poultry breeding stations.

The outcomes of the training workshops are expected to produce up to fifteen trainers from various areas of the Solomon Islands who will be capable of conducting training sessions in improved village chicken management. They will also be capable of setting up new projects, training other trainers and providing ongoing support for new students in their individual projects. The project target will be the training of twenty other village poultry farmers by each of the initial trainers. The nucleus of trainers will also be involved in expanding use of proposed concepts right across the western Pacific area. Trainers will also be capable of assisting with the introduction and establishment of nationwide flocks of Indian Runner ducks to be used as both pest control in village gardens as well as a parallel meat and egg source to village chicken enterprises.

The aim of consolidating facilities and personnel at existing farmer schools and assisting the establishment of proposed new farmer schools will be to select prospective students from operators and staff at existing schools and transfer the same knowledge in the same way, furthering the principles of the Training material. It is expected that this consolidation will enable and make easier regular schools and follow-up of existing students.

The chicken breeds already within the Solomon Islands are mostly a mixture of crossbred chickens with a large number of hybrid meat and layers chickens as well. Whilst these are intended to be used within the breeding program, they will be supplemented by imported fowl, specifically game fowl and Rhode Island Reds to bring out the full potential of the proposal.