



LAUNCH FOOD COMPLETION REPORT

1 DECEMBER 2019

QUALITY INFORMATION

DOCUMENT	LAUNCH Food Completion Report
CLIENT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade ABN: 47 065 634 525
REF	60530159
DATE	1 November 2019
PREPARED BY	IRF Team, DT Global Australia Pty Ltd, ABN 31 633 607 468
REVIEWED BY	Elizabeth Palu

VERSION HISTORY

VERSION	DATE	DETAILS	AUTHORISED	
			NAME/POSITION	SIGNATURE
1.0	27/11/2019	Draft 0.1 reviewed, revisions made based on feedback. Draft 0.2 reviewed and further revisions made.		

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ABBREVIATIONS

AECOM	AECOM Services Pty Ltd (now DT Global)
ACFR	Australian Centre for Field Robotics, University of Sydney
ADD	Activity Design Document
AI	Artificial Intelligence
BAPPENAS	Indonesian Ministry of National Development Planning
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DT Global	DT Global Australia Pty Ltd (formerly AECOM Services Pty Ltd)
GAIN	Global Alliance for Nutrition
ICRISAT	The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
IDIA	International Development Innovation Alliance
IRF	Innovation Resource Facility
iXc	innovationXchange
KPSI	Kokonut Pacific Solomon Islands
MEL	Monitoring Evaluation and Learning
MFAT	New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
mVAM	Mobile Vulnerability Assessment Mapping
NIMM	National Institute of Medicinal Materials
OECD DAC	Economic Co-operation and Development Assistance Committee
PHAMA	Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access
PIFON	Pacific Island Farmers Organisation Network
PIFR	Pacific Island Food Revolution
PNA	Parties to the Nauru Agreement
SPC	Secretariat Pacific Community
R4D	Results for Development
ToT	Training of the Trainer
TFF	Tuvalu Food Futures
TL-FIX	Timor-Leste Food Innovators Exchange
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WFP	World Food Program

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In November 2016, DFAT's innovationXchange (iXc) partnered with USAID's Global Development Lab Challenge and the LAUNCH Network to conduct a global challenge, seeking innovations to address the intractable development challenge of malnutrition. The LAUNCH Food challenge received 280 applications from 74 countries. Innovations came from a wide focus area, with applications supporting all aspects of food supply, including improved production techniques, post-harvest management technologies and innovative approaches to supporting changed food behaviour and improving household dietary choice.

The iXc has supported two components of LAUNCH Food. Under **Phase 1**, SecondMuse managed the LAUNCH Food global innovation challenge, selecting 11 winning innovators who went on to receive network-centred acceleration support via a forum event in San Francisco and a targeted acceleration program. Of those 11 winning innovators, eight went on to receive support through LAUNCH Food **Phase 2**, a grants program funded by DFAT to trial and test innovations in the Indo-Pacific region. A further five high value, local innovations with potential to impact nutrition in the Indo-Pacific were also identified for Phase 2 support.

“ The whole process, from San Francisco to now, has attracted international recognition. ”

Kirsty Bayliss
Murdoch University, Breaking the Mould

The Innovation Resource Facility (IRF), managed by DT Global (formerly AECOM) was engaged by DFAT through Service Order 8 under Standing Deed 73032 to support DFAT's Phase 2 investment. The IRF supported 12 DFAT-selected innovators to trial their innovations in the region through tailored project and grant management strategies and a package of support adapted to individual needs and country contexts. The overall objective of Phase 2 was to enable LAUNCH Food innovators to test and trial their innovations in target sites within the Indo-Pacific to help de-risk future additional investments and to improve prospects of scale.

This Report summarises key outcomes and lessons learned under DFAT's Phase 2 investment and as reflected in DT Global's provision of services under Service Order 8. The approach and process to collecting and reporting program data is aligned to key program indicators and outcomes, as identified in the LAUNCH Food Program Phase 2: Innovator Grants Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework. A mixture of quantitative and qualitative methods has been used to collect data and enable accurate reporting and understanding of individual innovator circumstances, approaches, successes and failures. This included formal and informal program management interactions, monitoring and evaluation visits, grantee reports and partner and/or beneficiary feedback. An anonymous end of grant program survey was filled out by LAUNCH Food grantees on their experience on the program. The survey results have been attached in full at Appendix D.



The IRF supported
12 innovators
to trial their innovations
across **16 countries**
in the Indo-Pacific region.

**11 of the 12
innovations**

supported through LAUNCH Food
Phase 2, moved along the innovation
development trajectory.



All innovators successfully completed their trials and tests within the agreed timeframes and budgets. In each case, there were individual successes, however the likelihood of scaling and sustaining the innovations, especially in the Pacific is varied. This is in part reflective of the landscape in the Pacific, where commercial funding and opportunities to scale innovations and new technologies is limited.

In most cases, the grants demonstrated early successes, indicating the innovations' potential to have an impact on target beneficiaries, if taken to scale. Innovators reported a combined total of 14,119 (7,261 females/6,858 males) people participated in LAUNCH Food activities. If innovations are taken to scale, a combined approximate 35 million people could potentially benefit.¹ However, because of the nature of the trials, benefits for trial participants, in most cases, will not be sustained beyond the life of the grant without further investment.

11 of the 12 innovations supported through LAUNCH Food Phase 2 moved along the innovation development trajectory. In most cases, this was not a direct result of the LAUNCH Food support, but rather the result of a larger landscape of innovation support, to which DFAT was able to contribute. In two cases, innovators were able to progress their innovations to commercialisation during the grant support period, and a third innovator is in the final stages of start-up-establishment:

- ◆ The University of Sydney's Australian Centre for Field Robotics established Agerris, an AUD6.5m agricultural robotics start-up in January 2019, following a range of successful trials in Australia and in the Pacific. Agerris provides robotics, artificial intelligence (AI) and intelligent systems for agriculture and on farm operations in Australia. Agerris are commercialising the *Digital Farmhand* for an Australian market. A potential model for scaling in the Pacific on a fee for service basis has been developed, but requires additional funding given scale up challenges and lead times in the Pacific.
- ◆ Biofilta Pty Ltd. secured an AUD5m investment from their Melbourne-based injection moulding partner, enabling them to commercialise the enhanced, modular urban-agriculture system the Foodcube. Following on from the Tuvalu *Foodwall* trial, DFAT's Agriculture and Food Security division are funding a larger, commercial garden using the Foodcube on Funafala islet.
- ◆ Murdoch University has finalised the model of a new start-up entity for the commercialisation of the *Breaking the Mould* plasma technology. Confidential negotiations are underway for future funding.

“ Without the support of the DT-Global team, in particular Melissa, we wouldn't have achieved as much as we have, we can't thank you enough. ”

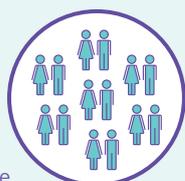
Marc Noyce
Biofilta, Foodwall



A combined approximate

35 million people

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If innovations are taken to scale



5 new healthy food products

were developed as a result of the grant support



92% of grantees

valued grant personnel's ability to provide flexibility in implementation and respond to changing needs, with 100% of grantees satisfied with grant personnel's ability to proactively respond to queries and requests.

¹ Beneficiary numbers are self-reported by innovators and vary in definition. They include people who attended training sessions; demonstrations; surveys; and trials.

Additionally, the Pacific Island Food Revolution (PIFR) Activity Design Document (ADD) was approved following a comprehensive peer review process, securing a three-year (2018 – 2021), AUD7.3 million trial co-funded by DFAT and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFAT) to test and further refine the PIFR concept in Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu.

During the grant period, LAUNCH innovators were able to leverage an additional AUD15,691,686 to support the acceleration, development and scaling of their innovations. The primary sources of additional funding included: other grants, commercial co-funding and investment, institutional endowment funds and partner organisation / grantee contributions.

Five new healthy food products were developed as a result of the grant support – four coconut-based health products (a coconut meal snack, a coconut kefir yoghurt, a coconut water and a coconut cream product) for local sale in Solomon Islands by Kokonut Pacific. A range of healthy noodles (made using moringa powder, sweet potato and pumpkin) were developed during a TL-FIX innovation session and are now available on the Agora Food Studio menu and in take-home packs. Discussions are underway with the World Food Program (WFP) to explore testing the noodles on the school feeding program menu.

Grantees have provided positive feedback on the provision of support services throughout the grant period under DT Global. 92% of grantees valued grant management personnel’s ability to provide flexibility in implementation and respond to changing needs, with 100% of grantees satisfied with grant personnel’s ability to proactively respond to queries and requests. Survey responses are attached in full under Appendix D.

Attracting non-traditional development actors via a global challenge such as LAUNCH Food has the potential to identify new innovations with potential to address intractable development challenges. Short term grant programs such as LAUNCH can contribute to the effective testing, trialling of and scale up of such innovations. In the case of trials such as LAUNCH, which deliberately seeks to identify new technology and innovations and test them in the Indo-Pacific, careful consideration of the opportunity cost, particularly for start-ups and smaller business, should be integrated into program design. Early successes during the grant period indicate the innovations’ potential to have an impact on target beneficiaries if taken to scale. It is however, unlikely that sustainable impact can be recorded following a short-term trial, where monitoring and evaluation stops upon completion of the activity. To better understand whether impact can occur in time, should the innovation be taken to scale, further follow-up would be required in three to five years.

“ The credibility that the LAUNCH Food Program brought to ICRISAT and Smart Food – to win a DFAT and USAID funded global challenge, is so valuable – this was added to emails, newsletters and promotional collateral. ”

Joanna Kane-Potaka
ICRISAT, Smart Food

between
6 and 21
months

of support and



between
AUD 100,000 -
AUD 600,000

of financial (grant-based) support
were given to each innovator.

Additional
AUD 15,691,686

leveraged during the grant period by LAUNCH Food innovators, supporting the acceleration, development and scaling of their innovations.



2 This figure is based on innovators self-reporting additional funds secured during the grant implementation period, whether from donors (grants), commercial investment, partnerships or other sources of financing. Refer to Table 1 Summary of Innovator Partner to Scale and Funds Leveraged under LAUNCH Food below for a breakdown of leveraged funds.