



MELANESIAN LAND TENURE AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND ITS IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE PRODUCTIVITY IN PNG



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OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

INTRODUCTION

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[Customary Land]

[State Land]

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[Feature of Agriculture Project]

WAY FORWARD

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INTRODUCTION

Development of Agriculture in PNG revolves around LAND system

Two Types of Land Tenure : (i) Customary Land - 97 % (ii) Alienated Land -3%

Alienated Land is better suited for Agriculture Development and Productivity

During Pre to Post Independence - PNG was riding on the back of Agriculture Economy and will continue to do so for years ahead.

Agriculture contributes to 27 % of country's GDP; employs over 85 % of rural population in farming with opportunities for income generation

Land Tenure System be organised to promote agriculture productivity with benefits trickling to rural families

STATUS OF LAND AND LAND UTILISATION IN PNG

(1) CUSTOMARY LAND

- ▶ This land is subject to customary laws of occupation, usage, inheritance and other rights which may exist
- ▶ Ownership of Customary Land based on Tenure System owned by Clan does not have four (4) main features;
- ▶ (i) Universality: all resources are owned and all entitlements completely specified
- ▶ (ii) Exclusively: all benefits and costs of using resources accrue to the owner
- ▶ (iii) Transferability : all property rights can be transferred from one owner to another in voluntary exchange
- ▶ (iv) Enforceability: property rights are secure for involuntary seizure or encroachment by others

Cont'D

- ▶ Property Rights do not have characteristics and are difficult to comprehend.
- ▶ Formal Land Demarcation and Recognition is Expensive even when there are no disputes and land administration is weak. Resource area complaints.
- ▶ Community Attitude to Land deters Government from Developing Land Settlement Schemes in Places like WNP (Oil Palm), Central and East Sepik Provinces (Rubber), EHP & Madding (Cattle): TENSIONS BETWEEN SETTLERS AND THOSE FROM THE AREA. STATE LOST CONTROL - AND DEVELOPED FOR OTHER USE THAN PLANNED
- ▶ INDIVIDUALISING OF LAND OWNERSHIP THAN CLAN will created more social and economic problems. It giantess the land than greedy individual can sell land off.
- ▶ MAJOR ISSUE : CUSTOMARY LAND TENURE IS COMPLEX ; e.g. one person could have rights is widely dispersed plots and he could trace descent through different lineage so that he had a wider choice of possible rights. Status can be a factor.

STATUS OF LAND AND LAND UTILISATION IN PNG

▶ (2) ALIENATED LAND

- ▶ Land classified as State Lease and Freehold and includes those used by Government such as city, towns, district stations, agriculture and forestry research and experimental stations
- ▶ Besides millions of hectares of land has been leased through SPBAL, state has formal control over less than 1-2 % of total alienated land particularly land outside of immediate urban periphery.
- ▶ Three (3) % of land equates to 60,000 ha which is divided as follows;
- ▶ - 30,000 ha in freehold (citizens)
- ▶ - 60,000 ha for public purpose
- ▶ - 200,000 ha leased to private organisations (stakeholders)
- ▶ - 310, 000 ha ??? Little information on status and use

LAND DISPUTES EMANATING FROM CUSTOMARY LAND

- ▶ Clan membership and ownership is paramount than Individual membership and Ownership; Where is property right ?
- ▶ Clan is the LAND OWNING GROUP than INDIVIDUAL. So CLAN should decide on membership and ownership of land and user rights
- ▶ Case: 1987 East Sepik Provincial Government undertook noble initiative to determine OWNERSHIP AND LAND USAGE RIGHT by passing the CUSTOMARY LAND REGISTRATION ACT and PROVINCIAL LAND ACT.

State should ensure individuals/family benefit from collateral clan's land in terms of collateral land ownership.

GOVERNMENT'S INTERVENTIONS ON LAND MOBILISATION & UTILISATION

LAND REFORMS

- ▶ SABL
- ▶ ILG (Focus on Agriculture Purpose)
- ▶ LAND REGISTRATION (Customary Land/Amendment Bill 2009)
- ▶ UTILISING COOPERATIVE CONCEPT
- ▶ EMPOWERING RURAL COMMUNITIES WITH TWENTY HECTARE SCHEMES
- ▶ BUSINESS AND LAND INCORPORATION ACTS
- ▶ PLANTATIONS RETRIBUTION SCHEME (1970s)
- ▶ PLANTATION MANAGEMENT TRAINING (LAUNCHING PAD FOR AGRIC SMEs)

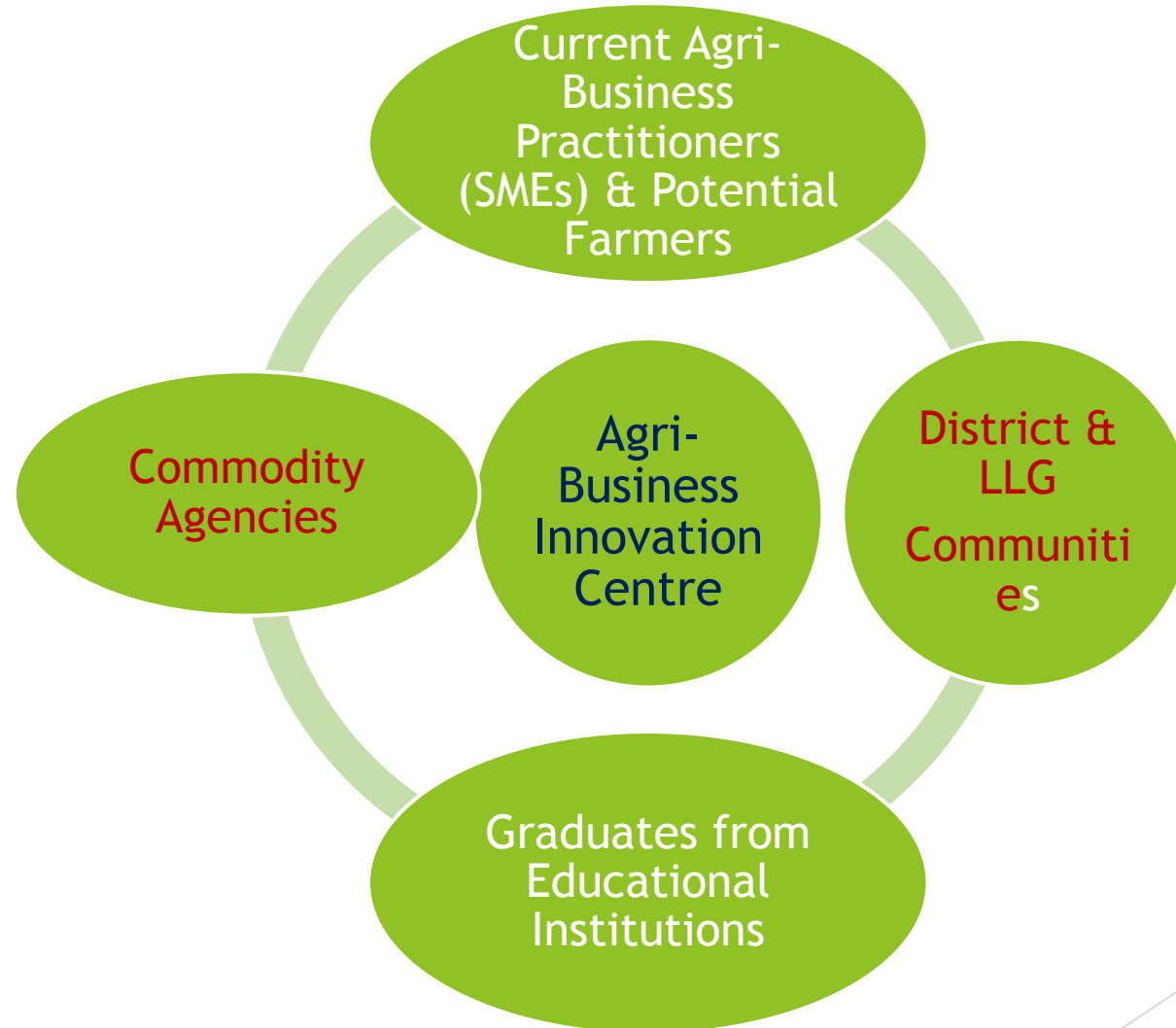
LAND MOBILISATION FOR AGRICULTURE PRODUCTIVITY

- ▶ Rural Communities feel settled after 1942 to venture into commercial farming (Entrepreneurial Skills)
- ▶ Expatriates have introduced business skills (Locals need to take advantage of running agriculture farms as business on customary and state land)
- ▶ Families mobilised to venture into commercial farming (evolution of companies (family/clan/individual family))
- ▶ Agriculture development focus on plantation development (Agro-Nucleus Concept)
- ▶ Smallholders still striving to transit into block and large holders

FEATURE OF AGRICULTURE PROJECT

COMPONENT OF SUPPLY & VALUE CHAIN	DESCRIPTION
1. Land Mobilisation	
2. Nursery & Research	
3. Land Preparation 4. Planting	This is the high -risk, low -value end of business Rural based & is mainly farming
5. Harvesting	
6. Processing & Packaging	
7. Marketing	This is the low - risk, high value end of business.
8. Distribution	Urban based & is mainly downstream processing.

Agri-business Model At Community Level





WHY CHANGE? GOVT MUST INVEST MASSIVELY IN AGRICULTURE

“The definition of insanity is to continue doing the same thing whilst expecting a different result”....*Albert Einstein*

WAY FORWARD

- ▶ (i) GREEN REVOLUTION - (Freight, Access to Markets)
- ▶ (ii) NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM(NADP) - Funding and Monitoring systems not established. Policy and Strategic Plan is intact but the abuse - problem
- ▶ (ii) AGRO NUCLEUS INITIATIVE (Smallholders must be empowered and provided incentive (training, extension, marketing facilities with State land as Hub and this extends to customary land)
- ▶ (iii) ACTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP POLICY (Commodity Institutions (Oil Palm, Coffee, Cocoa, Spices, Livestock etc partner with local communities on customary land so benefits going to them)
- ▶ (iv) SABL REVIEWED IN FAVOR OF SMALLHOLDER RURAL COMMUNITIES(Agro Forestry concept is deceptive).
- ▶ (v) MASSIVE INVESTMENT FOR LARGE SCALE DOWNSTREAM PROCESSING

Conclusion

- ▶
 - Lack of Government interventions/incentives to utilise customary and alienated land for agriculture productivity
 - Productive State Land (State lease land) need to be utilised and re-vitalised for large scale production using PPP approach (i.e. Community Participation)
 - DAL Sub -sectoral agencies (NARI, NAQIA, LDC, CIC, KIK, CCI, FPDA) to engage with private sector and rural communities in utilising customary and state land
 - Individuals need to be encouraged to utilise customary land for agri-business activities
 - Conduct an audit of SPABL (Lease - lease Back of Customary Land) so government lease back land to rural communities to venture into businesses
 - More incentives (labour mobilisation and capitalisation) are required for the usage of customary land
 - Land reform should involve participation of landowners and district governments