



# Nius

Newsletter of the PNG National Agricultural Research Institute  
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**26 YEARS**  
of Dedicated  
**Agricultural Research for  
Sustainable Development**

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Welcome to the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of NARI Nius for 2023. If you have any comments or contributions please drop us a line at:  
[naripng@nari.gov.pg](mailto:naripng@nari.gov.pg) for an e-copy

## Corporate Plan launched

The Agriculture Minister Hon Aiye Tambua said the government has recognised the importance of research and placed a strong emphasis on the need to develop the agriculture sector as the key driver to generate employment and growing the rural-economy. Minister Tambua, pledged to support the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) to achieve its goals and objectives.

"I am pleased to note that NARI has developed and have in place a plan for the next 10 years that layouts the framework to under-

take research into our agricultural commodities and food system", Minister Tambua remarked this when presiding over the official launch of the NARI Strategy and Results Framework (SRF) 2022 - 2031 and Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) 2022 – 2026 recently at the NARI's Momase Regional Centre, Lae.

"I am pleased to officiate and witness this significant occasion. I acknowledge the commitment and efforts put in by the management and staff of NARI in developing these plans over the last two years. As Minister responsible, I stand to support you to ensure you implement the roadmap you have in place", Minister Tambua said.

Minister Tambua informed those who attended the event that NARI is now being placed officially under the Ministry of Agriculture, after being operating under the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology. The agriculture sector will only progress when NARI has the support of the Agriculture Minister and the government", he said.

"The government is seriously focusing on agriculture; therefore NARI has rightfully being brought back and placed under the Agriculture Ministry for administrative reasons. The government's intention is clear, it wants to move the sector to the next level, especially to increase production of the commodities by encouraging the local people to share the economic benefits that comes with it", he added.

In the meantime, Minister Tambua said the government will support NARI to build its institutional capacity to conduct research that can address agriculture commercialisation and diversification challenges.

He also acknowledged the presence and support of the Governor of Morobe, Luther Wenge, Minister for Oil Palm Francis Manake, and Vice Minister for Cocoa and Coconut, Graham Piniau Rumet.

The minister also acknowledged the participation of representatives from other state agencies like National Research Institute, the University of Goroka, Commodity Boards, NGOs, development partners with Australia, the National Food Agriculture Organisation, provincial administrations, private sector and farmer groups. He said together they will play key roles to ensure NARI corporate plans are successfully achieved.



Agriculture Minister, Hon. Aiye Tambua (left) handing over the Corporate Plans to NARI Council Chairman, Nimo Kama and NARI Acting Director General, Warea Orapa after the official launching.

## Late Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare remembered



The Institute joined PNG in remembering the late Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare with a memorial service on the 24th of February. We are thankful to his visionary leadership and his legacy will live on.

## Dr Pandi calls it a day

NARI farewelled one of its long serving research personnel early this year. Dr Janet Pandi who started her career as a pioneer cadet in 2004 has decided to move on after serving as a livestock researcher. She has been instrumental in research around poultry feeding systems; particularly on alternative feed using locally available resources. She spoke highly of the time and support offered by colleagues that allowed her to achieve her goals during her 20 years of service. Dr Pandi has taken a position at the PNG UoT.



## Sweetpotato project to rollout planned activities

Various activities are planned to be rolled out in 2023 on sweetpotato best practices, under the Sweetpotato (kaukau) Conservation and Utilization project. The project aims to share new knowledge and encourage farmers to increase the diversity of sweetpotato varieties in their gardens. This is in line with our efforts to improve the capacity for resilience and adaptability among vulnerable farming communities, to extreme climate change events. The communities covered in this project are: Usurufa, Eastern Highlands; Teptep, Madang; Menyamya, Morobe; and Rigwali, Central province. About 40,000 seeds were generated last year from a total of 16 varieties. These included both local and international cultivars such as Marasta from Teptep and Beauregard, a commercial variety from Australia. Generated seeds will be distributed for planting at selected family and central community farms during the first quarter of 2023.



## In-house capacity building on farm machinery

Two technical officers from the Highlands regional centre based in Aiyura underwent training on various aspects of operating farm machinery early this year.

Samson Kendi and Jerry Senny's training as part of in-house capacity to ensure our technical officers are up skilled with the basics on how to operate farm machinery.

The hands on training will enable the officers to operate farm machinery as well as share the skills with others.

The training covered various aspects in operating rice production machinery, feed milling machines, and use of power tiller for land preparation.



## School bus dedicated

Staff at the NARI head office and Momase Regional Centre is relieved that our children attending schools in the city will be travelling in style and comfort, thanks to the committee for purchasing a brand new bus.

The new bus replaces the old one that has been in use since 2009.



## Extension officers undertake rice training

Agriculture officers from provincial Department of Agriculture and Livestock participated in a week-long rice production workshop last November at the Momase Regional Centre, Lae. They represented Milne Bay, Western, Autonomous Region of Bougainville and Southern Highlands.

The workshop was part of the Food Agricultural Organisation of the UN project : *“Emergency support to preventing the spread and mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 along the agricultural value chain and building resilience in food security, nutrition and livelihoods”* Participants were supplied rice seed and relevant information materials at the conclusion of the workshop.

A follow-up training was conducted at Suma village and Kagua Secondary School in the Kagua district, Southern Highlands Province in December.



## Quality seed is vital in rice production

Seed is the foundation for the production of any crop. Quality seed leads to quality produce.

With this in mind, the Taiwan Technical Mission (TTM) and NARI initiated a project on rice seed production in 2021.

It is common among many people that they get carried away with the harvest of their crops and fail to secure seed for the next planting season.

The aim of this project, therefore, is to encourage and improve farmer-knowledge and best practices not only to produce rice but also to produce quality seed for their next crop.

NARI has supplied of NARI NR1 rice seed and rice-related information to Milne Bay, the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Western, and Southern Highlands. Funding was provided by FAO to run the training.



## Officer attends training in Indonesia

Janiella Aidaboe joined fellow researchers from other Pacific countries in a regional training funded by the International Atomic Energy Agency in late 2022.

The seven weeks training focused on 'Improving the Resilience of Crops to Climate Change through Mutation Breeding' as part of upgrading skills and knowledge to improve the level of agricultural crop breeding in their respective countries.

The training was organised by Prof Soeranto Human, a senior researcher and specialist in mutation breeding of sorghum with the National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia.



# Laboratory Service Enquiries

The Professor John Kola Chemistry Laboratory is a national chemical testing laboratory that has been operating for over 30 years.

The laboratory offers a wide range of analytical and diagnostic testing services.

The laboratory is accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 which is a general requirement set by the International Organisation for Standardization (ISO) and International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) for the competence in testing laboratories.

It certifies a laboratory as an Accredited Chemical Testing Laboratory under the ISO/IEC 17025:2005 Guidelines. Prof John Kola Chemistry can perform chemical testing and all methods used are recommended by American Public Health Association (water), Australasia Soil and Plant Analysis Council (soil and plant), Association of Official Analytical Chemist (food and natural products).

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Water filtration test



Conducting vanillin test on vanilla beans

# Guesthouse Enquiries



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## Gadi Ling Guesthouse

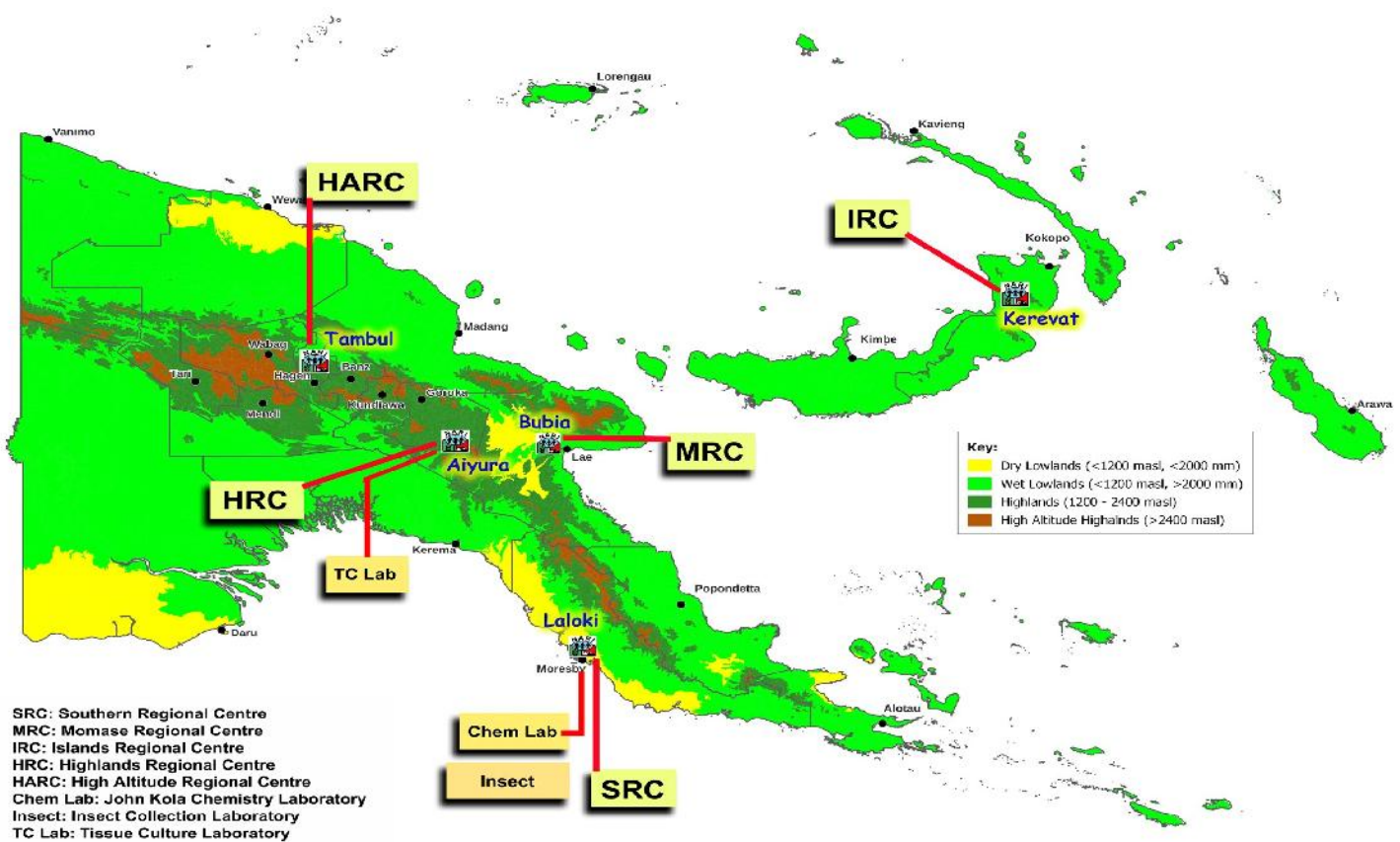
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The National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) was established by an Act of National Parliament of Papua New Guinea (PNG) in July 1996 as a public funded, statutory research organisation, to conduct and foster applied and adaptive research into:

- any branch of biological, physical and natural sciences related to agriculture;
- cultural and socioeconomic aspects of the agricultural sector, especially of the smallholder agriculture; and
- matters relating to rural development. and of relevance to Papua New Guinea.