



Nius

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26 YEARS
of Dedicated
Agricultural Research for
Sustainable Development

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Welcome to the 4th 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

Research must take a leading role: Dr Simbiken

Research plays a very pivotal role in the development of the agriculture sector in Papua New Guinea.

NARI Director General Dr Nelson Simbiken challenged staff during his welcome to have a new insight and progress with changes within the agriculture sector.

Dr Simbiken says for far too long research has not been very visible within the agriculture space and needs to have a central coordination.

“ We need to bridge that gap. Research must take the leading role in development. You need to build on the strength, advantages and a lot of effort that you have put in,” expressed Dr Simbiken.

NARI has done some research with some commercial value like galip which is now on the shelf for food security.

Dr Simbiken says that we need to feed Papua New Guinea and that is the gap we need to bridge through research.

Our research needs to take a leading role to ensure it leads to more production of PNG-made products.

Apart from the ongoing research, Dr Simbiken said staff should be awarded for their efforts.

Dr Simbiken also acknowledged and thanked the senior management, staff for their support and outgoing Acting Director General Warea Orapa for his leadership during his tenure.

Principal Accountant/Internal Auditor John Wamine was also farewelled after 10 years of service.



Director General Dr Nelson Simbiken.



Outgoing Acting Director General Warea Orapa cuts the cake

University of Goroka students complete industrial training

Eight students from the University of Goroka completed six weeks of industrial training focused on crops and livestock with the Momase Regional Centre in Lae, Morobe province.

Their industrial training looked at identifying pests and diseases on crops such as sweetpotato, banana and corn, use of farm machinery such as power tiller, cultivator, conducting seed germination tests using rice seed, weighing ducks, pigs, goats, introduction to poultry hatchery, basic husbandry practices involved in raising inland fish, culling of sheep and goats, producing useful compost with goat and sheep manure.

The students expressed that they had learnt a lot through practical sessions with staff at the Momase Regional Centre and look forward to making their final presentations at the end of their six weeks of industrial training.

The students did presentations on what they have learnt and experienced working under crops and livestock with technical officers from the MRC.

The eight students are doing their third year studies in Agriculture Extension at the University of Goroka.



Learning about taro leaf blight in the field.



Industrial students drying out a mixture of sheep manure and grass in the sun as part of their livestock practical activity.

Agriculture officers learn skills in farm machinery

A team of five agriculture officers from Eastern Highlands, Jiwaka, Simbu and Southern Highlands went through three days of training, as trainer of trainers, on how to operate farm machinery.

The training was facilitated by Anton Beko and officers from the Momase Regional Centre in Lae to enable the agriculture officers with skills to operate machines such as the cultivator and power tiller.

A cultivator is a farm machine that is used to break up soil and remove weeds while a power tiller is used on the ground or mud to plow, level, and thresh.

Mr Beko is confident that the officers will be able to train farmers in their respective provinces using the farm machinery through the Public Investment Program project's objective in distributing small farm machinery and increasing agricultural production by smallholder farmers.

The ToT training for the agriculture officers on the use of farm machinery was run from August 16 to 19 at the Momase Regional Centre in Lae, Morobe province.



Field assistant Willie Kum provides guidance for one of the officers during the training.

Regional consultation for new agriculture plan

East New Britain hosted the first of regional consultation workshops facilitated by the National Research Institute in partnership with the agriculture sector agencies from August 10 to 11.

Sector agencies including NARI converged to discuss and develop strategies to improve the agriculture sector to support the country's economy.

Among discussions were the need to have specialised skills, use of farm machinery, driving sector forward with passionate working attitude, working effectively and closely with farmers, setting up a monitoring and evaluation team within each sector organisation; having proper data base system through research, develop resilience among vulnerable communities during natural disasters and working closely with the private sector among others.

Similar regional consultation meetings for the agriculture sector were staged in Lae, Goroka and Port Moresby.



Sector agencies in East New Britain and Consultation Workshop facilitators.



Acting Research Development Coordinator Godfrey Hannet making a presentation after having group discussion exercise.

Traditional knowledge still useful in farming

Being able to learn about indigenous knowledge from East New Britain, Morobe and Eastern Highlands is the highlight of the video production team from Goroka University's Centre for Social and Creative Media and NARI.

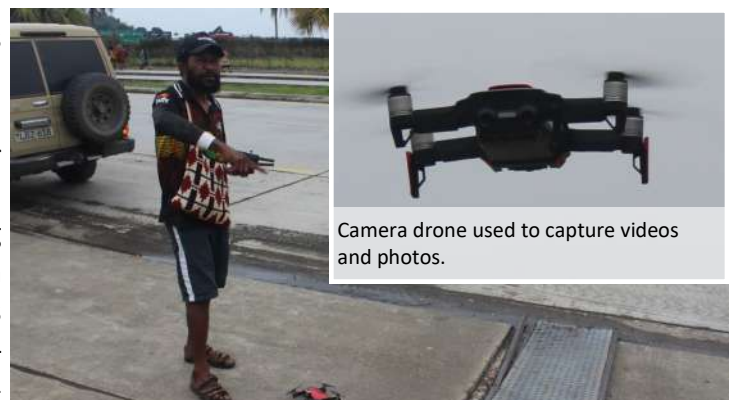
CSCM's Officer Dianne Singut says developing videos is part the Climate Smart Agriculture project objective, which tries to find the value of indigenous farming and hope it can be incorporated as a useful information tool for sustainable farming in PNG.

Ms Singut says working with the farmers in East New Britain and Morobe enabled them to learn how farmers are able to cope with challenges brought by climate by creating their own traditional solutions.

Farmers who were interviewed say introduced or improved practices are adapted for a short period time before they resort to their traditional farming practices. The team will also interview farmers in Eastern Highlands. The video production activity is supported through ACIAR's Climate Smart Agriculture Project including NARI, CSCM and other partners.



Dianne Singut (right) with CSCM team and NARI's Natural Resources Management Officer Ruth Baiga after filming at the Lae Main Market.



Camera drone pilot (operator) Elias Alex.

Team to produce videos for farmers

A team of officers from NARI are working in partnership with the University of Goroka's Centre for Social and Creative Media (CSCM) to develop videos to guide and help farmers make informed decision in agricultural production. The video production is supported by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).

They have documented video interviews with farmers in East New Britain and Morobe who shared traditional knowledge on how to predict weather, type of food that is eaten during drought, traditional farming practices, and controlling pests/disease using traditional methods.

The team visited farmers from Napapar No.2 in East New Britain and Gabsongkec, Gobadik and Poahom villages in Morobe.

The team from the CSCM and NARI will work together to develop videos from Morobe, East New Britain and Eastern Highlands using seasonal forecast information and best management practices to help farming communities improve their resilience and agricultural production.

Videos will be shown to farmers to get feedbacks and improve the videos before they are released.

As part of meeting the project's objectives, the team from NARI have conducted interviews as part of pretesting the Seasonal Farm Advisory with agriculture sector agencies and farmers in Morobe and East New Britain.

The sector agencies and farmers in East New Britain Morobe and Eastern Highlands, have provided very constructive feedbacks which will help to further refine the SFA.

A similar pretesting exercise was conducted in Eastern Highlands to gauge constructive feedback from relevant stakeholders within the sector.

The video production activity is part of the ACIAR's support to enhance food production and improve resilience in PNG through the use of useful weather information.

The team will compile videos and pretest them with engaged farmers before they are finalised for distribution as an informational tool to the farming community.



Conducting video interview with taro farmers from Musamu Village within Nawaeb district, Morobe province.



Meeting with Morobe Provincial Agriculture & Livestock Coordinator Amos Buieba to pretest the Seasonal Farm Advisory.



Eastern Highlands Provincial DAL Regional Director John Jave.



Meeting with staff from the University of Natural Resource Environment's Centre for Sustainable Rural Development in East New Britain.

Wamine thankful after serving for 10 years

John Wamine served as the principal account/internal auditor for 10 years.

Sadly, he was farewelled by staff and senior management after calling it a day on August 31, 2023.

In his parting words, Mr Wamine acknowledged the support by staff and wants to see more work done, during his ten-year tenure.

Other staff also commended Mr Wamine who had been very instrumental in overseeing revenue generating activities to sustain the institute's administrative operations.

He joined NARI on January 21, 2013.

NARI wishes Mr Wamine all the best in his future endeavor!



Mr Wamine receiving a gift from Kerevat Acting Research and Development Coordinator Godfrey Hannet as Director General Dr Nelson Simbiken looks on.



Study looks at egg productivity of village chickens

The livestock team at the Islands Regional Centre in East New Britain is running a research project in characterising the productivity of village chickens under different management systems and meeting demand for consumers.

The aim of the study is to understand different traits of village chickens under free-range, semi-intensive and intensive management systems.

The study is focusing on four eco-types or sub-species of village chicken (*refer to image*); Normal (N), Dwarf (D), Naked Neck (Nn) and Frizzle Feathered (Ff).

Part of the project's future actions is to device breeding objectives and strategies, select and breed elite strains of village chicken for growth and egg yield, monitor and evaluate village chicken input and output.

The sub-species of village chickens have shown long term stability in cultural and socio-economic aspects as well as surviving in harsh environmental conditions.



Sub-species of village chicken.



Village chicken eggs inside an electric incubator.

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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Preparing the new Ultra Liquid Performance Chromatography ready for Vanillin test on Vanilla beans



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Guesthouse Enquiries



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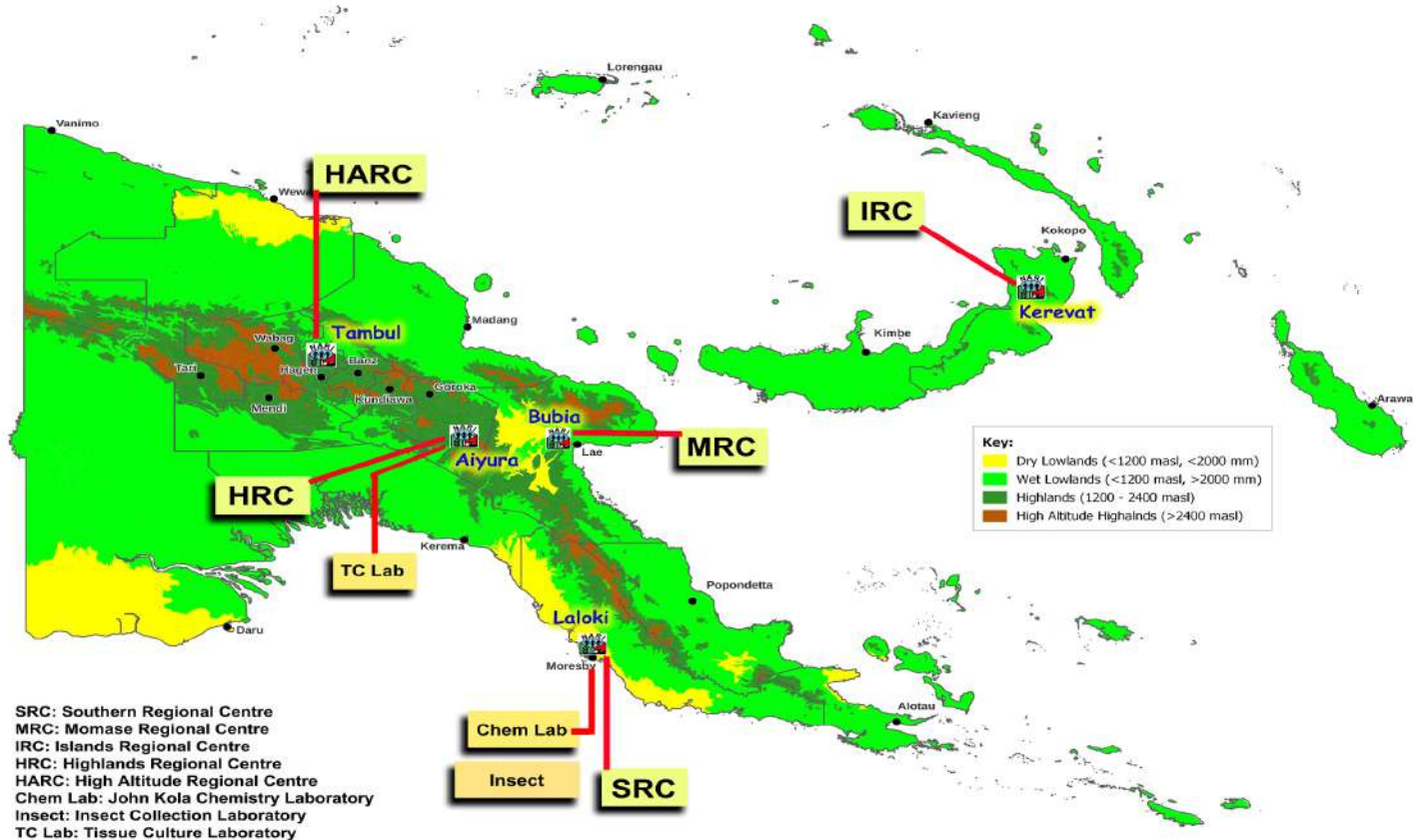
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The National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) was established by an Act of National Parliament of Papua New Guinea (PNG) in July 1996 as a public funded, statutory research organisation, to conduct and foster applied and adaptive research into:

- 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.