



# Nius

Newsletter of the PNG National Agricultural Research Institute  
Volume 27, Issue 5, September to October, 2024

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

ISSN 1608-6554

Welcome to the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of NARI Nius for 2024. 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 61<sup>st</sup>

## NARI wins top award at the 61<sup>st</sup> Morobe Agricultural Show

NARI came out as the winner in the Government and Semi-Government category at this year's Morobe Agricultural Show from October 19 to 20.

This top award stems from a change in NARI's display which includes the Wantok Produce Limited and a sustainable agricultural farming model under the Climate Smart Agriculture display as well as its crops, farm machinery, aquaculture set up, livestock and others displayed at Morobe Agricultural Show.

NARI successful award is a testament of how much effort and support has been made with preparations by its staff from the Momase Regional Centre and Head Office, and others who have contributed towards its participation at this year's 61<sup>st</sup> Morobe Agricultural Show.

Also featured at this year's show is the breadfruit project which was displayed through a pull up banner, distribution of information pamphlets including the 'seed man' which provided photo opportunities for many show goers.

NARI is looking forward to participation in the next Morobe Agricultural Show to showcase various displays from crops, livestock, farm machinery and relevant information to the farming community and nation as a whole.



Team NARI including Wantok Produce Ltd displaying the winning certificate



Technical Editor Ms Margaret Sepi, Deputy Director General Dr Peter Gendua and Crop Improvement Scientist Jeffrey Waki dis-



Sustainable Agriculture Farming, one of the main display highlights at the NARI stall.



Research Technical Officer Martin Raurela presenting information about livestock feed.

## Late officer served with passion and humility

Despite living a fair distance from the Labu Livestock area, the passion and humility to serve was what drove late Ms Yufubiang Buna to continue her tenure until her untimely passing this year.

Ms Buna will be mostly remembered for faithful and loyal duties mainly assisting at the poultry project at Labu since December 13, 2014.

Her undivided support towards her duty at the livestock area continued apart from being a mother to her children and a wife to her husband.

Ms Buna will be dearly missed as an active member of NARI through her participation in workshops and corporate events.

The management, staff and NARI Community convey our heartfelt condolence to her husband, two children and immediate family.

A brief funeral service was held at the AQ Hall for staff at the Momase Regional Centre and NARI Head Office to pay their last respects before her casket made a brief stopover at the Labu Livestock area,



NARI staff paying their respects to late Ms Yufubia Banu.



Acting Director General Dr Gendua and other senior staff making a presentation of cash contribution to the family of late Yufubia.

then on to the family residence at Busu and on to Finschhafen on October 26 where she was laid to rest.

## Kerevat marks World Food Day with a field day

NARI plays a very important role in ensuring that sustainable agriculture is realised through efforts in research and dissemination of technologies to help farmers increase agricultural productivity.

Program Director Laurie Fooks mentioned this when officiating at the World Food Day and Field Day celebrations at the Islands Regional Centre in Kerevat East New Britain from October 16 to 17.

His message reaffirms the World Food Day theme, "Innovation for Sustainable and Nutritious Food" with aim of improving food security and sustainability in Papua New Guinea.

NARI Council Representative for the Islands Region Ronnie Ilam shared similar thoughts saying NARI's contribution was vital to enable farmers to have access to agricultural tools to improve their livelihood.

Miss Bill Wartovo, Regional Director of the Department of Agriculture Livestock expressed that food and water security were vital including the need for farm mechanisation to improve rice production in the country.

The launching of a front loader tractor and other farm machinery was officially launched by Mr Ilam and other official guests from Coconut Products Ltd, and UNRE Kairak Estate. Other displays to compliment the World Food Day and Field day comprised of galip tree production and processing, spices and product diversification, livestock feed



Female participants at one of the spice exhibitions.

production techniques featuring the black soldier fly larvae as feed, integrated pest management techniques, bio-sand filter, a water filtration technology designed provide clean water.

Other organisations participated by setting up exhibitions include PNG University of Natural Resources and Environment's Kairak Learning Resource Centre, NAQIA, National Forestry Authority, CIC, Cocoa Board of PNG, Farmset Limited, Trukai Industries' Model Rice Farmers, East New Britain Women and Youth in Agriculture, Frangipani Foods Limited, FPDA, New Ireland and East New Britain DAL, Live and Learn (NGO), New Zealand Volunteer Services Abroad, Rabaul and Gazelle district, over 2000 farmers, students and stakeholders attended.

## Staff awarded for best independence dressing

NARI staff marked this year's 49<sup>th</sup> Independence celebrations with a slight difference this year, by awarding staff in their best independence attire.

Prizes were awarded in two categories; male and female which were scored and judged by the organising committee.

The winners for the male category were Edwin Wavite, Emmanuel Kupe, Iramu Mangao and Suri Simon. Martina Genkawa was awarded first place followed by Bridgit Samor for contract staff, and Sharon Saki, Giam Awayu, Dorothy Kora, Anne Matage, Rachael Raphael and Gailla Kipige received awards for the ancillary division.

NARI Council Chairman Nimo Kama joined in the celebrations and urged staff to celebrate in the true spirit of independence despite challenges faced by our leaders to see us enjoy freedom.

Aureko Amoj, Financial Controller in his speech defined what independence is

NARI Head Office and the Momase Regional Centre jointly celebrated independence with their families, starting with a prayer, flag-raising, national pledge, speeches, presentation of best independence attire awards, and light refreshment. Other regional centres also celebrated the country's 49<sup>th</sup> Independence.



Best Independence Dressing-(contract) Male Category winner Edwin Wavite.



Best Independence Dressing Female Category (ancillary) winner Sharon Saki



The 49th Independence judges (left to right) Ms Susan Manasi, Ms Ruth Baiga, Aureko Amoj, James Laraki, Ms Margaret Sepi and Ms Lina Asiri.

# 49<sup>th</sup> Independence in pictures



## Distributing seeds and adapting farm technologies vital

An outreach team from the Highlands Regional Centre in Aiyura, Eastern Highlands was invited to facilitate a practical session on stewardship, aiming to provide local farmers, essential research-based knowledge to improve food security, and income, particularly in the context of climate change.

The session was run with participants at the Seventh Day Adventist camp site at Tairora of Obura-Wanenara district, Eastern Highlands.

Officers Yapo Jeffrey and Wilfred Wau highlighted the growing threat posed by climate change to the agriculture landscape in PNG, with discussions on rising temperatures, irregular weather patterns, and prolonged dry periods which is increasingly undermining the traditional farming system in the highlands.

Messages were delivered on how climate change is affecting food security, livelihoods and the need for farmers to be resilient by using improved farming technologies to maintain crop production, create income opportunities and taking advantage of Tairora's agricultural potential.

Other information on pathogen-tested cultivars of sweetpotato, potato, taro, upland rice, drought tolerant cassava, banana, yam and sweetpotato were presented, stressing on the importance of integrating improved agricultural practices on soil, pest and disease management and having a sustainable food production system. A total of 1,000 seed planting materials on the commercial varieties; Gimani, Waghi Besta and Rachael, along with 120 kilograms of upland rice seed, and 60 kilograms of potato were distributed to farmers.

Seed multiplication techniques for sweetpotato, taro, yam, plant and row-spacing for potato were demonstrated.

Farmers were encouraged to visit the NARI office in Aiyura to have access to information and technical support in order to extend beyond the subsistence style of farming

The response from over 1,000 members of the Tairora community was overwhelmingly positive and welcomed innovative techniques that can revolutionize their farming practices in light of irregular weather patterns and limited access to



Part of the seed planting materials displayed by staff from Aiyura, Eastern Highlands.



Camp participants listening attentively before the seed planting materials were distributed.

high quality planting materials.

A local farmer shared, "In recent years, we've experienced more unpredictable weather, along with an increase in pests, diseases, and the human population, making it difficult to grow enough food. These new seeds and techniques from NARI give us hope so we can still provide for our families, even with the changes in climate." Church leaders applauded NARI's efforts, emphasizing the critical role agriculture plays in sustaining the community's livelihood and called for ongoing collaboration to ensure that rural farmers have access to the knowledge and tools needed to survive.

NARI continues to play a crucial role in ensuring that high-quality seeds are distributed and promote innovative farming technologies to help farmers adapt, improve and become more resilient in light of the negative effects of climate change like the outreach for the community of Tairora in Eastern Highlands.

By empowering community in Tairora, they can be able to maintain food production, improve their livelihoods, and create a more secure future.

## Services offered by NARI

The Professor John Kola Chemistry Laboratory offers a wide range of analytical and diagnostic testing services. We are a national chemical testing laboratory and have been operating for over 30 years.

Our 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).

**Prof John Kola Chemistry Laboratory  
Kilakila**

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Aquatek Analyser for measuring Ammonium in water



Quality Control Chemist, carrying out food testing on the Fat extraction equipment

## Guesthouse Enquiries



### Western Pacific Guesthouse

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### Hill Top Guesthouse

**Aiyura, Eastern Highlands**

**Phone:** 7969 5466 between 8am to 5pm

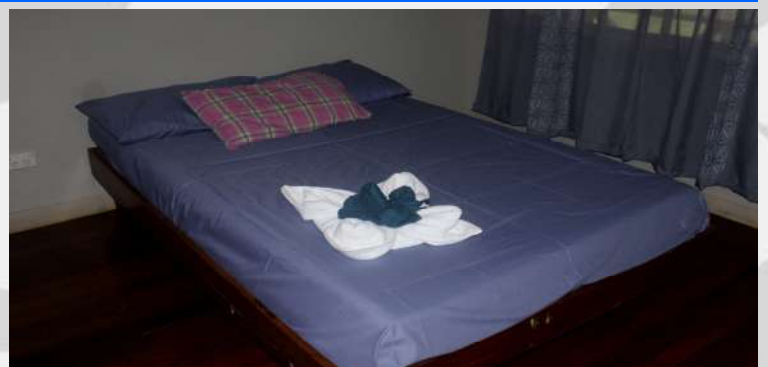
**Contact person:** Tamo Tarra  
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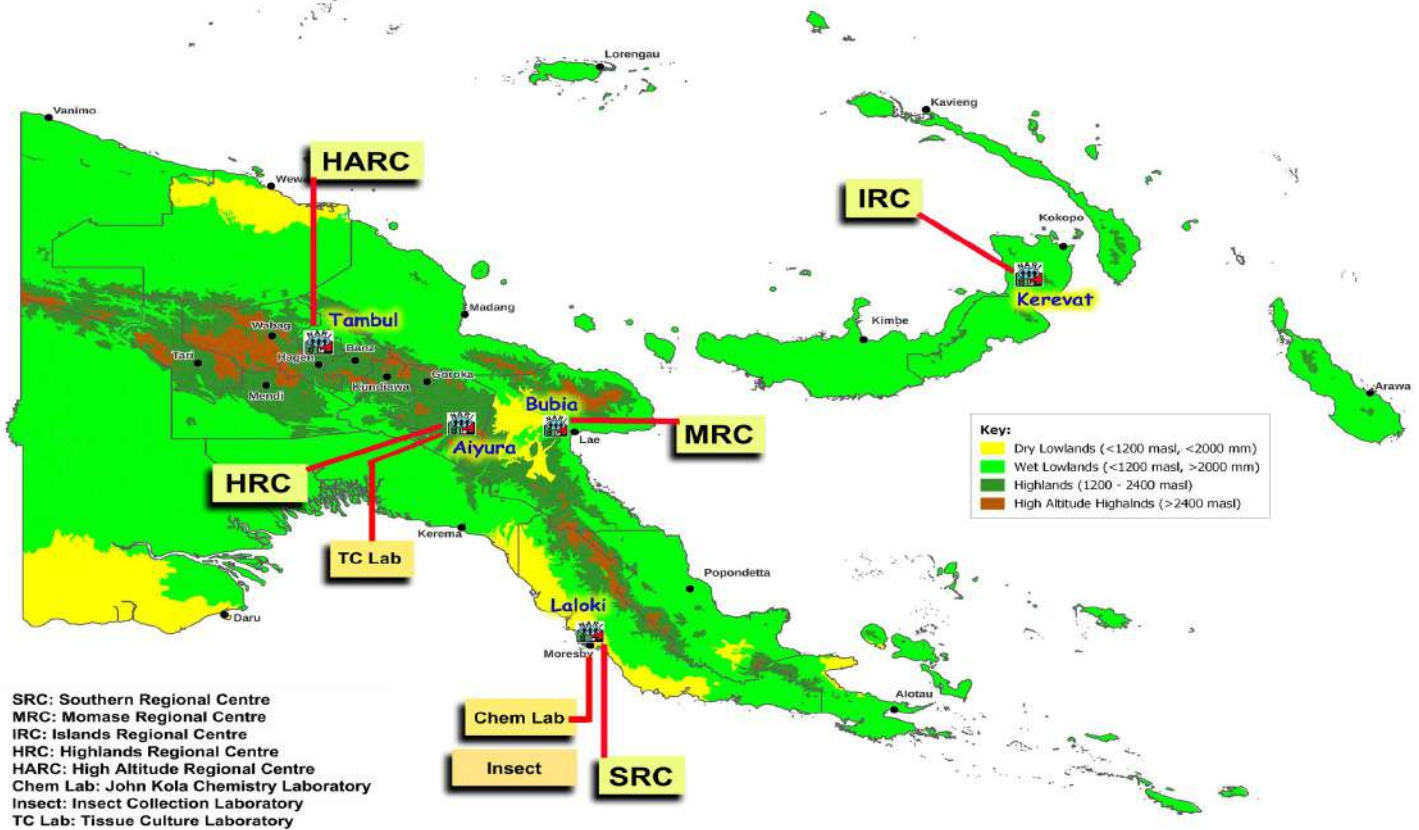
### Gadi Ling Guesthouse

**Kerevat, Rabaul, East New Britain**

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## For more information Our Regional Centres



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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.