FACTSHEET: Breadfruit Variety Identification in Solomon Islands

This factsheet summarizes a study dedicated to identifying and documenting breadfruit varieties across the Solomon Islands, specifically within the **Western** and **Temotu** provinces.

Background

In the Solomon Islands, breadfruit is a vital food source and cultural staple, particularly for the people of Temotu province. While hundreds of varieties exist across the Pacific, their distribution varies. This study utilizes **traditional indigenous knowledge** to map the diversity of breadfruit currently cultivated in the region.

Study Objectives

- **Identify** breadfruit varieties using traditional local knowledge.
- **Benchmark** current findings to support future agricultural and botanical research.
- **Enhance** the general understanding of breadfruit biodiversity in the Solomon Islands.

Methodology

Data was collected through **Personal Interviews** and **Focus Group Discussions** to capture indigenous perceptions and expertise.

- **Temotu Province:** 12 villages surveyed.
- **Western Province:** 5 villages surveyed.
- **Field Verification:** Where possible, researchers conducted site visits to photograph and physically document trees and fruit.

Key Findings

The study documented **more than 80 varieties** of breadfruit. However, the high degree of phenotypic similarity (physical appearance) makes identification difficult for those unfamiliar with the specific local environment. Below is an example of a profile of breadfruit varieties.

Conclusion & Recommendations

Because many varieties share similar physical traits (size, shape, and flesh color), visual identification alone is often insufficient. To ensure accurate classification in the future, the study recommends:

1. **Organoleptic Characterization:** Assessing varieties based on taste, smell, and texture.
2. **Molecular Studies:** Utilizing genetic testing to determine precise varietal variations.

3. **Expanded Documentation:** Continued mapping of indigenous knowledge across other provinces.

Examples of a Variety Profile:

Feature	Description
Variety	Bia Banore
Location	Manoputi, Santa Cruz Island
Origin	Native to Manoputi
Tree Height	> 20 meters (Estimated)
Fruit Characteristics	Light green skin, spherical shape, smooth surface
Fruit Size	Large
Flesh (Pulp) Color	Yellow
Seeds	Seeded
Yield	> 50 fruits per season at full maturity
Seasonality	3–4 times per year
Main Pest	Fruit bat
Addendum: Begins bearing fruit at 4–5 years old. It is highly regarded for its taste and is the preferred variety for making Nabo.	



Feature	Description
Variety	Bia Lek
Location	Manoputi, Santa Cruz Island
Origin	Bania
Tree Height	>20m (Estimated)
Fruit Characteristics	Green, spherical, smooth surface
Fruit Size	Large
Flesh (Pulp) Color	Yellow
Seeds	Seeded
Yield	> 50 fruits per season at full maturity
Seasonality	3–4 times per year
Main Pest	Fruit bat
Addendum: Bearing at 3 years old. Good for making Nabo, and is tasty.	



Feature	Description
Variety	Bia Blos
Location	Neo Island, Santa Cruz Island
Origin	Native to Neo Island
Tree Height	15-20m
Fruit Characteristics	Light yellow skin, spherical shape, spiny surface
Fruit Size	Large
Flesh (Pulp) Color	Yellow
Seeds	Seeded
Yield	> 50 fruits per season at full maturity
Seasonality	3–4 times per year
Main Pest	Fruit bat
Addendum: Bearing at 3-4 years old. Best for making Nabo, and is tasty.	

