

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.

Grow PNG

THIRD QUARTER 2021

Meeting with Markham District Landowner Groups



Markham District team and the Incorporated Landowner Representatives at Mutzing Station, Markham District

Grow PNG continue to make inroads into helping landowner farmers within the Markham valley agricultural economic corridor. It has completed a Land Access Guide last year to assist ease of accessing land for agriculture and livestock development.

This guide is now converted into a training program to train; Incorporated Land Groups (ILG), customary landowners, and various landowner groups and associations, so they understand and have knowledge in releasing their land for development.

Grow PNG Land Access Working Group, held a meeting on July 9 and discussed the first Land Access guide pilot training program with Markham DDA CEO Mr Bohage Bebinaso, his district administration team, landowner farmers, ILG executives, cooperative societies executives, land associations executives from the three LLG's in Markham District: (i) Onga -Waffa LLG, (ii) Umi – Atzera LLG and (iii) Leron -Wantoat LLG.

The meeting held between the partners agreed to work together with Grow PNG to roll out the first pilot training by August 2021, with the established groups that are already on Grow PNG's network.

The pilot training will be the first of others, and it will provide knowledge and understanding on how landowners may, with confident release their land for development in an effective landowner investor partnership approach, where all parties' interests are considered in developing the land.

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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Inaugural Morobe Coordination meeting for Australian Government funded Programs and Partners



Partners who participated at the Inaugural Morobe Coordination meeting in Lae

Grow PNG took part in the inaugural Morobe Coordination Meeting for Australian Government Funded Programs and Partners on July 13 at the Australian Consulate-General Office in Lae. This meeting, a first brings all DFAT funded programs and partners in Morobe Province together.

Mr Mark Foxe, Australian Consul-General, Lae, chaired the meeting which include participants from; Australian High Commission in Port Moresby, Abt Associates, JohnStaff International Development, Justice Services and Stability for Development(JSS4D), PNG-Australia Transition to Health, School Gardens Project, UN Women Market Economic Recovery and Inclusion, Australia Awards, World Vision, Save the Children, Femili PNG, Marie Stopes-PNG, and Church Partnership Programs (CPP)- Adventist Development Relief Agency, Lutheran Church, and Salvation Army.

Grow PNG provided the background of its work, its regional partnership approach, and its programs in the Markham valley, and also noting the opportunities for increased collaboration with other DFAT funded programs to support its work within the Agriculture Economic Development space in particular, the farming communities within the Markham valley.

The coordination meeting, which will be held quarterly will develop common understanding and identify synergies within the different programs, so partners can work with each other to achieve improved service delivery and economic development to better service the people of Morobe.

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Visit by the Australian High Commissioner Second Secretary Economics

Australian High Commission Second Secretary Economics, Ms Nina Eliseo and Program Manager Economics, Mr Joshua Kaile met with Grow PNG on July 19.

The meeting was to develop an understanding on the role of Grow PNG on agriculture development in the Markham valley, and possible collaboration with other DFAT economic programs.

Grow PNG's Executive Director Mr John Simango presented background on the role of Grow PNG; its regional partnership, and work programs in the Markham valley.

Mr Simango also made mentioned of Grow PNG's accomplishments. These include the development of a Land Access Guide which was launched in February 2021; establishment of Grow PNG

Advisory Council, and establishment of the SME Working Group.

Grow PNG also organized and hosted three learning events, and conducted the Household Income Baseline Survey for Markham District.

The AHC Second Secretary Economics Ms Eliseo talked about the ongoing collaboration between other Australian Government funded economic programs with Grow PNG and the possibility of leveraging that support in Morobe Province. Mr Simango was pleased to mention Grow PNG's willingness to provide the platform for ongoing partnership within the Agriculture and Economic Development space.

"There is massive opportunity in developing Markham valley into the agriculture food bowl of the country.

"With the advent of COVID-19, the agriculture and economic sector is now a priority to support the livelihood of many affected families. Also, important is the PNG Government focus on agriculture in particular rural development. All of these have brought massive opportunities for the agriculture sector", Mr. Simango said.



From left : Mr Joshua Kaile, Mr Simango (Centre) and Ms Nina Eliseo

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Visit by UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (UNFAO)

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Papua New Guinea mission team visited Lae, Morobe Province on August 5 to identify potential implementing partners for collaboration on the FAO's programs and projects.

During their visit, FAO Head of Programme Ms Mirriam Mondia and Programme Associate Ms Melinda Benjamin did a courtesy visit to Grow PNG Ltd to discuss Grow PNG's current activities and the potential areas of collaboration.

Grow PNG's Working Group Coordinator Ms Ruthy Kusak led the discussions on the role of Grow PNG and its current activities in the Markham valley.

Ms Kusak was pleased to mention Grow PNG as a partner in Sustainable Agriculture, is willing to provide the platform for ongoing partnership and collaboration within the agriculture development space in particular, within the farming communities of Markham valley and Morobe Province.

Ms Mondia spoke about FAO's current work programs in partnership with the Department of Agriculture and Livestock (DAL) and PNG National Agriculture Research Institute (NARI), and the one-year Emergency Support Project on limiting the spread of COVID-19 along the Agriculture Value Chain.

Under the Emergency Support Project, FAO is working together to support existing partners as NARI to upscale existing programs in terms of food security i.e. seed multiplication and distribution to see that they are being supported during these unprecedented times.

FAO as a UN agency also conducted a Rapid Assessment on the Impact of COVID, its restrictions and measures in specific relation to food security, agriculture livelihood and market access in 17 provinces, Morobe Province was one of them.

Grow PNG is excited to hear FAO is implementing specific projects in Morobe Province that is aligned to its focus on developing the Markham valley economic corridor, and is encouraged to discuss future programs together and identify potential areas for collaboration.



From Left :Ms Melinda Benjamin, Ms Ruthy Kusak (centre) and Ms Mirriam Mondia



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Land Access Working Group held its fifth meeting



Grow PNG Land Access Working Group held its fifth on August 3 at the Australian Consulate-General office in Lae. Members representing stakeholders from across the agriculture and economic sectors attended, among them were 3 women.

The meeting was chaired by the Working Group Chairman Mr Nera Kame, who led the discussions of the last meeting minutes and also opened the floor for other discussions.

One of the main agenda was to review and understand the current models of land access that exist within the Markham valley area. The models being used are State Leases which are used by large agribusinesses, Cooperative society, ILG, contracted out-grower, Lead farmers and Clan land use agreement.

Representatives from the large agribusinesses highlighted that there is a capacity-literacy gap on understanding commercial business model to the system of customary landowning requirements which makes it very challenging to follow one model for agriculture development.

This is one of the reasons why different land access models existed so that customary landowners could effectively participate in the growth of the agribusiness sector in the Markham valley, in this case for Trukai Industries and Ramu Agri Industries.

Grow PNG Executive Director, Mr John Simango emphasized the need to increase level of participations with landowning clans, ILGs, cooperatives, agribusinesses and also the need to understand the various models of participation in existence; what worked, what did not work, and how learnings may be applied across to the new ventures.

Trukai Industries emphasized that apart from the challenges that comes with the land access models used with growing crops in the Markham valley, there is greater need for partnership in building capacity of the farmers to meet production and processing requirements of agribusinesses.

Grow PNG Working Group Coordinator, Ms Ruthy Kusak indicated that the models need some level of support in terms of training and capacity building to be able to improve some of the processes that are already in place.



Visiting Partner's Project



VOP Ramu Oil Palm Manager Mr konifo ,Chairman Mr Isi and K92 Mining Community Project Officer Ms Jack

Grow PNG visited Ramu Agri Industries Limited (RAIL) Village Oil Palm (VOP) Project Team, and their smallholder farmers under the Morobe Province Village Oil Palm Growers Association at Watarais, Umi-Atzera LLG, in the Markham District on August 6.

The VOP has a total 324 oil palm growers with 2 hectares of production per grower. The total area grown to oil palm is approximately 644 hectares all on customary land.

The Association Chairman Mr Baida Isi from Dabua village while describing the many success stories of this project, attributed all those to the 'Clan Land Use Agreement Model' (CLUA); a partnership model that effectively embraces both the customary landowner's interests and RAIL's commercial desires.

The CLUA is used in smallholder village oil palm projects where the landowning clan make arrangements for its clan members to occupy and develop an agreed portion of land for production of oil palm.

Grow PNG Executive Director Mr John Simango while acknowledging the success of such partnerships, requested for the Chairman and VOP team to share their experiences with the CLUA model in the upcoming Grow PNG Land Access Guide training at Mutzing Station on the 23rd- 27th of August 2021.

He emphasized the need to understand the various land access participation models in existence; what worked, what did not work, and how learnings may be applied as way forward in unlocking land for agriculture development within the Markham valley.

On the same visit, Grow PNG had the opportunity to meet Ms Joy Jack from K92 Mining Limited, who shared an interesting and successful model of a vegetable farm project in Dabua village assisted by K92 Mining under their Community Affairs and Sustainable Development Program.



SME Working Group held its second meeting



Working Group model is a 'local solutions to local problems' approach that Grow PNG and its regional partners use. Working Groups consisted of a committee of volunteers, who are passionate in advancing the growth and development among many areas; crops, livestock and cross-sectoral focus on policy advocacy, gender and many others. Grow PNG has an active Land Access Working Group, and SME Working Group.

The SME Working Group was established in 2020, due to the increased interests in advancing SME growth within the Agribusiness space. This Working Group consisted of members from the Agriculture, Agribusiness, Finance and Banking, Civil Society, Government and other sectors. The SME Working Group held its second meeting on August 10.

Apart from the main meeting agenda, representatives from agribusinesses also shared their experiences;

The large agribusinesses are well established in areas such as farming, supply base and farmer engagement. These businesses meet all the costs for logistics, capacity building and farmer incentives in order to bring produce or raw material to processing facilities or markets.

NGIP Agmark Limited emphasized that, in order to export to certain markets, farmers have to organise themselves into cooperative groups and meet supply chain requirements to be aligned to a market buyer.

Hore Agricultural Suppliers, who does semi-commercial farming in Maize added that, to be competitive, supply need to be market driven.

Grow PNG Executive Director Mr John Simango, acknowledged the participants for their time in attending the meeting, and encouraged the members to work in identifying SME opportunities in new ventures, and with the supply and value chain, as with the intention of strengthening the current players, and increasing the numbers of new SME's.



Land Access Guide First Pilot Training Roll-out, Mutzing, Markham District



ILG Participants and Dignitaries at the Land Access Guide Training in Mutzing Station, Markham District

Eighteen Incorporated Land Groups (ILGs), in the Umi-Atzera LLG of Markham District have attended a three-days Land Access Guide Training from 23rd-27th August at Mutzing Station. This training was to give confidence to landowners to offer their land for agriculture development. The ILG executives praised the training as it was a first for such in the district, province and the country. At the official opening was the Australian Consul-General, Lae-based Mr Mark Foxe, who commended Grow PNG and also the participants for their participation.

The Member for Markham District and Deputy Speaker Hon. Koni Iguan who visited the participants during the training, advised the District Manager and Officers to set up a follow-up meeting with the participating ILG Executives to discuss in-house matters on the land issues and what needs to be put in place as next steps after the Training. The purpose of convening the in-house meeting is to find out about the status of the past and current Partnership Agreement terms and what the next steps are and continue to work with Grow PNG to encourage more agricultural developments.

Deputy Governor for Morobe Hon. Willie Simbisi who was at the closing of the Training program, challenged the ILG Executives to be an example to the people of Morobe in offering their land for agriculture development, and to show that an effective landowner-agribusiness partnership model is possible to develop agriculture, not only in Markham, and Morobe but Papua New Guinea as a whole.

Tom Francis, Ward Councillor and spokesman representing the participants said: This training has given us confidence and we are happy because Grow PNG has brought this training to our level of understanding.

“The Training was beneficial for the training participants and us all. 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 follow up training, we can develop the people’s mindset to further think big and positively take on land development agendas and challenges positively,” the Markham District DDA CEO Mr Bebinaso said.

Highlights of the Land Access Guide Training 23rd-27th August 2021, Mutzing Station, Markham District



Mr Mark Foxe, Australian Consul-General, Lae



Hon. Koni Iguan MP, Member for Markham



**Hon. Willie Simbisi MPA
Deputy Governor Morobe Province**



ILG Executives Umi-Atzera LLG, Markham



Trukai Industries Representing Agribusinesses



**Mr Tom Francis
Ward Councilor**



**Mr Bohage Bebinaso
DDA CEO, Markham District**

Visit us at www.growpng.org/land-access to know more about our efforts to unlock land for agriculture development in the Markham valley.



NAQIA Biosecurity Consultation Workshop, Lae



Grow PNG was invited to be part of the NAQIA Biosecurity Stakeholder Consultation workshop held in Lae from the 7th-8th of September 2021.

Grow PNG team lead by Mr Simango joined other stakeholders from agriculture department, government sector, civil societies, Agribusinesses, Academia and Research in a two-day intensive consultation forum.

The Stakeholder Consultation workshop took place at the National Forest Research Institute in Lae, Morobe Province.

On the first day of the workshop Mr. Joel Alu National Agriculture Quarantine and Inspection Authority (NAQIA) Managing Director, addressed the participants stating that Papua New Guinea currently does not have a biosecurity policy and even so these legislations are outdated.

Mr Alu said, effective biosecurity measures can prevent the spread of diseases, pests and other pathogens to our native plants and animals which most of our communities who depend on agriculture to sustain their livelihoods.

This type of consultation workshop is very important for all stakeholder to be involved and contribute, so we can put together and build a robust biosecurity system for our country.

The second day was mainly discussions to get consultation from the different stakeholders; agribusinesses especially importers and exporters on their experiences and learnings to grasp their input on what they think should be included, improved and enhanced in the policy.

Grow PNG represented the agribusiness sector at the partnership level and contributed discussions especially to support semi-commercial farmers and the existing agribusinesses.





Stakeholder meeting at NARI on Africa Swine Flu (ASF) and Fall Army Warm (FAW)



Grow PNG was invited to attend and contribute in the discussions relating to African Swine Flu (ASF) and Fall Army Worm (FAW) at National Agriculture Research Institute (NARI) on September 9.

In attendance were representatives from across the Agriculture departments including National Agriculture Quarantine and Inspection Authority (NAQIA), National Agriculture Research Institute (NARI), DFAT funded partners' PHAMApplus, Academia; University of Technology (Unitech), and the Agribusiness communities (Rumion, Papindo and others).

The discussions on ASF were centered contributing to the development of Morobe Strategy on ASF, and later on FAW.

For FAW, it was agreed that a Terms of Reference (TOR) will be drafted to trail Drone Technology in farms who are willing within Markham, and it appears Rumion and Hore will to do so.

The team who will contribute to the development of the TOR will be PHAMApplus, NARI, Rumion and Hore Agricultural Suppliers. The TOR should detail how best the Drone technology may be deployed to address the FAW problem at farm management level. Grow PNG was tasked to draft the TOR and share for inputs, and possible next steps.





Grow PNG through Agriculture Partnership

Food prices are at risk as the world runs short of workers

Food prices are at risk as the world runs short of workers, Consumer - THE BUSINESS TIMES

September 03, 2021

Supplies are hit, firms are forced to raise wages significantly, threatening to push up food prices.

Across the world, a dearth of workers is shaking up food supply chains. In Vietnam, the army is assisting with the rice harvest. In the UK, farmers are dumping milk because there are no truckers to collect it. Brazil's robusta coffee beans took 120 days to reap this year, instead of the usual 90. And American meatpackers are trying to lure new employees with Apple Watches while fast-food chains raise the prices of burgers and burritos.

Whether it's fruit pickers, slaughterhouse workers, truckers, warehouse operators, chefs or waiters, the global food ecosystem is buckling due to a shortage of staff. Supplies are getting hit and some employers are forced to raise wages at a double-digit pace. That's threatening to push food prices - already heated by soaring commodities and freight costs - even higher. Prices in July were up 31 per cent from the same month last year, according to an index compiled by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization.

The coronavirus pandemic has helped spark a labour shortfall for many parts of the economy. But the impact is particularly stark in food and agriculture, which are among the world's least-automated industries.

Food security is a sensitive issue in many parts of the world and thin margins mean rising costs generally pass through to buyers, said Boston Consulting Group (BCG). "Almost certainly there is disruption," said Decker Walker, BCG's agribusiness expert in Chicago.

Read more

[:https://www.business-times.com.sg/consumer/food-prices-are-at-risk-as-the-world-runs-short-of-workers](https://www.business-times.com.sg/consumer/food-prices-are-at-risk-as-the-world-runs-short-of-workers)

How We Work

Building Trust & Partnerships

Improving Knowledge and Information

Facilitating Working Groups



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Established in 2019 in Lae, Morobe Province in Papua New Guinea, Grow PNG is a not-for profit subsidiary of Grow Asia Partnership Ltd and an Australian-funded initiative under the PNG-Aust Partnership, supported by the World Economic Forum to help implement the United Nations Sustainable Development Strategy.

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