Sources of information for agricultural development in Papua New Guinea

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PNG Update, UPNG, August 2017
Information and knowledge

- Information (facts) and knowledge (interpretation through understanding/practice)
- Vital for development, including agricultural
- Rapid development of many nations is based on information and knowledge
- Consider island nations of Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan, Ireland, New Zealand
Information is available for these questions (and more!)

- Why is there demand for breadfruit flour?
- Potential to export fresh food from PNG?
- Most important staple foods in Milne Bay?
- Best places to grow mandarines in PNG?
- Value of cash crops (export/domestic)?
- Who is buying *galip* nuts now?
- Source for improved mango varieties?
- Current price of eaglewood?
Figure 5.1.1 Estimated annual cash income of the rural population from agricultural activities, 1990–1995. Source: MASP.
Climate data

- Temperature (altitude)
- Topo maps, 1:100,000, Nat Map Bur
- Field: altimeter or GPS
- Source of other climate data
  - *Climate of PNG* (McAlpine et al, 1983)
  - *Climate Tables* (McAlpine et al, 1975)
- (Note: the climate is changing)
Figure 2. The usual and extreme altitudinal ranges of 22 crops in PNG.
PNG Rural Development Handbook

- Excellent overview of rural PNG
- Covers eight issues for the (then) 19 provinces and 85 rural districts
- Some data is dated and some errors
Food and Agriculture in PNG

- Comprehensive book
- Includes demography, physical environment, food, consumption, cash income, social and economic aspects
- Many tables, figures and maps
- Appendix tables on web (Excel files)
Betel nut trade routes in PNG, 2007
Agricultural systems of PNG

- Detailed descriptions of village agriculture
- Based on extensive fieldwork (six years)
- Accurate data; generally still true
- Difficult to navigate ‘working papers’
- One ‘working paper’ per province
- All on web
AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

- Agricultural Systems of PNG. Working Paper No. 19, Morobe Province
Publications by national DAL

- Many useful publications by National DAL
- Many articles in *Harvest, Rural Development Handbooks, Farming Notes*
- No longer being produced
- Some information is dated
- Often difficult to access
Publications by NARI

- NARI has seven publication series
- Most useful for producers are:
  - Extension booklets (11; 2 on-line)
  - Workshop proceedings (11; 4 on-line)
  - Toktok series (134; most on-line)
Publications by industry bodies

- Previously technical and outreach publications were produced by:
  - PNG Cocoa and Coconut Research Institute
  - PNG Coffee Research Institute
  - PNG Oil Palm Research Association
- Limited number of recent publications from these bodies
Other useful publications

- Food and nutrition conference proceedings eg *Food Security for PNG.*

- Other publications (eg Matthew Kanua and others, 2016. *Assessing village food needs following a natural disaster in PNG*)
Conference proceedings

FOOD SECURITY FOR PAPUA NEW GUINEA

ACIAR PROCEEDINGS No.99
Bibliographies

- PNG Agriculture Literature Database (ANU)
- Contains over 17,000 references
- All entries have keywords
- Can be searched by author, keyword etc
- Agriculture bibliography held by NARI
- These are bibliographies, not papers
Web sites

- The World Wide Web
  - (Can be useful, but much rubbish also)
- International bodies, eg FAO
  - (Data is often very inaccurate and dated)
- PNG Didiman/Didimeri website
  - (Limited information for producers)
- Bank of PNG website
  - (Information generally accurate)
Information from a villagers’ perspective

- Most villagers have a reasonably good understanding of local environment
- This is our land, but what can we produce here to market or to eat?
- Who will buy our produce?
- Is it worth our time?
- What price can we expect?
- Best practices for that crop or animal
How can a villager obtain this information

- Very hard for a villager (or anybody engaged in local development) to access information
- Not available locally
- Cannot access national level data
- Huge need for relevant information for villagers and those trying to help them
Concluding remarks

- Huge amount of information on PNG agriculture
- Generally difficult to access
- Often not used for rural development
- Particularly difficult for villagers to access information, particularly on markets
- Information and knowledge is the basis for development
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