

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**