Nius

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28 YEARS of Dedicated Agricultural Research for Sustainable Development

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Welcome to the 1st edition of NARI Nius for 2026. If you have any comments or contributions please drop us a line at: ***naripng@nari.gov.pg*** *for an e-copy.*

Corporate uniforms for a change

The contract staff of NARI have worked without a professional attire for thirty years.

Budget constraints made the dream, nearly impossible, with priority given to field gears for protective wear.

Papua New Guinea celebrated 50 years of Independence and with a national call for renewal and reset, it was timely that NARI finally gifted its staff with a professional look.



Staff and management attired in corporate uniforms.

In a small but significant ceremony, held at the Allan Quartermain Hall in Bubia, Morobe Province, NARI staff gathered to officially launch the corporate uniforms.

Staff proudly wore the Blue shirts, with black skirts and trousers.

NARI Centres from Keravat, Tambul, Aiyura, Laloki and Kila Kila joined the historic moment via zoom.

Staff acknowledged the Management for a timely gesture, as it signifies professionalism, unity, and pride in serving the sector.

Director General of NARI Dr Nelson Simbiken said while Scientists didn't need uniforms as they were more focused on technology development and innovation, it was a gesture to unite and motivate the team moving forward.

"The new corporate wear gives pride, motivation and ownership to our staff. For the last 30 years, NARI has not been able to adorn itself with a corporate wear.

"Given varying views, Scientists are not too keen on corporate wears. They put their mind into technology development so corporate wear didn't mean anything to them but it's exciting to note that many have embraced it, as it gives them the renewed empowerment.

"We'd like our staff to take ownership, take pride and be motivated and be patriotic," Dr. Simbiken expressed.

NARI is undergoing three major reforms of technological, institutional and policy and wants staff to contribute effectively to this transformation.

"NARI Reset@30 is a defining call for transformation and reformation of how NARI conducts its research and development in partnership with key stakeholders.

"NARI will upscale its technologies to ensure there is greater transformation of our farmers from being subsistence farmers to agri-entrepreneurs and/or to agri-businesses.

"In NARI, the reset is, what we as individual scientists, research officers, and technologists can do for the country."

Late Robert Geno was a great team player

Late Robert Geno has been described as a great team player, who has brought so much warmth and positivity to NARI especially in Aiyura, Eastern Highlands.

Mr Geno sadly passed away at the Kainantu Hospital on Sunday February 8th after a short illness.

Apart from working as an entomologist with NARI, Mr Geno was a senior mentor in the Aiyura Valley Basketball Association for students in Aiyura Valley and others.

The management and staff of NARI paid their last respect to late Robert in Lae before his casket was flown to rest at Gaire in Rigo District, Port Moresby.

May his soul, rest in eternal peace!



Late Dr Robert Kei Geno

Renovation work commences at insect collection centre

Renovation work has commenced at the National Agriculture Insect Collection Centre (NAIC) in Port Moresby.

NAIC is an arm of the National Agricultural Research Institute and is the only national centre that houses over 90 000 specimens of insects.

Insect collections are essential for scientific research, education and conservation efforts. They provide valuable resources for species identification, discovery and monitoring of insect populations.



Officers of National Agricultural Insect Collection, Deputy Director General Dr Peter Gendua (right) with principle of JS Engineering.

Properly preserved and stored specimens can be enjoyed and studied for hundreds of years, contributing to our understanding of biodiversity and the ecological importance of insects. Development of the NAIC database began in 2018 with recording of 24 035 specimens belonging to 2 183 species from **four** orders: Lepidoptera, Hemiptera, Hymenoptera and Orthoptera. The collection has now grown to 96 744 specimens with over **sixteen** orders. Through a tender process, NARI has awarded the contract to JS Engineering based in Port Moresby to carry out renovation works at the value of K 210,000.

The contractor was selected based on proven record of completing work on time and within budget.

The contract was signed between the contractor and the NARI Management on 2nd February 2026. The renovation work will include purpose-built rooms to store and preserve insect specimens, work room to clean the specimens and the display room to showcase the specimens. There is also general work to improve office and rest rooms for staff.

The Institute's Management received full funding in 2025 from the Department of National Planning, under the Public Investment Program (PIP). Work is set to be completed in April 2026. Preservation and data collection on the insects found in the country is key in agricultural research work. It helps scientists understand the nature of pest and diseases affecting crops. Signing the contract on behalf of NARI, was Deputy Director General Dr. Peter Gendua. Dr Gendua expressed gratitude to the National Government through the Department of National Planning for supporting this small but significant project.

UNITECH students show keen interest in agriculture research

Seven students who are studying Bachelor of Agriculture Science at the PNG University of Technology have shown great interest in research following their six weeks of Industrial Training with the National Agricultural Research Institute.

As part of their Third (3) Year assessment, five of the students were attached with the Momase Regional Centre's Livestock, Crop and Biotechnology Laboratory, at Bubia, Morobe Province and two at the Highlands Regional Centre, at Aiyura, Eastern Highlands Province.

The students in Lae, included, Mr Bradley Kenatsi, Mr Peter Nanau, Mr Victor Omot, Miss Lynette Tina and Miss Georgina Roy, while the students in Aiyura, were Miss Mischelle Algua and Mr Tilda Krane Gigil.

Projects assigned to the students include Rice post-harvest processing, Poultry hatchery operation and brooder management, Black soldier fly farming and operations, Disease detection and identification for sweet potato and taro, and the Effect of liquid and solid media targeting mass propagation of local (Numkowe) and NARI Taro (NT06) varieties.

The students were supervised by NARI Researchers, Ms Janiella Aidaboe, Ms Lucinda Gam, Ms Charlotte Okawiong, Mr Martin Raurela and Mr Edwin Wavite.

In Aiyura the students were engaged in producing planting materials using the mini sett technique on yam, cassava and nodal cutting on sweet potato, with additional skills in Screenhouse management, designing and marking out field plots, preparing soil samples, and strengthening other practical skills.

Assessing the germination of wheat seeds was the highlight of their six weeks of industrial training which mainly involved data collection, analysis, and interpretation.



Carrying out laboratory work.



Students and supervisors at Momase Regional Centre in Lae.



Bradley Kenatsi at the rice field, Momase Regional Centre, Lae.

Among the students, Mr Victor Omot and Ms Georgina Roy shared their experiences and wished they had more time. Omot who plans to be an Agriculture Researcher was attached with Black Soldier Fly Farming and Operations.

"I have learnt a lot especially with the livestock section, mainly Black Soldier Fly, aquaculture, and other animal husbandry practices. My vision is to help others and improve in the way we practice farming in the near future," expressed Mr Omot.

Ms Roy's field time and data analysis on disease detection in sweet potato and taro, convinced her to pursue research in the future.

"Agriculture is evolving through research mainly in crop diseases and how to find ways to address them. There is a lot that can be done to improve the way we practice farming. It was good getting feedback from Papua New Guinean scientists who encouraged us to continue pursuing agriculture science," expressed Ms Roy.

The students concluded their training earlier this month, with a final PowerPoint presentation before NARI Scientists and their supervisors.

NARI's Principal Scientist (Breeding, Genomics & Biotechnology), Dr Caleb Breria encouraged the students to grasp the scientific research aspect of agriculture and the importance of data collection, analysis, and reporting. NARI wishes the students well in their final year of study.

NARI participates at first press club event



Director General Dr Nelson Simbiken was the first guest speaker at this year's Press Club event organised by the PNG Media Council on January 28.

Dr Simbiken highlighted reforms, challenges taking place at NARI and opportunities. He emphasised that there is a need for partnership with sector organisations, calling on the national government to establish a National Innovations Grant Scheme with a specific fiscal grant arrangement of 0.5 percent revenue collected from the resource sector. The transformation of NARI and a coordinated National Agricultural Research Systems are critical to the Implementation of the National Agriculture Sector Plan and National Development priorities. NARI acknowledges the PNG Media Council and partners for this platform.



It's always a pleasure to receive visitors at NARI Research Stations. NARI had the opportunity to meet ACIAR's Research Program Manager for Crops, Dr Leigh Vial, and Country Manager, Dr Norah Omot with NARI Mechanisation Officer, Mr Stacey Rulete, at the Momase Regional Centre (MRC).



This is the rice demonstration field at Aiyura, Eastern Highlands. This rice is commonly known as 'Ox & Palm variety which has a very strong aroma, taste and color that resembles Ox & Palm canned meat.



This tractor was procured through the Public Investment Program (PIP) from Ela Motors for research work at the Momase Regional Centre, Lae and other areas such as Erap in the near future. A brief dedication event was conducted by Pastor Kevin Wawundi of Good Samaritan Foursquare Church. Estate Manager Morris Oromu, MRC Centre Manager and staff we present to witness the dedication of the new tractor.

Laboratory 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 Commision (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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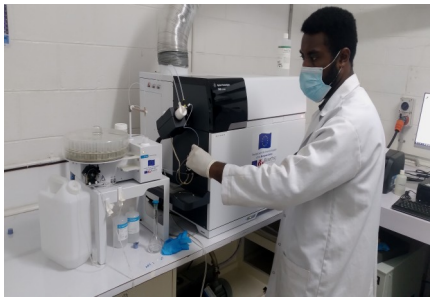


Aquatek Analyser for measuring Ammonium in water

What we test for in the laboratory in pictures



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



Test to determine mineral elements such as Calcium, Magnesium, Potassium, etc and mainly used for water and environmental samples.



A high throughput & inexpensive analytical technique used to primarily test for major elements such as Calcium, Magnesium etc in food, beverage, water, plant and soils.



Extraction technique to extract from crushed, dried or ground samples with the aid of heating & refluxing to determine fats in dried nuts, grains, etc



Unit used to determine nitrogen (crude protein) content in soil, plants, food and natural products.



This is a purification system which eliminates bacteria using ultra violet radiation and provides chemical reactive water for the laboratory's daily use.

guesthouse

HILL TOP GUESTHOUSE

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Your Home Away from Home!
Includes hire for conference, workshop/meeting facilities.



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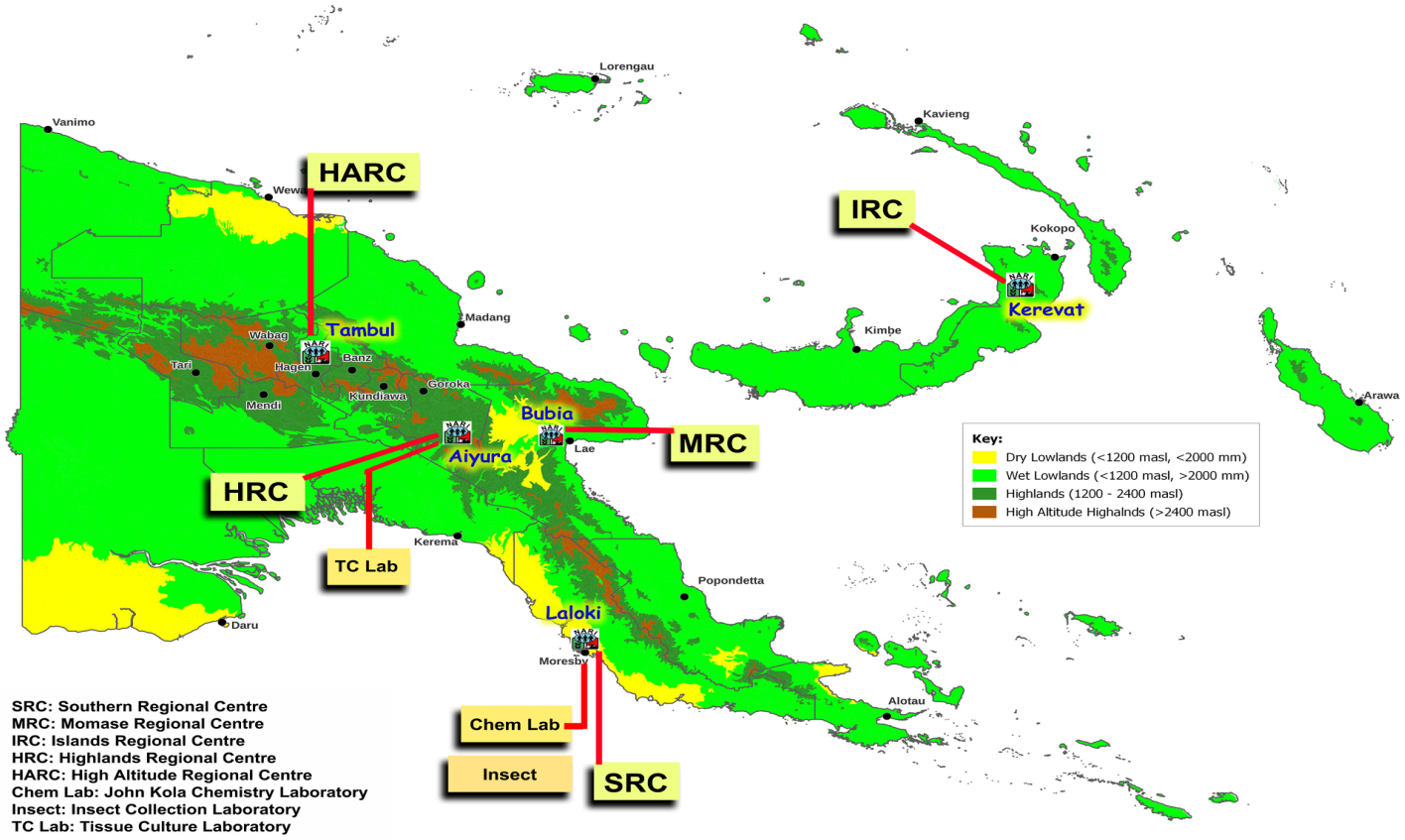
EAST NEW BRITAIN

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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:

i) any branch of biological, physical and natural sciences related to agriculture;

ii) cultural and socioeconomic aspects of the agricultural sector, especially of the smallholder agriculture; and

iii) matters relating to rural development. and of relevance to Papua New Guinea.