

## Rural Development Adviser

Giles West

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Contact Details	10 – 12 Brisbane Avenue, Barton, ACT Email: <a href="mailto:gwest@hassall.com.au">gwest@hassall.com.au</a>
Nationality	Australian and British
Academic Qualifications	MSc Tropical Agricultural Development. University of Reading UK 1985 BSc Horticulture (Honours) University of Bath UK 1976 Diploma of Business Front Line Management Mount Isa (ongoing)
Other Training	Project Logframe Development Training European Union 1995 Professional Divemaster Certificate NAUI 1991 Work place Trainer Certificate Agricultural Training Board UK 1978
Languages & degree of proficiency	English (native tongue); Solomon and PNG Pidgin (fair)
Membership of Professional Societies	Tropical Agriculture Association (UK) Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park (Western Australia)
Countries of Work Experience	Papua New Guinea, Kenya, Solomon Islands, Philippines, Cambodia, Australia and UK
Specialist Fields	Country strategy and program development. Team leader and co-director program/ project management Rural development Tropical tree crops agronomy, production and product processing. Subsistence agricultural and extension capacity building Rural water quality and risk management capacity building Natural resource management and environmental protection compliance. Commercial (export) horticultural production. Salinity mitigation and dry-land broad scale production systems

### SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

#### Senior Consultant, Hassall and Associates International (May 2005 - Present)

Giles provides technical and management inputs on agriculture, rural development, broad based development and water-related activities. Currently, he is assisting specifically with developments in Aceh, Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea. Giles is also engaged in project management and project support, providing advice to Project Directors and Team Leaders. Additionally he investigates and develops new business opportunities and monitors and advises Hassall and Associates on the issues of the evolving development agenda

#### Cambodia Program Agricultural and Rural Development Manager, and Coordinator for the Cross Branch Water Group, AusAID (February 2003 – April 2005)

Sharing country program management responsibilities and managing the three rural development projects in Cambodia, Giles planned and implemented three project mid-term reviews and completed changes to scope of services. With the three rural development projects drawing to a close, Giles helped lead the process to develop new options and strategies for future assistance in rural development and growth in Cambodia. He also coordinated the Cross Branch Water team developing water policy, initiating a \$4m partnership program with WHO, UNICEF and SOPAC and developed the Agencies Water Quality & Risk Management Guidelines. Giles presented a paper promoting pro poor research at the Water Conference CARDI Cambodia and promoted AusAID's Water Quality Guidelines at a series of workshops in Nepal, Cambodia and Melbourne.

**Regional Sustainable Rural Development Manager, Department of Agriculture, Western Australia (July 2001 – February 2003)**

Giles's duties involved implementation of the Department's natural resource management policies and strategies. High levels of salinity, wind erosion, inappropriate farming systems and changing climate were significant issues, prompting a Socio Economic Analysis and Strategic development study assessing natural resource and social and economic impacts for the South Coast Region. He was responsible for the Natural Heritage Trust funded contracts and the catchment demonstration initiatives, managing and negotiating funding extensions for both Community and Department activities.

**District Manager for Jerramungup, Department of Agriculture Western Australia (July 1999 – July 2001)**

Appointed to re established services to farmers and motivate staff of the Jerramungup office in the Central South Coast region of Western Australia, Giles was commended for achieving these goals. During this period the area was subject to a locust plague and successful control program, extensive frost damage, drought and floods triggering State and Commonwealth exceptional circumstances responses. As District Manager, Giles was also required to guide farming businesses in land use planning in increasingly marginal resource situations impacted by salinity and climate change. Giles represented the Department on Land Care Committees, environmental groups and internationally at the UNESCO International Man and Biosphere Conference in Plampona Spain presenting a paper on Biospheres for Effective Economies.

**Review Consultant, Women's Agricultural Extension Program (WAESP) Solomon Islands (June – July and October 1998)**

As a member of a two person team conducting a review and second phase design of WAESP, Giles assessed progress against the work plan and developed recommendations for a second phase with necessary extension policy changes developed for the Department of Agriculture. Additionally a baseline survey (missing from the earlier project) was developed and implemented to assess the current status of food security, production and women's income in selected areas with particular emphasis on logged over and intensive land use examples.

**Team Leader / Co Director, Southern Mindanao Agricultural Programme, Philippines, European Union / Government of Philippines (June 1997 – May 1998)**

As the Program Co-director, Giles managed the international technical assistance team of six, and through the four zone office managers, the delivery of rural development assistance through 240 Philippine staff. With a focus of reducing rural poverty through addressing significant resource degradation, land tenure, water access and rights issues, and providing sustained education, health and marketing services, the program achieved gains in both Muslim and Christian areas. Tasked with the implemented challenging mid term review recommendations, he steered the program to a successful conclusion completing the final audit, program completion report and negotiations for the second phase for the program.

**Extension Adviser and Co-Programme Manager Farmer Support Program Solomon Islands, European Union / Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAFF), Solomon Islands Government (February 1994 - March 1997)**

Working as Co-Program Manager and extension adviser to MAFF, Giles developed and introduced a devolved work planning and budgetary control process and an extension monitoring and reporting processes resulting in greatly improved staff ownership and project implementation achievements. With decreasing government revenue collection and fund allocations for extension, he developed recommendations for structural changes and re-training for the extension service. With increasing pressure on resources and income opportunities, Giles introduced options for niche marketing of cocoa, produced a range of new technical training manuals, and introduced participatory appraisal and planning methods to extension staff for application in community planning processes.

**Field Agronomist, Smallholder Development Program (SDP), Solomon Islands, DFID / Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Solomon Islands Government (September 1989 - December 1994)**

Seconded to SDP from DFID, Giles established and managed a program of 'on farm' trials demonstrations for cocoa and coconuts, and crop diversification where appropriate in chilly, coffee, fruit trees and vegetable crops in all Provinces. With existing extension information and delivery methods outdated the consultant revised farmer training methods and produced new technical information and a field guide for extension staff. Working closely with farmers, Provincial staff and the Commodities Export Marketing Board, the consultant developed appropriate copra and cocoa processing methods suitable for smallholders, and promoted related policy and legislation requirements.

**Horticultural Consultant, Area Suitability Assessment Study for Combos Sisal Estates, Kenya (August 1989)**

Contracted to assess the feasibility of producing high value vegetables in this semi arid area, the consultant assessed production and marketing potential detailing area suitability, crops, investment, financial viability, potential markets and risks.

**Production Manager / Agronomist, Commercial Production of Horticultural Export Crops, Homegrown (Kenya) Ltd, Kenya (April 1986 - April 1989)**

Primarily employed to improve agronomy and diversify the farm's production range, Giles developed a commercial trails program to identify opportunities resulting in the adoption of a number of new crops including cherry tomatoes and cut roses. With expanding market demand, he extended production to out-growers providing an independent extension support service ensuring quality and quantity of supply. Additionally, Giles improved agronomy and irrigation practices and developed integrated pest and disease management systems. To maintain market share, continuous improvements were developed for picking, packing and cooling processes.

**Momase Region Horticultural Adviser, Food Self-sufficiency Program, Papua New Guinea, Government of Papua New Guinea, Department of Agricultural and Lands (October 1983 - October 1984)**

As horticultural adviser, Giles established, monitored and assessed 'on farm' trials of selected introduced vegetables in three provinces, and in partnership with the Provincial extension services, developed and implemented Provincial fruit and vegetable extension processes. With a view to integrating rural service delivery, where appropriate the consultant developed joint extension processes between the Dept of Agriculture, nutrition education groups and Health Department. Working closely with the Department of Education, he developed the mid altitude Vegetable Production Guide for Secondary schools.

**Horticulturist Western Area Manager, South Coast Food Production Project, Papua New Guinea, Government of Papua New Guinea. Department of Agricultural and Lands (October 1981 - October 1983)**

Posted to the North Western activity area, Giles trained, equipped and mobilised the Provincial Extension Service in food crops extension and linked this activity to the Laloki Research station's program of 'on farm trials and demonstrations' of selected introduced vegetables and root crops. With a view to integrating rural service delivery, where appropriate, he developed joint extension processes between the Department of Agriculture, nutrition education groups and Health Department, and established Provincial seed and cutting material production units in the Bereina and Goilala areas.

**Vocational Training Farm Manager, YMCA Papua New Guinea Vocational Training, Volunteer Service Overseas (January 1979 - January 1981)**

This posting involved the development and completion of a YMCA vocational training farm for school drop outs, development of vocational training courses and recruitment and training of trainers. Additionally commercial vegetable production was developed to cover some of the running costs of the centre.