



THE UNIVERSITY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA



2023 PNG UPDATE

Resilient and diverse development

The establishment of Provincial Didiman Centres (PDC's) as agricultural hubs in the highlands of Papua New Guinea.

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Outline:

- 1)Agriculture in national development.
- 2)Agriculture research for development in PNG,
- 3)Upscaling pathways for agriculture research,
- 4)Agriculture extension systems,
- 5)Provincial Didiman Centres
- 6)The provincial agriculture development priorities,
- 7)Conclusions,
- 8)Recommendations,
- 9)Acknowledgement.



Agriculture in development of PNG.

- ♦ 85% of the population are engaged in.
- ♦ Accounts for 14% of the GDP,
- ♦ The value of coffee, cocoa, oil exports in 20201 was K3 billion.
- ♦ The food crops sector is valued to be K2.5 billion.
- ♦ The major employer.



Agriculture research for development

- ◆ Improved Crop varieties,
- ◆ Information packages,
- ◆ Pest & Diseases control strategies,
- ◆ Improved farming & livestock development practices,
- ◆ Resources management interventions,
- ◆ Introduction of alternate crops.



NARI's Technology upscaling pathways.

- ♦ Project based approach targeting specific communities, individual farmers or farming groups.
- ♦ Established farmer resources centres for information and technology sharing and dissemination.
- ♦ This were/are mostly donor focused and NARI has little input to change project implementation aspects.
- ♦ The provinces and district DPI staff are mostly observers and not as key players.
- ♦ The FRC's are both success and failures: community cohesion being a critical factor (that is fluid).



Agriculture Extension systems in PNG

Un- intended outcomes of the decentralisation of agriculture extension services to the provinces and districts.

- ♦ **Lost momentum of resources allocation (funding and human resources) and priorities varied greatly or minimal/ad hoc.**
- ♦ **Emergence of corporate extension services (OPIC, CIC, Outgrowers Services, NGOs, FBOs, FPDA,**
- ♦ **PSIP and DSIP funds deviate district and provincial DPI focus, created disconnection.**
- ♦ **Aging workforce in the extension services.**



What is a Provincial Didiman Centre?



- Finding ways around a system error.
- Solutions offered by everyone.
- It's the reviving of the original idea:
- information and skills transfer to farming communities.



The Provincial Didiman Centres (PDC)

- ♦ Finding the common ground between the provinces and NARI to test the research developed technologies that will contribute to building resilience from environmental, economical and social challenges.
- NARI researched technologies and innovations of high commercial value are tried and offer alternate income earning opportunities to the farming communities.
- NARI contributed and set up key crops and livestock multiplication facilities ((screen house for crop multiplication, power tiller and village poultry sheds).
- Improve the information network through supply of IT equipment, communication network (Whatsapp group).
- Maintain their contacts through follow up communication: reinvigorate agriculture extension.



Focusing on the Provincial Priorities

Priority	Interventions
1	Seed system
2	Livestock improvement
3	Post harvest and processing
4	Crop diversification
5	Crop improvement
6	Livestock diversification
7	Soil moisture and nutrient management
8	Early warning system (climate/weather)

Conclusions.

- Provinces keen pursue PDC concept for now.
- The district and provincial disconnections remains and obstacle to overcome for most provinces.
- The provincial crops and livestock training, multiplications and distributions centres be systematically adopted and made to function
- Partnerships be continued with all stakeholders..



Recommendation:

- 1) PDC funding must be captured in annual work programmes in the provinces and funded by national government.**
- 2) Provinces to take ownership and leadership of PDCs for creating partnerships in building resilience to agricultural threats.**
- 3) Re-establishing the unified agricultural extension system (resourcing and financing) so that scarcely available resources can be well channelled to the districts through the provinces.**

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- ▶ SHP WiA (SHP)



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