



Tara McKenzie
Assistant Researcher
University of the Sunshine Coast



My experiences in International Agriculture

- Mature age university student since 2004
- **Bachelor** of Science (Environmental Science) 2013
 - SRP Fiji (vegetable supply chains)
 - SRP Tonga (preliminary assessment of Tonga's fruit industry)



SRP Fiji – postharvest handling in vegetable supply chains

University of the Sunshine Coast, Fijian Ministry of Agriculture



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SRP Tonga –

Assessing the potential for development of the fruit sector

USC, Tongan Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Forests & Fisheries (MAFFF), ACIAR Small Research Activity



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- Crawford Fund **Scholar** 2014
- **ACIAR Graduate** Research Officer 2015

Working as an ACIAR Graduate Research Officer

- ACIAR does not actually conduct research - commission partner institutions
- ACIAR essentially conceives, funds and project manages International Research Projects/Programs
- Work under the supervision of a Research Program Manager (RPM), highly experienced researchers in international development
- Pro-active in networking, building relationships with Partners to find the interesting technical activities where you can contribute and learn



ACIAR



Graduate role at ACIAR – Crops Cluster
PARDI Impact Workshop & Market Day – June 2015



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- ACIAR Graduate Research Officer 2015
- **Honours** (Science – Postharvest Horticulture) 2017
- Working at USC as a **Research Assistant**, working in the South Pacific - considering a PhD...

How to create the opportunity

1. **Keep doing what you're already doing** – becoming a Crawford Fund Scholar...apply, apply, apply!
2. **Talk** to your peers – let people know what you're interests are
3. Get to know your **academics** and **USE THEM!**
4. Don't be too prescriptive – instead get well equipped and expand your “**skills base**”
5. Love your study, love your work...**be passionate!**

