Smallholder Agriculture to Facilitate Broad Economic Development

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Introduction

• Where we are at, where are we going
• Broad economic development
• 10,000 years of history
• Can smallholder agriculture continue to underpin the economy
• Challenge to conventional wisdom
Plans and Strategies

• Responsible sustainable development
• Non-renewable to support renewable
• Protection of informal rights
• When is a plan not a plan? The NADP 2007
• Not just volumes of quality produce
• Linking farmers to markets – wealth generation
Our Data Bases

• We know well where we are coming from
• Agricultural Systems Project
• NADP
• Food and Nutrition Conference
• Food and Agriculture in Papua New Guinea
So What Kind of Agriculture

• Alternative strategies for agriculture
• Smallholder vs large scale corporate enterprise
• Issues of land availability and tenure
• Long term implications vs short term gain
• Limited quantity of high quality land
• All suitable land is well used
Food Security Comes First

• Food production the primary determinant of land use
• Role of smallholders not appreciated
• Poorly substantiated calls for land mobilisation and freeing-up of land
• Our farmers are innovators but need empowerment to cope with changes
Support our Smallholders

• What will happen with alienation of land?
• Do we want a landless underclass?
• Good land for food production per head is declining world-wide
• Calls to go back to the land are nonsensical
• Where is this land?
• Role of Cooperatives
Story of Rice and Cassava

- Policies depend on making land available
- Unlocking vast areas of customary land
- Where are the research data?
- Who will produce the other components of healthy diets?
- Support smallholders to produce what is needed, including rice
Pressures on Land Use

• Population changes
• Needs for income
• Deterioration of infrastructure
• Land disputes and declining soil fertility
• Conversion of garden land into other uses
• Poverty – failure of government services
• Land alienation
• Natural hazards; Climate Change
Spending the LNG Money Wisely

Three broad areas of Intervention

• Targeted research and technology development
• Enabling the infrastructure environment
• Human capacity development
Research and Development

• Not discounting commodity tree crops
• Priority focus on soil management
• Crop genetic diversity; plant protection
• Assess NARI’s released technologies
• Support Higher Education sector research
• Social science – are farmers willing and able?
• What will enable them to respond?
Infrastructure

- Maintain and improve
- Not just roads and airstrips
- Abattoirs and slaughtering facilities
Human Capacity

- All stakeholders – farmers, potential farmers, educators, service providers
- Education for intensive agriculture
- Empowering the next generation
- Investing in Higher Education
- Quality staff result in quality graduates
Conclusions

• Stick with smallholder agriculture
• Enable sustainable intensification
• Empower farmers to meet the challenges
• Reduce the impact of the challenges through implementation of research-based action plans
• Wise use of our resources and wealth from the non-renewable sector