



AGRI PARTNERSHIPS

Bringing together business leaders, policy makers and farmers to collaboratively unlock growth in the agriculture sector and facilitate new opportunities for farming families in the Markham valley.

FOURTH QUARTER 2021

Land Access Guide Second Training Roll-out, Mutzing, Markham District



Thirty smallholder farmers from Umi –Atzera LLG in the Markham District where the second batch of farmers, who attended a three days Land Access Guide training from the 30th November - 02nd December 2021 at Mutzing Station. The Training was conducted by Grow PNG with participants from Farmers Cooperative Societies, Business Groups, SME's, Associations, and sole traders attending in person.

Ms Nina Eliseo, from Australian High Commission Papua New Guinea Second Secretary Economics, and now Acting Australian Consul- General Lae based, officiated the opening.

She remarked, "Gavaman bilong Australia em i hamamas long supportim Grow PNG long wok bung wantaim ol man meri lo kamapim wok didman na didimeri long Markham valley", Ms Eliseo said in Tok Pisin. There is huge potential to work together with all the stakeholders in developing Agriculture in the Markham valley. Such training is way forward as it supports agriculture development in the valley.

Markham District DDA CEO Mr Bebinaso who officially welcomed the participants to the training said, "People can have resources in terms of money and land but the knowledge needed to pursue and put priorities into perspective to achieve a vision, is a big issue in Markham and almost everywhere. With more of such training, we can develop the people's mindset to further think big and positively take on land development agendas and challenges positively".

The training provided an excellent opportunity for the participants to engage with content experts from the Morobe Province Division of Lands ,Customary and PNG Investment Promotion Authority (IPA).

The participants said the training have helped them to identify their lack of understanding of regulatory and legislative systems. They were also privileged to learn how to conduct a proper investor negotiation, understanding the investor requirements and what to say and how to say it during the negotiation process.

Participants were positive, expressing their appreciation in Tok Pisin; "Displa trenin em i givim mipla bel isi na mipla hamamas bikos em kam lo level bilong mipla stret, na mipla i klia gut stret". This training has given us confidence and we are happy because Grow PNG has brought this training to our level of understanding.

Grow PNG Executive Director Mr John Simango at the closing of the training, challenged the landowners to be an example in offering their land for agriculture development, and to show that an effective landowner-agribusiness partnership is possible to develop agriculture, not only in Markham, and Morobe Province but Papua New Guinea as a whole.

Highlights of the Second Land Access Guide Training

November 30th-02nd December 2021, Markham District



Ms Nina Eliseo, Acting Australian Consul-General, Lae



Mr Daroa Peter & Mr Warren Mathias
Investment Promotion Authority (IPA)



Umi-Atzera Landowners at the Training



Group Discussion on different land models



Woman farmer giving her view during group discussion



Mr Bohage Bebinaso
Markham District DDA



Mr Denvar Utah
Morobe Province, Division
of Lands , Customary



Grow PNG Digital Agriculture Awareness Workshop



Grow PNG held a Digital Agriculture Awareness workshop on the 16th-17th of November 2021, at the Lae International Hotel in Morobe Province. Participants attended in person and virtually in PNG, Singapore, India, and Australia, and were from various backgrounds in private sector, government agencies, civil society, farmer's groups, cooperative societies, ICT practitioners and others.

Mr Reginald Lee, Grow Asia Director of Programs, introduced the awareness workshop by connecting it to Grow Asia and Grow PNG platform 'to create a community of practice of business leaders, startups, investors, civil society, donors, and government and importantly to accelerate the adoption of digital technologies for smallholder agriculture'. The workshop brought many insights on technologies and approaches for smallholder digital agriculture.

Mr Mark Foxe, Lae based Australian Consul-General in his opening remarks, acknowledged Grow PNG, also a DFAT funded program under the PNG-Aus Partnership program to have made this workshop possible, connecting speakers and participants across the region and in Papua New Guinea.

The workshop brought many insights on the advent of technology in the mobile industry, financial services and inclusions, and how these are connected to agriculture, as well, drone technology in farming, and others.

The Executive Director for Grow PNG, Mr John Simango moderated the 2-days informative dialogue and, entertained speakers connecting in from different parts of the world and PNG.

Speakers from within Country-PNG included United National Capital Development Fund in PNG(UNCDF) and Digicel PNG – Cell Moni, and International speakers from MicroSave Consulting in India, and Dimitra Technology of Australia presented topics on; Mobile Money Ecosystem, Rural Digital Agriculture Loan, Cell Moni Applications and Drone Farming Technology.

The workshop also provided an excellent opportunity for the local participants to engage to engage with people from various backgrounds. Mr Rueben Yapi, from Labuta Cocoa Cooperative Society shared the challenges faced by rural farmers in accessing finance and making savings and how mobile technology may assist. Mr Humphrey Saese, from Hore Agricultural Suppliers said accessing finance was a challenge but with the use of drone it would address Fall Army Worm (FAW)in the farms.

There will be opportunities to trial a number of digital technology applications, and drone application in farming in the near future in Papua New Guinea.



Meeting with Taro Farmers at the Morobe Provincial Division of Agriculture and Livestock



Taro Lead farmers from the Lae ,Nawaeb and Markham District at the Lae Support Services Contract Facility (Division of Agriculture and Livestock)

Taro is one of the important root staple crop in Morobe Province and Papua New Guinea as a whole. Most of it is farmed for household consumption and some are sold to the local fresh produce markets. Recently, there were work development around the improvement of taro crop in terms of market access to scale up on the production and value of taro as for Papua New Guinea and Other Pacific Island nations.

Grow PNG as a Sustainable Agriculture partner continued to value in its work streams, the priority issues such as food security and sustainability of the country's food supply chain through collaboration between stakeholders in the agriculture sector and at different levels of government.

Grow PNG recently held a meeting with Taro Lead Farmers from Lae, Nawaeb and Markham district with Morobe Provincial Division of Agriculture and Livestock (DAL), at the Lae Support Services Contract Facility on the December 17 for data collection on taro supplies, market access and challenges.

Farmers also shared their challenges in accessing better markets for their produces, key among those were challenges of information and knowledge on market access, extension services, and technical training on the varieties of taro grown.

Grow PNG is encouraged to partner with the DAL to support an all-inclusive growth for the smallholder farmers within the taro crop commodity. DAL Provincial Project Coordinator Amos Buyeba said the main challenges farmers faced is post-harvest and quality control, logistics and access to better markets to sell their produce.

Grow PNG is conducting business cases around priority crops and livestock including taro, and this meeting was a valuable part of the process.



Grow PNG Holds Third Advisory Council Meeting



Grow PNG Advisory Council Members at the third Advisory Council Meeting

Grow PNG Advisory Council is the governing body of Grow PNG, Papua New Guinea. The council consisted of eminent members of the society within the private sector, public sector, civil society, and donor partners.

On October 26, 2021, the Advisory Council had its third meeting at the Australian Consulate office in Lae, Morobe Province. The meeting was chaired by Mr Phil Franklin MBE, (COO NKW), who is also the Co-Chair representing the private sector. The other Co-Chair representing the Government is the Minister for Agriculture, Hon. John Simon, MP.

Advisory Council members who attended both in person and virtually were; Lady Aivu Tauvasa (PNG), Reginald Lee (Grow Asia), Mr Mark Foxe (DFAT), Hon. Willie Simbisi MPA (Deputy Governor, Morobe Provincial Government), Mr John Byrne (Lae Chamber of Commerce), Mr Darren Yorio (ADRA), Mrs Maria Linibi (President Women in Agriculture), Mr Bohage Bebinaso (DDA CEO Markham). Others who did not attend sent their apologies.

Number of key agendas were discussed including Grow PNG current activities update, intermediate and future plans. Key on the agenda was Grow PNG's focus on the Markham Valley and possible quick wins. The advisory council resolved to set up a task force working group to discuss strategies for quick-wins, and possible next steps.

Any organisation is welcome to become a partner of Grow PNG and its Working Groups. Partners are expected to have an interest in the country and agriculture, a commitment to supporting smallholders and rural development, and an openness to partner with other organisations in a pre-competitive space.



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Grow Asia Strategy Workshop 2021

Grow PNG was part of the Grow Asia Country Partnership team that attended the four days intensive Strategy Workshop from the 22nd -25th November 2021.

The Workshop was conducted by Grow Asia Secretariat team in Singapore with country partnerships from Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia and Philippines attending virtually.

The objective of the workshop was to celebrate our success, and learn about our challenges and share best practice and identify priorities for 2022.



Country partnerships participating in the workshop shared their success and challenges and thank the Grow Asia Team for providing them the opportunity to interact with other country teams. It was very interesting to look back how much we have achieved in 2021 and reflecting on our key challenges and how we portray ourselves as a multi-stakeholder partnership platform in Sustainable Agriculture.

The Workshop brought many insights from the other country partnership including Grow PNG on their roles, what they do at regional and country levels, identifying priorities and best practices and how these are connected to Grow Asia's overall Mission.

Grow Council Task force Working Group

Leading on from the last Grow PNG Advisory Council meeting which was on October 26, Grow PNG called up a task force working group meeting and presented to the advisory council members the next steps and update on the short term priority activities for Grow PNG.

The meeting was held on December 16, chaired by Mr Phil Franklin MBE, (COO NKW), who is also the Co-Chair representing the private sector.

Grow PNG Executive Director Mr John Simango presented on Grow PNG's priorities ,opportunities and possible actions for outcomes aligning to the objective to increase income of small holder farmers within 8 years time frame.





Grow PNG through Agriculture Partnership

TARO MARKET - GROWTH, TRENDS, COVID-19 IMPACT, AND FORECASTS (2021 - 2026)

Source: [Taro Market | 2021 - 26 | Industry Share, Size, Growth - Mordor Intelligence](#)

The global taro market report offers the consumption, production, import, export, growth factors, the impact of COVID-19, value chain, and outlook to 2025. The market is segmented by North America, Europe, South America, Asia-Pacific, and Middle East & Africa.

Market Snapshot



Market Overview

The taro market is projected to register a CAGR of 3.5% during the forecast period. Taro is the most widely cultivated species in the family Araceae which is used as a vegetable. Countries such as United States, Vietnam, Japan, and New Zealand are the key import market. Major producing countries are China, Papua New Guinea, Nigeria, Ghana, and Cameroon.. Globally, North America is dominating the taro imports, for instance in 2019, the United States imported 38.9% of the total taro imports. Rising demand from North America and Asia-Pacific countries is driving the taro production. In 2017, taro production was 10,529,092 tons which are increased to 10,639,850 tons in 2018.

Read more: [Taro Market | 2021 - 26 | Industry Share, Size, Growth - Mordor Intelligence](#)

How We Work

Building Trust & Partnerships

Improving Knowledge and Information

Facilitating Working Groups



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