



Papua New Guinea Resources Information System Revitalisation Project Holds Meetings with Its Partners and Grow PNG

The Papua New Guinea Resources Information System (PNGRIS) Revitalisation Project recently commenced its operations with a series of meetings aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity and land use planning in the country.

The project's journey began with its first meeting, which took place in the conference room of the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) on March 4th. Ten stakeholders attended the meeting, including representatives from the Cocoa Industry Corporation (CIC), Forest Research Institute (FRI), PNG University of Technology (UNITECH), National Agriculture Research Institute (NARI), and Grow PNG. The primary objective of this meeting was to prepare for engagements with each of the stakeholders (National Agricultural Research Institute, Cocoa Industry Corporation, Forest Research Institute, PNG University of Technology National Agriculture Research Institute and Grow PNG), and to discuss issues related to the upgrade of the PNGRIS, in anticipation of a meeting with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) team in March.

During the meeting, stakeholders presented updates and progress on the PNGRIS2 upgrade project. Discussions also focused on capacity building needs, collaborative work activities, and site selection for case studies in 2024. Agenda items included welcoming remarks by Mr. Elias Taia, Acting Director of the Science & Technology Lae Branch, status updates from various organizations, site selection for case studies, capacity building needs, and resolutions from respective stakeholders.



Following the successful first meeting, the project moved forward with its second meeting hosted at The Papua New University of Technology, Agriculture Department conference room in Lae on March 5th. Again, attended by ten stakeholders, this discussion focused on key economic assessments, awareness protocols, linkages, field and site selection. Plans for the future were discussed, with Grow PNG leading socio-economic assessments, FRI/Grow PNG leading in mobilizing landowners for research, and the Department of Agriculture and Livestock (DAL) drafting letters to relevant provincial and district administrations.

Additionally, the project engaged in fieldwork activities on March 6th. Representatives from National Department of Agriculture and Livestock and Forest Research Institute, Mr. Elias Taia and Mr. Patrick Nimiago with a team from Grow PNG visiting the Balsa Association and Incorporated Land Group Chairman Mr. Tom Francis and the representatives at Orori Village, Ward 23 in Markham District. The purpose of this engagement was to raise awareness about the CSIRO's project aimed at improving soil and land information to enhance agricultural production and integrate land use planning in PNG.



The project, titled "Better Soil and Land Information to Improve PNG's Agricultural Production and Integrate Land Use Planning – building a Revitalized PNGRIS2," is a collaboration between various organizations, including Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), National Agriculture Research Institute (NARI), Forest Research Institute (FRI), PNG Coffee Industry Corporation, University of Technology, and Grow PNG Ltd. It aims to provide smallholder farmers, government agencies and investors with access to valuable information on land use, management, and soil data.

Through these initiatives, this important project seeks to improve agricultural practices and promote successful Agri-investments in Papua New Guinea, ultimately benefiting smallholder farmers and contributing to the sustainable development of the country.