



Nius

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26 YEARS
of Dedicated
**Agricultural Research for
Sustainable Development**

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Welcome to the 2nd edition of NARI Nius for 2023. If you have any comments or contributions please drop us a line at: naripng@nari.gov.pg for an e-copy

CABI Plant Health Programme to start in PNG

Outbreaks of plant pests, diseases, weeds and other invasive species will continue to threaten PNG's food security if we are not equipped with smarter tools and processes for surveillance and mitigation of such biological threats. Acting Director General of the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI), Warea Orapa, echoed this when welcoming participants to a national stakeholder analysis workshop of a plant



Workshop participants

health program at NARI in Lae from 10 – 11 May. The workshop organised by the Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI) in collaboration with the National Agricultural Quarantine Inspection Authority (NAQIA) and NARI also marked the start of a plant health system (PHS) program in PNG. The program referred to as, PlantWise Plus, is CABI's successful global program designed to help protect and increase agricultural productivity for better food security and economic development. The PlantWise Plus program is expected to be rolled out in the country during the year when all formalities are in place.

The program will allow the country to predict, prevent and prepare for plant health threats through effective and sustainable measures so that our smallholders farmers are able to produce the required quantity and quality of food in the face of a changing climate. The workshop was successful in connecting the stakeholders involved in PNG's Plant Health System, understand their roles and responsibilities, and identify priority areas to deliver in the country.

NAQIA's General Manager for Technical Services Mr David Tenakanai thanked CABI as the PlantWise Plus program will also be able to strengthen the current existing plant health services provided by NAQIA in PNG, and is expected to improve the prevention and detection of invasive pests and diseases.

Representatives from Cocoa Board, Coffee Industry Cooperation, Oil Palm Researchers Association, Kokonas Industri Koporesen, Ramu Agri-business, University of Technology, PNG Women in Agriculture, Division of Agriculture Morobe Province, NAQIA, and NARI participated at the workshop.

The CABI team was led by Dr Arnaud Costa, coordinator of the program for Asia and SE Asia based in Malaysia. The Plantwise Plus is already being implemented in 34 countries and is earmarked to be rolled in PNG starting this July.

Female officers complete studies

Two female officers have completed their studies and graduated from the PNG University of Technology (UNITECH) and Pacific Institute of Leadership and Governance (PILAG) respectively this year.

Cresencia Mathew served as an accountant before taking further study and graduated with a Bachelor of Business in Accountancy from UNITECH.

Ms Mathew's says the

course made her appreciate the role she plays and motivated her to be loyal, accountable and taking responsibility in her capacity to serve the institute.

"Skilled employees also contributes to personal development and benefits the institute. We are obliged to serve with various capacities to help NARI deliver on its mandate," she expressed.

Ms Pandau studied accounting at PILAG in Port Moresby.

"The course helped me understand my role as a public servant better and will help me keep up with the changes in the accounting system used the by the government." Ms Pandau's study focused on work ethics, behaviour of a public servant, learning the new accounting system and urged fellow colleagues to consider studies at PILAG to enhance their skills and knowledge.

She is currently serving as the administration assistant at the Highlands High Altitude Regional Centre in Tambul, Western Highlands.



Cresencia Mathew receiving her Bachelors Degree from UNITECH Head of Business Studies Mathew Kuusa.



Beverlyn Pandau.

Working with partners to revive local livelihood

NARI will carry out a basic assessment to identify what locals from the community of Nodup in East New Britain require and provide planting materials.

This activity is part of an economic intervention program to help the people of Nodup restore their livelihood after they were displaced by the twin-volcanic eruption in 1994.

The intervention program aims to improve their livelihoods by introducing economic activities through a partnership between Kokonas Industri Koporesen, NARI, PNG University of Natural Resources and Environment, Kairak Resource Centre and Fresh Produce Development Agency.

NARI will conduct trials to assess and see how well crops can grow in the volcanic ash area.

To commence the economic intervention program, KIK and its partners assured the Nodup community that they will work with them to rebuild their lives through sustainable economic activities.



Farewell Kua Guman!

After spending a quarter of his life as the centre manager at the Highlands Regional Centre in Aiyura, Eastern Highlands, Kua Guman was given a fitting farewell.

Mr Guman had been very influential and displayed a distinct style of leadership with strong work ethics and standard to the staff of Aiyura and the institute during his tenure.

The humble 'Simbu man' as most staff would refer to, in Aiyura, where he had served most of his career, made meaningful contribution to the growth and progress of NARI.

Tissue Culture Laboratory Manager Winnie Maso expressed, "His good work ethics helped raise some of us, to where we are now and without a doubt, his legacy will live throughout the years to come."

Other staff and those who had known Mr Guman spoke highly of his leadership and commitment towards his role as centre manager.

Mr Guman began his career with DAL in 1996 at Kuk Research Station before joining NARI January 01, 2000.

NARI wishes Mr Guman a well deserved retirement!



Kuman Guman (*right*) and Aiyura's Research Development Coordinator Johannes Pakatul.



Livestock staff Michael Daing mixing feed ingredients as part of feed preparation for livestock at Labu.

Workshop participants extend rice work in AROB & Milne Bay

Since their participation in a rice production workshop facilitated by NARI, extension officers from Milne Bay and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville have extended their field program in their respective provinces.

Emma Maxwell, officer with the Department of Primary Industry based in Kieta expressed that more farmers have requested for rice seed.

She said that 250 kilograms of NARI rice seed supplied earlier this year has run out.

Some farmers from Kieta will be harvesting rice from seeds supplied by NARI.

The Milne Bay Provincial DAL under its food security rice program, procured 20 diesel-powered rice mills for farmers in Milne Bay including areas such as Yeneyanene within Alotau district.

The officers from both provinces are thankful to NARI and Taiwan Technical Mission for their technical support.



Diesel-powered rice mills purchased by Milne Bay Provincial DAL for rice farmers.

Sweetpotato and banana plantlets bound for Malaysia



Staff at the Momase Regional Centre are preparing sweetpotato and banana plantlet samples to send to Malaysia as part of strengthening work on the use of mutation breeding on vegetatively propagated crops (VPC).

The samples will undergo a radiation process to improve their resilience to climate change.

By improving the propagative traits of sweetpotato and banana will not only improve resilience to climate change, it will enhance productivity and address food security.

Sweetpotato and banana are two of the major staples in PNG apart from cassava and yam.



Maintaining the collection of field crops



This banana field collection is currently maintained at the Momase Regional Centre, Lae. A similar collection of crops for the lowlands is also maintained at Kerevat, East New Britain and Laloki, Central province. Field staff like William Kum (*right*) play a very important role in ensuring that various crop collections ranging from taro, banana, sweetpotato and yams are weeded, pruned and kept in good growing condition. Maintaining and conserving the diverse genetic resources for food and effective use is a function by NARI as the custodian, to promote the effective use of these resources in the country.

Model farmer extends technologies in Misima

Julie Piawi is a champion farmer from Misima in Samarai/Murua district of Milne Bay. She was one of the participants of the ToT workshops under the European Union Climate Change Resilience project implemented by NARI and ended in April, 2022.

Following her participation she was given livestock breeding stock, seed materials and information.

Planting materials given to Ms Piawi were planted at the district's agriculture station.

Ms Piawi is still maintaining and has distributed planting materials including bean, pumpkin and tomato seed to various locations in Misima.

To enable Ms Piawi to continue helping her community in agricultural activities by forming a women's group called the Purpose of Association.

NARI is grateful for the efforts of Ms Piawi in distributing various technologies in Samarai/Murua district, Milne Bay.



Champion farmer Julie Piawi standing in the middle of her rice field. *Photo: Julie Piawi*



A female farmer showing her taro harvest from seed material distributed by Julie Piawai.



Drying rice

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).

Contact details

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Water filtration test



Vanilla beans, blended and extracted.

Guesthouse Enquiries



Hilltop Guesthouse

Aiyura, Eastern Highlands

Phone: 7969 5466 between 8am to 5pm

Contact person: Tamo Tarra

Email: tamo.tarra@nari.gov.pg

Western Pacific Guesthouse

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Gadi Ling Guesthouse

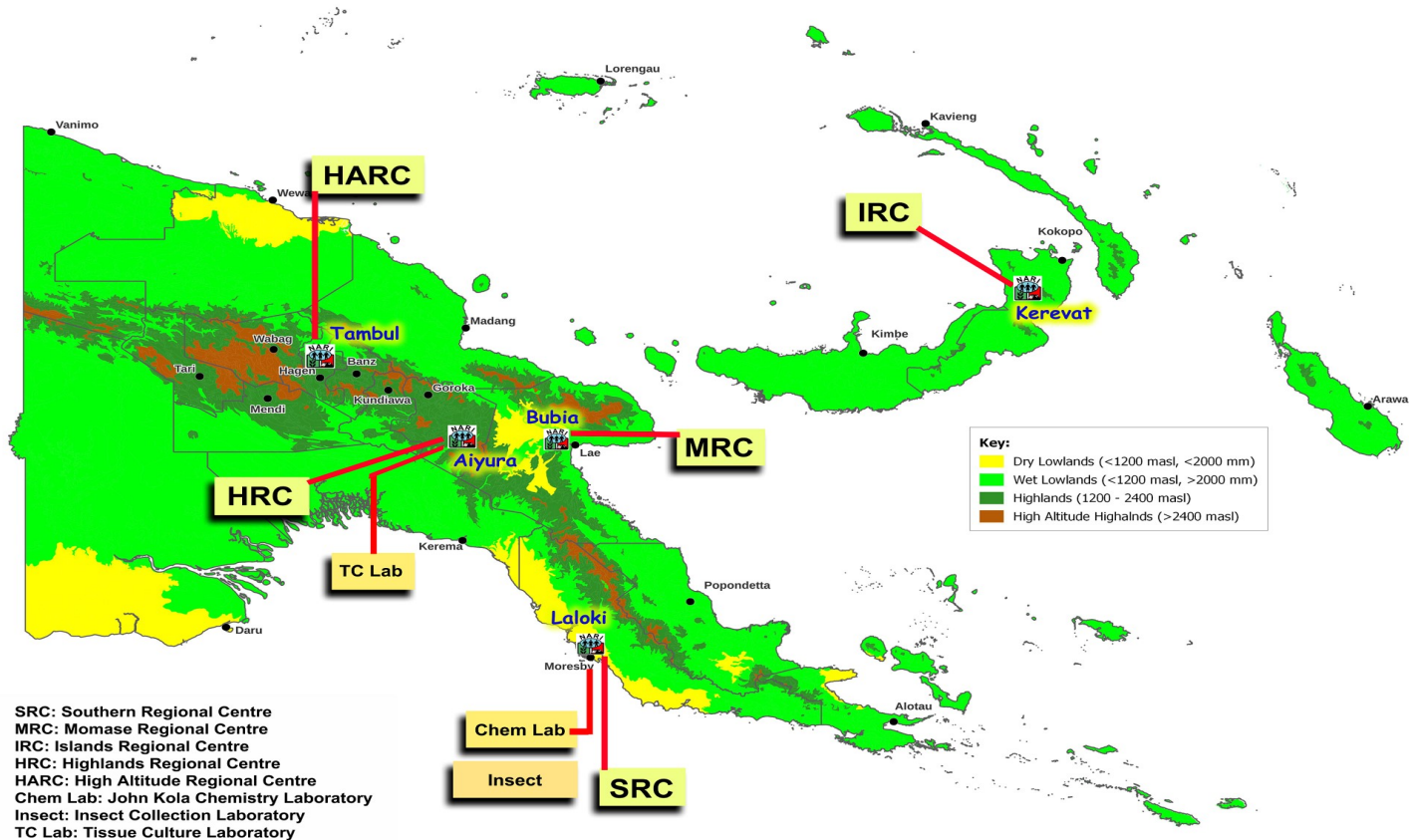
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The National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) was established by an Act of National Parliament of Papua New Guinea (PNG) in July 1996 as a public funded, statutory research organisation, to conduct and foster applied and adaptive research into:

- 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.