Nius

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28 YEARS of Dedicated Agricultural Research for Sustainable Development

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Welcome to the 3rd edition of NARI Nius for 2025. If you have any comments or contributions please drop us a line at: ***naripng@nari.gov.pg*** *for an e-copy.*

Staff excited to receive corporate uniforms after 28 years

Staff proudly wore their corporate uniforms at the 14th Agriculture Innovation Show held on the 28th May 2025. The Polo Shirts are part of three corporate uniforms for the organisation.

Since its establishment in 1996, NARI has not had the privilege of corporate attire.

Director General of NARI, Dr Nelson Simbiken met with the staff at the Headquarters for a momentous photo opportunity and encouraged the staff to embrace change.



NARI staff displaying their newly issued corporate uniforms.

"The move to change, you bring to yourself and your family conveys motivation for prosperity. Change brings prosperity.

"This new look, should bring motivation and change of perspective to drive the organisation forward," he said.

He further encouraged the staff to be excited about the future of NARI but at the same time stick to principles that have guided the organisation for the past 29 years. Thomas Omot, NARI's Manager of Assets and Properties was excited to receive his uniform after serving the organisation for 20 years. "I am thankful for this shirt, after working for NARI for 20 years, finally I have a uniform. The Polo Shirts are for representation duties. The other two corporate wears will be made available by next month."



Gou Rauka of Southern Regional Centre in her corporate uniform while attending to a query during the 14th Agricultural Innovation Show.



Inside this issue

The signing of an agreement between Design Scope Architects and NARI paves way to build the National Agricultural Information Centre for the agriculture sector.

Also inside this issue are highlights of the 14th NARI Agricultural Innovation Show including the breadfruit project and the launching of NARI's Corporate Uniform, rice testing by the Rice & Grain team,

Call for govt to support commercial rice seed production

NARI is supporting the call by the PNG Rice Grain Board on the national government to urgently support commercial rice seed production in the country.

Chairman of Rice Grain Board Koren Maso made this call when meeting with NARI Director General Dr Nelson Simbiken at the NARI Head Office on May 13, to formalize arrangements for a Memorandum of Understanding in commercial rice seed production with two external rice seed producers in the country.



(*Right to Left*) Deputy Director General Dr Peter Gendua, Rice & Grain Board Chairman Koren Maso and NARI Director General Dr Nelson Simbiken.

A funding of K11milion has been earmarked in 2023 by the National Government for rice seed production and model farm. K4 million from that funding will be specifically for seed development.

Director General of NARI, Dr Nelson Simbiken, said this is an urgent call to the Government to release the funds earmarked for the rice commercialization program.

"For the Government to enter commercialization, we need to increase the volume of seeds.

"NARI has developed four lowland and two highland rice varieties, but the volume is not enough for commercialization," said Dr Simbiken.

The joint call by the Rice & Grain Board and NARI to venture into commercial rice seed production is aimed at reducing the high cost of importing rice at almost K1billion every year.

The Rice and Grain Board were set up by the government in 2023 to reduce import of rice and grain, encourage rice production to address food security, create employment opportunities and income.

RGB Chairman Mr Maso urged relevant agencies within the sector to mobilize unused state land to realize commercial rice seed production in the country.



Winner of Best Farmer Display Agnes Merep receives her prize *(3rd from left)* from staff of Goodman Fielder International at the 14th NARI Agri-

Farmer wants to improve taro production

Susan Emunare Geoba, from Rebafu village in Sialum LLG, Tewae Siassi District paid a visit to the National Agriculture Research Institute (NARI) on May 22, after hearing about NARI's interests in taro.

Hailing from a very remote part of Morobe Province, she managed to bring with her, three samples, including a yam.

From her village in Rebafu, it took her a day of walking, to reach the coast before boarding a ship to Lae City.

For the villagers, it takes about 5 to 6 hours to walk to the coast.

"I reside in Lae so I don't have the same stamina to walk that fast," giggled Susan, but added she enjoys going to the village for, free and an abundance of fresh produce.

Susan proudly boasts of the size of Taro in her village, making reference to the height of a 50cm cooking pot and about 20cm wide.

"The Taro is so heavy I managed to bring only three samples," proudly exclaimed Susan, despite the burden of weight.

After hearing about NARI's partnership with local Taro exporters, Susan initiated discussions with her family.

"Taro is significant in our culture. It signifies wealth and earns respect among villagers.

Taro has great value in customary obligations such as Bride Price.



Taro from Sialum taro



Susan Geoba and Dr Simbiken with display of taro from Sialum.

"Every household has a taro garden, so we have a surplus. We are willing to work with NARI to see how we can expand on the production and find a cost-effective means to transport the taro out.

The major issues we have are road infrastructure, transport, and freight costs," Susan optimistically revealed.

She was however glad to have an audience with the Director General of NARI Dr Nelson Simbiken and invited NARI to visit Benafu village during the peak of harvest between August and September.

Dr Simbiken acknowledged that Morobe grows some of the best taro species in the country including NARI's Taro, NT1 through NT7.

He echoed similar concerns of road infrastructure, transport, and freight as major hindrance for commercialisation in rural areas.

"People are excited now and they want to supply taro but an issue for us is freight excess.

We want to come up with a freight subsidy scheme for Morobe Province so that we can bring taro from the outskirts of Morobe.

"We are expecting some funding assistance from the government, for freight. Once that happens, we can be able to assist farmers like Susan who will help to meet the supply demand," said Simbiken.

Agreement paves way for national information centre

A Memorandum of Agreement was signed between NARI and the Design Scope Architects (DSA) of Lae who are tasked to develop a building design and architectural plans for the National Agriculture Information Services and Data Centre (NAISDC). DSA is a registered member of the PNG Institute of Architects who is experienced and qualified to design the new building and have been previously involved in the development of NARI's guest house and biotechnology centre.



Dr Simbiken presents agreement to DSA Chief Architect Naka Jia Songake.



Naka Ifa Songake, Thomas Omot and DSA Architect Ezekiel Usu with the display of the proposed building during the Agricultural Innovations Show, on May 28, 2025

The building will serve the agriculture sector and comprise of two levels that will accommodate a display room, archives, GIS, publications, offices, kitchen and other essential services. The design will cater for people with special needs according to those of the Australian Building Standards.

Once all architectural work and documentation is complete, NARI will proceed to calling construction companies to bid through a tender process. The successful building company will sign another MoA with NARI from start to completion, followed by the commissioning and handover of the building to NARI. A Completion Certificate will be provided by the Morobe Provincial Building board to conclude the contract.

Breadfruit, ' More Than Just Food!'



The PNG Women in Agriculture Development Foundation displaying breadfruit recipes as part of the "*Raising the profile of breadfruit production in coastal and island food systems in PNG." project. PNGWiADF is a partner to the project.* Breadfruit is a very nutritious but underuterlised crop in the country.

One of the project goals is to promote cultivation to encourage food production, income generation and environment conservation. Some initial work on field visits has helped to gather data and traditional knowledge.

Sponsors of the 14th NARI Agricultural Innovation Show, 2025



Zenag staff sorting out merchandise to sell to show participants . Zenag umbrellas sold out like 'hot cakes' before the show concluded. Zenag was the bronze sponsor of K10, 000 towards the staging of the 14th NARI Agricultural Innovation Show.



Farmset Limited one of the sponsors displaying various displays of animal livestock feed among many other of their products at their stall.

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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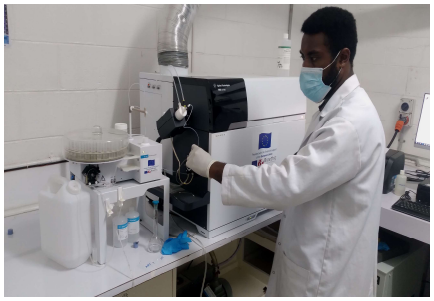


Aquatek Analyser for measuring Ammonium in water

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 ENQUIRIES



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GADI LING

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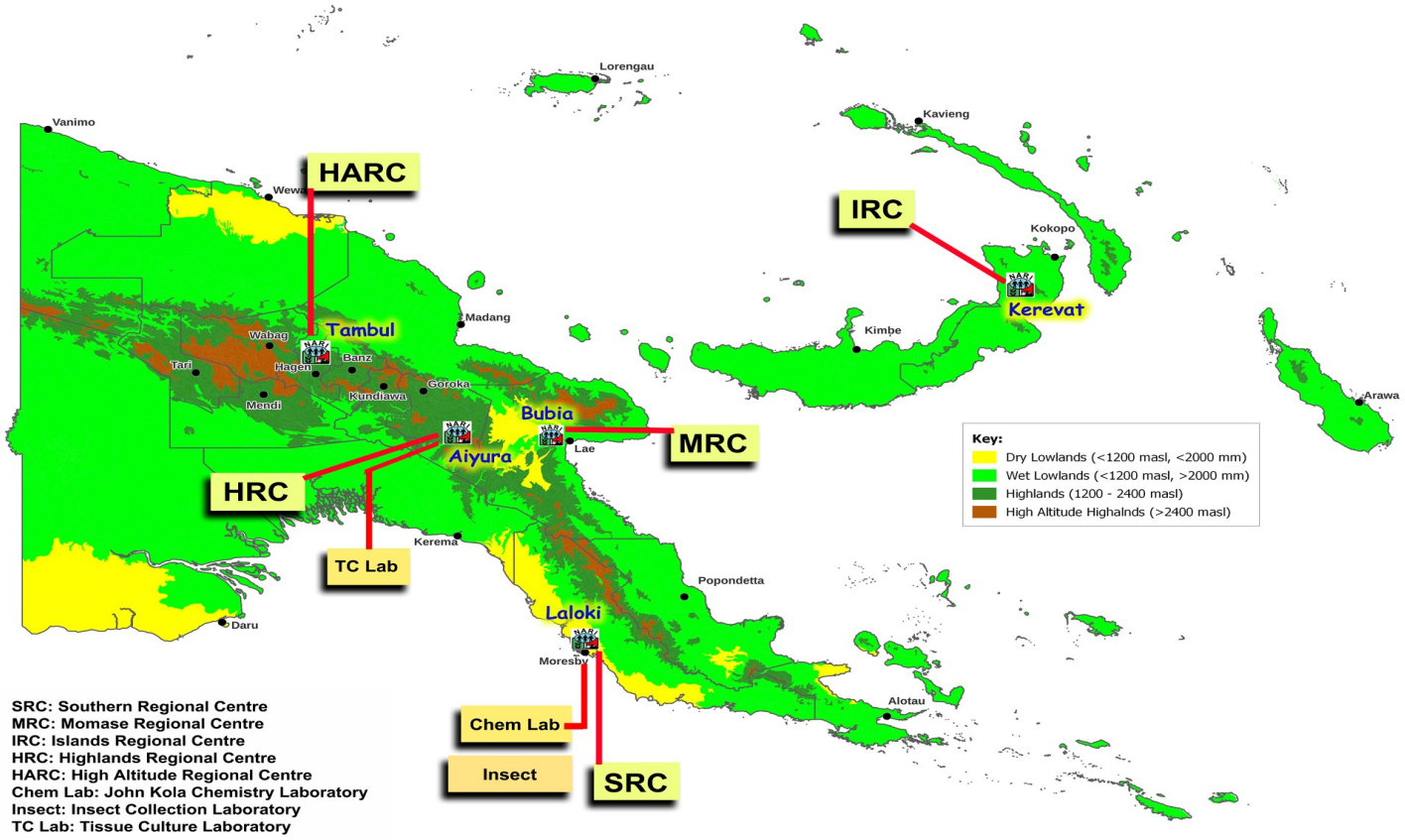
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To make your stay a ***'Home Away from Home'*** , we have guesthouses conveniently located in Lae, Eastern Highlands and East New Britain.

The next time you visit any of these locations, be sure to call in and make the most of your stay.

For more information

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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.